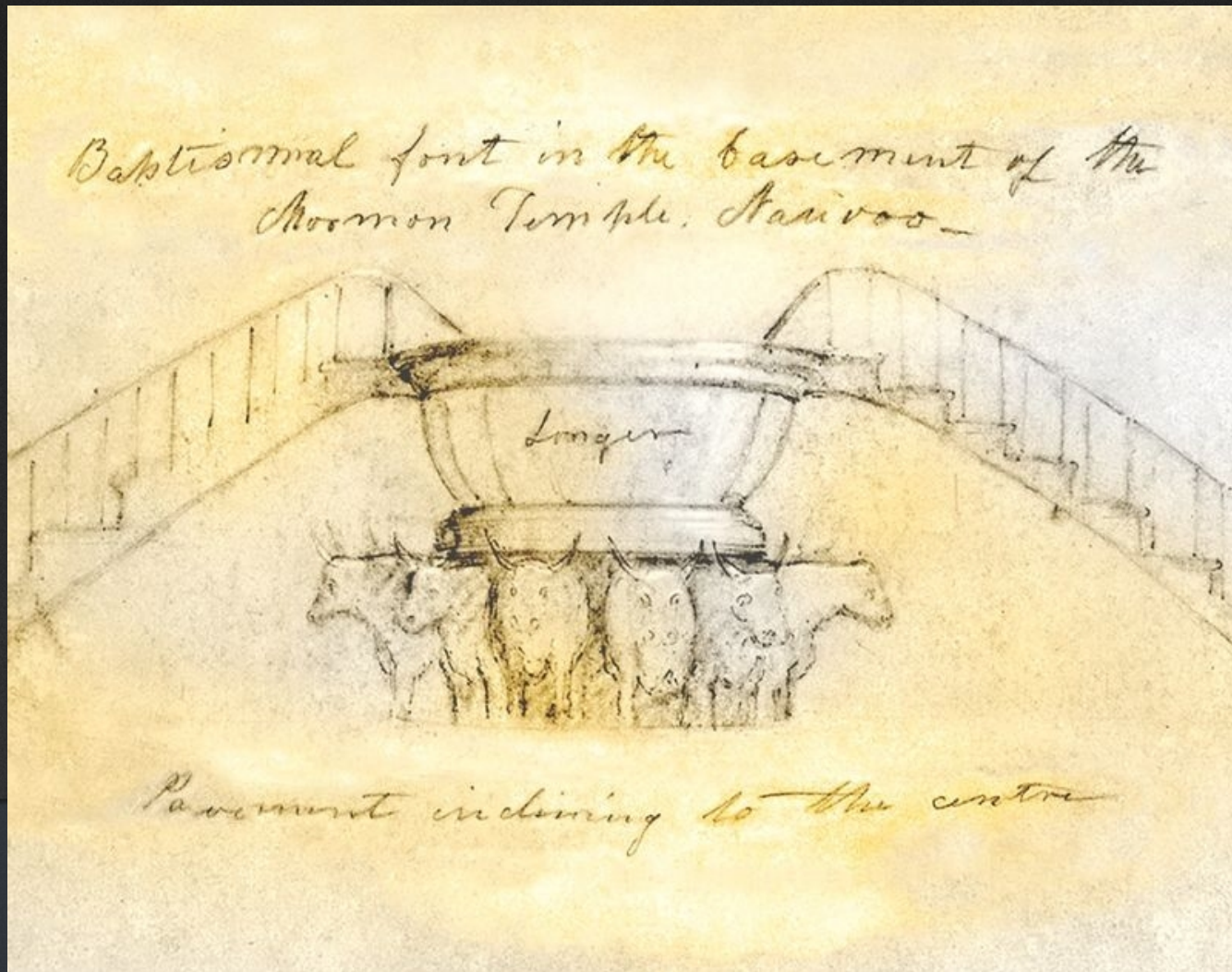


November 1–7

Doctrine and Covenants 125–128

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



Vilate M. Kimball

“We had the largest and most interesting conference that ever has been since the Church was organized....

President [Joseph] Smith has opened a new and glorious subject.... That is, being baptized for the dead. Paul speaks of it, in First Corinthians 15th chapter 29th verse. Joseph has received a more full explanation of it by revelation. He says it is the privilege of [members of] this Church to be baptized for all their kinsfolk that have died before this gospel came forth.... By so doing, we act as agents for them, and give them the privilege of coming forth in the First Resurrection. He says they will have the gospel preached to them in prison....

“I want to be baptized for my mother.... Is not this a glorious doctrine?” (Vilate M. Kimball letters, Oct. 11, 1840)

Overview

D&C 127:10

Baptism for the Dead – Witnessing and Recording

D&C 127:5-8

What actions must be accompanied by the by the baptisms?

Why?

What keys were delivered by Elijah that made it possible to perform this ordinance?

A. Theodore Tuttle

"Elijah has returned! Thanks be to God! He bestowed his keys! Work could now commence in the temples to weld eternal links between husbands and wives, between parents and children, through the sealing power of God.

It is essential to obtain the sealing power of the holy priesthood so that whatsoever an authorized officiator shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven....

"The order of performing baptism for the dead was revealed. Also the Lord required that witnesses verify the performance of ordinances, 'that in all your recordings it may be recorded in heaven.'" (CR, April 1982)

Baptism for the Dead – Witnessing and Recording

D&C 127:2,5

Why is the Lord “very particular” about the “order of things”?

Charles C. Rich

"These were the principles ordained for that purpose before the world was. It is not a new feature in the Gospel, something started a few years ago. From what I have read, we find they are eternal principles; that they existed and were ordained for our salvation before the foundation of the world, and cannot be changed. We must comply with the principles of the eternal law, in order to obtain eternal blessings. I want to impress these principles upon your minds, for there is no 'think so' and 'guess so' about these things, for the Lord himself has decreed them." (JD 19:249)

Baptism for the Dead – Witnessing and Recording

D&C 128:12-13

In what way does baptism symbolize being resurrected?

Why are baptismal fonts below the ground level in temples?

Baptism for the Dead – The Welding Link

D&C 128:18

What does he state is the “welding link between generations”?

What does he say must exist during the dispensation of the fullness of times?

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." (CR, April 2002)

Russell M. Nelson

“Jesus... wants us as bonding blacksmiths—creating celestial welding links—to curb the curse of family fragmentation. The earth was created and temples provided so that families can be together forever. Many, if not most, of us could repent and be converted to more temple and family history work for our ancestors.” (CR, April 2007)

Russell M. Nelson

"Priesthood authority has existed in many dispensations, such as those of Adam, Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Moses, the meridian of time, the Jaredites, the Nephites, and others. All previous dispensations were limited in time, as each ended in apostasy. They were also limited to small segments of planet Earth. In contrast, our dispensation—the dispensation of the fulness of times—will not be limited in time or place. Globally, it will host a whole, complete, and perfect union, welding together dispensations, keys, powers, and glories from the days of Adam even to the present time." (CR, Oct. 2003)

Baptism for the Dead – The Welding Link

D&C 128:22

How will the dead be blessed if members of the church press forward in this great work of welding ancestors together?

D. Todd Christofferson

"We are anxiously about the task of searching out our fathers and mothers of generations past and binding them to us and us to them....

“In the scriptures, the spirits of the dead are sometimes referred to as being in darkness or in prison. Even the righteous spirits are spoken of as faithful 'captives' awaiting deliverance from the bands of death. Contemplating God's glorious plan for the redemption of these, His children, the Prophet Joseph Smith penned this psalm: 'Let your hearts rejoice, and be exceedingly glad. Let the earth break forth into singing. Let the dead speak forth anthems of eternal praise to the King Immanuel, who hath ordained, before the world was, that which would enable us to redeem them out of their prison; for the prisoners shall go free.'

“Our charge extends as far and as deep as the love of God to encompass His children of every time and place. Our efforts on behalf of the dead bear eloquent witness that Jesus Christ is the divine Redeemer of all mankind. His grace and promises reach even those who in life do not find Him. Because of Him, the prisoners shall indeed go free.” (CR, Oct. 2000)

Baptism for the Dead – The Welding Link

D&C 128:24

What does he want us to create and present that verifies the holy work we've performed in the temples?

Allan F. Packer

"Not long ago, Sister Packer and I traveled to several foreign countries. We prepared our passports and other documents. We obtained the shots, medical exams, visas, and stamps. As we arrived, our documents were inspected, and when all the requirements were met, we were allowed to enter.

"Qualifying for exaltation is like entering another country. We must each obtain our spiritual passport. We do not set the requirements, but, individually, we must meet all of them....

"From the Doctrine and Covenants we read: 'let us present in his holy temple,... a book containing the records of our dead, which shall be worthy of all acceptance.' This 'book' will be prepared using the records of names and ordinances in the Church's FamilyTree database. I am checking and adding records to this database because I want the names of all those I love to be in the book. Don't you?" (CR, Oct. 2014)

Next Week:

November 8–14

Doctrine and Covenants 129–132

“When We Obtain Any Blessing From
God, It Is By Obedience”

