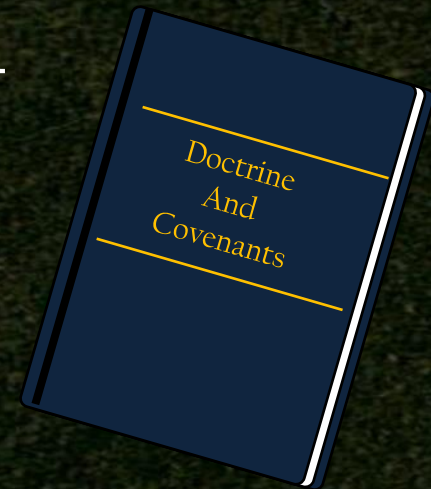
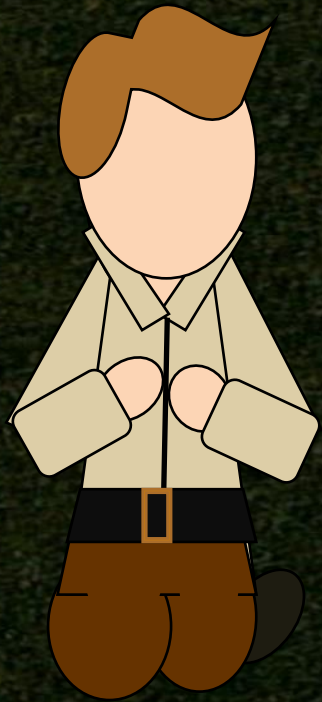


# Doctrine and Covenants 1

## Preface By Revelation

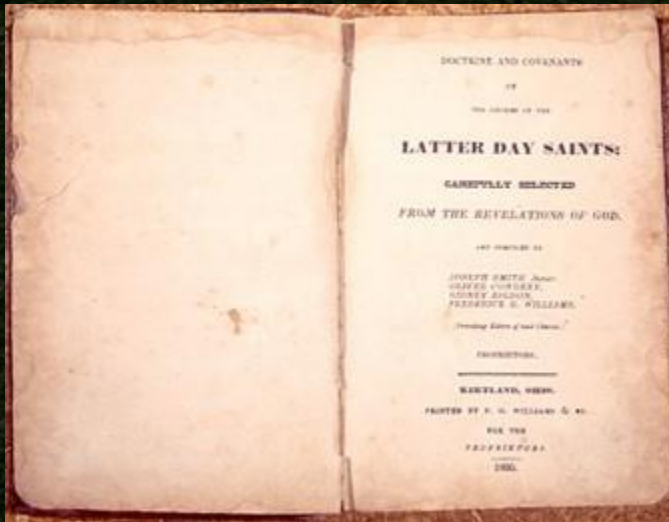


# Book of Commandments—Preface by Revelation

By November 1831, Joseph Smith had received more than 60 revelations.

However, most Church members did not have access to copies of the revelations.

The Prophet convened a conference in Hiram, Ohio, to discuss publishing them as a book that would be called the Book of Commandments.



A committee of elders drafted a preface to the book. Unsatisfied with this draft, those who attended the conference requested that Joseph Smith ask the Lord for a preface.

After petitioning the Lord in prayer, Joseph received a preface by revelation. The Lord's preface to the Book of Commandments became section 1 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

# Given in This Dispensation

*Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, on November 1, 1831, during a special conference of elders of the Church, held at Hiram, Ohio.*



Mormon Farm in Hiram, Ohio



*A Voice of Warning...unto all*

“The Doctrine and Covenants is not a book just for the Latter-day Saints; it is more than that, it belongs to all the world...it is his book if he will accept it, if he will receive it.”

Joseph Fielding Smith

# None Can Hide

“...their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed.”



For everyone who rejects the gospel—When the light comes, they (those who rebel) can no longer hide their errors, their iniquities, their secrets.

D&C Commentary

# Through the Prophets



Given the divine authority  
to preach the gospel and  
warn the world

The Preface is given by the Lord  
Himself—it was not written by  
Joseph Smith but dictated by  
Jesus Christ

# Respecter of Persons

Someone who favors one person over another

*For I am no respecter of persons, and will that all men shall know that the day speedily cometh; the hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand, when peace shall be taken from the earth, and the devil shall have power over his own dominion.*

*D&C 1:35*



# Power to Seal

*Tav—to seal on their foreheads...a mark “T” for those who would not partake in the practice of abominations in Jerusalem—sealing the servants to God*



Early 2,000 BC	Middle 1000 BC	Late 400 BC	Modern Today
+	X	ת	ת

That sealing was done on the eve of the Exodus on marking the door with blood in order to save those who were marked for destruction



Latter-days—they have the power to discuss between truth and error, right and wrong, and to declare, authoritatively, that such conduct is in accordance with the mind and will of God

# Prepare Ye

*Anger of the Lord--God is long suffering, and infinitely patient*

*Arm—God's arm is of action—His strength*



“For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.”  
Isaiah 34:5

An expressive term indicating the Lord's fury upon the armies. Delivering them to destruction and slaughter. —the prediction of Isaiah in the last days.



# Worldly Challenges

*The image of their own God*



*There is a difference between providing for oneself and family and worshipping “things”*

Idolatry—the worship of other gods

Developed of man to give comfort and enjoyment

To satisfy wants, passions and desires

Modern idols:

Bodily appetites—food, drink, physical prowess

Clothes –Homes- Careers- Electronics -Automobile

“I would soon see a man worshipping a little god made of brass or of wood as to see him worshipping his property” Brigham Young

“Degrees, letters, and titles can become idols

# Reasons for Warnings

D&C 1:12

D&C 1:15-17

D&C 1:21

D&C 1:22

To prepare us  
for what is to  
come

To warn us of the  
challenges and  
sins of our day

To increase  
our faith

That the Lord's  
everlasting  
covenant might be  
established

To instruct us

To chasten and  
correct us when  
we sin

To help us  
repent

To give us  
knowledge

D&C 1:26

D&C 1:27

D&C 1:27

D&C 1:28

# The Condition of the World

“...The Lord commissioned Joseph Smith and others to sound a voice of warning and find a place of refuge for those who would accept their message. They were weak in the estimation of the worlds.”

Paul:  
“And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.”  
1 Corinthians 2:3



The Lord knew the condition of the world, what was in 1830, and what it would be today...Knowing the calamities that were coming to his children, unless they changed their course,...he called upon his servant, Joseph Smith, to warn men, to call repentance, and others to join in this great proclamation to all me”

Elder Melvin J. Ballard



# Week Things of the World

Why does God Choose the “Weak Things of the World” to do His work?

“The Lord called Joseph Smith and others from among the weak things of the world, because he and his associates were contrite and humble. The great and mighty ones in the nations the Lord could not use because of their pride and self-righteousness...



The Lord’s ways are not man’s ways, and he cannot choose those who in their own judgment are too wise to be taught. Therefore he chooses those who are willing to be taught and he make them mighty even to the breaking down of the great and might.”

Joseph Fielding Smith



# Inasmuch:

“And inasmuch as they erred it might be made known;

And inasmuch as they sought wisdom they might be instructed;

And inasmuch as they sinned they might be chastened, that they might repent;

And inasmuch as they were humble they might be made strong, and blessed from on high, and receive knowledge from time to time.”



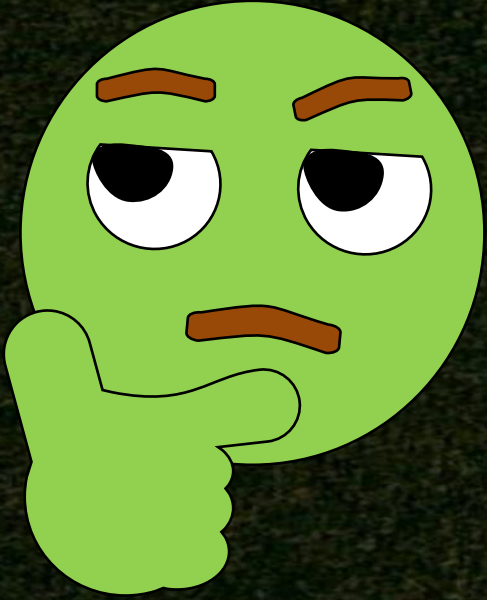
# Power To Translate and Establish This Church

Joseph Smith was given the power to translate the Records of the Nephites by the mercy of God...called “The Book of Mormon”



Those who accepted the restoration of the gospel and the revelation of Joseph Smith, would have the power to lay down the foundation of *this* church

# Agree or Disagree?



I don't think I need a church.

All churches are equally true.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true church.



# Doctrinal Mastery



D&C 1:30



And also those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually—



# The Living Church—Modern Revelation

“There is much difference between a dead and living church. While one may have the form and shape, the ritual and dimensions, the living church has life.



A living prophet leads the Church today.

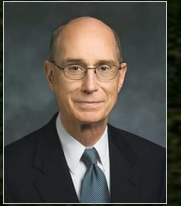
There is a vibrant, living movement to it, a captivating spirit about it, a glory to it that lifts and builds and helps and blesses the lives of all it touches.

The Church will move forward to its divine destiny.”

A. Theodore Tuttle



# Repentance and Forgiveness



The Lord cannot  
save us *in* our sins,  
but can save us *from*  
our sins

Alma 11:37



“The truth is that we all need repentance. If we are capable of reason and past the age of eight, we all need the cleansing that comes through applying the full effects of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. When that is clear, we cannot be tricked into delay by the subtle question: “Have I crossed the line of serious sin, or can I put off even thinking about repentance?” The question that really matters is this: “How can I learn to sense even the beginning of sin and so repent early?...”

...the world might be willing to excuse our bad behavior because those around us behave badly. It is not true that the behavior of others removes our responsibility for our own. God’s standards for our behavior are unchanged whether or not others choose to rise to them.”



The very faith we need to repent is weakened by delay. The choice to continue in sin diminishes our faith and lessens our right to claim the Holy Ghost as our companion and comforter.

# Idumea = The World



Idumea or Edom, of which Bozrah was the principal city, was a nation to the south of the Salt Sea, through which the trade route (called the King's Highway) ran between Egypt and Arabia. The Idumeans or Edomites were a wicked non-Israelitish people; hence, traveling through their country symbolized to the prophetic mind the pilgrimage of men through a wicked world; and so, **Idumea meant the world.**"

Bruce R. McConkie



# Search These Truths





# Hear

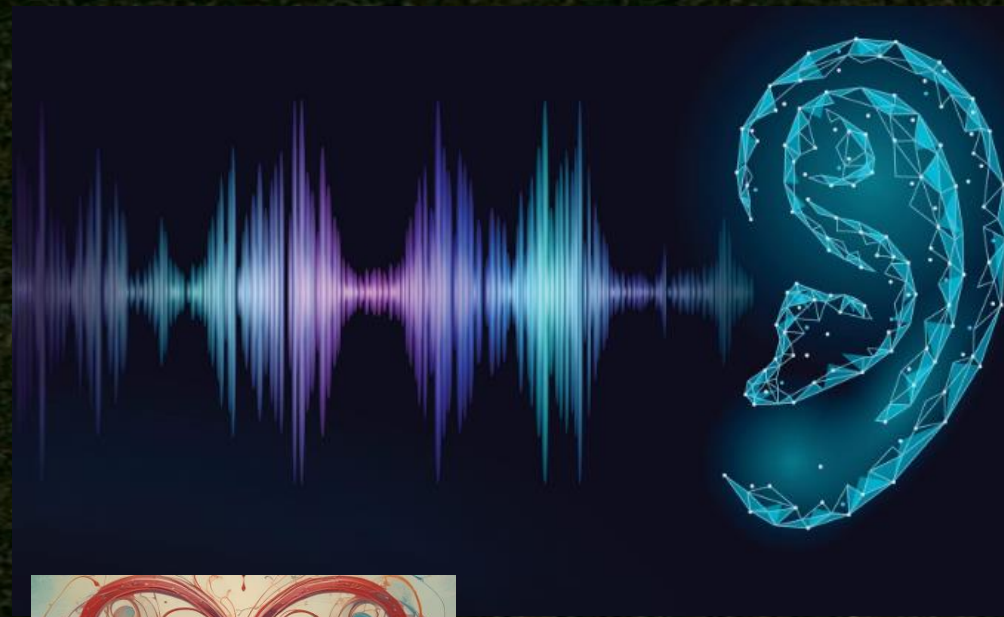
*...whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same. D&C 1:38*

The scriptures are the prerecorded voice of the Lord.

And it's not hearing an audible voice per se, although that can happen. It's hearing the scriptures in a feeling, a feeling in your mind, a feeling in your heart.

Revelation is thoughts to the mind, feelings to the heart.

The scriptures, for me, are the key in being able to have those thoughts and feelings.

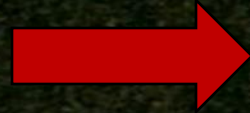


D&C 1:38

Elder David A. Bednar

# Doctrinal Mastery

D&C 1:37-38



Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.

What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.

Sources:

Related Videos:

Prophets Warning (1:24)

Seek the Lord (6:18)

The True and Living Church (1:24)



The John Johnson Sr. Farm in Hiram, OH. Located at: 6203 Pioneer Trail Hiram, Ohio

Joseph Fielding Smith Conference Report Oct 1919 pg. 146

*Weak things: Church History and Modern Revelation 1:255*

Doctrine and Covenants Commentary –containing revelation given to Joseph Smith Jr. Historical and Exegetical Notes by Hyrum M. Smith (of the Council of the Twelve Apostles) and Janne M. Sjodahl Deseret Book Company pg. 3,6-7

Spencer W. Kimball—excerpts from Miracle of Forgiveness pg. 40-41

Elder Melvin J. Ballard Conf. Report Oct 1923 pp. 30-31

Presentation by ©<http://fashionsbylynda.com/blog/>

A. Theodore Tuttle Conf. Report April 1975 or May 1975 Ensign

Henry B. Eyring *Do Not Delay* Oct. 1999 Conf. Report

Bruce R. McConkie *Mormon Doctrine* p. 374

**Doctrine and Covenants Seminary Teacher Manual** January 2025

How I Hear Him: Elder David A. Bednar

**What is the Book of Commandments?**

In the first few years of the Church, some members could only access the Lord’s revelations to the Prophet Joseph Smith through handwritten copies on loose sheets that circulated among the Saints. In a revelation Joseph received at a conference in 1831, the Lord approved compiling the revelations and before printing revealed a preface for the forthcoming book. It would contain versions of a little under half of the revelations currently in the Doctrine and Covenants. Printing began in 1832 at a printshop in Independence, Missouri, but a mob stopped the effort. These and other revelations were successfully printed in 1835 as the *Doctrine and Covenants of the Church of the Latter Day Saints*. For more information, see *Saints: The Story of the Church of Jesus Christ in the Latter Days*, vol. 1, *The Standard of Truth, 1815–1846* (2018), 141–43.

**Why do prophets and apostles sometimes share unpopular messages?**

Sometimes we as leaders of the Church are criticized for holding firm to the laws of God, defending the Savior’s doctrine, and resisting the social pressures of our day. But our commission as ordained apostles is “to go into all the world to preach [His] gospel unto every creature” [Doctrine and Covenants 18:28]. That means we are commanded to teach truth.

In doing so, sometimes we are accused of being uncaring as we teach the Father’s requirements for exaltation in the celestial kingdom. But wouldn’t it be far more uncaring for us *not* to tell the truth—*not* to teach what God has revealed?

It is precisely because we do care deeply about all of God’s children that we proclaim His truth. We may not always tell people what they want to hear. Prophets are rarely popular. But we will *always* teach the truth! (Russell M. Nelson, “The Love and Laws of God” [Brigham Young University devotional, Sept. 17, 2019], 3, speeches.byu.edu)

**True and Living Church:**

The Lord has declared that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth” (D&C 1:30). This restored Church is true because it is the Savior’s Church; He is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). And it is a living church because of the workings and gifts of the Holy Ghost. (David A. Bednar, “Receive the Holy Ghost,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 97)

**Three features**—(1) fulness of doctrine, (2) power of the priesthood, and (3) testimony of Jesus Christ—explain why God has declared ... that this is the only true and living Church upon the face of the whole earth. ...

The restored gospel of Jesus Christ is comprehensive, universal, merciful, and true. ...

Having the power of the priesthood, the leaders and duly authorized members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are empowered to perform the required priesthood ordinances, such as baptism, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and the administration of the sacrament.

The keys of the priesthood, held by our beloved prophet ... and every other prophet and President of the Church, entitle him to revelation in behalf of the entire Church. This Church is “living” because we have prophets who continue to give us the word of the Lord that is needed for our time.

The third reason why we are the only true Church is that we have the revealed truth about the nature of God and our relationship to Him, and we therefore have a unique testimony of Jesus Christ. (Dallin H. Oaks, “The Only True and Living Church,” *New Era*, Aug. 2011, 3–5)

**Why should I listen to the Prophet as if they speak for the Lord?**

It is no small thing, my brothers and sisters, to have a prophet of God in our midst. Great and wonderful are the blessings that come into our lives as we listen to the word of the Lord given to us through him. ... When we hear the counsel of the Lord expressed through the words of the President of the Church, our response should be positive and prompt. History has shown that there is safety, peace, prosperity, and happiness in responding to prophetic counsel. (M. Russell Ballard, “His Word Ye Shall Receive,” *Ensign*, May 2001, 65)



Idumea  
Sacred Harp Music  
Charles Wesley 1763  
Ananias Davisson  
1816

And am I born to die?  
To lay this body down!  
And must my trembling spirit  
fly  
Into a world unknown?

A land of deepest shade,  
Unpierced by human thought;  
The dreary regions of the dead,  
Where all things are forgot!

Soon as from earth I go,  
What will become of me?  
Eternal happiness or woe  
Must then my portion be!

Waked by the trumpet sound,  
I from my grave shall rise;  
And see the Judge with glory  
crowned,  
And see the flaming skies!  
Ecc. 3:2  
<http://www.sacredharpbremen.org/lieder/026-bis-099/047b-idumea>

### Idolatry

“Sadly, however, we find that to be shown the way is not necessarily to walk in it, and many have not been able to continue in faith. These have submitted themselves in one degree or another to the enticings of Satan and his servants and joined with those of “the world” in lives of ever-deepening idolatry...

...Whatever thing a man sets his heart and his trust in most is his god; and if his god doesn't also happen to be the true and living God of Israel, that man is laboring in idolatry.

June 1976 Ensign “The False Gods We Worship”

### Doctrine and Covenants 1:14.

#### “Give heed to the words of the prophets”

Elder M. Russell Ballard taught:

“It is no small thing, my brothers and sisters, to have a prophet of God in our midst. Great and wonderful are the blessings that come into our lives as we listen to the word of the Lord given to us through him. At the same time, knowing that [the President of the Church] is God’s prophet also endows us with responsibility. When we hear the counsel of the Lord expressed through the words of the President of the Church, our response should be positive and prompt. History has shown that there is safety, peace, prosperity, and happiness in responding to prophetic counsel as did Nephi of old: ‘I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded’ (1 Ne. 3:7)” (“His Word Ye Shall Receive,” Ensign, May 2001, 65).

## Other Interesting Topics

### The Condition of Paris and United States in 1830's



July Revolution in 1830 in Paris

1784-1861

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, various factors contributed to an epidemic of alcoholism that went hand-in-hand with spousal abuse, family neglect, and chronic unemployment. Americans used to drinking lightly alcoholic beverages like cider "from the crack of dawn to the crack of dawn" began ingesting far more alcohol as they drank more of strong, cheap beverages like rum (in the colonial period) and whiskey (in the post-Revolutionary period). Popular pressure for cheap and plentiful alcohol led to relaxed ordinances on alcohol sales.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperance\\_movement\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperance_movement_in_the_United_States)