

Strategy for War in the Last Days – Successfully Combating Satan

The Battle Ground: Your Body and
Spirit and Mind – “What shall a man
give in exchange for his soul?”
(Matthew 16:26)

"Today is the day when the devil has
power over his own dominion."

(Harold B. Lee, Decisions for Successful
Living, Deseret Book Co., 1973,

Ezra Taft Benson, **1971** Conference

Satan's Thrust—Youth

Ezra Taft Benson



0-1.27

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1971/10/satans-thrust-youth?lang=eng#listen=audio>

Ezra Taft Benson, Satan's Thrust - Youth

It has been well said that “there comes a time when the general defilement of a society becomes so great that the rising generation is put under undue pressure and cannot be said to have a fair choice between the Way of Light and the Way of Darkness.” (Hugh Nibley, *An Approach to the Book of Mormon*, 1957.)

We live in a wicked world. Never in our memory have the forces of evil been arrayed in such deadly formation. **The devil is well organized.** Never in our day has he had so many emissaries working for him. Through his many agents, his satanic majesty has proclaimed his intentions to destroy one whole generation of our choice young people.

Evidence of the dastardly work of evil forces is increasingly evident. On every side we see the sad and heart-rending results. The devil-inspired destructive forces are present in our literature, in our art, in the movies, on the radio, in our dress, in our dances, on the TV screen, and even in our modern, so-called popular music. Satan uses many tools to weaken and destroy the home and family and especially our young people. Today, as never before, it seems the devil's thrust is directed at our youth.

How is Satan reigning?

As the second coming of Jesus Christ approaches, Satan is doing everything in his power to destroy the work of God. He is using every artifice he can imagine to destroy the plan of salvation. He is raging in blood and horror on the earth.



Theodore M. Burton, Salvation for the Dead—
A Missionary Activity Conference April 1975

Unfortunately, Satan's war did not end with his expulsion from heaven. As John observed, Satan and his followers were “cast out into the earth” and have come here with “great wrath.” The evidence of their wrath can be seen in the **blood and horror** that has afflicted man from the beginning of time. So profound and extensive have been the wounds suffered among men that **God Himself wept** as He surveyed man's condition

*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: **he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him** (Revelations 12:9)*

Winning the War against Evil
ELDER JAMES J. HAMULA OCT 2008

Alma 37:33

- Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; teach them to humble themselves and to be meek and lowly in heart; **teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ**

3 Nephi 18:18

Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always lest ye enter into temptation; for Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.

Mark 14:38

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

And I said unto them that it was the word of
God; and whoso would hearken unto the
word of God, and would hold fast unto it,
they would never perish;
neither could the
TEMPTATIONS ... of the
adversary overpower them
unto blindness, to lead them
away to destruction.



Mark 4:15

And these are they by
the way side, where the
word is sown; but when
they have heard,

**Satan cometh
immediately,**
and taketh **away the**
word that was sown in
their hearts.

How does Satan's Plan of Temptation Work? What are key words?

High Councilman go to prison for the rest of his life

Relief Society President and Bishop have an affair

Bishop go through porn addiction a second time

Beehive class president have 5 felonies being removed from the home

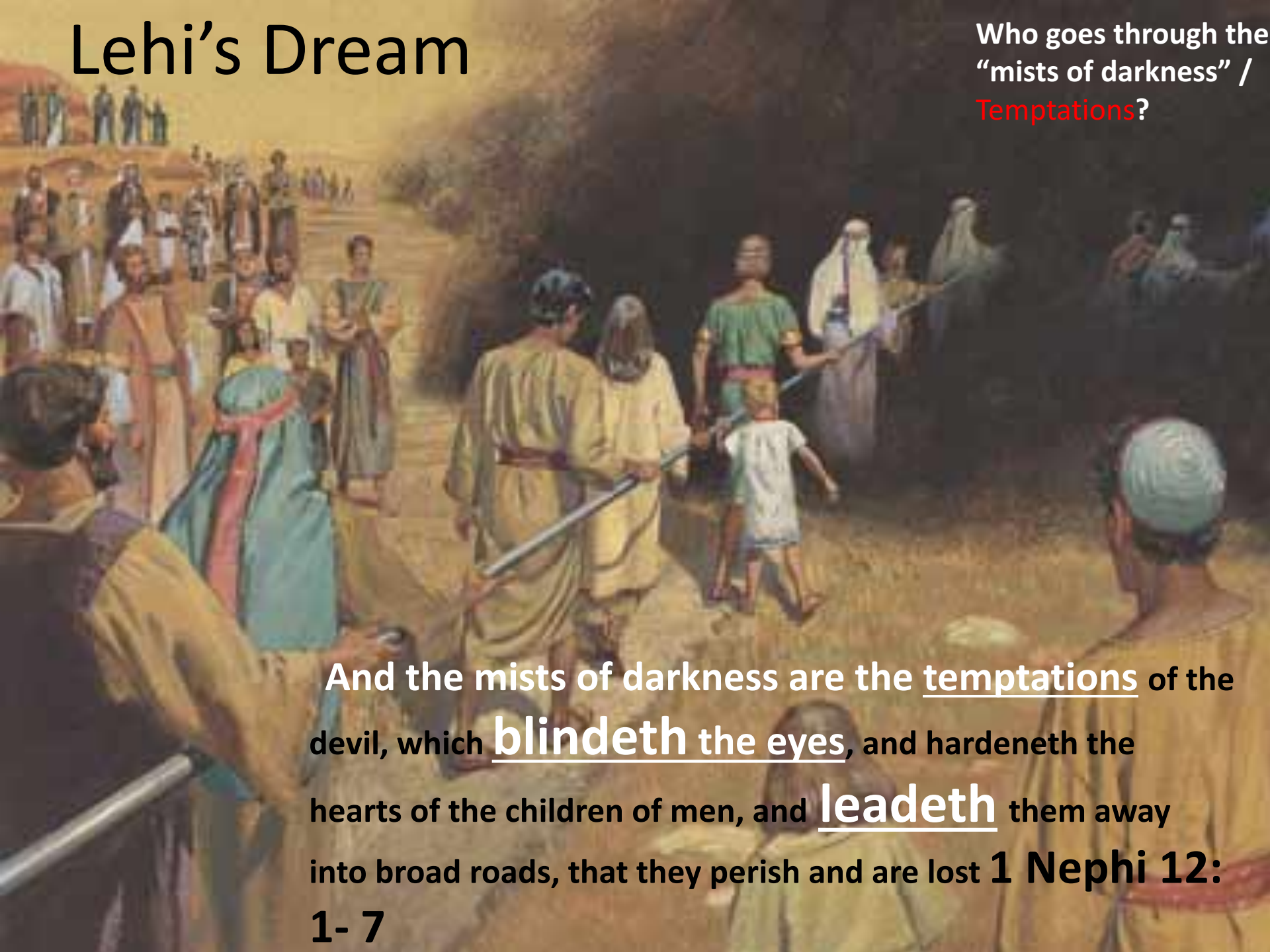
Return missionary of 3 months going to prison for 20 year

Priest bless the sacrament on Sunday and kill the 7 year old on Thursday

HOW?

Lehi's Dream

Who goes through the
“mists of darkness” /
Temptations?



And the mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil, which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into broad roads, that they perish and are lost **1 Nephi 12: 1- 7**

Return and Receive

By Elder M. Russell Ballard

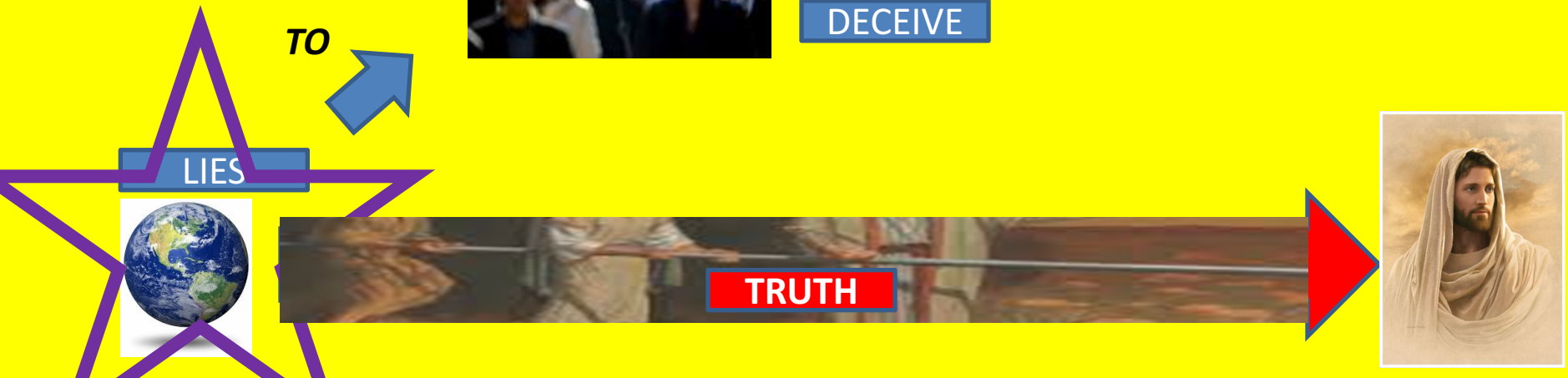
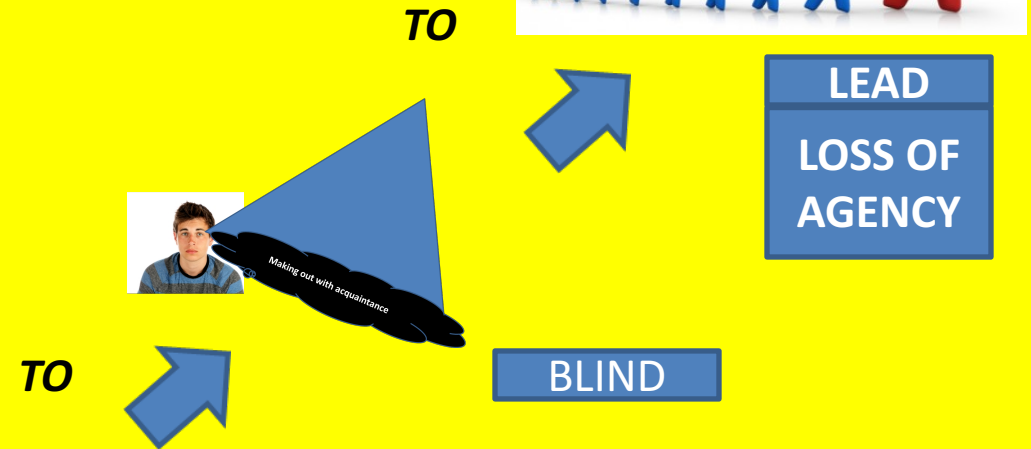
Lucifer did not accept our Father's plan that allowed us to return to His presence and receive His blessings. In fact, Lucifer rebelled and attempted to completely modify our Father's plan, wanting to take the glory, honor, and power of God to himself. As a result, he was **cast out with his minions from God's presence and "became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men [and women], and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto [the Lord's] voice.**

Plan of Temptation

*And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all **lies**, **to deceive** and **to blind** men, and **to lead** them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice. [Moses 4:4](#)*

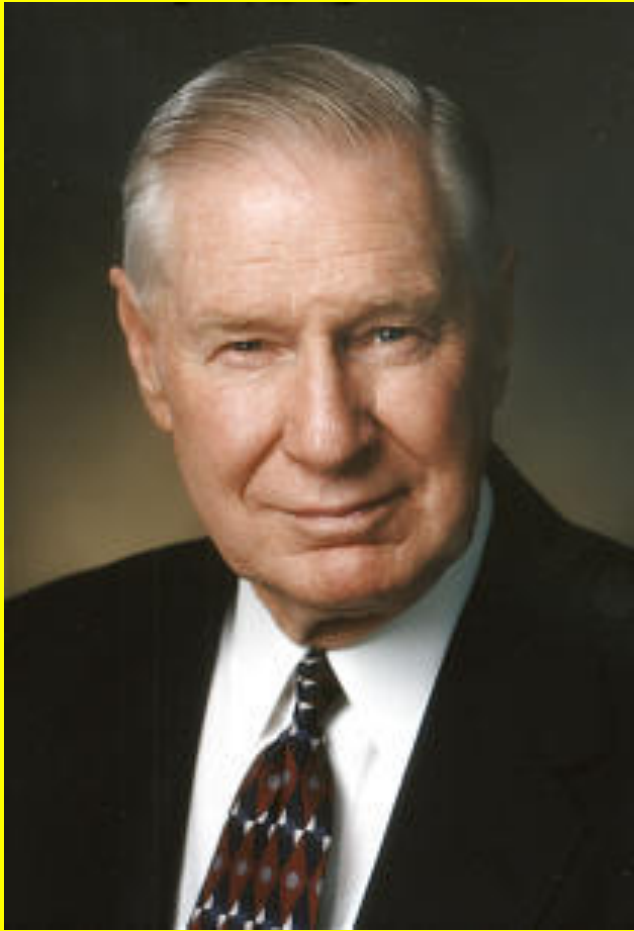
Satan's

"Plan of Temptation"

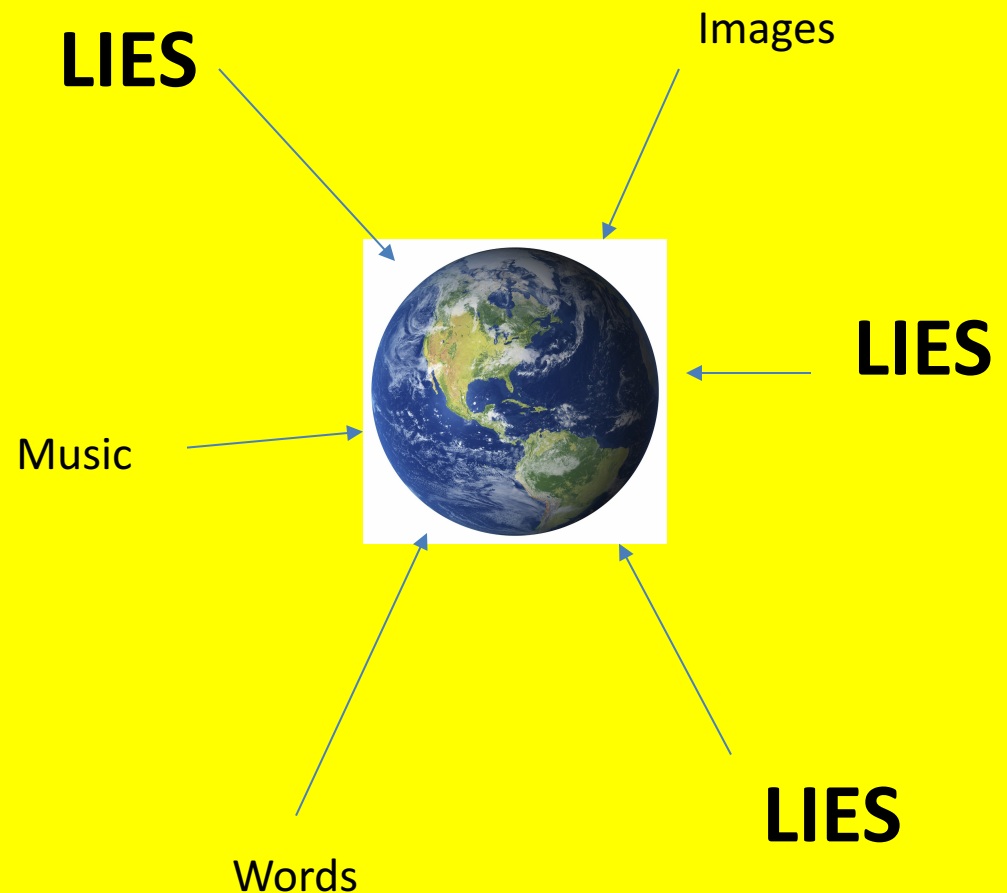


“(Influence of) Satan is everywhere.”

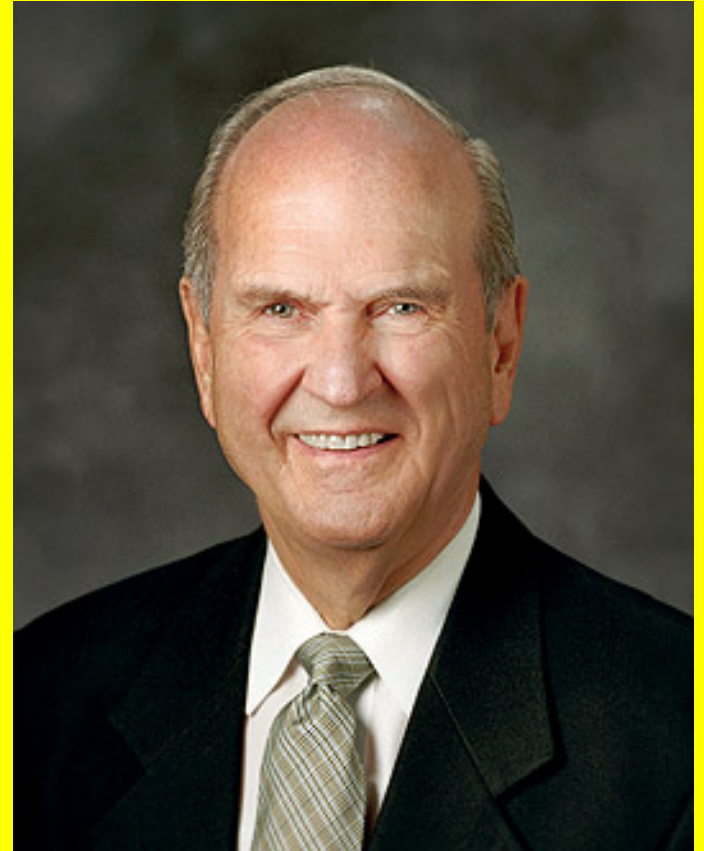
“The Great Imitator”
October 1987 Conference



President James E. Faust



**Lucifer and his
minions are using
every form of
technology and
communication
to spread LIES
about life and
about the true
source of
happiness.**



Prophets, Leadership, and Divine
Law. **Russell M. Nelson.**
Worldwide Devotional for Young
Adults • January 8, 2017 •
Brigham Young University

Marriage and family are under attack because Satan knows that they are essential to obtaining eternal life—as essential **as the Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.** Having failed to destroy any of those pillars of the plan, **Satan seeks to destroy our UNDERSTANDING** and practice of marriage and family.

Elder Hales, Oct 2015 *"The Plan of Salvation: A sacred treasure of knowledge to guide us.*

But there are false teachers everywhere, using speech and pornographic literature, magazines, radio, TV, street talk—spreading damnable heresies which break down moral standards, and this to gratify the lust of the flesh. Lucifer in his diabolical scheming deceives the unwary and uses every tool at his command. Seldom does one go to a convention, a club meeting, a party, or a social gathering without hearing vulgarity, obscenity, and suggestive stories. And the Savior said that the very elect would be deceived by Lucifer if it were possible. **He will use his logic to confuse**

and his rationalizations to destroy. He will shade meanings, open doors an inch at a time, and lead from purest white through all the shades of gray to the darkest black. So I wish today to help define meanings of words and acts for you young people, to fortify you against error, anguish, pain, and sorrow.

Spencer W. Kimball

The only way Satan can sell sin is to portray it as something it isn't. He has to convince you that evil is good, or, in other words, that sin is right. He must lie. He cannot change "Truth", but he can change your understanding and perception of truth through lies and eventual DECEPTION.

Lies are the
foundation of Satan's
**“Plan of
Temptation.”**

Righteous and Wicked

Satan's

"Plan of Temptation"



LEAD
LOSS OF
AGENCY

TO



Making out with acquaintance

TO

BLIND



DECEIVE

TO

LIES



TRUTH



DECEIVE

Believing as if the LIES
about a particular
principle was TRUE

(Still sees the Truth. *“I know its wrong, but I still do it”*)

DECEPTION Synonyms: *trick, stratagem, ruse, wile, hoax, imposture.*

Moses 1:16 Get thee hence, Satan; **deceive** me not; for God said unto me:...

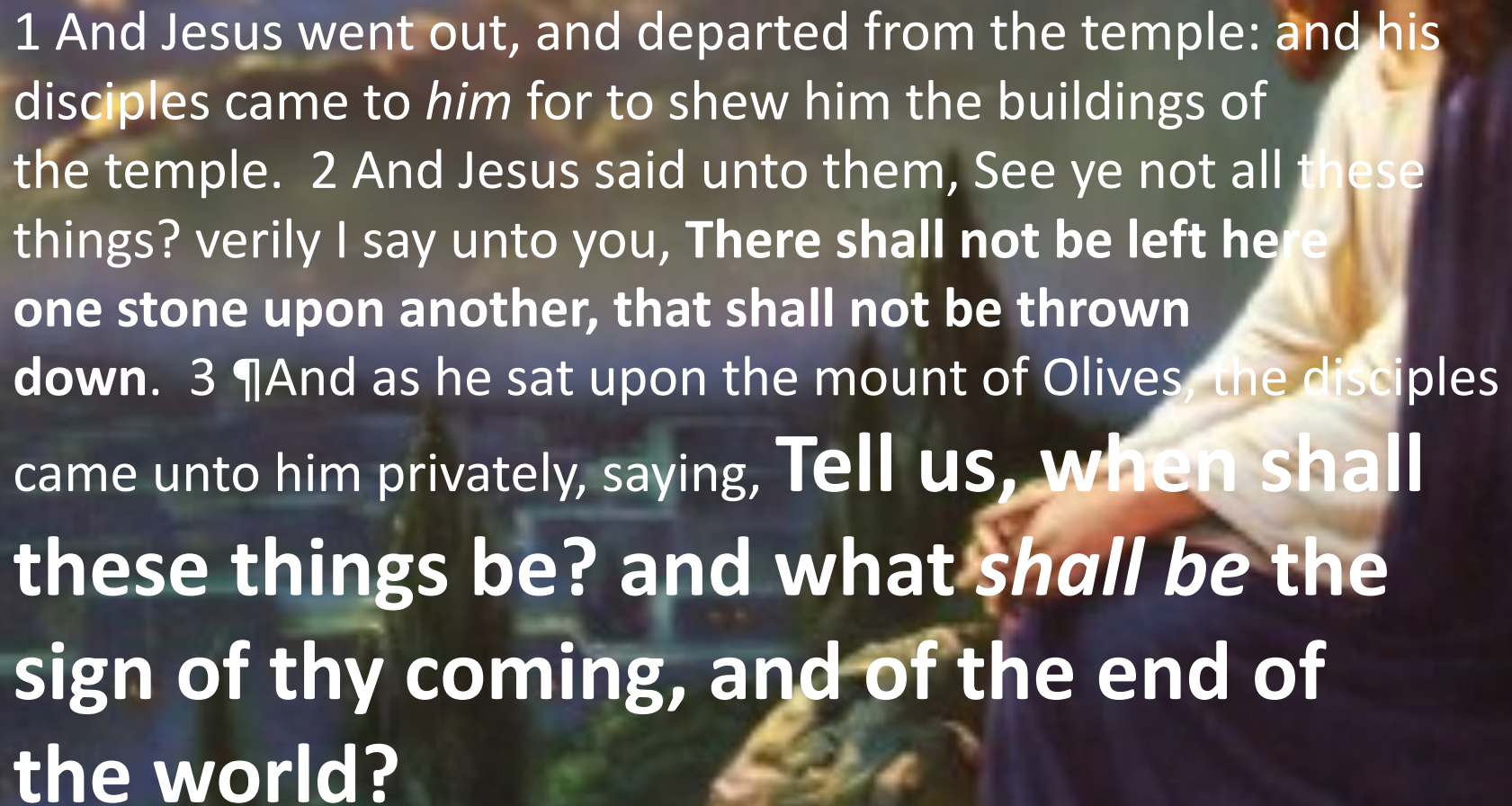
D & C 52:14 And again, I will give unto you a pattern in all things, that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and **he goeth forth deceiving** the nations—

D & C 46:8 Wherefore, beware lest ye are **deceived**; and that ye may not be **deceived** ...

Second Coming Signs

Matthew 24

1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, **There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.** 3 ¶ And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, **Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**

A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a blue mantle. He is seated on a rocky ledge, looking down towards the city of Jerusalem in the distance. The background shows a dramatic sky with clouds and a view of the city below.

Second Coming Signs

Matthew 24

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man **deceive** you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall **deceive** many.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall **deceive** many.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall **deceive** the very elect.

Deception is typically on a particular topic

**Gospel
Truths**



DECEPTION

**An Example of
Satan's "Plan of
Temptation"
Successfully Deceiving
Us.**

***I am no
devil, for
there is
none...***

2 Nephi 28:22



Who is Satan?



Santa



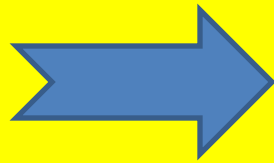
Superman



Satan



More
something
like this





"Satan has had great success with this gullible generation. As a consequence, literally hosts of people have been victimized by him and his angels"

James E. Faust,

[The Great Imitator](#), Ensign, Nov. 1987)

The Message of the First Presidency to the Church -1942

*"**Satan is making war ...** He plans to destroy liberty and freedom-economic, political, and religious, and to set up in place thereof the greatest, most widespread, and the most complete tyranny that has ever oppressed men. He is working under such **perfect disguise that many do not recognize either him or his methods.***

*There is no crime he would not commit, no debauchery he would not set up, no plague he would not send, no heart he would not break, no life he would not take, **no soul he would not destroy.** He comes as a thief in the night, he is a wolf in sheep's clothing. **Without their knowing it, the people are being urged down paths that lead only to destruction. Satan never before had so firm a grip on this generation as he has NOW.**"*

Improvement Era, Nov. 1942

Some techniques used by Satan to “DECEIVE”

1) Flattery

2) Lull and Pacify

3) Insert thoughts/words into minds

Put thoughts into our minds.

“And behold others he (SATAN) flattereth away and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none – and thus he **whispereth in their ears**, until he grasps them with his awful chains....”

2 Nephi 28:22



Joseph Fielding Smith said:

"We should be on guard to resist Satan's advances. He has the power to place thoughts in our minds and to whisper to us in unspoken impressions to entice us to satisfy our appetites or desires, and in various other ways he plays upon our weaknesses and desires. ."

([Answers to Gospel Questions](#), 3:81). (However, remember Satan cannot KNOW our thoughts - [D & C 6:15](#))

EVERYONE IS DECEIVED

Everyone goes through the midst of darkness!

- Satan has been 100% successful implementing a version of his Plan Of Temptation. ALL have been tempted including Christ.
- ALL except Christ have been “Deceived” to some doctrine and have sinned. And each of us will sin at least once more.
- Satan’s Plan of Temptation is extremely successful. **Anyone that has contact with words-media is exposed to Lies that cause Deception.**

**Deception is the first
step away from truth
in Satan's
“Plan of Temptation”.
Always attached to a
“Thought/Words.”**

Satan's

"Plan of Temptation"



TO

LEAD
LOSS OF
AGENCY



Making out with acquaintances

TO



BLIND



DECEIVE

TO



LIES



TRUTH



BLIND

Acting as if the LIES
about a particular
principle was TRUE

Can't see the Truth.

blinded their minds

[1 Nephi 7:8](#) And now I, Nephi, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, therefore I spake unto them, saying, yea, even unto Laman and unto Lemuel: Behold ye are mine elder brethren, and how is it that ye are so hard in your hearts, and so **blind in your minds**

[Alma 48:3](#) Therefore he had accomplished his design, for he had hardened the hearts of the Lamanites and **blinded their minds**, and stirred them up to anger, insomuch that he had gathered together a numerous host to go to battle against the Nephites.

[2 Corinthians 4:4](#) In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds** of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

[3 Nephi 2:1](#) ...away the ninety and fifth year also, and the people began to forget those signs and wonders which they had heard, and began to be less and less astonished at a sign or a wonder from heaven, insomuch that they began to be hard in their hearts, **and blind in their minds**

[D&C 121:12](#) And also that God hath set his hand and seal to change the times and seasons, and to **blind their minds**, that they may not understand his marvelous workings; that he may prove them also and take them in their own craftiness

[Jarom 1:3](#) Behold, it is expedient that much should be done among this people, because of the hardness of their hearts, and the deafness of their ears, and the **blindness of their minds**

[Ether 15:19](#) But behold, the Spirit of the Lord had ceased striving with them, and Satan had full power over the hearts of the people; for they were given up unto the hardness of their hearts, and the **blindness of their minds** that they might be destroyed; wherefore they went again to battle.

[Alma 13:4](#) And thus they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, while others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the hardness of their hearts and **blindness of their minds**, while, if it had not been for this they might have had as great privilege as their brethren.

[3 Nephi 7:16](#) Therefore, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts and the **blindness of their minds**—went forth among them in that same year, and began to testify, boldly, repentance and remission of sins through faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.

[Alma 14:6](#) And it came to pass that Zeezrom was astonished at the **words** which had been spoken; and he also knew concerning the **blindness of the minds**

[Ether 4:15](#) Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness, and hardness of heart, and **blindness of mind**

[1 Nephi 14:7](#) ...and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the **blindness of their minds**

Alma 14:5

6 And it came to pass that **Zeezrom** was astonished at the **words** which had been spoken; and he also knew

**concerning the blindness of the
minds, which he had caused
among the people by
his LYING WORDS**

and his soul began to be harrowed up under
a consciousness of his own guilt; yea, he began to be
encircled about by the pains of hell.

The difference between “Being Deceived” and “Being Blind” is extent you believe or act upon the “Lie.”

Deceive

Believe



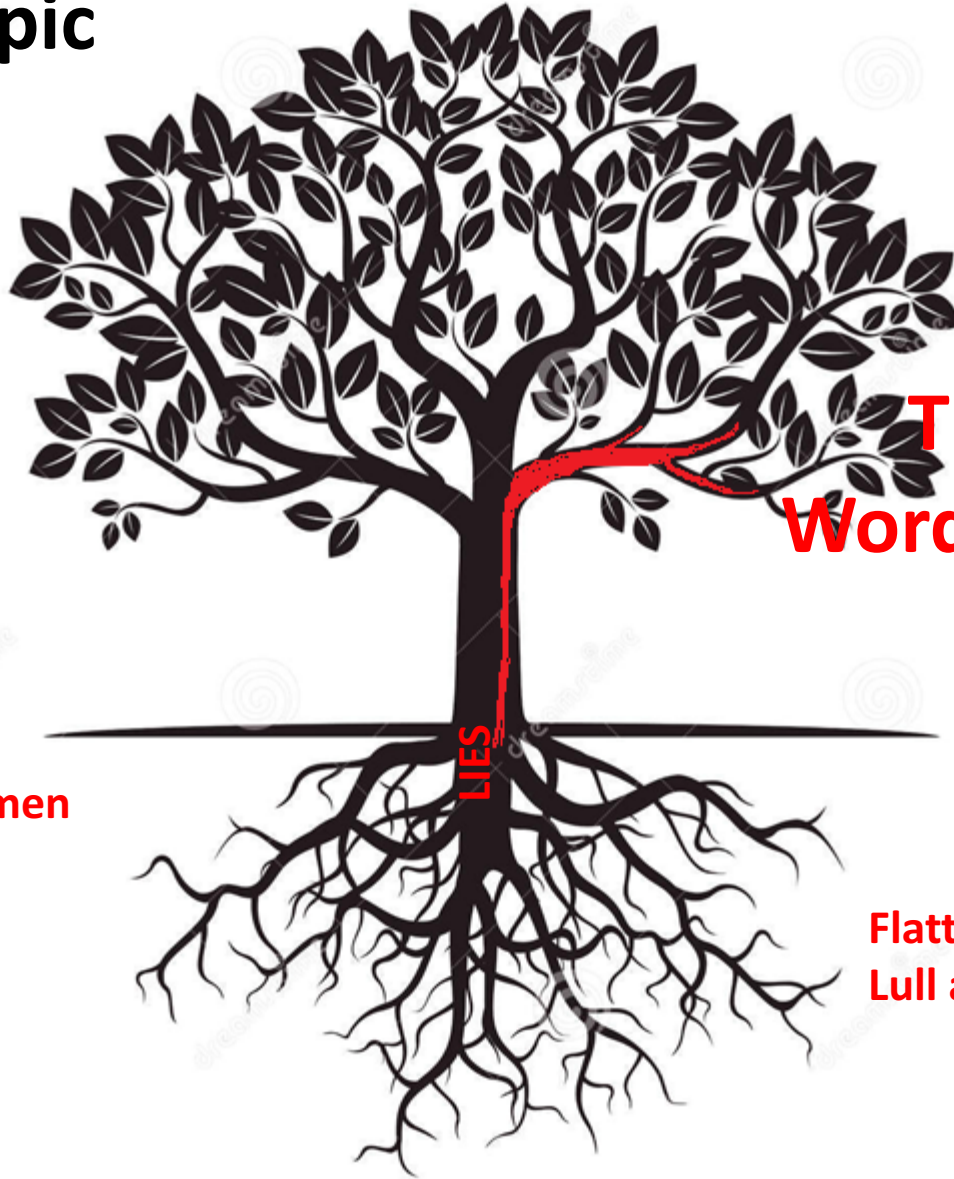
Blind

Act upon

**Every “Deception” and “Blind”
SPOT has a corresponding
“THOUGHT / SERIES OF
WORDS” in the individual’s
mind.**

“DECEIVE” and “BLIND” typically on a particular topic

Gospel
Truths



THOUGHT
Words / Message

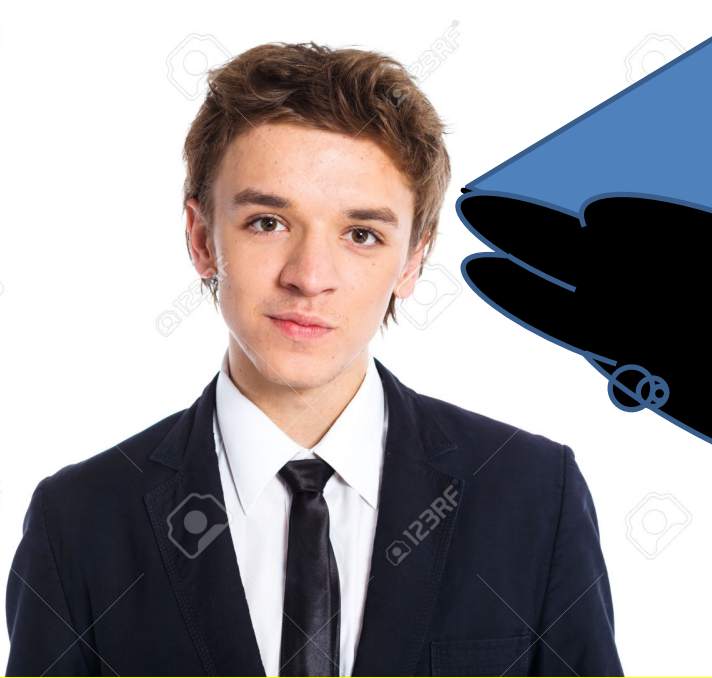
Child Molester



All aspects of their life are sins

Child Molester-

Blinded about a particular principle



OBEYS GOSPEL TRUTHS

Academic excellence
Faithful church attendance
Service to others
Word of Wisdom
Healthy boundaries with girlfriend
etc etc

Ongoing sexual relationship

...**blinded** their minds 1 Nephi 17:30

...**blindness** of their minds Ether 15:19

Color Blindness
“**SIN BLINDNESS**”

Never Met A Convicted Felon

who at the time of the crime didn't
INTEND / WANT to commit that
crime!

They had a “thought in their mind”
rationalizing their behavior...

Satan's

"Plan of Temptation"



TO



Making out with acquaintance

TO



BLIND

LEAD
LOSS OF
AGENCY



DECEIVE

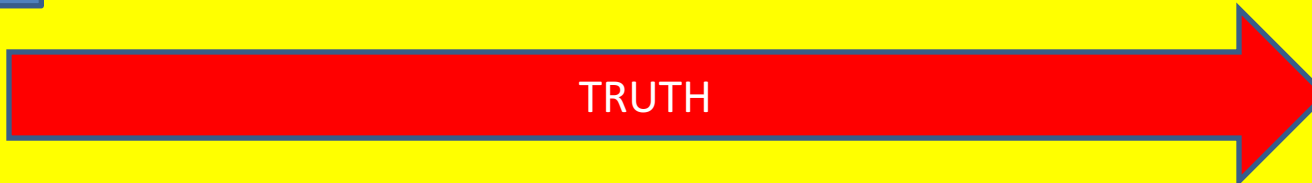
TO



LIES



TRUTH



LEAD

“loss of agency” stage

**Once “Blinded” agency
is weakened and the
individual is easily
“Lead.”**

**Moses 5: 29 And Satan said unto
Cain:... and this day I will deliver thy
brother Abel into thine hands.**

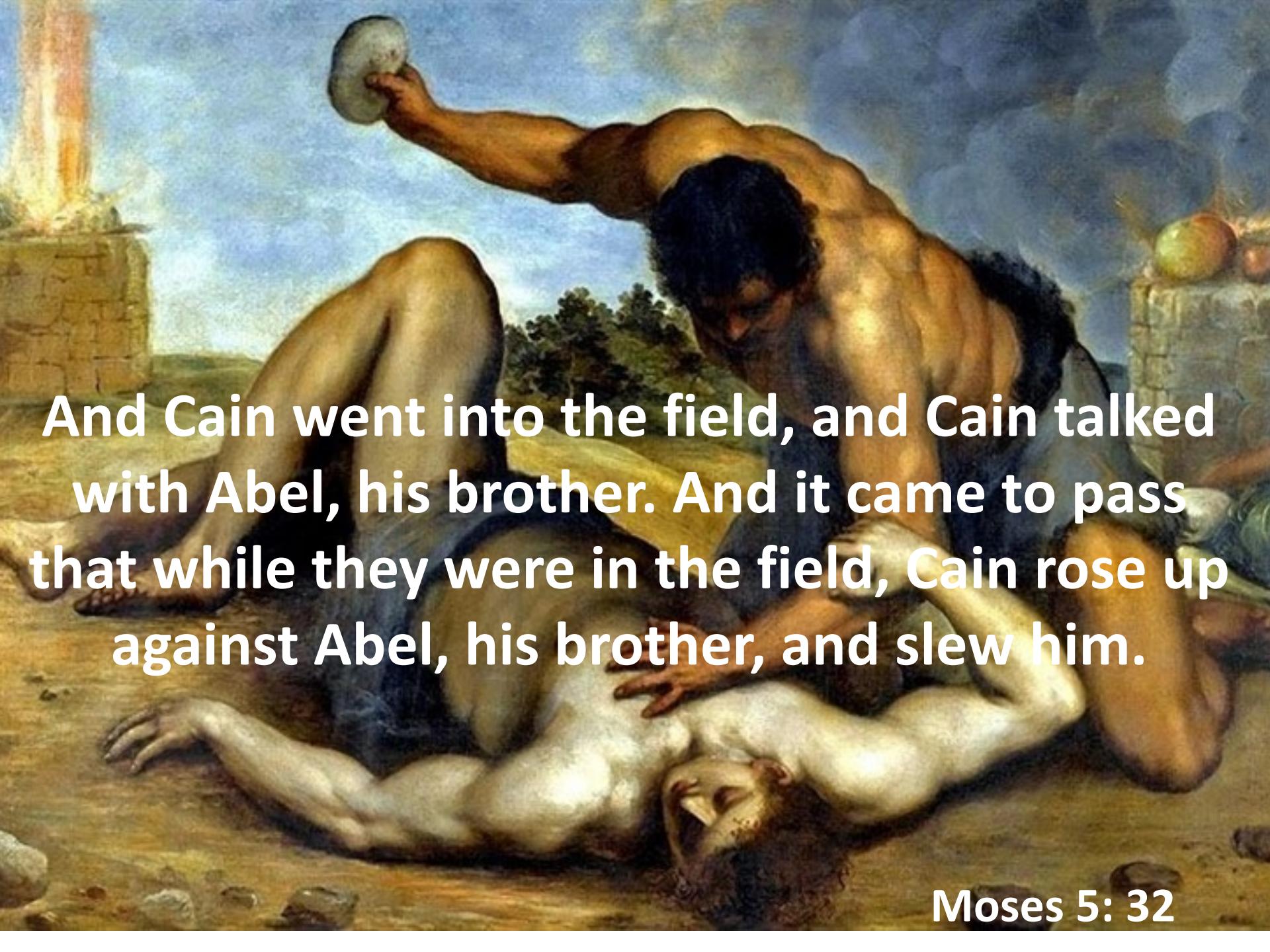
**30 And Satan sware unto Cain that he
would do according to his commands.**

**And all these things were done in
secret.**

**31 And Cain said: Truly I am Mahan,
the master of this great secret ...**

**... that I
may murder and
get gain.**

Moses 5:31



And Cain went into the field, and Cain talked with Abel, his brother. And it came to pass that while they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel, his brother, and slew him.

Moses 5: 32



And Cain **gloried** in that which he had done,
saying:

I am free;
surely the flocks of my brother falleth into my hands.

Moses 5: 33

Gospel Truth: Thou Shalt Not Kill.

Lie: I may murder and get gain. (Moses 5:31)

Deception/Blind: Surely the flocks of my brother falleth into my hands (Moses 5:33)

Thought in Cain's mind: "I am Free"
(Moses 5:33)

Lead: Cain killing Abel.



**“When Satan’s
LIES succeed in
deceiving us, we
become
vulnerable to his
power,”**

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles (“Be Not Deceived,”
Ensign, Nov. 2004, 43).

“LEAD” Agency has decreased

- Captive
- Hardened hearts
- Spiritual death / Second Death -disobedience
- ... *whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin*. D&C 84:51
- ... *by and by the end cometh, and they are hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence there is no return*. 3 Nephi 27:11

Clinical

- “I can’t stop.”
- “I have a disease ...” porn, alcohol, drugs etc.

Plan of Temptation

- Gospel Truth
- Lies
- Deception – Beliefs supportive of false beliefs
- Blindness – Act on strongly held on false beliefs
- Lead – decrease in agency



Have a
corresponding
thought /words
in the mind.

Stuck On An Escalator



Stuck On An Escalator - Take Action

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrSUE_m19FY

Plan of Temptation

- Gospel Truth: Self - Reliance
- Lies
- Deception – Beliefs supportive of false beliefs
- Blindness – Act on strongly held on false beliefs
- Lead – Stuck on the escalator.



I can't get off the escalator. I need help.

Satan has a plan and resources to execute that plan!

He knows us and our weaknesses.

-In Satan's rebellion against God, he ***“sought to destroy the agency of man”*** (Moses 4:3).

-Satan has the ***“power to captivate, to bring you down to hell, that he may reign over you”*** (2 Ne. 2:29); And

-***“He grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance”*** (2 Ne. 28:19–22).

Ask someone you love to draw a
picture of Satan.

THE END

Tomorrow-Plan of Temptation applied
to Pornography

The Tree that never had to fight...