

## **LESSON 3** *by Dennis N. Roberts*

### **“I Had Seen a Vision”**

(Objective: to strengthen members' testimonies of First Vision)

#### **Welcome**

*Right Time, Right Place, Right Man*

#### **1- After Apostasy, God prepared the way for Restoration**

- a. What are some consequences of Great Apostasy?
- b. *Supplement #1 Bruce R. McConkie*
- c. Before JS, what events helped prepare for the restoration?
  - 1- Renaissance      3- Americas with independent peoples
  - 2- Reformers      4- Constitution with religious freedom*(see supplement #2)*

#### **2- God prepared Joseph Smith to be prophet**

- a. What prepared JS for the restoration?
  - 1- Joseph's family  
Why was Joseph's heritage important?
  - 2- Adversity  
What can we learn about JS from his infected leg?
  - 3- Religious atmosphere  
Why was Joseph confused about which church to join?  
How did scripture help Joseph resolve his confusion?

#### **3- First Vision ushered in restoration of the gospel**

- a. JS-H 1:14      How was this prayer different from his others?
- b. JS-H 1:15-17      What happened when JS began to pray?
- c. JS-H 1:18-19      What was JS told about joining a church?

#### **4- Many truths were revealed in the First Vision**

- a. *Supplement #3 President Gordon B. Hinckley*
- b. What are some truths we can learn from First Vision?
  - 1- What about God & Jesus?      5- What about Satan?
  - 2- What about us?      6- What about Satan's power?
  - 3- What about prayers?      7- What about other churches?
  - 4- What about revelation?
- c. *Supplement #4 Elder Ezra Taft Benson*

#### **How does this apply to me?**

- JS-H 1:25-26      How has God prepared you for your life?*  
*Supplement #5      President Gordon B. Hinckley*

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## LESSON 3 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis N. Roberts*

### SUPPLEMENT #1

#### Elder Bruce R. McConkie

“Beginning in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Lord began to prepare those social, educational, religious, economic, and governmental conditions under which he could more easily restore the gospel for the last time.”

(Mormon Doctrine, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. [1966], 717)

### SUPPLEMENT #2

**A. Elder James E. Talmage...** The renaissance was not a chance occurrence but rather “a development predetermined in the Mind of God to illumine the benighted minds of men in preparation for the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which was appointed to be accomplished some centuries later.”

(Jesus the Christ, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed [1916],749)

**B. Elder M. Russell Ballard...** Martin Luther and other reformers “were inspired to create a religious climate in which God could restore lost truths and priesthood authority.”

(General Conference, October 1994)

**C. Elder M. Russell Ballard...** “God inspired the earlier explorers and colonizers of America and the framers of the Constitution of the United States to develop a land and governing principles to which the gospel could be restored.”

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### SUPPLEMENT #3

#### President Gordon B. Hinckley

“I submit that in the few minutes that Joseph Smith was with the Father and the Son, he learned more of the nature of God the Eternal Father and the risen Lord than all the learned minds in all their discussion through all centuries of time.”

(Church News, 24 Oct. 1998, 6)

### SUPPLEMENT #4

#### Elder Ezra Taft Benson

“The appearance of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ to the boy prophet is the greatest event that has occurred in this world since the resurrection of the Master.”

(General Conference April 1971)

### SUPPLEMENT #5

#### President Gordon B. Hinckley

“A most remarkable manifestation occurred on a spring morning in the year 1820 when the Father and the Son appeared to the boy Joseph Smith... A testimony of [that vision] has touched the hearts of millions in many lands. I add my own witness, given me by the Spirit, that the Prophet’s description of that marvelous event is true, that God the Eternal Father and the risen Lord Christ spoke with him on that occasion in a conversation as real and personal and intimate as are our conversations today.”

(*Be Thou an Example* [1981], 10)

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Write on WB

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**Welcome**

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Brief summary of Great Apostasy  
How did it happen?  
Could it happen again?

- 1- no priesthood
- 2- no apostles or prophets
- 3- Essential knowledge about nature of God lost
- 4- Doctrines of gospel corrupted
- 5- Sacred ordinances changed (baptism, sacrament, etc.)
- 6- church became divided

**1- After Apostasy, God prepared the way for Restoration**

- a. What are some consequences of Great Apostasy? .....
- b. Supplement #1 *Bruce R. McConkie* .....
- c. Before JS, what events helped prepare for restoration?.....
  - 1- Renaissance      3- Americas with independent people
  - 2- Reformers      4- Constitution & religious freedom
 (see supplement #2)

*preparation began centuries before First Vision*

What are your thoughts about this sequence?  
Is the hand of the Lord not involved in this preparation?  
Has the Lord stopped influencing world events?

200 years old

**2- God prepared Joseph Smith to be prophet**

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  - What can we learn about JS from his infected leg? .....
- 3- Religious atmosphere .....
- Why was Joseph confused about which church to join? .....
- How did scripture help Joseph resolve his confusion?.....

Grandfather Asael Smith's prediction (see lesson book)  
Parents' spiritual experiences  
Joe Sr. did not join but Lucy felt baptism important and did

How do trials and afflictions affect people? Affect you and me?  
after 3 years of crop failure, family moved to Palmyra when JS was 10  
Are there people today who are in similar situations, searching for truth?  
How did Joseph read the scriptures? Did he feel Bible had all answers?

**3- First Vision ushered in restoration of the gospel**

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How do you feel about "vocal" prayers?  
Does this experience relate to any we have experienced?  
"having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof"

**4- Many truths were revealed in the First Vision**

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*First Vision is rich in doctrinal significance*

- 1- God & Jesus live (are 2)      5- Satan is real
- 2- Created in God's image      6- Satan has power but God's is greater
- 3- God answers prayers      7- No church had fullness
- 4- Revelation has not ceased

*What is the second greatest event in world history since the resurrection?*

**How does this apply to me?**

- JS-H 1:25-26      How has God prepared you for your life?.....      You too have had experiences and holy witnesses... do not deny them!*
- Supplement #5      President Gordon B. Hinckley.....      "The Best Two Years" Elder gets tears as he tells JS story... so real!*

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