

## Lesson 40: D&C 109–110, "It is Thy House, a Place of Thy Holiness"

### Overview

In his dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland temple Joseph Smith mention several reasons why temples are a great blessing to us individually and also to the Church as a whole.

Kirtland Temple Dedication Prayer:

A place where we can enjoy the presence of the Lord  
We will learn the ways of God  
We receive the power and protection needed to help build His kingdom  
Our testimonies will grow  
Help us to withstand persecutions and trials

Priesthood keys are restored in the Kirtland temple:

“The three heavenly messengers who then appeared, one after another, laid the foundation for the latter-day establishment of eternal families.” (Deseret News, April 3 2016)

The Temple: Enjoy the Presence of the Lord

D&C 109:10-13

10 And now, Holy Father, we ask thee to assist us, thy people, with thy grace, in calling our solemn assembly, that it may be done to thine honor and to thy divine acceptance;

11 And in a manner that we may be found worthy, in thy sight, to secure a fulfilment of the promises which thou hast made unto us, thy people, in the revelations given unto us;

12 That thy glory may rest down upon thy people, and upon this thy house, which we now dedicate to thee, that it may be sanctified and consecrated to be holy, and that thy holy presence may be continually in this house;

13 And that all people who shall enter upon the threshold of the Lord's house may feel thy power, and feel constrained to acknowledge that thou hast sanctified it, and that it is thy house, a place of thy holiness.

What is Joseph Smith asking will be continually in the Lord's House?

(that thy holy presence may be continually in this house)

As a result, what will those who enter the temple be blessed with?

(that all people who shall enter upon the threshold of the Lord's house may feel thy power, and feel constrained to acknowledge that thou hast sanctified it,)

Howard W. Hunter

“Let us go not only for our kindred dead, but let us also go for the personal blessing of temple worship, for the sanctity and safety which is provided within those hallowed and consecrated walls. The temple is a place of beauty, it is a place of revelation, it is a place of peace. It is the house of the Lord. It is holy unto the Lord. It should be holy unto us.” (CR, Oct. 1944)

### The Temple – A Place of Learning

D&C 109:14-15

14 And do thou grant, Holy Father, that all those who shall worship in this house may be taught words of wisdom out of the best books, and that they may seek learning even by study, and also by faith, as thou hast said;

15 And that they may grow up in thee, and receive a fulness of the Holy Ghost, and be organized according to thy laws, and be prepared to obtain every needful thing;

In verse 14, what do we receive as we worship in the temple?

(all those who shall worship in this house may be taught words of wisdom)

John A. Widtsoe

“Temple work ... gives a wonderful opportunity for keeping alive our spiritual knowledge and strength. ... The mighty perspective of eternity is unraveled before us in the holy temples; we see time from its infinite beginning to its endless end; and the drama of eternal life is unfolded before us. Then I see more clearly my place amidst the things of the universe, my place among the purposes of God; I am better able to place myself where I belong, and I am better able to value and to weigh, to separate and to organize the common, ordinary duties of my life, so that the little things shall not oppress me or take away my vision of the greater things that God has given us” (CR, Apr. 1922)

In verse 15, what does the temple prepare us for?

(prepared to obtain every needful thing)

Ezra Taft Benson

"In the peace of these lovely temples, sometimes we find solutions to the serious problems of life. Under the influence of the Spirit, sometimes pure knowledge flows to us there. Temples are places of personal revelation. When I have been weighted down by a problem or a difficulty, I have gone to the house of the Lord with a prayer in my heart for answers. These answers have come in clear and unmistakable ways" ("What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children about the Temple," Ensign, August 1985)

### The Temple – Receive What's Needful to Help Build His Kingdom

D&C109:22-23

22 And we ask thee, Holy Father, that thy servants may go forth from this house

armed with thy power, and that thy name may be upon them, and thy glory be round about them, and thine angels have charge over them;

23 And from this place they may bear exceedingly great and glorious tidings, in truth, unto the ends of the earth, that they may know that this is thy work, and that thou hast put forth thy hand, to fulfil that which thou hast spoken by the mouths of the prophets, concerning the last days.

What is given to those who faithfully enter the temple?

(go forth from this house armed with thy power, and that thy name may be upon them, and thy glory be round about them, and thine angels have charge over them...

[testimony] that they may know that this is thy work)

After receiving these temple blessing, what are we better able to do?

(from this place they may bear exceedingly great and glorious tidings)

1 Nephi 14:14

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.

The Temple – Better Able to Withstand Persecution and Trials

109:24-26

24 We ask thee, Holy Father, to establish the people that shall worship, and honorably hold a name and standing in this thy house, to all generations and for eternity;

25 That no weapon formed against them shall prosper; that he who diggeth a pit for them shall fall into the same himself;

26 That no combination of wickedness shall have power to rise up and prevail over thy people upon whom thy name shall be put in this house;

How can the temple help us through times of persecutions and trials?

(no combination of wickedness shall have power to rise up and prevail over thy people upon whom thy name shall be put in this house)

Sarah Rich

“Many were the blessings we had received in the House of the Lord which has caused us joy and comfort in the midst of all our sorrows and enabled us to have faith in God knowing he would guide us and sustain us in the unknown journey that lay before us, for if it had not been for the faith and knowledge that was bestowed upon us in [the Nauvoo] temple by the influence and help of the Spirit of the Lord our journey would have been like one taking a leap in the dark.” (Journey to Zion, Carol Cornwall

Madsen, pg. 177)

D&C 109:46

46 Therefore, O Lord, deliver thy people from the calamity of the wicked; enable thy servants to seal up the law, and bind up the testimony, that they may be prepared against the day of burning.

How do the temples protect against the calamities of the last days?

Sharon G. Larsen

"Two and a half years after the Church was organized, the Lord warned Joseph Smith of wars and famines and plagues that would come because of wickedness. Then He told us how to be safe in such a world: 'Stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come' (D&C 87:8)." (CR, April 2002)

The Temple: The Kingdom to Fill the Whole Earth

D&C 109:72-76

72 Remember all thy church, O Lord, with all their families, and all their immediate connections, with all their sick and afflicted ones, with all the poor and meek of the earth; that the kingdom, which thou hast set up without hands, may become a great mountain and fill the whole earth;

73 That thy church may come forth out of the wilderness of darkness, and shine forth fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners;

74 And be adorned as a bride for that day when thou shalt unveil the heavens, and cause the mountains to flow down at thy presence, and the valleys to be exalted, the rough places made smooth; that thy glory may fill the earth;

It is clear from these verses that temples will help the church role forward to feel the whole earth.

From what we have read, how do you see temples fulfilling that role?

Gordon B. Hinckley

"Each temple built by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stands as an expression of the testimony of this people that God our Eternal Father lives, that He has a plan for the blessing of His sons and daughters of all generations, that His Beloved Son, Jesus the Christ, who was born in Bethlehem of Judea and crucified on the cross of Golgotha, is the Savior and Redeemer of the world, whose atoning sacrifice makes possible the fulfillment of that plan in the eternal life of each who accepts and lives the gospel. Every temple, be it large or small, old or new, is an expression of our testimony that life beyond the grave is as real and certain as is mortality. There would be no need for temples if the human spirit and soul were not eternal. Every ordinance performed in these sacred houses is everlasting in its consequences." (CR, April 1993)

Given these blessing that the Lord has promised will come through his temples:

A place where we can enjoy the presence of the Lord  
We will learn the ways of God  
We receive the power and protection needed to help build His kingdom  
Our testimonies will grow  
Help us to withstand persecutions and trials

No wonder Joseph Smith and Brigham Young made building the temple the top priority

Brigham Young recorded, “Such has been the anxiety manifested by the saints to receive the ordinances [of the Temple], and such the anxiety on our part to administer to them, that I have given myself up entirely to the work of the Lord in the Temple night and day, not taking more than four hours sleep, upon an average, per day, and going home but once a week.”

On 3 February the Brethren planned to stop the ordinance work, and Brigham Young left the temple to make final preparation to leave the next day for the West. But seeing a large crowd gathered to receive their endowments, he compassionately returned to serve them. This delayed his departure for another two weeks. According to temple records, 5,615 Saints were endowed before going west, thus fulfilling one of Joseph Smith’s fondest desires. (Church History in the Fullness of Times, pg. 302-304)

#### Keys Restored in the Kirtland Temple

D&C 110:1-4

- 1 The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened.
- 2 We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit, before us; and under his feet was a paved work of pure gold, in color like amber.
- 3 His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying:
- 4 I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father.

A testimony of, and a witness to, the resurrected Christ

D&C 110:7-10

- 7 For behold, I have accepted this house, and my name shall be here; and I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house.
- 8 Yea, I will appear unto my servants, and speak unto them with mine own voice, if my people will keep my commandments, and do not pollute this holy house.
- 9 Yea the hearts of thousands and tens of thousands shall greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings which shall be poured out, and the endowment with which my servants have been endowed in this house.

10 And the fame of this house shall spread to foreign lands; and this is the beginning of the blessing which shall be poured out upon the heads of my people. Even so. Amen.

What does the Lord prophesy will come about because to the dedication of the temple?

(Yea the hearts of thousands and tens of thousands shall greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings which shall be poured out)  
(the fame of this house shall spread to foreign lands; and this is the beginning of the blessing which shall be poured out upon the heads of my people)

George Q. Cannon

“Every foundation stone that is laid for a temple, and every temple completed according to the order the Lord has revealed for His holy priesthood, lessens the power of Satan on the earth, and increases the power of God and Godliness, moves the heavens in mighty power in our behalf, invokes and calls down upon us the blessings of the eternal Gods, and those who reside in their presence.” (“The Logan Temple,” Millennial Star, Nov. 12, 1877)

D&C 110:11

11 After this vision closed, the heavens were again opened unto us; and Moses appeared before us, and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north.

What priesthood key was restored by Moses

Harold B. Lee

The spirit of gathering has been with the Church from the days of that restoration. Those who are of the blood of Israel, have a righteous desire after they are baptized, to gather together with the body of the Saints at the designated place. This, we have come to recognize, is but the breath of God upon those who are converted turning them to the promises made to their fathers. (CR, April 1948)

D&C 110:12

12 After this, Elias appeared, and committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham, saying that in us and our seed all generations after us should be blessed.

What priesthood key was restored by Elias?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Elias [brought] back ‘the gospel of Abraham,’ the great Abrahamic covenant whereby the faithful receive promises of eternal increase, promises that through celestial marriage their eternal posterity shall be as numerous as the sands upon the seashore or as the stars in heaven for

multitude” (CR, May 1983)

D&C 110:13-15

13 After this vision had closed, another great and glorious vision burst upon us; for Elijah the prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us, and said:

14 Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi—testifying that he [Elijah] should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord come—

15 To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse—

What priesthood key was restored by Elijah?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“This sealing power bestowed upon Elijah, is the power which binds husbands and wives, and children to parents for time and eternity. It is the binding power existing in every Gospel ordinance. ... It was the mission of Elijah to come, and restore it so that the curse of confusion and disorder would not exist in the kingdom of God.” (Elijah the Prophet and His Mission, pg. 5)

D&C 110:16

16 Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors.

David B. Haight

The divine keys, power, and authority have been committed by heavenly messengers to Joseph Smith in this, the dispensation of the fulness of times. Those keys—the same that were delivered to Peter, James, and John on the mountain—authorize us to carry the true gospel to all nations to declare the power, glory, and majesty of our Lord Jesus Christ and to warn that the day of his coming is near. A prophet of God holds these keys of authority today. We invite people everywhere to inquire further into this divine message we have to offer to all mankind. (A Light unto the World, pg. 13)

The Fullness of the Priesthood

The temple ordinance was not complete until the Nauvoo temple  
All the ordinances, endowments, and sealings were available starting with the Nauvoo temple  
This section was given in Nauvoo

D&C 124:28

28 For there is not a place found on earth that he may come to and restore again that which was lost unto you, or which he hath taken away, even the fulness of the priesthood.

37 And again, verily I say unto you, how shall your washings be acceptable unto me, except ye perform them in a house which you have built to my name?

Parley P. Pratt

“During these interviews [Joseph Smith] taught me many great and glorious principles concerning God and the heavenly order of eternity. It was at this time that I received from him the first idea of eternal family organization...

“It was from him that I learned that [my] wife 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...

“Yet, at that time, my dearly beloved brother, Joseph Smith, had barely touched a single key; had merely lifted a corner of the veil and given me a single glance into eternity.” (Autobiography of Parley Parker Pratt, pg. 297-298)