

**Week 14 – February 14, 2024**  
**Notes and Quotes**  
**The Temple and the Atonement of Jesus Christ**

**From: [temples.churchofjesuschrist.org](http://temples.churchofjesuschrist.org), *Why Ordinances and Covenants Matter***

“To the prophet Moses, God delivered in clear language His ultimate desire for each member of the human family: “For behold, this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (see Moses 1:39). The way all of us can receive these gifts is through the Atonement of Jesus Christ and obedience to the commandments. Jesus Christ is our Savior, the only One who has the *power to save us from the effects of sin and death*. As we give our all to change our behavior to match His will—a process called repentance—*He can change our attitudes, give us additional strength to choose the right, and ultimately change our nature*. In short, *Jesus Christ can help us become like Him.*”  
(*Emphasis added to note the four aspects of the atonement of Jesus Christ. Compare to Ezekiel 36:25-28*)

**From: [temples.churchofjesuschrist.org](http://temples.churchofjesuschrist.org), *Draw Nearer to Christ***

In our day, we too prepare to enter the temple by participating in the ordinances of baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and the sacrament. Through the Savior’s Atonement and the gift of repentance, these ordinances help us become clean from behaviors and thoughts that are unholy and give us confidence that we can be worthy of His approval. The covenants we make and the ordinances we receive in the temple help us become more holy—in short, to become more like Him. In the temple, we learn how to “[put] off the natural man, and [become] a saint through the Atonement of Christ the Lord” (Mosiah 3:19). As we return to the temple and continue learning of Him, we deepen both our knowledge of Jesus Christ and our ability to obey His commandments. In time, we begin to receive “His image in [our] countenance” (Alma 5:14) .... In the temple, faithful Church members receive knowledge, power, and promises to prepare for the greatest gift of God—the gift of eternal life. Everything that occurs in the temple is centered on the Savior Jesus Christ, His role as our Redeemer, and His desire to have us return to the presence of God. In the temple, we are invited to commit to higher standards of personal conduct and faithfulness, showing the way we can “lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better” (D&C 25:10). In the temple, we are taught truths pertaining to the past, present, and future, thus receiving a “knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come” (D&C 93:24). In the temple, we come to more fully comprehend the Savior’s teaching that, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). In the temple, the Savior’s testimony of His divine role is affirmed to us repeatedly: “no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

In the House of the Lord, we learn how God and His Son are ordered or organized.

**Order of the Son of God**

Abraham 3:24 Christ was “like unto God” from his premortal beginnings, was ordered like unto God.  
Hebrews 5:5-10 Christ was called and ordained as a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.  
D&C 107:2-4 Priesthood was first known as the Holy Priesthood after the Order of the Son of God.  
D&C 76:56-57 Enoch and Melchizedek were after the order of the Son of God  
JST Genesis 14:25-40 Melchizedek led his people to be ordered after God and they obtained heaven.  
Alma 13:1-19 From our premortal beginnings, many were called to be high priests after this order of the Son of God  
D&C 51:15 God gives us the privilege of organizing ourselves according to his laws.  
D&C 109:15 The temple is a place to “grow up” in the Lord and be organized according to his law.  
D&C 84:19-26 Higher priesthood ordinances given in the temple order us to receive the power of Godliness.

**Joseph Smith, Jr. (quoted to Brigham Young in vision), *Journal History*, 23 February 1847.**

Tell the people to be humble and faithful, and be sure to keep the Spirit of the Lord and it will lead them right. Be careful and not turn away the small still voice; it will teach them what to do and where to go; it will yield the fruits of the kingdom. Tell the brethren to keep their hearts open to conviction, so that when the Holy Ghost comes to them, their hearts will be ready to receive it. They can tell the Spirit of the Lord from all other spirits; it will whisper peace and joy to their souls; it will take malice, hatred, strife and all evil from their hearts; and their whole desire will be to do good, bring forth righteousness and build up the kingdom of God. ... If they will, they will find themselves just as they were organized by our Father in Heaven before they came into the world. Our Father in Heaven organized the human family, but they are all disorganized and in great confusion.

**Joseph Smith, Jr., *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 354.**

The first principles of man are self-existent with God. God himself, finding he was in the midst of spirits and glory, because he was more intelligent, saw proper to institute laws whereby the rest could have a privilege to advance like himself. The relationship we have with God places us in a situation to advance in knowledge. He has power to institute laws to instruct the weaker intelligences, that they may be exalted with himself, so that they might have one glory upon another, and all that knowledge, power, glory, and intelligence, which is requisite in order to save them in the world of spirits.

**John A. Widtsoe, *Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine*, October 1934, 189**

In our preexistent 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 became 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 not then merely the Father's work but also our work. The least of us, the humblest, is in partnership with the Almighty in achieving the purpose of the plan of salvation. Brothers and sisters, in our pre-existent state, we literally made a covenant with the Lord to provide the temple ordinances for those who would not have the chance to do it for themselves during their mortal sojourn on earth. Doing Family History work is the Lord's way of extending the plan of salvation to our kindred dead.

*Genesis 28:10-22*

**Marion G. Romney, *Ensign*, March 1971, 16**

Pondering upon the subject of temples and the means therein provided to enable us to ascend into heaven brings to mind the lesson of Jacob's dream. You will recall that in the twenty-eighth chapter of Genesis there is an account of his return to the land of his father to seek a wife from among his own people. When Jacob traveled from Beersheba toward Haran, he had a dream in which he saw himself on the earth at the foot of a ladder that reached to heaven where the Lord stood above it. He beheld angels ascending and descending thereon, and Jacob realized that the covenants he made with the Lord there were the rungs on the ladder that he himself would have to climb in order to obtain the promised blessings—blessings that would entitle him to enter heaven and associate with the Lord.

Because he had met the Lord and entered into covenants with him there, Jacob considered the site so sacred that he named the place Bethel, a contraction of Beth-Elohim, which means literally "the House of the Lord." He said of it: "... this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." (*Gen. 28:17*).

Jacob not only passed through the gate of heaven, but by living up to every covenant he also went all the way in. Of him and his forebears Abraham and Isaac, the Lord has said: "... because they did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods." (*D&C 132:37*).

Temples are to us all what Bethel was to Jacob. Even more, they are also the gates to heaven for all of our unendowed kindred dead. We should all do our duty in bringing our loved ones through them.

**Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 290**

To carry forward his purposes among men and nations, the Lord foreordained chosen spirit children in the pre-existence and assigned them to come to earth at particular times and places so that they might aid in the furthering of the will. These pre-existent appointments, made 'according to the foreknowledge of God the Father', simply designated certain individuals to perform missions which the Lord in his wisdom knew they had the talents and capacities to do.

**Russell M. Nelson, *Ensign*, November 1990, 73.**

You are one of God's noble and great spirits, held in reserve to come to earth at this time. In your pre-mortal life you were appointed to help prepare the world for the great gathering of souls that will precede the Lord's second coming. You are one of the covenant people. You are an heir to the promise that all the earth will be blessed by the seed of Abraham and that God's covenant with Abraham will be fulfilled through his lineage in these latter days.