

based on our faithfulness, we can return to dwell in the presence of our Heavenly Father forever.

*See also* Fall

## **Paradise**

In the scriptures, the word *paradise* is used in different ways. First, it designates a place of peace and happiness in the postmortal spirit world, reserved for those who have been baptized and who have remained faithful (see Alma 40:12; Moroni 10:34). Those in spirit prison have the opportunity to learn the gospel of Jesus Christ, repent of their sins, and receive the ordinances of baptism and confirmation through the work we do in temples (see D&C 138:30–35). When they do, they may enter paradise.

A second use of the word *paradise* is found in Luke's account of the Savior's Crucifixion. When Jesus was on the cross, a thief who also was being crucified said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Luke 23:42). According to Luke 23:43, the Lord replied, "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." The Prophet Joseph Smith explained that this is a mistranslation; the Lord actually said that the thief would be with Him in the world of spirits.

The word *paradise* is also found in 2 Corinthians 12:4, where it probably refers to the celestial kingdom. In the tenth article of faith, the word *paradisiacal* describes the earth's glory in the Millennium.

*See also* Death, Physical; Plan of Salvation; Resurrection

## **Patriarchal Blessings**

Patriarchal blessings are given to worthy members of the Church by ordained patriarchs. Your patriarchal blessing declares your lineage in the house of Israel and contains personal counsel from the Lord to you.