

November 29–December 5  
Doctrine and Covenants 137–138  
"The Vision of the Redemption of the Dead"



## Lucy Mack Smith

"But to Joseph [Alvin] said, 'Joseph, I am going to die now. The distress which I suffer and the sensations that I have tell me my time is very short. I want you to be a good boy and do everything that lies in your power to obtain the record. Be faithful in receiving instruction and in keeping every commandment that is given you. Your brother Alvin must now leave you, but remember the example which he has set for you, and set a good example for the children that are younger than you. Always be kind to Father and Mother.'" (History of Joseph Smith by his Mother Lucy Mack Smith, pg. 38)



# Judged by Works and Desire

D&C 137:1,5-6

Why did Joseph believe that his brother could not inherit the celestial kingdom?

Craig A. Cardon

"Earlier in Kirtland the Lord had taught the Prophet Joseph about the oath and covenant of the priesthood, explaining the conditions by which promised blessings are realized. In Nauvoo understanding grew as to the eternal scope and power of the priesthood in blessing all His faithful children, whether in this life or the next."  
(CR, Oct. 2006)



# Judged by Works and Desire

D&C 137:7-10

How will the Lord judge “all who have died without a knowledge of this gospel”?

## George Q. Cannon

"They who died in ignorance of the law will not, of course, be judged by or held accountable to the law, having never known it.... If they die in their ignorance they will be judged according to the light they received. But will they forever, through the endless ages of eternity, remain in this ignorance? Certainly not.... All of the sons of our Father who ever dwelt upon the earth, and his daughters also, will hear at the proper time and under the proper circumstances the glad tidings of salvation, the name of our Redeemer and the plan by which they can be redeemed and be exalted into his presence." (JD, 19:104)



## Neal A. Maxwell

"Actually, everything depends—initially and finally—on our desires. These shape our thought patterns. Our desires thus precede our deeds and lie at the very cores of our souls, tilting us toward or away from God. God can educate our desires. Others seek to manipulate our desires. But it is we who form the desires, the 'thoughts and intents of [our] hearts' (Mosiah 5:13.)

“The end rule is 'according to [our] desires ... shall it be done unto [us]' (D&C 11:17.) 'For I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts' (D&C 137:9.) One's individual will thus remains uniquely his. God will not override it nor overwhelm it. Hence we'd better want the consequences of what we want!" (CR, Oct. 1995)

# Pondering the Scriptures

D&C 138:1-4

What was Joseph F. Smith doing that led to him receiving the vision of the redemption of the dead?



## Marion G. Romney

"As I have read the scriptures, I have been challenged by the word ponder, so frequently used in the Book of Mormon. The dictionary says that ponder means 'to weigh mentally, think deeply about, deliberate, meditate.' Moroni thus used the term as he closed his record: 'Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things... that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men... and ponder it in your hearts.' (Moro. 10:3.)

"Pondering is, in my feeling, a form of prayer. It has, at least, been an approach to the Spirit of the Lord on many occasions." (CR, April 1973)

# Pondering the Scriptures

D&C 138:5-11

Why was the gospel preached to them that are dead?



# Spirits of the Just

D&C 138:12-17, 49-50

What did this innumerable company have in common?

How did they feel about being spirits without bodies?

Why were they rejoicing?

## Paul V. Johnson

"After resurrection, the spirit will never again be separated from the body because the Savior's Resurrection brought total victory over death. In order to obtain our eternal destiny, we need to have this immortal soul—a spirit and body—united forever. With spirit and immortal body inseparably connected, we can 'receive a fulness of joy.' In fact, without the Resurrection we could never receive a fulness of joy but would be miserable forever. Even faithful, righteous people view the separation of their bodies from their spirits as captivity. We are released from this captivity through the Resurrection, which is redemption from the bands or chains of death. There is no salvation without both our spirit and our body." (CR, April 2016)



D&C 93:33-34

33 For man is spirit. The elements are eternal, and spirit and element, inseparably connected, receive a fulness of joy;

34 And when separated, man cannot receive a fulness of joy.

# Spirits of the Just

D&C 138:18-24, 51-52

What did Christ preach to the righteous?

How did they react to Christ's message of deliverance?



# Spirits of the Wicked and Ungodly

D&C 138:20-22

What two groups does He divid the wicked into?

## Robert D. Hales

“When we choose to have faith, we are prepared to stand in the presence of God.... After the Savior’s Crucifixion, He appeared only to those ‘who had been faithful in the testimony of [Him] while they lived in mortality.’ Those ‘who rejected the testimonies... of the... prophets [could not] behold [the Savior’s] presence, nor look upon his face.’ Our faith prepares us to be in the presence of the Lord.” (From talk by Neil L. Andersen, CR, Oct. 2017)



# Opportunity Given to the Dead

D&C 138:28-30

Who preached to those in the spirit prison?

## Heber C. Kimball

"[Jedediah M. Grant] said to me, brother Heber, I have been into the spirit world two nights in succession... O, says he, the order and government that were there! When in the spirit world, I saw the order of righteous men and women; beheld them organized in their several grades, and there appeared to be no obstruction to my vision; I could see every man and woman in their grade and order. I looked to see whether there was any disorder there, but there was none; neither could I see any death nor any darkness, disorder or confusion. He said that the people he there saw were organized in family capacities; and when he looked at them he saw grade after grade, and all were organized and in perfect harmony." (Remarks at the Funeral of President Grant, JD, 4:135)



# Opportunity Given to the Dead

D&C 138:36-37

What did Christ do during the three days that His spirit was separated from His body?

# Opportunity Given to the Dead

D&C 138:31-34

Why is it essential that the spirits in prison be taught the fullness of the gospel?



## George Q. Cannon

"He descended into [the spirit world], and He there, doubtless, chose His ministers, the men who had the authority of the Holy Priesthood, and set them to the same labor that was commenced on the earth, the labor of preaching His everlasting Gospel to all the spirit world, to the millions of spirits who had died either in disobedience to the Gospel of Christ, or in ignorance of that Gospel, never having heard the sound of it.... In the authority and power of the everlasting Priesthood the servants of God have been calling upon the inhabitants of that world to repent and believe in Jesus... [and] be willing to obey every ordinance and every law that is necessary, and say in the spirit, 'Oh, if I were in the flesh I would be baptized for the remission of my sins; I would have hands laid upon me for the reception of the Holy Ghost; I would be willing to obey every law of God, my Eternal Father, if I had the opportunity in the flesh of doing so.'" (JD, 26:77)

# Opportunity Given to the Dead

D&C 138:58-59

What you think it means - “after they have paid the penalty of their transgressions”?



## Dallin H. Oaks

"Of course, we know from the scriptures that after our bodies die we continue to live as spirits in the spirit world. The scriptures also teach that this spirit world is divided between those who have been 'righteous' or 'just' during life and those who have been wicked. They also describe how some faithful spirits teach the gospel to those who have been wicked or rebellious. Most important, modern revelation reveals that the work of salvation goes forward in the spirit world and although we are urged not to procrastinate our repentance during mortality we are taught that some repentance is possible there." (CR, Oct. 2019)

# Pre-Ordained to Do the Work

D&C 138:53-56

What does this teach us about the pre-existence?



## Russell M. Nelson

"Before the foundation of the world, each of us existed as spirit children with our Father in Heaven. Among us were noble and great men foreordained to bear the priesthood. Abraham, Jeremiah, Joseph Smith, and others were destined to become prophets of God. Also foreseen was that the blood of prophets would be shed in this holy cause. The manner of conferring the priesthood was to come down from the fathers 'from the beginning of time,... even... before the foundation of the earth.' (Abr 1:3.)" (CR, April 2002)

## Peter M. Johnson

"We are 'choice spirits who were reserved to come forth in the fulness of times to take part in laying the foundations of the great latter-day work.' President Russell M. Nelson declared: 'You were taught in the spirit world to prepare you for anything and everything you would encounter during this latter part of these latter days.' That teaching endures within you!" (CR, Oct. 2019)



# Pre-Ordained to Do the Work

D&C 138:57

What is the work of the faithful members of this dispensation, in this life and the next?

## Dallin H. Oaks

"What we do know about the spirit world is that the Father's and the Son's work of salvation continues there. Our Savior initiated the work of declaring liberty to the captives and that work continues as worthy and qualified messengers continue to preach the gospel, including repentance, to those who still need its cleansing effect...."

"The duty of each of us is to teach the doctrine of the restored gospel, keep the commandments, love and help one another, and do the work of salvation in the holy temples." (CR, Oct. 2019)



Next Week:

December 6–12

The Articles of Faith  
and Official Declarations 1 and 2  
"We Believe"

