

October 25–31
Doctrine and Covenants 124
“A House Unto My Name”



Militia/mob General John Clark

“For this lenity you are indebted to my clemency. I do not say that you shall go now, but you must not think of staying here another season, or of putting in crops.... As for your leaders, do not once think— do not imagine for a moment—do not let it enter your mind that they will be delivered, or that you will see their faces again, for their fate is fixed—their die is cast—their doom is sealed.” (HC 3:203)

For the purpose of providing means for the removing from this state of the poor and destitute who shall be considered worthy, till there shall not be one left who desires to remove from the state. (HC, 3:251)

Benevolent residents in Quincy, a community of twelve hundred, were generous and sympathetic to the plight of the exiles. Many of them opened their homes and provided jobs. They collected money, food, clothing, and other necessities on more than one occasion. The Democratic Association of Quincy was particularly instrumental in assisting the Saints. It convened three times during the week of 25 February to consider ways of helping the homeless exiles. Sidney Rigdon was invited to report on the condition of the Saints; collections were taken up, and resolutions were passed condemning Missouri's treatment of the Mormons. (Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual Religion 341 Through 343, pg. 213)

Attempt to Build Temples in Missouri

D&C 124:49-53

What did the Lord say to comfort those who had done all they could to be obedient?

Charles W. Penrose

“The people were to build the house at [Jackson county] in that generation.... But their enemies came upon them and prevented them from doing that which the Lord commanded them, and therefore the Lord accepted their offering. The Lord lays down there a principle which it is well for us to understand. The Lord says that whenever he gives a commandment, no matter what it is about, to the children of men, and they go to with their might and endeavor to fulfil his commandment, and do that which is required of them, and they are prevented by their enemies, or by any other means, from accomplishing it, he does not require it any more at their hands. He accepts of their offering.” (CR, April 1924)

Neal A. Maxwell

“Some of us who would not chastise a neighbor for his frailties have a field day with our own. Some of us stand before no more harsh a judge than ourselves, a judge who stubbornly refuses to admit much happy evidence and who cares nothing for due process. Fortunately, the Lord loves us more than we love ourselves....

“Yes, brothers and sisters, this is a gospel of grand expectations, but God’s grace is sufficient for each of us. Discouragement is not the absence of adequacy but the absence of courage, and our personal progress should be yet another way we witness to the wonder of it all!” (CR, Oct. 1976)

Baptisms For the Dead

D&C124:29-31,36

Where does the Lord command us to perform the sacred ordinance of baptisms of the dead?

When does the Lord make exceptions to baptisms for the dead being performed in a the temple?

Jane Neyman asked Harvey Olmstead to baptize her in the Mississippi River in behalf of her deceased son, Cyrus. Joseph Smith asked what words were used in performing the ordinance, and then he approved what had taken place. In the ensuing weeks, several more baptisms for the dead were performed in the river or in nearby streams. On 19 January 1841, the Lord commanded the Saints to build a temple with a baptismal font for these vicarious ordinances. (Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual Religion 341 Through 343, pg. 251)

Nauvoo Temple

D&C124:26-28,34

Why do you think it's important to the Lord that we build temples using the most precious materials and highest quality workmanship?

What was still needed to be restored in order to have the "fullness of the priesthood"?

Parley P. Pratt

“It was Joseph Smith who taught me how to prize the endearing relationships of father and mother, husband and wife; of brother and sister, son and daughter. It was from him that I learned that the wife of my bosom might be secured to me for time and all eternity; and that the refined sympathies and affections which endeared us to each other emanated from the fountain of divine eternal love. It was from him that I learned that we might cultivate these affections, and grow and increase in the same to all eternity; while the result of our endless union would be an offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven, or the sands of the sea shore. ... I had loved before, but I knew not why. But now I loved—with a pureness—an intensity of elevated, exalted feeling, which would lift my soul from the transitory things of this grovelling sphere and expand it as the ocean. ... In short, I could now love with the spirit and with the understanding also.”
(Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt, pg. 297–98)

Theodore M. Burton

"In order to obtain a fullness of the priesthood of God, we must have temples wherein those sacred ordinances of the priesthood can be revealed to people who are willing and worthy to receive them.... This temple was constructed at Nauvoo, Illinois, and dedicated to the Lord. It was used by the saints, therein to receive these sacred ordinances which were mentioned in the revelation." (CR, Oct. 1967)

Adney Y. Komatsu,

"In this revelation, which is recorded in section 124 of the Doctrine and Covenants, reference is made to 'the fulness of the priesthood.'... It is clear, then, that unless we go to the temple of the Lord and receive all the ordinances and obey the commandments, we cannot receive a fulness of priesthood blessings and neither can we receive exaltation. These are wonderful blessings that have been made available to us through temple work." (CR, Oct. 1983)

Nauvoo Temple

D&C 124:38, 40-42

What will he reveal in His temples?

Joseph Smith

“What was the object of gathering the... people of God in any age of the world?... The main object was to build unto the Lord a house whereby He could reveal unto His people the ordinances of His house and the glories of His kingdom, and teach the people the way of salvation; for there are certain ordinances and principles that, when they are taught and practiced, must be done in a place or house built for that purpose.” (TPJS, pg. 307-308)

Nauvoo Temple

D&C124:37,39

What does the Lord promise to bless His saints with if they obey His commandments and build temples?

Orson Pratt

"Here then you perceive that there are certain places appointed, and certain provisions to be complied with before the face of the Lord can be seen. He has said that his people are always to build unto his name a house. What for? That his name might be there; that his angels might be there; that his presence might be there; and that there the fullness of the holy Priesthood might be more fully revealed, and that there all the ordinances might be performed, that were ordained from before the foundation of the world. This is the object of Temples. It is to connect the children to the fathers: it is to bring about an organization between the living and the dead" (JD, 19:8)

Nauvoo Temple

D&C124:45-46

What are the saints promised if they obey the Lord and His leaders and obey the commandment to build temples?

Russell M. Nelson

"The Lord revealed that 'the ordinance of baptizing for the dead... was instituted from before the foundation of the world.. Salvation was thus made available for those 'who should die without a knowledge of the gospel.' A welding link between generations was provided, that a whole, complete, and perfect union of dispensations, keys, powers, and glories should take place.

"Brothers and sisters, these unseen but sure pillars were in place before the world was. They undergird the everlasting gospel—now restored in its fulness. With such a foundation, this Church will not be moved from its place." (CR, April 2002)

Next Week:

November 1–7

Doctrine and Covenants 125–128

"A Voice of Gladness for the Living and
the Dead"

