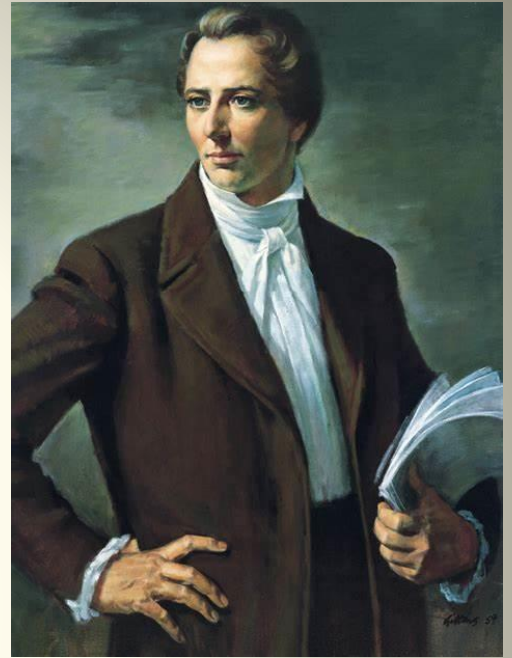


The Atonement of Jesus Christ

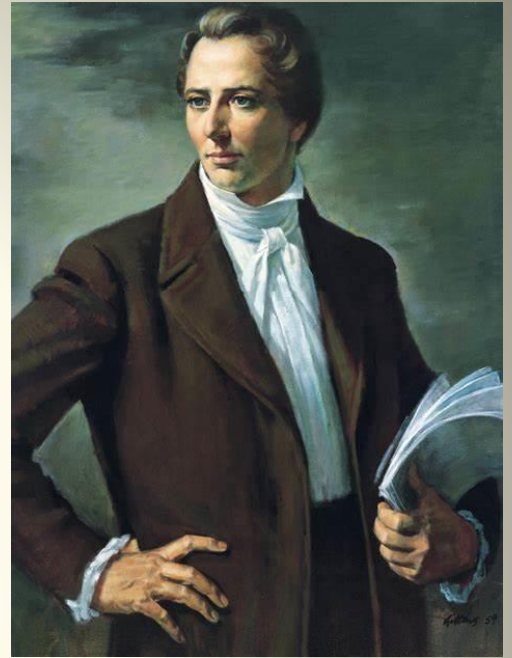


The first principles of man are self-existent with God. God himself, finding he was in the midst of spirits and glory, because he was more intelligent, saw proper to institute laws whereby the rest could have a privilege to advance like himself. The relationship we have with God places us in a situation to advance in knowledge.



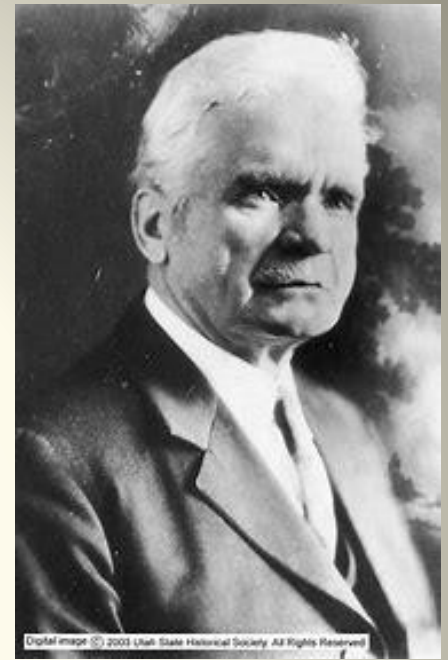
Joseph Smith, Jr.,
Teachings of the Prophet
Joseph Smith, 354

He has power to institute laws to instruct the weaker intelligences, that they may be exalted with himself, so that they might have one glory upon another, and all that knowledge, power, glory, and intelligence, which is requisite in order to save them in the world of spirits.



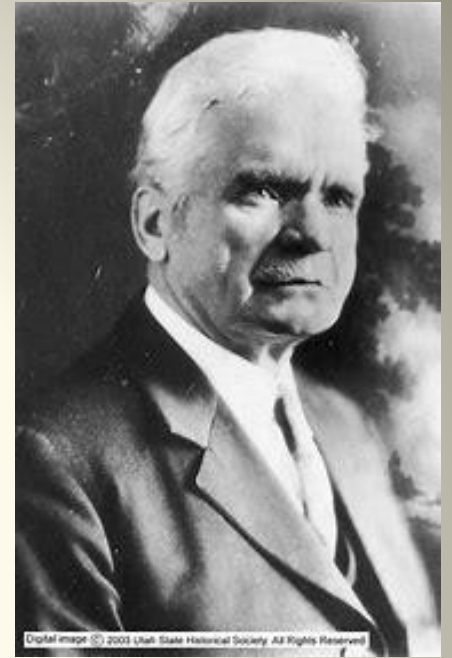
Joseph Smith, Jr.,
Teachings of the Prophet
Joseph Smith, 354

There is in that complex thing we call man, an intelligent entity, uncreated, self-existent, indestructible, he—for that entity is a person; because as we shall see, he is possessed of powers that go with personality only, hence that entity is “he,” not “it”—he is eternal as God is co-existent, in fact, with God; of the same kind of substance or essence with deity; though confessedly inferior in degree of intelligence and power to God.



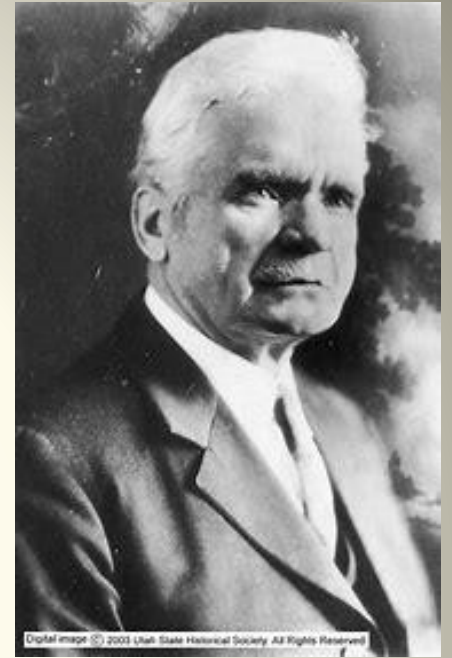
Elder B.H. Roberts
"Immortality of Man,"
Improvement Era 13 (April
1907): 401-423.

One must needs think that the name of this eternal entity—what God calls him—conveys to the mind some idea of his nature. He is called an “intelligence” and this I believe is descriptive of him ... the entity must be “self-conscious” and “others-conscious,” that is, he must have the power to distinguish himself from other things—the “me” from the “not me.”



Elder B.H. Roberts
"Immortality of Man,"
Improvement Era 13 (April
1907): 401-423.

He must have the power of deliberation, by which he sets over one thing against another; with power also to form a judgment that this or that is a better thing or state than this or that. Also, there goes with this idea of intelligence a power of choosing one thing instead of another; one state rather than another. These powers are inseparably connected with any idea that may be formed as an intelligence.



Elder B.H. Roberts
"Immortality of Man,"
Improvement Era 13 (April
1907): 401-423.

Some of our writers have endeavored to explain what an intelligence is, but to do so is futile, for we have never been given any insight into this matter beyond what the Lord has fragmentarily revealed. We know, however, that there is something called intelligence which always existed. It is the real eternal part of man, which was not created nor made. This intelligence combined with the spirit constitutes a spiritual identity or individual.



Joseph Fielding Smith, photo © Merrett Smith

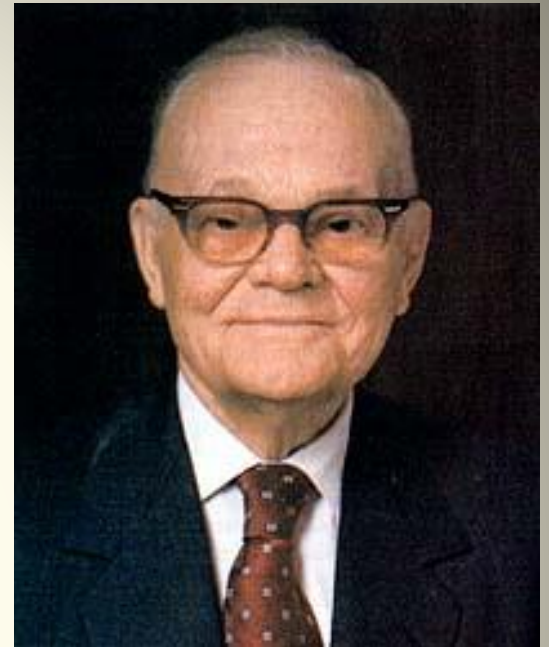
Joseph Fielding Smith
Answers to Gospel
Questions, Vol. 4: 127.

Of one thing we can be sure – our great Celestial parents brought forth our pre-existent spirits, combining intelligence (which cannot be created nor made, (D&C 93:29) and spirit matter (see 131:7-8) in such a way as to produce the “intelligences” spoken of by Father Abraham. The exact form or nature of “intelligence, or the light of truth” (vs.29) prior to man’s pre-existent birth has not been disclosed to us by the Scriptures...



Sidney B. Sperry
Doctrine and Covenants
Compendium, p. 477.

In origin, man is a son of God.
The spirits of men “are
begotten sons and daughters
unto God” (D&C 76:24).
Through that birth process,
self-existing intelligence was
organized into individual spirit



Marion G. Romney
“The Worth of Souls,”
General Conference,
October 1978

Schooling is nothing new to us here. We went to school in preexistence. There were occasions when Adam taught the classes, and when Abraham taught the classes, and when Joseph Smith did. And the classes were so numerous and so extensive that the whole house of Israel-that group of spirits who were foreordained to become Israelites-were teachers; and they taught classes.



Bruce R. McConkie
Doctrines of the
Restoration: Sermons and
Writings of Bruce R.
McConkie, pp 340-41.

And the witness of truth was born, and we were given the opportunity to advance and progress. When the time came for us to come down to mortality, we ended a course of instruction that had been going on for an infinitely long period of time and commenced a new course of instruction~a mortal course. In effect, this mortal course is the final examination for all of the life that we lived through in this infinite premortal period.”.



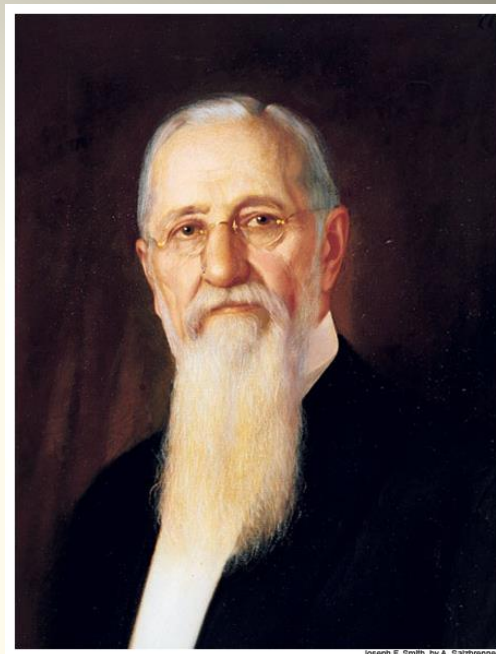
Bruce R. McConkie
Doctrines of the
Restoration: Sermons and
Writings of Bruce R.
McConkie, pp 340-41.

Thus, after having learned gospel truths in the preexistence, gospel instruction in mortality is but a remembering of that which we knew prior to birth~we brought with us an appetite for gospel truths from the premortal sphere.



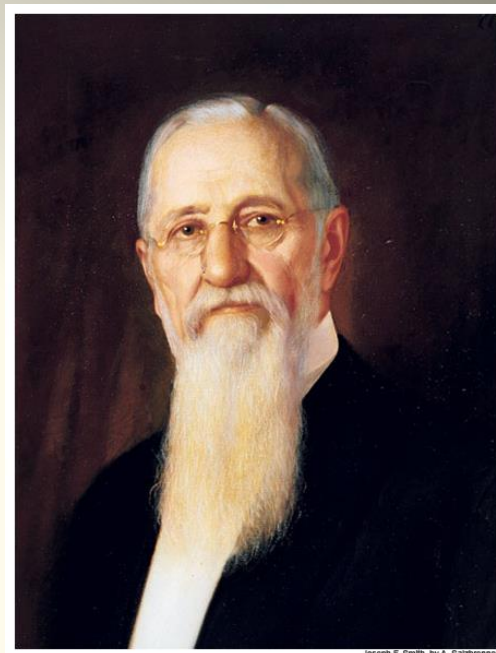
Bruce R. McConkie
Doctrines of the
Restoration: Sermons and
Writings of Bruce R.
McConkie, pp 340-41.

Our knowledge of persons and things before we came here, combined with the divinity awakened within our souls through obedience to the gospel, powerfully affects, in my opinion, all our likes and dislikes, and guides our preferences in the course of this life, provided we give careful heed to the admonitions of the Spirit.



Joseph F. Smith
Gospel Doctrine, p 12.

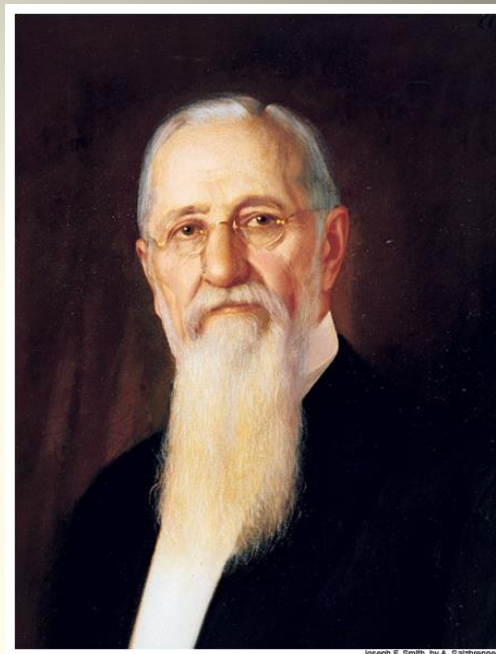
All those salient truths which come home so forcibly to the head and heart seem but the awakening of the memories of the spirit. Can we know anything here that we did not know before we came? Are not the means of knowledge in the first estate equal to those of this?



Joseph F. Smith, by A. Gaebrenner

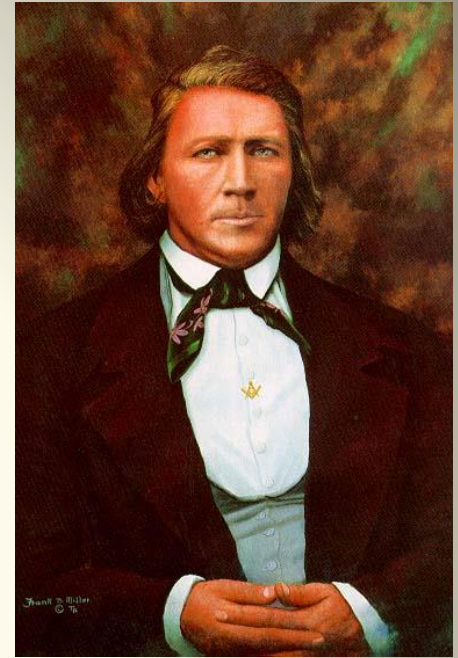
Joseph F. Smith
Gospel Doctrine, p 12.

I think that the spirit, before and after this probation, possesses greater facilities, aye, manifold greater, for the acquisition of knowledge, than while manacled and shut up in the prison-house of mortality.



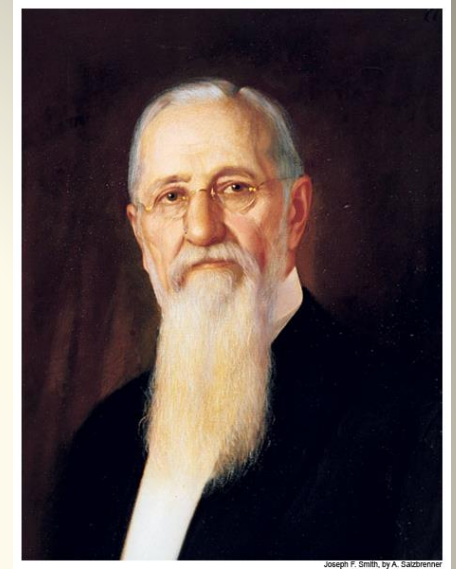
Joseph F. Smith
Gospel Doctrine, p 12.

I want to tell you, each and every one of you, that you are well acquainted with God our heavenly Father, or the great Elohim. You are all well acquainted with Him, for there is not a soul of you but what has lived in His house and dwelt with Him year after year; and yet you are seeking to become acquainted with Him, when the fact is, you have merely forgotten what you did know.



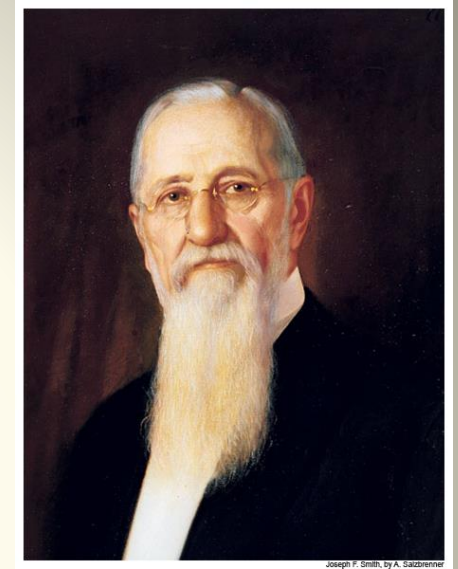
Brigham Young
Journal of Discourses, 26
vols., 4: 216.

In all his dealings with the human family Jesus the Son has represented and yet represents Elohim His Father in power and authority. This is true of Christ in His preexistent, ante mortal, or unembodied state, in the which He was known as Jehovah; also during His embodiment in the flesh; and during his labors as a disembodied spirit in the realm of the dead....



1st Presidency,
“A Doctrinal Exposition”
(1916); cited in Articles of
Faith, 470-71.

Thus the Father placed His name upon the Son; and Jesus Christ spoke and ministered in and through the Father's name; and so far as power, authority, and Godship are concerned His words and acts were and are those of the Father.



1st Presidency,
“A Doctrinal Exposition”
(1916); cited in Articles of
Faith, 470-71.

From this revelation [Abraham 3:23], we may infer two things: first, that there were among those spirits [in the premortal life] different degrees of intelligence, varying grades of achievement, retarded and advanced spiritual attainment; second, that there were no national distinctions among those spirits such as Americans, Europeans, Asiatics, Australians, etc. Such "bounds of habitation" would have to be "determined" when the spirits entered their earthly existence or second estate



David O. McKay
Home Memories of
President David O. McKay,
pp. 228-30.

Our place in this world would then be determined by our own advancement or condition in the pre-mortal state, just as our place in our future existence will be determined by what we do here in mortality. When, therefore, the Creator said to Abraham, and to others of his attainment, "You I will make my rulers," there could exist no feeling of envy or jealousy among the million other spirits, for those who were "good and great" were but receiving their just reward.



David O. McKay
Home Memories of
President David O. McKay,
pp. 228-30.

In our preexistent state, in the day of the great council, we made a certain agreement with the Almighty. The Lord proposed a plan, conceived by him. We accepted it. Since the plan is intended for all men, we became parties to the salvation of every person under that plan. We agreed, right then and there, to be not only saviors for ourselves but measurably, saviors for the whole human family.



John A. Widtsoe
Utah Genealogical and
Historical Magazine,
October 1934, 189

We went into a partnership with the Lord. The working out of the plan became not then merely the Father's work but also our work. The least of us, the humblest, is in partnership with the Almighty in achieving the purpose of the plan of salvation.



John A. Widtsoe
Utah Genealogical and
Historical Magazine,
October 1934, 189

The Great Plan of God – To Be Ordered, Organized, or At One With Him

Moses 1:39 Purpose of God's Plan

D&C 51:15 Organized according to Law

D&C 93:27~37 Intelligences could obtain light and truth

John 1:1~4 Christ is God's word from beginning

D&C 93:7~9 Christ the Redeemer from the beginning

Abraham 3:19~28 Christ is more intelligent than all

Moses 4:1~4 Satan rebels, Christ submits becoming one

Revelation 12:7~11 Satan accuses us of being incapable

The Great Plan of God – To Be Ordered, Organized, or At One With Him

Alma 13:1~19 Ordered after the Son of God

JST Genesis 14:25~40 Melchizedek follows order of
Enoch (See also D&C 76:57)

D&C 107:2~4 Priesthood name changed to Melchizedek

D&C 84:19~23 Priesthood Ordinances order us as God