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A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND MISSION
OF JESUS CHRIST BY THIRD YEAR SEMINARY GRADUATES OF
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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A Thesis
Presented to the
Department of Church History and Doctrine
Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Religious Education

by
Terry R. Baker
April 1973

This thesis, by Terry R. Baker, is accepted in its present form by the Department of Church History and Doctrine in the College of Religious Instruction of Brigham Young University as satisfying the thesis requirements for the degree of Master of Religious Education.


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5 Dec. 1972
Date


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CHAPTER I

CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE, TERMS, METHODS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter one presents the purpose of the study and why it is considered important. Limitations and terms used are defined followed by a description of the source of data and how they were obtained. An explanation of the organization of remaining chapters follows.

I. THE PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to determine the intellectual comprehension of the nature and mission of Jesus Christ by the third year seminary graduates of the Salt Lake Valley North Seminary District.

Answers to the following questions were sought concerning student understanding of the nature and mission of Christ:

1. Do the students understand who Jesus Christ is?
2. How well do the students understand the mission of Jesus Christ?

II. JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

This research was done to determine what intellectual comprehension third year graduating seminary students have of the nature and mission of Jesus Christ.

In relation to this subject, Joseph Fielding Smith has said,

"It is essential that every member of the Church have a perfect understanding of the reason why Jesus Christ came into the world and the nature of his mission."¹

The findings of this study should be helpful to the LDS Department of Education in determining if further emphasis is needed in teaching the nature and mission of Christ.

III. LIMITATIONS

1. The study was limited to students of the Salt Lake Valley North Seminary District who completed courses of instruction in Book of Mormon, Old Testament, and New Testament and graduated in 1970.

2. No attempt was made to suggest new teaching methods for the nature and mission of Christ.

3. No attempt was made to measure the students' spiritual perception or feelings toward the nature and mission of Christ.

4. No attempt was made to evaluate student understanding of the ministry and teachings of Christ except as they relate to an understanding of his mission and the identity of his nature.

5. The students were questioned only from information drawn from the course outlines for the Book of Mormon, Old Testament, and New Testament. No questions were constructed from outside sources.

¹Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers to Gospel Questions, Vol. I (Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Book Company, 1957), p. 30.

6. Third year seminary graduates are students who have enrolled in and received seminary credit for each of the following courses of instruction:

- a) Book of Mormon
- b) Old Testament
- c) New Testament

7. Salt Lake Valley North Seminary District is limited to a geographical division of the LDS Church School System under the leadership of a district coordinator. The 1970 Salt Lake Valley North Seminary District is composed of the following high school and junior high school seminaries:

- a) High Schools
 - (1) Granite
 - (2) Granger
 - (3) Skyline
 - (4) Olympus
- b) Junior High Schools
 - (1) Wasatch
 - (2) Valley
 - (3) Olympus
 - (4) Granite Park
 - (5) Central
 - (6) West Lake
 - (7) Evergreen
 - (8) Churchill
 - (9) Bonneville

The Salt Lake Valley North Seminary District shall be referred to as the "SLVN Seminary District" throughout the remainder of the study.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

Nature of Christ. Nature is defined by Webster as "Essential character or make-up...distinguishing qualities."²

The term "nature of Christ," as used in this study is designed to answer the question, "Who do the students feel Jesus Christ was and is?"

The "nature of Christ" will have two general meanings:

1. The "divine" nature of Christ, such as his character, his attributes, perfections, and place in the Godhead.
2. The "corporeal" nature of Christ. The physical, bodily make-up of his being.

Mission of Christ. This term is designed to answer the question, "How well do the students understand the mission of Christ?" "Mission of Christ" as it is used in this study will refer to the Savior's atoning sacrifice and what effect the atonement has on mankind. A study of the atonement is further clarified by McConkie as follows, "A knowledge of two great truths is essential to an understanding of the doctrine of the atonement: 1. The fall of Adam; and 2. The divine Sonship of our Lord."³ These two aspects of the atonement along with their effect on mankind will constitute the meaning of the "mission of Christ" as used in this study.

²Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, Massachusetts: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1965), p. 563.

³Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine (Salt Lake City, Utah: Bookcraft, 1966), p. 61.

V. SOURCE OF DATA

From a random sample of the total third year graduate population of the seminary district, two hundred students were selected for the study.

The number of participating students from each of the four high schools in the SLVN Seminary District was selected according to the percentage of students each seminary contributed to the total population of third year graduates of the district.

The two hundred participating students were randomly selected by taking every eighth name as it appeared on an alphabetical list of third year graduates of each of the four high schools.

VI. MEANS OF OBTAINING DATA

A questionnaire was compiled and designed to measure the student's comprehension of the nature and mission of Jesus Christ. A sample of the questionnaire is found in the Appendix.

The questions were adapted from the lesson outlines for the Book of Mormon, Old Testament, and New Testament courses and consisted of concepts related to the nature and mission of Christ that the students should have been taught during each of these courses of study. All questions were taken from the outlines only.

The questionnaires, with instructions for marking them, were taken by the researcher to each of the seminaries and given to the students. The two hundred copies of the questionnaire were distributed among the four high school seminaries as shown in Table number one.

TABLE I

DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES AMONG THE
THIRD YEAR GRADUATES OF THE FOUR HIGH
SCHOOL SEMINARIES OF THE SLVN
SEMINARY DISTRICT

School	Number of Third Year Graduates	Percentage of Total District Population	Number of Graduates Questioned
Skyline	624	38%	76
Olympus	428	25%	50
Granite	401	24%	48
Granger	226	13%	26
Total	1679	100%	200

VII. PROCESSES OF INFERENCE INVOLVED

The results obtained from the use of the questionnaire are presented in Chapter II by listing each of the questions and analyzing student response to them in terms of type of response, and the frequency and percentage of their responses.

In analyzing the statements of the questionnaire they were either true concepts according to the lesson manuals or were false according to the manuals. The students were given five responses to choose from following each statement: Strongly agree, agree, uncertain, disagree, strongly disagree. The correct response to the true statements was "strongly agree." Also correct but probably demonstrating less conviction in their own response was "agree." Uncertain,

disagree, or strongly disagree were considered incorrect responses to the true statements.

The correct response to false statements on the questionnaire was "strongly disagree." Also considered a correct reply was "disagree." The response "disagree" demonstrated the student may have felt it was the correct response but possibly lacked the conviction to answer "strongly disagree."

For a standard of comparison 75% or 150 of the 200 students had to correctly respond to a question before that question was considered adequately understood. The questionnaire given the students was divided into two sections; each section is examined separately in chapter III.

Part A of the questionnaire was designed to answer the question, "Who do the students feel Jesus Christ is?" Statements one through twenty-five of Part A were designed to determine student understanding of the nature of Christ. The questions covered two areas of the "nature of Christ":

1. The divine nature of Christ: his character, his attributes and perfections, and his place in the Godhead.
2. The "corporeal" nature of Christ. The physical, bodily make-up of his being.

These questions are analyzed in sections 1 and 2 of chapter III.

Part B of the questionnaire was designed to answer the question, "How well do the students understand the mission of Christ?" "Mission of Christ was defined for this study as the Savior's atoning

sacrifice and what effect the atonement has on mankind. See definition of terms, chapter I, for further clarification. These questions are examined in sections 3 and 4 of chapter II. Section 5 of chapter II contains all the findings previously discussed in chapter III.

VIII. ORGANIZATION OF REMAINING CHAPTERS.

The remaining chapters of this study are organized as follows: Chapter II contains a review of literature pertinent to the study. In it official Church policy statements are first presented, if unavailable then individual statements by the leading authorities of the LDS Church are presented. The purpose of these statements is to justify the interpretation of the statements used in the questionnaire given the students.

Chapter III contains the findings of the study. A description of the manner in which the questions were scored is followed by an individual analysis of each statement concerning the nature of Christ. An analysis of groups of related individual statements which all discuss the same general concept is then presented. The same format is followed for an analysis of the mission of Christ. A summary of findings follows.

Chapter IV presents a summary of the study with conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The purpose of this chapter will be to present, as far as possible, the position of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in regard to the two major categories of questions asked the students.

To represent accurately the Church's position concerning the nature and mission of Christ, official statements by past or present First Presidencies are considered most valid. If these statements are not available then approved publications of the Church are next considered.

Finally, when further explanations are required, individual statements by General Authorities are considered. No other sources are cited.

The review of literature is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather it is a brief justification for the interpretation of the questions asked the students as presented in this study.

I. INTERPRETATION OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE DIVINE AND CORPOREAL NATURE OF CHRIST

In question number three Christ was represented as the first born spirit offspring and, therefore, our eldest brother. God also was said to be the spirit Father of all men. Justification for this statement can be found in "The Father and The Son: A Doctrinal Exposition

by the First Presidency and the Twelve," written by the First Presidency of the Church in 1916.

Therein the explanation is given that Elohim (God the Father) is both the literal parent of Jesus Christ and the rest of the human race, thereby making Jesus Christ a brother to all mankind. The First Presidency explains:

Scriptures embodying the ordinary signification--literally that of parent--are too numerous and specific to require citation. The purpose of these scriptures is to the effect that God the Eternal Father, whom we designate by the exalted name-title "Elohim," is the literal parent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and of the human race. Elohim is the father in every sense in which Jesus Christ is so designated, and distinctively He is the Father of Spirits. Thus we read in the Epistle to the Hebrews: "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: Shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of Spirits, and live?" (Hebrews 12:9).¹

At another point in the exposition, the First Presidency further points out that although Christ was not the first born in the flesh, he is yet the elder brother to all mankind:

Among the spirit children of Elohim the first born was and is Jehovah or Jesus to whom all others are juniors. Following are affirmative scriptures bearing on this great truth. Paul writing to the Colossians, says of Jesus Christ: "Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature..." (Colossians 1:15-19). From this scripture we learn that Jesus Christ was "the first born of every creature" and it is evident that the seniority here expressed must be with respect to antemortal existence, for Christ was not the senior of all mortals in the flesh.²

Because a signed statement by a First Presidency is authoritative and binding on the Church as doctrine, it can be concluded the

¹ Joseph F. Smith, Anthon H. Lund, and Charles W. Penrose, "The Father and the Son: A Doctrinal Exposition by the First Presidency and the Twelve," Improvement Era, August 1916, Vol. 19, p. 934.

² Ibid., p. 935.

position of the Church is that Jesus Christ was the firstborn spirit child and, therefore, our eldest brother.

In question number one Christ was represented as having reached, while yet in his pre-mortal state, that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent.

This statement is verified by the following quotation from The Lectures on Faith:

12. From the foregoing testimonies we learn the following things respecting the character of God.

13. First, that he was God before the world was created, and the same God he was after it was created.³

Although the Lectures on Faith do not constitute a statement by the First Presidency, their worth can be seen from the following:

They are not to be regarded as of equal authority in matters of doctrine with the revelations of God in the Doctrine and Covenants, but as stated by Elder John Smith...speaking in behalf of the Kirtland High Council, bore record that the revelations in said book were judiciously written and compiled, and were profitable doctrine.⁴

Further evidence of the Church's position is given by Talmage:

In the opening lines of the Gospel book written by John the Apostle, we read: "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made...And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."

The passage is simple, precise and unambiguous. We may reasonably give to the phrase "In the beginning" the same meaning as attached thereto in the first line of Genesis; and such signification must indicate a time antecessence upon the earth. That the

³Joseph Smith, Lectures on Faith, compiled by N. B. Lundwall (Salt Lake City, Utah: Bookcraft, 1959), p. 62.

⁴Joseph Smith, History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Vol. II, ed. B. H. Roberts (Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Book Company, 1971), p. 176.

Word is Jesus Christ, who was with the Father in the beginning and who was Himself invested with the powers and rank of Godship, and that He came into the world and dwelt among men, are definitely affirmed.⁵

Although the above statement and others which will be used in this study by Talmage represent his personal views, that they are authoritative is witnessed by the following as taken from the Preface of Jesus the Christ:

It is particularly congruous and appropriate that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints...should set forth her doctrines concerning the Messiah and His mission.

The author of this volume entered upon his welcome service under request and appointment from the presiding authorities of the Church; and the completed work has been read to and is approved by the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve.⁶

In question number six, Christ was represented as having created the earth under the direction of His father. It was also implied that Christ and His father were of one mind and purpose, and Jesus was designated to be the one through whom the will and word of the Father was to be brought to pass upon the earth.

It was further explained in questions number 13, 14, and 24 that Jesus Christ had been the God of the Old Testament and His father's administrator on earth during that time period.

Scriptural evidence supporting Jesus Christ as the creator of our earth is explained by Talmage in the Church approved publication, Jesus the Christ. Talmage explained how in Genesis a plurality of

⁵James E. Talmage, Jesus the Christ (Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Book Company, 1964), p. 10.

⁶Ibid., p. iii.

Gods is mentioned as taking part in the creation. (See Gen. 1:26, 3:22.) The words of Moses as revealed in the Pearl of Great Price were also given to show Christ's role in the creation:

And I God said unto mine only Begotten, which was with me from the beginning: Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.⁷

Talmage then summarized:

As heretofore shown in another connection, the Father operated in the work of creation through the Son, who thus became the executive through whom the will, commandment, or word of the Father was put into effect.⁸

Talmage supports this statement by quoting Hebrews 1:1,2:

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.⁹

Colossians 1:16, 17 and John 1:1-3 were further cited as supporting evidence showing that Christ, under the direction of the Father, created the earth.

Joseph Fielding Smith, the President of the Church, also agrees with Talmage:

Under the direction of his Father, Jesus Christ created this earth. No doubt others helped him, but it was Jesus Christ our Redeemer who, under the direction of his Father, came down and organized matter and made this planet...¹⁰

⁷Ibid., p. 33.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. I (Salt Lake City, Utah: Bookcraft, 1962), p. 74.

That Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament as suggested in the questionnaire is further agreed upon by both Talmage and President Smith. President Smith states,

All revelation since the Fall has come through Jesus Christ, who is the Jehovah of the Old Testament. In all of the scriptures where God is mentioned and where he has appeared, it was Jehovah who talked with Abraham, with Noah, Enoch, Moses and all the prophets. He is the God of Israel, the Holy One of Israel...¹¹

Talmage's statement is nearly the same:

We claim scriptural authority for the assertion that Jesus Christ was and is God the Creator, the God who revealed Himself to Adam, Enoch, and all the ante-diluvial patriarch and prophets down to Noah; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob;...the God of the Old Testament record.¹²

This it can be seen, Latter-day Saints believe Jesus Christ is Jehovah, the God of the Old Testament.

As previously stated in this chapter, Christ was represented in statements number 12 and 13 as being of the same mind and will as His father, thus qualifying Him to be the Father's administrator on earth. Evidence that this is a valid Latter-day Saint belief comes from the Lectures on Faith which states:

And he being the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, and having overcome, received a fullness of the glory of the Father, possessing the same mind with the Father, which mind is the Holy Spirit, that bears record of the Father and the Son, and these three are one, or, in other words these three constitute the great, matchless, governing, and supreme power over all things; by whom all things were created and made, and these three constitute the Godhead, and are one; the Father and

¹¹Ibid., p. 26.

¹²Talmage, op. cit., p. 32.

the Son possessing the same mind, the same wisdom, glory, power and fullness...¹³

Christ was not only depicted in the questionnaire as being of the same mind and will as the Father, but in questions number 20, 22, and 23 he was also shown to be the only mediator between God and man.

Christ was also shown in the study to take on the Father role in his relationship with man when man accepts him as the mediator.

Evidence for the validity of the LDS belief in this concept comes from the 1916 "First Presidency and Twelve's Doctrinal Exposition."

It states that:

A fourth reason for applying the title "Father" to Jesus Christ is found in the fact that in all His dealings with the human family Jesus the Son has represented and yet represents Elohim His Father in power and authority. This is true of Christ in His pre-existent antemortal, or embodiment in the flesh; and during His labors as a disembodied spirit in the realm of the dead; and since that period in His resurrected state.¹⁴

It was further explained:

Thus the Father placed His name upon the Son; and Jesus Christ spoke and ministered in and through the Father's name; and so far as power, authority, and Godship are concerned His words and acts were and are those of the Father.¹⁵

Having discussed Christ's relationship to His Father and His pre-mortal status, a brief review of the LDS beliefs concerning Christ's attributes, perfections, and corporeal nature will now be presented.

¹³Smith, Lectures on Faith, op. cit., p. 49.

¹⁴Smith, Lund, and Penrose, op. cit., p. 934.

¹⁵Smith, Lund, and Penrose, op. cit., p. 934.

In questions 19 and 25, Christ and His Father are said to be two separate and distinct individuals with bodies of flesh and bone.

Once again quoting from the 1916 "First Presidency Doctrinal Exposition," we find the following evidence supporting the concept of Father and Son being separate beings:

Jesus Christ is the Son of Elohim both as spiritual and bodily offspring; that is to say, Elohim is literally the Father of the spirit of Jesus Christ and also of the body in which Jesus Christ performed His mission in the flesh, and which body died on the cross and was afterwards taken up by the process of resurrection, and is now the immortalized tabernacle of the eternal spirit of our Lord and Savior. No extended explanation of the title "Son of God" as applied to Jesus Christ appears necessary.¹⁶

The above explanation would hardly make sense unless Christ and His Father are two separate individuals.

In questions 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10, Christ is said to be perfect in each of his attributes of knowledge, power, justice, mercy, and truth.

The most valid L.D.S. explanation of Christ's attributes is found in the prophet Joseph Smith's Lectures on Faith. Here an attempt to show the importance of a correct knowledge of God's attributes as a prerequisite to having faith in Him is presented. In this lecture he made the following statements about God's attributes. Concerning God's knowledge, we read:

...seeing that without the knowledge of all things, God would not be able to save any portion of his creatures; for it is by reason of the knowledge which he has of all things, from the

¹⁶Smith, Lund, and Penrose, op. cit., p. 936.

beginning to the end, that enables him to give that understanding to his creatures by which they are made partakers of eternal life.¹⁷

Of the power of God we find:

12. And it is not less necessary that men should have the idea of the existence of the attribute, power in Deity; for unless God had power over all things, and was able by his power to control all things, and thereby deliver his creatures who put their trust in Him from the power of all beings that might seek their destruction whether in heaven, on earth, or in hell, men could not be saved.¹⁸

Concerning justice, Joseph wrote:

It is also necessary, in order to the exercise of faith in God unto life and salvation, that men should have the idea of the existence of the attribute justice in Him; for without the idea of the existence of the attribute justice in the Deity, men could not have confidence sufficient to place themselves under his guidance and direction.¹⁹

And of the attribute on mercy, Joseph wrote:

15. And again, it is equally important that men should have the idea of the existence of the attribute mercy in the Deity,... But when the idea of the existence of this attribute is once again established in the mind it gives life and energy to the spirits of the Saints, believing that the mercy of God will be poured out upon them in the midst of their afflictions and that he will compassionate them in their sufferings, and that the mercy of God will lay hold of them....²⁰

The last attribute the prophet Joseph described was that of truth.

16. And lastly, but not less important to the exercise of faith in God, is the idea of the existence of the attribute truth in Him;.... But with the idea of the existence of this attribute

¹⁷Smith, Lectures on Faith, op. cit., p. 43.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 43.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 43.

²⁰Ibid., p. 43.

in the Deity in the mind, all the teachings, instructions, promises, and blessings, become realities, and the mind is enabled to lay hold of them with certainty and confidence, believing that these things, and all that the Lord has said, shall be fulfilled in their time....²¹

From these quotations it can be seen that Joseph Smith taught that God is a God of justice, mercy, and truth; possessing all power and knowledge and is perfect in each of these attributes.

Concerning Christ's corporeal nature, or the physical, bodily make-up of his being, the following was represented as characteristic of Jesus in the questionnaire:

1. Christ has a body of flesh and bones.
2. Christ's resurrected body of flesh and bones is not restricted by mortal limitations of movement.
3. Although Christ's person cannot be in more than one place at a time through the medium of His Spirit He is in direct communication with all things at all times.

That Latter-day Saints believe Jesus has a body of flesh and bones as represented in question 21 can be seen in the Church approved Doctrine & Covenants, which states,

22. The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also....²²

²¹Ibid., pp. 44-45.

²²Doctrine & Covenants (Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1952), Section 130:22.

Talmage also implies this and uses Christ's appearance as a resurrected being to the Apostles as recorded in Luke 24:42, as an example of Christ having a body of flesh and bones. In Jesus the Christ we find:

To further assure them that He was no shadowy form, no immaterial being of tenuous substance, but a living personage with bodily organs, internal as well as outward, He asked, "Have ye here any meat?"...and did eat before them.²³

As to Christ's limitations of movement and his ability to communicate with all things at all times as represented in questions 11 and 18, we learn the following from former Church President Joseph F. Smith:

It is the Spirit of God which proceeds through Christ to the world, that enlightens every man that comes into the world, and that strives with the children of men, and will continue to strive with them, until it brings them to a knowledge of the truth and the possession of the greater light and testimony of the Holy Ghost.²⁴

Thus it can be seen how Christ could have a body of flesh and bones and yet remain in constant communication with all things at all times through His Spirit.

Question 15 indicates that Jesus Christ was born into the world the literal son of God the Father and the Virgin Mary. Evidence for this is again provided by Talmage as he states:

That Child to be born of Mary was begotten of Elohim, the Eternal Father, not in violation of natural law but in accordance

²³Talmage, op. cit., p. 688.

²⁴Joseph F. Smith, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," Improvement Era, March 1908, Vol. II, 380.

with a higher manifestation thereof; and, the offspring from that association of supreme sanctity, celestial Sireship, and pure though mortal maternity, was of right to be called the "Son of the Highest."²⁵

Further evidence that Elohim was the literal parent of Jesus in the flesh, can be found in the previously-quoted 1916 "First Presidency Exposition." It states that

Jesus Christ is the Son of Elohim both as spiritual and bodily offspring; that is to say, Elohim is literally the Father of the spirit of Jesus Christ and also of the body in which Jesus Christ performed His mission in the flesh, and which body died on the cross and was afterwards taken up by the process of resurrection, and is now the immortalized tabernacle of the eternal spirit of our Lord and Savior. No extended explanation of the title "Son of God" as applied to Jesus Christ appears necessary.²⁶

It can thus be seen that both the 1916 "First Presidency" and Dr. Talmage taught that Elohim was the literal parent of Jesus' earthly body and his spiritual body.

Question 2 indicates that Jesus Christ is a provable historical figure. As to Jesus Christ being a real historical figure, Talmage made the following statement:

The principal data as to His birth, life, and death are so well attested as to be reasonably indisputable; they are facts of record, and are accepted as essentially authentic by the civilized world at large.²⁷

²⁵Talmage, op. cit., p. 81.

²⁶Smith, Lund, and Penrose, op. cit., p. 936.

²⁷Talmage, op. cit., p. 1.

II. INTERPRETATION OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE
MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST OR PART B
OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Because an understanding of the Fall of Adam and its effect upon mankind is essential to understanding the doctrine of the atonement, the students were asked eleven questions concerning it. These will now be discussed.

Questions 5 and 7 suggest that Adam was the first man upon the earth and that he and Eve could have lived in Eden forever. Evidence for this is found in a statement signed by the First Presidency consisting of Joseph F. Smith, John R. Winder, and Anthon H. Lund:

It is held by some that Adam was not the first man upon this earth, and that the original human was a development from lower orders of the animal creation. These, however, are the theories of men. The word of the Lord declares that Adam was "the first man of all men" (Moses 1:34) and we are therefore in duty bound to regard him as the primal parent of our race.²⁸

As to Adam and Eve potentially being able to have lived in Eden forever, the following is presented from the Church approved Book of Mormon:

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.²⁹

Questions 9 through 11 deal with Adam's transgression and

²⁸Joseph F. Smith, John R. Winder, and Anthon H. Lund, "The Origin of Man," Improvement Era, Nov. 1909, Vol. 13:75-81.

²⁹Book of Mormon (Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1948), 2 Nephi 2:22.

resulting fall. Talmage in his book Articles of Faith clarifies these questions. Question 10 implies Adam was not forced by God to transgress but did so of his own free will. Talmage agrees with this by saying that

It is no more a part of God's plan to compel men to work righteousness than it is his purpose to permit evil powers to force His children into sin.³⁰

Question 2 states the Fall caused a physical change in the bodies of Adam and Eve, providing the opportunity for death. President Joseph Fielding Smith verifies this with the following statement:

We are told that Adam obtained his body from the dust of the earth, and that he was not subject to death is inferred in the commandment the Lord gave him, that if he transgressed the divine commandment and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he should surely die. (Gen. 2:17)³¹

The resulting changes due to the fall, in the light of the atonement, were depicted in questions 14, 19, and 22 as an overall blessing to Adam and Eve and a necessary step for the growth and development of mankind. Evidence for this is found in former church president John Taylor's Mediation and Atonement; in it he proclaims:

If the law had not been broken, man would have lived; but would man thus living have been capable of perpetuating his species, and of thus fulfilling the designs of God in preparing tabernacles for the spirits which had been created in the spirit world?³²

³⁰James E. Talmage, Articles of Faith (Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret News Press, 1899), p. 54.

³¹Joseph Fielding Smith, "The Savior and Adam in the Pre-Existence," Improvement Era, July 1953, Vol. 56:503.

³²John Taylor, The Mediation and the Atonement (Salt Lake City, Utah: Stevens & Wallis, Inc., 1950), pp. 128-129.

President Joseph Fielding Smith also agrees with Taylor:

We are also informed in the scriptures that before Adam and Eve transgressed they were without children, and the fall was essential to the peopling of the earth with their offspring. When the truth in relation to the consequences of the fall were made known to Adam and Eve, they rejoiced, and Eve said: "...Were it not for our transgression we never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient." (Moses 5:11)³³

Next to be considered in the review of literature are those questions dealing with the need for a redeemer.

Questions 3, 25, and 28 state that because of the Fall of Adam and our own personal sins, we have need for a redeemer and that without such we would be eternally captive to physical and spiritual death.

Talmage explains in Jesus the Christ the effects of the atonement on Adam's original sin and our own sins:

Through the atonement accomplished by Jesus Christ...a redeeming service, vicariously rendered in behalf of mankind, all of whom have become estranged from God by the effects of sin both inherited and individually incurred...the way is opened for a reconciliation whereby man may come again into communion with God and be made fit to dwell anew and forever in the presence of his Eternal Father. This basal thought is admirably implied in our English word, "atonement," which, as its syllables attest, is at-one-ment, "denoting reconciliation, or the bringing into agreement of those who have been estranged." The effect of the atonement may be conveniently considered as two-fold:

1. The universal redemption of the human race from death invoked by the fall of our first parents; and,
2. Salvation, whereby means of relief from the results of individual sin are provided.³⁴

³³Joseph Fielding Smith, "The Savior and Adam in the Pre-Existence," Improvement Era, July 1953, Vol. 56:510-511.

³⁴James E. Talmage, Jesus the Christ, p. 23.

The next reason for our need for a redeemer is brought out in question 4. It states that since no unclean thing can dwell in the presence of God, Adam and Eve's transgression resulted in a spiritual death or their being cut off from God's presence. Evidence for this belief is provided by Talmage:

The sentence of banishment from the presence of God was in the nature of a spiritual death, and that penalty, which was visited upon our first parents in the day of their transgression, has likewise followed as the common heritage of humanity.³⁵

Questions 13, 20, 23 and 30 of section B cover our need for a redeemer in light of the requirements of the Laws of Justice and Mercy.

The questions state that if a law is broken, the divine Law of Justice requires punishment for the act. If this were not the case life would become chaotic. Therefore, we have need for a redeemer, because when we sin, we invoke the Law of Justice against ourselves, putting ourselves in debt. This debt can be fulfilled only when the full price for the sin has been paid. The forgiveness of sins is said in question 30 to come through the exercise of the Law of Mercy.

From former Church president John Taylor, we learn how the Savior, through the atonement, met the demands of Justice and exercised the Law of Mercy. Taylor asks

Is justice dishonored? No; it is satisfied, the debt is paid. Is righteousness departed from? No; this is a righteous act. All requirements are met. Is judgment violated? No; its demands are fulfilled. Is mercy triumphant? No; she simply claims her own. Justice, judgment, mercy and truth all harmonize as the attributes

³⁵Talmage, Articles of Faith, op. cit., pp. 75-76.

of Deity. Justice and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Justice and judgment triumph as well as mercy and peace; all the attributes of Deity harmonize in this great, grand, momentous, just, equitable, merciful and meritorious act.³⁶

Talmage adds to this understanding with the following:

Through the mortal life and sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus Christ, the demands of justice have been fully met, and the way is opened for the lawful ministration of mercy so far as the effects of the Fall are concerned.³⁷

Taylor and Talmage have provided scriptural evidence that a redeemer was needed to meet the requirements of the Law of Justice and exercise the Law of Mercy in our behalf. Jesus Christ met those requirements with his atoning sacrifice.

The next series of questions asked the students what the Savior actually did for mankind.

Question 15 states that for a person to pay for our debts to the Law of Justice he must not be in debt himself. It was, therefore, concluded that our Savior must be sinless and that Jesus Christ was the only one who could have met this demand.

As to His sinlessness and the hereditary reasons implied in question 18 that would make Christ the only possible Savior, John Taylor states:

And being Himself without sin (which no other mortal was), He took the position of Savior and Redeemer, which by right belonged to Him as the first born. And does it not seem that in having a

³⁶ Taylor, op. cit., pp. 171-172.

³⁷ James E. Talmage, The Vitality of Mormonism (Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret News, 1917), p. 60.

body specially prepared, and being the offspring of God, both on body and spirit, He stood preeminently in the position of the Son of God, or in the place of God, and was God, and thus was the fit and only personage capable of making an infinite atonement?³⁸

It can thus be seen our Savior needed to be sinless, but this alone would not qualify him for the act.

Questions 24 and 29 imply that in addition to the previously mentioned requirements our Savior must also have had the power to lay down his life or take it up again at his own discretion.

President Taylor confirms this with the following:

One thing, as we read, is that the Father gave Him power to have life in Himself: "For as the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself;" and further, He had power, when all mankind had lost their life, to restore life to them again; and hence He is the Resurrection and the Life, which power no other man possessed.

Another distinction is, that having this life in Himself, He had power, as He said, to lay down His life and to take it up again, which power was also given Him by the Father. This is also a power which no other being associated with this earth possesses.³⁹

Questions 33 and 37 state that physical death was brought into the world through the Fall of Adam. Christ paid for that obligation on the cross and thereby made the resurrection a free gift to all men, independent of any of their actions while upon this earth. Evidence for this is provided again by Taylor in his statement:

First, the Resurrection. The penalty of the broken law in Adam's day was death; and death is passed upon all. The word of the

³⁸Taylor, op. cit., pp. 137-138.

³⁹Taylor, op. cit., pp. 135-136.

Lord was, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." The atonement made by Jesus Christ brought about the resurrection from the dead, and restored life.

The next question that arises is how far does this principle extend and to whom is it applicable? It extends to all the human family; to all men of every nation....⁴⁰

President Taylor further explained:

The penalty of the transgression of the law was the death of the body. The atonement made by Jesus Christ resulted in the resurrection of the human body. Its scope embraces all peoples, nations and tongues.⁴¹

It therefore is apparent that President Taylor taught the universal resurrection of all mankind.

Questions 1 and 8 further imply Jesus' suffering upon the cross were entirely voluntary and that it was within His power at any time to stop it.

Talmage confirms this with the following:

The self-sacrificing life, the indescribable agony, and the voluntary death of One who had life in Himself with power to halt its tortures at any stage, and whom none could slay until He permitted, must have constituted compliance with the eternal law of justice,....⁴²

The rest of the questions of part B are concerned with what man must do to take full advantage of Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Questions number 26 and 34 state that man must do his part in order to receive the full benefit of the atonement. Talmage agrees

⁴⁰Taylor, op. cit., p. 178.

⁴¹Ibid., p. 179.

⁴²Talmage, The Vitality of Mormonism, op. cit., p. 60.

with this in the following:

Who shall question the justice of God, which denies salvation to all who will not comply with the prescribed conditions on which alone it is declared obtainable? Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him, and God will render to every man according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil.⁴³

President John Taylor gives further evidence of the validity of LDS belief in this concept in this summary:

Hence, through His atonement, believers in Christ; and those who obey His law, partake of His glory and exaltation, and are inheritors of the Godhead; whilst those who do not obey His law although resurrected, cannot inherit this exaltation; they are raised from the dead, but cannot inherit a celestial glory without being obedient to a celestial law,...⁴⁴

Questions 12, 21, 26 and 27 further explain what the celestial laws are which man must follow in order to obtain the full effects of the atonement.

The questions mention faith, repentance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the Gift of the Holy Ghost as being necessary for salvation.

President Taylor stresses the importance of faith, with the following:

The conditions required of the human family to enable them to obtain the high exaltation which the atonement makes it possible for them to receive, are: First, Faith in God as our Father and the great Supreme Ruler of the universe...And in His Son Jesus Christ.⁴⁵

⁴³Talmage, Jesus the Christ, op. cit., p. 26.

⁴⁴Taylor, op. cit., p. 180.

⁴⁵Ibid., p. 181.

The principles of repentance and baptism were next emphasized by President Taylor:

The second principle of the Gospel of salvation, is repentance. It is a sincere and godly sorrow for and a forsaking of sin, combined with full purpose of heart to keep God's commandments. Thirdly, baptism for the remission of sins, of our personal transgressions, which, through this means, provided by divine mercy, are, by the reason of the atonement, blotted out.⁴⁶

The final condition to be met in order to receive the full benefits of the atonement mentioned by President Taylor, was the Gift of the Holy Ghost:

Next, the reception of the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands of those who have received the Holy Priesthood and are duly authorized, ordained, and empowered to impart this blessing.⁴⁷

Talmage agrees with Taylor as to what conditions must be met for man to receive his salvation:

The second effect of the Atonement makes salvation possible to all men through obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel; and of these the following are fundamental:

1) Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; 2) Repentance; 3) Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; 4) Laying on of hands for the Gift of the Holy Ghost.⁴⁸

As to the status of children and what they must do to gain salvation, question 35 states that Christ's atonement automatically covers small children until they reach the age of accountability. Evidence for this is provided by Taylor in his statement that

Without Adam's transgression those children could not have existed; through the atonement they are placed in a state of salvation without any act of their own.⁴⁹

⁴⁶Taylor, op. cit., p. 182.

⁴⁷Ibid., p. 182.

⁴⁸Talmage, Vitality of Mormonism, p. 59. ⁴⁹Taylor, p. 148.

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Chapter III contains five sections. Section one shows student response to individual questions concerning the nature of Christ. The manner in which these questions have been analyzed is described in the "Processes of Inferences" section of Chapter I on page 6.

Section two analyzes student response to groups of similar questions concerning the nature of Christ. Section three shows student response to individual questions concerning the mission of Christ. Section four shows student response to groups of similar questions concerning the mission of Christ. Section five contains a summary of the important findings of the previous four sections.

I. STUDENT RESPONSE TO INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF CHRIST

Statement one. "While yet in his pre-mortal state, Jesus obtained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree.

Total Correct Responses: 136 (68%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	39	97	34	26	4
Percent	19.5	48.5	17	13	2

It would appear that only 19.5% of the total 68% correct

responses felt sure enough of their understanding of this concept to "strongly agree." The other 48.5% agreed but it would appear were not as positive. Since only 68% of the students responded correctly to this statement, it does not meet the predetermined standard of 75% and thus indicates a student lack of understanding of this principle.

Statement two. "Christ's existence as a historical figure is unproven as the historians of his time wrote nothing about Him."

Correct Response: Strongly Disagree or Disagree

Total Correct Responses: 174 (87%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	3	7	16	47	127
Percent	1.5	3.5	8	23.5	63.5

Since 174 (87%) correct responses is well above the 150 (75%) standard, it appears the graduates have a good understanding of this concept.

Statement three. "As the firstborn spirit offspring of God the Father, Christ is literally our eldest brother."

Correct Response: Strongly Agree or Agree

Total Correct Responses: 177 (88.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	110	67	13	6	4
Percent	55	33.5	6.5	3	2

The graduates displayed a good understanding of this principle as 110 (55%) "strongly agree" with another 67 (33%) "agreeing,"

totaling 177 or 88.5% that responded correctly.

Statement four. "In the pre-mortal existence Christ was chosen and ordained to be a God and the Creator, Redeemer, and Savior of the world."

Correct Response: Strongly Agree or Agree

Total Correct Responses: 182 (91%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	103	79	7	10	1
Percent	51.5	39.5	3.5	5	.05

Student correct response was again high as 182 (91%) answered either strongly agree or agree. Ninety-one percent far surpasses the 75% standard indicating good comprehension.

Statement five. "Christ could not know all things pertaining to man's salvation."

Correct Response: Strongly Disagree or Disagree

Total Correct Responses: 150 (75%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	2	13	35	70	80
Percent	1	6.5	17.5	35	40

To this false statement 80 (40%) strongly agreed with 70 (35%) showing less conviction but correctly disagreeing, totaling 150 or exactly 75% responding correctly. A comparatively large number were uncertain as 35 (17.5%) responded in this manner. Fifteen (7.5%) answered incorrectly.

Student understanding of this principle meets the minimum standard of 75% and would indicate a marginal understanding of this concept.

Statement six. "Under the direction of the Father, Christ created this earth."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 181 (90.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	119	62	3	12	4
Percent	59.5	31	1.5	6	2

A correct response of "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" was given by 90.5% of the students indicating a good understanding.

Statement seven. "Christ has all power under the law and exercises complete faith in his power."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree.

Total Correct Responses: 173 (86.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	94	79	23	4	0
Percent	47	39.5	11.5	2	0

To this correct statement 86.5% gave one of the two correct answers again indicating adequate understanding.

Statement eight. "Christ is perfect in each of his attributes. His knowledge, power, justice, mercy, and truth are perfect."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 187 (94.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	119	68	10	3	0
Percent	59.5	34	5	1.5	0

To this correct statement 187 of the 200 students or 94.5% responded correctly thus indicating a good understanding of the perfection of Christ's attributes.

Statement nine. "Christ is perfect and free from sin and error."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 162 (81%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	106	56	22	10	6
Percent	53	28	11	5	3

Eighty-one percent of the students responded correctly to this true statement indicating adequate understanding of the Savior's sinless state.

Statement ten. "Christ is a God of justice, mercy, and truth."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 191 (95.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	130	61	5	4	0
Percent	65	30.5	2.5	2	0

Sixty-five percent of the students correctly responded with "Strongly Agree" followed by another 30.5% also correctly answering but showing less conviction by marking "Agree." The total 95.5% would indicate high student understanding.

Statement eleven. "Although Christ's person cannot be in more than one place at a time, through the medium of His Spirit, He is in direct communication with all things, at all times."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree.

Total Correct Responses: 169 (84.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	94	75	16	11	4
Percent	47	37.5	8	5.5	2

Eighty-four percent of the students responded with one of the two correct answers indicating they understood the manner in which Christ is in communication with all things.

Statement twelve. "Christ and His Father are not necessarily one in purpose."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree.

Total Correct Responses: 143 (71.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	8	16	33	42	101
Percent	4	8	16.5	21	50.5

To this incorrect statement we find only 50.5% responding with certainty and strongly disagreeing. Another 21% correctly disagreed.

totaling 71.5% who responded correctly. This would indicate a lack of understanding concerning the unity of Christ and His Father.

Statement thirteen. "Because Christ was the Creator of the world, He was designated to be the one through whom the will and word of the Father was to be brought to pass here upon the earth."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree.

Total Correct Responses: 156 (78%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	72	84	32	10	2
Percent	36	42	16	5	1

To this true statement 156 (78%) correct answers were received.

Statement 24, however, was designed as a cross check for this concept.

It states just the opposite of statement 13, saying that God the Father created the earth and is directly responsible for the affairs of the kingdom here. Only 55% of the students correctly responded to this statement, indicating their understanding of statement 13 probably is not as good as the 78% correct response appears to indicate.

Statement fourteen. "Jesus Christ not only created the earth but is the God of the Old Testament who spoke to the prophets."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree.

Total Correct Responses: 133 (66.5%)

Breakdown of Responses

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	72	61	46	14	7
Percent	36	30.5	23	7	3.5

One of the main themes of the Seminary Old Testament outline is that Jesus Christ is the God of the Old Testament. Many lessons are designed to bring this point out. Yet only 72 (36%) strongly agreed that Christ is the God of the Old Testament. Another 61 or 30.5% agreed that he was and 46 (23%) were uncertain. The other 10.5 answered incorrectly. As 66.5% correct answers falls short of the required 75%, it would appear the students did not understand this concept as well as most of the others.

Statement fifteen. "Jesus Christ was born into the world the literal son of God the Father and the Virgin Mary."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 172 (88.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	115	62	9	7	7
Percent	57.5	31	4.5	3.5	3.5

To this correct statement 88.5% (172) responded "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" thus indicating adequate understanding.

Statement sixteen. "From the Book of Mormon account of Jesus' appearance before the brother of Jared, we learn that man was created after Christ's own image, after the body of his Spirit."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 146 (73%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	66	80	28	20	6
Percent	33	40	14	10	3

As 33% (66) strongly agreed and 40% (80) agreed, the total correct answers were only 73% (146). This falls slightly below the predetermined standard of 75% and would indicate inadequate understanding of this lesson learned from the Book of Mormon. However, the students had learned this concept three years earlier in the ninth grade and had received no further reinforcement from the courses of study in the following two years.

Statement seventeen. "There were no events in the early life of Christ that indicate he was the Son of God."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 168 (84%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	9	8	15	71	97
Percent	4.5	4	7.5	35.5	48.5

The New Testament lesson plan points out there are many events in the early life of Christ that indicate he was the Son of God. The students indicated they adequately learned this concept as 84% (168) answered correctly.

Statement eighteen. "Christ's resurrected body is not restricted by mortal limitations of movement."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 139 (69.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	70	69	47	8	6
Percent	35	34.5	23.5	4	3

As only 69.5% (139) of the students responded correctly it would appear they are unsure of the capabilities of Christ's resurrected body. There were only 7% (14) who incorrectly responded, but a larger number than usual (47, 23.5%) responded that they were uncertain.

Statement nineteen. "God the Father and Christ are two separate individuals."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 196 (98%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	161	35	3	1	0
Percent	80.5	17.5	1.5	.05	0

A majority of 80.5% (161) showed conviction in their response by strongly agreeing with the correct statement. Another 35 (17.5%) correctly agreed totaling 98% (196) correct answers. It would appear this point was well learned by the graduates.

Statement twenty. "We should consider the Savior in his true role of a Father as well as that of a brother."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 149 (74.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	64	85	31	15	5
Percent	32	42.5	15.5	7.5	2.5

In determining if the students had comprehended the Savior's relationship of a Father role to them also 32% (64) answered strongly agree. Another 42.5% (85) showed less conviction but still answered correctly totaling 74.5% (149) right responses. Although 74.5% would indicate a near satisfactory student understanding, when compared with question twenty-two which also speaks of the Savior and his Father role, it becomes apparent their understanding may not be as high as question twenty would seem to indicate. Only 44.5% correctly responded to question twenty-two.

Statement twenty-one. "Jesus does not have a resurrected body of flesh and bones."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 173 (86.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	9	7	11	43	130
Percent	4.5	3.5	5.5	21.5	65

Correct student response to this question concerning the state of Christ's resurrected body totaled 173 or 86.5%, indicating an adequate knowledge.

Statement twenty-two. "As a representative of the Father, Christ should take on the Father role in his relationship with him when man accepts him as the Mediator."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 89 (44.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	22	67	72	29	10
Percent	11	33.5	36	14.5	5

This statement is a quote from lesson #28 of the New Testament course outline, taught in the third year of Seminary. It represents one of the concepts the students were to understand at the end of the lesson. As only 44.5% responded correctly it would appear this point was not clear to the graduates and their understanding of it unsatisfactory.

Statement twenty-three. "Jesus Christ is the mediator between God the Father and man."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 161 (80.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	60	101	24	12	3
Percent	30	50.5	12	6	1.5

It would appear student understanding of Christ as our mediator was satisfactory as 80.5% responded with one of the two correct answers.

Statement twenty-four. "As God the Father created this earth, He is directly responsible for the affairs of the kingdom here."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Response: 110 (55%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	18	32	40	76	34
Percent	9	16	20	38	17

The purpose of this question was to see if the students understood that Christ, under the direction of the Father, created the earth and is responsible to the Father for the affairs of the kingdom here. It was designed as a cross check to statement 13 as previously indicated. Here the concept is placed in its negative, incorrect form and only 55% correctly saw this. Seventy-eight percent correctly responded when the concept was stated in its true form in statement 13. The two questions when considered together would indicate student understanding of this principle is probably unsatisfactory.

Statement twenty-five. "God the Father and Jesus Christ are one and the same individual."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 191 (95.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	0	2	7	31	160
Percent	0	1	3.5	15.5	80

Statement twenty-five was designed as a check on statement nineteen. It is the same question only stated negatively. On statement nineteen 98% responded correctly whereas in twenty-five 95% answered

correctly. The check would indicate the two questions are valid and that student understanding of this concept of the Godhead is excellent.

II. STUDENT RESPONSE TO GROUPS OF SIMILAR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF CHRIST

In the preceding portion of this chapter each question concerning the nature of Christ was individually examined and evaluated. Many of these questions were similar in that they discussed the same general concept. These related questions are now grouped together so as to be able to evaluate the overall concept discussed.

The first general concept consists of six questions dealing with Christ's corporeal nature, or the physical, bodily make-up of his being. Table number two lists these questions in order of student comprehension and shows the combined percentages of all questions equaling 87.03%. This would indicate adequate student understanding.

Concept number two as shown on table number three consists of five questions dealing with Jesus Christ's attributes. As the average of the five questions when considered together came to 86.50%, it would indicate good student comprehension.

Concept number three consists of four questions which deal with Christ's role in the creation of the earth. These questions are listed on table number four. As the four questions considered together averaged 80.12% correct responses, it would appear that student comprehension of this concept was adequate.

TABLE II
STATEMENTS CONCERNING CHRIST'S CORPOREAL NATURE

Statement Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
19	God the Father and Christ are two separate individual	98.0%	
25	God the Father and Jesus Christ are one and the same individual	95.5%	
15	Jesus Christ was born into the world the literal son of God the Father and the Virgin Mary.	88.5%	
21	Jesus does not have a resurrected body of flesh and bones.	86.5%	
18	Christ's resurrected body is not restricted by mortal limitations of movement.	69.0%	
			87.03%

TABLE III
STATEMENTS CONCERNING CHRIST'S ATTRIBUTES

Statement Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
10	Christ is a God of justice, mercy, and truth.	95.5%	
8	Christ is perfect in each of his attributes. His knowledge, power, justice, mercy, and truth are perfect.	94.5%	
7	Christ has all power under the Law and exercises complete faith in his power.	86.5%	
9	Christ is perfect and free from sin and error.	81.0%	
5	Christ could not know all things pertaining to man's salvation.	75.0%	
			86.5%

TABLE IV
STATEMENTS CONCERNING CHRIST'S ROLE IN THE CREATION OF THE EARTH

State- ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
4	In the pre-mortal existence Christ was chosen and ordained to be a God and the Creator, Redeemer, and Savior of the world.	91.0%	
6	Under the direction of the Father, Christ created this earth.	90.5%	
16	From the Book of Mormon account of Jesus' appearance before the brother of Jared, we learn that man was created after Christ's own image, after the body of his Spirit.	73.0%	
14	Jesus Christ not only created the earth but is the God of the Old Testament who spoke to the prophets.	66.0%	
			80.12%

Concept number four concerns those questions dealing with the pre-existent Godhood status and the foreordination of Christ. Part A of the questionnaire contained two questions which dealt with this concept. When averaged together they totaled 79.50% correct responses. This would indicate an adequate understanding.

The fifth general concept concerning the nature of Christ deals with the relationship between Jesus Christ and his Father. This concept is made from seven separate questions showing the relationship

TABLE V
STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE PRE-EXISTENT GODHOOD STATUS
AND FOREORDINATION OF CHRIST

State- ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
4	In the pre-mortal existence Christ was chosen and ordained to be a God and the Creator, Redeemer, and Savior of the world.	91.0%	
1	While yet in his pre-mortal state, Jesus obtained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent.	68%	
			79.5%

between the Father and His Son. The questions ranged from a low of 44.5% correct responses to a high of 80%. Their average was only 68.57% and would indicate student understanding of this concept is inadequate.

III. STUDENT RESPONSE TO INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MISSION OF CHRIST

Statement one. "Christ's suffering on the cross and atoning sacrifice were entirely voluntary."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 170 (83%)

TABLE VI

STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FATHER AND THE SON

Statement Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
23	Jesus Christ is the mediator between God the Father and man.	80.5%	
13	Because Christ was the Creator of the world, He was designated to be the one through whom the will and word of the Father was to be brought to pass here upon the earth.	78.0%	
12	Christ and his Father are not necessarily one in purpose.	71.5%	
14	Jesus Christ not only created the earth but is the God of the Old Testament who spoke to the prophets.	66.0%	
24	As God the Father created this earth, He is directly responsible for the affairs of the kingdom here.	55.0%	
22	As a representative of the Father, Christ should take on the Father role in his relationship with man when man accepts him as the Mediator.	44.5%	
			68.5%

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	117	53	12	19	3
Percent	56.5	26.5	6	9.5	1.5

From the foregoing figures it would appear student understanding of this concept was satisfactory.

Statement two. "The Fall caused a physical change in the bodies of Adam and Eve, providing the opportunity for death."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 186 (93%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	114	72	8	4	2
Percent	57	36	4	2	1

Ninety-three percent correct response would indicate the graduating students had a good understanding of the physical changes that took place in Adam and Eve's bodies as a result of the Fall.

Statement three. "Because of the Fall of Adam and my own personal sins, I have need of a redeemer."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 172 (86%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	117	55	10	7	11
Percent	58.5	27.5	5	3.5	5.5

As eighty-six percent correct response exceeds the minimum

requirement for adequate understanding, it would appear the students understand this concept. Questions number twenty-five and twenty-eight also discuss our need for a Savior. As question twenty-five had 82% correct answers and question twenty-eight had 87%, it would, the three together, indicate that the students understood why we need a redeemer.

Statement four. "As no unclean thing can dwell in the presence of God, Adam and Eve's transgression resulted in spiritual death or their being cut off from God's presence."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 132 (66%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	67	65	24	25	19
Percent	33.5	32.5	12	12.5	9.5

Sixty-six percent correct response indicated the students may not have had a clear understanding of Adam's fall and his resulting spiritual death.

Statement five. "Adam, a child of God, was the first man upon the earth and was placed in the Garden of Eden."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 195 (97.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	122	73	4	0	1
Percent	61	36.5	2	0	0.5

The existence of Adam as a historical figure and his placement in the Garden of Eden may be a controversial point with much of the world today, but 97.5% of the seminary graduates agreed with the Church's teachings.

Statement six. "The Fall of Adam was a tragic event in the earth's history and not only caused harm to Adam but to the whole human race."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 155 (77.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	15	14	16	55	100
Percent	7.5	7	8	27.5	50

Question six stated the fall of Adam was a tragedy and only 77.5% of the students correctly disagreed. Question nineteen stated the direct opposite in that the fall of Adam was a blessing when considered in light of the atonement. Ninety-five percent correctly responded to that question. It would therefore appear that student understanding of the fall as a blessing is better than question six alone would indicate and the question itself may have been confusing.

Statement seven. "Adam was given Eve for a companion and the two of them could have lived in Eden forever."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 168 (84%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	82	86	10	16	6
Percent	41	43	5	8	3

Eighty-four percent would indicate an adequate understanding of this concept.

Statement eight. "Christ was not capable of calling upon legions of angels to free him from the Roman executioners and thereby avoid being crucified."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 176 (88.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	0	6	17	60	117
Percent	0	3	8.5	30	58.5

It would appear the students understood the Savior's sacrifice was entirely voluntary.

Statement nine. "The transgression of Adam and Eve brought about the Fall."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 175 (87.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	71	104	23	2	0
Percent	35.5	52	11.5	1	0

Once again the students appear to be in harmony with the Church's teachings concerning the Fall as a strong majority answered

correctly.

Statement ten. "God actually forced Adam and Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit."

Correct Responses: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 179 (89.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	2	5	14	69	110
Percent	1	2.5	7	34.5	55

From the number of correct responses it would appear the students understood that the free agency of man began with Adam and no one forced him to sin.

Statement eleven. "By disobeying God, Adam and Eve introduced transgression into the world."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 177 (88.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	58	119	18	5	0
Percent	29	59.5	9	2.5	0

That Adam and Eve introduced transgression into the world was agreed upon by a strong majority of the graduates.

Statement twelve. "For forgiveness of sins a person must only confess that he believes in Christ."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 184 (92%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	2	7	7	68	116
Percent	1	3.5	3.5	34	58

Statement twenty-seven states a person must have faith and repent in order to receive forgiveness of sins. Ninety-seven percent correctly responded to that question. From questions twelve and twenty-seven it can be seen the students agreed by a strong majority that Christ does not automatically forgive all sins; man must also put forth an effort.

Statement thirteen. "The divine law of Justice states that if a law is broken or kept, then a punishment or blessing will follow."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 160 (80%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	72	88	28	7	5
Percent	36	44	14	3.5	2.5

From question thirteen it would appear the students had an adequate understanding of the Law of Justice. Questions twenty-three and twenty-eight also refer to the Law of Justice. Student response to both of these questions also would indicate an adequate understanding of the Law of Justice and its part in the atonement.

Statement fourteen. "The Fall provided a means for men to be born, which is another important step in our eternal progression."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 189 (94.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	120	69	10	0	1
Percent	60	34.5	5	0	0.5

It would appear the students understood the relationship between the Fall and Adam and Eve's ability to have children.

Statement fifteen. "In order for a person to pay for our debts to the Law of Justice, he must not be in debt himself. Therefore, our Redeemer must have been sinless."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 153 (76.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	84	69	40	5	2
Percent	42	34.5	20	2.5	1

Seventy-six percent correct student response would indicate a marginal understanding of this concept. Question number 18 also refers to the Savior as being the only individual capable of accomplishing the atonement. However, only 55% responded correctly to this question. When the two questions are considered together their combined correct responses total 65% which would indicate an inadequate understanding of this principle.

Statement sixteen. "The Holy Ghost is given to us to help us gain full advantage of the love and atonement of Christ."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 169 (84.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	76	93	22	9	0
Percent	38	46.5	11	4.5	0

A favorable majority responded correctly thus indicating the students understood the Holy Ghost is necessary to fully understand the atonement.

Statement seventeen. "As all men have sinned, Adam is not solely responsible for our separation from God--we thus bring upon ourselves spiritual death."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 139 (69.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	62	77	29	19	13
Percent	31	38.5	14.5	9.5	6.5

As only 69.5% responded correctly it is doubtful the students comprehended adequately what spiritual death entails.

Statement eighteen. "Any person who was sinless could have made the atoning sacrifice for us."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 110 (55%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	9	23	58	58	52
Percent	4.5	11.5	29	29	26

Statement 18 is the same question basically as number 15 only staged negatively. Seventy-six percent responded correctly to question 15 and only 55% to question 18. This would indicate the students did not adequately understand the Savior's unique position as the first born of God in the pre-existence and also the Father's literal offspring in the flesh, thereby making him the only possible candidate to accomplish the atonement.

Statement nineteen. "The Fall, considered in light of the atonement, was a blessing and a necessary step for the growth and development of mankind."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 190 (95%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	100	90	9	1	0
Percent	50	45	4.5	0.5	0

Ninety-five percent would indicate a good understanding of this principle.

Statement twenty. "If there were not some divine law that required retribution for transgression life would become chaotic."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 146 (73%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	53	93	46	5	3
Percent	26.5	46.5	23	2.5	1.5

As only 73% of the students responded correctly it would appear either student understanding of this concept is marginal or the question itself was somewhat confusing to them.

Statement twenty-one. "Baptism is not necessary to receive the full effects of the atonement."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 166 (83%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	6	11	17	61	105
Percent	3	5.5	8.5	30.5	52.5

It would appear the students understood that baptism is necessary to receive the full effects of the atonement.

Statement twenty-two. "The tree of knowledge of good and evil revealed to those who ate its fruits secrets of which they had better have remained ignorant."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 106 (53%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	14	32	46	73	34
Percent	7	16	23	36.5	17

The implication of this question is that Adam and Eve would

have been better off never having partaken of the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. As the partaking of the fruit against God's command constituted the Fall, it would mean that if one were to agree with this question then it would also have to be said that the Fall itself should never have happened. Yet in question 18, 95% of the students agreed that the Fall, when considered in light of the atonement, was a blessing. This would indicate they did not understand question 22 and their comprehension of this concept may be better than the 53% would indicate.

Statement twenty-three. "We have need for a redeemer because when we sin we invoke the Law of Justice against ourselves, putting ourselves in debt. This debt can be fulfilled only when the full price for the sin has been paid."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 165 (82.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	47	118	23	8	4
Percent	23.5	59	11.5	4	2

Eighty-two percent would indicate an acceptable understanding of the Law of Justice and its relation to the atonement. Question 13 also deals with this concept and the students' 80% correct response to that question would further indicate this concept was understood adequately.

Statement twenty-four. "Christ received the power to lay down his life or take it up again at his own discretion from God his Father."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 152 (76%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	66	86	34	12	2
Percent	33	43	17	6	1

As 17% of the students responded with "uncertain" and only 76% correctly answered the question, it would appear the understanding of Christ's powers and where he received them may have been marginal.

Statement twenty-five. "Without Christ's atoning sacrifice all mankind would have been hopelessly and eternally captive to physical and spiritual death."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 164 (82%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	80	84	26	8	2
Percent	40	42	13	4	1

Eighty-two percent would indicate good student understanding of the importance of Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Statement twenty-six. "Christ determines when a person can receive benefits from this atonement, and he makes that determination on the basis of the degree of repentance achieved by each individual."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 106 (53%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	30	76	62	29	3
Percent	15	38	31	14.5	1.5

Statements 31, 32, and 34 are all similar to question 26 in that they imply that the full benefits from the Savior's atoning sacrifice are conditional to our obedience. Student response to all four questions averaged only 60% correct answers, thus indicating poor comprehension of this concept.

Statement twenty-seven. "To receive the full benefits of the atonement we need to have faith and repent."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 195 (95.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	95	100	5	0	0
Percent	47.5	50	2.5	0	0

From the 97.5% correct response it would appear the students understood the importance of faith and repentance in their relationship to the atonement.

Statement twenty-eight. "As we have all sinned, we are permanently indebted to the Law of Justice and will permanently be separated from God."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 174 (87%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	2	7	17	67	107
Percent	1	3.5	8.5	33.5	53.5

It would appear from the percentage of correct answers that the students understood this concept.

Statement twenty-nine. "Christ had a mortal mother and thus inherited the capacity to die from her."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 157 (68.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	54	85	30	23	10
Percent	27	42.5	15	11.5	5

It would appear the students were unsure of the physical heritable characteristics of the Savior and how he could have the power to live or die in the flesh according to his will. Statement 24 also speaks of this ability and where it came from. Only 74% correctly responded to that question.

Statement thirty. "The forgiveness of sins comes through the exercise of the Law of Mercy."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 154 (77%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	48	106	37	9	0
Percent	24	53	18.5	4.5	0

The response to this question would indicate their understanding of the Law of Mercy was marginal.

Statement thirty-one. "Christ's atonement is reserved only for those who are willing to demonstrate that they are willing to keep the Gospel covenant."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 105 (52.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	37	68	28	47	20
Percent	18.5	34	14	23.5	10

When this question is considered with questions number 26, 32, and 34 which also imply that man must do his part in order to receive the full benefits of the atonement, it becomes obvious the students were uncertain of this concept as the four questions averaged only 60% correct responses.

Statement thirty-two. "Christ has paid the Law of Justice for us by his atoning sacrifice and he automatically pays for all our sins."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 139 (69.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	7	31	23	80	59
Percent	3.5	15.5	11.5	40	29.5

Statement 32 incorrectly states that Christ's atoning sacrifice automatically pays for all sins, as was implied earlier in questions 26, 31, and 34. We must also do our part. Sixty-nine percent correct response on this question and only 60% average of all four questions would again indicate poor comprehension.

Statement thirty-three. "The Fall of Adam brought physical death into the world. Christ paid for that obligation on the cross."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 122 (61%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	49	73	43	20	15
Percent	24.5	36.5	21.5	10	7.5

Question 33 again indicates that the students had a poor understanding of what the Savior's atoning sacrifice did for us as only 61% correctly responded.

Statement thirty-four. "Christ desires us to show personal responsibility in living the Gospel, and then he will see that we are forgiven our sins."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 129 (64.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	43	86	42	25	4
Percent	22.5	43	21	12.5	2

Statement 34 like questions 26, 31 and 32 indicates the students did not adequately comprehend our responsibility to live the Gospel in order to have our sins forgiven.

Statement thirty-five. "Christ's atonement automatically covers small children until they reach the age of accountability."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 175 (87.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	82	93	16	6	3
Percent	41	46.5	8	3	1.5

Student response would indicate an adequate understanding of Christ's atonement and its relationship to children.

Statement thirty-six. "Christ became our Redeemer when he made the atoning sacrifice to pay for our sins and those of Adam."

Correct Response: Strongly agree or agree

Total Correct Responses: 162 (81%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	66	97	16	20	1
Percent	33	48.5	8	10	0.5

It would appear student understanding of this concept is adequate.

Statement thirty-seven. "Only those men who repent and live worthily will be resurrected."

Correct Response: Strongly disagree or disagree

Total Correct Responses: 129 (64.5%)

Breakdown of Responses:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Number	20	24	7	31	118
Percent	10	12	3.5	15.5	59

Student understanding that Christ's atonement made it possible for all to be resurrected appears to be marginal with 64.5% responding correctly.

IV. STUDENT RESPONSE TO GROUPS OF SIMILAR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MISSION OF CHRIST

As was done with those questions concerning the nature of Christ, related questions are now grouped together into concepts concerning the mission of Christ.

The first group of similar questions to be considered are those concerning the circumstances and setting in the Garden of Eden which led to the Fall. The combined correct student response to these three questions totaled 90.33%, thus indicating good comprehension. The questions are listed in Table number seven.

The second group of similar questions depicted the Fall as a blessing which provided opportunities for man which would have otherwise

TABLE VII

STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND SETTING IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN WHICH LED TO THE FALL

State ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
5	Adam, a child of God, was the first man upon the earth and was placed in the Garden of Eden.	97.5%	
10	God actually forced Adam and Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit.	89.5%	
7	Adam was given Eve for a companion and the of them could have lived in Eden forever.	84.0%	
			90.33%

been impossible. The four similar questions totaled 89.75% correct responses. This would indicate good comprehension. Table number eight shows which statements comprised this group.

Statements 1 and 8 of part B of the questionnaire both suggest Christ's suffering and atoning sacrifice were voluntary. As their combined correct responses totaled 85.75%, it would appear the students understood this concept.

The fourth concept concerns the effect of Christ's atonement upon mankind. Five questions ranging from a low of 61% to a high of 87.5% comprehension make the overall concept. The combined statements averaged 78.20% comprehension indicating adequate understanding.

TABLE VIII

STATEMENTS WHICH DEPICT THE FALL AS A BLESSING TO MANKIND

State- ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
19	The Fall, considered in light of the atone- ment, was a blessing and a necessary step for the growth and development of mankind.	95.0%	
14	The Fall provided a means for men to be born, which is another important step in our eternal progression.	94.5%	
2	The Fall caused a physical change in the bodies of Adam and Eve, providing the opportunity for death.	93.0%	
6	The Fall of Adam was a tragic event in the earth's history and not only caused harm to Adam but to the whole human race.	77.5%	
			89.7%

Table number ten summarizes this concept.

Concept number five is composed of those questions dealing with the meaning of the Law of Justice and its relationship to the atonement. There were five questions on the subject ranging from 82.5% comprehension to 69.5%. The average percent of comprehension was 76.5%. This would indicate a marginal understanding of this concept. Table number eleven shows which questions were averaged together.

TABLE IX

STATEMENTS SUGGESTING CHRIST'S SUFFERING AND ATONING
SACRIFICE WERE VOLUNTARY

State- ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
8	Christ was not capable of calling upon legions of angels to free him from the Roman executioners and thereby avoid being crucified.	88.5%	
1	Christ's suffering on the cross and atoning sacrifice were entirely voluntary.	83%	
			85.75%

TABLE X

STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE EFFECT OF CHRIST'S ATONEMENT ON MANKIND

State ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
35	Christ's atonement automatically covers small children until they reach the age of accountability.	87.5%	
28	As we have all sinned, we are permanently indebted to the Law of Justice and will permanently be separated from God.	87%	
36	Christ became our Redeemer when he made the atoning sacrifice to pay for our sins and those of Adam.	81%	
37	Only those men who repent and live worthily will be resurrected.	74.5%	
			78.20%

TABLE XI

STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE MEANING OF THE LAW OF JUSTICE AND ITS
RELATIONSHIP TO THE ATONEMENT

State- ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
23	We have need for a redeemer because when we sin, we invoke the Law of Justice against ourselves, putting ourselves in debt. This debt can be fulfilled only when the full price for the sin has been paid.	82.5%	
13	The divine Law of Justice states that if a law is broken or kept, then a punishment or blessing will follow.	80.0%	
15	In order for a person to pay for our debts to the Law of Justice, he must not be in debt himself. Therefore, our Redeemer must have been sinless.	76.5%	
20	If there were not some divine law that required retribution for transgression, life would become chaotic.	73.0%	
32	Christ has paid the Law of Justice for us by his atoning sacrifice and he automatically pays for all of our sins.	69.5%	
			76.50%

The next group of questions all emphasize that full forgiveness of sins comes only through our obedience to specific requirements set by the Lord.

The eight similar statements are summarized in table number twelve. They average 74.56% comprehension which would indicate student understanding of this concept marginal.

The seventh concept concerning the mission of Christ was drawn from those statements concerning the meaning of spiritual death and its relationship to the atonement. The three statements concerning this concept averaged only 72.50% comprehension, thus indicating an inadequate understanding.

Table number thirteen summarizes these questions.

The last concept presented in this section is taken from those statements concerning the personal qualifications of the Savior to be the only Redeemer of mankind. As the three combined questions concerning this concept showed an average of only 66.50% comprehension, it would appear students' understanding was inadequate.

Table number fourteen lists which questions make this concept.

TABLE XII

STATEMENTS SUGGESTING MAN MUST PUT FORTH AN EFFORT TO MEET GOD'S
REQUIREMENTS BEFORE FULL FORGIVENESS OF SINS CAN BE GIVEN

State- ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
25	To receive the full benefits of the atone- ment we need to have faith and repent.	97.5	
12	For forgiveness of sins a person must only confess that he believes in Christ	92.0	
16	The Holy Ghost is given to us to help us gain full advantage of the love and atone- ment of Christ.	84.5	
21	Baptism is not necessary to receive the full effects of the atonement.	83.0	
32	Christ has paid the Law of Justice for us by his atoning sacrifice and he auto- matically pays for all of our sins.	69.5	
34	Christ desires us to show personal respon- sibility in living the Gospel, and then he will see that we are forgiven our sins.	64.5	
26	Christ determines when a person can receive benefits from this atonement, and he makes that determination on the basis of the degree of repentance achieved by each individual.	53.0	
31	Christ's atonement is reserved only for those who are willing to demonstrate that they are willing to keep the Gospel covenants.	52.5	
			74.56%

TABLE XIII

STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE MEANING OF SPIRITUAL DEATH AND ITS
RELATIONSHIP TO THE ATONEMENT

State- ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
25	Without Christ's atoning sacrifice all mankind would have been hopelessly and eternally captive to physical and spiritual death.	82.0	
17	As all men have sinned, Adam is not solely responsible for our separation from God--we thus bring upon ourselves spiritual death.	69.5	
4	As no unclean thing can dwell in the presence of God, Adam and Eve's transgression resulted in spiritual death or their being cut off from God's presence.	66.0	
			72.50%

TABLE XIV

STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF JESUS CHRIST
TO BE THE ONLY REDEEMER OF MANKIND

State- ment Number	Statement	Percent Correct	Combined Percent Correct
24	Christ received the power to lay down his life or take it up again at his own discretion from God his Father.	76.0	
29	Christ had a mortal mother and thus inherited the capacity to die from her.	68.5	
18	Any person who was sinless could have made the atoning sacrifice for us.	55.0	
			66.50%

V. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Findings of Individual Statements
Concerning the Nature of Christ

A standard of 75% or 150 correct responses was previously selected as the percentage and number of students needed to correctly respond to a statement before that statement was considered adequately understood.

Table number fifteen lists the statements concerning the nature of Christ in order of student comprehension to that question. The percentage listed indicates the percent of correct responses to that question.

Those questions above the 75% level were considered adequately understood, those below were not.

Of the twenty-five questions concerning the nature of Christ seventeen were considered adequately understood, seven were not. All twenty-five statements concerning the nature of Christ when averaged together show a mean score of 20.33 of 25 possible, or 81.32% correct student responses. This would indicate the overall student understanding of the nature of Christ, as defined previously in this study, adequate.

Table number sixteen shows the statistical data of the student responses to the twenty-five statements concerning the nature of Christ.

Findings of Groups of Related
Questions Concerning the Nature
of Christ

As stated previously, overall student comprehension of the

TABLE XV

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RESPONDING CORRECTLY TO THE
STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF CHRIST

Statement	Percent Correctly Responding
God the Father and Christ are two separate individuals.	98.0
God the Father and Jesus Christ are one and the same individual.	95.5
Christ is a God of justice, mercy, and truth.	95.5
Christ is perfect in each of his attributes. His knowledge, power, justice, mercy, and truth are perfect.	94.5
In the pre-mortal existence Christ was chosen and ordained to be a God and the Creator, Redeemer, and Savior of the world.	91.0
Under the direction of the Father, Christ created the earth.	90.5
Jesus Christ was born into the world the literal son of God the Father and the Virgin Mary.	88.5
As the firstborn spirit offspring of God the Father, Christ is literally our eldest brother.	88.5
Christ's existence as a historical figure is unproven as the historians of his time wrote nothing about him.	87.0
Christ has all power under the law and exercises complete faith in his power.	86.5
Jesus does not have a resurrected body of flesh and bones.	86.5
Although Christ's person cannot be in more than one place at a time, through the medium of His Spirit, He is in direct communication with all things, at all times.	84.5
There were no events in the early life of Christ that indicated he was the Son of God.	84.0
Christ is perfect and free from sin and error.	81.0

TABLE XV (continued)

Statement	Percent Correctly Responding
Jesus Christ is the mediator between God the Father and man.	80.5
Because Christ was the Creator of the world, He was designated to be the one through whom the will and word of the Father was to be brought to pass here upon the earth.	78.0
Christ could not know all things pertaining to man's salvation.	75.0
We should consider the Savior in his true role of a Father as well as that of a brother.	74.5
From the Book of Mormon account of Jesus' appearance before the brother of Jared, we learn that man was created after Christ's own image, after the body of his Spirit.	73.0
Christ and his Father are not necessarily one in purpose.	71.5
Christ's resurrected body is not restricted by mortal limitations of movement.	69.5
While yet in his pre-mortal state, Jesus obtained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent.	68.0
Jesus Christ not only created the earth but is the God of the Old Testament who spoke to the prophets.	66.5
As God the Father created this earth, He is directly responsible for the affairs of the kingdom here.	55.0
As a representative of the Father, Christ should take on the Father role in his relationship with man when man accepts him as the Mediator.	44.5

TABLE XVI
 STATISTICAL DATA OF STUDENT RESPONSES TO STATEMENTS
 CONCERNING THE NATURE OF CHRIST

Sample Size	200
Maximum Score	25
Minimum Score	12
Range	13
Mean	20.33 (81.32%)
Variance	6.001
Standard Deviation	2.449
Mean Deviation	1.9433
Median	20
Mode	21

combined twenty-five questions concerning the nature of Christ was considered adequate at 81.32% comprehension. However, as Table number seventeen shows, some of the general concepts composed of groupings of similar statements were better understood than others. Of the five concepts represented, four were above the 75% comprehension level, one was not. Table number seventeen summarizes the student comprehension of each concept.

Findings of Individual Statements
Concerning the Mission of Jesus Christ

There were thirty-seven statements given to test the students' comprehension of the mission of Jesus Christ. Of these statements the students scored 75% or more correct responses on twenty-five of the statements and 74% or less on the other twelve. Table number eighteen lists which statements were above the 75% level and which were not.

TABLE XVII

PERCENT OF CORRECT RESPONSES TO EACH OF THE CONCEPTS OR GROUPS
OF SIMILAR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF CHRIST

<u>Concept Represented</u>	<u>Percent of Correct Responses</u>
The corporeal nature of Jesus Christ	87.03%
The attributes of Jesus Christ	86.50%
Jesus Christ's role in the creation of the earth	80.12%
The pre-existent Godhood status and fore- ordination of Jesus Christ	79.50%
The relationship between the Father and His Son	68.50%

When all thirty-seven statements concerning the mission of Jesus Christ are considered together, the students' mean score was 29.295 or 79.175% correct responses. This would indicate an adequate understanding of this principle by the graduating students.

Table number nineteen shows the statistical data of the thirty-seven statements concerning the mission of Christ.

Findings of Groups of Related
Questions Concerning the Mission
of Jesus Christ

Although overall student comprehension of the combined thirty-seven statements concerning the mission of Christ averaged 79.175% comprehension, when similar statements are grouped together it becomes apparent that some aspects of our Savior's mission were either vague or not adequately understood.

TABLE XVIII

PERCENTAGE OF CORRECT STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENTS
CONCERNING THE MISSION OF CHRIST

Statement	Percent Correct
Adam, a child of God, was the first man upon the earth and was placed in the Garden of Eden.	97.5
To receive the full benefits of the atonement we need to have faith and repent.	97.5
The Fall, considered in light of the atonement, was a blessing and a necessary step for the growth and development of mankind.	95.0
The Fall provided a means for men to be born, which is another important step in our eternal progression.	94.5
The Fall caused a physical change in the bodies of Adam and Eve, providing the opportunity for death.	93.0
For forgiveness of sins a person must only confess that he believes in Christ.	92.0
God actually forced Adam and Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit.	89.5
Christ was not capable of calling upon legions of angels to free him from the Roman executioners and thereby avoid being crucified.	88.5
By disobeying God, Adam and Eve introduced transgression into the world.	88.5
The transgression of Adam and Eve brought about the Fall.	88.5
Christ's atonement automatically covers small children until they reach the age of accountability.	87.5
As we have all sinned, we are permanently indebted to the Law of Justice and will permanently be separated from God.	87.0

TABLE XVIII (continued)

Statement	Percent Correct
Because of the Fall of Adam and my own personal sins, I have need for a redeemer.	86.0
The Holy Ghost is given to us to help us gain full advantage of the love and atonement of Christ.	84.5
Adam was given Eve for a companion and the two of them could have lived in Eden forever.	84.0
Christ's suffering on the cross and atoning sacrifice were entirely voluntary.	83.0
Baptism is not necessary to receive the full effects of the atonement.	83.0
We have need for a redeemer because when we sin, we invoke the Law of Justice against ourselves, putting ourselves in debt. This debt can be fulfilled only when the full price for the sin has been paid.	82.5
Without Christ's atoning sacrifice all mankind would have been hopelessly and eternally captive to physical and spiritual death.	82.0
Christ became our Redeemer when he made the atoning sacrifice to pay for our sins and those of Adam.	81.0
The divine Law of Justice states that if a law is broken or kept, then a punishment or blessing will follow.	80.0
The Fall of Adam was a tragic event in the earth's history and not only caused harm to Adam but to the whole human race.	77.5
The forgiveness of sins comes through the exercise of the Law of Mercy.	77.0
In order for a person to pay for our debts to the Law of Justice, he must not be in debt himself. Therefore, our Redeemer must have been sinless.	76.5

TABLE XVIII (continued)

Statement	Percent Correct
Christ received the power to lay down his life or take it up again at his own discretion from God the Father.	76.0
Only those men who repent and live worthily will be resurrected.	74.5
If there were not some divine law that required retribution for transgression life would become chaotic.	73.0
As all men have sinned, Adam is not solely responsible for our separation from God--we thus bring upon ourselves spiritual death.	69.5
Christ has paid the Law of Justice for us by his atoning sacrifice and he automatically pays for all of our sins.	69.5
Christ had a mortal mother and thus inherited the capacity to die from her.	68.5
As no unclean thing can dwell in the presence of God, Adam and Eve's transgression resulted in spiritual death or their being cut off from God's presence.	66.0
Christ desires us to show personal responsibility in living the Gospel, and then he will see that we are forgiven our sins.	64.5
The Fall of Adam brought physical death into the world. Christ paid for that obligation on the cross.	61.0
Any person who was sinless could have made the atoning sacrifice for us.	55.0
The tree of knowledge of good and evil revealed to those who ate its fruit secrets of which they had better have remained ignorant.	53.0
Christ determines when a person can receive benefits from this atonement, and he makes that determination on the basis of the degree of repentance achieved by each individual.	53.0
Christ's atonement is reserved only for those who are willing to demonstrate that they are willing to keep the Gospel covenants.	52.5

TABLE XIX
 STATISTICAL DATA OF STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENTS
 CONCERNING THE MISSION OF CHRIST

Sample size	200
Maximum score	36
Minimum score	14
Range	22
Mean	29.295 (79.175%)
Variance	16.309
Standard Deviation	4.038
Mean Deviation	3.212
Median	30
Mode	30

Table number twenty lists the eight similar groupings of statements or concepts concerning the mission of Christ and shows which fell below the 75% comprehension level.

When both the statements concerning the nature of Christ and those concerning the mission of the Savior are considered together their mean score is 49.785 out of a possible 62 total. This equals 80.298% comprehension of all the statements given the students to respond to. This would indicate overall student understanding of the nature and mission of Christ was adequate.

Table number twenty-one lists the statistical data summarizing the test score analysis of both sections of the test.

TABLE XX

PERCENT OF CORRECT RESPONSES TO EACH OF THE CONCEPTS OR GROUPS
OF SIMILAR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MISSION OF CHRIST

Concept Represented	Percent of Correct Responses
Circumstances and setting in the Garden of Eden which led to the Fall.	90.33
The Fall of Adam was a blessing.	89.75
Christ's suffering and atoning sacrifice were voluntary.	85.75
What effect Christ's atonement had on mankind.	78.20
The meaning of the Law of Justice and its relationship to the atonement.	76.50
Man must put forth an effort to meet God's requirements before full forgiveness of sins can be given.	74.54
The meaning of Spiritual death and its relationship to the atonement.	72.50
The personal qualifications of Jesus Christ to be the only Redeemer of mankind.	66.50

TABLE XXI

STATISTICAL DATA OF STUDENT RESPONSES TO ALL STATEMENTS
CONCERNING THE NATURE AND MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST

Sample size	200
Maximum Score	60
Minimum Score	31
Range	29
Mean	49.785 (80.298%)
Variance	27.365
Standard Deviation	5.231
Mean Deviation	4.162
Median	50
Mode	52

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter will briefly summarize the development of previous chapters and indicate findings and conclusions.

I. SUMMARY

The purpose of the study was to determine what degree of understanding the third year graduates of SLVN Seminary District had of the nature and mission of Christ.

The term "Nature of Christ" was defined as his essential character or distinguishing qualities and was designed to answer the question, "Do the students understand who Jesus Christ is?"

The term "Mission of Christ," as used in the study, referred to the Savior's atoning sacrifice and the effect of that atonement on mankind. It was designed to answer the question, "How well do the students understand the mission of Christ?"

Research Design. The study was composed of a random sample of two hundred third year seminary graduates from the four high schools of the SLVN Seminary District. Each participant answered a questionnaire designed to test his understanding of the nature and mission of Christ. The responses were tabulated and presented in both written and illustrative form.

Review of Literature. The review of literature gave supporting evidence from the leading authorities of the Church for the interpretations of the statements concerning the nature and mission of Christ as used in the questionnaire.

Christ was represented in the questionnaire as a distinct, separate being from God the Father, born into the world in the flesh as the literal son of God the Father and the Virgin Mary, and as having a resurrected body of flesh and bones. It was further said that Christ had achieved in his pre-existent life the status of Godhood and, under the direction of the Father, both created the earth and is the Father's administrator here. Christ was further shown to be perfect in each of his attributes.

The review of literature discussed the circumstances leading up to the Fall of Adam and concluded the Fall was a blessing when considered in light of the atonement.

The atonement was discussed showing the relationship between the laws of Justice and Mercy and it was concluded Christ met the demands of both.

Spiritual death was defined and said to fall on those who did not meet the requirements to receive the full benefits of the atonement. It was concluded, therefore, that man must also do his part and the full effects of the atonement must be earned.

Findings. According to the data computed in this study the major findings are as follows:

1. The sixty-two questions concerning the nature and mission of Christ averaged 80.29% correct responses.
2. Overall student comprehension of the twenty-five statements concerning the nature of Christ averaged 81.32%.
3. Of the thirty-seven statements concerning the mission of Christ the mean score was 29.295 or 79.175%.
4. Statements concerning the corporeal nature of Christ averaged 87.03% comprehension.
5. Questions concerning the attributes of Christ received 86.50% correct responses.
6. Jesus Christ's role in the creation of the earth averaged 80.12% comprehension.
7. The statements concerning the pre-existent Godhood status and foreordination of Jesus Christ received 79.50% correct responses.
8. The six statements concerning the relationship between the Father and Son received 68.50%.
9. The three statements concerning the circumstances which led to the Fall averaged 90.33%.
10. The Fall of Adam was depicted as a blessing to mankind in the study. The four questions concerning this averaged 89.75% correct responses.
11. Student comprehension of the effect of the atonement on mankind was tested by four statements which averaged 78.20% correct responses.
12. The meaning of the Law of Justice and its relationship to

the atonement was tested by five statements to which the students averaged 76.50% correct responses.

13. Eight statements were given the students to respond to concerning what man must do to receive the full benefits of the atonement; the students averaged 74.56% correct responses.

14. The meaning of spiritual death and its relationship to the atonement was tested by three statements and averaged 72.50% comprehension.

15. Student comprehension of the qualifications of Jesus Christ as the only possible Redeemer of mankind was tested by three statements. They averaged 66.50% comprehension.

II. CONCLUSIONS

1. The third year graduates of the Salt Lake Valley North Seminary District responded correctly to the major portion of the questions concerning the nature and mission of Christ.

2. Student comprehension of the nature of Christ was somewhat better than their understanding of the mission of Christ.

3. Statements concerning the corporeal nature of Christ, His attributes, His role in the creation, and His pre-existent Godhood status, were all considered understood.

4. Statements concerning the relationship between the Father and the Son were not considered understood.

5. Statements concerning the setting in the Garden of Eden, those indicating the Fall was a blessing, and those showing the effect

of the atonement on mankind all met the minimum established standard to be considered understood by the students.

6. Statements showing the meaning of the Law of Justice and its relationship to the atonement and those defining what man must do to receive the full effects of the atonement were considered marginal in student comprehension.

7. The meaning of spiritual death and its relationship to the atonement and the qualifications of Jesus Christ as the only possible Redeemer of mankind, were not considered adequately understood.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings and conclusions from this study the following recommendations are made.

As the following concepts failed to meet the previously determined standards to be considered adequately understood it is recommended they be emphasized more in the curriculum of the LDS Seminary system:

1. The relationship between the Father and the Son.
2. What man must do to receive the full effects of the atonement.
3. The meaning of spiritual death and its relationship to the atonement.
4. The qualifications of Jesus Christ to be the only Redeemer of mankind.

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APPENDIX

PART A

Please read each statement carefully. Circle the answer that comes closest to describing your feelings.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. While yet in his pre-mortal state, Jesus obtained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent.	SA	A	U	D	SD
2. Christ's existence as a historical figure is unproven as the historians of his time wrote nothing about him.	SA	A	U	D	SD
3. As the firstborn spirit offspring of God the Father, Christ is literally our eldest brother.	SA	A	U	D	SD
4. In the pre-mortal existence Christ was chosen and ordained to be a God and the Creator, Redeemer, and Savior of the world.	SA	A	U	D	SD
5. Christ could not know all things pertaining to man's salvation.	SA	A	U	D	SD
6. Under the direction of the Father, Christ created this earth.	SA	A	U	D	SD
7. Christ has all power under the law and exercises complete faith in his power.	SA	A	U	D	SD
8. Christ is perfect in each of his attributes. His knowledge, power, justice, mercy, and truth are perfect.	SA	A	U	D	SD
9. Christ is perfect and free from sin and error.	SA	A	U	D	SD
10. Christ is a God of justice, mercy, and truth.	SA	A	U	D	SD

Part A Continued

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
11. Although Christ's person cannot be in more than one place at a time, through the medium of His Spirit, He is in direct communication with all things, at all times.	SA	A	U	D	SD
12. Christ and His Father are not necessarily one in purpose.	SA	A	U	D	SD
13. Because Christ was the Creator of the world, He was designated to be the one through whom the will and word of the Father was to be brought to pass here upon the earth.	SA	A	U	D	SD
14. Jesus Christ not only created the earth but is the God of the Old Testament who spoke to the prophets.	SA	A	U	D	SD
15. Jesus Christ was born into the world the literal son of God the Father and the Virgin Mary.	SA	A	U	D	SD
16. From the Book of Mormon account of Jesus' appearance before the brother of Jared, we learn that man was created after Christ's own image, after the body of his Spirit.	SA	A	U	D	SD
17. There were no events in the early life of Christ that indicate he was the Son of God.	SA	A	U	D	SD
18. Christ's resurrected body is not restricted by mortal limitations of movement.	SA	A	U	D	SD
19. God the Father and Christ are two separate individuals.	SA	A	U	D	SD
20. We should consider the Savior in his true role of a father as well as that of a brother.	SA	A	U	D	SD

Part A Continued

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
21. Jesus does not have a resurrected body of flesh and bones.	SA	A	U	D	SD
22. As a representative of the Father, Christ should take on the Father role in his relationship with man when man accepts him as the Mediator.	SA	A	U	D	SD
23. Jesus Christ is the mediator between God the Father and man.	SA	A	U	D	SD
24. As God the Father created this earth, He is directly responsible for the affairs of the kingdom here.	SA	A	U	D	SD
25. God the Father and Jesus Christ are one and the same individual.	SA	A	U	D	SD

Part B

Please read the statement carefully. Circle the answer that comes closest to describing your feelings.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Christ's suffering on the cross and atoning sacrifice were entirely voluntary.	SA	A	U	D	SD
2. The Fall caused a physical change in the bodies of Adam and Eve, providing the opportunity for death.	SA	A	U	D	SD
3. Because of the Fall of Adam and my own personal sins, I have need for a redeemer.	SA	A	U	D	SD

Part B Continued

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4. As no unclean thing can dwell in the presence of God, Adam and Eve's transgression resulted in spiritual death or their being cut off from God's presence.	SA	A	U	D	SD
5. Adam, a child of God, was the first man upon the earth and was placed in the Garden of Eden.	SA	A	U	D	SD
6. The Fall of Adam was a tragic event in the earth's history, and not only caused harm to Adam but to the whole human race.	SA	A	U	D	SD
7. Adam was given Eve for a companion and the two of them could have lived in Eden forever.	SA	A	U	D	SD
8. Christ was not capable of calling upon legions of angels to free him from the Roman executioners and thereby avoid being crucified.	SA	A	U	D	SD
9. The transgression of Adam and Eve brought about the Fall.	SA	A	U	D	SD
10. God actually forced Adam and Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit.	SA	A	U	D	SD
11. By disobeying God, Adam and Eve introduced transgression into the world	SA	A	U	D	SD
12. For forgiveness of sins a person must only confess that he believes in Christ.	SA	A	U	D	SD
13. The divine Law of Justice states that if a law is broken or kept, then a punishment or blessing will follow.	SA	A	U	D	SD

Part B Continued

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
14. The Fall provided a means for men to be born, which is another important step in our eternal progression.	SA	A	U	D	SD
15. In order for a person to pay for our debts to the Law of Justice, he must not be in debt himself. Therefore, our Redeemer must have been sinless.	SA	A	U	D	SD
16. The Holy Ghost is given to us to help us gain full advantage of the love and atonement of Christ.	SA	A	U	D	SD
17. As all men have sinned, Adam is not solely responsible for our separation from God--we thus bring upon ourselves spiritual death.	SA	A	U	D	SD
18. Any person who was sinless could have made the atoning sacrifice for us.	SA	A	U	D	SD
19. The Fall, considered in light of the atonement, was a blessing and a necessary step for the growth and development of mankind.	SA	A	U	D	SD
20. If there were not some divine law that required retribution for transgression, life would become chaotic.	SA	A	U	D	SD
21. Baptism is not necessary to receive the full effects of the atonement.	SA	A	U	D	SD
22. The tree of knowledge of good and evil revealed to those who ate its fruits secrets of which they had better have remained ignorant.	SA	A	U	D	SD

Part B Continued

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
23. We have need for a redeemer because when we sin, we invoke the Law of Justice against ourselves, putting ourselves in debt. This debt can be fulfilled only when the full price for the sin has been paid.	SA	A	U	D	SD
24. Christ received the power to lay down his life or take it up again at his own discretion from God his Father.	SA	A	U	D	SD
25. Without Christ's atoning sacrifice all mankind would have been hopelessly and eternally captive to physical and spiritual death.	SA	A	U	D	SD
26. Christ determines when a person can receive benefits from this atonement, and he makes that determination on the basis of the degree of repentance achieved by each individual.	SA	A	U	D	SD
27. To receive the full benefits of the atonement we need to have faith and repent.	SA	A	U	D	SD
28. As we have all sinned, we are permanently indebted to the Law of Justice and will permanently be separated from God.	SA	A	U	D	SD
29. Christ had a mortal mother and thus inherited the capacity to die from her.	SA	A	U	D	SD
30. The forgiveness of sins comes through the exercise of the Law of Mercy.	SA	A	U	D	SD
31. Christ's atonement is reserved only for those who are willing to demonstrate that they are willing to keep the Gospel covenant.	SA	A	U	D	SD

Part B Continued

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
32. Christ has paid the Law of Justice for us by his atoning sacrifice and he automatically pays for all of our sins.	SA	A	U	D	SD
33. The Fall of Adam brought physical death into the world. Christ paid for that obligation on the cross.	SA	A	U	D	SD
34. Christ desires us to show personal responsibility in living the Gospel, and then he will see that we are forgiven our sins.	SA	A	U	D	SD
35. Christ's atonement automatically covers small children until they reach the age of accountability.	SA	A	U	D	SD
36. Christ became our Redeemer when he made the atoning sacrifice to pay for our sins and those of Adam.	SA	A	U	D	SD
37. Only those men who repent and live worthily will be resurrected.	SA	A	U	D	SD

A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND MISSION
OF JESUS CHRIST BY THIRD YEAR SEMINARY GRADUATES OF
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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M.R.E. Degree, April 1973

ABSTRACT

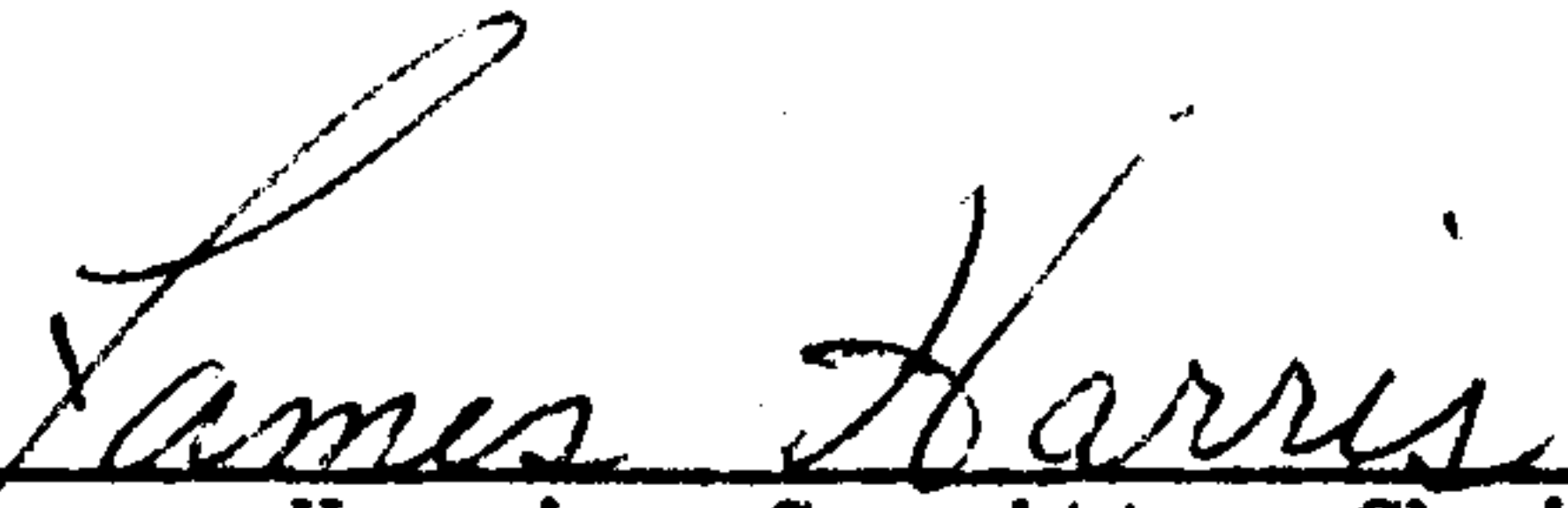
The purpose of the study was to determine what degree of understanding third year graduates of the SLVN Seminary District had of the nature and mission of Christ.

The study was composed of a random sample of 200 third year seminary graduates. Each participant answered a questionnaire designed to test his understanding of the nature and mission of Christ. The responses were tabulated and presented in written and illustrative form.

The students met the minimum established standard of 75% in four of the five concepts which they were questioned concerning the nature of Christ. The students met the minimum established standard in five of the eight concepts testing their understanding of the mission of Christ.

Overall comprehension of both the nature and mission of Christ were considered adequate as the students averaged 80% correct responses to all questions.

COMMITTEE APPROVAL:


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