

## D & C Lesson 13

### “THIS GENERATION SHALL HAVE MY WORD THROUGH YOU”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, April 2001

#### 1. The Lord declared this dispensation would receive His word through Joseph Smith

A. **D&C 5:10**: “this generation shall have my word through you.”

B. “In this verse, the phrase ‘this generation’ refers to *this dispensation*—the time in which we live.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 70]

C. “The great outpouring of truth in this dispensation has come through the Prophet Joseph Smith. For example, latter-day scriptures, priesthood ordinances, the organization of the priesthood, and temple building have come from the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith. [*Ibid*, p 70.] Also: “•physical nature of the Godhead, •our creation in God’s image, •apostles and prophets, •Melchizedek priesthood, •Aaronic priesthood, •mode of baptism, •the gift of the Holy Ghost, •premortal existence, •baptism for the dead, •resurrection, •the three kingdoms of glory, •eternal marriage, and •our potential become like Heavenly Father.” [*Ibid*, p. 69]

D. **Brigham Young**: “What I have received from the Lord, I have received by Joseph Smith.” [*Discourses of Brigham Young*, 1941, p. 458]

E. **LeGrand Richards**: “As far as our records show, he has given us more revealed truth than any prophet who has ever lived upon the face of the earth.” [*Ensign*, May 1981, p. 33]

#### 2. What scriptures have come to us through the Prophet Joseph Smith?

##### The Book of Mormon

A. *A prophecy fulfilled: 2 Nephi 3:6-15*: Joseph in Egypt’s prophecy of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

B. How has the Book of Mormon (1) confounded false doctrines, (2) laid down contentions, (3) established peace, (4) brought knowledge of their fathers to descendants of Joseph in the latter days, and (5) brought a knowledge of the Lord’s covenants to them? (*2 Ne. 3:12*)

##### The Doctrine and Covenants

A. Contains more than 60 revelations Joseph received from 1823-1831, first printed in the *Book of Commandments* (which was mostly lost on July 20, 1833 when a mob destroyed W. W. Phelps’ printing press in Independence, Missouri. Pages were saved by two young girls: Mary Elizabeth and Caroline Rollins.)

B. In 1835, 45 more revelations were added and they were published as the *Doctrine and Covenants*.

C. Later revelations were added and are now contained in the 1983 edition published by the Church.

##### The Pearl of Great Price

A. Contains two excerpts from Joseph Smith’s Translation of the Bible: (1) selections from the book of Moses and (2) Joseph’s translation of chapter 24 of the book of Matthew [Joseph Smith– Matthew].

Also, (3) the book of Abraham, (4) Joseph Smith's account of the restoration of the Church [Joseph Smith–History] drawn from the “Wentworth Letter” [see *History of the Church*, vol. 5] and (5) the Articles of Faith (also drawn from the “Wentworth Letter”).

B. **A prophecy fulfilled: Moses 1:40-41:** “And now, Moses, my son, I will speak unto thee concerning this earth upon which thou standest; and *thou shalt write the things which I shall speak*. And in a day when the children of men shall esteem my words as naught and take many of them from the book which thou shalt write, behold, *I will raise up another like unto thee; and they shall be had among the children of men—among as many as shall believe.*” [But don't confuse Joseph Smith's fulfillment of this prophecy with another prophecy of “a prophet” like Moses whom the Lord would raise up: Jesus Christ. See *Deut. 18:15; Acts 3:22, 26; 7:37; 3 Ne. 20:23.*]

### The Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible

A. **Article of Faith 8:** “We believe the Bible to be the word of God *as far as it is translated correctly*; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.” [*PofGP*, p. 60]

B. **1 Nephi 13:24-29:** The words of an angel to Nephi: “they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.”

C. **Translation, mainly between June 1830 and July 1833:** Soon after the Church was restored, the Lord instructed the Prophet Joseph to begin making inspired corrections to the King James version of the Bible. He began in June 1830 [Heading, D&C 35], and Oliver Cowdery, John Whitmer and Sidney Rigdon served as his scribes. “Between *June of 1830 and July of 1833*, the Prophet made numerous changes to the text of the Bible, including *correcting biblical language, clarifying doctrines, and restoring historical and doctrinal material.*” [*Our Heritage*, p. 24]

D. **References to this inspired translation in the Doctrine and Covenants:** See, for example, *D&C 35:20* (to Sidney Rigdon: “a commandment I give unto thee—that thou shalt write for him; and *the scriptures shall be given, even as they are in mine own bosom, to the salvation of mine own elect*”); *37:1* (don't translate more till you go to Ohio); *42:56* (“thou shalt ask, and my scriptures shall be given as I have appointed, and they shall be preserved in safety”); *45:60-61* (“it shall not be given unto you to know any further concerning this chapter [Mt. 24], until the New Testament be translated, and in it all these things shall be made known; wherefore I give unto you that ye may now translate it, that ye may be prepared for the things to come.” [March 7, 1831]); *73:3-4* (“it is expedient to translate again . . . it is expedient to continue the work of translation until it be finished”); *90:13* (“when you have finished the translation of the prophets”); *93:53* (“it is my will that you should hasten to translate my scriptures . . . and all this for the salvation of Zion”); *124:89* (William Law to publish the translation).

E. **Translation a means of doctrinal restoration:** “The process of translating the Bible not only brought the correction and restoration of doctrines in the Bible. It also helped bring about the restoration of doctrines through the Doctrine and Covenants. Many revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants are responses to questions the Prophet asked while pondering the translation of the Bible. One Church member who spent many years studying the Joseph Smith translation observed, ‘*The Joseph Smith Translation is not just a better Bible; it was the channel, or means, of doctrinal restoration in the infancy of this Church*’ (Robert J. Matthews, in *The Capstone of Our Religion: Insights into the Doctrine and Covenants* [1989], 64).” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual* [1999], p. 73.]

F. **Examples of D&C revelations received because of the JS Translation:** (1) *D&C 45*, because of Joseph's preparatory work on Matthew 24 (see *45:60-61*); (2) *D&C 76*, because of the

translation of John 5:29 (see Section 76 Heading, 76:15-19); (3) *D&C 91*, concerning the Apocrapha (see Section 91 Heading); *D&C 113* (questions on interpreting Isaiah chapter 11).

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