

## **LESSON 39** *by Dennis Roberts*

### **“The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn to Their Fathers”**

(Objective: help members understand need to seek out ancestors)

#### **Welcome**

Roots, trunks, and branches – Where are we?

#### **1- Elijah: “Keys of dispensation committed to you”**

- a. D&C 2:1-2      What promises were made to our ancestors?
- b. *Supplement #1*   *President Joseph Fielding Smith*
- c. D&C 110:13-16   What was Elijah’s purpose?
- d. D&C 138:47-48   Why would the earth be utterly wasted?
- e. *Supplement #2*   *Jeffrey R. Holland*

#### **2- Wilford Woodruff: “Somebody has gone to redeem them”**

- a. OH page 101a    Wilford Woodruff & the Genealogical Society
- b. OH page 98-99   Bishop Henry Ballard
- c. *Supplement #3*   *President Wilford Woodruff*
- d. OH page 101b    What does this revelation teach about families?

#### **3- Joseph F. Smith: “Eyes of understanding opened”**

- a. D&C 138          Historical Background
- b. D&C 1381-11      What was President Smith doing
- c. D&C 138:12-19   Whom did the Savior visit in spirit world?
- d. D&C 138:20-21   To whom did the Savior not go?
- e. D&C 138:27-37   What did the Savior do?
- f. D&C 138:57       Who preaches in spirit world today?

#### **4- Gordon B. Hinckley: “Take temples to the people”**

- a. OH page 106      Joseph F. Smith’s prophecy
- b. Temples under President Hinckley  
    Mar 1995   becomes president / 47 temples in operation  
    Oct 1997   makes announcement  
    Apr 1998   sets goal to have 100 temples  
    Oct 2005   announces there are 122 +9 temples
- c. *Supplement #4*   *President Hinckley*

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

We have more opportunity to do service for others than any other people in history. Are we willing to make the commitment to do so?

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Lesson 40 / Study Guide page 21 / Temple and Family History Work

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## LESSON 39 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis Roberts*

### SUPPLEMENT #1 President Joseph Fielding Smith

“What was the promise made to the fathers that was to be fulfilled in the latter days by the turning of the hearts of the children to their fathers? It was the promise of the Lord made through Enoch, Isaiah, and the prophets, to the nations of the earth, that *the time should come when the dead should be redeemed*” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 2:154).

### SUPPLEMENT #2 Jeffrey R. Holland

Without the sealing power, “no family ties would exist in the eternities, and indeed the family of man would have been left in eternity with ‘neither root [ancestors] nor branch [descendants].’ Inasmuch as ... a sealed, united, celestially saved family of God is the ultimate purpose of mortality, any failure here would have been a curse indeed, rendering the entire plan of salvation ‘utterly wasted’ ” (*Christ and the New Covenant*, 297–98).

### SUPPLEMENT #3 President Wilford Woodruff

“The spirits of the dead gathered around me, wanting to know why we did not redeem them. Said they, ‘You have had the use of the Endowment House for a number of years, and yet nothing has ever been done for us. We laid the foundation of the government you now enjoy, and we ... remained true to it and were faithful to God.’ These were the signers of the Declaration of Independence [of the United States of America], and they waited on me for two days and two nights. ... I straightway went into the baptismal font and called upon Brother McAllister to baptize me for the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and fifty other eminent men, making one hundred in all, including John Wesley, Columbus, and others” (*The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, sel. G. Homer Durham [1946], 160–61).

### SUPPLEMENT #4 President Gordon B. Hinckley

“There are many areas of the Church that are remote, where the membership is small and not likely to grow very much in the near future. Are those who live in these places to be denied forever the blessings of the temple ordinances? While visiting such an area a few months ago, we prayerfully pondered this question. The answer, we believe, came bright and clear.

We will construct small temples in some of these areas, buildings with all of the facilities to administer all of the ordinances. They would be built to temple standards, which are much higher than meetinghouse standards. They would accommodate baptisms for the dead, the endowment service, sealings, and all other ordinances to be had in the Lord’s house for both the living and the dead. ...

“... We are determined ... to take the temples to the people and afford them every opportunity for the very precious blessings that come of temple worship” (General Conf, October 1997)

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#### Welcome

Roots, trunks, and branches – Where are we?

Shanna and I watching Saturday's Warrior last night. We had yet to bring into this world all our children. Now we have all five of them plus 14 more (grandchildren). Our tree continues to grow / today we are the trunk, tomorrow we will be the roots.

#### 1- Elijah: “Keys of dispensation committed to you”

- D&C 2:1-2 What promises were made to our ancestors? ----- (read preface) / fathers =?? (ancestors)
- Supplement #1 President Joseph Fielding Smith -----
- D&C 110:13-16 What was Elijah's purpose? ----- April 3, 1836 / conferred sealing power of priesthood, meaning what?
- D&C 138:47-48 Why would the earth be utterly wasted? ----- Earth wasted? Smitten with curse?
- Supplement #2 Jeffrey R. Holland ----- same thing

Eternal marriage,  
sealing families,  
ordinances for dead

No keys  
No temple work  
No eternal families  
God's plan not realized

#### 2- Wilford Woodruff: “Somebody has gone to redeem them”

- OH page 101a Wilford Woodruff & the Genealogical Society ----- How does genealogy and temple work become one?
- OH page 98-99 Bishop Henry Ballard ----- read story / any personal examples?
- Supplement #3 President Wilford Woodruff ----- What can we learn from stories like these? (dead anxious/we be diligent)
- OH page 101b What does this revelation teach about families? ---- “will of Lord” What more do we need to know?

#### 3- Joseph F. Smith: “Eyes of understanding opened”

- D&C 138 Historical Background ----- read preface / Oct 1918 /
- D&C 1381-11 What was President Smith doing ----- pondering scriptures & atonement, prompted to read 1 Peter 3-4
- D&C 138:12-19 Whom did the Savior visit in spirit world?-----
- D&C 138:20-21 To whom did the Savior not go? ----- Died in sins without knowledge
- D&C 138:27-37 What did the Savior do? ----- Organized righteous spirits
- D&C 138:57 Who preaches in spirit world today? ----- Faithful elders of this dispensation

12-Had been faithful in mortality  
13-Had offered sacrifices in similitude  
13-Had suffered tribulation in JC's name  
14-Had died firm in hope of resurrection  
15-filled with joy for coming deliverance

#### 4- Gordon B. Hinckley: “Take temples to the people”

- OH page 106 Joseph F. Smith's prophecy ----- summarize Joseph F Smith's background
- Temples under President Hinckley ----- How has he expanded our understanding of temple work?
  - Mar 1995 becomes president / 47 temples in operation-----
  - Oct 1997 makes announcement (see Sup #4)-----
  - Apr 1998 sets goal to have 100 temples-----
  - Oct 2005 announces there are 122 + 9 temples-----
- Supplement #4 President Hinckley -----

How has the increase in temple construction affected you or others you know?  
How have these temples affected the church membership?  
How have these temples affected the perception the world has of our church?  
How have these temples affected those who have died without the gospel?

#### How does this apply to me?

We have more opportunity to do service for others than any other people in history. Are we willing to make the commitment to do so?

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