

Alma 13 – Who Am I?

Introduction

1 Ne 11:17	Bear testimony that God loves ALL His children unconditionally.
?	Does God bless or reward all His children unconditionally?
1 Ne 1:1 1 Ne 17:35	Why does God bless and reward some of his children more than others? (obedience, faith)
?	Have somebody relate the Parable of the Talents What is one of the main points of this parable? (that we are rewarded for our faithfulness)
?	How might this parable relate to our life in the premortal world? (we were rewarded for our faithfulness and development of our talents)
?	<p>Ponder these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why weren't you born in the year 955 in China? • Why were you born after the restoration of the fullness of the gospel? • Why were you born into conditions where you would be taught the gospel? • For us converts, why did you find yourself in a condition where your path would cross the path of missionaries or others who would share the gospel with you? Just coincidence? Or was it part of a divine plan for you? • Who decided who would be your parents? • Who decided which spirits would be born into your family? • On what basis were those decisions or assignments made?
!	God operates by perfect law. The blessings that we receive are based on those laws.

The Premortal Council

?	Tell us about the Premortal Council
Rev 12:7-9	There was war... Devil cast out
Moses 4:1-4	What kind of war was it? What was it fought about?

We are a small group

?	How many people have been born on the earth so far?
?	How many of these have taken upon them the covenant of baptism for the remission of sins?
?	How many of these have been ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood?
?	How many have been sealed in the temple as husband and wife?
?	How many have been born under the covenant to parents sealed in the temple?

Why?

!	Alma 13 helps us understand to some degree why these things are as they are
Alma 13:1	In the first verses of this chapter, the prophet Alma teaches about how and why men are ordained to be “High Priests” or holders of the high priesthood, or Melchizedek Priesthood. We have no record that they had priesthood offices of Elders, Seventies, or High Priests as we do today. High Priest appears to mean “holder of the high priesthood”.
13:2	How are men ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood? What are the essential aspects of this ordination that helps us to “know in what manner to look forward to his Son for redemption”? (list) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covenant & Ordinance • Ordinance performed by authorized servants • Prerequisites of obedience and worthiness • Serving others is a primary objective • Enduring to the end is required • 13:6 – helping others to achieve exaltation • Motives to be pure (selfless)
13:3	What is the “foundation of the world”? What is the difference between Predestination and Foreknowledge? What does “called and prepared” mean? When did it happen? ...in the first place... ? Premortal world What good or evil does this refer to?

	<p>...exceedingly great faith...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superlatives – not part of scripture • Faith in what? (that Jesus could / would do it) • Were there some who did not believe He would? • How did we exercise our faith in the Premortal world?
	<p>...are called with a holy calling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Calling is used 7 times in this chapter • 13:8: called with a holy calling, ordained with a holy ordinance, taking upon them the high priesthood of the holy order • It is more than a holy calling... it is a holy calling by a holy ordinance to a holy order • What does this suggest for those who enter into the Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood?
13:4-5	<p>Why are some not given this opportunity? (their own choice)</p> <p>Would God want to withhold the opportunity to receive the MP from anybody? (no)</p> <p>! Everybody has the opportunity</p> <p>! but some are placed in a favored position when they come to the earth to enjoy the blessings of the gospel in their lives BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DID BEFORE THEY WERE BORN</p>
?	<p>Does this mean that we are predestined to salvation based on what we did before we were born? (see Abr 3:25-26)</p> <p>Is this fair?</p>
?	<p>What is the difference between foreordination and predestination?</p>
Teachings pg 365	<p><i>"Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was"</i></p>
?	<p>What about women? Alma's teaching seems to be somewhat one sided to the male gender!</p>
?	<p>What about converts to the Church who were not born into families of the church with parents sealed in the temple?</p>

<p>Sherri Dew, Stand Tall & Stand Together, pg 94</p>	<p><i>“That we are here now is no accident. For eons of time our Father watched us and knew He could trust us when so much would be at stake. We have been held in reserve for this very hour. We need to understand not just who we are but who we have always been.”</i></p>
<p>SW Kimball The Role of Righteous Women, <i>Ensign</i>, Nov. 1979, 102</p>	<p><i>“Before we came here, faithful women were given certain assignments while faithful men were foreordained to certain priesthood tasks. While we do not now remember the particulars, this does not alter the glorious reality of what we once agreed to. You are accountable for those things which long ago were expected of you just as are those we sustain as prophets and apostles!”</i></p>

What does it all mean?

<p>DC 82:3</p>	<p>What should this knowledge of our faithfulness in the Premortal world cause us to do?</p>
<p>?</p>	<p>How many out there were faithful spirits in the Premortal world but have not yet received the same opportunities we have received? What is expected of us in their regard?</p>
<p>?</p>	<p>How should this doctrine affect influence how we sustain our leaders?</p>
<p>?</p>	<p>How should these teachings affect our response when priesthood leaders extend callings or other assignments to us?</p>
<p>Winston Churchill</p>	<p><i>To every man there comes that special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a special thing unique to him and fitted to his talent. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for the work which would be his finest hour.</i></p>

The Rest of the Lord

<p>13:6</p>	<p>What does it mean to “enter into his rest” ! 2 quotes below</p>
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<p>Joseph Fielding Smith, Gospel Doctrine, 5th ed., pp. 58, 125–126</p>	<p><i>“The rest of the Lord, where mortals are concerned, is to gain a perfect knowledge of the divinity of the great latter-day work. [President Joseph F. Smith said,] ‘It means entering into the knowledge and love of God, having faith in his purpose and in his plan, to such an extent that we know we are right, and that we are not hunting for something else; we are not disturbed by every wind of doctrine, or by the cunning and craftiness of men who lie in wait to deceive.’ It is ‘rest from the religious turmoil of the world; from the cry that is going forth, here and there—lo, here is Christ; lo, there is Christ.’</i>”</p>
<p>BRM DC 84:24</p>	<p><i>“The rest of the Lord, in eternity, is to inherit eternal life, to gain the fullness of the Lord’s glory”</i> Mormon Doctrine, 2nd ed. [1966], 633</p>