



# The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 30

The Prisoners Shall Go Free

*"Let the work of my temple, and all the works which I have appointed unto you, be continued on and not cease; and let your diligence, and your perseverance, and patience, and your works be redoubled, and you shall in nowise lose your reward, saith the Lord of Hosts." (D&C 127:4)*

D&C 2; 124:25-55; 127; 128;  
Joseph Smith—History 1:36-39

*A study of this lesson will help us rejoice in our opportunity to provide ordinances for the dead.*

Elder John A. Widtsoe: "In our pre-existent state, in the day of the great council, we made a certain agreement with the Almighty. The Lord proposed a plan, conceived by him. We accepted it. Since the plan is intended for all men, we become parties to the salvation of every person under that plan. We agreed, right then and there, to be not only saviors for ourselves, but measurably saviors for the whole human family. We went into a partnership with the Lord. The working out of the plan became then not merely the Father's work, and the Savior's work, but also our work. The least of us, the humblest, is in partnership with the Almighty in achieving the purpose of the eternal plan of salvation." (Latter-day Prophets, pp28-29)

Joseph Smith: "What is this office and work of Elijah? It is one of the greatest and most important subjects that God has revealed. He should send Elijah to seal the children to the fathers, and the fathers to the children...."

"I wish you to understand this subject, for it is important; and if you will receive it, this is the spirit of Elijah, that we redeem our dead, and connect ourselves with our fathers which are in heaven, and seal up our dead to come forth in the first resurrection; and here we want the power of Elijah to seal those who dwell on earth to those who dwell in heaven. This is the power of Elijah and the keys of the kingdom of Jehovah." (History of the Church, 6:251-52)

Joseph Smith: "I first mentioned this doctrine in public when preaching the funeral sermon of Brother Seymour Brunson; and have since then given general instructions in the Church on the subject. The Saints have the privilege of being baptized for those of their relatives who are dead, whom they believe would have embraced the gospel, if they had been privileged with hearing it, and who have received the gospel in the spirit, through the instrumentality of those who have been commissioned to preach to them while in prison. Without enlarging the subject, you will undoubtedly see its consistency and reasonableness; and it presents the gospel of Christ in probably a more enlarged scale

than some have imagined it." (Ibid., 4:231)

Elder George F. Richards: "It is the work and the glory of God the Eternal Father to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man, living and dead. He is dependent upon His living children here to assist Him, and particularly the Latter-day Saints." (Conference Report, April 1942)

John Taylor discussing the necessity for angelic visits to Joseph Smith wrote: "Why was it that all these people should be associated with all these dispensations, and all could communicate with Joseph Smith? Because he stood at the head of the dispensation of the fullness of times, which comprehends all the various dispensations that have existed upon the earth, and that as the Gods in the eternal worlds and the Priesthood that officiated in time and eternity had declared that it was time for the issuing forth of all these things, they all combined together to impart to him the keys of their several missions, that he might be fully competent, through the intelligence and aid afforded him through these several parties, to introduce the Gospel in all its fullness, namely, the dispensation of the fullness of times, when says the Apostle Paul 'He might gather all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are in earth, even in him.' Consequently he stood in that position, and hence his familiarity with all these various dispensations and the men who administered in them. If you were to ask Joseph what sort of a looking man Adam was, he would tell you at once; he would tell you his size and appearance and all about him. You might have asked him what sort of men Peter, James, and John were, and he could have told you. Why! Because he had seen them." (Journal of Discourses, 18:325-26)

Brigham Young: "We trust in God. I reckon he will fight our battles and we will be baptized for and in behalf of the human family during the thousand years; and we will have hundreds of temples and thousands of men and women officiating therein for those who have fallen asleep, without having had the privilege of hearing and obeying the Gospel, that they may be brought forth and have a glorious resurrection, and enjoy the kingdom which God has prepared for them." (Discourses of Brigham Young, p401)

Next Week's Reading Assignment  
D&C 131:1-4; 132:4-33

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