

BH Porter
Moses 4: 13-32
Origins of Evil
Pt 3

As we move along with the remainder of Moses 4, what I hope you'll begin to see is that Satan always uses other people. Eve's information was from a "second-hand" source. He always uses somebody else to get you to change your perspective or your point of view in order to lead you away from the voice of God. He seeks to infect your mind and heart by persuading one to believe in his or his teacher's philosophies and concepts that are not found in scripture. This is directly connected to the current day apostasy, whether it is the internet or social media. His goal is get you to believe in somebody else so that you will change your philosophy, or point of view.

If one realizes that his or her faith is founded on incorrect traditions, opinions and interpretations rather than scripture, it will cause one to begin to question their own foundation of their faith. Many have been blinded from the fact that truth is to found in the scriptures. When one's faith is founded on something other than the scriptures, then they will not trust that answers to spiritual questions can be found in the scriptures, they will only trust in the arm of the flesh. If we are in the scriptures then we are choosing to believe God's voice.

13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition,
which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. (**Mark 7: 13**)

Some fences around the Law become the traditions by which righteousness is judged. In the Old Testament it was decreed to not seethe a baby goat in his mother's milk. They were not to milk the mother of that baby goat and then boil that baby goat in his mother's milk. To make sure they kept that Law they built a fence around that law, and agreed to not boil any baby goat in goat's milk. Another fence would be to not boil any goat in any kind of milk. Another fence would be to not boil any kind of meat in any milk. Then another rule would be to have two different refrigerators – one for meat and another for milk. Then they would need two separate dishwashers, or two sets of pots and pans...

We do the same thing with the word of wisdom. "Hot drinks are not for the body or belly". What are hot drinks? Coffee or Tea. Why Coffee or Tea? They have caffeine in them. That means Coke and Pepsi. Caffeine is in chocolate. That means you can't have any Hershey's chocolate...see how this fence building begins to form traditions by which we judge other peoples righteousness? If YOU need a fence, that is good for YOU. You can build your own fence, but you need not judge someone else based on your own fence. If I cannot walk across a parking lot without picking up cigarette butts and smoking them, then one of my fences will be, "don't walk across parking lots." But I cannot point a finger at the man walking across the parking lot if that is *my* fence.

Another Law is keeping the Sabbath Day holy. We tend to judge others by our own fences. The worse thing to do is to be seen in a grocery store on Sunday by a member of your ward! If you are both there, then someone left the gate open on those fences! (*Much laughter*)

We just need to be careful and not judge others by our own fences. Satan understands that his first effort is centered on ***infecting*** your way of thinking by causing you to use a wrong lens or point of view.

7 For as he **thinketh in his heart**, so is he. (Prov. 23: 7)
As a man thinks in his heart, it becomes his CHARACTER.

Our scriptures teach us that what is in our hearts is a sum total of our way of thinking. Our eyes and our ears are the gateways into our minds.

What is going on in your life that will affect you?

What music do you listen to?

What do you watch?

What do you read?



YOUR PHILOSOPHY

What you have been exposed to determines your thinking.

The Way you think determines how you feel.

How you Feel will determine the decisions you make.

Your Decisions will determine your actions.

Your Actions will determine your habits.

Your Habits will determine your character.

Your Character will determine your destination.

To Change your destination, you must Change your life.

To Change your life you must first Change the way you think.

To Change the way you think, you must first Change the lens through which you view Truth.

Your Life is a sum total of what is in your heart.

Your Heart is a sum total of what you are thinking.

Your Thinking is based on what has been coming into your mind through your eye gate and your ear gate, which will overflow through the spillway of your mouth.

“Keep (guard) thy heart (character) with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

Proverbs 4: 23

Infected Thinking

Continuing on with our theme, Satan seeks to control your life and destination in a subtle and sure way by infecting your way of thinking. He does not control people by his supposed monstrous appearance or making heads spin or by making them spew green vomit. Satan just introduces a philosophy or a thought to see if you will **take the suggestion** and eat the forbidden fruit. He told Eve ... “Ye shall not surely die”; “Your eyes will be opened”; Ye shall be as the gods”. (**Moses 4: 10-11**) She thought about it, and “when she saw” that it was good for food, and that it would make her wise, she picked it, prepared it and ate it. She was “beguiled”; she changed her way of thinking. IT ALL STARTED WITH EVE.

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:
4 In whom the god of this world (Satan) 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. (**2 Cor 4: 3-4**)

If our minds and hearts become blinded to the teachings of Christ we can become like the people of Nephi who listened to the teachings of Korihor in **Alma 30: 18**:

And thus he (Korihor) did preach unto them,
 leading away the hearts of many, [they changed their character]
 causing them to lift up their heads in their wickedness, yea,
 leading away many women, and also men, to commit whoredoms—
 telling them that when a man was dead, that was the end thereof.
[“Eat, Drink, and Be Merry, for Tomorrow We Die”. (**2 Ne 28: 7-8**) They had changed their way of thinking.]

The Garden Text Continued: Moses 4:13-16

13 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they had been naked.
And they sewed fig-leaves together and made themselves aprons.

Remember, at the end of Moses 3, “the man and his wife were naked and not ashamed”. They were in a state of innocence...they did not have any sexuality before the Fall. Here in this verse 13, after the Fall, we see when they became aware of their nakedness, they hid themselves, and made a feeble attempt to hide their nakedness with fig leaves, of all things. In the Temple context, it was Satan who told them they were naked.

14 And they heard the voice of the Lord God, as they were walking in the garden, in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife went to hide themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. [**Satan could not be in the presence of God “in the cool of the day”...no unclean thing can be in the presence of God.**]

15 And I, the Lord God, called unto Adam, and said unto him: Where goest thou?
16 And he said: I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I beheld [**he now knew**] that I was naked, and I hid myself.

Question: Is their 'nakedness' a metaphor?

All metaphors or similes must be first founded on a historical reality. IF not, then any interpretation is not wrong. If they're not founded on a historical reality then God has lied to us.

17 And **I, the Lord God, said unto Adam:**

Who told thee thou wast naked?

Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat, if so thou shouldst surely die?

18 And **the man said:**

- a) The woman thou gavest me, and
- b) **commandest that she should remain with me,**
- c) she gave me of the fruit of the tree and
- d) I did eat.

Adam partook of the fruit not in order to have posterity, but in order to stay married. The fall was an issue of eternal marriage. He ate of the fruit because God had commanded him to remain with his wife.

19 And **I, the Lord God, said unto the woman:**

What is this thing which thou hast done?

And **the woman said:**

- a) **The serpent beguiled me,** and
- b) I did eat.

She did not answer by saying she wanted to have posterity. She said she was beguiled.

Comment: She could have had a little more knowledge than Adam, yes?

No. She did not have any extra knowledge. She did not know the difference between good or evil **yet**. In **Moses 5: 11** she informs us that were in not for their transgression

- 1) [they] would not have had seed, and
- 2) never have known good and evil,
- 3) the joy of [their] redemption and
- 4) the joy of eternal life which God giveth to all the obedient.

We also see in **D&C 29: 42**

The Lord God gave unto Adam and his seed (posterity), that they should not die as to the temporal death, until I, the Lord God, should send forth angels to declare unto them repentance and redemption through faith on the name of mine Only Begotten Son.

It was not until the Gospel was taught, which was three generations later, that “man began from that time forth to be carnal, sensual and devilish”. (**Moses 5: 13**) You have to have the Gospel in order to make a choice that is contrary to your salvation. So, no, Eve did not have any extra knowledge, but she did like the finer things in life. In a mall there are ten more stores for a woman than there are for a man. There's nothing wrong with that. Madison Avenue recognizes that women enjoy the finer things in life. The serpent suggests the fruit will make her wise, it looks good and it was good for food. She recognizes and accepts that she was beguiled, and that is how she answers the Lord: “The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.” It is us who have added all of the traditions, opinions and interpretations surrounding this story that have created the misunderstandings of what the scriptures actually say.

Question: If there were three generations of children who did not have the Gospel, was that considered a punishment for them not going according to the Plan?

No. They had to have time to demonstrate their obedience. They were given a commandment to offer the firstlings of the flocks for sacrifices. In order to receive further light and knowledge they had to prove themselves true and faithful to the light and knowledge they had already received. It wasn't until **after** those three generations of multiple children that the angels came asking Adam why he was offering sacrifices. Adam answered that he did not know why. He had been trying to find out for those three generations.

Comment: That seems like a long time for them to live in ignorance.

None of them could die “as to the temporal death” until the Gospel was taught to them. There was also no evil in their environment. But after they were taught the Gospel, men became “from that time forth, carnal, sensual and devilish.” We'll discuss this further when we get to chapter 5.

20 And **I, the Lord God, said unto the serpent:**

Because thou hast done this thou shalt be cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life; 21 And I will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman, between thy seed and her seed; and he (Christ) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (**or cause discomfort after they get the Gospel**)

We have a natural “gut reaction” to seeing a serpent or any kind of snake. That is that natural enmity God has given us. It is the same with evil. Children have a natural revulsion to someone who is evil. This gives us a level of hope! Satan has said he would take the treasures of the earth to buy up armies and navies and establish his governments on the earth and would rule and reign with blood and horror. We have equal footing to combat such things within ourselves. Alma teaches that God said, “whosoever repenteth, and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy through mine Only Begotten Son, unto a remission of his sins”. (**Alma 12: 34; see also 28-33, 35**)

God has given us that “gut reaction” to withdraw from evil that is so prevalent in this world. Remember, **righteousness is choosing the good in the presence of evil**. Wickedness is choosing evil in the presence of good. God has given us this natural enmity, this equal footing to withstand the evil that is all around us. Good and evil pull us in equal directions, but we, by our choices, our opinions, our points of view and our lens through which we see things, or by our own agency break the tie. We choose the direction we wish to go. It is my mind and my heart that breaks that tie. This is why this life is a probationary state (**Alma 12: 24**).

If Satan could pull harder one way than I could pull harder the other way, then I could not be held accountable for my own works. I could not be judged and be held accountable for my works if he has a greater pull than I do. That's why there was a flood. That was a time that not one child could be born who would have an opportunity to be good. The world was so wicked that not one spirit who came to the earth would have an opportunity to be good. Joseph taught us:

“that Satan was generally blamed for the evils which we did, but if he was the cause of all our wickedness, men could not be condemned. The devil could not compel mankind to do evil; all was voluntary. ... God would not exert any compulsory means, and the devil could not; (TPJS p 187)

Question: Aren't we all born with the light of Christ?

There is a restriction on the light of Christ. Turn to **D&C 84: 46-47**

46 And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, **that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit.**
47 And every one **that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit** cometh unto God, even the Father. **[The restriction is that we must hearken to the voice of the Spirit. See Also Moroni 7: 13-(16)-19]**

Back to our text: (These next verses allude to their future environment in which they will be able to fulfill those things the Lord said He would bless them with: Priesthood, Posterity and Inheritance in **Moses 2: 28.**)

22 **Unto the woman, I, the Lord God, said:**

I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception.

In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children, and thy *desire* shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule **[administer blessings]** over thee.

The Hebrew word for *desire* means to hold up, support or sustain.

The word, '**sorrow**' means to work, toil, labor in pain. The Lord uses the exact same word with both Eve and Adam.

23 And **unto Adam, I, the Lord God, said:**

Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the fruit of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying—Thou shalt not eat of it, cursed shall be the ground for thy sake; **in sorrow** shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

24 Thorns also, and thistles shall it bring forth to thee, and thou shalt eat the herb of the field. 25 By the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, until thou shalt return unto the ground—**for thou shalt surely die**—for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou wast, and unto dust shalt thou return. **[What the Lord is telling Adam is that life on earth is going to be Hell, but don't worry about it – You Get To Die!]**

This is exactly what the Lord is saying:

“Life is going to be rough for you, Adam. In sorrow you will bring forth children; in sorrow you will have to work to feed them and your wife. You will sweat all the days of your life; the ground will bring forth thorns and thistles. You will have to work hard just to eat, but Adam, don't worry about it. It will not last forever, for you get to die!” (*Much laughter!*)

Death is an event we get to live through where there will be no more troubles, cares, or sorrows. (See **Alma 40: 12**) Peter Pan said death would be the greatest of adventures!

A New Environment

26 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living; for **thus have I, the Lord God, called the first of all women, which are many.**

Now, she is called, Eve. Before the Fall she was called, Woman. **Now**, she is called Eve. In **Moses 3: 23**, when she was brought to Adam, he said, "This I know now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man."

The Hebrew word for man is *Ish*, and the word for woman is *Isha*. She cannot be called Eve **before the Fall** because she could not be the mother of all living. **Now after the Fall, her new name is Eve.** She is in a new environment. She has new responsibilities. She can now become the mother of all living! And she gets more comfortable clothes. She is able to shed those fig leaves she had been wearing. (*much laughter*)

27 Unto Adam, and also unto his wife, did I, the Lord God, make coats of skins, and clothed them.

These "coats of skins" are very important in scripture, in our religion and in ancient Jewish traditions. In order to make these skins, an animal has to die. This was the first sacrifice. The skins have to be prepared; blood needed to be shed. Christ prepared those coats of skins. No doubt it was a lamb that was slain, because that becomes the best leather once it is prepared. Christ performed that very first sacrifice. It was the very first 'Pascal lamb' that was sacrificed in order to prepare the skins for Adam and Eve in order to cover their nakedness. In reality and also metaphor, the skins were used to cover their transgression and to cover their nakedness. The Hebrew word for coat is garment, which is the exact same Hebrew word as "atonement" (*Kippur*). In our Bible the word for coats of skins means that atonement. Christ shed the blood of the Pascal lamb in order to make an atonement, which covered their nakedness. The very first sacrifice was performed in the Garden of Eden.

Question: What does the word, "Pascal", mean?

Pascal means the "Passover Lamb", the one that atones for the sins of Israel and for all mankind. It is the lamb of the Passover. When the Angel of Death went through all the camps of Israel while they were in Egypt, they had been instructed to place the blood of a Pascal lamb on their doorposts so that the Angel of Death would "pass over" their homes. The Pascal lamb is what saves Israel from the Angel of Death, and the garments made from the Pascal lamb is what covered Adam and Eve preparatory to them being cast out into the lone and dreary world.

Stories and Legends of the Garment of the Holy Priesthood

Their garments were also known as the garments of the Holy Priesthood or the garments of the Priesthood, which is also described as the "goodly raiment" which Rebekah kept in her tent. (**Gen 27:15**) There are some great stories of the garments Adam and Eve received, and as they were passed down from generation to generation. Each Patriarch received a garment patterned after the garment Adam and Eve received. This was the garment Ham stole from

his father, Noah, and gives it to Canaan because Ham's posterity was cursed pertaining to the Priesthood. Canaan's son, Cush, was the father of Nimrod. The garment that belonged to Noah was stolen by Ham, and was given to Nimrod. Nimrod, the mighty hunter, wears the garment. It represented the same garment or robes Noah used to control the animals to have them get on the ark. The animals recognized and were unafraid of the one who wore the robes of the Priesthood. Nimrod used those "robes of the Priesthood" to become the mighty hunter.

As tradition goes, it was Esau, also a cunning hunter, killed Nimrod. Esau takes the robes of Nimrod or his "garment" and rushes back home because Nimrod's army sought his life. Esau, being famished from his journey from the field, finds his brother, Jacob, cooking lentiles (as he always does). He ends up selling his birthright to his brother, Jacob, declaring, "what profit shall this birthright do to me?" (**Gen 25: 31-32**) The birthright comes back to Jacob in the form of the garment of the priesthood.

Jacob becomes the Patriarch, and he has twelve sons. Ruben, his eldest son by his first wife, loses his birthright because he slept with his father's concubine. The right to succession then goes to the first-born son of the second wife, who is actually Joseph, his 11th son. Jacob gives Joseph "a coat of many pieces" (not *many colors*) Joseph then tries to lord over his older brothers telling them he is their new priesthood leader, and they would have to do whatever he said. His older brothers conspire to kill their younger brother, but Judah intervenes, and says, "wait a minute, we can make a buck on this deal. Let's sell him to the Ishmaelites." They do sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites and then take his garment, kill a goat (a scapegoat), and dub portions his garment with the goat's blood. They bring parts of Joseph's garment, soaked in blood, back to their father, Jacob. The brothers report that Joseph has been killed by a lion and as evidence, show their father those portions of Joseph's garment. Jacob begins thinking that something fishy is going on because the pieces of the blood soaked garment were from the front of the fabric, not the rear of the garment (because Joseph would have been running away from the lion). (What saves Joseph later from Potiphar's wife was she caught hold of the rear of his robes rather than the front of his robes as he was fleeing to get away from her advances.)

When the Ishmaelites sold Joseph into Egypt, he still had a portion of his garment, and when his brothers come into Egypt seeking food from the famine, Joseph makes himself known to them. He asks them, "How's dad doing?" They answer, "He's blind as a bat. He cannot see a thing". Joseph asks them to wait a minute. He goes to retrieve that last remnant of his garment, and tells his brothers to go give their father a blessing and when they do so, they are to lay that piece of garment on their father's eyes. They did as Joseph said, and in the old text it says, "Jacob rejoiced for he now knew his son, Joseph, was alive, for he recognized the marks in the garment that he had given him."

This makes a good story, except Captain Moroni brings it up in the Book of Mormon:

Behold, we are a remnant of the seed of Jacob; yea, we are a remnant of the seed of Joseph, **whose coat was rent by his brethren into many pieces**; ... let us remember the words of Jacob, before his death, for behold, **he saw that a part of the remnant of the coat of Joseph was preserved and had not decayed.**

And he said—Even as this remnant of garment of my son hath been preserved, so shall a remnant of the seed of my son be preserved by the hand of God, and be taken unto himself, while the remainder of the seed of Joseph shall perish, even as the remnant of his garment. (**Alma 46: 23-24**)

The point about the coats of skins is that Christ prepared the coats that created the covering, or atonement, that covered the nakedness of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. The sacrifice, the blood that was shed, was done so by the Son of God, who, in the Meridian of Time, becomes the actual Pascal Lamb, to cover all of our sins by shedding His blood in the Garden of Gethsemane; He shed great drops of His blood for our sins. It's the same pattern.

Question: Is there a significance or greater meaning that we must also wash *our* garments in the blood of the Lamb?

It is. Our garments *do* need to be washed in the blood of the Lamb. That is the process of our own sanctification that we see in scripture — Not only in **Moses 6: 60**, but also in **Alma 13:10-12**. (See also **1 Ne 12:10**; **Alma 5: 21-22**; **3 Ne 27: 19-20**) It is our character that is to become purified and sanctified, where we have no more disposition to do evil and whereby we can only look upon sin with abhorrence. By the water we keep the commandments, by the Spirit are we justified, and by the Blood we are sanctified (**Moses 6:60**). We have to be sanctified by blood in the refiner's fire so that our garments can be washed white.

The Importance of Relationships

The call to everyone is to “come unto Christ”. The call is not to become a member of the Mormon Church, but the call is to come unto Christ. The Church helps administer that relationship, but the call is to come unto Christ. (See **2 Ne 2: 8**; **Alma 33: 22-23**) Our testimonies need to be in that relationship with Christ, not in the vehicle that administers that relationship. What saves us is our relationship with Christ, and not on which pew we sit in every Sunday. It is our relationship with Christ that makes us who we are.

Moses 4 Conclusion

28 And I, the Lord God, said unto mine Only Begotten: Behold, the man is become as one of us to know good and evil; and now lest he put forth his hand and partake also of the tree of life, and eat and live forever,

29 Therefore I, the Lord God, will send him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken;

What would be Satan's next step in his effort to frustrate the Plan of God? Yes. He would try to get them to eat from the Tree of Life. But, God protected the Tree of Life from Adam and Eve.

30 For as I, the Lord God, liveth, even so my words cannot return void, for as they go forth out of my mouth they must be fulfilled. 31 So I drove out the man, and I placed at the east of the Garden of Eden, cherubim and a flaming sword, which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life.

32 (And these are the words which I spake unto my servant Moses, and they are true even as I will; and I have spoken them unto you (speaking to Joseph Smith). See thou show them unto no man, until I command you, except to them that believe. Amen.)

The story and text we have read today is part of that Endowment of Power Moses received.

Here's what the Book of Mormon has to say.

2 Ne 2:18-19

18 And because he had fallen from heaven, and had become miserable forever, he sought also the misery of all mankind. Wherefore, he said unto Eve, yea, even that old serpent, who is the devil, who is the father of all lies, wherefore he said: Partake of the forbidden fruit, and **ye shall not die, but ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil.**

19 And after Adam and Eve had partaken of the forbidden fruit they were driven out of the garden of Eden, to till the earth.) **[Does this sound familiar?]**

22 And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which

they were after

they were created; and

they must have remained forever, and had no end.

23 And **they** would have had no children; wherefore

they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for

they knew no misery; doing no good, for

they knew no sin.

Who are the “they” in v 22-23? Right. They are Adam and Eve. In order to know what these verses are talking about, we need to know who the “they” are. The “they” are Adam and Eve, not anyone or anything else. This verse does not imply there was no death of any kind in the Garden of Eden; only that Adam and Eve could not die. “They” would have “remained forever, and had no end”. I cannot say this enough — Let the scriptures speak for themselves!

Alma 12: 21

21 What does the scripture mean, which saith that God placed cherubim and a flaming sword on the east of the garden of Eden, lest our first parents should enter and partake of the fruit of the tree of life, and live forever? And thus we see that there was no possible chance that they should live forever.

22 Now Alma said unto him: This is the thing which I was about to explain. Now we see that Adam did fall by the partaking of the forbidden fruit, according to the word of God; and thus we see, **that by his fall, all mankind became a lost and fallen people.**

23 And now behold, I say unto you that **if it had been possible for Adam to have partaken of the fruit of the tree of life at that time, there would have been no death, and the word would have been void**, making God a liar, for he said: If thou eat thou shalt surely die. **(This connects back that Satan knew not the mind of God.)**

24 And we see that death comes upon mankind, yea, the death which has been spoken of by Amulek, which is the temporal death; nevertheless **there was a space granted unto man in which he might repent**; therefore this **life became a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God**; . . .

26 And now behold, if it were possible that our first parents could have gone forth and partaken of the tree of life **they would have been forever miserable**, having no preparatory state; and thus the plan of redemption would have been frustrated, and the word of God would have been void, taking none effect. **(They would have never been able to return to the presence of God.)**

27 But behold, it was not so; but **it was appointed unto men that they must die**; and after death, they must come to judgment, even that same judgment of which we have **spoken, which is the end.** (*Words of Joseph Smith, p. 63; 9 Feb. 1841*)

28 And **after God had appointed that these things should come unto man**, behold, then **he saw that it was expedient that man should know concerning the things whereof he had appointed unto them**;

29 **Therefore he sent angels to converse with them**, who caused men to behold of his glory. **(These angels are sometimes called “The Three Sent Ones”).**

What we are seeing in these Book of Mormon chapters are the ideas and concepts that are taught in the Garden Text regarding relationships:

**The Relationship of Man to God
The Relationship of Knowledge to Power
The Relationship of Power to Agency
The Relationship of Agency to Action
The Relationship of Action to Character
The Relationship of Character to Consequences**

These are what is being taught in Moses 4. Adam & Eve had the power and agency to make a choice. Their agency led to their action of partaking the fruit.

Alma 42:

2 Now behold, my son, I will explain this thing unto thee. For behold, after the Lord God **sent our first parents forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground, from whence they were taken**—yea, **he drew out the man**, and he placed at the east end of the garden of Eden, cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the tree of life— 3 Now, we see **that the man had become as God, knowing good and evil**; [What's the problem of knowing good and evil? **Ans: The capability of being good. Knowing good and being capable of being good are two separate and distinct things. Being capable of being good in the presence of evil is a thing fallen man cannot immediately do.**] and lest he should put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat and live forever, the Lord God placed cherubim and the flaming sword, that he should not partake of the fruit — 6 But behold, **it was appointed unto man to die**—therefore, as **they** were cut off from the tree of life **they** should be cut off from the face of the earth—and man became lost forever, yea, **they** became fallen man.

7 And now, ye see **by this that our first parents were cut off both temporally and spiritually from the presence of the Lord; and thus we see they became subjects to follow after their own will.** [They now have a knowledge of Good and Evil and now they can follow after their own will. This is the problem! Because they are now cut off from the presence of the Lord, they are now capable of following after their own will.]

8 Now behold, **it was not expedient that man should be reclaimed from this temporal death**, for that would destroy the great plan of happiness.

4 And thus we see, that there was a **time granted unto man to repent, yea, a probationary time, a time to repent and serve God.**

5 For behold, if Adam had put forth his hand immediately, and partaken of the tree of life, he would have lived forever, according to the word of God, having no space for repentance; yea, and also the word of God would have been void, and the great plan of salvation would have been frustrated.

9 Therefore, as the soul could never die, and the fall had brought upon all mankind a spiritual death as well as a temporal, that is, they were cut off from the presence of the Lord, it was expedient that mankind should be reclaimed from this spiritual death.

10 Therefore, **as they had become carnal, sensual, and devilish, by nature, (not by temptation!)** this probationary state became a state for them to prepare; it became a preparatory state. **(This is why King Benjamin taught that the natural man is an enemy to God, and always will be... There is no such thing as “the Devil made me do it”!)**

The Book of Moses is an exciting book. We have gotten through Moses 4. Chapter 5, in my opinion, is one of the best chapters in all of scripture. What was in the original endowment at Nauvoo? It was what Joseph Smith restored in chapters 1 – 5! To condense it all down from a day and a half to an hour and a half, it had to be abridged over and over again. We are reading the concepts in the Pearl of Great Price that answer all of the questions. The events that take place in and around the Garden of Eden are the events that we ought to look to in order to prepare ourselves and our lives, as well as our children and their lives. These chapters contain that Endowment of Power, and there is no good reason why our children, before they go out into the world, should not understand these things or have this lens of scripture. There is no reason why they cannot understand where evil originated or how to control that evil; or to know what it is about or how Satan works in the world and on them. This knowledge will provide that Endowment of Power for them to understand and be given the power to go out into the world that is so terrible and rotten.

You don't have to believe a word I say because you have these standard works, these scriptures, and the Book of Mormon is one of the best commentaries on the Garden of Eden story. These scriptures are exciting. The fulness of the Gospel is taught in the Book of Mormon. We need to take it seriously. Know that I know Jesus is the Christ, and the scriptures are true. This I say in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.