

Comments on Doctrine & Covenants 65

The text can be arranged as a synthetical parallelism, as follows:

- A - (v. 1) A voice from heaven, Prepare the way of the Lord
- B - (v. 2) Keys given to man that the stone shall roll forth
- C - (v. 3) Prepare for the Bridegroom, Supper of the Lamb
- A - (v. 4) Preach His wonderful works, call upon His holy name
- B - (v. 5) Kingdom may go forth, to prepare for Second Advent
- C - (v. 6) Kingdom of heaven united with kingdom on earth

Assuming the arrangement is robust, note in the first A section the word comes to the elect as revelation, then in the second A the elect are to declare it to the world, cp. Mosiah 8:18, Moroni 7:31, D&C 29:4, D&C 46:9, D&C 93:46. The B sections state the restoration of the Church is to prepare for the upcoming Day of the Lord, cp. D&C 2:3. The C sections indicate that with the Second Advent (a.k.a. the Bridegroom in the wedding of Matt. 25:1-13, the son in the wedding feast of Matt. 22:1-14) the kingdoms of heaven and earth will be united.

1 Hearken, and lo, a voice as of one sent down from on high, who is mighty and powerful, whose going forth is unto the ends of the earth, yea, whose voice is unto men--Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 2 The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth. 3 Yea, a voice crying--Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the supper of the Lamb, make ready for the Bridegroom.

4 Pray unto the Lord, call upon his holy name, make known his wonderful works among the people. 5 Call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of Man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth. 6 Wherefore, may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, mayest be glorified in heaven so on earth, that thine enemies may be subdued; for thine is the honor, power and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

v1, 3 "Prepare ye the way of the Lord", a quote from Isa. 40:3 with the obvious implication that the LDS Church is to serve in the mission of Elias as preparing the way for the Day of the Lord.

v2 This is the original and only scriptural equation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with the Daniel 2 prediction.

Historical Material Pertaining to Doctrine & Covenants 65

This section was first published in the Evening and Morning Star, volume 1, number 4, page 26, September, 1832. It was published in the Kirtland edition Doctrine and Covenants, 1835, page 151. It was published in Times and Seasons, volume 5, number 7, page 482, dated April 1, 1844. It was published in the Millennial Star, volume 5, number 11, page 163, dated April, 1845.

Excerpt from History of the Church

In the fore part of October, I received the following prayer through revelation:

[text of D&C 65 quoted]

(Joseph Smith, History of the Church, volume 1, page 218)

Excerpt from Doctrine and Covenants Commentary

The prophet Joseph was now living at Hiram, about thirty miles southeast of Kirtland. He had gone there, on invitation of Father Johnson, in order to devote himself to his work on the Bible revision. From September 12, 1831, until the first of October, he did little more than prepare to recommence the translation of the Bible. (HC, Vol. I., p. 215) What the preparations consisted in is not stated, but this revelation, which is an inspired prayer, indicates that an important part of such preparation was communion with God in prayer.

At Hiram, several important conferences were held. There thirteen Revelations were received, including the memorable vision recorded in Section 76. There a mob, excited by the agitation of Ezra Booth, who had denied the faith and become an enemy, tried to take the life of the prophet and Sidney Rigdon. No doubt, this Revelation came to strengthen them for the work and experiences before them. (Hyrum M. Smith and Janne M. Sjodahl, Doctrine and Covenants Commentary, page 397)

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