

Week 15 – February 21, 2024
Notes and Quotes
The Temple and the Atonement of Jesus Christ

Old Testament Pointing Forward to Christ and Temples

Exodus 40:12-16, 34-38

Leviticus 4:31; 5:17-18; 6:7; 8:6-15, 23-24, 30

Isaiah 61:1-3, 6, 10

Isaiah 6:9-10

Old Testament Institute Manual, 1 Kings – Malachi
p. 135 “Isaiah is Understood Line upon Line.”

The Lord always provides a way for His children to fulfill His commandments. When He gave instructions to study the words of Isaiah, He fully intended that those who followed His instructions would be able to understand Isaiah’s message and be positively affected by it. To those who are willing to pay the price, Isaiah can become an open book. Its greatest message is for the Saints of today, who live in an era when one can see the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecies. For all who seek, Isaiah provides enlightenment that will be of great value in their efforts to perfect their lives and to contribute to the building up of the Lord’s kingdom. Understanding will come, though not all at once. It will come “line upon line, precept upon precept”, according to the efforts of the seekers of truth.

(Cf. 1 Nephi 3:7; 2 Nephi 11:2-8; 28:30; 3 Nephi 23:1)

Missions of Christ

1. Bind up the brokenhearted –

Atoning for sins of the repentant

...with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:3-5) We are made clean through his atoning blood and then comes the mighty change of heart made possible through repentance. (Isaiah 57:15) Isaiah tells us, “...he was their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted... in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them” (Isaiah 63:9-10).

It is the brokenhearted who will have the wounds of their soul bound up through the healing balm of the Savior’s atonement. 2 Nephi 2:7; 3 Nephi 9:20-21

2. Proclaim liberty to the captives –

Providing resurrection of the dead

The Lord declared, “Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? ...Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save they children” (Isaiah 49:24-26) Jacob taught, “death and hell must deliver up their dead, and hell must deliver up its captive spirits, and the grave must deliver up its captive bodies, and the bodies and spirits of men will be restored one to the other; and it is by the power of the resurrection of the Holy One of Israel” (See 2 Nephi 9:12; 2 Nephi 6-8) Through his resurrection from the dead, the Savior set the captives free from death and hell and made the way possible for men to return to God. Without a body, the spirits of men were truly captive and could not return to the presence of God. Perhaps this is why the dead look “upon the long absence of their spirits from their bodies as a bondage” (D&C 45:17; D&C 138:50).

Missions of Christ—Continued

3. Opening of the prison to them that are bound

Preaching the gospel in the spirit world

Following his redeeming act of love in the garden and on the cross, the spirit of Jesus did not go back to the Father, but instead went into the world of spirits in order to continue fulfilling his mission as the savior of all mankind (1 Peter 3:18-20; 4:6; D&C 138:11-29). At his death, Jesus told the thief on the cross, “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). As the prophet Joseph Smith pointed out, the Savior was not referring to the presence of God, but to the world of spirits (HC 5:424-25; LDS BD, *Paradise*). At his resurrection, Christ told Mary, “I have not yet ascended to my Father” (John 20:17). It is during this intervening time between death and resurrection that the Lord went to open the prison to those that were bound. Isaiah prophesied that the prisoners who were shut up in prison would be visited after many days (Isaiah 24:22). Prior to the Savior’s visit to the spirit world, the work of preaching the gospel to those that were in prison could not begin, though he himself would not go among those in prison (See *Temple* in B.D). While in the world of spirits, Christ “organized his forces and appointed messengers, clothed with power and authority, and commissioned them to go forth and carry the light of the gospel to them that were in darkness, even to all the spirits of men (D&C 138:30)

4. Preaching good tidings unto the meek –

Preaching the gospel and parting the veil into exaltation

If the meek are to inherit the earth (Matt.5:5; D&C 88:17-19; D&C 130:7-9), then the good tidings to the meek are that through living the gospel of Jesus Christ, they could dwell on a celestial world, governed by Celestial law. Through his life, teachings, and atonement, Christ opened the way for all those who truly follow him to dwell on a celestial earth in the presence of God, as a god.

2 Nephi 25:1-8

Bruce R. McConkie, 10 Keys to Understanding Isaiah, 78

If, as many suppose, Isaiah ranks with the most difficult of the prophets to understand, his words are also among the most important for us to know and ponder.... his prophetic words can and should shine brightly in the heart of every member of the Church. It might just be that my salvation (and yours also) does in fact depend upon our ability to understand the writings of Isaiah as fully and truly as Nephi understood them.

(Cf. 1 Nephi 19:23-24; 2 Nephi 11:2, 8; 3 Nephi 20:11-12; 23:1-2; Mormon 8:21-23)

The Major Threads of Isaiah

Israel to be purged before receiving the blessings
Isaiah 1:2-7; 22:12-14, 17-18; 42:22-24.

Christ to open the way for all to return to the Father
Isaiah 24:22; 25:8; 26:19; 43; 49:8-9; 52:1-3;
51:6-11; 53:1-12; 61:1-3; D&C 138:42

Gentiles to set up the standard (Gospel Restored) and gather
The House of Israel
Isaiah 49:22; 1 Nephi 22:1-12; Isaiah 29:4, 11-12, 14;
60:1-4; 25:6-10; D&C 58:7-13

“Mountains” (Temples) will provide a way for all to receive
the covenant
Isaiah 33:20; 54:2-3; D&C 115:5-6; 57:1-3; Isaiah
49:11,14-16, 18, 21; HC, 5:423-424;
Obadiah 1:21; D&C 128:11, 24

Millennial reign of Christ – a time to fulfill the covenant
Isaiah 60:10-11, 18-21; 11:6-16; 12: 1-6; 65:17-25;
66:20-23

In chapters 1-2 of Isaiah, he gives an overview of all threads.
**Isaiah 1:2-9 tells why Israel must die – v.16-20 speak of
repentance through Christ.** Chapter 2, v. 2, 3, 4 speak of
temples being built, the **gospel being restored**, and conditions
of the **millennium** respectively.

Isaiah – Christ, Tabernacles, & Temples

A Way of Return – Isaiah 49:11

Atonement – Isaiah 6:1-8

Baptism – Isaiah 48:1

Called Priests & Clothed – Isaiah 61:6, 10

Christ as the Great High Priest – Isaiah 22:20-25; 63:1-9

*A Hand and a New Name – Isaiah 56:5-8; 62:2-3;
Psalms 118:14-20*

Graven in the Palms of my Hand – Isaiah 49:13-16

Children gathered, clothed, bound to covenant – Isaiah 49:18

Government in His hand, Nail in Sure Place – Isaiah 22:20-25

Shake the Hand – Isaiah 13:2-4

Go Through the Gate – Isaiah 62:10

Gathered one by one – Isaiah 27:12-13

Veil removed – Isaiah 25:6-10

Open day and night – Isaiah 60:10-11

New Testament Evidence of Christ as the High Priest

Luke 4:16-22 – Declares himself as fulfillment of Isaiah

Matthew 17:1-11 – Transfigured on the Mount

John 13-17 – Instructs and teaches during Passover; includes
washing, anointing with the Spirit, instituting sacrament,
intercessory prayer.

Christ Prepared the Apostles

Matthew 16:15-19 Keys of Priesthood including sealing keys
to be given to apostles

Matthew 17:1-11; Mark 9:2-13 Moses, Elias, and Elijah
appear and restore priesthood keys, Christ is
transfigured, and apostles receive their endowments

2 Peter 1:16-19 Peter witnesses of his experience on the
Mount of Transfiguration

**Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:170.
Genealogical & History Magazine, 31:193-194.
Documented History of the Church, 4:426 and 466.**

Now under these conditions, when there is no house of the
Lord and the work is urgent, the Lord makes it possible that
not only baptism for the dead but also the ordinances that
pertain to the house of the Lord may be performed in the
wilderness, on mountain top, or in a lake or a stream of water.
I am convinced in my own mind that when the Savior took the
three disciples up on the mount which is spoken of as the
"Mount of Transfiguration," he there gave unto them the
ordinances that pertain to the house of the Lord and that they
were endowed. That was the only place they could go. That
place became holy and sacred for the rites of salvation which
were performed on that occasion.

(Cf. Matthew 17:1-11; Mark 9:2-13; 2 Peter 1:16-19; D&C
110:1-16; Moses 1:1-9; Moses 7:2-4)

Christ as the Great High Priest

Hebrews 3:1

Hebrews 4:14-16

Hebrews 6:19-20

Hebrews 7:15-17, 23-28

Hebrews 8:1-13

Hebrews 9:1-28

Hebrews 10:9-23

The Revelation of Christ as High Priest To Make Us Kings and Priests

Revelation 1:1, 5-6 – Through Christ we become Priests

Revelation 2:7 – Tree of Life given to those who overcome

Revelation 2:11 Crown of Life given, Second death overcome

Revelation 2:17 – Hidden manna and NEW NAME given

Revelation 2:26 – Power over the nations by Rod of Iron

Revelation 3:4-5 – Clothed in white, confesses OUR NAME

Revelation 3:12 – Pillar in the temple; HIS NAME upon

us, write upon us NEW NAME OF GOD

Revelation 3:20-21 – Come in to sit with him upon his throne

Revelation 5:9-10 – Sing a new song of redeeming love for the

Lamb who is slain to make us Kings and Priests to God

Revelation 7:3-17 All those whose robes are washed white

through the blood of the Lamb are sealed with the fullness

of the priesthood and serve day and night in the temple

and shall hunger and thirst no more

Revelation 7:15

Spencer W. Kimball, *Temples – Now and in the Future*, 4-5

I can envision not only many more temples, as the Lord
directs us when and where to build them, but I foresee the day
when we will make around the clock use of all the sacred, holy
edifices. I repeat a statement made at the dedication of the
temple in Washington ‘The day is coming and not too far
ahead for us when all temples on this earth will be going day
and night.’

JSH 1:38-39

John A. Widtsoe, *Fundamentals of Temple Doctrine*, 129, address delivered at the Liberty Stake Genealogical Convention, May 24, 1922.

“It is sufficient for us to remember that temple work for the living and for the dead was the burden of the thought and labors of the Prophet Joseph Smith from the day when the Angel Moroni first stood before him and told him of the things that were to be up to the last day of the Prophet’s life.”

D&C 110:13-16

Joseph Smith, Jr. *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 475.

The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead. ... For it is necessary that the sealing power should be in our hands to seal our children and our dead for the fulness of the dispensation of times—a dispensation to meet the promises made by Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world for the salvation of man. ... Hence, God said, ‘I will send you Elijah the prophet’”

(Cf. Malachi 4:5-6; 3 Nephi 25:5-6; D&C 2:1-2; JS-H 1:36-39)

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.

D&C 2

El Ray L. Christiansen, *Conference Report*, April 1960, 48.

(Quoting John A. Widtsoe) The beginning and the end of the gospel is written in section two of the Doctrine and Covenants. It is the keystone of the wonderful gospel arch; and if that center stone should weaken and fall out, the whole gospel structure would topple down in unorganized doctrinal blocks.

(Cf. Malachi 4:5-6; Heb. 11:40; 3 Nephi 25:5-6; D&C 128:15-24; JS-H 1:38-39)

JS-H 1:30-40

David A. Bednar, “Hearts of the Children Shall Turn.” *General Conference*, April 2011

As we study, learn, and live the gospel of Jesus Christ, sequence often is instructive. Consider, for example, the lessons we learn about spiritual priorities from the order of the major events that occurred as the fullness of the Savior’s gospel was restored in these latter days.... Moroni’s instructions to the young prophet ultimately included two primary themes: (1) the Book of Mormon and (2) the words of Malachi foretelling the role of Elijah in the Restoration “of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (**Acts 3:21**). Thus, the introductory events of the Restoration revealed a correct understanding of the Godhead, emphasized the importance of the Book of Mormon, and anticipated the work of salvation and exaltation for both the living and the dead. This inspiring sequence is instructive about the spiritual matters of highest priority to Deity.

Elder David A. Bednar, “Honorably Hold a Name and a Standing,” *General Conference*, April 2009

... the process of taking upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ that is commenced in the waters of baptism is continued and enlarged in the house of the Lord. As we stand in the waters of baptism, we look to the temple. As we partake of the sacrament, we look to the temple. We pledge to always remember the Savior and to keep His commandments as preparation to participate in the sacred ordinances of the temple and receive the highest blessings available through the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, in the ordinances of the holy temple we more completely and fully take upon us the name of Jesus Christ.

David A. Bednar, “Prepared to Obtain Every Needful Thing,” *General Conference*, April 2019

The temple is the house of the Lord. Everything in the temple points us to our Savior, Jesus Christ. We may discuss the basic purposes of, and the doctrine and principles associated with temple ordinances and covenants.

President Howard W. Hunter counseled:

“Let us share with our children the spiritual feelings we have in the temple. And let us teach them more earnestly and more comfortably the things we can appropriately say about the purposes of the house of the Lord.”

Across the generations, from the Prophet Joseph Smith to President Russell M. Nelson, the doctrinal purposes of temple ordinances and covenants have been taught extensively by Church leaders. A rich reservoir of resources exists in print, audio, video, and other formats to help us learn about initiatory ordinances, endowments, marriages, and other sealing ordinances. Information also is available about following the Savior by receiving and honoring covenants to keep the law of obedience, the law of sacrifice, the law of the gospel, the law of chastity, and the law of consecration.

D&C 84:2-5

Joseph Smith, Jr., *History of the Church*, 5:423-24.

What was the object of gathering the Jews, or the people of God in any age of the world?... The main object was to build unto the Lord a house whereby He could reveal unto His people the ordinances of His house and the glories of His kingdom, and teach the people the way of salvation; for there are certain ordinances and principles that, when they are taught and practiced, must be done in a place or house built for that purpose. It was the design of the councils of heaven before the world was, that the principles and laws of the priesthood should be predicated upon gathering of the people in every age of the world.... It is for the same purpose that God gathers together His people in the last days, to build unto the Lord a house to prepare them for the ordinances and endowments, washings and annointings, etc.

(Cf. D&C 97:10-15; 109:55-67; 110:6-10; 124:33-41)