

# G D Lesson 2: "Behold, I Am Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World"

**LESSON GOAL:** To help us feel the powerful witness of the Savior that comes through the Doctrine and Covenants and to help us strengthen our testimonies of the Savior's Atonement.

## 1. The Doctrine and Covenants testifies of Jesus Christ.

**Philip Allred:** "The D&C is a unique volume in the LDS canon of holy writ. It is the only book that is nearly exclusively dictated by the Savior Jesus Christ. It contains revelation after revelation in the first-person language of the Lord. It is the only scripture that begins with a preface from "Him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men" (D&C 1:1). What a wonderful opportunity to learn about Him from the text He dictated" (*Meridian Magazine*, Jan. 2013)

**Joseph Smith:** "Let us here observe, that **three things are necessary** in order that any rational and intelligent being may exercise faith in God unto life and salvation.

"First, the idea that **He actually exists**.

"Secondly, a **correct** idea of his character, perfections, and attributes.

"Thirdly, an **actual knowledge** that the **course of life which he is pursuing is according to His will**. For without an acquaintance with these three important facts, the faith of every rational being must be imperfect and unproductive; but with this understanding, it can become perfect and fruitful, abounding in righteousness, unto the praise and glory of God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (*Lectures On Faith*, Lecture Third).

**D&C 6: 20-23** Behold, thou art Oliver, and I have spoken unto thee because of thy desires; therefore treasure up these words in thy heart. Be faithful and diligent in keeping the commandments of God, and **I will encircle thee in the arms of my love**. Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I am the same that came unto mine own, and mine own received me not. **I am the light**, which shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not. Verily, verily, I say unto you, if you desire a further witness, cast your mind upon the night that **you cried unto me** in your heart, that you might know concerning the truth of these things. **Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?**

**Spencer W. Kimball:** "Learning the language of prayer is a joyous, lifetime experience. Sometimes ideas flood our mind as we **listen after our prayers**. Sometimes feelings press upon us. A spirit of calmness assures us that all will be well. But always, if we have been honest and earnest, **we will experience a good feeling—a feeling of warmth for our Father in Heaven and a sense of his love for us**. It has sorrowed me that some of us have not learned the meaning of that calm, spiritual warmth, for it is a witness to us that our prayers have been heard. And since our Father in Heaven loves us with more love than we have even for ourselves, it means that we can trust in his goodness, we can trust in him; **it means that if we continue praying and living as we should, our Father's hand will guide and bless us**" ("Pray Always," *Ensign*, Oct. 1981, 5).

**D&C 6:32-37** Verily, verily, I say unto you, as I said unto my disciples, where **two or three are gathered together** in my name, as touching one thing, behold, **there will I be** in the midst of them—even so am I in the midst of you. Fear not to do good, my sons, for whatsoever ye sow, that shall ye also reap; therefore, if ye sow good ye shall also reap good for your reward. Therefore, **fear not, little flock; do good**; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail. Behold, I do not condemn you; go your ways and sin no more; perform with soberness the work, which I have commanded you. **Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not**. Behold the wounds which pierced my side, and also the prints of the nails in my hands and feet; **be faithful, keep my commandments, and ye shall inherit the kingdom of heaven**. Amen.

**Joseph Smith:** "I saw the **Twelve Apostles** of the Lamb, who are now upon the earth, who hold the keys of this last ministry, in foreign lands, **standing together** in a circle, much fatigued, with their clothes tattered and feet swollen, with their eyes cast downward, and Jesus standing in their midst, and **they did not behold Him. The Savior looked upon them and wept**" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 107).

**Ezra Taft Benson:** "Looking unto the Lord in every thought is the only possible way we can be the kind of men and women we ought to be. The Lord asked His disciples, "What manner of men ought ye to be?" He then answered by saying, "Even as I am" (3 Ne. 27:27.) To become as He is, we must have Him on our minds, constantly in our thoughts. Every time we partake of the sacrament, we commit to "always remember him" (D&C 20:77, 79). If our thoughts make us what we are, and we are to be like Christ, then **we must think Christlike thoughts**" ("Think on Christ," *Ensign*, Mar. 1989, 4).

**D&C 19:1-4** I am Alpha and Omega, Christ the Lord; yea, even I am he, the beginning and the end, the Redeemer of the world. I, having accomplished and finished the will of him whose I am, even the Father, concerning me—**having done this that I might subdue all things unto myself**—Retaining all power, even to the destroying of Satan and his works at the end of the world, and the last great day of judgment, which I shall pass upon the inhabitants thereof, judging every man according to his works and the deeds which he hath done. **And surely every man must repent or suffer, for I, God, am endless**.

**D&C 19:16-19** For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent; But if they would not repent they must suffer even as I; Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, **to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit**—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I **partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men.** (The only scripture in which the Savior describes His own suffering during His atoning sacrifice.)

**Russell M. Nelson:** "The word Gethsemane comes from two Hebrew roots: gath, meaning "press," and shemen, meaning "oil," especially that of the olive. There the olives had been pressed under the weight of great stone wheels to squeeze precious oil from the olives. **So the Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane was literally pressed under the weight of the sins of the world. He sweated great drops of blood-his life's 'oil'-which issued from every pore.** ("Why This Holy Land?" *Ensign*, Dec. 1989, 17-18).

**Neal A. Maxwell:** "Later, in Gethsemane the suffering Jesus began to be 'sore amazed' (Mark 14:33), or, in the Greek, 'awestruck' and 'astonished.' Imagine, Jehovah, the Creator of this and other worlds, 'astonished'! **Jesus knew cognitively what He must do, but not experientially. He had never personally known the exquisite and exacting process of an atonement before.** Thus, when the agony came in its fullness, **it was so much, much worse than even He with his unique intellect had ever imagined!** No wonder an angel appeared to strengthen him! (Luke 22:43) The cumulative weight of all mortal sins—past, present, and future—pressed upon that perfect, sinless, and sensitive Soul! All our infirmities and sicknesses were somehow, too, a part of the awful arithmetic of the Atonement. (Alma 7:11-12, Isaiah 53:3-5) The anguished Jesus not only pled with the Father that the hour and cup might pass from Him, but with this relevant citation. 'And he said, Abba, Father, **all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me**' (Mark 14:35-36)" (*Conference Report*, April 1985, 92).

**Philip Allred:** "Two of the most fundamental traits of Jesus: **justice and mercy.** Our latter-day revelations clearly teach that Jesus is both just and merciful. . . . As an observer in the Church I have noticed that one of the ways we can become deceived is to focus on *only* the mercy of Jesus. This attention to only one of the Savior's attributes and perfections often leads to a permissive and sometimes promiscuous attitude. . . . Jesus does love us and has given his very life as evidence to that fact. However, he also has stated unequivocally that **he will hold us accountable for our works.** . . . Consider the potential chaos in the cosmos if the Lord were only kind and not just. What would heaven become? If Godly power were entrusted to those who were unprepared, unrefined and unrestrained think of the horrors that would be unleashed in the universe. **Elder Orson Pratt** stated that at the judgment **those who have done evil will become "dead to the things of righteousness" and as such are in misery.** "I care not where you place them; you may take any of the celestial worlds and place millions of beings there that are dead to righteousness and how long would it be before they make a perfect hell of it? They would make a hell of any heaven the Lord ever made" (*Journal of Discourses*, 1:288). (*Meridian Magazine*, Jan. 2013)

**D&C 29:1-2** Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Redeemer, the Great I Am, whose arm of mercy hath atoned for your sins. Who will gather his people even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, **even as many as will hearken to my voice and humble themselves before me, and call upon me in mighty prayer.**

**D&C 38:1-3** Thus saith the Lord your God, even Jesus Christ, the Great I Am, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the same which looked upon the wide expanse of eternity, and all the seraphic hosts of heaven, before the world was made; **The same which knoweth all things, for all things are present before mine eyes; I am the same which spake, and the world was made, and all things came by me.**

**Neal A. Maxwell:** "One of the dimensions of worshipping a living God is to know that he is alive and living in the sense of seeing and acting. He is not a retired God whose best years are past—to whom we should pay a retroactive obeisance, worshipping him for what he has already done. **He is the living God who is, at once, in the dimensions of the past and present and future, while we labor constrained by the limitations of time itself**" ("A More Determined Discipleship," *Ensign*, Feb. 1979, 72-73)

**D&C 43:34** Hearken ye to these words. Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. **Treasure these things up in your hearts, and let the solemnities of eternity rest upon your minds.**

**Marion G. Romney:** "The world and its ills crowd upon us through our media, our technology, and our life-style until we eat and sleep, rest and work, travel and wait with schedule in hand, always at top speed, and through it all **we find little time to search out the counsel of the Lord.** The remedy is to be had in complying with the Lord's counsel to "let the solemnities of eternity rest upon [our] minds" (D&C 43:34). If we will be obedient to the Lord's counsel **to study the scriptures, the solemnities of eternity will indeed rest upon our minds.** . . . Drinking deeply from these springs of living water will bless each member of the Church. **Don't let yourselves be too busy or too tired to so drink.** The added strength, wisdom, and inspiration which comes, therefrom, will repay your efforts a thousandfold. ("Seek Not to Counsel the Lord," *Ensign*, August 1985, 5).

**D&C 45:3-5** Listen to him who is **the advocate with the Father**, who is pleading your cause before him—Saying: Father, behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself might be glorified; Wherefore, Father, **spare these my brethren that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have everlasting life.**

**Gerald N. Lund:** "Nothing man could do for himself could bring him past the judgment bar successfully **without such an Advocate**. That is why **eternal life is always a gift**, and those who receive it do so by "inheritance." It is interesting to note that the **word inherit** and its cognate words are used seventy-eight times in the Doctrine and Covenants, while the **word earned** and its related words are not used once" (*Jesus Christ, Key to the Plan of Salvation*, 1991, 163-164).

**D&C 50:44-46** Wherefore, **I am in your midst, and I am the good shepherd, and the stone of Israel**. He that buildeth upon this rock shall never fall. And the day cometh that you shall hear my voice and see me, and know that I am. **Watch, therefore, that ye may be ready**. Even so. Amen.

**L. Tom Perry:** "**To build a foundation strong enough** to support a family in our troubled world today requires the best effort of each of us--father, mother, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, aunts, uncles, cousins, and so on. Each must contribute energy and effort **in driving piles right down to the bedrock of the gospel** until the foundation is strong enough to endure through the eternities. The Lord has promised us that "he that buildeth upon this rock shall never fall." (D&C 50:44). **Build traditions in your families** that will bring you together, for they can demonstrate your devotion, love, and support for one another. For each of the members of your family, these events would include blessings of children, baptisms, other priesthood ordinances, graduations, missionary farewells, homecomings, and, of course, marriages. If distance, missions, or ill health prevent personal reunions, **write one of those special letters** that will be treasured in family histories. Sharing these occasions as a family will help us build a foundation established upon a rock" ("Born of Goodly Parents," *Ensign*, May 1985, 23).

**D&C 76:5-6** For thus saith the Lord—I, the Lord, am **merciful and gracious** unto those **who fear me**, and delight to **honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth** unto the end. **Great shall be their reward and eternal shall be their glory.**

**Winslow Farr Smith:** "**Marvelous promises**, beyond our comprehension, so deep and so unfathomable in their nature that we can not comprehend them, have been made to us, **if** ye will live according to his law and keep his commandments and do the things that he has commanded. My brethren and sisters, to me the most glorious promise that we can expect here as mortals on earth is the promise that God gave in that revelation. I declare unto you in humility and in candor that this subject is so vital, so big, so all-embracing, that **unless we take hold of it, study it, and make it part of our lives, we are losing the opportunity knocking at our door today**" (CR, October 1919, Out-Doors Overflow Meeting 189).

**D&C 93:5-19** **I was in the world and received of my Father, and the works of him were plainly manifest**. And John saw and bore record of the fulness of my glory, and the fulness of John's record is hereafter to be revealed. And he bore record, saying: I saw his glory, that he was in the beginning, before the world was; Therefore, in the beginning the Word was, for **he was the Word**, even the messenger of salvation—**The light and the Redeemer** of the world; the Spirit of truth, who came into the world, because the world was made by him, and in him was the life of men and the light of men. The worlds were made by him; men were made by him; all things were made by him, and through him, and of him. And I, John, bear record that I beheld his glory, as the glory of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, even the Spirit of truth, which came and dwelt in the flesh, and dwelt among us. And he received not of the fulness at first, but continued from grace to grace, until he received a fulness; And thus he was called the Son of God, because he received not of the fulness at the first. And I, John, bear record, and lo, **the heavens were opened, and the Holy Ghost descended upon him** in the form of a dove, and sat upon him, and there came a voice out of heaven saying: This is my beloved Son. And I, John, bear record that **he received a fulness of the glory of the Father**; And **he received all power**, both in heaven and on earth, and **the glory of the Father was with him**, for he dwelt in him. And it shall come to pass, that **if you are faithful you shall receive the fulness of the record of John**. I give unto you these sayings that **you may understand and know how to worship, and know what you worship, that you may come unto the Father in my name, and in due time receive of his fulness.**

**Dallin H. Oaks:** "We solemnly affirm that **Jesus Christ**, the Only Begotten Son of God the Eternal Father, **is the light and life of the world** because all things were made by him. Under the direction and according to the plan of God the Father, Jesus Christ is the Creator, **the source of the light and life of all things**. Through modern revelation we have the testimony of John, who bore record that Jesus Christ is "the light and the Redeemer of the world, the Spirit of truth, who came into the world, because the world was made by him, and in him was the life of men and the light of men. **We should live so that we can be enlightened by his Spirit**, and so that **we may hear and heed the ratifying seal of the Holy Ghost, which testifies of the Father and the Son** (D&C 20:26). We should **study the principles** of his gospel and **receive its ordinances**. We should keep his commandments, including his two great commandments **to love God and to love and serve our neighbors** (Matt. 22:36-40). We should be faithful to the covenants we have made in the name of Jesus Christ. Our Savior is also the life of the world. **We should give thanks for his absolute gift of immortality**. We should receive the ordinances and keep the covenants necessary to receive his conditional gift of life eternal, the greatest of all the gifts of God" (D&C 14:7). ("The Light and Life of the World," *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 63).

**D&C 133:42-52** O Lord, thou shalt come down to make thy name known to thine adversaries, and all nations shall tremble at thy presence—When thou doest terrible things, things they look not for; Yea, when thou comest down, and the mountains flow down at thy presence, thou shalt meet him who rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, who remembereth thee in thy ways. For since the beginning of the world have not men heard nor perceived by the ear, neither hath any eye seen, O God, besides thee, how great things thou hast prepared for him that waiteth for thee. And it shall be said: **Who is this that cometh down from God in heaven with dyed garments**; yea, from the regions which are not known, clothed in his glorious apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? And he shall say: **I am he who spake in righteousness, mighty to save**. And the Lord shall be red in his apparel, and his garments like him that treadeth in the wine-vat. And so great shall be the glory of his presence that **the sun** shall hide his face in shame, and **the moon** shall withhold its light, and **the stars** shall be hurled from their places. And his voice shall be heard: **I have trodden the wine-press alone, and have brought judgment upon all people**; and none were with me; And I have **trampled them in my fury**, and I **did tread upon them in mine anger**, and their blood have I sprinkled upon my garments, and stained all my raiment; for this was the day of vengeance which was in my heart. And now the year of my redeemed is come; and **they shall mention the loving kindness of their Lord, and all that he has bestowed upon them according to his goodness, and according to his loving kindness, forever and ever**.

**Neal A. Maxwell**: "Having bled at every pore, how red His raiment must have been in Gethsemane, how crimson that cloak! No wonder, when Christ comes in power and glory, that He will come in reminding red attire (D&C 133:48), not only signifying the winepress of wrath but **also to bring to our remembrance how He suffered for each of us in Gethsemane and on Calvary!**" (Cory H. Maxwell, ed., *The Neal A. Maxwell Quote Book* 1997, 22).

**Orson Pratt**: "With all the brightness of that luminary which lights this creation it will hide its face in shame; and **the bright luminaries of heaven will be confounded as it were, so great will be the glory of his presence—a fire** devouring before him, and all nature feeling the power of the Almighty, which will be exerted on that grand occasion" (*Journal of Discourses*, 26 vols. [London: Latter-day Saints' Book Depot, 1854-1886], 15: 55).

**D&C 136:21-22** . . . for I am the Lord your God, even the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob. **I am he who led the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; and my arm is stretched out in the last days, to save my people Israel.**

**Russell M. Nelson**: "Moses and Brigham Young had much in common. **They were astute followers before they became great leaders**. Moses had been prepared in the courts of Egypt and had gained much experience in military and other responsibilities. Brigham Young was likewise prepared for his leadership role. In the march of Zion's Camp he had observed the leadership of the Prophet Joseph Smith under difficult conditions. **Both groups shared many miracles that are memorialized annually**. The celebration of Passover relates to the travels of the ancient Israelites. And each July we repeat legendary stories of our pioneers. Both groups traversed deserts, mountains, and valleys of untamed wilderness. Ancient Israelites left Egypt via the parted waters of the Red Sea "as by dry land" (Heb. 11:29). The pioneers left the United States crossing the wide waters of the Mississippi River—frozen to become a highway of ice. "The book of Exodus reports that quail were miraculously provided to feed the hungry people of ancient Israel (Ex. 16:13; Num. 11:32). The pioneers had an equivalent experience. After the last of them had been driven out of Nauvoo, many were sick and some had died. Their provisions were meager. On the river bottoms near Montrose, Iowa, on 9 October 1846, many quail miraculously flew into camp. The quail were cooked and fed to some 640 destitute people" ("The Exodus Repeated," *Ensign*, July 1999, 9).

## 2. Conclusion

**D&C 19:23** ***Learn* of me, and *listen* to my words; *walk* in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have *peace* in me.**

**D&C 58:23** **But *learn* that he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even *peace* in this world, and eternal life in the world to come.**