

Scripture Study Kit

for adults and older teens



STUDY PAGES



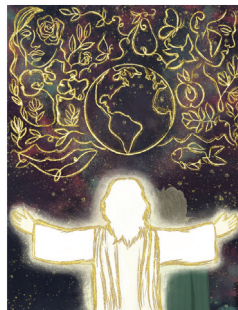
Pages filled with commentary, tips, and discussion questions.



SCRIPTURE GLUE-INS



Cut out, place a thin line of glue along the left edge, and stick into the binding of your scriptures.



ART



Original art created for these chapters.



Don't miss our new podcast titled "Fortify." The word "fortify" means "to strengthen against any attack," and we know that is what you want for you and those you love. This podcast will help you learn specific ways that you can fortify your family.

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HOW TO

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Moses 1

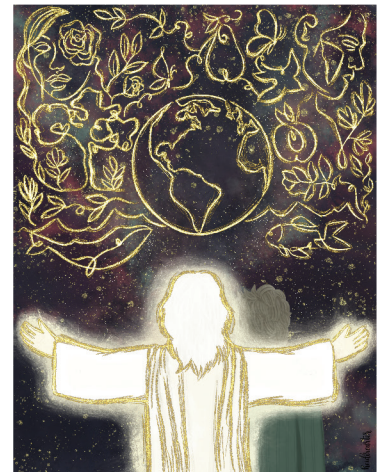
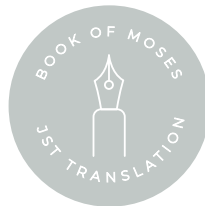
The Book of Moses is a JST (Joseph Smith Translation) of the Bible, specifically of Genesis 1:1–6:13. So originally the experiences that Moses had in Moses 1 was placed before the creation story in Genesis. Chronologically, the experience in Moses 1 belongs somewhere around Exodus 4, which was after the burning bush vision but before he went to Egypt to deliver the Israelites. However, Moses was the author of the Book of Genesis, including the account of the creation of the world. Moses 1 gives us the understanding of how Moses gained this knowledge he wrote about, so this vision is like a preface or introduction to the Book of Genesis.

AUTHOR

Moses is the author of the Book of Genesis, and the JST (or Book of Moses) makes clear that Moses received this knowledge through revelation from the Lord (see Moses 2:1).

ABOUT

The Book of Moses is a Joseph Smith Translation of Genesis 1:1 - Genesis 6:13.



Old Testament Page Titles

Below are overviews of each page. To see how you can use these page titles in your scriptures, follow this QR code or click [here](#):



Moses 1

- Page 1 God Appears to Moses Face-to-Face
- Page 2 Satan Confronts Moses // Moses Casts Satan Away
- Page 3 Moses Given Vision of Earth and People on It
- Page 4 God's Work and Glory

ELDER HOLLAND

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland gave a talk at BYU called, "Cast Not Away Therefore Your Confidence" (BYU Speeches, March 2, 1999). In this talk, he used Moses 1 extensively. Here is the link to the talk:



Moses 1

MOSES WITNESSES THE GLORY OF GOD

1 The words of God, which he spake unto Moses at a time when Moses was caught up into an exceedingly high mountain,

2 And he saw God face to face, and he talked with him, and the glory of God was upon Moses; therefore Moses could endure his presence.

3 And God spake unto Moses, saying: Behold, I am the Lord God Almighty, and Endless is my name; for I am without beginning of days or end of years; and is not this endless?

4 And, behold, thou art my son; wherefore look, and I will show thee the workmanship of mine hands; but not all, for my works are without end, and also my words, for they never cease.

5 Wherefore, no man can behold all my works, except he behold all my glory; and no man can behold all my glory, and afterwards remain in the flesh on the earth. *likeness in nature*

6 And I have a work for thee, Moses, my son; and thou art in the (similitude) of mine Only Begotten; and mine Only Begotten is and shall be the Savior, for he is full of grace and truth; but there is no God beside me, and all things are present with me, for I know them all.

7 And now, behold, this one thing I show unto thee, Moses, my son, for thou art in the world, and now I show it unto thee.

8 And it came to pass that Moses looked, and beheld the world upon which he was created; and Moses beheld the world and the ends thereof, and all the children of men which are, and which were created; of the same he greatly marveled and wondered.

9 And the presence of God withdrew from Moses, that his glory was not upon Moses; and Moses was left unto himself. And as he was left unto himself, he fell unto the earth.

10 And it came to pass that it was for the space of many hours before Moses did again receive his natural strength like unto man; and he said unto himself: Now, for this cause I know that man is nothing, which thing I never had supposed.

11 But now mine own eyes have beheld God; but not my natural, but my spiritual eyes, for my natural eyes could not have beheld; for I should have withered and died in his presence; but his glory was upon me; and I beheld his face, for I was transfigured before him.

12 And it came to pass that when Moses had said these words, behold, Satan came tempting him, saying: Moses, son of man, worship me.

Moses 1:1-4 Moses begins his record with this vision where he witnesses the glory of God (the word “glory” appears 13 times in this chapter), and also reveals Satan’s darkness and deceptive manner. He shows the contrast between God and Lucifer that he himself experienced before he teaches about the Creation story, including what Satan did in the Garden, so Moses had had his own experience with the great deceiver.

This experience occurred before Moses went to Egypt to deliver the children of Israel. Imagine how this experience would have prepared him to stand before Pharaoh. *Notice the specific things that Moses learned.*

Moses saw “God face to face, and he talked with him” (verse 2). Just as Joseph Smith saw God in the Sacred Grove, Moses saw God on this mountain and he talked with Him. Therefore, Moses would have seen and understood the nature of God. He would have seen that He was a man with a physical body and had glory that could only be endured if one were transfigured. God then introduced Himself by declaring His endless and eternal nature, and while all of this would have been sinking in, imagine hearing this: “*thou art my son*” (verse 4). Moses was learning about his own divine potential while also beginning to understand the glory of God.

Consider what this moment must have been like for Moses, and then consider this quote from President Benson:

How Familiar His Face Is to Us

Moses 1:2-4

“Nothing is going to startle us more when we pass through the veil to the other side than to realize how well we know our Father and how familiar his face is to us.”

- **President Ezra Taft Benson**, Speeches of the Year, 1974, 313

Note that this experience differs from the First Vision as God does not introduce His son, but rather Jehovah is speaking in the name of the Father. The First Presidency in 1916 explained:

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.”

- *The First Presidency, Ensign, Apr. 2002, 17*

Moses 1:5-11 God then tells Moses that he has a work for him and also explained that Moses is in the “similitude” of Jehovah. “Similitude” means “Likeness, resemblance, likeness in nature” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary). Not only is Moses created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), but his mission is in the similitude of Jesus’ mission, for Moses will be a deliverer, a prophet, a teacher, a priesthood bearer, and a seer.

Moses is then shown “the world and the ends thereof” (verse 8). Imagine what that must have been like! How would one express such an experience? Perhaps by simply saying that “he greatly marveled and wondered” (verse 8).

Elder Neal A. Maxwell taught:

One might learn, for instance, a great deal about the physical characteristics of this planet earth, but yet be ignorant of why it was created in the first place.

- *Elder Neal A. Maxwell, Ensign, April 1993, 70*

Moses was seeing the creations and was comprehending the purpose of it (see Moses 1:39). His experience required God’s glory to be upon him, and once it had left, “he fell unto the earth,” and realized that “man is nothing.” Moses had grown up in Pharaoh’s court. He would have witnessed the great power men can have, and he witnessed the greatness of Egypt’s army. His personal life experience would have taught him that man is powerful, but this vision helped him see that man’s power is “nothing” in comparison.

Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf taught,

The more we learn about the universe, the more we understand—at least in a small part—what Moses knew. The universe is so large, mysterious, and glorious that it is incomprehensible to the human mind. “Worlds without number have I created,” God said to Moses. The wonders of the night sky are a beautiful testimony of that truth....

But even though man is nothing, it fills me with wonder and awe to think that “the worth of souls is great in the sight of God.”

- *Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, October 2011 General Conference*

❶ What has stood out to you in these verses?

❷ What do you want to remember?

Moses 1

MOSES WITNESSES SATAN

13 And it came to pass that Moses looked upon Satan and said: Who art thou? For behold, I am a son of God, in the similitude of his Only Begotten; and where is thy glory, that I should worship thee?

14 For behold, I could not look upon God, except his glory should come upon me, and I were transfigured before him. But I can look upon thee in the natural man. Is it not so, surely?

15 Blessed be the name of my God, for his Spirit hath not altogether withdrawn from me, or else where is thy glory, for it is darkness unto me? And I can judge between thee and God; for God said unto me: Worship God, for him only shalt thou serve.

16 Get thee hence, Satan; deceive me not; for God said unto me: Thou art after the similitude of mine Only Begotten.

17 And he also gave me commandments when he called unto me out of the burning bush, saying: Call upon God in the name of mine Only Begotten, and worship me.

18 And again Moses said: I will not cease to call upon God, I have other things to inquire of him: for his glory has been upon me, wherefore I can judge between him and thee. Depart hence, Satan.

19 And now, when Moses had said these words, Satan cried with a loud voice, and ranted upon the earth, and commanded, saying: I am the Only Begotten, worship me.

20 And it came to pass that Moses began to fear exceedingly; and as he began to fear, he saw the bitterness of hell. Nevertheless, calling upon God, he received strength, and he commanded, saying: Depart from me, Satan, for this one God only will I worship, which is the God of glory.

21 And now Satan began to tremble, and the earth shook; and Moses received strength, and called upon God, saying: In the name of the Only Begotten, depart hence, Satan.

22 And it came to pass that Satan cried with a loud voice, with weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth; and he departed hence, even from the presence of Moses, that he beheld him not.

23 And now of this thing Moses bore record; but because of wickedness it is not had among the children of men.

24 And it came to pass that when Satan had departed from the presence of Moses, that Moses lifted up his eyes unto heaven, being filled with the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of the Father and the Son;

Moses 1:12-18 What happened next? Satan came. Moses was chosen to do a great work, and the best way to keep the Israelites in bondage would be to stop the person who would deliver them. Satan often comes in those crucial moments.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland taught:

Don't Let Your Guard Down

Moses 1:1-22

This experience is remarkable by every standard. It is one of the great revelations given in human history. It stands with the greatest accounts we have of any prophet's experience with divinity.

But Moses' message to you today is, "Don't let your guard down." Don't assume that a great revelation, some marvelous illuminating moment, or the opening of an inspired path is the end of it. Remember, it isn't over until it's over. What happened to Moses next, after his revelatory moment, would be ludicrous if it were not so dangerous and so absolutely true to form. In an effort to continue his opposition... Lucifer appeared and shouted in equal portions of anger and petulance after God had revealed himself to the prophet, saying, "Moses, worship me." But Moses was not having it. He had just seen the real thing, and by comparison this sort of performance was pretty dismal.

- Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, *BYU Speeches, March 2, 1999*

Notice how Satan sought to deceive Moses. Elder Talmage explained,

"Then came Satan, the audacious, the father of lies, and represented himself as being the son of God in the distinctive sense. Moses was able to discern and perceive. [Elder Talmage then quotes Moses 1:13-14].

Oh, that we all had such power of discernment."

- Elder James E. Talmage, *April 1931 Conference Report*

Satan first came and tempted Moses to worship him. "Tempted" means "Enticed to evil; provoked" (Webster's 1828 Dictionary). Satan focused on Moses' mortal nature rather than his divine heritage by calling him "son of man" (v. 12). At this time, Moses would have felt physically weak (see v. 9), and Satan took advantage of this moment. It is as if Satan may have been saying, "See Moses? You are lying upon the ground - look at your mortal weaknesses. You are a son of man."

Moses' response is perfect. "Who art thou? For behold, I am a son of God, in the similitude of his Only Begotten; and where is thy glory that I should worship thee?" (v. 13). Notice what gave Moses perspective in that moment so that he could not be deceived:

- *His understanding of who he was.*

- *And his understanding of who God is.*

Moses was not confused and he could not be deceived because he could discern. Because of his previous experiences, he could judge in this moment and stand firm. As Elder Holland taught:

Like Moses in his vision, there may come after the fact some competing doubts and some confusion, but they will pale when you measure them against the real thing.

- Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, *BYU Speeches, March 2, 1999*

Moses 1:19-23 Moses told Satan to depart, but Satan will not leave until it is done with proper authority (see verse 21). Satan's response to being told to leave only caused him to increase his efforts. He "cried with a loud voice, and ranted upon the earth" (v. 19) and "commanded saying: I am the Only Begotten, worship me" (v.19). As Moses saw this escalating reaction, he "began to fear exceedingly, and as he began to fear, he saw the bitterness of hell." Moses, who had just seen God's glory and creations, was now seeing Hell. What a contrast. Gospel scholar Hugh Nibley explained:

In the next three verses he repeats that he shares the nature of the Only Begotten and finds Satan a fraud: "Satan, deceive me not," ending by summarily ordering him off the premises. (Verses 16-18.) These are stinging blows, for Satan has always claimed the earth as his own special precinct and the role of the Only Begotten as his exclusive vehicle. Moses' repeated reminders of his own intimacy with the Only Begotten drives the pretender into a screaming rage...

"Nevertheless, calling upon God, he receives strength" (verse 20), and at the last moment is delivered.

And now the tables are turned: It is the dark opponent who is down; he trembles and the earth shakes as he retreats in uproar and anguish.

- Hugh Nibley, *Enoch the Prophet, 157*

This was after the burning bush

Moses 1

MOSES WITNESSES EVERY PARTICLE

25 And calling upon the name of God, he beheld his glory again, for it was upon him; and he heard a voice, saying: Blessed art thou, Moses, for I, the Almighty, have chosen thee, and thou shalt be made stronger than many waters; for they shall obey thy command as if thou wert God.

26 And lo, I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days; for thou shalt deliver my people from bondage, even Israel my chosen.

27 And it came to pass, as the voice was still speaking, Moses cast his eyes and beheld the earth, yea, even all of it; and there was not a particle of it which he did not behold, discerning it by the Spirit of God.

28 And he beheld also the inhabitants thereof, and there was not a soul which he beheld not; and he discerned them by the Spirit of God; and their numbers were great, even numberless as the sand upon the sea shore.

29 And he beheld many lands; and each land was called earth, and there were inhabitants on the face thereof.

30 And it came to pass that Moses called upon God, saying: Tell me, I pray thee, why these things are so, and by what thou madest them?

31 And behold, the glory of the Lord was upon Moses, so that Moses stood in the presence of God, and talked with him face to face. And the Lord God said unto Moses: For mine own purpose have I made these things. Here is wisdom and it remaineth in me.

32 And by the word of my power, have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth.

33 And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten.

34 And the first man of all men have I called Adam, which is many.

35 But only an account of this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, give I unto you. For behold, there are many worlds that have passed away by the word of my power. And there are many that now stand, and innumerable are they unto man; but all things are numbered unto me, for they are mine and I know them.

36 And it came to pass that Moses spake unto the Lord, saying: Be merciful unto thy servant, O God, and tell me concerning this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, and also the heavens, and then thy servant will be content.

❓ What did verses 12-23 teach you about Satan? Why are these truths important for you to know?

Moses 1:24-26 Moses' next step was not to run away and get as far away from that place as he could. No. He "lifted up his eyes unto heaven" and called upon God, and now he will receive even more.

In verse 25, God tells Moses that he will "be made stronger than many waters; for they shall obey thy command as if thou wert God." While Satan wanted Moses to focus on his fallen nature, God wanted Moses to understand his unlimited potential. He could work marvelous miracles.

God knew what was in Moses' future. He knew that Moses would be standing at the shores of the Red Sea with the Egyptian army closing in on the Israeites. Moses had a work to do and God would give him the capacity to accomplish it, even a capacity far beyond Moses' current comprehension.

Here lies an important principle. In D&C 8:2-3 as the Lord was instructing Oliver Cowdery about revelation, the Lord said, "Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart. Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation; behold, this is the spirit by which Moses brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground." So, not only can the Holy Ghost inspire us in the very moment we need it, we can also be prepared far in advance. As Moses stood before the Red Sea, it is possible that this very phrase in verse 25 was brought to his mind. Moses had already witnessed many miracles in Egypt, but now - parting the Red Sea would be a massive miracle, for the Red Sea at its deepest is nearly two miles deep. But God did not say that Moses will be stronger than a "little water", but of "many waters."

The Lord then repeated His call to Moses to deliver Israel from bondage (see v. 26). This call had previously been given when the Lord appeared at the burning bush (see Exodus 3). At that time, Moses had expressed uncertainty. "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh..." (Exodus 3:11). But now Moses had seen the glory and creations of God. Now Moses had learned that man is nothing (v. 10). Now Moses had discerned, withstood, and cast out Satan. Now Moses has learned that nothing will be impossible. Who was Pharaoh to stop God's will?

Moses 1:27-36 Another vision opened up to Moses where he again beheld the earth. He did not just see the earth, but he beheld "all of it; and there was not a particle of it which he did not behold" (v. 27), and there was "not a soul which he beheld not" (v. 28). If you were to look outside right now, we cannot even comprehend the particles within our view. Every grass, every leaf... our comprehension is limited. But with the Spirit of God (v. 28), Moses' capacity was increased.

Orson Pratt explained it like this:

Moses Comprehends the Earth

Moses 1:27-29

When, according to the prophecy of Joel, God bestows visions and revelations upon his sons and daughters, and dreams, by the same Spirit, upon the old men, they will acquire more knowledge in a very short time, than could be learned by studying the best of books that are possessed by the colleges and institutions of learning all over the world. We have to study for years in order to learn one branch, mathematics for instance... geometry, ... calculus, etc.

It takes years of study to acquire a knowledge of them, and about the time we have partially mastered them, we are old men, ready to pass away from this state of existence. But when the time shall come that the Spirit of the living God shall be poured out upon all flesh, in a very few moments of time the Lord could unlock the mysteries and treasures of the earth, so that we could understand not only the geographical surface of the earth, but be able, by the power of vision, to behold every particle of it inside as well as outside, and also the law that governs its elementary portions, nearly all of which is now closed from our mortal vision. We can only go about so far with our natural sight; but there is a faculty in every man and woman which is now sleeping in a dormant state; and as soon as it is touched by the spirit of the Lord, we shall be enabled to see a new world of things as it were, mysteries will be opened up and we will perceive naturally as if they were written, and in this way we shall be able to learn very rapidly indeed.

- Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses 19:168*

As Moses witnessed every particle and person, the question that burned within him was, "why these things are so, and by what thou madest them?" (v. 30). Or in other words, WHY was the earth and the people in it created, and by what POWER were they created. These are the great questions of life. As Elder Uchtdorf said, "Once we begin to understand the answers to these questions—not with the mind only, but with the heart and the soul—we will begin to understand who we are, and we will feel like the wanderer who is finally finding home. ... Everything finally makes sense" (CES Fireside, Nov 1, 2009).

❓ What do you want to remember from these verses?

❓ How has the Lord prepared you, far in advance, for responsibilities and experiences you have had?

❓ What do these verses teach you about the Spirit of God and how it can increase your capacity?

Moses 1

MOSES LEARNS GOD'S WORK & GLORY

37 And the Lord God spake unto Moses, saying: **The heavens, they are many, and they cannot be numbered unto man; but they are numbered unto me, for they are mine.**

38 And as one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof even so shall another come; and **there is no end to my works, neither to my words.**

39 For behold, this is my work and my **glory**—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

40 And now, **Moses, my son,** I will speak unto thee concerning this earth upon which thou standest; and thou shalt write the things which I shall speak.

41 And in a day when the children of men shall esteem my words as naught and take many of them from the book which thou shalt write, behold, I will raise up **another** like unto thee; and they shall be had again among the children of men—among as many as shall believe.

42 (These words were spoken unto Moses in the mount, the name of which shall not be known among the children of men. And now they are spoken unto you. Show them not unto any except them that believe. Even so. Amen.)

Moses 1:37-42 Verses like these can truly expand our understanding and our righteousness. Seeking to understand how things really are will only increase our faith – especially when the Lord gives us truths like those found in these verses. The Lord we look to, covenant with, and whose name we take upon ourselves is not a small God. His powers and creations pass far beyond our comprehension. His creations are so many that “they cannot be numbered unto man” (v. 37). But He owns them.

Elder Neal A. Maxwell taught these truths beautifully:

...do the sweeping, scriptural words with which we have been blessed stir us enough? Are we steadily becoming the “manner of people” who reflect such soaring doctrines by our increased spiritual sanctification? Brothers and sisters, God is giving away the spiritual secrets of the universe, but are we listening?...

Greater appreciation for the greater universe will also help us to live more righteously in our own tiny universes of daily life. Likewise, a better understanding of God's governance of the vast galaxies can lead to our better self-governance...

Reflect upon how long it took man to reach the moon, and yet it is located in our own backyard!

...Yet as big as this earth is—and all of us jet-laggers can so attest—Stephen W. Hawking provided for us some sobering perspective: “[Our] earth is a medium-sized planet orbiting around an average star in the outer suburbs of an ordinary spiral galaxy, which is itself only one of about a million million galaxies in the observable universe.”

One scientist who does not believe in divine design nevertheless noted that “as we look out into the universe and identify the many accidents . . . that have worked together to our benefit, it almost seems as if the universe must in some sense have known that we were coming...”

One may ask what is God's purpose for the inhabitants? It is best expressed in that terse verse with which you are all so familiar: “For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39).

Therefore, in the expansiveness of space, there is stunning personalness, for God knows and loves each of us! (see 1 Nephi 11:17). ... His work includes our immortalization—accomplished by Christ's glorious Atonement! Think of it, brothers and sisters, even with their extensive longevity, stars are not immortal, but you are...

Alas, in our age, brothers and sisters, we have some who believe that if they cannot comprehend something, then God cannot comprehend it either. Ironically, some do actually prefer a “little god.” Better for all of us—scientists and nonscientists alike—instead of trying to downsize divinity, to upsize our personal humility!...

As spectacular as what science has learned about the witnessing universe so far, it is still such a small sample. Of the 1995 Hubble picture of a “deep field,” it was said that “the sampled segment—the deepest image ever taken of the heavens—covered . . . a speck of the sky only about the width of a dime located 75 feet away.”

The soul trembles, brothers and sisters!

Whatever Moses' own sample, no wonder he was overwhelmed and “fell unto the earth” saying that “man is nothing” (Moses 1:9–10)...

Therefore, brothers and sisters, as we look at the universe, we do not see unexplained chaos or cosmic churn. Instead, the faithful see God “moving in His majesty and power” (D&C 88:47). It is like viewing a divinely choreographed, cosmic ballet—spectacular, subduing, and reassuring!

– Elder Neal A. Maxwell, *Our Creator's Cosmos*, BYU Religious Studies Center

This is the God in whom we trust. This is the God in whom Pharaoh would have no power against. This is the God whose power could create the Red Sea, let alone part it. When we remember these things, how can Satan's deceptions and lies possibly compare to the real thing? Satan may promise momentary acceptance, power, or pleasure. But look what God is offering!

Verse 39 is the answer to Moses' question as to WHY all of this was created. Why are these endless universes created with such attention to the smallest details? God's answer, “...this is my work and my glory – to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (v. 39). It is all for us. We are the reason He created all of these things.

Eternal Life is God's life and power – and He is giving us a glimpse here in this chapter of what that means. This is what our divine nature has the capacity to become. As Elder Ballard said, “Sometimes I wonder if we really appreciate what that means and how it should affect our lives. We must give adequate attention to the doctrines of happiness... They should be the objective of everything we teach in the Church and of everything we do” (April 1995 GC).

- ❶ What has stood out to you in these verses?
- ❷ What do you want to remember?
- ❸ What has this chapter taught you about God?
- ❹ What have you learned that will help you increase your faith in God?
- ❺ How do you think these experiences impacted Moses? How would Moses be more prepared now to go to Egypt?
- ❻ How can these teachings help you to go forward with faith in your own sphere?
- ❼ What is eternal life? What is immortality?
- ❽ How does Moses' vision help you grasp what God is offering when He promises us eternal life?

Abraham 3

While the Book of Moses is an inspired translation of Genesis 1:1-6:13, the Book of Abraham is a translation of the writings of Abraham. The beginning of this book states, “A Translation of some ancient Records that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt. The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus.”

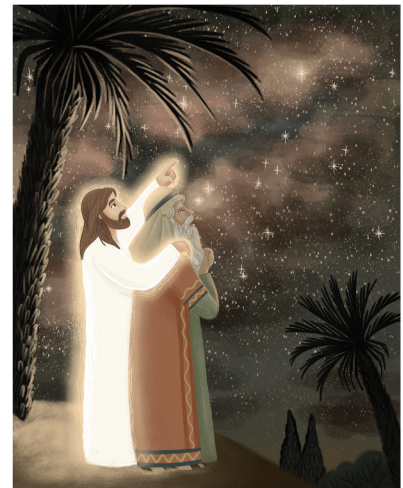
AUTHOR

Abraham is the author of the Book of Abraham.

Abraham was born in Ur of the Chaldees around 2000 B.C. Moses was born in 1370 B.C., making them around 630 years apart.

ABRAHAM 3

Moses’ vision that you just studied was received hundreds of years after Abraham’s experience in Abraham 3. Abraham was also taught about the Lord’s creations which will help him understand how God works through divine order.



Old Testament Page Titles

Below are overviews of each page. To see how you can use these page titles in your scriptures, follow this QR code or click [here](#).



Abraham 3

Page 34 Abraham Learns of the Lord’s Creations

Page 35 Abraham Learns of the Greatness of the Stars

Page 38 The Eternal Nature of Spirits // The Council in Heaven

ELDER MAXWELL

Elder Neal A. Maxwell gave a talk to religious educators titled, “Our Creator’s Cosmos” (BYU Religious Studies Center). In this talk, he speaks of what the universe can teach us and quotes from both Moses 1 and Abraham 3. Here is a link to that talk:



Abraham 3

If You Could Hie to Kolob

BY

WILLIAM W. PHELPS

This hymn was first published in the Deseret News in 1856.

If you could hie to Kolob
in the twinkling of an eye,
And then continue onward
with that same speed to fly,
D'ye think that you could ever,
through all eternity,
Find out the generation
where Gods began to be?

Or see the grand beginning,
where space did not extend?
Or view the last creation,
where Gods and matter end?
Methinks the Spirit whispers,
No man has found "pure space,"
Nor seen the outside curtains,
where nothing has a place.

The works of God continue,
and worlds and lives abound;
Improvement and progression
have one eternal round.
There is no end to matter;
there is no end to space
There is no end to spirit;
there is no end to race.

1 And I, **Abraham**, had the Urim and Thummim, which the Lord my God had given unto me, in Ur of the Chaldees;
2 And I saw the stars, that **they were very great**, and that one of them was nearest unto the throne of God; and there were many great ones which were near unto it;
3 And the Lord said unto me: **These are the governing ones**; and the name of the great one is **Kolob**, because it is near unto me, for I am the Lord thy God: **I have set this one to govern all those which belong to the same order as that upon which thou standest.**

4 And the Lord said unto me, by the Urim and Thummim, that **Kolob** was after the manner of the Lord, **according to its times and seasons in the revolutions thereof; that one revolution was a day** unto the Lord, after his manner of reckoning, it being **one thousand years** according to the time appointed unto that whereon thou standest. This is the reckoning of the Lord's time, according to the reckoning of Kolob.

5 And the Lord said unto me: **The planet which is the lesser light**, lesser than that which is to rule the day, even the night, is above or greater than that upon which thou standest in point of reckoning, for it moveth **in order more slow**; this is in order because it standeth above the earth upon which thou standest, therefore the reckoning of its time is not so many as to its number of days, and of months, and of years.

6 And the Lord said unto me: Now, Abraham, these two facts exist, behold thine eyes see it; it is given unto thee to know the times of reckoning, and the set time, yea, **the set time of the earth upon which thou standest, and the set time of the greater light** which is set to rule the day, and **the set time of the lesser light** which is set to rule the night.

7 Now the set time of the lesser light is a longer time as to its reckoning than the reckoning of the time of the earth upon which thou standest.

Abraham 3:1 What a way to begin our study of the Old Testament! To have two great Old Testament prophets expand our minds and let the universe teach us of God's glory and majesty!

Comparing Abraham 3 to Moses 1 can also give us insight into the different ways that God communicates with His children. Here in this chapter, Abraham receives his knowledge through the Urim and Thummim. But Moses received his through a vision. Other ways that God communicates are through inspiration through the Holy Ghost, through angelic messengers, through dreams, and through other sacred instruments such as the Liahona.

Abraham 3:2-7 Like Moses, Abraham is going to have an indescribable experience, and we can only seek to grasp this through studying and pondering what this must have been like.

Abraham said "I saw the stars, that they were very great" (v. 2). Then Abraham identified one governing star called "Kolob" (v. 3). Here is what we know about Kolob:

- Kolob is a governing star (see verses 3 and 9).
- Kolob is near the throne of God (verse 2).
- One revolution of Kolob is a day unto the Lord (verse 4). This same revolution is 1,000 years to Abraham (verse 4).
- Kolob governs "all those which belong to the same order," and that order includes the earth (see verse 3).

The Lord then explains about planets that are lesser lights and greater lights that move at different rates. The greater light (the sun) rules the day, and the lesser light (the moon) rules the night. These lights are set - there is order to all of this. We can witness just on our own planet's rotation and its relationship with the sun and moon that there is divine order to the universe. As Elder Maxwell taught:

Therefore, brothers and sisters, as we look at the universe, we do not see unexplained chaos or cosmic churn. Instead, the faithful see God "moving in His majesty and power" (D&C 88:47). It is like viewing a divinely choreographed, cosmic ballet—spectacular, subduing, and reassuring!
- Elder Neal A. Maxwell, *Our Creator's Cosmos*, BYU Religious Studies Center

If You Could Hie to Kolob: It was these scriptures that inspired W.W. Phelps to write this hymn. The word "hie" means "To hasten; to move or run with haste" (Webster's 1828 Dictionary). In this hymn, W. W. Phelps imagines going to Kolob, which would bring you near the throne of God. So then, what would you witness? What would you see?

- ❓ What has stood out to you in these verses?
- ❓ What do you want to remember?
- ❓ Why do you think God is teaching Abraham about the governing stars?

Abraham 3

8 And where these two facts exist, there shall be another fact above them, that is, there shall be another planet whose reckoning of time shall be longer still;

9 And thus there shall be the reckoning of the time of one planet above another, until thou come nigh unto Kolob, which Kolob is after the reckoning of the Lord's time; which Kolob is set nigh unto the throne of God, to govern all those planets which belong to the same order as that upon which thou standest.

10 And it is given unto thee to know the set time of all the stars that are set to give light, until thou come near unto the throne of God.

11 Thus I, Abraham, talked with the Lord, face to face, as one man talketh with another; and he told me of the works which his hands had made;

12 And he said unto me: My son, my son (and his hand was stretched out), behold I will show you all these. And he put his hand upon mine eyes, and I saw those things which his hands had made, which were many; and they multiplied before mine eyes, and I could not see the end thereof.

13 And he said unto me: This is Shinehah, which is the sun. And he said unto me: Kokob which is star. And he said unto me: Olea, which is the moon. And he said unto me: Kokaubeam, which signifies stars, or all the great lights, which were in the firmament of heaven.

14 And it was in the night time when the Lord spake these words unto me: I will multiply thee, and thy seed after thee, like unto these; and if thou canst count the number of sands, so shall be the number of thy seeds.

15 And the Lord said unto me: Abraham, I show these things unto thee before ye go into Egypt, that ye may declare all these words.

16 If two things exist, and there be one above the other, there shall be greater things above them; therefore Kolob is the greatest of all the Kokaubeam that thou hast seen, because it is nearest unto me.

17 Now, if there be two things, one above the other, and the moon be above the earth, then it may be that a planet or a star may exist above it; and there is nothing that the Lord thy God shall take in his heart to do but what he will do it.

18 Howbeit that he made the greater star; as, also, if there be two spirits, and one shall be more intelligent than the other, yet these two spirits, notwithstanding one is more intelligent than the other, have no beginning; they existed before, they shall have no end, they shall exist after, for they are gnolaum, or eternal.

Abraham 3:8-10 Abraham is being taught the perfect order of the universe. As Joseph Fielding Smith taught:

The Divine Order of the Universe

Abraham 3:1-16

The Lord showed Abraham the great heavenly bodies. He saw them in their majesty revolving through space in perfect order. Some were set to govern; others to obey; but there was a relationship between them. He was taught by the Divine Teacher to comprehend their times and their seasons and the purpose of their creation.

- President Joseph Fielding Smith, *The Way to Perfection*, 26)

Abraham 3:11 The Lord is a God who comes to the earth to speak "face to face." The very God who created worlds without number will come and speak to a single individual. President Kimball taught:

There are many different approaches toward our Creator. There are many who profess belief in a God but have little idea what he is. Or perhaps they do not ever expect to see their Creator. Perhaps they would not recognize him when he comes, not knowing what to expect.

The mountain, the river, the volcano became gods to many. But man in his searching has created himself a God without form or power or substance.

Jesus Christ is the God of this world. He has made it very plain in his many self-introductions...

And Abraham declared, "Thus I, Abraham, talked with the Lord, face to face, as one man talketh with another; and he told me of the works which his hands had made" (Abr. 3:11).

- President Spencer W. Kimball, *October 1977 General Conference*

Abraham 3:12-15 Abraham's writings are of ancient origin. For him to declare of the universe, "and I could not see the end thereof" thousands of years ago was prophetic and has only been confirmed through modern technology.

President Joseph Fielding Smith explained some of the lessons that Abraham was learning:

Deeper Meanings

Abraham 3

Here was a wonderful lesson to be learned by Abraham. In this vision the wonders of the universe were made plain to him. It was not merely a lesson in astronomy given under the tuition of the Master Astronomer, who built these vast worlds and knew them all by name. There were other and deeper meanings in this lesson. Abraham learned that the works of the Almighty are endless. He discovered that they are created as habitations for man. These glorified worlds are abodes of righteous celestial beings—the children of our eternal Father. Moreover, he learned that there is an eternal purpose in all the works of God, that many worlds have gone through their probation and on to eternal glory. And as one world passes on to its exaltation, so shall another come, for there are many worlds that have passed away and many more to come as habitations for men yet unborn. The vastness and glory of the universe to Abraham was overwhelming. Then the Lord promised: "I will multiply thee, and thy seed after thee, like unto these, and if thou canst count the number of sands, so shall be the number of thy seed."

- President Joseph Fielding Smith, *The Way to Perfection*, 94)

Verse 14 contains part of the Abrahamic Covenant which was the promise to Abraham that he will have innumerable seed. This context shows that Abraham did not just look up into the sky from the earth and see many stars from where he stood, but rather he saw far into the universe so that he "could not see the end thereof" (v. 12). This understanding makes this promise eternally great.

Abraham 3:13-18 Here the Lord uses the universe to teach that there is an order and a hierarchy to all things. The Lord is not just teaching Abraham about the stars but about the Lord, Himself, and about spirits - including Abraham.

❶ What has stood out to you in these verses?

❷ What do you want to remember?

❸ What do you think this experience was like for Abraham?

❹ You are also a part of the Abrahamic Covenant, so what can these verses teach you?

Abraham 3

19 And the Lord said unto me: These two facts do exist, that there are two spirits, one being more intelligent than the other; there shall be another more intelligent than they; I am the Lord thy God, I am more intelligent than they all.

20 The Lord thy God sent his angel to deliver thee from the hands of the priest of Elkenah.

21 I dwell in the midst of them all; I now, therefore, have come down unto thee to declare unto thee the works which my hands have made, wherein my wisdom excelleth them all, for I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, in all wisdom and prudence, over all the intelligences thine eyes have seen from the beginning; I came down in the beginning in the midst of all the intelligences thou hast seen.

22 Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones;

23 And God saw these souls that they were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born.

24 And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell;

25 And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;

26 And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever.

27 And the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first.

28 And the second was angry, and kept not his first estate; and, at that day, many followed after him.

Abraham 3:19-21 Just as some planets and stars are greater than others, this same truth applies to spirits. President Joseph Fielding Smith taught:

"The Spirits of men were not equal. They may have had an equal start (see Alma 13:5-7), and we know they were all innocent in the beginning (D&C 93:38); but the right of free agency which was given to them enabled some to outstrip others, and thus, through the eons of mortal existence, to become more intelligent, more faithful, for they were free to act for themselves, to think for themselves, to receive the truth or rebel against it."

- President Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:58-59

Of all the spirit children, Christ is "more intelligent than they all" (v. 19). Elder Maxwell said it like this: (How would you say it?)

I testify that He is utterly incomparable in what He is, what He knows, what He has accomplished, and what He has experienced. Yet, movingly, He calls us His friends.

We can trust, worship, and even adore Him without any reservation! As the only Perfect Person to sojourn on this planet, there is none like Him!

In intelligence and performance, He far surpasses the individual and the composite capacities and achievements of all who have lived, live now, and will yet live! (See Abr. 3:19).

He rejoices in our genuine goodness and achievement, but any assessment of where we stand in relation to Him tells us that we do not stand at all! We kneel!

- Elder Neal A. Maxwell, *October 1981 General Conference*

Abraham 3:22-23 The Lord then showed Abraham more concerning the different intelligences. He showed him the Premortal Life and how the intelligences were organized. It was the noble and great ones that were chosen to be rulers here in mortality.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained:

Talents and Abilities

Abraham 3:19-23

"Being subject to law, and having their agency, all the spirits of men, while yet in the Eternal Presence, developed aptitudes, talents, capacities, and abilities of every sort, kind, and degree. During the long expanse of life which then was, an infinite variety of talents and abilities came into being. As the ages rolled, no two spirits remained alike. Mozart became a musician; Einstein centered his interest in mathematics; Michelangelo turned his attention to painting.... Mary and Eve were two of the greatest of all the spirit daughters of the Father. The whole house of Israel, known and segregated out from their fellows, was inclined toward spiritual things. And so it went through all the hosts of heaven, each individual developing such talents and abilities as his soul desired."

- Elder Bruce R. McConkie, *The Mortal Messiah*, 1:23

Abraham 3:24-25 Verse 24 showed Abraham the beginning of the creation of the world and verse 25 answers one of the great life questions: "Why are we here?" President Benson taught it this way:

The great test of life is obedience to God. "We will prove them herewith," said the Lord, "to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them" (Abr. 3:25).

The great task of life is to learn the will of the Lord and then do it.

- President Ezra Taft Benson, *April 1988 General Conference*

Abraham 3:26-28 Verse 26 is a continuation of verse 25. After explaining that the earth will be a proving ground, the Lord then explained that those who keep their "first estate" will be added upon, meaning they will come to mortality and gain a body and then have a chance to keep their "second estate." What is this first estate and why will some not keep it? The first estate is premortality, and verses 27-28 explain why some will not keep it. When Christ volunteered to be the Savior, so did Lucifer, and they who followed Lucifer "kept not his first estate" (v. 28).

❏ What has stood out to you in these verses?

❏ What do you want to remember?

How Familiar His Face Is to Us

Moses 1:2-4

"Nothing is going to startle us more when we pass through the veil to the other side than to realize how well we know our Father and how familiar his face is to us."

- **President Ezra Taft Benson**, Speeches of the Year, 1974, 313

Don't Let Your Guard Down

Moses 1:1-22

This experience is remarkable by every standard. It is one of the great revelations given in human history. It stands with the greatest accounts we have of any prophet's experience with divinity.

But Moses' message to you today is, "Don't let your guard down." Don't assume that a great revelation, some marvelous illuminating moment, or the opening of an inspired path is the end of it. Remember, it isn't over until it's over. What happened to Moses next, after his revelatory moment, would be ludicrous if it were not so dangerous and so absolutely true to form. In an effort to continue his opposition... Lucifer appeared and shouted in equal portions of anger and petulance after God had revealed himself to the prophet, saying, "Moses, worship me." But Moses was not having it. He had just seen the real thing, and by comparison this sort of performance was pretty dismal.

- **Elder Jeffrey R. Holland**, *BYU Speeches*, March 2, 1999

Moses Comprehends the Earth

Moses 1:27-29

When, according to the prophecy of Joel, God bestows visions and revelations upon his sons and daughters, and dreams, by the same Spirit, upon the old men, they will acquire more knowledge in a very short time, than could be learned by studying the best of books that are possessed by the colleges and institutions of learning all over the world. We have to study for years in order to learn one branch, mathematics for instance... geometry, ... calculus, etc.

It takes years of study to acquire a knowledge of them, and about the time we have partially mastered them, we are old men, ready to pass away from this state of existence. But when the time shall come that the Spirit of the living God shall be poured out upon all flesh, in a very few moments of time the Lord could unlock the mysteries and treasures of the earth, so that we could understand not only the geographical surface of the earth, but be able, by the power of vision, to behold every particle of it inside as well as outside, and also the law that governs its elementary portions, nearly all of which is now closed from our mortal vision. We can only go about so far with our natural sight; but there is a faculty in every man and woman which is now sleeping in a dormant state; and as soon as it is touched by the spirit of the Lord, we shall be enabled to see a new world of things as it were, mysteries will be opened up and we will perceive naturally as if they were written, and in this way we shall be able to learn very rapidly indeed.

- **Orson Pratt**, *Journal of Discourses* 19:168

Deeper Meanings

Abraham 3

Here was a wonderful lesson to be learned by Abraham. In this vision the wonders of the universe were made plain to him. It was not merely a lesson in astronomy given under the tuition of the Master Astronomer, who built these vast worlds and knew them all by name. There were other and deeper meanings in this lesson. Abraham learned that the works of the Almighty are endless. He discovered that they are created as habitations for man. These glorified worlds are abodes of righteous celestial beings—the children of our eternal Father. Moreover, he learned that there is an eternal purpose in all the works of God, that many worlds have gone through their probation and on to eternal glory. And as one world passes on to its exaltation, so shall another come, for there are many worlds that have passed away and many more to come as habitations for men yet unborn. The vastness and glory of the universe to Abraham was overwhelming. Then the Lord promised: "I will multiply thee, and thy seed after thee, like unto these, and if thou canst count the number of sands, so shall be the number of thy seed."

- **President Joseph Fielding Smith**, *The Way to Perfection*, 94)

The Divine Order of the Universe

Abraham 3:1-16

The Lord showed Abraham the great heavenly bodies. He saw them in their majesty revolving through space in perfect order. Some were set to govern; others to obey; but there was a relationship between them. He was taught by the Divine Teacher to comprehend their times and their seasons and the purpose of their creation.

- **President Joseph Fielding Smith**, *The Way to Perfection*, 26)

Talents and Abilities

Abraham 3:19-23

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- **Elder Bruce R. McConkie**, *The Mortal Messiah*, 1:23



heidrearter



My Work & My Glory

And, behold, *thou art my son*; wherefore look, and I will show thee the workmanship of mine hands; but not all, for my works are without end, and also my words, for they never cease.... For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

ART STUDY

Moses 1:4,39

And, behold, *thou art my son*; wherefore look, and I will show thee the workmanship of mine hands; but not all, for my works are without end, and also my words, for they never cease....
For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

THINGS TO PONDER

-What do you see in this art?

What do you think this moment was like for Moses?

What had Moses learned about himself? (See Moses 1:4)

What had Moses just witnessed? (see Moses 1:27-29).

*What do you think it was like for Moses to witness every particle of the earth and every soul?
How do you see this depicted in this art?*

After seeing all of the earth and people, what question did Moses ask God (see Moses 1:30)? Then how did God answer Moses (see Moses 1:39)?

What is immortality?

What is eternal life?

What does Moses 1:39 mean to you?

"Nothing is going to startle us more when we pass through the veil to the other side than to realize how well we know our Father and how familiar his face is to us."

President Ezra Taft Benson

Speeches of the Year, 1974, 313

FROM THE ARTIST

When I take time to ponder the creation, I am nearly brought to tears. To truly comprehend that this Earth and everything on it was created for me (and everyone else who has lived or will live on it) - to truly comprehend this is humbling, and wholly abundant at the same time. It is true that this earthly experience was created for the individual - AND the whole. We may sometimes feel so small in the complexities of ALL creation, but we can also realize that each part of the creation - big and small - was created spiritually before being created physically. Each detail was determined and precisely chosen - regardless if it is a flower, sparrow, fish, butterflies, fruit, trees, people, and the Earth itself. The details that make me ME were spiritually created before I came here. Each true detail was precisely chosen. I am His. And so are you. Truly believing this changes everything - because it is TRUE.

- Heidi Carter

"THOU ART MY SON"

"What a moment. If the Lord were to appear to you, He would say the same thing."

Elder L. Edward Brown

April 1997 General Conference

