



# The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 18

Establish ... a House of God

*“Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God” (D&C 88:119)*

D&C 95; 109; 110

*A study of this lesson will help us understand the significance of temples and encourage us to seek the blessings of the temple in our own lives.*

Brigham Young: "We completed a temple in Kirtland and in Nauvoo; and did not the bells of hell toll all the time we were building them? They did, every week and every day." (JD, 8:356)

Brigham Young: ". . . a mere handful of men, living on air, and a little hominy and milk, and often salt or no salt, when milk could not be had; the great Prophet Joseph, in the stone quarry, quarrying rock with his own hands; and the few then in the Church, following his example of obedience and diligence wherever most needed; with laborers on the walls, holding the sword in one hand to protect themselves from the mob, while they placed the stone and moved the trowel with the other, the Kirtland temple . . . was so far completed as to be dedicated." (Discourses of Brigham Young, p415)

Orson Pratt on the period preceding the dedication of the Kirtland Temple: "God was there, his angels were there, the Holy Ghost was in the midst of the people, the visions of the Almighty were opened to the minds of the servants of the living God; the veil was taken from the minds of many; they saw the heavens opened; they beheld the angels of God; they heard the voice of the Lord; and they were filled from the crown of their heads to the soles of their feet with the power and inspiration of the Holy Ghost . . . In that Temple, set apart by the servants of God, and dedicated by a prayer that was written by inspiration, the people were blessed as they never had been blessed for generations." (Journal of Discourses, 18:131-132)

Eliza R. Snow wrote about the day of dedication: "No mortal language can describe the sweet spirit of love and union. No language can describe the heavenly manifestations of that mem-orable day. A sense of divine presence was realized by all. Each heart was filled with joy inexpressible." (quoted in Studies in Scripture, 1:421-422)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "When you attend the temple and perform the ordinances that pertain to the House of the Lord, certain blessings will come to you:

"You will receive the spirit of Elijah, which will turn your hearts to your spouse, to your children, and to your forebears.

"You will love your family with a deeper love than you have loved before.

"You will be endowed with power from on high as the Lord has promised.

"You will receive the key of the knowledge of God. (See D&C 84:19) You will learn how you can be like Him. Even the power of godliness will be manifest to you. (See D&C 84:20)

"You will be doing a great service to those who have passed to the other side of the veil in order that they might be 'judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.' (D&C 138:34)

"Such are the blessings of the temple and the blessings of frequently attending the temple." (Ensign, Aug 1985, p10)

Brigham Young: "Much has been said about the power of the Latter-day Saints. Is it the people called Latter-day Saints that have this power, or is it the Priesthood? It is the Priesthood; and if they live according to that Priesthood, they can commence their work here and gain many victories, and be prepared to receive glory, immortality, and eternal life, that when they go into the spirit-world their work will far surpass that of any other man or being that has not been blessed with the keys of the Priesthood here." (Journal of Discourses, 7:288-289)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "These keys empower those who hold them to lead all Israel, the ten tribes included, from all the nations of the earth, coming as the prophetic word affirms, one by one and two by two, to the mountains of the Lord's houses, there to be endowed with power from on high." (Ensign, May 1983, p22)

President Howard W. Hunter: "Let us be a temple-attending and a temple-loving people. Let us hasten to the temple as frequently as time and means and personal circumstances allow. Let us go not only for our kindred dead, but let us also go for the personal blessing of temple worship, for the sanctity and safety which is provided within those hallowed and consecrated walls. The temple is a place of beauty, it is a place of revelation, it is a place of peace. It is the house of the Lord. It is holy unto the Lord. It should be holy unto us." (Ensign, Oct 1994, p5)

Next Week's Reading Assignment  
Review Class Member Study Guide

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