

August 11–17: Doctrine and Covenants 88 “Establish... a House of God”

Historical Background

The Prophet received Section 88 during a conference in December of 1832. Joseph was using this conference to instruct the brethren on how to receive the blessings of heaven and the mind of the Lord.

The Prophet sent a copy of Section 88 to the Missouri Saints to give them a higher vision of the majesty of God and their responsibilities in building the kingdom.

In a letter written to William W. Phelps, the Prophet Joseph Smith called this revelation “the ‘Olive Leaf’ which we have plucked from the Tree of Paradise, the Lord’s message of peace to us.” (HC, 1:316)

Sanctification

The promise of the Second Comforter

D&C 88:1-5

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you who have assembled yourselves together to receive his will concerning you:

2 Behold, this is pleasing unto your Lord, and the angels rejoice over you; the alms of your prayers have come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and are recorded in the book of the names of the sanctified, even them of the celestial world.

3 Wherefore, I now send upon you another Comforter, even upon you my friends, that it may abide in your hearts, even the Holy Spirit of promise; which other Comforter is the same that I promised unto my disciples, as is recorded in the testimony of John.

4 This Comforter is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life, even the glory of the celestial kingdom;

5 Which glory is that of the church of the Firstborn, even of God, the holiest of all, through Jesus Christ his Son—

What do you think the Lord means when He promises those present “another Comforter... the same that I promised unto my disciples [in] John”?

(recorded in the book of the names of the sanctified

This Comforter is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life)

Bruce R. McConkie

“In a revelation to certain selected saints in this dispensation, the Lord said that the alms of their prayers were ‘recorded in the book of the names of the sanctified, even them of the celestial world’ (D&C 88:2), which is to say that they were among those who had ‘overcome by faith,’ and were ‘sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true.’ (D&C 76:53)....

“They now had the sure ‘promise... of eternal life’ (D&C 88:4), which eternal life is the name of the kind of life which God our Heavenly and Eternal Father lives, and they were prepared to receive the Second Comforter.” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:338–39)

In the Gospel of John the Lord promises His apostles two different comforters

John 14:16-23,26

16) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19) Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20) At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

21) He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22) Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Who do you think the Lord is referring to in verses 16 & 17 when He promises “another Comforter... event the Spirit of truth”?

(the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost)

James E. Faust

“The right to enjoy the marvelous gifts of the Holy Ghost is conferred upon every member of this Church soon after baptism. This is in fulfillment of the promise of the Savior: ‘And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever’ (John 14:16).

“This powerful gift entitles the leaders and all worthy members of the Church to enjoy the gifts and companionship of the Holy Ghost, a member of the Godhead whose function is to inspire, reveal, and teach “all things.” (CR, April 1980)

Who do you think the Lord is referring to when He tells Judas, “we will come unto him, and make our abode with him”?

(I will come to you)

David A. Bednar

“Recall how the Savior instructed His Apostles that He would not leave them comfortless. Not only would He send ‘another Comforter’ even the Holy Ghost, but the Savior said that He would come to them.” (CR, April 2005)

Joseph Smith

“The other Comforter spoken of is a subject of great interest, and perhaps understood by few of this generation. After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost, (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter, then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted. When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter....

“Now what is this other Comforter? It is no more nor less than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.... When any man obtains this last Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg. 149–51)

This blessing of the Second Comforter can come to those have been sanctified by our Savior

D&C 88:67-68

67 And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things.

68 Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him; for he will unveil his face unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will.

What do we learn about the blessing of be sanctified from theses verses?

(whole bodies shall be filled with light... comprehendeth all things

your minds become single to God
the days will come that you shall see him)

David A. Bednar

“The Savior also taught the people to come unto Him through sacred covenants, and He reminded them that they were ‘the children of the covenant’ (3 Nephi 20:26). He emphasized the eternal importance of the ordinances of baptism and of receiving the Holy Ghost. In a similar manner, you and I are admonished to turn toward and learn from Christ and to come unto Him through the covenants and ordinances of His restored gospel. As we do so, we will eventually and ultimately come to know Him ‘in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will’ (D&C 88:68).”
(CR, Oct. 2007)

What do you think the Lord expects us to do when He commands us to “sanctify yourselves”?

Harold B. Lee

"You may ask me, how does one sanctify himself, and make himself holy so that he is prepared to walk in the presence of the Lord? ... Keeping [the] laws and ordinances are the ways by which we are purified and made holy. The keeping of every law that the Lord has given us is one step closer to receiving the right to enter one day into the presence of the Lord. He has given us in another revelation the formula by which we can prepare ourselves as the years pass. 'Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am' (D&C 93:1). Simple, isn't it? But listen again. All you have to do is to forsake your sins, come unto Him, call on His name, obey His voice, and keep His commandments, and then you shall see His face and shall know that He is." (The Teachings of Harold B. Lee, pg. 166)

We are given more guidance on how we should live our lives in order to receive the blessing of sanctification

D&C 88:40,49-50

40 For intelligence cleaveth unto intelligence; wisdom receiveth wisdom; truth embraceth truth; virtue loveth virtue; light cleaveth unto light; mercy hath compassion on mercy and claimeth her own; justice continueth its course and claimeth its own; judgment goeth before the face of him who sitteth upon the throne and governeth and executeth all things.

49 The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not; nevertheless, the day shall come when you shall comprehend even God, being quickened in him and by him.

50 Then shall ye know that ye have seen me, that I am, and that I am the true light that is in you, and that you are in me; otherwise ye could not abound.

How do you think that spiritual growth is accomplished by receiving wisdom, embracing truth, loving virtue, and cleaving to light?

Russell M. Nelson

“Brothers and sisters, the spirit that dwells within each of us can be enriched with enthusiasm and enlightened by the Almighty. The process of spiritual growth is revealed in the scriptures:... ‘That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day’ (D&C 50:24).” (CR, Oct. 1997)

John Taylor

“God is our Father; we are his children. He has brought us into his covenant, and it is our privilege to go on from wisdom to wisdom, from intelligence to intelligence, from understanding of one principle to that of another, to go forward and progress in the development of truth until we can comprehend God. For we are his children, we are his sons and daughters, and he is our Father. He has organized this Church in order that we may be educated in the principles of life, that we may comprehend those principles that exist in the bosom of God.” (JD, 21:91)

We are given more information about the importance of cleaving to light

D&C 88:6-7,11-13

6 He that ascended up on high, as also he descended below all things, in that he comprehended all things, that he might be in all and through all things, the light of truth;

7 Which truth shineth. This is the light of Christ. As also he is in the sun, and the light of the sun, and the power thereof by which it was made.

11 And the light which shineth, which giveth you light, is through him who enlighteneth your eyes, which is the same light that quickeneth your understandings;

12 Which light proceedeth forth from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space—

13 The light which is in all things, which giveth life to all things, which is the law by which all things are governed, even the power of God who sitteth upon his throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things.

What do you think the Lord means when He tells us that “the light of Christ... quickeneth [our] understandings”?

Dallin H. Oaks

“Jesus Christ is the light of the world because he is the source of the light which ‘proceedeth forth from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space.’ His light is ‘the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into

the world.’ The scriptures call this universal light ‘the light of truth,’ ‘the light of Christ,’ and the ‘Spirit of Christ.’ This is the light that quickens our understanding. It is ‘the light by which [we] may judge.’ It ‘is given to every man, that he may know good from evil.’...

“And so we see that Jesus Christ is the light of the world because he is the source of the light that quickens our understanding, because his teachings and his example illuminate our path, and because his power persuades us to do good.” (CR, Oct. 1987)

The Lord gives us more insight on how we can grow closer to Him

D&C 88:62-65

62 And again, verily I say unto you, my friends, I leave these sayings with you to ponder in your hearts, with this commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall call upon me while I am near—

63 Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

64 Whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you, that is expedient for you;

65 And if ye ask anything that is not expedient for you, it shall turn unto your condemnation.

What has the Lord commanded us to do that will help us to “draw near” to Him?

(ponder in your hearts
call upon me while I am near
seek me diligently and ye shall find me
ask, and ye shall receive
knock, and it shall be opened unto you
ask the Father in my name
that is expedient for you)

How do we know how to ask the Father for things that are “expedient for” us?

Orson Pratt

“We must, in the first place, try to have light enough to discern what is right or expedient for us; in the second place, to ask God the Eternal Father in the name of his son Jesus Christ, for the things which we know he is willing to bestow upon us. Then we can ask in faith, for we have the promise that we shall receive.” (JD, 15:229)

The Kirtland temple has not yet been built but the Lord promised that the blessings of the temple will also help us come closer to Him

D&C 88:117-120

117 Therefore, verily I say unto you, my friends, call your solemn assembly, as I

have commanded you.

118 And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.

119 Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God;

120 That your incomings may be in the name of the Lord; that your outgoings may be in the name of the Lord; that all your salutations may be in the name of the Lord, with uplifted hands unto the Most High.

In what ways do you think that temples help us to progress towards the blessing of sanctification?

David A. Bednar

“Temples are the most holy of all places of worship. A temple literally is the house of the Lord, a sacred space specifically set apart for worshipping God and for receiving and remembering His great and precious promises....

“A principal purpose of the temple is to elevate our vision from the things of the world to the blessings of eternity. Removed for a short time from the worldly settings with which we are familiar, we can ‘look to God and live’ by receiving and remembering the great and precious promises whereby we become partakers of the divine nature.” (CR, Oct. 2017)

The Lord gives us more insight on how we can grow closer to Him

D&C 88:121-126

121 Therefore, cease from all your light speeches, from all laughter, from all your lustful desires, from all your pride and light-mindedness, and from all your wicked doings.

122 Appoint among yourselves a teacher, and let not all be spokesmen at once; but let one speak at a time and let all listen unto his sayings, that when all have spoken that all may be edified of all, and that every man may have an equal privilege.

123 See that ye love one another; cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires.

124 Cease to be idle; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another; cease to sleep longer than is needful; retire to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary; arise early, that your bodies and your minds may be invigorated.

125 And above all things, clothe yourselves with the bond of charity, as with a mantle, which is the bond of perfectness and peace.

126 Pray always, that ye may not faint, until I come. Behold, and lo, I will come quickly, and receive you unto myself. Amen.

In what ways do you think that charity can help us come closer to Christ?

Ulisses Soares

“Charity is... an attribute of the Savior and can become part of our character. It is not surprising that the Lord instructed us to clothe ourselves 'with the bond of charity,... which is the bond of perfectness and peace.' Without charity, we are nothing and we cannot inherit the place the Lord has prepared for us in the mansions of our Heavenly Father.” (CR, April 2023)

We are promised that if we live worth of sanctification that it will be a blessing we received when we are resurrected

D&C 88:14-17

14 Now, verily I say unto you, that through the redemption which is made for you is brought to pass the resurrection from the dead.

15 And the spirit and the body are the soul of man.

16 And the resurrection from the dead is the redemption of the soul.

17 And the redemption of the soul is through him that quickeneth all things, in whose bosom it is decreed that the poor and the meek of the earth shall inherit it.

What do we learn about “the redemption of the soul” from these verses?

(the resurrection from the dead
the spirit and the body are the soul of man
is through him that quickeneth all things)

Charles W. Penrose

“It is stated that the spirit and the body make up the soul of man, and that the resurrection from the dead is the redemption of the soul.... It takes the spiritual part of man and the material or physical part joined together inseparably to obtain a fulness of joy. When the spirit is separated from the body, a fulness of joy cannot be obtained. When the spirit is joined to the body temporarily under a temporal law, under the law of death, it cannot receive a fulness of joy. The spirit and the body must be so joined together that both will be immortal, and in that condition man can receive a fulness of joy.” (JD, 21:220)

Verse 17 reminds us that the meek will inherit the earth

When we are resurrected our “same body” will be “quickened” to it’s spiritual state

D&C 88:27-29

27 For notwithstanding they die, they also shall rise again, a spiritual body.

28 They who are of a celestial spirit shall receive the same body which was a natural body; even ye shall receive your bodies, and your glory shall be that glory by which your bodies are quickened.

29 Ye who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory shall then receive of the same, even a fulness.

What change will take place to our “natural body” after we “rise again”?

(ye shall receive your bodies, and your glory shall be that glory by which your bodies are quickened
Ye who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory shall then receive of the same)

Milton R. Hunter

“All of us have entered into a covenant that we will keep all of God's commandments. The Lord has promised us that if we do so and remain faithful to the end that someday we shall be quickened by a celestial power. At that time we shall rise as celestial beings, and enter into the presence of God. Then the righteous shall be sanctified through the blood of the Lamb and be worthy to dwell in the presence of the Lamb of God forevermore.”
(CR, April 1958)

We are told that it will also be necessary for the earth to be sanctified in due time

D&C 88:18-20,25-26

18 Therefore, it must needs be sanctified from all unrighteousness, that it may be prepared for the celestial glory;

19 For after it hath filled the measure of its creation, it shall be crowned with glory, even with the presence of God the Father;

20 That bodies who are of the celestial kingdom may possess it forever and ever; for, for this intent was it made and created, and for this intent are they sanctified.

25 And again, verily I say unto you, the earth abideth the law of a celestial kingdom, for it filleth the measure of its creation, and transgresseth not the law—

26 Wherefore, it shall be sanctified; yea, notwithstanding it shall die, it shall be quickened again, and shall abide the power by which it is quickened, and the righteous shall inherit it.

What do we learn from this passage about the future state of this earth?

(it must needs be sanctified
after it hath filled the measure of its creation
crowned with glory, even with the presence of God the Father;
bodies who are of the celestial kingdom may possess it forever and ever
it shall die, it shall be quickened again
the righteous shall inherit it)

Why is it necessary for the earth to be sanctified?

(abideth the law, filleth the measure of its creation)

Joseph Fielding Smith

“The day will come when we will not have this world. It will be changed. We will get a better world. We will get one that is righteous, because when

Christ comes, he will cleanse the earth....

“The earth will be renewed for a thousand years, and there shall be peace, and Christ, whose right it is, shall reign. Afterwards will come the death of the earth, its resurrection, its glorification, as the abode of the righteous or they who belong to the celestial kingdom, and they only shall dwell upon the face of it.” (CR, April 1952)

Sections 86 thru 116 are about the last day

D&C 88:86-91

86 Abide ye in the liberty wherewith ye are made free; entangle not yourselves in sin, but let your hands be clean, until the Lord comes.

87 For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree.

88 And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people.

89 For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand.

90 And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds.

91 And all things shall be in commotion; and surely, men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people.

Now we have a time-frame given. When will all these destructive events take place?

(after your testimony)

Brigham Young

“Do you think there is calamity abroad now among the people?” Not much. All we have yet heard and all we have experienced is scarcely a preface to the sermon that is going to be preached. When the testimony of the Elders ceases to be given, and the Lord says to them, 'Come home; I will now preach my own sermons to the nations of the earth,' all you now know can scarcely be called a preface to the sermon that will be preached with fire and sword, tempests, earthquakes, hail, rain, thunders and lightnings, and fearful destruction.” (Journal of Discourses, 26 vols., 8: 123 – 124.)

'all things shall be in commotion' for a period of time and then what happens...

D&C 88:92-95

92 And angels shall fly through the midst of heaven, crying with a loud voice, sounding the trump of God, saying: Prepare ye, prepare ye, O inhabitants of the earth; for the judgment of our God is come. Behold, and lo, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

93 And immediately there shall appear a great sign in heaven, and all people shall see it together.

94 And another angel shall sound his trump, saying: That great church, the mother of abominations, that made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, that persecuteth the saints of God, that shed their blood—she who sitteth upon many waters, and upon the islands of the sea—behold, she is the tares of the earth; she is bound in bundles; her bands are made strong, no man can loose them; therefore, she is ready to be burned. And he shall sound his trump both long and loud, and all nations shall hear it.

95 And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour; and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled;

There will be a great sign that the whole world will see,
all the wicked (tares) are declared bound and ready for burning,
then the Lord himself will come

Joseph Smith

“There will be wars and rumors of wars, signs in the heavens above and on the earth beneath, the sun turned into darkness and the moon to blood, earthquakes in divers places, the seas heaving beyond their bounds; then will appear one grand sign of the Son of Man in heaven. But what will the world do? They will say it is a planet, a comet, etc. But the Son of Man will come as the sign of the coming of the Son of Man, which will be as the light of the morning cometh out of the east.” (Teachings, pp. 286–87.)

D&C 88:96-98

96 And the saints that are upon the earth, who are alive, shall be quickened and be caught up to meet him.

97 And they who have slept in their graves shall come forth, for their graves shall be opened; and they also shall be caught up to meet him in the midst of the pillar of heaven—

98 They are Christ's, the first fruits, they who shall descend with him first, and they who are on the earth and in their graves, who are first caught up to meet him; and all this by the voice of the sounding of the trump of the angel of God.

"Morning of the first resurrection"

They descend with Christ on His triumphant return

They are to receive the Celestial glory

D&C 76:50-70,92-96; D&C 88:20,22,29

D&C 88:99

99 And after this another angel shall sound, which is the second trump; and then cometh the redemption of those who are Christ's at his coming; who have received their part in that prison which is prepared for them, that they might receive the gospel, and be judged according to men in the flesh.

“Afternoon of the first resurrection”

They will resurrected at the beginning of the Millennium

They are to receive the Terrestrial glory

D&C 76:50-70,92-96; D&C 88:20,22,29.

D&C 88:100-101

100 And again, another trump shall sound, which is the third trump; and then come the spirits of men who are to be judged, and are found under condemnation;

101 And these are the rest of the dead; and they live not again until the thousand years are ended, neither again, until the end of the earth.

Resurrection of the unjust (JST John 5:29)

They will be resurrected after the Millennium

They are to receive the Telestial glory

D&C 76:81-90,98-112; D&C 88:24,31

D&C 88:102

102 And another trump shall sound, which is the fourth trump, saying: There are found among those who are to remain until that great and last day, even the end, who shall remain filthy still.

Resurrected at the great and last day

Sons of Perdition

D&C 76:31-38,43-49; D&C 88:24,32-35

D&C 88:103-107

103 And another trump shall sound, which is the fifth trump, which is the fifth angel who committeth the everlasting gospel—flying through the midst of heaven, unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people;

104 And this shall be the sound of his trump, saying to all people, both in heaven and in earth, and that are under the earth—for every ear shall hear it, and every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess, while they hear the sound of the trump, saying: Fear God, and give glory to him who sitteth upon the throne, forever and ever; for the hour of his judgment is come.

105 And again, another angel shall sound his trump, which is the sixth angel, saying: She is fallen who made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication; she is fallen, is fallen!

106 And again, another angel shall sound his trump, which is the seventh angel, saying: It is finished; it is finished! The Lamb of God hath overcome and trodden the wine-press alone, even the wine-press of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God.

107 And then shall the angels be crowned with the glory of his might, and the saints shall be filled with his glory, and receive their inheritance and be made equal with him.

The work is done.

The saints receive a fullness of glory.

D&C 88:108-110

108 And then shall the first angel again sound his trump in the ears of all living, and reveal the secret acts of men, and the mighty works of God in the first thousand years.

109 And then shall the second angel sound his trump, and reveal the secret acts of men, and the thoughts and intents of their hearts, and the mighty works of God in the second thousand years—

110 And so on, until the seventh angel shall sound his trump; and he shall stand forth upon the land and upon the sea, and swear in the name of him who sitteth upon the throne, that there shall be time no longer; and Satan shall be bound, that old serpent, who is called the devil, and shall not be loosed for the space of a thousand years.

Then the starting with the first 1,000 years, the first angel will 'reveal the secret acts of men'.

Satan is bond. This would seem to signify the beginning of the Millennium, 'there shall be time no longer'.

D&C 88:111-116

111 And then he shall be loosed for a little season, that he may gather together his armies.

112 And Michael, the seventh angel, even the archangel, shall gather together his armies, even the hosts of heaven.

113 And the devil shall gather together his armies; even the hosts of hell, and shall come up to battle against Michael and his armies.

114 And then cometh the battle of the great God; and the devil and his armies shall be cast away into their own place, that they shall not have power over the saints any more at all.

115 For Michael shall fight their battles, and shall overcome him who seeketh the throne of him who sitteth upon the throne, even the Lamb.

116 This is the glory of God, and the sanctified; and they shall not any more see death.

The final battle after the Millennium (Gog and Magog)

Rev 20:7-10