

## D & C Lesson 32 “TO SEAL THE TESTIMONY”

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***“Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived on it.” [D&C 135:3]***

Showing of the film: ***“Joseph Smith: The Prophet of the Restoration,”*** from the videocassette *Teachings from the Doctrine and Covenants and Church History* (53933)

Read *D&C 135:1-7*.

### **What were some of the most significant doctrinal contributions of the Prophet Joseph Smith?**

“His work blessed not only the Saints of this dispensation, but also the billions of people who have lived at all other times without receiving the blessings of the gospel or the saving ordinances of the priesthood.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 186]

#### **1. Truths about the Godhead**

A. *D&C 130:22-23*: “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us. A man may receive the Holy Ghost, and it may descend upon him and not tarry with him.” See *D&C 130:3; 76:19-24; 110:1-4; JS-H 1:17-20*.

B. **Joseph Smith**, in a sermon given at the funeral of Elder King Follett on April 7, 1844: “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret. If the veil were rent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit, and who upholds all worlds and all things by his power, was to make himself visible, —I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form—like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man; for Adam was created in the very fashion, image and likeness of God, and received instruction from, and walked, talked and conversed with him, as one man talks and communes with another.” [*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 1976, p. 345]

C. **Bruce R. McConkie**: “Knowledge of God is the greatest truth in all eternity. . . . Joseph Smith came to reveal God, in a day of almost total spiritual darkness, in a day when men no longer knew the nature and kind of Being whom they should worship.” [*Ensign*, June 1980, p. 55]

#### **2 The authority of the priesthood**

A. The Aaronic Priesthood: [*D&C 13:1*].

B. The Melchizedek Priesthood: [*D&C 27:12; 128:20*].

C. Keys of the Priesthood: [*D&C 110:11-16*]

D. Numerous revelations about priesthood offices, organization, covenants, ordinances, duties, and blessings.

### 3. Truths about our origin and relationship to God

- A. We are literally the spirit children of God. [*D&C 76:23-24*].
- B. We lived with God before coming here to this earth. [*Abra. 3:22-28*]

### 4. The scriptures

- A. The Book of Mormon
- B. The Doctrine and Covenants
- C. The Pearl of Great Price
- D. The Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible

E. **Gordon B. Hinckley**: “[Joseph Smith] translated and published the Book of Mormon, a volume of 522 pages which has since been retranslated into [many] languages and which is accepted by millions across the earth as the word of God. The revelations he received and other writings he produced are likewise scripture to these millions. The total in book pages constitutes the equivalent of almost the entire Old Testament of the Bible, and it all came through one man in the space of a few years.” [*Ensign*, May 1977, p. 65]

### 5. Truths about the Plan of Salvation

- A. Our pre-mortal life.
- B. The purposes of life in mortality.
- C. Life in the Spirit World following death.
- D. The resurrections and the degrees of heavenly glory.
- E. The nature of Godhood and the glorious life God offers to those who are righteous.

### 6. Truths about the salvation of the dead

- A. Vicarious baptisms for the dead. [*D&C 128:18*]
- B. The endowment.
- C. Eternal marriage and the sealing of righteous progenitors.

### 7. The building of temples and the important role they play in the Plan of Salvation

- A. He directed the construction of two temples; Kirtland and Nauvoo.
- B. He dedicated land for three other temples: Independence, Far West, and Adam-ondi-Ahman.
- C. He established the pattern for the construction of temples as dwelling places for God here upon the earth.

### 8. Other contributions:

- A. The Church was restored through him.
- B. He began the work, in this dispensation of the fulness of times, of taking the gospel to all nations and the gathering of Israel.
- C. The law of consecration was revealed through him.
- D. The Word of Wisdom was revealed through him.
- E. Information about the building of the latter-day Zion was revealed through him.
- F. He wrote the Articles of Faith.