

LESSON 1 *by Dennis N. Roberts*

Introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants and Church History

(Objective: help members understand their place in this dispensation)

Welcome

Let's look at this year's class materials:

1- D&C, 2- Study guide, 3- Our Heritage, 4- Teacher's manual

The D&C: What, Who, When, Where, Why, How?

If Christ is cornerstone, BofM is keystone, what is D&C? (capstone)

1- The D&C revelations address the needs of our day

D&C Intro ¶3	How is D&C different from other scripture?
D&C Intro ¶6	How were D&C revelations received?
D&C Intro ¶8	What gospel doctrines are explained in D&C?

2- Lord authored the preface to the D&C

D&C 1:6	What is Section 1?
<i>Supplement #1</i>	<i>President Ezra Taft Benson</i>
D&C 1:4	What does the Lord give us in this verse?
D&C 1:8-10,13-16,31-33	What warnings does the Lord issue?
D&C 1:1-2, 11	For whom are D&C messages intended?
D&C 1:23	The Lord foretells what?
D&C 1: 17-28	What are purposes of revelations?
<i>Supplement #2</i>	<i>Purposes of D and C (Section 1)</i>
D&C 1:37-38	What is the commandment here?

3- Course will discuss major events of this dispensation

Bible Dictnry;p 657	Read first 2 sentences under "Dispensations"
<i>Supplement #3</i>	<i>Prophet Joseph Smith</i>
<i>Supplement #4</i>	<i>Modern-day Historical Periods</i>
Study guide p27-28	Most major events summarized in study guide

How does this apply to me?

Ezra Taft Benson-----"There has never been more expected of the faithful in such a short period of time as there is of us."

Gordon B. Hinckley-----"The most serious challenge we face, and the most wonderful challenge, is the challenge that comes with growth."

Gordon B. Hinckley-----"This is a season of a thousand opportunities. It is ours to grasp and move forward. What a wonderful time it is for each of us to do his or her small part in moving the work of the Lord on to its magnificent destiny."

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Lesson 2 / Study Guide, page 3

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LESSON 1 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis N. Roberts*

SUPPLEMENT #1

President Ezra Taft Benson

“The Doctrine and Covenants is the only book in the world that has a preface written by the Lord himself. In the preface He declares to the world that His voice is unto all men, that the coming of the Lord is nigh, and that the truths found in the Doctrine and Covenants will all be fulfilled.”

(General Conference, October, 1986)

SUPPLEMENT #2

Purposes of Doctrine and Covenants (D&C 1)

- 1- v.20 every man might speak in name of God
- 2- v.21 faith increase
- 3- v.22 establish everlasting covenant
- 4- v.23 gospel fullness proclaimed
- 5- v. 24 help servants come to understanding
- 6- v. 25 make errors known
- 7- v. 26 instruct those who seek wisdom
- 8- v. 27 sinners might be chastened to repentance
- 9- v. 28 humble made strong, blessed, & receive knowledge

SUPPLEMENT #3

Prophet Joseph Smith

“Prophets, priests, and kings.... have looked forward with joyful anticipation to the day in which we live; and fired with heavenly and joyful anticipation they have sung and written and prophesied of this our day; but they died without the sight; we are the favored people that God has made choice of to bring about the Latter-day glory; it is left for us to see, participate in and help to roll forward the Latter-day glory, ‘the dispensation of the fullness of times’”.

(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith [1976], 231)

SUPPLEMENT #4

Modern-day Historical Periods

- 1- New York Period 1820-1830
- 2- Ohio-Missouri Period 1831-1838
- 3- Nauvoo Period 1839-1846
- 5- Expansion of the Church 1899-1950
- 6- Worldwide Church 1951-present

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If Christ is cornerstone & BofM is keystone, what is the D&C? (capstone)

Upper half of ball is capstone
April 6, 1892 General conference dismissed shortly before noon
40,000 gathered on Temple Square, w/ thousands more surrounding it
Pres Wilford Woodruff pressed button and cap lowered into place
Choir with band sang "The Spirit of God" and saints joined in
Then gave Hosanna Shout and waved white handkerchiefs showing joy in near completion
In April GC, President Ezra Taft Benson called the D&C the capstone (continuing revelations)

1- The D&C revelations address the needs of our day

- D&C Intro ¶3 How is D&C different from other scripture? What does the 'modern origin' of the D&C signify to the world?
- D&C Intro ¶6 How were D&C revelations received? How can this knowledge help us individually?
- D&C Intro ¶8 What gospel doctrines are explained in D&C? 12 principles, priesthood administration, and the testimony of Christ

2- Lord authored the preface to the D&C

- D&C 1:6 What is Section 1?
Supplement #1 President Ezra Taft Benson
D&C 1:4 What does the Lord give us in this verse? Is this a blessing?
- D&C 1:8-10,13-16,31-33 What warnings does the Lord issue? How do these apply to us now?
- D&C 1:1-2,11 For whom are D&C messages intended? How will these messages go to all the people (see verse 4)
- D&C 1:23 The Lord foretells the destiny of what? When revealed, church = 18 months old and had few hundred members
- D&C 1: 17-28 What are purposes of revelations? How many of the nine purposes apply to us?
Supplement #2 Purposes of D and C (Section 1) (some say nine purposes and some say five purposes)
- D&C 1:37-38 What is the commandment here? How is "searching" different from "reading"?

Nov 1, 1831 JS presided at special conference of elders in Hiram, Ohio
Decided to compile and publish Book of Commandments
Following first session of conference, Lord gave D&C 1 to Joseph, the preface

What blessings & responsibilities do we share because of this?

3- Course will discuss major events of this dispensation

- Bible Dictnry;p 657 Read first 2 sentences under "Dispensations" This year's study will cover many of the major events of our dispensation
- Supplement #3 Prophet Joseph Smith* Why is our dispensation different from others? (no apostasy, grow till 2nd C)
- Supplement #4 Modern-day Historical Periods*
- Study guide p27-28 Most major events summarized in study guide Which events have significance to you?

Have everyone look around at others in room.
We are not here by accident. We are here to help build kingdom in this dispensation. We are in this ward for a greater purpose.

How does this apply to me?

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