

# LDS Biblical Proof Texts

## I. There Are 3 Kingdoms of Glory/Heavens

### A. John 14:2 (NIV2011)

<sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms [*monai*]; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

#### 1. LDS Interpretation

- a. "rooms" ("mansions" KJV) here represent the celestial, terrestrial, and teletial kingdoms. Moreover, according to 1st LDS Prophet, Joseph Smith, "mansion" should be translated "kingdoms" (*Answers to Gospel Questions*, Joseph Fielding Smith, 1958, 2:18 and 1963, 4:13).

#### 2. Biblical Response

- a. *Monai* means "dwelling places" or "rooms"; it is never translated "kingdoms" in the NT.
- b. If "mansions" here should be translated "kingdoms," as Joseph Smith taught, the apostle John would have used the Greek word *basileias* instead of *monai* as he did in **John 3:3**.

#### John 3:3 KJV

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom (*basileia*) of God.

- c. All of the "mansions" (KJV) or "rooms" (NIV) Jesus is preparing for us are in *the same kingdom* because He is taking all believers to be "in [His] Father's house" *with Him*. This is "the new Jerusalem" (**Rev. 21:1-4**)—the equivalent of the LDS celestial kingdom, that is, where the Father and Son eternally dwell.

#### John 14:3 KJV

<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

### B. 1 Corinthians 15:40-41 (KJV)

<sup>40</sup> *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another.

<sup>41</sup> *There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.*

## 1. LDS Interpretation

- a. “Celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial” here are evidence of the three kingdoms of glory or heavens. (See *Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual* by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2000, p. 90.)

## 2. Biblical Response

- a. Neither **1 Corinthians 15:40** nor any book of the Bible makes reference to the word *telestial*. LDS doctrine must depend on latter-day revelation to make a case for this kingdom of glory.
- b. The immediate context of **1 Corinthians 15:40-41** addresses the resurrection body.

### **1 Corinthians 15:35 KJV**

<sup>35</sup> But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

- c. The apostle Paul then uses analogies from creation to make the distinction between our earthly bodies and the glorified bodies in which we will be resurrected:

### ***Analogies from Creation***

- the “grain” that is planted and the grain that “shall be” (vv. 36-37 KJV);
- the “body” that God gives to each kind of “seed” (v. 38 KJV);
- the “flesh of men” and the flesh of “beasts” (v. 39 KJV);
- “celestial bodies” (i.e. “sun,” “moon,” and “stars”) and “bodies terrestrial” [*epigeia*—meaning “earthly”] (vv. 40-41 KJV);

### ***Earthly Body vs. Resurrection Body***

- our body that dies in “corruption,” “dishonor” and “weakness” and is resurrected in “incorruption,” “glory” and “power” (v. 43 KJV);
  - our “natural body” that dies and our “spiritual body” that is resurrected (v. 44 KJV).
- d. The apostle Paul is referring only to the glorified, incorruptible resurrection body of those who are “in Christ” through *faith*.

#### **1 Corinthians 15:22 KJV**

<sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

#### **C. 2 Corinthians 12:2 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup>I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

##### 1. LDS Interpretation

- a. “The third heaven” here represents the celestial kingdom and thus is evidence of the other two, namely, the terrestrial and telestial kingdoms. (See *The Mortal Messiah: From Bethlehem to Calvary* by LDS Apostle, Bruce R. McConkie, 1981, 4:394.)

##### 2. Biblical Response

- a. The objection here is NOT that three heavens are implied, but that consignment to any one of them is based on our “works” and “merit” as the LDS gospel requires.
- b. The Bible identifies 3 heavens as follows:
- ***the atmospheric heaven*** where “rain” and “clouds” are formed (Deut. 11:11; Ps. 147:8 KJV, respectively);
  - ***the celestial heaven*** where the sun and moon or “the lights in the firmament of the heaven ... divide the day from the night” (Gen. 1:14 KJV; see also 1 Cor.

15:40-41 for “celestial bodies”–KJV);

- **the third heaven** where Jesus “has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand” (1 Pt. 3:22 NIV). This is the heaven to which the apostle Paul is referring in 2 Corinthians 12:2.
- c. Note also that in verse 4 the apostle Paul equates “the third heaven” with “paradise.”

**2 Corinthians 12:4 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup>How that he was caught up into paradise [*paradeisos*], and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

- “Paradise” (*paradeisos*) is the same place Jesus declared that the thief on the cross would be “with [Him]” upon death (**Lk . 23:43**).
- This makes good sense being that all believers upon death are immediately WITH Christ in “the celestial kingdom” so to speak (see **2 Cor. 5:6-8; Phil. 1:23-34; Eph. 2:4-6; cf. 1:20**).