



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 4

Remember the New Covenant

“Accordingly, as I had been commanded, I went at the end of each year, and at each time I found the same messenger there, and received instruction and intelligence from him at each of our interviews, respecting what the Lord was going to do” (2 Nephi 25:4)

Joseph Smith—History 1:27–65;
D&C 3; 5; 10; 17; 20:5–15; 84:54–62

A study of this lesson will help us recognize the Lord’s hand in the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and encourage us to study the Book of Mormon, follow its teachings, and share it with others.

Lucy Mack Smith: "...we continued to get the children together every evening for the purpose of listening while he gave us a relation of the same. I presume our family presented an aspect as singular as any that ever lived upon the face of the earth--all seated in a circle, father, mother, sons and daughters, and giving the most profound attention to a boy, eighteen years of age, who had never read the Bible through in his life: he seemed much less inclined to the perusal of books than any other the rest of our children, but far more given to meditation and deep study.

"During our evening conversations, Joseph would occasionally give us some of the most amusing recitals that could be imagined. He would describe the ancient inhabitants of this continent, their dress, mode of traveling, and the animals upon which they rode; their cities, their buildings, with every particular; their mode of warfare; and also their religious worship. This he would do with as much ease, seemingly, as if he had spent his whole life among them." (History of Joseph Smith by His Mother, pp82-83)

Joseph Smith: "I soon found out the reason why I had received such strict charges to keep them safe, and why it was that the messenger had said that when I had done what was required at my hand, he would call for them. For no sooner was it known that I had them, than the most strenuous exertions were used to get them from me. Every stratagem that could be invented was resorted to for that purpose. The persecution became more bitter and severe than before, and multitudes were on the alert continually to get them from me if possible." (JS-History 1:60)

Brother Ivan J. Barrett said of the loss of the plates: "Grievous as the ex-perience was, it proved to be the lesson Joseph Smith needed in his youth to strengthen him and fortify him against temptations that would later beset his path.

"It taught him to hearken to the inspiration that came to him and not to yield to the persuasions of men.

"It taught him to be cautious in trusting men, for few could be depended upon.

"It also taught him that more than one copy of valuable documents should be made. In the future he made duplicate copies of all important manuscripts." (Joseph Smith and the Restoration, p84)

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "The strength of the Church is not in ... its thousands of houses of worship across the world, nor in its universities. ... The strength of this church lies in the hearts of its people, in the individual testimony and conviction of the truth of this work."

President Ezra Taft Benson: "The Lord is not pleased with us in the manner of attention we’re giving the Book of Mormon, a new witness for Christ. We need it in our homes, we need it in our families. It was written for us today." (Church News, 9 Nov 1986, p10)

President Heber J. Grant stated: "I do not believe that in any court of justice in the world if a man was being tried for murder and twelve reputable citizens testified of their knowledge of the circumstances leading to the murder, and there was no one who could testify against what they said, there would be a failure to convict the man. We have the testimony of Joseph Smith and the testimony of three witnesses to the effect that God gave them a knowledge regarding the Book of Mormon, that an angel of God declared from heaven that the book had been translated by the gift and power of God. These men were Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer and Martin Harris. They left the Church, but to the day of their death they maintained their testimony regarding the declaration of the angel, and that they were commanded to bear witness of the divinity of this book, and they did so. Eight men, some of whom were excommunicated from the Church, maintained their testimony that they had seen and handled the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated, and they remained true to that testimony to the day of their death. The disbelief of all the world does not prove that those men did not tell the truth, because there are no witnesses on the other side." (Conference Report, Apr 1929)

Next Week’s Reading Assignment
D&C 6, 8, 9; Joseph Smith—History 1:8–17

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