

Adam's transgression was not sin, LeGrand Baker

Every place in the scriptures that it talks about the fall, it talks of Adam's "transgression," but nowhere does it say Adam "sinned." That is equally true in the Article of Faith, it says "men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression." I am not one who is capable of drawing the line between them, but it is clear that a "sin" is much more serious than a "transgression." For example, in the Law of Moses a sin offering cleansed one from an accidental or even a necessary wrong doing. Like picking up a stone only to discover it was really part of a dry human bone, or taking care of a dead body. Both would make one unclean,. The first was an accident, the other a necessity. The sin offering made one clean from such acts. But there was no sin offering (only punishment)for deliberate violations of the law.

That is equally true of the scripture you cite. In context it says,

21 And the days of the children of men were prolonged, according to the will of God, that they might repent while in the flesh; wherefore, their state became a state of probation, and their time was lengthened, according to the commandments which the Lord God gave unto the children of men. For he gave commandment that all men must repent; for he showed unto all men that they were lost, because of the transgression of their parents.

22 And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end.

23 And they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin.

What that says is that Adam's transgression brought humankind out of the Garden and gave us the power to know good from evil. That knowledge comes through experience--- experimentation which is transgression, and sin which is flagrant disobedience. Our being here requires that we must repent, and it also requires that there must be a Saviour to enable and validate that repentance.

Without Adam's transgression none of the progression that comes through our experiences here would have been possible.

"For he gave commandment that all men must repent; for he showed unto all men that they were lost, because of the transgression of their parents"--- had Adam not transgressed, man could not have had the experiences that are requisite to both repentance and exaltation.