

**Alma 28:11****1** *A state of endless wo*

Now this is the state of the souls of the wicked, yea, in darkness, and awful, fearful looking for the fiery indignation of the wrath of God upon them; thus they remain in this state... until the time of their resurrection (Alma 40:14). From modern revelation we learn that the expression “endless wo” does not mean that the intended punishment is of endless duration, but rather that it is God’s punishment and God is endless; therefore he has chosen to call that punishment that comes from him by this name, or endless. This is done to make the warning more express, “that it might work upon the hearts of the children of men” in the hope that it will dissuade them from sin. (See D&C 19:4-13).

Millet & McConkie, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, vol 3, pp. 192-193

**Alma 28:1-12****2** *Mourning loss... hope*

The death of the body is not the worst thing that can happen to a person. The Lord said: “Thou shalt live together in love, insomuch that thou shalt weep for the loss of them that die, and more especially for those that have not hope of a glorious resurrection” (D&C 42:45).

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “The only difference between the old and young dying is, one lives longer in heaven and eternal light and glory than the other, and is freed a little sooner from this miserable, wicked world” (*History of the Church*, 4:554).

He later said: “More painful to me are the thoughts of annihilation than death. If I have no expectation of seeing my father, mother, brothers, sisters and friends again, my heart would burst in a moment, and I should go down to my grave.

“The expectation of seeing my friends in the morning of the resurrection cheers my soul and makes me bear up against the evils of life. It is like their taking a long journey and on their return we meet them with increased joy.”  
*History of the Church*, 5:362

**3** Grief is the natural by-product of love. One cannot selflessly love another person and not grieve at his suffering or eventual death. The only way to avoid the grief would be to not experience the love; and it is love that gives life its richness and meaning. Hence, what a grieving parent can expect to receive from the Lord in response to earnest supplication may not necessarily be an elimination of grief so much as a sweet reassurance that, whatever his or her circumstances, one’s child is in the tender care of a loving Heavenly Father.

Lance B. Wickman, in Conference Report, Oct. 2002 [Salt Lake Coty: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2002], 31-32.

**4** To those who mourn we speak comfort. Know that your Savior is well acquainted with grief. He who notes the sparrow’s fall is aware of you and desires to comfort and bless you. Turn to Him and lay your burden at His feet.  
Ezra Taft Benson, “First Presidency Christmas Message”, *Church News*, Dec. 15, 1985, p. 3**5** The only way to take sorrow out of death is to take love out of life.... As seedlings of God, we barely blossom on earth; we fully flower in heaven.... Think of the alternative [to death]. If all sixty-nine billion people who have ever lived on earth were still here, imagine the traffic jam!... Scriptures teach that death is essential to happiness: [Alma 42:8; 2 Nephi 9:6]. Our limited perspective would be enlarged if we could witness the reunion on the other side of the veil, when doors of death open to those returning home.... We need not look upon death as an enemy.... I know by experiences too sacred to relate that those who have gone before are not strangers to leaders of this Church. To us and to you, our loved ones may be just as close as the next room—separated only by the doors of death.

Russell M. Nelson, *Ensign*, May 1992, pp. 72-74

6 I once attended a funeral service with Elder M Russell Ballard. A statement he made there has remained with me to this day. He said: "Life isn't over for a Latter-day Saint until he or she is safely dead, with their testimony still burning brightly." "Safely dead"—what a challenging concept. Brothers and sisters, we will not be safe until we have given our hearts to the Lord—until we have learned to do what we have promised.

F. Burton Howard, *Ensign*, May 1996, p. 28

7 I have thought about the lessons taught by death—particularly the death of a loved one. The first lesson is that life is short whether one dies at seventeen or at eighty.... Second, death reminds us that there is a spirit in man.... Another lesson taught by death concerns the importance of eternal families. Just as there are parents to greet a newborn on earth, the scriptures teach that caring family members greet the spirits in paradise and assist them in the adjustments to a new life (see Gen. 25:8; 35:29; 49:33).... A fourth lesson, and perhaps the most important, concerns the purpose of life.... Death, even if accidental, must be part of the plan.... Death teaches that we do not experience a fullness of joy in mortality and that everlasting joy can be achieved only with the assistance of the Master (see D&C 93:33-34).

Merrill J. Bateman, *Ensign*, May 1995, p. 13

8 My friend came to accept the phrase "Thy will be done" as he faced his own poignant trials and tribulations. As a faithful member of the Church, he was now confronted with some sobering concerns. Particularly touching were his questions, "Have I done all that I need to do to faithfully endure to the end?" "What will death be like?" "Will my family be prepared to stand in faith and be self-reliant when I am gone?"

We had the opportunity to discuss all three questions. They are clearly answered in the doctrine taught to us by our Savior. We discussed how he had spent his life striving to be faithful, to do what God asked of him, to be honest in his dealings with his fellowmen, and all others, to care for and love his family. Isn't that what is meant by enduring to the end? We talked about what happens immediately after death, about what God has taught us about the world of spirits. It is a place of paradise and happiness for those who have lived righteous lives. It is not something to fear.

After our conversation, he called together his wife and the extended family—children and grandchildren—to teach them again the doctrine of the Atonement that all will be resurrected. Everyone came to understand that just as the Lord has said, while there will be mourning at the temporary separation, there is no sorrow for those who die in the Lord (see Revelation 14:13; D&C 42:46). His blessing promised him comfort and reassurance that all would be well, that he would not have pain, that he would have additional time to prepare his family for his departure, and even that he would know the time of his departure. The family related to me that on the night before he passed away, he said he would go on the morrow. He passed the next afternoon at peace, with all his family at his side. This is the solace and comfort that comes to us when we understand the gospel plan and know that families are forever.

Contrast these events with an incident which happened to me when I was a young man in my early twenties. While serving in the Air Force, one of the pilots in my squadron crashed on a training mission and was killed. I was assigned to accompany my fallen comrade on his final journey home to be buried in Brooklyn. I had the honor of standing by his family during the viewing and funeral services and of representing our government in presenting the flag to his grieving widow at the graveside. The funeral service was dark and dismal. No mention was made of his goodness or his accomplishments. His name was never mentioned. At the conclusion of the services, his widow turned to me and asked, "Bob, what is really going to happen to Don?"

I was then able to give her the sweet doctrine of the Resurrection and the reality that, if baptized and sealed in the temple for time and all eternity, they could be together eternally. The clergyman standing next to her said, "That is the most beautiful doctrine I have ever heard."

Robert D. Hales, in Conference Report, Oct. 1996, 88-89; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 66

9 **Alma 28:13-14**  
*Need for laborers*

Do we realize that every man is in the image of God and is a son of God and every woman His daughter? No matter where they may be, they are his children, and He loves them and desires their salvation. Surely as members of this Church we cannot sit idly by. We cannot receive the beneficial favor of our Heavenly Father that is bestowed upon us, the knowledge of eternal life, and selfishly retain it, thinking that we may be blessed thereby. It is not what we receive that enriches our lives, it is what we give.

George Albert Smith, Conference Report, April 1935, 46