

A man with a beard, wearing a red robe, stands with his back to the camera, looking towards a large, dimly lit hall. In the background, several statues are visible on pedestals, and a large crowd of people is seated in the foreground, their faces mostly in shadow. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the left, creating a silhouette effect on the man and highlighting the statues and the audience.

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SHEREM'S ANTICHRIST
PARALLELS WITH
APOSTATE
CHRISTIAN CREEDS

FOR OUR DAY

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SHEREM'S
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COME TO CHRIST BY REVEALING ENEMIES



“Is the Book of Mormon true? Yes.

“Who is it for? Us.

“What is its purpose? To bring men to Christ.

“**How** does it do this? By **testifying** of Christ and **revealing** his **enemies**.”

Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon is the Word of God,” April 1975 General Conference (also printed in the May 1975 Ensign)

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SHEREM'S DECEPTIVE THEOLOGY

- “there should be no Christ.”
- Sought to “overthrow the doctrine of Christ.”
- Denied prophecy and spiritual gifts.
- Promoted hollow form and ritual.
- “many things which were flattering unto the people”



Jacob 7:2-12

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**FALSE CREEDS & DECEPTIVE THEOLOGY
INTRODUCED IN BOTH NEPHITE & LATTER-DAY
FOUNDING ERA**

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“NO SUCH THINGS AS VISIONS & REVELATIONS”

“Some few days after I had this vision [the First Vision], I happened to be in company with one of the **Methodist preachers**, who was very active in the before mentioned religious excitement; and, conversing with him on the subject of religion, I took occasion to give him an account of the vision which I had had.

“I was greatly **surprised** at his behavior; he treated my communication not only lightly, but with **great contempt**, saying it was all of the **devil**, that there were **no such things as visions or revelations** in **these** days; that all such things had ceased with the apostles, and that there would **never be any more** of them.”

Joseph Smith—History 1:21

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RED FLAG! SIGN-SEEKING

“And it came to pass that he said unto me: Show me a **sign** by this power of the Holy Ghost, in the which ye know so much.”



Jacob 7:13

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SIGN-SEEKER IS AN ADULTERER

“... Jesus put forth in saying that he who **seeketh** a **sign** is an **adulterous** person. & that principle is **Eternal undeviating & firm** as the **pillars** of heaven. for whenever you see a man seeking after a sign you may **set it down** that he is an adulterous man.”



Joseph Smith Discourse, 2 July 1839, as Reported by Willard Richards, pp. 14-15, The Joseph Smith Papers.

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JOSEPH SMITH CALLS OUT ADULTERY

“When I was preaching in Philadelphia, a Quaker called out for a sign. I told him to be still. After the sermon, he again asked for a sign. I told the congregation the man was an **adulterer**; that a wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and that the Lord had said to me in a revelation, that **any man who wanted a sign was an adulterous person**. ‘It is true,’ cried one, ‘for I caught him in the very act, which the man afterwards confessed when he was baptized.’”



Joseph Smith History, 9 February 1843, p. 15, The Joseph Smith Papers

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SIN SETS US UP FOR DECEPTION & SECRECY

“... they **love darkness** rather than light, because their **deeds** are **evil**.” (D&C 10:21)

“Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to **hide** their counsels from the Lord; and their **works** shall be in the **dark**. . . . Yea, they have all gone out of the way; they have become corrupted.” (2 Nephi 9:9, 11)



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TRUE & FALSE PROPHETS RISE

Joseph Smith (1805-1844) begins the Restoration in 1830.

- Charles Lyell (b. 1794) publishes *Principles of Geology* (**1830**) contributing to Charles Darwin's development of Darwinian Evolution.
- Karl Marx (b. 1818) publishes *The Communist Manifesto* in **1848**.
- Charles Darwin (b. 1809) publishes *On the Origin of Species* in **1859**, takes voyage on HMS *Beagle* in **1830s**.
- John Dewey (b. 1859), signee of *Humanist Manifesto* (**1933**) visits BYU in **1901**.
- Sigmund Freud (b. 1856) visits America in **1909**.
- John Keynes (b. 1883), one of the most influential progressive economists of the **20th century**.

"As a watchman on the tower, I feel to warn you that one of the chief means of misleading our youth and destroying the family unit is our educational institutions. . . . [P]arents can help expose some of the deceptions of men like Sigmund Freud, Charles Darwin, John Dewey, Karl Marx, John Keynes, and others." (Ezra Taft Benson, October 1970 General Conference)

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DEAD FORM & RITUAL IN FALSE CHRISTIANITY

“... they draw near to me with their **lips**, but their **hearts** are **far** from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they **deny** the **power** thereof.”

Joseph Smith—History 1:19

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IS REVELATION FROM GOD RARE? OR CONSTANT?

“Sometimes as Latter-day Saints we talk and act as though recognizing the influence of the Holy Ghost in our lives is the **rare** or exceptional event. We should remember, however, that the **covenant promise** is that we may **always** have His Spirit to be with us.”



David A. Bednar, “That We May Always Have His Spirit to Be with Us,” Ensign, May 2006, p. 30 (April 2006 General Conference address)

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A SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH: WILFORD WOODRUFF (1999)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Produced for CES & Gospel Doctrine classes)

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WHERE ARE THE MIRACLES & SPIRITUAL GIFTS PRESENT AMONG MEMBERS DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CHURCH?



(Women from early Latter-day Saint Church history who exercised spiritual gifts including prophecy, dreams, visions, speaking in tongues, etc.)

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PARALLELS BETWEEN
PROGRESSIVE HISTORY &
SHEREM'S THEOLOGY &
PHILOSOPHY?

(FAITH CRISIS 2 BOOK)

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AMBIVALENCE TOWARD SCRIPTURE

- Leonard Arrington served as Church Historian from 1972-1982 and is considered the “father of New Mormon History.”
- Arrington read the Bible and the Book of Mormon through when 13-years-old but had “**not read** either [the Bible or the Book of Mormon] completely through **since then.**”
- “I do **not** know that I **learned much** from that either except being able to boast to my Sunday School and priesthood teachers and family that I had read it.”
- “I have **never** been an avid student of Latter-day Saint scriptures.”
- “In the Mormon Epic, one may believe in the **First Vision** without worrying unduly as to whether God and Jesus literally appeared in person to Joseph Smith, or whether he thought he saw them in a mystical sense. Did the **plates** of the Book of Mormon **exist** in a concrete literal sense or did they exist in a **symbolic sense**? I feel comfortable **either** way. . . . The Scriptures are **not** themselves **divine revelation.**”

Quotations from the writings of Leonard J. Arrington. Footnotes and additional information in [Faith Crisis 2: Behind Closed Doors](#) (James F. and L. Hannah Stoddard)

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A SECULAR APPROACH TO THE GOSPEL

- “Today, as a by-product of a search for something else, I ran across a box that had the cards I used in my talks on religious themes when I was on the USU High Council and in the Stake Presidency. Perhaps as many as forty or fifty different talks, all delivered in Logan. I realize now that **every talk** I have given since coming here was on a **history** topic. **Not a single talk** with a **religious** theme.”
- Arrington did not “feel the necessity of frequent attendance at the **temple**. I think I get as much inspiration watching birds, or looking at the mountains and the wilderness, as participating in the rituals there.”
- “The Bible **may** be the word of God . . . **Moses** did **not write** the first five books of the Bible”
- “I have never had any dream which was a religious experience or which bore any resemblance to a beatific vision.”

Quotations from the writings of Leonard J. Arrington. Footnotes and additional information in [Faith Crisis 2: Behind Closed Doors](#) (James F. and L. Hannah Stoddard)

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DON'T HIRE "HOLY GHOSTERS"

- When assembling his staff for the new Church Historical Department (1972), he was cautioned by friends (and agreed) to not include "Holy Ghosters."
- "Holy Ghosters" place, "... emphasis upon obtaining the Holy Ghost as the most valuable, if not the exclusive **source of truth**. They are anti-intellectual in the sense that they have no faith and confidence in the traditional ways of acquiring truth--reason, experimentation, etc. Through prayer and meditation, collective and private, they achieve or seek to achieve a feeling of **certitude** about important matters. Once they know a thing or idea to be true, by this means, they are **firm** in the face of logic, demonstration, and the more traditional sources of inquiry."



Diary of Leonard J. Arrington. Footnotes and additional information in [Faith Crisis 2: Behind Closed Doors](#) (James F. and L. Hannah Stoddard)

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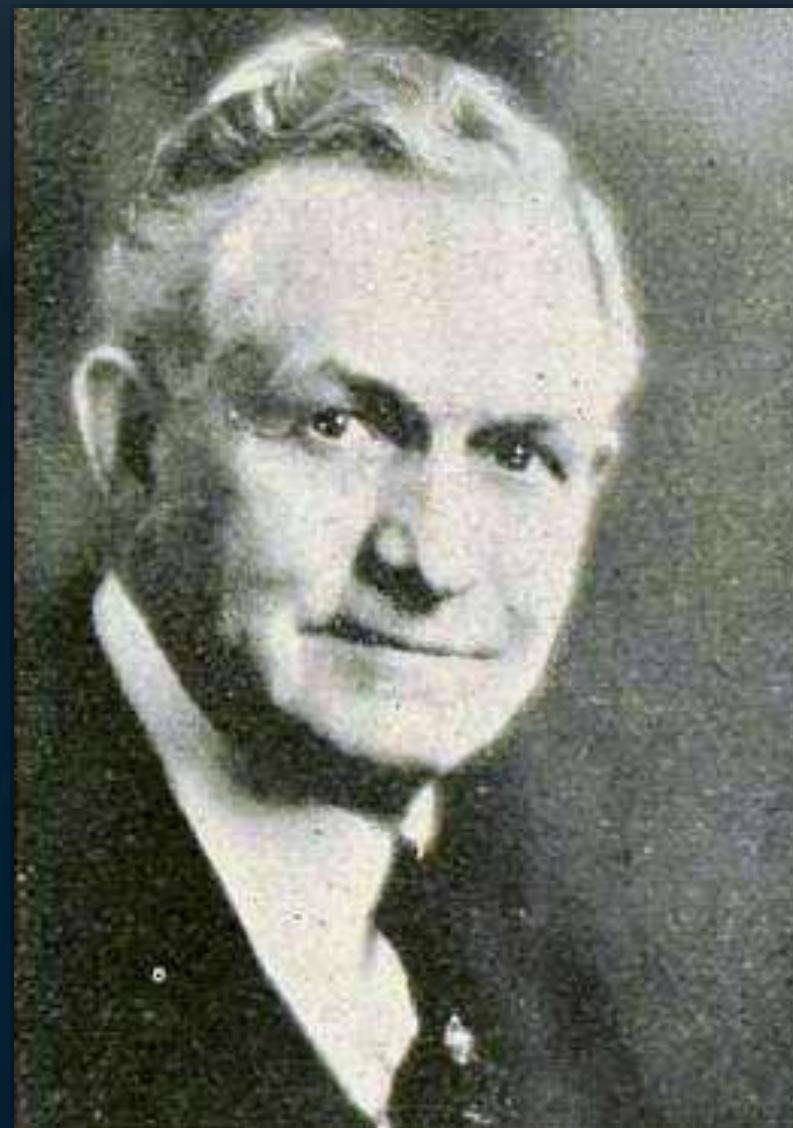
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WHO WERE “HOLY GHOSTERS”?



Joseph Fielding Smith



David O. McKay



Hyrum L. Andrus

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DARWIN = JOSEPH SMITH = EMERSON

For Arrington, revelation was merely intuition and he claimed no understanding of direct verbal communication from God. Arrington considered “**Darwin’s** conception of the law of evolution” a **leap** in **intellect** on equal standing with Joseph Smith’s revelations. He also believed Emerson’s experience “being caught up in a giant eyeball” as well as the experiences of Jewish and Protestant **mystics** on the same level with the experiences of prophets in scripture or Joseph Smith.

Quotations from the writings of Leonard J. Arrington. Footnotes and additional information in [Faith Crisis 2: Behind Closed Doors](#) (James F. and L. Hannah Stoddard)

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ARRINGTON'S TESTIMONY

James Arrington was an accomplished actor and eagerly coached his father through the 'perfect testimony':

I [James Arrington] said, "Okay, here's what you do, Dad. When you get to the part where you start talking about these things, I want you to take off your glasses, and lean over the pulpit and talk to the people. . . . You need to bear a testimony that no one thinks you are hiding, or that you have prepared it, or that it is anything but the real, exact truth. You get to decide what you want to say there, but when you get to that point, you whip off your glasses, carefully, gently, and lean on the pulpit, and you talk to those people. You tell them that you've seen the deepest, darkest parts of the Church's history, and that it bears record of the truthfulness of the Gospel."

When Arrington gave his first talk, his son was in attendance to watch his father's "performance." The response from the congregation was positive:

People went out of there going, "Hallelujah! That's the greatest testimony I've ever heard"

Arrington's son noted, however, that his father's performance was still not quite perfect, that he removed his glasses "mechanically" at first. Flaws in Arrington's veiled avowal would improve with each live rehearsal, until it became "very natural to him."

Quotations from the writings of Leonard J. Arrington. Footnotes and additional information in [Faith Crisis 2: Behind Closed Doors](#) (James F. and L. Hannah Stoddard)

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SHOWDOWN BETWEEN 2 FARM BOYS FROM IDAHO



Ezra Taft Benson (President of the Quorum of the Twelve, future 13th President of the Church)



Leonard J. Arrington (Church historian 1972-1982, father of New Mormon History)

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NO PROPHECY & FAITH = FAKE HISTORY



“No writer can ever **accurately** portray a prophet of God if he or she does not believe in **prophecy**. They cannot succeed in writing what they **do not have** in personal **faith**.”

Ezra Taft Benson, "God's Hand in Our Nation's History," 1976 Brigham Young University Devotional

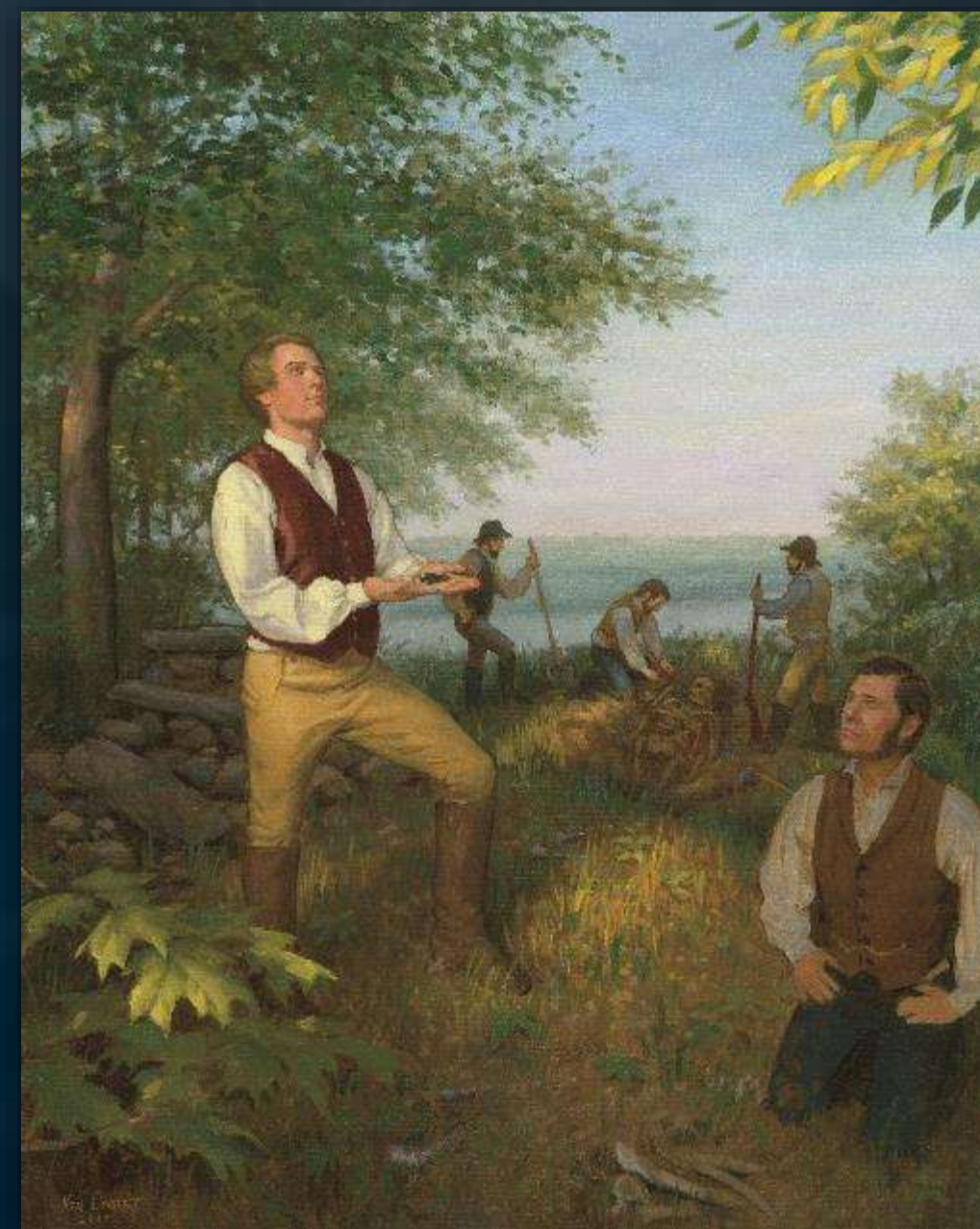
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TEACHERS MUST HAVE PROPHECY & REVELATION

“We must never forget that ours is a **prophetic history**. Our students need to understand this prophetic history. This can **only** be done by teachers who themselves possess the Spirit of **prophecy** and **revelation**.”



*Ezra Taft Benson, "Gospel Teacher and His Message," address to religious educators, September 17, 1976.
(Painting: Joseph Smith receiving vision about Zelph on Zion's Camp by Ken Corbett)*

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NO OBJECTIVE HISTORY WITHOUT SPIRIT

“... there is **no** such thing as an **accurate** or **objective** history of the Church which **ignores** the **Spirit**.

“You might as well try to write the biography of Mendelssohn without hearing or mentioning his music, or write the life of Rembrandt without mentioning light or canvas or color.

“If someone who knew very little about music should write a biography of Mendelssohn, one who had been trained to have a feeling for music would recognize that very quickly. That reader would not be many pages into the manuscript before he would know that a **most essential ingredient had been left out.**”

Boyd K. Packer, “The Mantle Is Far, Far Greater Than the Intellect,” BYU Studies Quarterly 21, no. 3, 262-263

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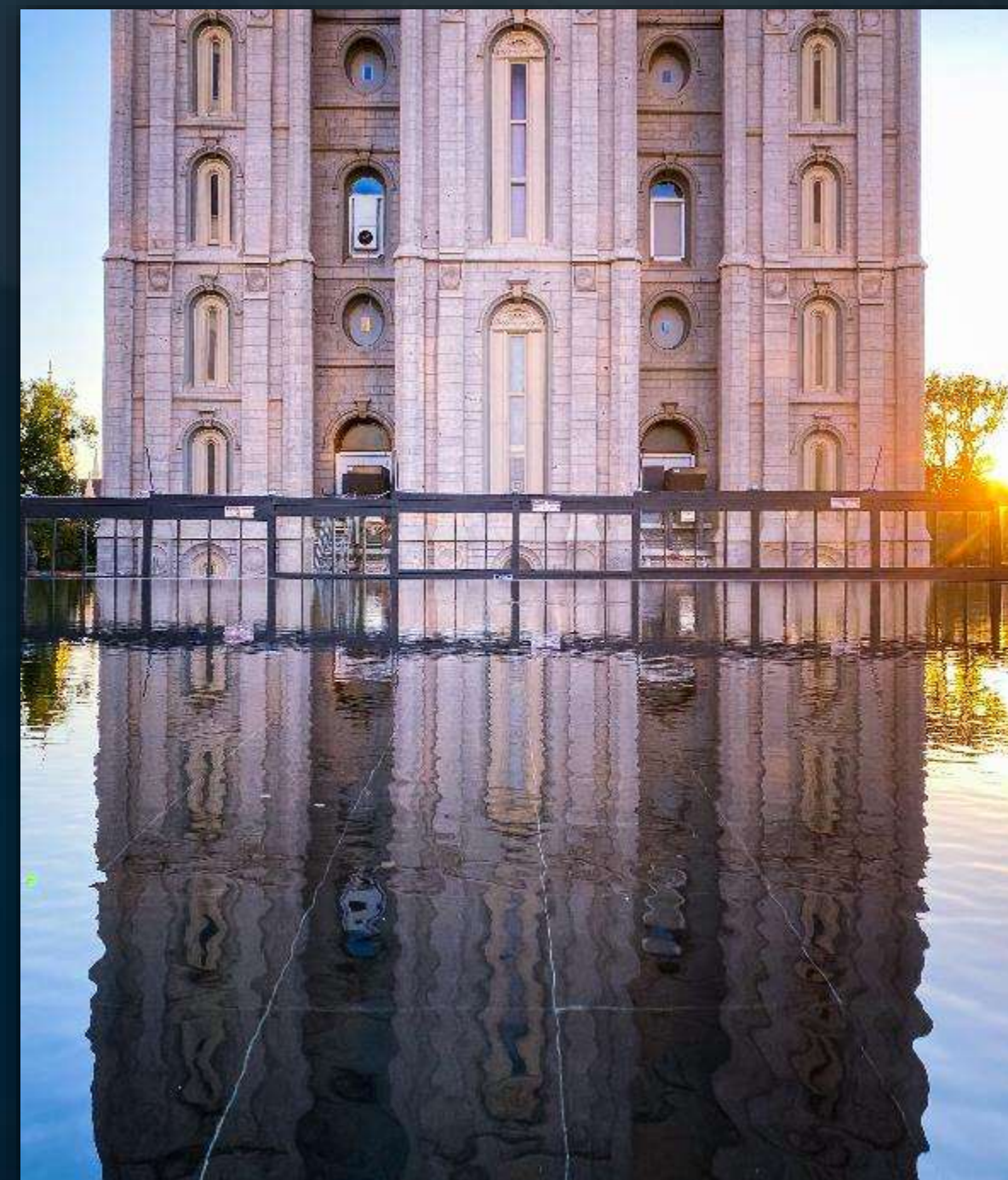
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IGNORING SPIRITUAL IS NOT SCHOLARLY

“If we who research, write, and teach the history of the Church **ignore** the **spiritual** on the pretext that the world may not understand it, our work will **not** be **objective**. And if, for the same reason, we keep it quite secular, we will produce a history that is **not accurate** and **not scholarly**—this, in spite of the extent of research or the nature of the individual statements or the incidents which are included as part of it, and notwithstanding the training or scholarly reputation of the one who writes or teaches it. We would end up with a history with the one **most essential ingredient left out.**”

Boyd K. Packer, “The Mantle Is Far, Far Greater Than the Intellect,” BYU Studies Quarterly 21, no. 3, 262-263

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“I COULD NOT BE SHAKEN”

“And he had hope to **shake** me from the **faith**, notwithstanding the **many revelations** and the many things which I had **seen** concerning these things; for I truly had seen **angels**, and they had **ministered** unto me. And also, I had heard the **voice of the Lord** speaking unto me in very word, from time to time; wherefore, **I could not be shaken.**”

Jacob 7:5

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GIFTS CEASED WHEN CHRISTIANS APOSTATIZED

“It does **not appear** that these extraordinary **gifts** of the Holy Ghost were **common** in the Church for more than two or three centuries. We **seldom hear** of them after that fatal period when the Emperor **Constantine** called himself a Christian . . . From this time they almost totally **ceased** . . . The Christians had no more of the Spirit of Christ than the other **heathens**. . . . This was the real cause why the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost were no longer to be found in the Christian Church; because the Christians were **turned Heathens again**, and had only a **dead form left**.”

John Wesley, The Works of John Wesley, 3rd ed., 14 vols. (reprinted 1986 from the 1872 edition), 7:26-27

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"Eminent Spirits Appear to Wilford Woodruff" by Ken Corbett

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ADMINISTRATION OF ANGELS

“... the Lord never did nor never will send an angel to anybody merely to gratify the desire of the individual to see an angel. If the Lord sends an angel to anyone, He sends him to perform a work that cannot be performed only by the administration of an angel. . . . Every man and woman in this Church should labor to get th[e] Spirit. We are surrounded by these evil spirits that are at war against God and against everything looking to the building up of the kingdom of God; and we need this Holy Spirit to enable us to overcome these influences. . . . This is the Spirit that we must have to carry out the purposes of God on the earth.” *(Wilford Woodruff, in Brian H. Stuy, comp. Collected Discourses, 5 vols. [1987–92], 5:233)*

“Speaking of the administration of angels. I never asked the Lord in my life to send me an angel or to show me any miracle. . . . I have had the administration of angels in my day and time, though I never prayed for an angel. I have had, in several instances, the administration of holy messengers.” *(Wilford Woodruff, in Brian H. Stuy, comp. Collected Discourses, 5 vols. [1987–92], 1:216-218)*

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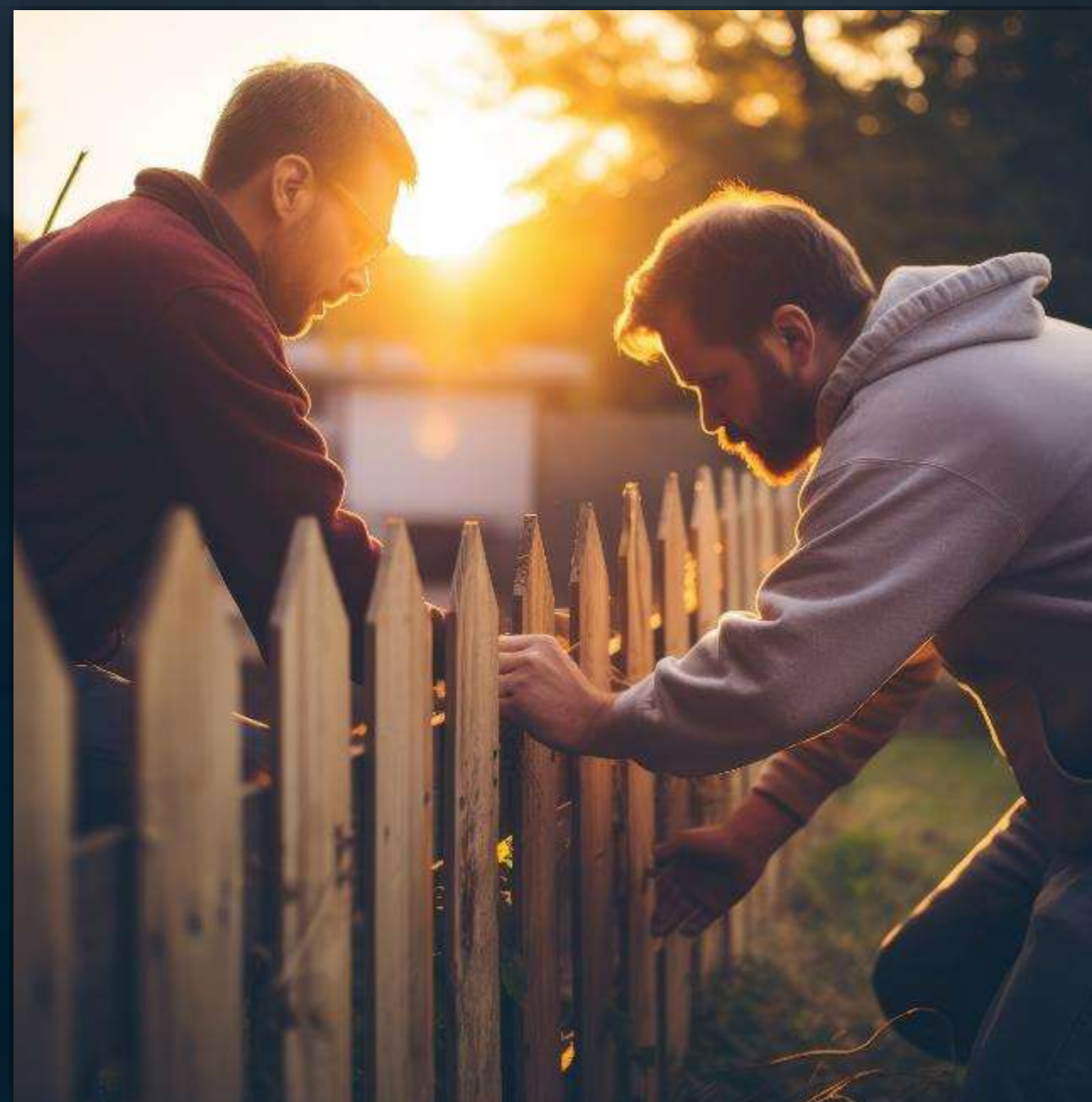
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WHAT DO YOU RELY ON AND TURN TO?

“Show me Latter-day Saints who have to **feed** upon **miracles, signs** and **visions** in order to keep them steadfast in the Church, and I will show you members of the Church who are **not in good standing before God**, and who are walking in **slippery paths**. It is not by marvelous manifestations unto us that we shall be established in the truth, but it is by **humility** and faithful **obedience** to the **commandments** and **laws** of God.”

Joseph F. Smith, April 1900 General Conference Report, p. 40

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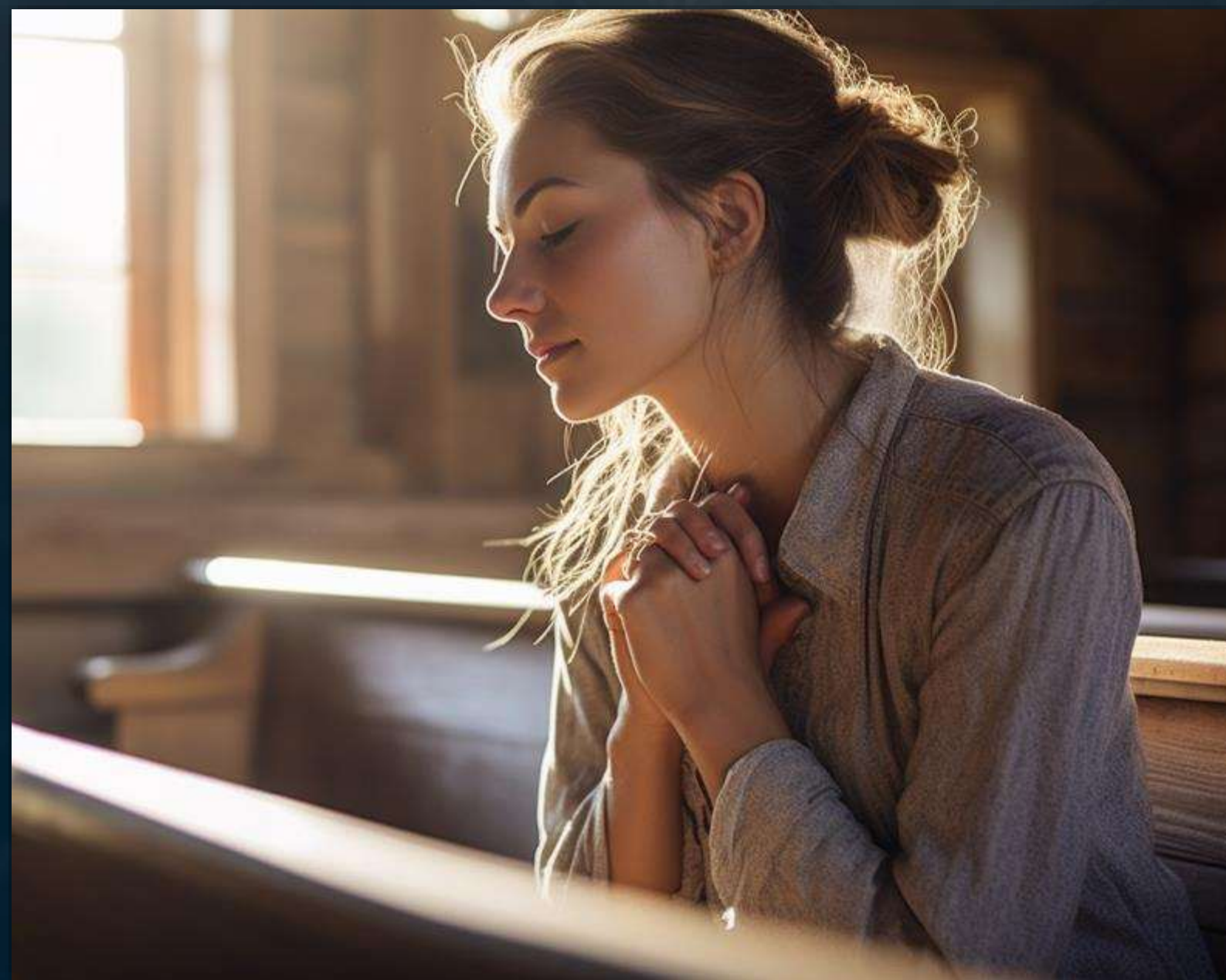
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SIGNS DO NOT CONVERT RIGHTEOUS

“Signs flow **from** faith. They may incidentally have the effect of **strengthening** the faith of those who are **already spiritually** inclined, but their chief purpose is **not** to **convert** people to the truth, but to **reward** and **ble**ss those **already converted**. . . . Signs are sacred grants of divine **favor** reserved for the faithful and concerning which the recipients are commanded not to boast.”

Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, 2nd ed. [1966], p. 713–14

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GIFTS NOURISH YOU ON THE JOURNEY

“Suppose I am traveling and am hungry, and meet with a man and tell him I am hungry, and he tells me to go yonder, there is a house of entertainment, go and knock, and you must **conform** to all the rules of the house, or you cannot satisfy your hunger; knock, call for food, sit down and eat; and I go and knock, and ask for food, and sit down to the table, but do not eat, shall I satisfy my hunger? No. I must eat. The **gifts** are the **food**; and the **graces** of the Spirit are the **gifts** of the Spirit.”



Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 270

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CONSTANTINE & THE NICENE CREED

SHEREM'S ANTICHRIST PARALLELS

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PURE GOSPEL IS CORRUPTED & CHANGED

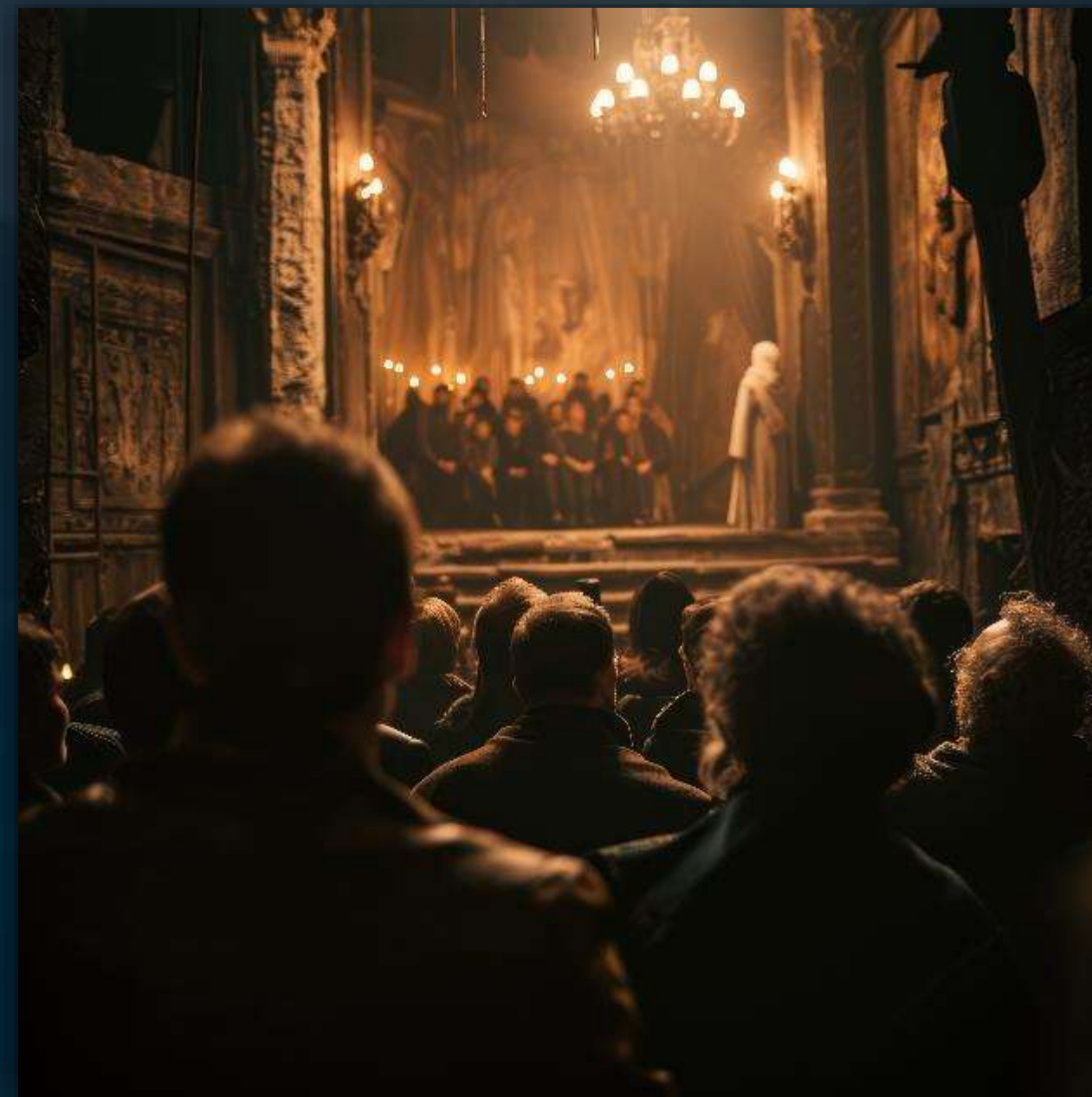
“... that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have **taken away** from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are **plain** and most **precious**; and also many **covenants** of the Lord have they taken away.

“And all this have they done that they might **pervert** the **right ways** of the Lord, that they might **blind** the eyes and **harden** the hearts of the children of men.

“... because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceedingly great **many** do **stumble**, yea, insomuch that **Satan** hath great **power** over them.”

1 Nephi 13:26-27, 29

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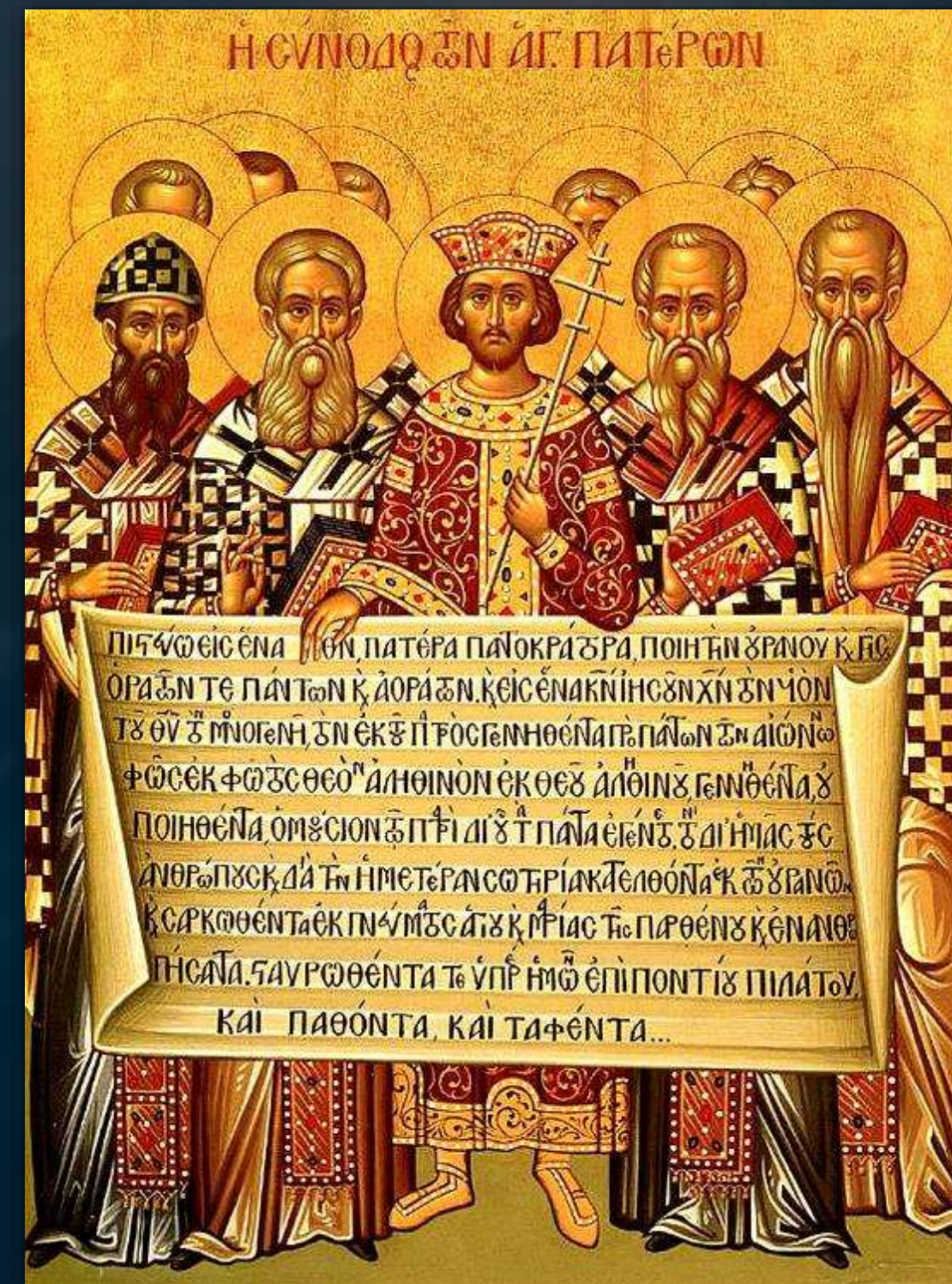


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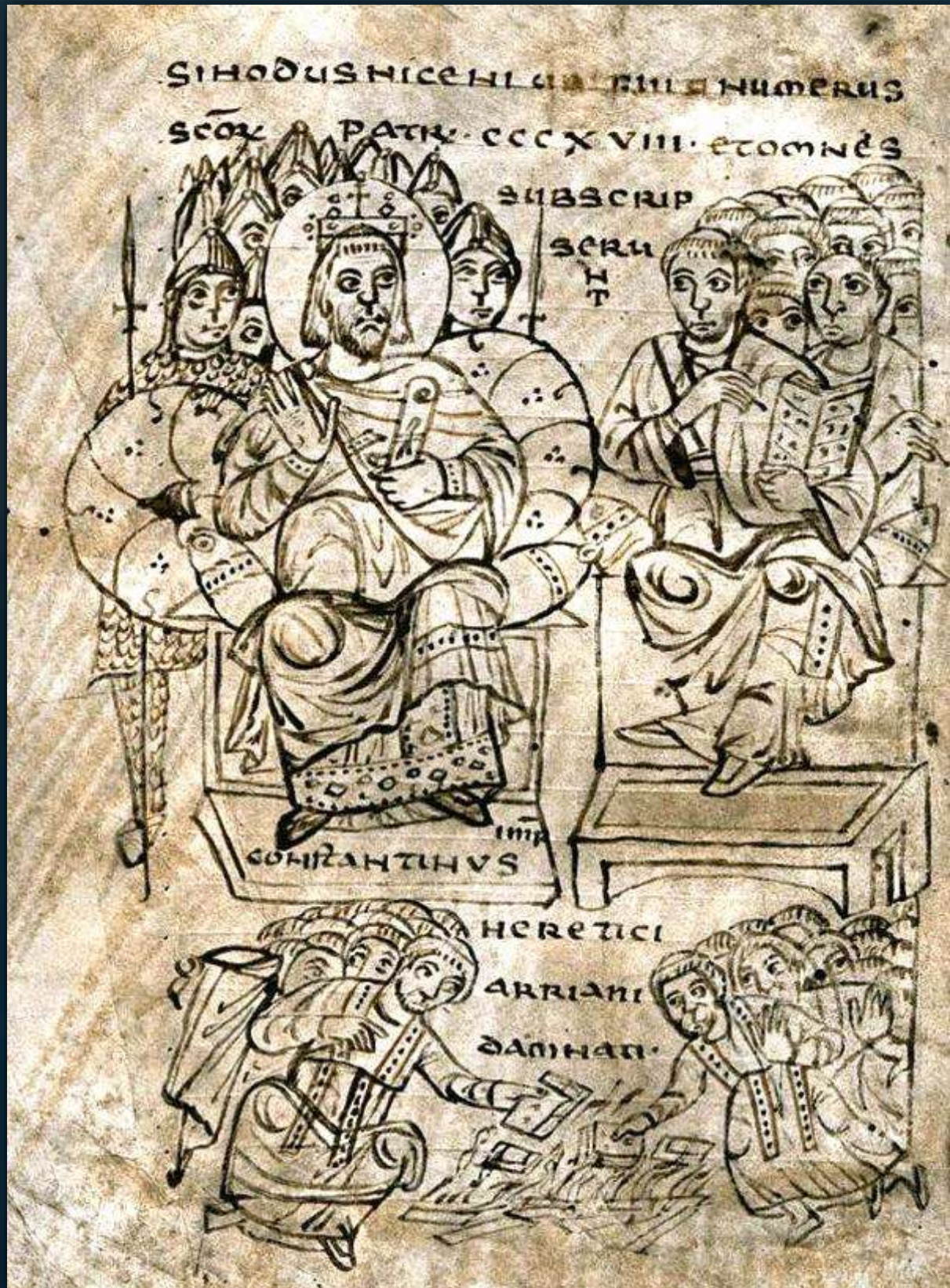
NICENE CREED

- Also called the “Creed of Constantinople”
- Adopted by the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD
- The First Council of Nicaea was an assemblage of bishops invited by Roman Emperor Constantine I
- Goal was to attain consensus through Christendom on core doctrine
- Widely accepted by Catholic, Evangelical and other Christian denominations
- The Nicene, along with the Athanasian Creed, supported the Trinity view of God



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Constantine burning books by Christians who opposed Trinitarian views adopted by Constantine



(Left) Mosaic of Emperor Constantine



(Above) Bust of Constantine's wife Fausta killed in 326 AD.



(Left) Gold coin depicting son Crispus killed by Constantine in 326 AD.

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SOWING TARES DURING DARK AGES

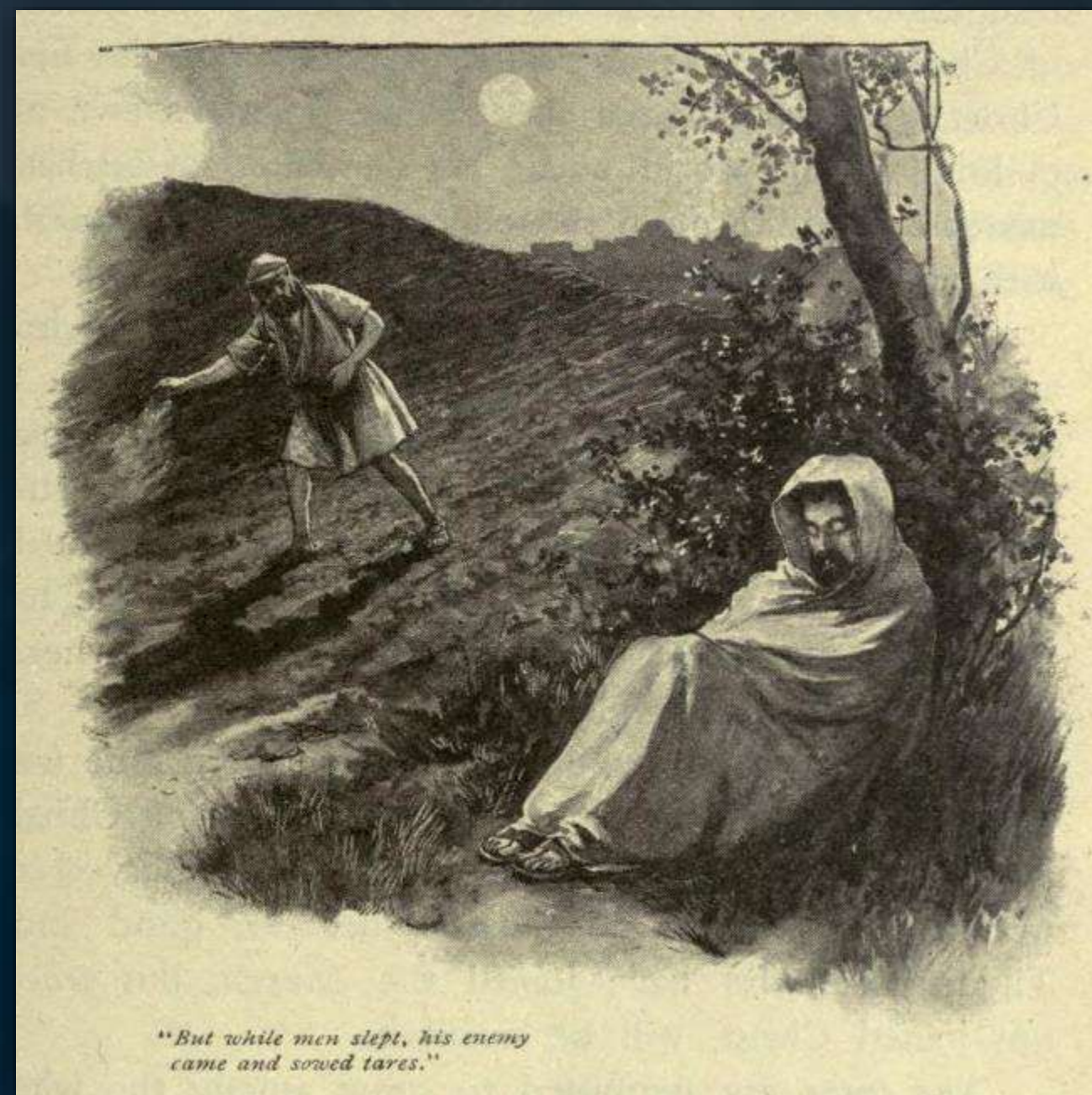
“Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servants, concerning the **parable** of the **wheat** and of the **tares**:

“Behold, verily I say, the **field** was the **world**, and the **apostles** were the **sowers** of the seed [word of God].

“And after they have fallen asleep the great persecutor of the church, the apostate, the whore, even Babylon . . . [Satan] **soweth** the **tares**; wherefore, the tares choke the wheat and **drive** the **church** into the **wilderness**.”

Doctrine and Covenants 86:1-3

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“But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares.”



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LESSON
15

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ANTICHRIST
PARALLELS
WITH
APOSTATE
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FALSE LIES ABOUT SALVATION

1. There is **no God** and thus no need for salvation.
2. There is a God, but He has saved all His children through the sacrifice of His Son or by some other means—**without** the need for **repentance**.
3. There are a **few** commandments that must be adhered to, but these are limited and that the Lord will **justify** his children in committing little **sins** because of His perfect “mercy.”
4. It is **impossible** to become perfect like the Father and we must only **do what we can**—and through the incomprehensible atonement immediately following this life—we will be ushered unto eternal life through the power of God.
5. It is true that they must live by every word of God to become like the Father, but that they **cannot do it**. Their mistakes, sins and weaknesses **cannot be overcome**. There is **no hope** for them.

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THE PLAN OF SALVATION

- Our Father in Heaven possesses a **fullness of joy** because He perfectly **lives** the **laws** which He has established.
- Perfect happiness can **only** be achieved by **living** the **life** that He lives.
- Because of His great **love** for us, He desires that we obtain this great joy and happiness as well.
- The **closer** we approach and live the laws He lives, with **exactness**, the **more happiness** we can experience.
- The Lord Jesus Christ is the **perfect example** of achieving the fullness of the Father.
- He has a fullness of joy **because He lives by every law** of the Father.
- We must **follow** the **Son** with all our **heart, might, mind and strength** to obtain the fullness of the Father.
- Through the **atoning sacrifice** of the Savior, we can **change our nature** and become **clean**, so that we no longer sin.
- The Holy Ghost **testifies** of the Father and the Son. He **reveals** the **path** by which we can follow the Son. He **cleanses** us from sin, **comforts** and gives **hope**.

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