

July 14–20: Doctrine and Covenants 77–80 “I Will Lead You Along”

The Book of Revelations

Section 77 helps us to understand some important doctrine given in Revelations. We used this section in our discussion of Revelations two years ago while studying the New Testament.

Historical Background

We discussed the law of consecration in detail when we studied sections 41 and 42

Summary of the Law of Consecration:

Under the law of consecration, Church members voluntarily consecrated their possessions for the purpose of:

- Lifting up the poor
- Purchasing lands for the public benefit
- Enlarging and strengthening the stakes of Zion
- Multiply the talents of those who obediently participate

Under the law of consecration, Church members receive and multiply their “stewardship”

- Church members deed their properties to the bishop
- The bishop deeds back properties according their needs and wants
- Members are considered stewards over that they received
- Stewards are fully responsible and accountable for managing their properties
- Surpluses from stewardships are managed by the bishop
- The poor can receive their needs and wants from the bishop, via the storehouse
- The poor can receive properties and become stewards of that property

Section 78 was given about one year after section 41 and focus more on the eternal significance of the law of consecration

Law of Consecration

D&C 78:3-6

3 For verily I say unto you, the time has come, and is now at hand; and behold, and lo, it must needs be that there be an organization of my people, in regulating and establishing the affairs of the storehouse for the poor of my people, both in this place and in the land of Zion—

4 For a permanent and everlasting establishment and order unto my church, to advance the cause, which ye have espoused, to the salvation of man, and to the glory of your Father who is in heaven;

5 That you may be equal in the bonds of heavenly things, yea, and earthly things

also, for the obtaining of heavenly things.

6 For if ye are not equal in earthly things ye cannot be equal in obtaining heavenly things;

How do you think that striving to achieve equality in our temporal needs can make us “equal in... heavenly things”?

(the salvation of man, and to the glory of your Father
equal in the bonds of heavenly things, yea, and earthly things
the obtaining of heavenly things)

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

“Every man is to be ‘equal according to his family, according to his circumstances and his wants and needs.’ Obviously, this is not a case of ‘dead level’ equality. It is ‘equality’ that will vary as much as the man's circumstances, his family, his wants and needs, may vary.” (CR, Oct. 1942)

Note that equality is determined by your needs

Brigham Young

“The course pursued by men of business in the world has a tendency to make a few rich, and to sink the masses of the people in poverty and degradation... The Latter-day Saints will never accomplish their mission until this inequality shall cease on the earth... The earth is here, and the fullness thereof is here. It was made for man; and one man was not made to trample his fellowman under his feet, and enjoy all his hearts desires, while the thousands suffer.” (JD, 11:50)

Why is it essential that we pursue a path that is contrary to the “business in the world”?

The Lord states that this law is “a permanent and everlasting establishment and order unto my church.” How do you see the law of consecration active in our lives in this day?

Lorenzo Snow

“Now this law [of consecration] should continue as long as salvation continued. It never has been repealed.... The law of tithing does not forbid us obeying a higher law, the law of celestial union in earthly things.... Do you feel justified simply in obeying the law of tithing? Why, then, do you contribute to our temples and to bringing the people from the old countries? The fact that you do these things shows that you are not satisfied in merely obeying the law of tithing. In these contributions you are acting just as God designed you should act—by the light of the Holy Ghost that is in you.... I believe many do walk in the spirit of this law to a certain extent; and have complied with it.” (JD, 20:361)

That do you think President Snow means by “in these contributions you are acting just as God designed you should act”?

Spencer W. Kimball

“[When] the powers of the gospel are released in [members] lives. They learn that by living the great law of consecration they insure not only temporal salvation but also spiritual sanctification....

“Members consecrate as they labor on production projects donate materials to Deseret Industries, share their professional talents, give a generous fast offering, and respond to ward and quorum service projects. They consecrate their time in their home or visiting teaching. We consecrate when we give of ourselves.” (CR, Oct. 1977)

In what ways do we demonstrate that we have consecrate our lives to the Lord?

D&C 78:7-8,11

7 For if you will that I give unto you a place in the celestial world, you must prepare yourselves by doing the things which I have commanded you and required of you.

8 And now, verily thus saith the Lord, it is expedient that all things be done unto my glory, by you who are joined together in this order;

11 Wherefore, a commandment I give unto you, to prepare and organize yourselves by a bond or everlasting covenant that cannot be broken.

In what ways do you think that “this order” facilitates our being “joined together”?

(prepare yourselves by doing the things which I have commanded you
all things be done unto my glory
you who are joined together in this order
prepare and organize yourselves by a bond or everlasting covenant)

Marion G. Romney

“Through this organization a certain equality in earthly things was to be obtained in order that the Saints might be equal in the bonds of heavenly things and the Church was to be enabled to stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world....

“Who but the Lord himself could devise a way by which the members of his Church, rich and poor alike, can be so motivated that by the exercise of their own free agency they will administer to each other's needs in such a spirit of love as to move toward these great objectives?” (CR, Oct. 1945)

Note that this equality can only be accomplished by each member practicing their free agency

D&C 78:13-15

13 Behold, this is the preparation wherewith I prepare you, and the foundation, and the ensample which I give unto you, whereby you may accomplish the commandments which are given you;

14 That through my providence, notwithstanding the tribulation which shall descend upon you, that the church may stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world;

15 That you may come up unto the crown prepared for you, and be made rulers over many kingdoms, saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Zion, who hath established the foundations of Adam-ondi-Ahman;

What do you think the Lord means when He refers to the law of consecration as “the preparation.. and the foundation... whereby you may accomplish the commandments”?

What must we do in order to “stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world”?

Bruce R. McConkie

“We know that the world will go on in wickedness until the end of the world, which is the destruction of the wicked. We shall continue to live in the world, but with the Lord’s help we shall not be of the world. We shall strive to overcome carnality and worldliness of every sort and shall invite all men to flee from Babylon, join with us, and live as becometh Saints.

“As the Saints of the Most High we shall strive to ‘stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world.’ Our only hope is to free ourselves from the bondage of sin, to rid ourselves from the chains of darkness, to rise above the world, to live godly and upright lives.

“Relying always on the Lord, we must become independent of the world. We must be self-reliant. Using the agency God has given us, we must work out our own economic and temporal problems.” (CR, April 1976)

strive to overcome carnality and worldliness of every sort
free ourselves from the bondage of sin
rid ourselves from the chains of darkness
rise above the world
live godly and upright lives
become independent of the world. We must be self-reliant
work out our own economic and temporal problems

The Lord seems to recognize that what we may not be spiritually prepared enough to understand this law

D&C 78:17-19

17 Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye are little children, and ye have not as yet understood how great blessings the Father hath in his own hands and prepared for you;

18 And ye cannot bear all things now; nevertheless, be of good cheer, for I will lead you along. The kingdom is yours and the blessings thereof are yours, and the riches of eternity are yours.

19 And he who receiveth all things with thankfulness shall be made glorious; and the things of this earth shall be added unto him, even an hundred fold, yea, more.

In what ways do you think that the Lord “will lead you along” to “understand [the] blessings the Father hath... prepared for you” and to “bear all things”?

In what ways do you think that the Lord “will lead you along” to help you “understand” and “bear all things”?

Neal A. Maxwell

“It is my testimony to the Church that the Lord will lead us along, just as promised. He balances giving to the Church and its people the needed, specific directions, with providing the relevant learning experiences, including having our faith and patience tried in order to be strengthened. Thus He leads us along, but He desires that during that process we take His yoke upon us in order to learn of Him by our personal experiences. We surely feel the weight of that yoke at times, but the path is clear.” (CR, April 1988)

Note that the Lord provides us with “needed, specific directions”
And with “relevant learning experiences... in order to be strengthened”