

# Agency: The Power to Choose

Sunday School Lesson 2

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2012-01-08

# Agency, not “Free Agency”

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Doctrine and Covenants 29:6



# Agency is the power to choose good or evil

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- ❖ Give class members pens or pencils and paper. Ask them to think of the choices they have made so far today and list as many as they can in one minute. At the end of a minute, invite them to share some of the choices on their lists. Then ask:
  - ❖ Which of your choices today do you think was the most important?
- ❖ Have class members circle this item on their list. Invite a few volunteers to tell which choice they circled and why they feel it was most important.
  - ❖ Where did you get your ability to choose?
- ❖ Moses 7:32





“Your agency, the right to make choices, is not given so that you can get what you want. This divine gift is provided so that you will choose what your Father in Heaven wants for you. That way He can lead you to become all that He intends you to be. That path leads to glorious joy and happiness”

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*Elder Richard G. Scott*



# Principles of Agency

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1. Law

2. Knowledge of the Law

3. Opposition -- Good and Evil

4. Freedom of Choice

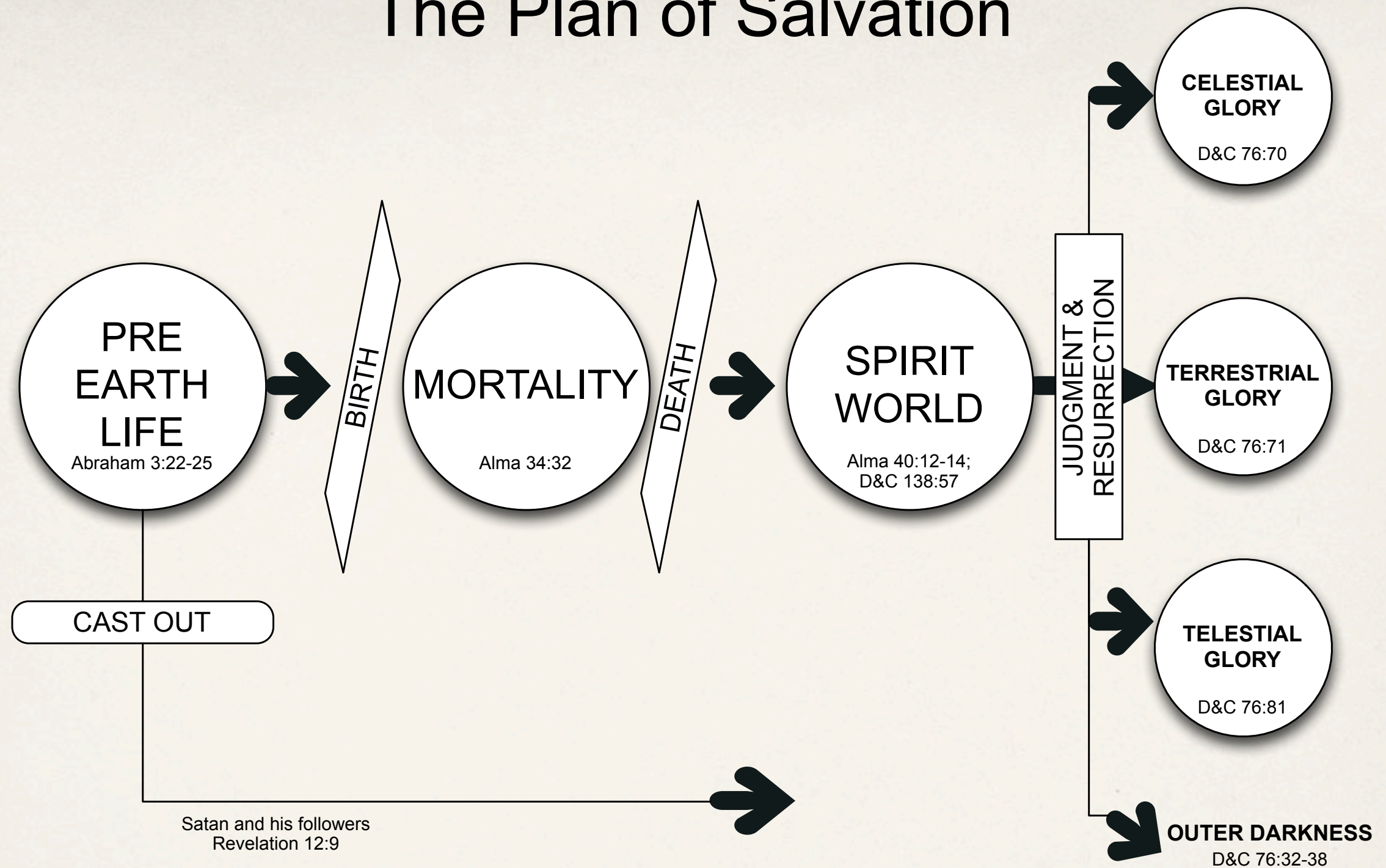
Teresa had been away for the summer. During her first day back at school she noticed something different about the way some of her friends treated her. They seemed distant, even a bit unfriendly. Teresa missed the easygoing relationship they used to have.

A few days later Teresa found her friends smoking behind the school. When she approached them, they invited her to join them.

Teresa was shaken. She didn't know what to do. She wanted to get along with her friends again, but she knew that what they were doing was wrong. What would her friends say if she refused to join them?



# The Plan of Salvation



## Our Pre-Mortal Choices Affected Mortality

*Our Agency In The Pre-Existence Helped Us Keep Our First Estate... Our Agency In This Life Can Help Us Keep Our Second Estate.*

# Principles of Agency

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1. Law
2. Knowledge of the Law
3. Opposition -- Good and Evil
4. Freedom of Choice
5. Responsibility for Choices



# We are responsible for our choices

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“We are free to obey or to ignore the spirit and the letter of the law. But the agency granted to man is a moral agency (see D&C 101:78). We are not free to break our covenants and escape the consequences”

-- Elder Packer





# Choices are of eternal significance

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Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man.

And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. -- 2 Ne 2:27



# A Testimony of Agency

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1. Law
2. Knowledge of the Law
3. Opposition -- Good and Evil
4. Freedom of Choice
5. Responsibility for Choices

*Do I  
righteously use  
my power to  
choose?*