

LESSON 30 *by Dennis Roberts*
“The Prisoners Shall Go Free”

(Objective: help class members rejoice in doing temple work)

Welcome

What does the title of today’s lesson mean? Who are the prisoners?

1- The Lord revealed priesthood ordinances for the dead

- a. Why do we perform baptisms for the dead?
- b. What is history of Baptisms for the dead?
 1. Sep 1823 Lord (Moroni) begins teaching JS about BforD
 2. Apr 1836 Elijah restores priesthood keys
 3. Oct 1838 Lord commands building of Nauvoo temple
 4. Aug 1840 Seymour Brunson funeral / BforD in Mississippi
 5. Oct 1841 No more baptisms outside temple
 6. Nov 1841 BY dedicates temporary font in temple basement
- c. *Supplement #1 President Gordon B. Hinckley*

2- The Lord commanded Saints to build Nauvoo temple

- a. D&C 124:25-27 What did Lord command saints to build?
- b. OH pgs 58-61 What sacrifices were made to build the temple? -----
- c. For what reasons did the Lord give this commandment?
 1. D&C 124:28; 40-41 to reveal additional _____
 2. D&C 124:29-30, 33 a place to perform _____
 3. D&C 124:55 Saints prove their _____
- d. What can we learn from these Saint’s experiences?

3- We should be enthusiastic in efforts to baptize for dead

- a. D&C 128:15 How do the dead depend on us for salvation?
- b. *D&C 128:18* Who are the 3 links in this chain of salvation?
- c. *Supplement #2 Elder Gordon B. Hinckley*
- d. *Supplement #3 Elder John A. Widtsoe*
- e. D&C 2 Can BforD help turn our hearts to ancestors?
- f. D&C 128:22-24 What should our attitude be toward BforD?
- g. What personal experiences can you share regarding BforD?

How does this apply to me?

D&C 128:17 When will be the next time we participate in the “most glorious of all subjects belonging to the gospel”?

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Lesson 31 / Study Guide, page 17 / “Sealed for Time and all Eternity”

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LESSON 30 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis Roberts*

SUPPLEMENT #1 President Gordon B. Hinckley

“It is tremendously significant to me that . . . this repetition of the wondrous words of Malachi concerning the work for the dead, was given to the boy Joseph four years before he was allowed to take the plates from the hill. It was given before he received either the Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood, before he was baptized, and well before the Church was organized. It says much concerning the priority of this work in the plan of the Lord”

(“A Century of Family History Service,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1995, 61).

SUPPLEMENT #2 Elder Gordon B. Hinckley

“That which goes on in the House of the Lord . . . comes nearer to the spirit of sacrifice of the Lord than any other activity of which I know. Why? Because it is done by those who give freely of time and substance, without any expectation of thanks or reward, to do for others that which they cannot do for themselves.”

(*Ensign*, Mar. 1995, 62–63)

SUPPLEMENT #3 Elder John A. Widtsoe

“In our preexistent state, in the day of the great council, we made a certain agreement with the Almighty. The Lord proposed a plan, conceived by him. We accepted it. Since the plan is intended for all men, we become parties to the salvation of every person under that plan. We agreed, right then and there, to be not only saviors for ourselves, but . . . saviors for the whole human family. We went into a partnership with the Lord. The working out of the plan became then not merely the Father’s work, and the Savior’s work, but also our work. The least of us, the humblest, is in partnership with the Almighty in achieving the purpose of the eternal plan of salvation.”

(“The Worth of Souls,” *Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine*, Oct. 1934, 189)

Nauvoo Temple



This model shows the beauty of the original structure before it burned in 1848.

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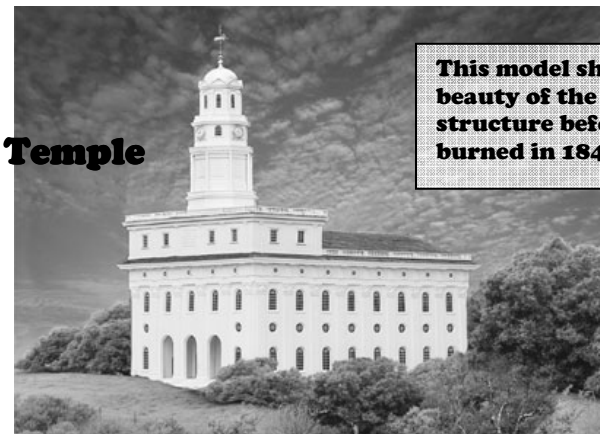
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Jerry Blackham's story?

LESSON 30 *by Dennis Roberts* "The Prisoners Shall Go Free"

(Objective: help class members rejoice in doing temple work)

Visit them
Give them opportunities to
repent and get out

Welcome

What does the title of today's lesson mean? Who are the prisoners? ----- How would you treat a family member in prison?

1- The Lord revealed priesthood ordinances for the dead

- a. Why do we perform baptisms for the dead?----- All people must have opportunity but baptisms need physical bodies
- b. What is history of Baptisms for the dead? ----- How important is it when the Lord asks Moroni to talk about it so early?
 - 1. Sep 1823 Lord (Moroni) begins teaching JS about BforD----- repeated how many times?
 - 2. Apr 1836 Elijah restores priesthood keys----- but work not begun yet
 - 3. Oct 1838 Lord commands building of Nauvoo temple----- 2nd temple, just months after arrival in Nauvoo
 - 4. Aug 1840 Seymour Brunson funeral / BforD in Mississippi ----- JS allows BforD o commence prior to temple
 - 5. Oct 1841 No more baptisms outside temple ----- since this, all BforD done in temple
 - 6. Nov 1841 BY dedicates temporary font in temple basement ----- made of finely crafted wood until permanent one built
- c. Supplement #1 *President Gordon B. Hinckley* ----- *Its high on the Lord's priority list. Should it be high on ours?*

2- The Lord commanded Saints to build Nauvoo temple

- a. D&C 124:25-27 What did Lord command saints to build? ----- Though 2nd temple, first to perform ordinances (line upon line?)
- b. OH pgs 58-61 What sacrifices were made to build the temple? -----
- c. For what reasons did the Lord give this commandment? -----
 - 1. D&C 124:28; 40-41 to reveal additional _____ ----- priesthood ordinances
 - 2. D&C 124:29-30, 33 a place to perform _____ ----- baptisms for the dead
 - 3. D&C 124:55 Saints prove their _____ ----- faithfulness
- d. What can we learn from these Saint's experiences?----- Are we anxious and willing to sacrifice to perform BforD?

Doesn't this seem to be a terribly difficult task to require while the Saints were still recovering from persecutions and trying to build homes, incomes, and testimonies?

Willing to give all our savings? Every tenth work day?
Willing to drive for 15 minutes to temple and give two

3- We should be enthusiastic in efforts to baptize for dead

- a. D&C 128:15 How do the dead depend on us for salvation? ----- Why do we need them? If salvation depends on them, what do we do?
- b. D&C 128:18 Who are the 3 links in this chain of salvation?----- 1- "we" =us, 2- "they" =dead without gospel, 3- "those" =died with gospel
- c. Supplement #2 *Elder Gordon B. Hinckley*----- *How did President Hinckley define "spirit of sacrifice"?*
- d. Supplement #3 *Elder John A. Widtsoe*----- *What obstacles do we encounter that keep us from doing our part?*
- e. D&C 2 Can BforD help turn our hearts to ancestors? ----- Do BforD help us keep our promises?
- f. D&C 128:22-24 What should our attitude be toward BforD? ----- What a powerful testament to the ordinance of BforD!!!
- g. What personal experiences can you share regarding BforD?----- Ask members to share testimonies

12 years or older, hold current temple recommend, males hold priesthood

How does this apply to me?

D&C 128:17 *When will be the next time we participate in the "most glorious of all subjects belonging to the gospel"?*

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