

DOCTRINE & COVENANTS & CHURCH HISTORY GOSPEL DOCTRINE CLASS

* GREEN MOUNTAIN 1ST WARD * LAKEWOOD, COLORADO * 01/11/09 * PAGE 1 *

Lesson 2: “Behold, I Am Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World”

Introduction

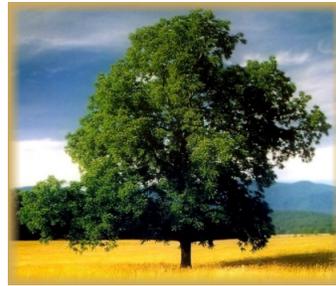


Consider a cut branch. It is unable to receive the nourishment it needs to stay alive because it is separated from its roots.

Elder Boyd K. Packer said: “[*The Atonement of Jesus Christ is the very root of Christian doctrine. You may know much about the gospel as it branches out from there, but if you only know the branches and those branches do not touch that root, if they have been*

cut free from that truth, there will be no life nor substance nor redemption in them” (Ensign, May 1977, 56).

Contrast the cut branch with a strong healthy tree. The Atonement of Jesus Christ brings us life and gives meaning to all other gospel doctrines. We should remember the Atonement as we study other principles throughout the rest of this course.



The Doctrine and Covenants is another—modern dispensation—testimony of Jesus Christ

A major purpose of all scripture is to testify of the Savior. Scripture is intended to persuade individuals to come unto the Savior and accept the salvation offered through His Atonement. While the Bible, the books of Moses and Abraham in the Pearl of Great Price, and the Book of Mormon are ancient witnesses of the Christ, the Doctrine and Covenants testifies that in our present day that He lives, He is the Savior of the World, He stands at the head of the Church, He

speaks to His chosen servants—the prophets, and He guides His people today just as He did in Biblical and Book of Mormon times.

D&C Explanatory Introduction (8th paragraph, last sentence) speaks of the great value of the Doctrine & Covenants to humanity.

D&C 50:41-44; 76:22-24. The Doctrine and Covenants testifies powerfully of the Savior and His work. Most testimonies are directly from the Savior himself.

The Atonement of Jesus Christ allows us to come unto Christ, sincerely repent, and be forgiven.



The Doctrine and Covenants contains many revelations that can increase our understanding of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. These revelations give us a sense of the depth of the Savior’s suffering and the magnitude of the love that He and Heavenly Father have for us.

Lesson Highlights

- The Doctrine and Covenants testifies of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ “suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him.”
- The Doctrine and Covenants helps us understand the Savior’s roles and attributes.

A study of this lesson will help us feel the powerful witness of the Savior that comes through the Doctrine and Covenants and to help strengthen our testimonies of the Savior’s Atonement.

The Savior describes His atoning sacrifice

D&C 19:16-19 contains the Savior's own description of His suffering in Gethsemane.

This is the only scripture passage in which the Savior describes His own suffering during His atoning sacrifice.

D&C 18:10-11; 19:19, 24; and **34:3** help us understand why He was willing to suffer for us.

Through the Atonement, we will all be resurrected

D&C 88:14-16; 93:33; and **Alma 11:42-43** explain that resurrection is the redemption of the soul. The spirit and body are reunited, inseparably connected in a perfect form.

D&C 88:18. Resurrection prepares us for celestial glory.

D&C 93:33. Resurrection is necessary for us to receive a fullness of joy.

Alma 11:44. All people will be resurrected.

Through the Atonement, we can be forgiven of our sins and inherit celestial glory

D&C 18:11-12. We can repent of our sins and come unto the Savior.

D&C 19:16-17, 20. If we repent, Christ takes upon Himself the suffering for our sins.

D&C 58:42. When we repent, the Lord forgives us and remembers our sins no more.

D&C 76:62-70. We are eligible to rise in the first resurrection, be perfected through Christ, and inherit celestial glory.

Through the Atonement, the Savior gained perfect empathy for us in all our sorrows, pains, and afflictions

During His life and culminating in the Atonement, the Savior suffered in a way that gave Him a perfect understanding of all our pains and afflictions.

D&C 122. This section is a revelation given to the Prophet Joseph Smith while he was a prisoner in the jail at Liberty, Missouri.

- **D&C 122:1-7.** The Lord speaks of the Prophet Joseph's trials.
- **D&C 122:8.** The Lord speaks of Himself. He "descended below" all things. (See **Alma 7:11-12; D&C 62:1; 133:53.** Note that the word *succor* means to help. Because the Savior has experienced all our sorrows, pains, and afflictions, He understands how we feel. He knows how to help us.) Consider how this knowledge can help us when we experience trials.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve said: "*When ... difficult times come to us, we can remember that Jesus had to descend below all things before He could ascend above them, and that He suffered pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind that He might be filled with mercy and know how to succor His people in their infirmities (see D&C 88:6; Alma 7:11-12)*" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1995, 91; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 69).

Consider when you have felt the power of the Atonement in your life. What can you do to feel this power more completely? How can you show the Savior your gratitude for His Atonement? How should our understanding of the Atonement affect us in our daily lives?



Through a study of the D&C, we gain an improved understanding of Christ's roles and attributes .

To be able to exercise faith in God, we must have "*a correct idea of his character, perfections, and attributes*" (in Joseph Smith, comp., *Lectures on Faith* [1985], 38).

The Doctrine and Covenants helps us gain this understanding.

Attributes of the Savior that can be found in the scriptures we have read today include charity, obedience, humility, and submissiveness.

Daniel H. Ludlow:

"The Doctrine and Covenants is unique among the standard works of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was revealed in this dispensation and is intended primarily for people who will live on the earth during this dispensation."

(A Companion to Your Study of the Doctrine & Covenants, Deseret Book Company, 1978)



The following also highlight and help us recognize the Savior's attributes and His roles:

- **D&C 6:20–21.** If we are faithful and diligent, the Savior will encircle us in the arms of His love. He is the light that shines in darkness.
- **D&C 6:32–37.** He offers us protection and comfort and is ready to bless us when we remember Him and obey His commandments.
- **D&C 19:1–3.** Having done the will of the Father, He has subdued all things and retained all power. He will destroy Satan and his works. He will judge all people according to their deeds.
- **D&C 29:1–2.** His arm of mercy has atoned for our sins. If we hearken to His voice and humble ourselves, He will gather us as a hen gathers her chickens.
- **D&C 38:1–3.** He is the Creator of the world, and He knows all things.
- **D&C 43:34.** He is the Savior of the world.
- **D&C 45:3–5.** He is our Advocate with the Father.
- **D&C 50:44.** He is the Good Shepherd and the Stone of Israel, a sure foundation upon which we can build.
- **D&C 76:5.** He is merciful and gracious to those who fear Him, and He delights to honor those who serve Him in righteousness and truth to the end.
- **D&C 93:5–19.** He is the Only Begotten of the Father. He “continued from grace to grace” until He received a fulness of the glory and power of the Father.
- **D&C 133:42–52.** When He comes in power at the time of His Second Coming, those whom He has redeemed will mention His loving-kindness and goodness.
- **D&C 136:22.** His arm is stretched out to save His people.

Ponder why it is important to know these roles and attributes of the Savior. How have the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants enriched your testimony of the Savior?

Conclusion

D&C 19:23 *Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me.*

Consider how the truths reviewed in this lesson help you receive peace.

Because of His Atonement, we all will be resurrected. Through His Atonement, He extends to us the invitation to repent and come unto Him, receiving “*peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come*” (D&C 59:23). Partake of all the blessings of the Atonement by exercising faith in Jesus Christ, repenting, obeying the commandments, and enduring to the end.

As you study the Doctrine and Covenants this year, continue to look for what it teaches about Jesus Christ. He is the central figure in the book. The powerful witnesses and truths that are given in these revelations can enrich each person's testimony of Him.

The D&C contains at least 66 names and titles for the Savior. They are terms the Lord uses to identify himself in these revelations, and they are used in all their forms to teach us about his character and reliability and love and power. As you read, watch for these names and titles and consider what they tell you about you Redeemer.

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- When have you felt the power of the Atonement in your life?
- How should our understanding of the Atonement affect us in our daily lives?

