

LESSON 29 *by Dennis Roberts*

Building the Kingdom of God in Nauvoo, Illinois

(Objective: encourage members to follow example of Nauvoo Saints)

Welcome

Assembling a 500 piece puzzle without a picture to compare

1- The Saints sought refuge in Illinois

- What is the historical background of today's lesson? (see map→)
- OH pgs 51-52 What trials did John Hammer face?

2- Missionaries sent from Nauvoo converted thousands

- OH pg 55-58 Where were the Quorum of Twelve sent?
- Supplement #1 Elder Wilford Woodruff story
- Supplement #2 Harold B. Lee

3- Nauvoo Saints set example of enduring to the end

- What instructions were received by the following individuals?
 - D&C 124:12-14 Robert B. Thompson
 - D&C 124:16-17 John C. Bennett
 - D&C 124:18-19 Lyman Wight
 - D&C 124:87-90 William Law
 - D&C 124:104-110 Sidney Rigdon
- D&C 124:15 What character traits did the Lord praise?
- Supplement #3 Joseph Smith

“I could pray in my heart that all my brethren were like unto my beloved brother Hyrum, who possesses the mildness of a lamb, and the integrity of a Job, and in short, the meekness and humility of Christ; and I love him with that love that is stronger than death, for I never had occasion to rebuke him, nor he me”
(History of the Church, 2:338).

4- The Relief Society was organized in Nauvoo

- OH pgs 61-62 What did the Joseph Smith organize?
- Supplement #4 Relief Society Declaration
- How does the RS build faith and strengthen testimonies?

How does this apply to me?

Granger 18th ward members have the promise that steadfastness will be possible, and immeasurably worthwhile!

Next Lesson

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- 3. Independence** – The Lord identified Independence as the center place of Zion in July 1831. Mobs forced the Saints from here in November 1833
- 4. Liberty** – The Saints from Jackson County gathered in this area from 1833 until 1836, when they were required to leave.
- 5. Far West** – A refuge was established here for the Saints from 1836 to 1838. It was the headquarters of the church for part of 1838.
- 6. Nauvoo** – The headquarters of the Church from 1839 to 1846. About two years after the martyrdom of the prophet and his brother Hyrum, the Saints moved west.

LESSON 29 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis Roberts*

SUPPLEMENT #1 Elder Wilford Woodruff story

“I . . . met with a large assembly of Saints and strangers, and while singing the first hymn the spirit of the Lord rested upon me and the voice of God said to me, ‘This is the last meeting that you will hold with this people for many days.’ I was astonished at this, as I had many appointments out in that district. When I arose to speak to the people, I told them that it was the last meeting I should hold with them for many days. They were as much astonished as I was. At the close of the meeting four persons came forward for baptism; we went down into the water and baptized them.

“In the morning I went in secret before the Lord, and asked Him what was His will concerning me. The answer I received was that I should go to the south; for the Lord had a great work for me to perform there, as many souls were waiting for His word.”

For the next two days he traveled south until he came to the farm of John Benbow in Herefordshire. Mr. Benbow and his wife, Jane, received him gladly and said that there was a company of over 600 men and women who had formed their own congregation called the United Brethren. Elder Woodruff said:

“This body of United Brethren were searching for light and truth, but had gone as far as they could, and were calling upon the Lord continually to open the way before them and send them light and knowledge, that they might know the true way to be saved. When I heard these things I could clearly see why the Lord had commanded me, while in the town of Hanley, to leave that place of labor and go to the south; for in Herefordshire there was a great harvest-field for gathering many saints into the Kingdom of God.”

(in Wilford Woodruff: History of His Life and Labors, [1909], 116–19).

SUPPLEMENT #2 Elder Harold B. Lee

“In one year, 1840 to 1841—one year and fourteen days, to be exact—nine members of the twelve were called to labor in the British Mission. If you remember the history [in Nauvoo], those years marked the period of some of the severest persecution that the Church was to undergo in this dispensation. In that one year and fourteen days the nine members of the twelve, with their associates, established churches in every noted town and city in the kingdom of Great Britain. They baptized between 7000 and 8000 converts. They printed 5000 copies of the Book of Mormon, 3000 hymnbooks, and 50,000 tracts, . . . and [they] emigrated 1000 souls to America”

(General Conference, Apr. 1960)

SUPPLEMENT #3 Joseph Smith

(included in lesson outline on other side)

SUPPLEMENT #4 Relief Society Declaration

“We are beloved spirit daughters of God, and our lives have meaning, purpose, and direction. As a worldwide sisterhood, we are united in our devotion to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Exemplar. We are women of faith, virtue, vision, and charity who:

“Increase our testimonies of Jesus Christ through prayer and scripture study.

“Seek spiritual strength by following the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

“Dedicate ourselves to strengthening marriages, families, and homes.

“Find nobility in motherhood and joy in womanhood.

“Delight in service and good works.

“Love life and learning.

“Stand for truth and righteousness.

“Sustain the priesthood as the authority of God on earth.

“Rejoice in the blessings of the temple, understand our divine destiny, and strive for exaltation”

(Mary Ellen Smoot, “Rejoice, Daughters of Zion,” Ensign, Nov. 1999, 92–93).

SUPPLEMENT #5 Joseph’s Red Brick Store

The Prophet Joseph Smith’s red brick store was one of the most important buildings in the Church throughout the Nauvoo period (see the picture below). In addition to being a general store, it was a center of religious, social, and civic activity. The Saints established a public school there. They also used the building for Church and civic meetings and youth gatherings. The Relief Society was organized in this store on 17 March 1842. Before the temple was completed, the upper floor was used as an ordinance room. The first endowments in this dispensation were given there.



LESSON 29 *by Dennis Roberts*

Building the Kingdom of God in Nauvoo, Illinois

Nauvoo was a welcomed and needed season of rest and rejoicing for the beleaguered Saints

Objective: encourage members to follow example of Nauvoo Saints)

Welcome

Assembling a 500 piece puzzle without a picture to compare

in Nauvoo the pieces all started to fit together into a beautiful eternal picture. The doctrinal picture of the eternal nature of man, the family, the earth, Zion, and God was completed in Nauvoo: endowment, fullness of priesthood (priests and kings), eternal marriage, man can become as God, man is eternal

1- The Saints sought refuge in Illinois

- a. What is the historical background of today's lesson? (see map→) ----- Refer to map and talk about saints to Illinois and JS out of prison
- b. OH pgs 51-52 What trials did John Hammer face?----- Tell of Brigham Young and John Hammer family

2- Missionaries sent from Nauvoo converted thousands

- a. OH pg 55-58 Where were the Quorum of Twelve sent?----- Recount story of success in England
- b. Supplement #1 Elder Wilford Woodruff story----- What can we learn from Wilford Woodruff's experience?
- c. Supplement #2 Harold B. Lee----- What constitutes a successful mission experience?

3- Nauvoo Saints set example of enduring to the end

- a. What instructions were received by the following individuals?----- Read heading and summary to 124
 - 1. D&C 124:12-14 Robert B. Thompson----- "multiplicity of blessings", "shall be great in mine eyes"
 - 2. D&C 124:16-17 John C. Bennett----- "he shall be great", "He shall be mine", "crown with glory"
 - 3. D&C 124:18-19 Lyman Wight----- "bear him up", "receive him unto myself"
 - 4. D&C 124:87-90 William Law----- "multiplicity of blessings", "not forsaken, nor his seed found begging"
 - 5. D&C 124:104-110 Sidney Rigdon----- "shall be healed". "it shall be well with him"
- b. D&C 124:15 What character traits did the Lord praise?----- How can we develop integrity of heart, love of what is right?
- c. Supplement #3 Joseph Smith----- *Do any of you have someone who you have always been able to turn to?*

These four eventually apostatized

"I could pray in my heart that all my brethren were like unto my beloved brother Hyrum, who possesses the mildness of a lamb, and the integrity of a Job, and in short, the meekness and humility of Christ; and I love him with that love that is stronger than death, for I never had occasion to rebuke him, nor he me"
(History of the Church, 2:338)

How important was this to Joseph Smith and the early history of the church?

4- The Relief Society was organized in Nauvoo

- a. OH pgs 61-62 What did the Joseph Smith organize?----- Read first two paragraphs
- b. Supplement #4 Relief Society Declaration----- *memorized by any sisters who will repeat it in class?*
- c. How does the RS build faith and strengthen testimonies?----- *How does the RS help sisters, help families, and help the church?*

How does this apply to me?

Granger 18th ward members have the promise that steadfastness will be possible, and immeasurably worthwhile!

Next Lesson

Lesson 30 / Study Guide, page 17 / "The Prisoners Shall Go Free"

Is there a relationship between the wealth of a nation and the level to which they reverence women?