

Preparing for Temple Ordinances: A Review of Scriptures and Prophetic Teachings

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This list is not meant to be definitive nor complete

Pre-Mortal Events

- *The Plan* - Pearl of Great Price, Moses 1:33, 39; Abraham 3:24-26
- *The “War” in Heaven* - Moses 4:1-4; Doctrine and Covenants 29:36-39
- *The creation of the earth* - Pearl of Great Price, Abraham chapters 5 & 6

The Prophet Joseph Smith

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp.354-355, 343

The first principles of man are self-existent with God. God himself, finding he was in the midst of spirits and glory, because he was more intelligent, saw proper to institute laws whereby the rest could have a privilege to advance like himself.

The relationship we have with God places us in a situation to advance in knowledge. He has power to institute laws to instruct the weaker intelligences, that they may be exalted with himself, so that they might have one glory upon another, and all that knowledge, power, glory, and intelligence, which is requisite in order to save them in the world of spirits. ...

I wish to go back to the beginning—to the morn of creation. There is the starting point for us to look to, in order to understand and be fully acquainted with the mind, purposes and decrees of the Great Elohim ... It is necessary for us to have an understanding of God himself in the beginning. If we start right, it is easy to go right all the time; but if we start wrong, we may go wrong, and it be a hard matter to get right.

The Prophet Joseph Smith

Teachings of the Presidents of the Church—Joseph Smith, p.42

Everlasting covenant was made between three personages before the organization of this earth and relates to their dispensation of things to men on the earth. These personages . . . are called God the first, the Creator; God the second, the Redeemer; and God the third, the Witness or Testator.

[It is] the province of the Father to preside as the Chief or President, Jesus as the Mediator, and the Holy Ghost as the Testator or Witness. The Son [has] a tabernacle and so [does] the Father, but the Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit without tabernacle.

Adam and Eve

- *The Fall of Adam and Eve* - Pearl of Great Price, Moses chapter 4
- *Condition of Adam and Eve after the Fall* - Moses 5:1-5; 58-59
- *Condition of the children of Adam and Eve* - Moses 5:12-15; 55-57

The Prophet Joseph Smith

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp.157-158, 167-169, 190 (selected excerpts)

Teachings of the Presidents of the Church—Joseph Smith, pp.104-105 (selected excerpts)

The Father called all spirits before Him at the creation of man and organized them. [Adam] is the head and was told to multiply. The keys were first given to him, and by him to others. He will have to give an account of his stewardship, and they to him. ...

The Priesthood is an everlasting principle, and existed with God from eternity, and will to eternity, without beginning of days or end of years [see Joseph Smith Translation, Hebrews 7:3]. ...

The Priesthood was first given to Adam; he obtained the First Presidency and held the keys of it from generation to generation. He obtained it in the Creation, before the world was formed [Genesis 1:26, 27, 28]. He had dominion given him over every living creature.

He is Michael the Archangel, spoken of in the Scriptures. ... because he was the first and father of all, not only by progeny, but the first to hold the spiritual blessings, to whom was made known the plan of ordinances for the salvation of his posterity unto the end, and to whom Christ was first revealed, and through whom Christ has been revealed from henceforth. ...

[God] set the ordinances to be the same forever and ever, and set Adam to watch over them, to reveal them from heaven to man, or to send angels to reveal them. ... These angels are under the direction of Michael or Adam, who acts under the direction of the Lord. From [Hebrews 1:14] we learn that Paul perfectly understood the purposes of God in relation to His connection with man, and that glorious and perfect order which He established in Himself, whereby he sent forth power, revelations, and glory. ...

This, then, is the nature of the Priesthood; every man holding the Presidency of his dispensation, and one man holding the Presidency of them all, even Adam; and Adam receiving his Presidency and authority from the Lord ...

There has been a chain of authority and power from Adam down to the present time. ... The keys have to be brought from heaven whenever the Gospel is sent. When they are revealed from heaven, it is by Adam's authority.

President Brigham Young

Teachings of the Presidents of the Church—Brigham Young, p.134

Eve was a name or title conferred upon our first mother, because she was actually to be the mother of all the human beings who should live upon this earth. I am looking upon a congregation designed to be just such beings.

President Brigham Young

Teachings of the Presidents of the Church—Brigham Young, p.167

I have a word to say to my sisters. When I reflect upon the duties and responsibilities devolving upon our mothers and sisters, and the influence they wield, I look upon them as the mainspring and soul of our being here. It is true that man is first. Father Adam was placed here as king of the earth, to bring it into subjection. But when Mother Eve came, she had a splendid influence over him. A great many have thought it was not very good; I think it was excellent.

President Brigham Young

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.158

Mother Eve partook of the forbidden fruit. We should not have been here today if she had not, we could never have possessed wisdom and intelligence if she had not done it. It was all in the economy of heaven, and we need not talk about it, it is all right. We should never blame Mother Eve, not the least.

I am thankful to God that I know good from evil, the bitter from the sweet, the things of God from the things not of God. When I look at the economy of heaven my heart leaps for joy, and if I had the tongue of an angel, or the tongues of the whole human family combined, I would praise God in the highest for his great wisdom and condescension in suffering the children of men to fall into the very sin into which they had fallen, for he did it that they, like Jesus, might descend below all things and then press forward and rise above all.

Covenants

- *A preparation for future glories* - Doctrine and Covenants 133:57-62

The Prophet Joseph Smith

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp.324

Could we read and comprehend all that has been written from the days of Adam, on the relation of man to God and angels in a future state, we should know very little about it. Reading the experience of others, or the revelation given to them, can never give us **a comprehensive view of our condition and true relation to God. Knowledge of these things can only be obtained by experience through the ordinances of God set forth for that purpose.**

Could you gaze into heaven five minutes, you would know more than you would by reading all that ever was written on the subject. We are only capable of comprehending that certain things exist, which we may acquire by certain fixed principles. **If men would acquire salvation, they have got to be subject, before they leave this world, to certain rules and principles, which were fixed by an unalterable decree before the world was.**

Five Laws

<p>The Law of Obedience Doctrine & Covenants 130:20-21; 18-19 132:5 42:28-29</p>	<p>The Law of Sacrifice Moses 5:6-11 3 Nephi 9:19-22 Omni 26</p>	<p>The Law of Chastity D&C 42:22-25</p>
<p>The Law of the Gospel of Jesus Christ Matthew 5-7; John 15:12 2 Nephi 31:11-15; 3 Nephi 12-14 D&C 42:18-27; 88-92; 88:68-69</p>	<p>The Law of Consecration D&C 42:30-36</p>	

Other Scriptural Passages

Job 40:16; Isaiah 22:21-23
 Alma 37:43-44; 57:21
 Isaiah 45:23; Doctrine and Covenants 76:110
 Doctrine and Covenants 88:84-85

Priesthood Clothing and Ceremonies

- *An example of the use of priestly garments and the preparation for priesthood service – Old Testament, Exodus chapter 28; 29:4-7*
- *Examples of anointing new kings of Israel with oil – Old Testament, 1 Samuel 16:1,13; 1 Kings 1:39*
- *Entering into the holiest – New Testament, Hebrews 10:19-22*

The Endowment

General Handbook (2020 Edition)

Chapter 27 - **Temple Ordinances for the Living: Preparation for the Endowment**

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/general-handbook/27-temple-ordinances-for-the-living?lang=eng#title_number1

Chapter 38 item 38.4 - **Sealing Policies**

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/general-handbook/38-church-policies-and-guidelines?lang=eng#title_number71

Chapter 38 item 38.5 - **Temple Clothing and Garments**

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/general-handbook/38-church-policies-and-guidelines?lang=eng#title_number229

The Prophet Joseph Smith

History of the Church, 4:603

The Church is not fully organized, in its proper order, and cannot be, until the Temple is completed, where places will be provided for the administration of the ordinances of the Priesthood.

President Brigham Young

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.138

The keys of the eternal priesthood, which is after the order of the Son of God, is comprehended by being an apostle. All the priesthood, all the keys, all the gifts, all the endowments and everything preparatory to entering back into the presence of the Father and of the Son, is composed of, circumscribed by, or I might say incorporated within the circumference of the apostleship.

The Prophet Joseph Smith

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 237 (brackets added)

[The endowment involves a series of symbolic] washings, anointings, endowments and the communication of keys pertaining to the Aaronic and ... to the highest order of the Melchizedek Priesthood, setting forth the order pertaining to the Ancient of Days, and all those plans and principles by which any one is enabled to secure the fullness of those blessings which have been prepared for the Church of the Firstborn, and come up and abide in the presence of the Eloheim in the eternal worlds. ...

[Spiritual things] to be received only by the spiritual minded ... knowing assuredly that all these things referred to ... are always governed by the principle of revelation.

President Brigham Young

Journal of Discourses, Vol. 3, p.31

Your endowment is, to receive all those ordinances in the House of the Lord, which are necessary for you, after you have departed this life, to enable you to walk back to the presence of the Father, passing the angels who stand as sentinels, being enabled to give them the key words, the signs and tokens, pertaining to the Holy Priesthood, and gain your eternal exaltation in spite of earth and hell.

The Prophet Joseph Smith

History of the Church, 5:423-424

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. ... It is for the same purpose that God gathers together His people in the last days, to build unto the Lord a house to prepare them for the ordinances and endowments, washings and anointings. ...

It was the design of the councils of heaven before the world was, that the principles and laws of the priesthood should be predicated upon the gathering of the people in every age of the world. ... Ordinances instituted in the heavens before the foundation of the world, in the priesthood, for the salvation of men, are not to be altered or changed. All must be saved on the same principles.

If a man gets a fullness of the priesthood of God, he has to get it in the same way that Jesus Christ obtained it, and that was by keeping all the commandments and obeying all the ordinances of the house of the Lord. ... All men who become heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ will have to receive the fulness of the ordinances of his kingdom; and those who will not receive all the ordinances will come short of the fullness of that glory, if they do not lose the whole.

Elder John A. Widtsoe

Encyclopedia of Mormonism
Priesthood and Church Government, p.333 (brackets added)

[The Endowment increases one's spiritual power, based in part] on enlarged knowledge and intelligence—a power from on high, of a quality with God's own power. ...

The Temple endowment

- relates the story of man's eternal **journey**;
- sets forth the **conditions** upon which progress in the eternal journey depends;
- requires **covenants** or agreements of those participating, to accept and use the laws of progress;
- gives **tests** by which our willingness and fitness for righteousness may be known,
- and finally points out the ultimate **destiny** of those who love truth and live by it.

President Heber C. Kimball

Address to My Children, unpublished

All the ordinances are signs of things in the heavens. Everything we see here is typical of what will be hereafter.

Pres. Brigham Young

Journal of Discourses, Vol. 2, p.315 (brackets added)

[The] Lord taught you how to consecrate yourselves to His service, build up His kingdom, and send forth the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth, that others may rejoice in the same Spirit that you have received, and enjoy the same things you enjoy ... He has taught you how to purify yourselves, and become holy, and be prepared to enter into His kingdom, how you can advance from one degree to another, and grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth, until you are prepared to enter the celestial kingdom; how to pass every sentinel, watchman, and gate keeper.

Then go on and build the Temples of the Lord, that you may receive the endowments in store for you, and possess the keys of the eternal Priesthood, that you may **receive every word, sign, and token**, and **be made acquainted with the laws of angels**, and **of the kingdom of our Father and our God**, and **know how to pass from one degree to another**, and enter fully into the joy of your Lord.

The Prophet Joseph Smith

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp.346-347

Here, then, is eternal life—to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you, namely, by **going from one small degree to another**, and **from a small capacity to a great one; from grace to grace**, from exaltation to exaltation, until you attain to the resurrection of the dead, and are able to dwell in everlasting burnings, and to sit in glory, as do those who sit enthroned in everlasting power. And I want you to know that God, in the last days, while certain individuals are proclaiming his name, is not trifling with you or me.

These are the first principles of consolation. How consoling to the mourners when they are called to part with a husband, wife, father, mother, child, or dear relative, to know that, although the earthly tabernacle is laid down and dissolved, they shall rise again to dwell in everlasting burnings in immortal glory, not to sorrow, suffer, or die anymore; but they shall be heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

What is it? To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a God, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before ... and God is thus glorified and exalted in the salvation and exaltation of all his children.