

## Comments on Doctrine & Covenants 106

A revelation to [Warren A. Cowdery](#), oldest brother of Oliver Cowdery. Warren joined the Church after Zion's Camp, moved to Kirtland and stayed with the Church some time, but separated from the Church during the fallout from the Kirtland Bank failure, never rejoining.

1 IT is my will that my servant warren A. Cowdery should be appointed and ordained a presiding high priest over my church, in the land of Freedom and the regions round about; 2 And should preach my everlasting gospel, and lift up his voice and warn the people, not only in his own place, but in the adjoining counties; 3 And devote his whole time to this high and holy calling, which I now give unto him, seeking diligently the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness, and all things necessary shall be added thereunto; for the laborer is worthy of his hire.

4 And again, verily I say unto you, the coming of the Lord draweth nigh, and it overtaketh the world as a thief in the night-- 5 Therefore, gird up your loins, that you may be the children of light, and that day shall not overtake you as a thief.

v1-5 A call to missionary service, combined with the leadership position of high priest over a Branch in Freedom, NY. In general, compare these verses with D&C 4 and 12. In particular, compare v. 3 with D&C 84:62-116, v. 4 with D&C 29:7-8, and v. 5 with D&C 75:22.

v3 "laborer is worthy of his hire", cp. D&C 42:70-73. The combined call of missionary and high priest over the Branch will effectively be his full-time job, so he is to be compensated for his labors.

6 And again, verily I say unto you, there was joy in heaven when my servant warren bowed to my scepter, and separated himself from the crafts of men; 7 Therefore, blessed is my servant warren, for I will have mercy on him; and, notwithstanding the vanity of his heart, I will lift him up inasmuch as he will humble himself before me. 8 And I will give him grace and assurance wherewith he may stand; and if he continue to be a faithful witness and a light unto the church I have prepared a crown for him in the mansions of my Father. Even so. Amen.

v6-8 A personal message of admonition to Warren Cowdery. Note the contrasting abasement/exaltation theme, where inasmuch as he

abases himself he will be exalted by the Lord, cp. D&C 101:42.

v6 "bowed to my scepter, and separated himself from the crafts of men", both phrases are unique in the Scriptures. Perhaps these phrases were particularly poignant to Warren Cowdery.

## **Historical Material Pertaining to Doctrine & Covenants 106**

This section was first published in the Kirtland edition of the Doctrine and Covenants in 1835, pages 245-246. It was not published in any Church periodicals.

### **Excerpt from History of the Church**

It now being the last of the month, and the Elders beginning to come in, it was necessary to make preparations for the school for the Elders, wherein they might be more perfectly instructed in the great things of God, during the coming winter. A building for a printing office was nearly finished, and the lower story of this building was set apart for that purpose (the school), when it was completed. So the Lord opened the way according to our faith and works, and blessed be His name.

No month ever found me more busily engaged than November; but as my life consisted of activity and unyielding exertions, I made this my rule: When the Lord commands, do it....

I continued my labors daily, preparing for the school, and received the following:

[text of D&C 106 quoted]

(Joseph Smith, History of the Church, volume 2, pages 169-80)

### **Excerpt from Doctrine and Covenants Commentary**

On his journey among the churches to gather up the strength of the Lord's House, the Prophet came to the City of Freedom, N.Y., where he was entertained by Warren A. Cowdery. He held several meetings there. One of the converts was Heman Hyde, and shortly after his baptism, March 11, 1834, his parents and thirty or forty others were baptized and organized into a Branch, from which nucleus the light spread and souls were gathered into the fold in all the regions round. In this Revelation, Warren A. Cowdery is called to the office of presiding High Priest over the Branch in Freedom and vicinity (v. 1). His duties are stated (v. 2, 3). He was to preach the everlasting gospel, and warn the people. He was to devote his whole time to the ministry, and depend upon the Lord for his reward, "for the laborer is worthy of his hire." He was to remember that "the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (v. 4) and warn the world, lest the day should overtake them "as a thief." Gracious promises are given (vv. 7, 8). (Hyrum M. Smith and Janne M. Sjodhal, Doctrine and Covenants Commentary, page 690)

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