

D & C LESSON 42

CONTINUING REVELATION TO LATTER-DAY PROPHETS

Prepared December 2001 by Duane S. Crowther

1. Statements about continuing revelation in the Church today

A. President **Harold B. Lee**: “Elder John A Widtsoe of the Council of the Twelve once told of a discussion he had with a group of stake officers. In the course of the discussion someone said to him, ‘Brother Widtsoe, how long has it been since the Church received a revelation?’ Brother Widtsoe rubbed his chin thoughtfully and said in reply, ‘Oh, probably since last Thursday.’” [*Stand Ye in Holy Places*, 1974, pp. 132-133]

B. President **Spencer W. Kimball**: “We testify to the world that revelation continues and that the vaults and files of the Church contain those revelations which come month to month and day to day. We testify also that there is, since 1830 when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized, and will continue to be, so long as time shall last, a prophet, recognized of God and his people, who will continue to interpret the mind and will of the Lord . . . Expecting the spectacular, one may not be fully alerted to the constant flow of revealed communication. I say, in the deepest of humility, but also by the power and force of a burning testimony in my soul, that from the prophet of the Restoration to the prophet of our own year, the communication line is unbroken, the authority is continuous, a light, brilliant and penetrating, continues to shine. The sound of the voice of the Lord is a continuous melody and a thunderous appeal. For nearly a century and a half there has been no interruption.” [*Ensign*, May 1977, p. 78]

C. “The members of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are latter-day prophets, seers, and revelators. They continue to receive revelation to guide the Church. Their direction is ‘the will of the Lord, . . . the mind of the Lord, . . . the word of the Lord, . . . the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation’ (D&C 68:4)” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 244] (*Teacher’s note*: I fully agree with this statement, but always feel a bit troubled when this passage is cited out of context to make the point. Read carefully the heading to Section 68, see who it is really talking about, and recognize that it is given several years before a Quorum of the Twelve and Quorum of the First Presidency are organized. See *D&C 107:22-24; 124:125-129*)

2. Church correlation and publications under the guidance of the prophets

A. “The purpose of Church correlation is to preserve ‘the right way of God’ (*Jacob 7:7*). Ultimately it is intended to help accomplish the mission of the Church, which is to invite all people to ‘come unto Christ, and be perfected in him’ (*Moroni 10:32*, see also *D&C 20:59*). The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve oversee correlation in the Church.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 244]

B. Objectives of Church correlation include: (1) maintaining purity of doctrine, (2) emphasizing the importance of the family and the home, (3) placing all the work of the Church under priesthood direction, (4) establishing proper relationships among the organizations of the Church, (5) achieving unity and order in the Church, (6) ensuring simplicity of Church programs and materials. [*Ibid.*]

C. Church correlation has clarified the role of the organizations, programs, and activities of the Church in relation to the family: “The most important place for gospel teaching and leadership is in the family and the home (see *Mosiah 4:14-15; D&C 68: 25-28*). . . . Quorums, auxiliaries, programs, and

activities in the Church should strengthen and support the family. They should enhance gospel-centered family activities, not compete with them.” [*Church Handbook of Instructions: Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders*, 1998, p. 299]

D. “The correlation effort also emphasizes that Church programs and activities should not make unnecessary demands on the effort, time, or other resources of Church members.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 245]

E. “Through correlation, there has also been an emphasis on auxiliary organizations functioning under the direction of priesthood leaders. For example, in a ward these organizations all function under the direction of the bishopric.” [*Ibid.*]

F. “Church publications, such as lesson manuals and Church magazines, are produced to help members learn and live the gospel of Jesus Christ. The correlation process helps ensure that these materials are scripture-based, doctrinally accurate, and appropriate for the intended audience. All Church publications are planned, prepared, reviewed, and implemented under the direction of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve.” [*Ibid.*]

G. Read *D&C 84:109-110*, and *D&C 132:8*. How does Church correlation help to fulfill these words?

3. Lessons from history: the Old Testament historical books talk about prophets

A. Principles to understand:

1. People can inquire the will of God through prophets.
2. Prophets pray to God in behalf of people.
3. God gives instructions to people through his prophets.
4. God reveals future events through his prophets.
5. God sends his prophets to rebuke wickedness.

B. *1 Kings 11:28-40*: The prophet Ahijah tells Jeroboam that Solomon’s kingdom will be divided and that Jeroboam will be king over 10 of the tribes of Israel.

C. *1 Kings 12:21-24*: The prophet Shemaiah convinces Rehoboam not to make war against the 10 tribes of Israel.

D. *1 Kings 19:15-17*: The Lord sends the prophet Elijah to anoint two kings and a new prophet.

E. *1 Kings 20:13-14, 22, 28-29*: Prophets show wicked king Ahab, of Israel, the power of God by guiding his military decisions.

F. *2 Kings 6:8-17*: The prophet Elisha guides wicked king Ahab, of Israel, against the Syrians, shows his servant the horses and chariots of the Lord’s angelic army.

G. *2 Kings 8:7-15*: The prophet Elisha prophesies that Hazael will become king of Syria.

H. *2 Chron. 28:(1-7) 8-11 (12-15)* The prophet Oded saves 200,000 prisoners from Judah from being made slaves to Pekah, king of Israel, and his followers.

I. *2 Chron. 32:(1-19) 20-22*: The prophet Isaiah prays and God saves Hezekiah and the people of Judah by slaying 185,000 Assyrian troops. [see *2 Kings 19:5-7, 15-20, 31-37*]

J. *2 Chron. 34:(1-20) 21-28 (29-33)*: Young Josiah, king of Judah, receives a “book of the law of the Lord given by Moses” and is overwhelmed by the conditional promises of blessings or cursings [perhaps *Deut. 28*]. He enquires of the Lord through Huldah the prophetess and his future is prophesied.

K. *2 Chron. 36:(5-13) 14-16 (17-21)*: The people of Judah were sent into captivity in Babylonia because they transgressed and mocked the messengers of God till there was no remedy.

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