



**Lesson 13: “This Generation Shall Have My Word through You,”
Our Heritage pgs. 23-25,41,58 and Bible Dictionary,
“Joseph Smith Translation”, pg. 717**

Next Week

**The Law of
Consecration**
(D&C 42:30-42; 51;
78; 82; 104:11-18;
Our Heritage, p. 26)

Introduction

Joseph Smith not only lived like a prophet, but he revealed as prophets reveal. As a result of these many visitations from heavenly messengers, Joseph revealed, among other things:

- The true nature of God
- Our creation in God's image
- Mode of baptism
- The fullness of the gospel through the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price
- The gathering of Israel
- Premortal existence
- The three kingdoms of glory
- The need for a Restoration
- The Aaronic Priesthood
- The Melchizedek Priesthood
- The turning of the hearts of the fathers to the children
- The charge to preach the gospel to every nation, kindred, and people
- The necessity of the temple
- Eternal marriage
- Our potential to become like Heavenly Father

Joseph's teachings were new, inspiring, and, in the truest sense, revelatory. Among the many original teachings were the following:

- The glory of God is intelligence and whatever intelligence a man attain[s] unto in this life . . . will rise with [him] in the resurrection (D&C 93:36, 130:18).
- All men are children of a righteous God, and there is a continuity and eternal nature of life. We are literally the spirit sons and daughters of God. And this gives new meaning to the sacred words, “Our Father, which art in heaven.”
- The priesthood is the power and authority of God. It is the power by which the kingdom is organized and governed and a power that all worthy men may hold. But Joseph, the revelator, warned against the abuse of such power in section 121 of the Doctrine & Covenants [D&C 121:39-41].

This lesson discusses how Joseph Smith has been instrumental in bringing forth the word of the Lord in this dispensation.

The Lord declared that the people in this dispensation would receive His word through Joseph Smith.

In **D&C 5:10**, the words “*this generation*” refer to this latter-day dispensation—our day.

President Brigham Young said: “*What I have received from the Lord, I have received by Joseph Smith*” (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe [1941], 458). This statement could be made by any Latter-day Saint—including you. The latter-day scriptures, priesthood ordinances, priesthood organization, Relief Society organization, and temple building

came from the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

The great outpouring of truth in this dispensation has come through the Prophet Joseph Smith. For example, latter-day scriptures, priesthood ordinances, the organization of the priesthood, and temple building have come from the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Lesson Highlights

- The Lord declared that the people in this dispensation would receive His word through Joseph Smith.
- Many ancient and latter-day scriptures have come through Joseph Smith.
- Plain and precious doctrines of the gospel have been restored through Joseph Smith.

A study of this lesson will help class members appreciate the Prophet Joseph Smith's role in bringing forth the word of the Lord in this dispensation.



Many ancient and latter-day scriptures have come through Joseph Smith.

A prophecy in **Moses 1:40-41** is being fulfilled. In a time when many have esteemed the Lord's words lightly, the Lord raised up the Prophet Joseph Smith. The words of the Lord are now *"had again among the children of men."*

Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, we received the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, and the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible. Joseph was an instrument in the Lord's hand in restoring ancient scriptures and many revelations given to him became latter-day scriptures.

Speaking about Joseph Smith, **Elder LeGrand Richards** said: *"As far as our records show, he has given us more revealed truth than any prophet who has ever lived upon the face of the earth."* (*Ensign*, May 1981, 33)

The Book of Mormon

2 Nephi 3:11-15 this passage contains a prophecy about Joseph Smith. The writings mentioned in verse 12 are the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

These ancient scriptures have blessed our lives by bringing us to a better knowledge of the Lord's covenants, eliminating contention, and establishing peace.

The Doctrine and Covenants

From 1823 to 1831, Joseph Smith received more than 60 revelations from the Lord. A few handwritten copies of these revelations were given to missionaries and others, but most Church members did not have access to them.

At a conference held in Ohio in late 1831, Church leaders decided to publish the revelations in a volume called the Book of Commandments (see the headings to **D&C 67** and **D&C 69**). Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer were selected to take the revelations to Independence, Missouri, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles, where the book would be printed and bound.

Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer reached Independence in January 1832, and by July 1833 William W. Phelps had printed the first 160 pages of the Book of Commandments. However, on 20 July 1833 a mob destroyed Brother Phelps's printing press and many of the unbound pages of the Book of Commandments.

The pages that could be salvaged were bound into a few copies of the Book of

Commandments, but that still did not make the revelations widely available as had been hoped. It wasn't until 1835 when the first edition of the Doctrine and Covenants was published, including 45 additional revelations, that these scriptures reached many of the Saints.

The Pearl of Great Price

The Pearl of Great Price is appropriately named. Like a pearl, it is small in size but great in worth. Although it is only 61 pages long, it spans the eternities, including passages about the Grand Council in Heaven, the restoration of the gospel in the dispensation of the fulness of times, the Savior's Second Coming, the Millennium, and everlasting life. It contains valuable teachings on the Creation, the Fall, the Atonement, and the agency of mankind.

This book of scripture has five parts:

- Selections from the book of Moses
- The book of Abraham
- Joseph Smith—Matthew
- Joseph Smith—History
- The Articles of Faith

Review the last five paragraphs of the Introductory Note at the beginning of the Pearl of Great Price for an explanation of the background of each part of this book of scripture.

The Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible

The **8th Article of Faith** makes clear that we believe the Bible *"as far as it is translated correctly."*

Because of the Great Apostasy, the Lord withdrew the fulness of the gospel from the earth. During the centuries that followed, many parts of the Bible were changed and many plain and precious truths were lost.

1 Nephi 13:24-28. "[T]he book [that] proceeded from the mouth of a Jew" is the Bible. The phrase *"great and abominable church"* refers to all those who fight against God, not to a specific church.

Soon after the Church was restored, the Lord instructed the Prophet Joseph to begin making inspired corrections to the King James Version of the Bible. There are many references to this instruction in the Doctrine and Covenants (see, for example, **D&C 35:20; 37:1; 45:60-61; 73:3-4; 93:53**). Today we refer to the Prophet's work as the *Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible*.

KATHERINE D. PULLINS:

"With the assistance of his scribes, Joseph's unceasing efforts resulted in the translation of the Book of Mormon, another testament of Jesus Christ; the Pearl of Great Price; and the publication of the Doctrine and Covenants. Can you imagine your life without the precepts, the images, and the understanding that the Book of Mormon lends?"

". . . how lacking our understanding of the creation would be without the accounts recorded in the books of Moses and Abraham. Without the intensive instruction in Church history and covenant-making and -keeping in the Doctrine and Covenants, would we be able to truly appreciate the legacy of our faith's past and be prepared to serve in the kingdom?"
(BYU Devotional, June 27, 2000)



Joseph Smith’s translation of the Bible differs from what we normally call a translation. The Prophet did not translate the Bible from one language to another. His only text was the King James Version of the Bible, and he was guided by the Spirit to make corrections and restore passages that had been lost completely.

Two excerpts from the Joseph Smith Translation are in the Pearl of Great Price (the book of Moses and Joseph Smith—Matthew). In addition, brief portions of the Joseph Smith Translation are included in the footnotes of the Latter-day Saint edition of the King James Bible. Longer excerpts are included in the appendix following the Bible Dictionary.

A comparison of some passages may help us understand the value of the JST:

- While the KJV’s references to Enoch include **Gen. 5:18-24**, **Luke 3:37**, **Hebrews 11:5**, and **Jude 1:14-15**, the JST’s expanded text includes his teachings, visions, and prophecies in **Moses 6:21-68** and **7:1-69**.
- The JST’s inspired revisions of **Matthew 4** clarify and correct numerous verses.

Plain and precious doctrines of the gospel have been restored through Joseph Smith.

While many gospel doctrines and principles were left unclear, incorrect, or incomplete in existing volumes of scripture at the time of Joseph Smith’s youth, we were given the clear, correct, complete principles and doctrines as a result of his faithful service as he received revelation and inspiration.

You can see the differences by reviewing footnotes that begin with “JST”.

The process of translating the Bible not only brought the correction and restoration of doctrines in the Bible. It also helped bring about the restoration of doctrines through the Doctrine and Covenants. Many revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants are responses to questions the Prophet asked while pondering the translation of the Bible.

One Church member who spent many years studying the Joseph Smith Translation observed, “*The Joseph Smith Translation is not just a better Bible; it was the channel, or the means, of doctrinal restoration in the infancy of this Church*” (Robert J. Matthews, in *The Capstone of Our Religion: Insights into the Doctrine and Covenants* [1989], 64).

For an example of how the Joseph Smith Translation led to “doctrinal restoration,” read the second full paragraph on page 24 of *Our Heritage*. You may also want to read the heading to **D&C 76** and **D&C 76:15–19**.

Try to imagine your life without any contribution or influence from Joseph Smith. How many times every day do you say or think or feel or know something because of his work. Does the Lord know of your gratitude for what his first latter-day prophet has done for you?

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- **President Brigham Young** said: “*What I have received from the Lord, I have received by Joseph Smith*”. How is this statement true for you? How is it true for all Latter-day Saints?



Subject	Scriptures in the Bible	Scriptures Given through Joseph Smith
Physical nature of the Godhead	Matthew 3:16-17; John 4:24; Acts 7:55	Joseph Smith—History 1:17; D&C 130:1, 22
Our creation in God’s image	Genesis 1:27	Moses 6:8-9
Apostles and prophets	Ephesians 2:20; 4:11-16	D&C 107:23, 33, 35, 39, 58; 112:30-32
Melchizedek Priesthood	Hebrews 6:20; 7:17	D&C 84:19-25; 107:1-8, 18-19
Aaronic Priesthood	Hebrews 7:11	D&C 13; 84:18, 26-27, 30; 107:1, 13-14, 20
Mode of baptism	Matthew 3:16	3 Nephi 11:22-26; Moroni 8:8-12; D&C 20:71-74
The gift of the Holy Ghost	Acts 8:17	D&C 20:41, 43; 35:6; 121:46
Premortal existence	Jeremiah 1:4-5	D&C 93:29; Abraham 3:22-26
Baptism for the dead	1 Corinthians 15:29	D&C 128:16-18
Resurrection	Job 19:25-26; John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:22	Alma 11:42-45
The three kingdoms of glory	1 Corinthians 15:40-42	D&C 76:50-112; 131:1
Eternal marriage	Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 11:11	D&C 131:1-4; 132:19
Our potential to become like Heavenly Father	Romans 8:17	D&C 88:107; 93:20; 132:20-24