



# The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 1

Course Introduction

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*"Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled."* (D&C 1:37)

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## D&C 1

*A study of this lesson will introduce us to this year's study of the Doctrine and Covenants and Church history and help us understand our place in the dispensation of the fulness of times.*

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**Roger Williams**, pastor of the oldest Baptist Church in America, said that there was "no regularly-constituted church on earth, nor any person authorized to administer any Church ordinance: nor could there be until, new apostles are sent by the great Head of the Church, for whose coming, he is seeking." (quoted by LeGrand Richards in *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, p27-28)

**Elder LeGrand Richards**: "The establishment of his kingdom by the God of heaven was to be the greatest event in the latter days. Though small and insignificant as its beginning would be, its ultimate destiny is to fill the whole earth, with Christ our Lord at its head. The kingdom was to be given to the saints of the Most High that they might possess it forever." (Ibid., p36)

**Explanatory information** about the 2013 Gospel Doctrine course of study: "...this course uses a thematic approach in studying the Doctrine and Covenants and Church history. The lessons are intended to help class members learn and apply what the Doctrine and Covenants and Church history teach about specific gospel themes. As a result of this year's study, class members should have a greater desire to seek the blessings of the gospel...."

"Because this year's lessons are thematic, some sections of the Doctrine and Covenants are not included in the reading assignments. Nevertheless, class members should plan to read the entire Doctrine and Covenants during the year." (Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual)

**George A. Horton, Jr.**: "They were singing, shouting, laughing, and talking about their personal victories and adventures as the boat carried them peacefully down the slow-moving river. In their merriment they did not notice a quiet quickening of the current. Their preoccupation with each other kept them from paying much attention to one who appeared on the nearby shore waving excitedly for them to make their way to safety. A few waved back with curious smiles but continued on with their immediate interests. 'Rapids! Rapids! Falls! Change your direction! Come to shore quickly!' was the man's urgent call repeated over and over; but they were unconcerned until they happened to observe the faster current and looked ahead to see a short stretch of

white-capped waves dashing around and over jagged rocks. An increasing roar indicated that suddenly the river would drop from sight, spilling into a roaring chasm of churning, foamy water. With screams of horror they lunged for the oars and began to row frantically for shore. But it was too late—they had waited too long. The power of the current was too strong, and into the rapids they plunged—tossing, turning, shrieking, and cursing; finally over the falls they went to a watery grave." (Studies In Scripture, 1:39)

**President Ezra Taft Benson**: "My purpose in sharing these words of the Lord regarding the condition of the world in the latter days is this:

"Today we as a church are sounding the voice of warning through our missionaries to the nations of all the earth. We send our missionaries to proclaim the gospel to those who will receive our message...."

"We have some difficult days ahead. The Lord has forecast calamities that will befall the nations of the world because of their disobedience to and disregard of His commandments and revelations. In His great love and mercy, He has raised up the Prophet Joseph Smith and other servants to proclaim His gospel in order that faith will increase and the Lord may establish His everlasting covenant among all mankind." (Ensign, Jan 1993)

**Joseph Smith**: "Prophets, priests and kings ... have looked forward with joyful anticipation to the day in which we live; and fired with heavenly and joyful anticipations they have sung and written and prophesied of this our day; but they died without the sight; we are the favored people that God has made choice of to bring about the Latter-day glory; it is left for us to see, participate in and help to roll forward the Latter-day glory, 'the dispensation of the fulness of times'." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p231)

**President Ezra Taft Benson**: "There has never been more expected of the faithful in such a short period of time as there is of us." (quoted by Marvin J. Ashton, Ensign, Nov 1989, p36)

**President Gordon B. Hinckley**: "This is a season of a thousand opportunities. It is ours to grasp and move forward. What a wonderful time it is for each of us to do his or her small part in moving the work of the Lord on to its magnificent destiny." (Ensign, Nov 1997, p67)

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## Next Week's Reading Assignment

Review Class Member Study Guide

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