



# The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 34

Faith In Every Footstep

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*“Let all the people of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and those who journey with them, be organized into companies, with a covenant and promise to keep all the commandments and statutes of the Lord our God.” (D&C 132:3)*

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## D&C 136

*A study of this lesson will help us understand how the pioneers' journey to the Salt Lake Valley parallels our journey back to our Heavenly Father and to help us appreciate the sacrifices made by the pioneers.*

Brigham Young, "The Mormon Battalion was organized from our camp to allay the prejudices of the people, prove our loyalty to the government of the United States, and for the present and temporal salvation of Israel." (quoted in Great Basin Kingdom, p. 21)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "Because the saints were 'hindered by the hands of their enemies, and by oppression,' the Lord withdrew the time limitation (D&C 124:49-54), and the command now in force is : 'Zion shall be redeemed in mine own due time.' (D&C 136:18.) When that is to be remains to be seen, but that it will surely come to pass, as part of the preparation of the Lord's people for his glorious return, is as certain as that the sun shines or that the Great God is Lord of all. When the appointed time comes, the Lord will reveal it to his servants who preside over his kingdom from Salt Lake City, and then the great work will go forward." (Millennial Messiah, p281)

Leonard J. Arrington and Davis Bitton: "Historians have called the Mormon migration the best-organized movement of people in American history. Unlike other contemporary journeys to the Far West, it was religiously motivated. the Mormons went without guides and professional outfitters employed by most westering emigrants. A poverty-stricken band of people, in many cases unable to outfit themselves properly, the Saints were not frontiersmen; they were artisans, farmers, businessmen, and clerks. The organization and cohesion of the Mormons was in marked contrast to 'the process of disruption that prevailed so generally' in overland trail movements. Unique to the Mormons were the planting and building for the benefit of those to come later, sending back from Salt Lake City relief and supply parties to aid others on

the last and toughest part of the route, and establishing a Perpetual Emigrating Fund to finance the poverty-stricken so that they could make the journey and pay later. The entire community of Nauvoo, a whole culture, was transported to a completely uninhabited location. Other frontier communities either drew slowly, adding a few families at a time until local government and trade became possible, or materialized overnight in the boom-bust syndrome of the mining exploitation of the West. In contrast, Salt Lake Valley was, within three months of settlement, home to nearly two thousand people and was well organized for trade and government." (Mormon Experience, p101)

Elder M. Russell Ballard: "We are the inheritors of a tremendous heritage. Now it is our privilege and responsibility to be part of the Restoration's continuing drama, and there are great and heroic stories of faith to be written in our day. It will require every bit of our strength, wisdom, and energy to overcome the obstacles that will confront us. But even that will not be enough. We will learn, as did our pioneer ancestors, that it is only in faith—real faith, whole-souled, tested and tried—that we will find safety and confidence as we walk our own perilous pathways through life." (Ensign, May 1997, p61)



## Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 4:3–7; 18:10–16; 52:40; 81:5–6; 138:58; 3 Nephi 18:31–32; Moroni 7:45–48; Our Heritage, pages 77–80