

## Lesson 46: D&C 129-132, “When We Obtain Any Blessing From God, It Is By Obedience”

### Historical Background

Section 132 is actually the earliest revelation from today’s reading so let’s begin with it

The Heading of the 1981 edition states, “Although the revelation was recorded in 1843, it is evident from the historical records that the doctrines and principles involved in this revelation had been known by the Prophet since 1831.”

It appears that this revelation was received as a result of Joseph Smith asking questions about marriage that came up while he was working on the translation of the bible:

Question 1 – D&C 132:1, “wherein I, the Lord, justified... my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines”

Question 2 – D&C 132:16 “when they are out of the world they neither marry nor are given in marriage” (Matt 22:30)

Question 3 – D&C 132:41, “And as ye have asked concerning adultery”

### New and Everlasting Covenant

D&C 132:1-4

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines—

2 Behold, and lo, I am the Lord thy God, and will answer thee as touching this matter.

3 Therefore, prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you; for all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same.

4 For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

What does the Lord ask Joseph to do before the Lord answers his question about plural marriage?

(prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you)

In preparation the Lord reveals to Joseph to the new and everlasting covenant. Keep in mind that this is 10 years before Joseph arrives in Nauvoo and begins to design and build the temple where this covenant can be performed

In this weeks reading assignment Section 131, given in 1843, gives more insight into the law

D&C 131:1-3

- 1 In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;
- 2 And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];
- 3 And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.

That do we learn about the new and everlasting covenant in this passage?

Involves marriage

Required for the highest degree of glory

Ezra Taft Benson

"When our children obey the Lord and go to the temple to receive their blessings and enter into the marriage covenant, they enter into the same order of the priesthood that God instituted in the very beginning with father Adam.....

"This order of priesthood can only be entered into when we comply with all the commandments of God and seek the blessings of the fathers as did Abraham by going to our Father's house. They are received in no other place on this earth!" ("What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children about the Temple", Ensign, Aug. 1985)

The Lord makes it's clear that the new and everlasting covenant of marriage can only preformed by someone ordained with the sealing power

D&C 132:4-6

4 For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

5 For all who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof, as were instituted from before the foundation of the world.

6 And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.

What does the Lord tell us we must do in order to be exalted?

Live the new and everlasting covenant

“All who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same” (v. 3)

“If ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned” (v. 4).

“No one can reject this covenant and... enter into my glory” (v. 4).

“All who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law” (v. 5).

“He that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law” (v. 6).

Everything that is under a worldly contract will not be recognized

D&C 132:13-14

13 And everything that is in the world, whether it be ordained of men, by thrones, or principalities, or powers, or things of name, whatsoever they may be, that are not by me or by my word, saith the Lord, shall be thrown down, and shall not remain after men are dead, neither in nor after the resurrection, saith the Lord your God.

14 For whatsoever things remain are by me; and whatsoever things are not by me shall be shaken and destroyed.

What will become of everything that is ordained by man?

(whatsoever things are not by me shall be shaken and destroyed)

Spencer W. Kimball

"How final! How frightening! Since we know well that mortal death does not terminate our existence, since we know that we live on and on, how devastating to realize that marriage and family life, so sweet and happy in so many homes, will end with death because we fail to follow God's instructions or because we reject his word when we understand it." (CR, Oct. 1964)

This explains the Lords teachings in Matthew about marrying in this and the next world

D&C 132:15,19

15 Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me nor by my word, and he covenant with her so long as he is in the world and she with him, their covenant and marriage are not of force when they are dead, and when they are out of the world; therefore, they are not bound by any law when they are out of the world.

19 And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife by my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant, and it is sealed unto them by the Holy Spirit of promise, by him who is anointed, unto whom I have appointed this power and the keys of this priesthood; and it shall be said unto them—Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection; and if it be after the first resurrection, in the next resurrection; and shall inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depths—then shall it be written in the Lamb's Book of

Life, that he shall commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, and if ye abide in my covenant, and commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, it shall be done unto them in all things whatsoever my servant hath put upon them, in time, and through all eternity; and shall be of full force when they are out of the world; and they shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.

What must a couple do to have their marriage in effect in the next world?

(my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant it is sealed unto them by the Holy Spirit of promise, by him who is anointed if ye abide in my covenant)

Melvin J. Ballard

"While we receive eternal blessings at the hands of the priesthood which has the right to seal on earth and it shall be sealed in the heavens, this revelation clearly states that it must be sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise also.... We may deceive men but we cannot deceive the Holy Ghost, and our blessings will not be eternal unless they are also sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise. The Holy Ghost is one who reads the thoughts and hearts of men, and gives his sealing approval to the blessings pronounced upon their heads. Then it is binding, efficacious, and of full force." ("Three Degrees of Glory")

Bruce R. McConkie

"Every act that we do, if it is to have binding and sealing virtue in eternity, must be justified by the Spirit. In other words, it must be ratified by the Holy Ghost; or in other words, it must be sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise. (CR, April 1956)

What blessings are received by those who are worthy of eternal marriage?

(Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection shall inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depths all things... shall be of full force when they are out of the world which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever)

Russell M. Nelson

"Rewards result from the righteous use of the spiritual power belonging to the priesthood! And they are so great that they are almost beyond human comprehension. To those couples who bear and share that priesthood worthily and remain faithful to the law of the everlasting covenant of eternal marriage, enduring the congested years and trials... the Lord makes this promise: 'Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection;... and shall inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions,... [and there] shall

be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever." (CR, Oct, 1984)

To receive these great blessings we must know the Lord in this world by entering into the strait gate and following the narrow path

D&C 132:21-25

21 Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye abide my law ye cannot attain to this glory.

22 For strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me.

23 But if ye receive me in the world, then shall ye know me, and shall receive your exaltation; that where I am ye shall be also.

24 This is eternal lives—to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. I am he. Receive ye, therefore, my law.

25 Broad is the gate, and wide the way that leadeth to the deaths; and many there are that go in thereat, because they receive me not, neither do they abide in my law.

Why do only a few find the strait gate and narrow way?

(because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me if ye receive me in the world, then shall ye know me, and shall receive your exaltation)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"The promised blessings of God to the faithful are glorious and inspiring. Among them are 'thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depths.' And it takes more than a spiritual birth certificate or a "Child of God Membership Card" to qualify for these incomprehensible blessings.

"But how do we attain them? The Savior has answered this question in our time: 'Except ye abide my law ye cannot attain to this glory. For strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation.... Receive ye, therefore, my law.'"

"For this reason, we speak of walking the path of discipleship. We speak of obedience to God's commandments. We speak of living the gospel joyfully, with all our heart, might, mind, and soul." (CR, Oct. 2014)

## Plural Marriage

Abraham received the law of the holy priesthood that we've been discussing

D&C 132:28-32

28 I am the Lord thy God, and will give unto thee the law of my Holy Priesthood, as

was ordained by me and my Father before the world was.

29 Abraham received all things, whatsoever he received, by revelation and commandment, by my word, saith the Lord, and hath entered into his exaltation and sitteth upon his throne.

30 Abraham received promises concerning his seed, and of the fruit of his loins—from whose loins ye are, namely, my servant Joseph—which were to continue so long as they were in the world; and as touching Abraham and his seed, out of the world they should continue; both in the world and out of the world should they continue as innumerable as the stars; or, if ye were to count the sand upon the seashore ye could not number them.

31 This promise is yours also, because ye are of Abraham, and the promise was made unto Abraham; and by this law is the continuation of the works of my Father, wherein he glorifieth himself.

32 Go ye, therefore, and do the works of Abraham; enter ye into my law and ye shall be saved.

What was Abraham promised concerning his posterity?

(out of the world they should continue; both in the world and out of the world should they continue as innumerable as the stars)

Since Joseph Smith is “of Abraham” he is included in this promise

Abraham would not have been justified in practicing polygamy if he hadn't have entered into the law and if the Lord had not commanded him to do so

D&C 132:34-37

34 God commanded Abraham, and Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham to wife. And why did she do it? Because this was the law; and from Hagar sprang many people. This, therefore, was fulfilling, among other things, the promises.

35 Was Abraham, therefore, under condemnation? Verily I say unto you, Nay; for I, the Lord, commanded it.

36 Abraham was commanded to offer his son Isaac; nevertheless, it was written: Thou shalt not kill. Abraham, however, did not refuse, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.

37 Abraham received concubines, and they bore him children; and it was accounted unto him for righteousness, because they were given unto him, and he abode in my law; as Isaac also and Jacob did none other things than that which they were commanded; and because they did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods.

Why was Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all justified in practicing polygamy?

Abraham had been given all priesthood authority and power  
(I, the Lord, commanded it.  
accounted unto him for righteousness, because they were given unto him

he abode in my law)

Jacob, in the Book of Mormon, also states that the we are justified in participating in plural marriage if we are commanded to do so. And the purpose is to raise up a righteous seed

Jacob 2:27,30

27 Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none;

30 For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things.

All keys have been restored to Joseph Smith, including the sealing power

D&C 132:40,45-47

40 I am the Lord thy God, and I gave unto thee, my servant Joseph, an appointment, and restore all things. Ask what ye will, and it shall be given unto you according to my word.

45 For I have conferred upon you the keys and power of the priesthood, wherein I restore all things, and make known unto you all things in due time.

46 And verily, verily, I say unto you, that whatsoever you seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever you bind on earth, in my name and by my word, saith the Lord, it shall be eternally bound in the heavens; and whosoever sins you remit on earth shall be remitted eternally in the heavens; and whosoever sins you retain on earth shall be retained in heaven.

47 And again, verily I say, whomsoever you bless I will bless, and whomsoever you curse I will curse, saith the Lord; for I, the Lord, am thy God.

Joseph is told that all keys and powers have been restored including the sealing power and whatever he binds on earth will be bond on earth. Joseph will do so in the Lord's name and by His word

Now that he has the sealing power, Joseph is commanded is to practice polygamy and Emma is to support him in this practice

D&C 132:52-53,55

52 And let mine handmaid, Emma Smith, receive all those that have been given unto my servant Joseph, and who are virtuous and pure before me; and those who are not pure, and have said they were pure, shall be destroyed, saith the Lord God.

53 For I am the Lord thy God, and ye shall obey my voice; and I give unto my servant Joseph that he shall be made ruler over many things; for he hath been faithful over a few things, and from henceforth I will strengthen him.

55 But if she will not abide this commandment, then shall my servant Joseph do all

things for her, even as he hath said; and I will bless him and multiply him and give unto him an hundredfold in this world, of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, houses and lands, wives and children, and crowns of eternal lives in the eternal worlds.

What is promised to Joseph Smith as a result of practicing polygamy?

(I give unto my servant Joseph that he shall be made ruler over many things I will bless him and multiply him and give unto him an hundredfold in this world)

The Lord promises to reveal more information “pertaining to this law”. Recall in verse 3 that Joseph was told to “prepare thy heart to receive and obey”

D&C 132:66

66 And now, as pertaining to this law, verily, verily, I say unto you, I will reveal more unto you, hereafter; therefore, let this suffice for the present. Behold, I am Alpha and Omega. Amen.

Recall that this revelation was given about 10 years before Nauvoo.  
What addition revelations will Joseph receive concerning the law?

Proxy ordinances for the dead

It seems that the Twelve were commanded to participate in plural marriage when they returned to Nauvoo from their mission in England

It seems that plural marriage was opened to all who had received their temple endowments sometime during Brigham Young’s presidency, but not required.

Wilford Woodruff

"Then President Young spoke 58 Minutes. He said a man may embrace the Law of Celestial Marriage in his heart and not take the second wife and be justified before the Lord." (Wilford Woodruff’s Journal, 7:31)

Sealed Unto Eternal Life

Joseph has his exaltation sealed

D&C 132:49-50

49 For I am the Lord thy God, and will be with thee even unto the end of the world, and through all eternity; for verily I seal upon you your exaltation, and prepare a throne for you in the kingdom of my Father, with Abraham your father.

50 Behold, I have seen your sacrifices, and will forgive all your sins; I have seen your sacrifices in obedience to that which I have told you. Go, therefore, and I make a way for your escape, as I accepted the offering of Abraham of his son Isaac.



What does it mean to have the Lord “seal upon you your exaltation”?

In another passage from this weeks reading:

D&C 131:5

5 (May 17th, 1843.) The more sure word of prophecy means a man’s knowing that he is sealed up unto eternal life, by revelation and the spirit of prophecy, through the power of the Holy Priesthood.

Joseph Smith receive this while giving a sermon on 2 Peter ch 1:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

Here we have 4 terms for the same spiritual promise

more sure word of prophecy  
sealed up unto eternal life  
partakers of the divine nature  
make your calling and election sure

Joseph Smith

“Now for the secret and grand key. Though they might hear the voice of God and know that Jesus was the Son of God, this would be no evidence that their election and calling was made sure, that they had part with Christ, and were joint heirs with Him. They then would want that more sure word of prophecy, that they were sealed in the heavens and had the promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God. Then, having this promise sealed unto them, it was an anchor to the soul, sure and steadfast....

“Then I would exhort you to go on and continue to call upon God until you make your calling and election sure for yourselves, by obtaining this more sure word of prophecy, and wait patiently for the promise until you obtain it. (HC, 5:388-389)

These terms all mean that your place with Christ is sure: “that they were sealed in the heavens and had the promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God”

Joseph Smith

“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... 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 shall 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. (HC, 3:380)

Along this same subject in this weeks reading assignment

D&C 130:3

3 John 14:23—The appearing of the Father and the Son, in that verse, is a personal appearance; and the idea that the Father and the Son dwell in a man’s heart is an old sectarian notion, and is false.

Spencer W. Kimball

"The Christ said: '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 unto him' (John 14:21)

"He further said: 'If a man love me, he will keep my words... and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him' (John 14:23)

"And the Prophet Joseph Smith explained: 'And this means that the coming of the Father and the Son to a person is a reality—a personal appearance—and not merely dwelling in his heart'

"This personal witness, then, is the ultimate treasure." (CR, Oct. 1968)

## Intelligence

There are some verses that discuss of intelligence.

D&C 130:18-19

18 Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection.

19 And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come.

What is intelligence?

D&C 93:36-39

36 The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth.

37 Light and truth forsake that evil one.

38 Every spirit of man was innocent in the beginning; and God having

redeemed man from the fall, men became again, in their infant state, innocent before God.

39 And that wicked one cometh and taketh away light and truth, through disobedience, from the children of men, and because of the tradition of their fathers.

With this light and truth (or grace, or intelligence, or Spirit of Christ) we can discern between truth and error, we can 'forsake the evil one', so we can keep the commandments. And as we do this we receive more...

D&C 50:24-25

24 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.

25 And again, verily I say unto you, and I say it that you may know the truth, that you may chase darkness from among you;

And this intelligence that we receive, we take with us into the next world

Also it is very important for this life that we obtain this intelligence. Without it we can't be obedient and receive the blessings we need.

D&C 130:20-21

20 There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—

21 And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.

What must we do to receive any blessing?

(obedience to that law upon which it is predicated)

Russell M. Nelson

"His hope for us is eternal life. We qualify for it by obedience to covenants and ordinances of the temple—for ourselves, our families, and our ancestors. We cannot be made perfect without them. We cannot wish our way into the presence of God. We are to obey the laws upon which those blessings are predicated." (CR, April 2005)

N. Eldon Tanner

"Now regarding the laws of God. They are as clear and as binding and as irrevocable as those of nature, and our success or failure, our happiness or unhappiness, depend on our knowledge and application of these laws in our lives....

"We believe that the gospel contains the laws of life, pertaining to our human relations, to moral and spiritual living—laws that are just as valid in

their field of operation as are the laws of nature in the world of natural phenomena." (CR, Oct. 1975)

But what if we don't know what the laws are?

D&C 131:6

It is impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance.

John A. Widstoe

“There are of course many kinds of knowledge; some of lesser, some of higher value. When Joseph Smith said that a man cannot be saved in ignorance, he meant naturally ignorance of the laws which all together lead to salvation. Such knowledge is of the highest value. It should be sought after first. Then other kinds of knowledge may be added to support and amplify the more direct knowledge of spiritual law.”  
(Evidences and Reconciliations, pg. 224)

What must we do to know the laws?

N. Eldon Tanner

“The word of the Lord is so clear to us, and his laws so plainly designed for our happiness, that it is difficult to understand why some people feel their own judgment is superior, and disregard God's laws and bring upon themselves misery and unhappiness by so doing.” (CR, Oct. 1975)

## The Godhead

There are some verses that give us info about the Godhead and what our relationship can be with the Godhead.

D&C 130:22-23

22 The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us.

23 A man may receive the Holy Ghost, and it may descend upon him and not tarry with him.

What do we learn about the physical characteristics of the Godhead?

Can the Holy Ghost influence you even if you don't have the gift?

As we just discussed, intelligence comes from the Holy Ghost.

## Prophesy of the Civil War

D&C 130:12-13

12 I prophesy, in the name of the Lord God, that the commencement of the

difficulties which will cause much bloodshed previous to the coming of the Son of Man will be in South Carolina.

13 It may probably arise through the slave question. This a voice declared to me, while I was praying earnestly on the subject, December 25th, 1832.

It is part of a prophets duty to warn and foretell.