

Comments on Doctrine & Covenants 92

As a result of Williams being called into the First Presidency (cf. D&C 90), he is to join into the same covenant of consecration of property made by the others (cf. D&C 82).

This section can be arranged by subject as an inverted parallelism:

- A - (v. 1a-d) I give unto the United Order, agreeable to previous commandment
- B - (v. 1e-f) Revelation and commandment that Williams to join the Order
- C - (v. 1g) What I say unto one
 I say unto all
- B - (v. 2a-c) Williams shall be a lively member of this Order
- A - (v. 2d-e) Faithfulness to former commandments results in blessings

The A's and C's deal with the general ecclesia, while the B's deal with Williams in particular. General covenant theology is endorsed in the admonition to keep covenants with blessings following. The statement in C follows the typical "liken the scriptures unto ourselves" theme.

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord, I give unto the united order, organized agreeable to the commandment previously given, a revelation and commandment concerning my servant Frederick G. Williams, that ye shall receive him into the order. What I say unto one I say unto all.

2 And again, I say unto you my servant Frederick G. Williams, you shall be a lively member in this order; and inasmuch as you are faithful in keeping all former commandments you shall be blessed forever. Amen.

v1 "commandment previously given", cf. D&C 82:11, also cp. 78:11.

"What I say unto one I say unto all", what had previously been applied to other members of the First Presidency is now applied to the newest member.

v2 "lively member", i.e., an active, vigorous participant, cp. Exod. 1:19, Ps. 38:19, 1 Peter 2:5. Williams is not just to fill an empty space, but is to fully take up the mantle.

"former commandments", cf. D&C 64:21, D&C 81.

Historical Material Pertaining to Doctrine & Covenants 92

This section was first published in the Kirtland edition Doctrine and Covenants in 1835, page 231. It was published in Times and Seasons, volume 5, number 23, page 738, dated December 15, 1844. It was published in the Millennium Star, volume 14, number 24, page 377, dated August 7, 1852.

Excerpt from History of the Church

For your satisfaction, I here insert [i.e., in a letter to members at Missouri dated April 21, 1833] a revelation given to Shederlaomach [i.e., Frederick G. Williams], the 15th of March, 1833, constituting him a member of the United Firm. (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, volume 1, page 340)

Copyright © 2021 by S. Kurt Neumiller <kurt.neumiller@gmail.com>. All rights reserved. No part of this text may be reproduced in any form or by any means for commercial gain without the express written consent of the author. Digital or printed copies may be freely made and distributed for personal and public non-commercial use.