

# The LDS church is not following its own revelations

By John Crane

This document came about because of a Facebook post I read that stated that the current LDS church is following, obeying, and operating by every section of the Doctrine & Covenants. I knew this wasn't the case, so I took it upon myself to locate only one point in each section that the church was not following or teaching to the letter, and without revelation commanding them to do or teach otherwise. I don't like being in the position of being an accuser, but somebody needs to point these out.

1:30. And also those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually—

**Section 1 is the preamble to the D&C. It sets out the reasons given for these revelations, and this verse, in particular, states the goal of these revelations with respect to the church. This verse is used to assert that the LDS church is “the only true church”, but the word *might* makes this entire verse subjective – something which is hoped for, anticipated, but not necessarily obtained. Later on, in Section 84, we read where the Lord has placed the church under condemnation.**

2:1 Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

**The church teaches that Elijah has already come. However, Joseph Smith taught as late as in the Nauvoo era that the coming of Elijah was still in the future.**

3:3 Remember, remember that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men;

**If your plans, designs, and works seem to be getting frustrated, then perhaps they are not the work of the Lord, or perhaps you are relying too much on your own strength.**

4:3 Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work;

**Rather than sit idly by and long for a grand and glorious calling to drop down from the leaders of the church, or imagine that God will call you to a marvelous calling right out of the blue, seek to serve God with all your heart, might, mind, and strength in whatever you are called to do. Discover your interests. Discover your strengths and weaknesses.**

**Ask the Lord to guide you, then do what He tells you to do. If you see something that needs to be done, step up and do it. If you have desires to do it, you are called to the work. Ask the Lord for revelation to instruct and empower you. The most powerful witness and revelation we ever receive from the Holy Ghost is when we are praying about our callings and our stewardship.**

Book of Commandments: I will work a reformation among them, and I will put down all lyings, and deceivings, and priestcrafts, and envyings, and strifes, and idolatries, and sorceries, and all manner of iniquities, and I will establish my church, like unto the church which was taught by my disciples in the

days of old. And now if this generation do harden their hearts against my word, behold I will deliver them up unto satan, for he reigneth and hath much power at this time, for he hath got great hold upon the hearts of the people of this generation: and not far from the iniquities of Sodom and Gomorrah, do they come at this time: and behold the sword of justice hangeth over their heads, and if they persist in the hardness of their hearts, the time cometh that it must fall upon them.

**Why was this removed? Was there serious sin going on in the church that somebody did not want uncovered?**

6:7 Seek not for riches but for wisdom, and behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich. Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich.

**The church now boasts of its great wealth and holdings, but gives relatively little to help the poor. It says nothing about how to lay hold upon eternal life.**

7:6 Yea, he has undertaken a greater work; therefore I will make him as flaming fire and a ministering angel; he shall minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation who dwell on the earth.

**This verse is speaking specifically about John the Beloved, but it brings up a valid point about the ministering of angels in the church today. Let's let Moroni do the talking.**

**... my beloved brethren, have miracles ceased? Behold I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men.**

**Or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? Or has he withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? Or will he, so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved?**

**Behold I say unto you, Nay; for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; wherefore, if these things have ceased wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain. Moroni 7:29, 36-37**

8:2 Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.

**These are instructions given to Oliver Cowdery for how to receive revelation. The Lord doesn't say anything about "feelings" or "emotions", as understood by church members today. The Holy Ghost tells you things in your mind and in your heart. The Hebrews considered the "heart", not the brain, as the seat of thoughts and desires. The "bowels" were seen as the seat of emotions. The Holy Ghost speaks words, or conveys intelligence, which can be expressed in words.**

9:8 But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.

**Receiving revelation requires effort on our part. It requires us to study enough about a subject to be able to formulate a specific question to place before the Lord. Contrary to what members are led to believe, revelations do not come in a vacuum; they come as answers to specific questions. "Ask and ye shall receive; Seek and ye shall find; Knock and it shall be opened unto you." The Lord chided the disciples because they didn't have faith and they didn't ask. The church is not teaching this important**

**principle, and as a result, the members are not receiving revelation and don't know how to recognize whether or not somebody else is receiving revelation.**

10:67 Behold, this is my doctrine--whosoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my church.

**This is how Christ defines His church. It is not a legal entity. It is not any kind of institution created by man. The church of Christ is a gathering of people who have all done one thing. They have repented and come to Christ. No more. No less.**

11:5 Therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive; if you will knock it shall be opened unto you.

**The Lord places no restrictions upon what we can ask for. The Lord will reveal anything to you that you are prepared to receive, as fast as you can receive it.**

12:8 And no one can assist in this work except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things, whatsoever shall be entrusted to his care.

**You must be humble and full of love to be effective in this work. People can tell when you are being phony or manipulative, so don't be that way. Don't try and imitate somebody who is humble and full of love. Learn to cultivate the Spirit in your life. Have a relationship with the Lord. Learn to love Him, and you will be like Him: humble and full of love. It will be part of your nature; you won't have to learn it or practice it.**

13:1 Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.

**Notice that this Priesthood was conferred upon both Joseph and Oliver independent of any institutional church. And they functioned in the rights and duties of this Priesthood independent of any institutional church. Churches use Priesthood, but they do not control it.**

14:6 Seek to bring forth and establish my Zion. Keep my commandments in all things.

The church does a great disservice by calling itself "Zion". This phony image of Zion creates the illusion that we already have Zion, and we need do nothing to actually bring about Zion. In the D&C, the Lord lays out the specific laws and covenants for establishing Zion. He makes it clear that the church failed to uphold those laws and covenants, and the redemption of Zion is a future event.

15:6 And now, behold, I say unto you, that the thing which will be of the most worth unto you will be to declare repentance unto this people, that you may bring souls unto me, that you may rest with them in the kingdom of my Father. Amen.

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**The most satisfying things we can do for the sake of our own joy and salvation are to be concerned for the job and salvation of others, not blindly trudging on the treadmill of dead works in obedience to church authorities. But here is the secret that many have found. Instead of just doing your duty and**

filling an assignment, do it with real desire and intent. This is how the Lord judges us: on our desires and intent, and the good works motivated by them. Not just on the works alone. Teach that class, serve that mission, make that visit, hold that interview always with the intent of helping people to repent and come to Christ. Church leaders need to stop stressing mere obedience, but service, and not just service, but joy in service because of “pure hearts and real intent”, leading people to faith in Christ.

17:7 Wherefore, you have received the same power, and the same faith, and the same gift like unto him;

**Did you breeze by this verse, too? So, did I, so let’s figure it out together. The Lord says he has given Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer the same power, the same faith, and the same gift like unto Joseph Smith. What’s He talking about? We know Oliver Cowdery received revelations, had visions, was visited by angels, probably also saw the Lord, and was given the gift to translate. If the Church wants to honor the prophets, it needs to start recognizing the gifts and callings of Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer, the only men besides Joseph Smith, whom the Lord specifically named as apostles, and also the teachings of Sidney Ridgon, who the Lord designated to prove all the words of Joseph Smith using the Bible.**

18:24-25, 27-28 Wherefore, all men must take upon them the name which is given of the Father, for in that name shall they be called at the last day; Wherefore, if they know not the name by which they are called, they cannot have place in the kingdom of my Father. and the Twelve shall be my disciples, and they shall take upon them my name; and the Twelve are they who shall desire to take upon them my name with full purpose of heart. And if they desire to take upon them my name with full purpose of heart, they are called to go into all the world to preach my gospel unto every creature.

**“Know” in this case means more than just to recognize and be able to repeat the name “Christ”. It’s not the name “Christ”. It’s the name of “Christ”. It is to *know* in the deepest possible meaning of that word. To *know* it is to live it and to understand and embody the nature that it represents. In the Sacrament, we witness before the Father that we are willing to take upon ourselves that Name. But in the fullest sense of the meaning, it is Christ, himself, who places His Name upon us when we receive the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, and we become His sons and daughters, and the seed of Abraham. We’ll get more into this when we come to Section 107.**

And of tenets thou shalt not talk, but thou shalt declare repentance and faith on the Savior, and remission of sins by baptism, and by fire, yea, even the Holy Ghost.

**“How vain and trifling have been our spirits, our conferences, our councils, our meetings, our private as well as public conversations: too low, too mean, too vulgar, too condescending for the dignified characters of the called and chosen of God.” (Joseph Smith) Stop teaching abominable creeds. Stop holding up the dead works of the law as the way of salvation. Stop teaching the precepts of men which lead people to fear the Lord (Isa 29:13). Teach the Doctrine of Christ (3 Nephi 11), which draws the hearts of the people near to Him.**

20:76 And the elder or priest shall administer it; and after this manner shall he administer it --he shall kneel with the church and call upon the Father in solemn prayer...

**Why aren’t we kneeling as a congregation anymore?**

20:73 The person who is called of God and has authority from Jesus Christ to baptize, shall go down into the water with the person who has presented himself or herself for baptism, and shall say, calling him or her by name: **Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Book of Commandments: 24:52-53 Whosoever being called of God and having authority given them of Jesus Christ, shall go down into the water with them, and shall say, calling them by name: **Having authority given me of Jesus Christ**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Section 1 condemns those who “change the ordinances”. Why have we changed the ordinance of administering baptism?**

21:10 Wherefore it behooveth me that he should be ordained by you, Oliver Cowdery mine apostle;

**Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were called to be apostles, and ordained under the hands of angels. Oliver Cowdery taught the original twelve who were called as traveling ministers in the Church that their ordination was not complete until the Lord placed His own hands on their heads. If, as Oliver pointed out, this was necessary for the ancient apostles, then why not us? And if it was necessary in Oliver’s day, then why not also today?**

22:2-3 Wherefore, although a man should be baptized an hundred times it availeth him nothing, for you cannot enter in at the strait gate by the law of Moses, neither by your dead works. For it is because of your dead works that I have caused this last covenant and this church to be built up unto me, even as in days of old.

**Baptism refers to the “three baptisms in one: the baptism of water, the baptism of fire, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. But, more fundamental than these in the intent with which we enter the path. We must enter in faith and repentance and offer up as a sacrifice a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Merely going through the motions to satisfy a carnal commandment is not sufficient.**

**With the Lord, intention is everything. This revelation not only applies to converts getting rebaptized into this church, but to new church members entering baptism for the first time. We must do so with the right intention. Faith without works is dead, and works without faith is likewise dead.**

23:2 Make known thy calling unto the church, and also before the world, and thy heart shall be opened to preach the truth from henceforth and forever. Amen.

24:12 And at all times, and in all places, he shall open his mouth and declare my gospel as with the voice of a trump, both day and night. And I will give unto him strength such as is not known among men.

**One of Oliver’s callings as Second Witness was to be Evangelist to the church, and as such, it was his duty, right, and privilege to expound and to stand and bear witness at all times and at all places of whatever was said or done. Hyrum was to receive the “the same blessing, and glory, and honor, and priesthood, and gifts of the priesthood” which were given to Oliver Cowdery. The calling of a Patriarch is also to be an “evangelical minister”. (Joseph Smith 1839) Where are the evangelical ministers today, the “preachers of righteousness” (Mos 6:23)?**

25:7 And [Emma] thou shalt be **ordained** under his hand to expound scriptures, and to exhort the church, according as it shall be given thee by my Spirit.

**Emma was to be ordained to preach, teach, expound, and exhort. She was to be led to do so by the Spirit. Is this beginning to sound like Priesthood? Where are the women who serve in this office today?**

26:2 And **all things shall be done by common consent in the church**, by much prayer and faith, for all things you shall receive by faith. Amen.

28:13 For **all things must be done in order, and by common consent in the church**, by the prayer of faith.

**These are very important, but overlooked verses. The church is to do all business by common consent.**

27:2 For, behold, I say unto you, that it mattereth not what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink when ye partake of the sacrament, if it so be that ye do it with an eye single to my glory--remembering unto the Father my body which was laid down for you, and my blood which was shed for the remission of your sins.

Again, with the Lord, intention is everything. It does seem appropriate to choose some type of bread, leavened or unleavened, and either water, grape juice, or red wine, but beyond that it doesn't make any difference. So, why is the church such a stickler for water but doesn't have the church kneeling? The focus is on the Savior, and what we eat or drink should not detract from Him and the covenants we are renewing.

29:30 But remember that all my judgments are not given unto men; and as the words have gone forth out of my mouth even so shall they be fulfilled, that the first shall be last, and that the last shall be first in all things whatsoever I have created by the word of my power, which is the power of my Spirit.

**We must not be hasty to second guess God in areas where he has not revealed his judgments, because they are not all given unto men, and we must not take it upon ourselves to judge people when most of the time we do not know.**

30:1 Behold, I say unto you, David [Whitmer], that you have feared man and have not relied on me for strength as you ought.

**The church is more concerned with how it looks to the world than how it looks to the Lord, while instilling the fear of men in its members.**

31:9 Be patient in afflictions, revile not against those that revile. Govern your house in meekness, and be steadfast.

**Church apologists routinely level ad homonym attacks against church critics, and those who merely question.**

32:1 And now concerning my servant Parley P. Pratt, behold, I say unto him that as I live I will that he shall declare my gospel and learn of me, and be meek and lowly of heart.

**An example for all of us.**

33:11-13 Yea, repent and be baptized, every one of you, for a remission of your sins; yea, be baptized even by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost. Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, this is my gospel; and remember that they shall have faith in me or they can in nowise be saved; And upon this rock I will build my church; yea, upon this rock ye are built, and if ye continue, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you.

**Baptism of water, of fire, and of the Holy Ghost is the rock upon which Christ builds his church. The rock is not Peter, and not even revelation. The gates of hell are prevailing upon the church because it is not teaching the Gospel. "And if it so be that the church is built upon my gospel then will the Father show forth his own works in it. But if it be not built upon my gospel, and is built upon the works of men, or upon the works of the devil, verily I say unto you they have joy in their works for a season, and by and by the end cometh, and they are hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence there is no return." (3 Nephi 27:10-11)**

34:10 Wherefore, lift up your voice and spare not, for the Lord God hath spoken; therefore prophesy, and it shall be given by the power of the Holy Ghost.

**Treasure up the word of the Lord. Open your mouths and they shall be filled. Teach and prophesy by the power of the Holy Ghost.**

35:24 Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound; and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills and flourish;

**Do the heavens shake for the good of the church? Does the church cause Satan to tremble? Where is this Zion that's supposed to rejoice and flourish?**

36:2 And I will lay my hand upon you by the hand of my servant Sidney Rigdon, and you shall receive my Spirit, the Holy Ghost, even the Comforter, which shall teach you the peaceable things of the kingdom;

**In the church today, young children, upon reaching the age of 8 are automatically baptized and confirmed a member of the church. They are told "Receive the Holy Ghost!" Sidney Rigdon was given the authority by the Lord. But, in the church today, men are automatically ordained elders, and it is assumed that they have the authority to give the Holy Ghost, but nowhere are they taught that power in the Priesthood comes directly from the Lord, not from any telestial church. Of those confirmed, how many actually receive the Holy Ghost – the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost? How many receive the "peaceable things of the kingdom"? They are told that the Holy Ghost will occasionally give them "good feelings" if something is true. They never grow past the yes/no phase of interaction with the Holy Ghost, if they get that far at all.**

Section 37 Is a commandment from the Lord for the saints to gather in Ohio.

38:27 Behold, this I have given unto you as a parable, and it is even as I am. I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine.

**Enforced unity is not unity at all. Is the church unified in heart and in mind, so as to be like Zion? No. Are all members of the church given equal access to spiritual things? No. Some ordinances are kept secret from the general members, and are given only to the leaders, who are chosen from among the**

**wealthy members of the church. We must be one in obtaining earthly things so that we can be one in obtaining heavenly things. In the church today, there is great inequality.**

39:6 And this is my gospel--repentance and baptism by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, even the Comforter, which showeth all things, and teacheth the peaceable things of the kingdom.

**The Lord is constantly reminding us exactly what His Gospel is. It is very simple, and we must not add or take away from it.**

40:1 Behold, verily I say unto you, that the heart of my servant James Covill was right before me, for he covenanted with me that he would obey my word.

**James Covill broke his covenant with the Lord one day later after making it. It is a serious thing to make a covenant with the Lord and immediately break it. It is better to have never made it at all. How often people in the church enter into covenants which they don't understand, or have no intention of keeping.**

41:12 These words are given unto you, and they are pure before me; wherefore, beware how you hold them, for they are to be answered upon your souls in the day of judgment. Even so. Amen.

**We must not take the covenants of the Lord, or His scriptures lightly. We will be accountable for how we live them.**

42:12 And again, the elders, priests and teachers of this church shall teach the principles of my gospel, which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, in the which is the fulness of the gospel.

**This is what they are to teach. We are told multiple times in the D&C that the Bible and the Book of Mormon, together, contain the fulness of the Gospel. No, they don't talk about the temple ordinances, but those have nothing to do with the fulness of the Gospel. Christ told us fully, what His Gospel is in the Book of Mormon, and the ordinances of the temple are simply there to help us visualize in our own lives how we may come to Christ and eventually part the veil and come into His Presence.**

43:16 And **ye are to be taught from on high. Sanctify yourselves and ye shall be endowed with power, that ye may give even as I have spoken.**

**In preparation for the great day of the Lord, and the calamities which lie ahead, we must be prepared by learning the principles of personal revelation that we, too, may be taught from on high and endowed with power. But, in this particular verse the promise to be "endowed with power" looks forward to the endowment of power which a number of elders received at the Morley farm. These men were ordained to the Patriarchal Order of the Melchizedek Priesthood, the office of High Priest was restored. The Savior appeared to Joseph Smith, Lyman Wight, and Harvey Whitlock. (See also D&C 38:38.)**

44:6 Behold, I say unto you, that ye must **visit the poor and the needy and administer to their relief, that they may be kept until all things may be done according to my law** which ye have received. Amen.

But, the Law of the Church does require taking care of the poor and the needy. Where are our priorities?

45:9 And even so I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard [ensign] for my people, and for the Gentiles to seek to it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me.

**As members of the church of Christ, we should hold the Lord and His Covenants up as a light to the world, and as an ensign for the gathering of the nations. But what does the church hold up? Its wealth, its buildings, and the righteousness of our own works.**

46:2 But notwithstanding those things which are written, it always has been given to the elders of my church from the beginning, and ever shall be, to conduct all meetings as they are directed and guided by the Holy Spirit.

**Instead of being guided by the Holy Spirit (Moroni 6:9), the LDS church meetings follow a strict time schedule with a rigidly enforced program of instruction as outlined in some handbook, and a narrow selection of subjects which may be addressed in talks and sermon.**

Section 47 John Whitmer called to be Church Historian.

48:5 The place is not yet to be revealed; but after your brethren come from the east there are to be certain men appointed, and to them it shall be given to know the place, or to them it shall be revealed.

**The Lord will reveal to a designated group of men where Zion will be located, not to just one man. Are there any plans to prepare people to gather to Zion? No. People are told by the church to remain where they are.**

49:11-14 Wherefore, I give unto you a commandment that ye go among this people, and say unto them, like unto mine apostle of old, whose name was Peter: Believe on the name of the Lord Jesus, who was on the earth, and is to come, the beginning and the end; Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, according to the holy commandment, for the remission of sins; And whoso doeth this shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, by the laying on of the hands of the elders of the church.

**How many times does the Lord need to remind us? These are the things that we should be teaching in the local churches and in the mission field.**

50:26 He that is ordained of God [ordained by Christ into the Apostolic order of the Melchizedek Priesthood] and sent forth, the same is appointed to be the greatest, notwithstanding he is the least and the servant of all.

Compare this with the way church leaders today act. They love the greetings and salutations, the chief seats, the perks that come with seniority, require people to rise when they enter a room. King Mosiah in the Book of Mormon taught that we should not esteem one flesh above another.

51:15 And thus I grant unto this people a privilege of organizing themselves according to my laws.

**The Lord considers this a privilege to teach us the correct principles [laws] and letting us organize and govern ourselves. On paper, the system sounds pretty simple, but we need to work out the day-to-day details ourselves, and thereby grow. No centralized manual can ever substitute for human initiative and judgment – attributes which we must develop if we can ever hope to become like God.**

52:14-16 And again, I will give unto you a pattern in all things, that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and he goeth forth deceiving the nations-- Wherefore he that prayeth, whose spirit is contrite, the same is accepted of me if he obey mine ordinances. He that speaketh, whose spirit is contrite, whose language is meek and edifieth, the same is of God if he obey mine ordinances.

**Here is a pattern to prevent you from being deceived. Look for a person whose spirit is contrite, whose language is meek and edifies when he speaks or prays, if he obeys the ordinances of the Lord. What does it mean to “obey mine ordinances”? The ordinances which are ordained of the Lord are the three baptisms: water, fire, and Holy Ghost. If a man has received all three and teaches the necessity of all three baptisms by the power and authority of the Holy Ghost, then he is “obeying the Lord’s ordinances.”**

Section 53 Personal instructions to Sidney Gilbert.

Section 54 Personal instructions to Newel Knight & company.

55:1 Behold, thus saith the Lord unto you, my servant William, yea, even the Lord of the whole earth, thou art called and chosen; and after thou hast been baptized by water, which if you do with an eye single to my glory, you shall have a remission of your sins and a reception of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands;

**Be baptized and receive the laying on of hands for the Gift of the Holy Ghost. You don’t realize how often the Lord mentions this unless you consciously look for it.**

56:16-18 Wo unto you **rich men, that will not give your substance to the poor**, for your riches will canker your souls; and this shall be your lamentation in the day of visitation, and of judgment, and of indignation: The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved! Wo unto you **poor men, whose hearts are not broken, whose spirits are not contrite, and whose bellies are not satisfied**, and whose hands are not stayed from laying hold upon other men's goods, whose eyes are full of greediness, and who will not labor with your own hands! **But blessed are the poor** who are pure in heart, whose hearts are broken, and whose spirits are contrite, for they shall see the kingdom of God coming in power and great glory unto their deliverance; for the fatness of the earth shall be theirs.

**The standard is having a broken heart, contrite spirit, contributing to the poor, and laboring with your own hands. Do we ever hear this taught or lived in the church?**

57:13 And let my servant Oliver Cowdery assist him, even as I have commanded, in whatsoever place I shall appoint unto him, to copy, and to correct, and select, that all things may be right before me, as it shall be proved by the Spirit through him.

**People unjustly criticize Oliver Cowdery for supposedly changing the Book of Mormon and the revelations without Joseph Smith’s approval. But, here, the Lord makes it plain that this is his calling. He is every bit the apostle, prophet, and servant as is Joseph Smith, and is authorized and commanded to make such changes as he finds necessary. Oliver was also commanded to admonish Joseph in his faults.**

58:8-12 And also that a feast of fat things might be prepared for the poor; yea, a feast of fat things, of wine on the lees well refined, that the earth may know that the mouths of the prophets shall not fail; Yea, a supper of the house of the Lord, well prepared, unto which all nations shall be invited. First, the

rich and the learned, the wise and the noble; And after that cometh the day of my power; then shall the poor, the lame, and the blind, and the deaf, come in unto the marriage of the Lamb, and partake of the supper of the Lord, prepared for the great day to come. Behold, I, the Lord, have spoken it.

**Because of the covenants He made with the Fathers, anciently, the Lord is preparing a feast, unto which all nations shall be invited. No one will be excluded from coming to Zion, simply on the basis of who they are or where they come from.**

**The “supper” will be the house of the Lord, with all the ordinances and covenants restored, which will seal us to the Lord and the Fathers, in the family of God, and prepare us for our missions in future worlds.**

**First, the “rich and the learned”, the Gentiles who have come into their fullness, and Ephraim among them, then to the remnant of Israel, scattered among the native Americans, the Jews, and all the people of the world.**

**And, finally to the “lame, the blind, and the deaf” will be invited to partake of the marriage supper.**

**And, also to be invited will be those who have been scorned and marginalized by society, those who are considered the least among us, will, to the surprise of many, also be welcome guests.**

**If you think God has excluded certain peoples from the kingdom because of your traditions and your hatred for them, think again. The Lord has some surprises for us. Not all His judgments are given to man (D&C 29:30). So, you had better be prepared to embrace all whom the Lord calls, and who answer that call, or you might find yourself, on the outside, looking in while others enjoy the blessings you might otherwise have also enjoyed.**

**For, the Lord hath spoken it, and Zion will be built from the gathering of all creatures under heaven.**

59:8 Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness, even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

**This is what the Lord requires in order to receive the baptism of fire, baptism of the Holy Ghost. This is how you enter on the path that leads you to the Tree of Life in Lehi’s dream.**

60:7 And in this place let them lift up their voice and declare my word with loud voices, without wrath or doubting, lifting up holy hands upon them. For I am able to make you holy, and your sins are forgiven you.

**We become holy [whole and complete] because of the atonement of Christ, not through our own works. So, as individuals, and as a church, stop holding up your own works as a sign of your worthiness. Instead, hold up Christ, who is able to forgive us and make us holy.**

61:38-9 Gird up your loins and be watchful and be sober, looking forth for the coming of the Son of Man, for he cometh in an hour you think not. Pray always that you enter not into temptation, that you may abide the day of his coming, whether in life or in death. Even so. Amen.

To be “watchful” is to spend prayerful time devoted to the Lord, making ourselves holy, experiencing the baptism of fire, and ascending into His Presence to be taught in all things. This life is the day to prepare to meet God and learn how to abide His Presence both in this life and in the next. In other words, this is to receive the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, and to receive the Second Comforter.

62:3 Nevertheless, ye are blessed, for the testimony which ye have borne is recorded in heaven for the angels to look upon; and they rejoice over you, and your sins are forgiven you.

**This is literally true. I have seen it in a dream where the true testimonies which we give on earth are recorded and memorialized in heaven. How much more the importance of bearing an honest, truthful, and heartfelt testimony. Do not bear false witness. If you know, then say you know. If you just believe, then stand up and state your belief, and your hope. This is a journey for all of us. As you grow in light and knowledge of the Lord, don't be afraid to bear witness to what you know.**

63:23 But unto him that keepeth my commandments I will give the mysteries of my kingdom, and the same shall be in him a well of living water, springing up unto everlasting life.

**If you seek commandments from the Lord through revelation, and if you follow them, you will receive the mysteries that you seek, and the wisdom and knowledge that you will receive will bubble up in you like a spring of water. And this knowledge from God and about God will lead you to eternal life – the kind of life that God has.**

**A rebuke is a call to repentance, but a commandment is a precept, a call to action with an associated promise of blessing. Following the chain backwards: where are the blessings? Who can testify as having received eternal life? Who can explain exactly what eternal life even is? What is the well of living water? Is this doctrine even taught? What are the Lord's commandments? Is the church teaching the Lord's commandments, or the commandments of men?**

64:34 Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days.

**The Lord doesn't need our money, and He doesn't want our dead works done out of mere obedience. We must be willing as well as obedient. The first law of heaven is not obedience. The first law of heaven is using our agency [our will] to do the right things for the right reasons. “The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.” Hence the term: “dead works”.**

65:6 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.

**This entire section is important. It speaks of the “keys of the kingdom” and the Gospel going forth. What are the “keys of the kingdom”? “The keys of the kingdom, ... consist in the key of knowledge.” (D&C 128:14). What is the Gospel? It is clearly defined in Section 33:11-13, discussed earlier. What is the “Kingdom of God”? “All those who receive my Gospel.” D&C 25:1. Putting all of this together, this expression of prayer is that the Gospel be taught throughout the earth that people may receive it and receive the living waters and a knowledge of the mysteries of God, sufficient to lay hold upon eternal life (D&C 63:23). And all of this that the Kingdom of Heaven might manifest upon the earth. This is how you obtain Zion.**

**Is the church teaching this? No. It is teaching a gospel of works. It is teaching that the “keys of the kingdom” are exclusive rights and authority to give and withhold blessings, given to a group of men, passed down from generation to generation, in an unbroken line of authority. This sounds like another church. “But it is they who do not fear me, neither keep my commandments but build up churches unto themselves to get gain, yea, and all those that do wickedly and build up the kingdom of the devil--yea, verily, verily, I say unto you, that it is they that I will disturb, and cause to tremble and shake to the center.” (D&C 10:56)**

66:3 Verily I say unto you, my servant William, that you are clean, but not all; repent, therefore, of those things which are not pleasing in my sight, saith the Lord, for the Lord will show them unto you.

**If you come to the Lord in humility, asking Him to show you where you need to improve, what you need to repent of, and what He requires of you as a sacrifice, He will reveal it to you. Not all at once, but in a systematic way over weeks and perhaps months. Pray to the Lord in a continual open conversation, and He will teach you many things. Whatever He tells you to do, do. Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you. Confide in Him and He will confide in you. Then, after a time, don't be surprised to find yourself in His Presence, with Him giving to you “the keys of the Kingdom” for your own salvation and eternal life. This is both a promise and a warning. These are not idle words.**

67:10 And again, verily I say unto you that it is your privilege, and a promise I give unto you that have been ordained unto this ministry, that inasmuch as you strip yourselves from jealousies and fears, and humble yourselves before me, for ye are not sufficiently humble, the veil shall be rent and you shall see me and know that I am--not with the carnal neither natural mind, but with the spiritual.

**This is the promise that goes along with the verse in Section 66. The Lord tells us the three greatest barriers to an experience with Him: jealousies, fears, and humility. Members of the church do not realize that this is their privilege, and they are living far beneath their privileges.**

68:25-28 And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands, when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents. For this shall be a law unto the inhabitants of Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized. And their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when eight years old, and receive the laying on of the hands. And they shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord.

**The LDS church has a strict practice of baptizing children at the age of eight. It's nice to see that they are following at least one commandment in the D&C to the letter, but they are missing the spirit of the commandment. Up until the age of eight, children are not capable of committing sin, have no need to repent, and are wasting their time in worthiness interviews. This time could be better spent teaching the child to understand the basics of the gospel, including faith and repentance. They should be teaching the child the importance of making and keeping promises.**

Section 69 is personal instructions to Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer.

70:14 Nevertheless, in your temporal things you shall be equal, and this not grudgingly, otherwise the abundance of the manifestations of the Spirit shall be withheld.

**Have you ever wondered what happened to the abundance of the manifestations of the Spirit in the early church, and why we don't see them today? Could one of the reasons be that faith is lacking, as Mormon suggests, and could another reason be that we are not equal in temporal things?**

71:8 Wherefore, let them bring forth their strong reasons against the Lord.

**The church is taking the entirely wrong approach to handling questioning and dissenting members. History should tell the church that such a repressive, hardline approach has never worked. If you have the Truth, you should never be afraid of scrutiny. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" (1 Pet 3:15)**

72:3 And verily in this thing ye have done wisely, for it is required of the Lord, at the hand of every steward, to render an account of his stewardship, both in time and in eternity.

**Everything we have and have become stems back to the Lord, and we will be called to render an accounting to the Lord for it.**

Section 73 Personal instructions to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon.

Section 74 Special instructions regarding part-member families.

75:28 And again, verily I say unto you, that every man who is obliged to provide for his own family, let him provide, and he shall in nowise lose his crown; and let him labor in the church.

**The church should not tolerate men who will not work to provide for their own families.**

76:114-116. But great and marvelous are the works of the Lord, and the mysteries of his kingdom which he showed unto us, which surpass all understanding in glory, and in might, and in dominion; Which he commanded us we should not write while we were yet in the Spirit, and are not lawful for man to utter; Neither is man capable to make them known, for they are only to be seen and understood by the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him, and purify themselves before him; To whom he grants this privilege of seeing and knowing for themselves; That through the power and manifestation of the Spirit, while in the flesh, they may be able to bear his presence in the world of glory.

**Each person may see and know for themselves. The visions of the eternities are open to all those who love God and purify themselves before him, not just the prophets.**

77:15 Q. What is to be understood by the two witnesses, in the eleventh chapter of Revelation? A. They are two prophets that are to be raised up to the Jewish nation in the last days, at the time of the **restoration**, and to prophesy to the Jews after they are gathered and have built the city of Jerusalem in the land of their fathers.

**Did you notice that? "At the time of the restoration"? You have been told that the restoration is complete; God has done his work and given his power to man. This is the "dispensation of the fulness of times". See also D&C 86:10. This is the passage from which we get that term:**

**"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:" (Eph 1:10) (See also Acts 3:19-23.)**

**Have all things been gathered together in one? Have all things been restored? Has Elijah returned? Search the scriptures for the term “dispensation of the fulness of times”, and you will see that it is a future event. Joseph Smith did not usher in “the last dispensation”. There will be one more dispensation before the Millennial Dispensation. Joseph Smith and his fellow servants only laid the foundation. (See D&C 1.)**

78:1-2 The Lord spake unto Joseph Smith, Jun., saying: Hearken unto me, saith the Lord your God, who are ordained unto the high priesthood of my church, who have assembled yourselves together; And **listen to the counsel of him who has ordained you from on high**, who shall speak in your ears the words of wisdom, that salvation may be unto you in that thing which you have presented before me, saith the Lord God.

**A man must be ordained to the high priesthood directly by the hand of God or by the calling of his own mouth. (See JST Gen. 14, D&C 84)**

Section 79 Personal instructions to Jared Carter.

Section 80 Personal instructions to Stephen Burnett.

81:2 Unto whom I have given the keys of the kingdom, which belong always unto the Presidency of the High Priesthood:

**This is speaking to the presidency of the high priesthood, not the presidency of the church. Churches merely use Priesthood; they do not control it. If you are the president of the high priesthood, or one of his counselors, then you hold these keys by virtue of your calling. For everybody else, keys are knowledge, not exclusive authority. God is willing to share His knowledge with anybody who qualifies to receive it.**

82:4 Ye call upon my name for revelations, and I give them unto you; and inasmuch as ye keep not my sayings, which I give unto you, ye become transgressors; and justice and judgment are the penalty which is affixed unto my law.

**Does the church call upon the name of the Lord for revelations, or do they believe that revelations are a rare event? Prophets in the book of Mormon received “many revelations” and “angels ministered to them daily”.**

**The Lord cannot bless us for not living laws which we have not yet received, upon which those blessings are predicated. And, by the same token, if the Lord reveals to us new knowledge, we are under condemnation if we fail to abide by the new knowledge.**

83:6 And the storehouse shall be kept by the consecrations of the church; and widows and orphans shall be provided for, as also the poor. Amen.

**As members of the church of Christ, our first financial obligation should be the care of widows, orphans, and the poor.**

84:54-58 And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received — Which vanity [an empty and pointless exercise] and unbelief [belief in false traditions] have brought the whole church under condemnation. [To put it

**bluntly: damned. Their progression is halted.]** And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all. And they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even **[The original revelation said in, not even.]** the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written -- **That they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom [develop an intimate relationship with the Lord and manifest his power];** otherwise there remaineth a scourge and judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion.

**This condemnation rests upon the entire church, those who join the church, and those members who trust in the arm of flesh and follow not the promptings of the Spirit as it entices them to search further and dig deeper into the things of God.**

**To be “under condemnation” is the same thing as being “damned” or stopped in your progress. This sounds terrible, but it isn’t the end of the world.**

**The Lord stands ever ready to forgive us and help lead us back onto the path that leads to him. Anybody who’s ever walked that path can testify to this.**

**The new covenant is contained in the pages of the Book of Mormon in example after example. Two places where you can find the Doctrine of Christ taught explicitly and in plainness are in 2 Nephi 31,32 and 3 Nephi 11.**

85:6 Yea, thus saith the still small voice, which whispereth through and pierceth all things, and often times it maketh my bones to quake while it maketh manifest, saying:

**In a recent conference talk, Russell M. Nelson asked his listeners, “How do you hear the Lord?”**

**This is a valid question, because when the Father and Son appeared to Joseph Smith, the Father introduced the Son and commanded us to “Hear him!” This is a message and a commandment for all time.**

**General authorities are quick to marginalize the idea that you won’t hear an actual voice, but only a feeling so soft and so subtle that you will hardly recognize it.**

**This may be true, at first. But as we grow accustomed to hearing and following the voice of the Good Shepherd, we learn to recognize His voice everywhere, and in ways which are powerful and unmistakable.**

**The Lord speaks to our heart, with which we feel, and which is also the seat of our desires, our intentions. When the Spirit touches these, we resonate with the Lord’s desires and intentions. The spirit also touches our mind, and our thoughts begin to align with the Lord’s thoughts, and we attempt to express those thoughts into words. This is difficult at first, but the more we try, the better we get.**

**The more our hearts and minds resonate with the Spirit of the Lord, the more we become tuned into His frequency, so to speak, and the more we become one. The more we become one, the deeper our relationship with Him and the more profoundly we experience His priesthood, and the more we are able to manifest His power through the gifts of the Spirit.**

**Still small voice? This is a beginning, but it's only a beginning. His voice can pierce you to the center and cause your bones to quake, and your whole body will taste the goodness of the Lord.**

86:10 Therefore your life and the priesthood have remained, and must needs remain through you and your lineage until the restoration of all things spoken by the mouths of all the holy prophets since the world began.

**Another indication that the restoration of all things is yet to come.**

87:6 And thus, with the sword and by bloodshed the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn; and with famine, and plague, and earthquake, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath, and indignation, and chastening hand of an Almighty God, until the consumption decreed hath made a full end of all nations;

**This sounds pretty scary. It sounds like the Lord is going to kill everybody on the planet. But the dire language is to get our attention because this is the level where the population of the earth is at. The Lord chastens those whom He loves. The wrath of God simply means the workings of God to arrange circumstances to drive us to repentance before the earth is swept clean of all wickedness in preparation for the terrestrialization of the earth for the Millennial reign of Christ. The works of men will be destroyed and nothing will be left that has not been established by the Lord. But, before that time, the Lord wants to save as many people as possible, so He is using every means available,**

**“How oft have I called upon you by the mouth of my servants, and by the ministering of angels, and by mine own voice, and by the voice of thunderings, and by the voice of lightnings, and by the voice of tempests, and by the voice of earthquakes, and great hailstorms, and by the voice of famines and pestilences of every kind, and by the great sound of a trump, and by the voice of judgment, and by the voice of mercy all the day long, and by the voice of glory and honor and the riches of eternal life, and would have saved you with an everlasting salvation, but ye would not!” (D&C 43:25)**

88:3-4 Wherefore, I now send upon you another Comforter, even upon you my friends, that it may abide in your hearts, even the Holy Spirit of promise; which other Comforter is the same that I promised unto my disciples, as is recorded in the testimony of John. This Comforter is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life, even the glory of the celestial kingdom;

**This doctrine is not understood in the church. To prove it, look up the definition of “the Holy Spirit of Promise”. There is no agreement among church leaders on this subject. Some say it is the Holy Ghost. Others say it the sealing authority used in the temple. The clear definition is given here in these verses. The Holy Spirit of Promise, in a wider sense, is the Lord’s personal ratification of every ordinance and ordination. Christ, alone, is the keeper of the gate and He employs no servant there. (2 Nephi 9:41)**

89:2 To be sent greeting; not by commandment or constraint, but by revelation and the word of wisdom, showing forth the order and will of God in the temporal salvation of all saints in the last days--

**The Lord makes a distinction between words of commandment and words of wisdom. Speaking to Oliver Cowdery: “But thou shalt not write by way of commandment, but by wisdom;” (D&C 28:5)**

**God is offended when we fail to obey his commandments. “And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments.” (D&C 59:21)**

**The Lord doesn’t say anything about failing to obey wisdom, except to say that we forfeit the blessings which come from obedience.**

**So, why does the Church treat the Word of Wisdom as a commandment? Brigham Young proposed changing it to a commandment before a General Conference in 1851, and the change was accepted by the membership.**

90:6 And again, verily I say unto thy brethren, Sidney Rigdon and Frederick G. Williams, their sins are forgiven them also, and they are accounted as equal with thee in holding the keys of this last kingdom;

**We tend to elevate Joseph Smith as the exclusive holder of keys, but the Lord makes it clear, as we have shown in other sections, that these keys belong equally to all members of the Presidency of the High Priesthood. (D&C 81:2)**

91:5-6 And whoso is enlightened by the Spirit shall obtain benefit therefrom; And whoso receiveth not by the Spirit, cannot be benefited. Therefore it is not needful that it should be translated. Amen.

This section is an answer to Joseph Smith’s inquiry about whether the apocrypha should be translated. What this revelation is saying is: if you can read by the Spirit, it will direct you to whatever truth is contained in its pages. In other words, through the gift of the Holy Ghost, you can translate it for yourself. This applies to any book.

Section 92 Special instructions for Frederick G. Williams.

93:1-3 Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that **every soul** who forsaketh his sins [**treasures the things of the Lord instead of the things of this world**] and cometh unto me [**repents**], and calleth on my name [**prays in faith**], and obeyeth my voice [**asks for and receives revelation**], and keepeth my commandments [**acts on it**], shall see my face and know that I am; And that I am the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world; And that I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one—

**This is a promise to everyone.**

Section 94 Special instructions for the layout of Kirtland.

95:1-2 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you whom I love, and whom I love I also chasten that their sins may be forgiven, for with the chastisement I prepare a way for their deliverance in all things out of temptation, and I have loved you -- Wherefore, ye must needs be chastened and stand rebuked before my face;

**Once we really come to know the Lord, we will understand when He is chastening us and why. There will be no guesswork. Know that He truly loves us always and does nothing except it be for our benefit. He always prepares a way for deliverance, and know that you will be delivered, once you have learned the lesson that the chastening is supposed to teach you.**

**Some in the Church teach the false doctrine that God's love is conditional. If ever God had a reason to withdraw His love it is when we sin and need to be chastened. But this is the very time when He shows forth an increase of love. If we sense a lack of love, it will be we who has backed off, not the Lord.**

Section 96 Special instructions the disposition of land in Kirtland.

97:16-17 Yea, and my presence shall be there, for I will come into it, and all the pure in heart that shall come into it shall see God. But if it be defiled I will not come into it, and my glory shall not be there; for I will not come into unholy temples.

**If you ever walked into a temple and not seen God, it is either because you are not pure in heart or the temple has been defiled. God will not be mocked.**

98:14-15 Therefore, be not afraid of your enemies, for I have decreed in my heart, saith the Lord, that I will prove you in all things, whether you will abide in my covenant, even unto death, that you may be found worthy. For if ye will not abide in my covenant ye are not worthy of me.

**How seriously do we take the covenants we make with the Lord? Do we honestly desire with all our heart to live them? Do we put the covenants of men ahead of the covenants of the Lord? The Lord will prove us to see if we will abide in His covenants. By the same token, He invites you to prove Him in keeping His covenants. You will find that the Lord is faithful to fulfill all His promises.**

Section 99 Special instructions to John Murdock.

Section 100 Special instructions to Joseph Smith & Sidney Rigdon

101:20 And, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed; neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed, for the work of the gathering of my saints—

**The Lord is pretty explicit about Jackson County, Missouri being the center gathering place for Zion. He didn't move it to Nauvoo or Salt Lake City, as some have supposed.**

Section 102 Instructions for church trials. None of this section is followed.

103:27-28 Let no man be afraid to lay down his life for my sake; for whoso layeth down his life for my sake shall find it again. And whoso is not willing to lay down his life for my sake is not my disciple.

**We can get pretty excited about the eventual coming of the Davidic Servant and the redemption of Zion, but bear in mind that some may be called upon to sacrifice their lives to achieve this. See Section 98 (above).**

104:16-18 But it must needs be done in mine own way; and behold this is the way that I, the Lord, have decreed to provide for my saints, that the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low. For the earth is full, and there is enough and to spare; yea, I prepared all things, and have given unto the children of men to be agents unto themselves. Therefore, if any man shall take of the abundance which I have made, and impart not his portion, according to the law of my gospel, unto the poor and the needy, he shall, with the wicked, lift up his eyes in hell, being in torment.

**We are agents unto ourselves. It is imperative that we give voluntarily of our abundance to the poor, of our own free will and choice, without the force of government, or the threat of punishment by a church.**

105:2-4, 9-10 Behold, I say unto you, were it not for the **transgressions of my people**, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been redeemed even now. But behold, **they have not learned to be obedient** to the things which I required at their hands, but are **full of all manner of evil**, and **do not impart of their substance**, as becometh saints, to the poor and afflicted among them; And are **not united** according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom; And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself. Therefore, in consequence of the transgressions of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should **wait for a little season** for the redemption of Zion -- **That they themselves may be prepared**, and that **my people may be taught more perfectly**, and **have experience**, and **know more perfectly concerning their duty**, and the things which I require at their hands.

Zion is put on hold, and the Lord tells us why. There is no revelation telling us to go and continue the redemption of Zion.

Section 106 Personal instructions for Warren Cowdery.

107:21-23 Of necessity there are presidents, or presiding officers growing out of, or **appointed of or from among those who are ordained to the several offices in these two priesthoods**. Of the Melchizedek Priesthood, three Presiding High Priests, chosen by the body, **appointed** and **ordained** to that office, and **upheld by the confidence, faith, and prayer of the church**, form a **quorum** of the Presidency of the Church. The twelve traveling councilors are **called to be the Twelve Apostles**, or **special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world**--thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling.

**The president of the High Priesthood must be a High Priest, chosen by the body, appointed, ordained, and upheld by the church. The twelve traveling councilors are called to be "the Twelve Apostles". Their duty is to travel, preach the Gospel, be a special witness of the name of Christ, and lay on of hands for the Gift of the Holy Ghost.**

To say that an apostle is a "special witness of the name of Christ" is not a downgrade. It is not a substitute for merely having a testimony from the Holy Ghost – something which every member, who is worthy to be called a member of the Church of Christ should possess. In order to be an Apostle, and not just somebody "*called to be an apostle*", the man must have stood in the Presence of Christ, and the Lord symbolically, by an ordinance of ordination, places His Name upon the man. (See Section 18.) As taught by Joseph and Oliver the man's ordination is not complete until this happens, and the man is not fulfilling his calling unless he bears witness of both the Christ and the Name of Christ, and he gives the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands "for thus do mine apostles". (Moroni 2:2) Section 107 ends with "Wherefore, now let [allow, permit, empower] every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence. He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy to stand, and he that learns not his duty and shows himself not approved shall not be counted worthy to stand."

Section 108 Special instructions for Lyman Sherman.

109:60 Now these words, O Lord, we have spoken before thee, concerning the revelations and commandments which thou hast given unto **us, who are identified with the Gentiles.**

109:79 **And also this church, to put upon it thy name.** And help us by the power of thy Spirit, that we may mingle our voices with those bright, shining seraphs [**the highest class of angels, a fiery class of angels, nearest the throne of God, acting as his messengers See Isa. 6:6**] around thy throne, with acclamations of praise, singing Hosanna to God and the Lamb!

**Two very important verses from the dedicatory prayer for the Kirtland House of the Lord. First, we are the Gentiles. When the Book of Mormon speaks of the Gentiles, it is talking about this church. Second, the above the door of the Kirtland House of the Lord states that it was built by the “Church of the Latter-day Saints”. Christ’s name is not on the church after its condemnation in 1832. Joseph prays in this prayer that the Lord will again put His name upon the church.**

110:12-15 After this, **Elias** appeared, and **committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham**, saying that in us and our seed all generations after us should be blessed. After this vision had closed, another great and glorious vision burst upon us; for Elijah the prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us, and said: Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi--testifying that he [Elijah] should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord come -- To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse—Therefore, the keys of this dispensation [**The dispensation of the Gospel of Abraham – “the highest yet experienced in the church”. Joseph Smith**] are committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors.

**This revelation was never included in the D&C until Orson Pratt, under the direction of Brigham Young, introduced it in 1876, along with 25 other sections, in support of or justifying polygamy. Neither Joseph nor Oliver ever spoke of this event during their lifetimes, and there is little evidence that it actually occurred. Brigham Young never publicly announced the practice of polygamy until Joseph and Oliver were both dead.**

Section 111 Special instructions to Joseph, Oliver, Hyrum, and Sidney concerning their trip to Salem, MA.

112:23-25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face. Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord. And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord;

**The Lord re-emphasizes that the church is under condemnation along with the rest of the world. Belonging to what you think is the “true church” is not a free pass. All is not well in Zion.**

Section 113 Answers to certain questions pertaining to the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah.

Section 114 Instructions concerning David W. Patten.

115:3-4 And also unto my faithful servants who are of the high council of my church in Zion, for thus it shall be called, and unto all the elders and people of my Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, scattered abroad in all the world; For thus shall my church be called in the last days, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The many changes in the official name of the Church deserves some attention. There are some who believe that the changing names of the church reflect the spiritual status of the Church in the eyes of the Lord. Technically, this is a statement of a future time when the Church will be called by this title. The Lord doesn't designate this as the actual current name of the Church.

"Richard Lloyd Anderson, professor of religion and history, Brigham Young University: **A concise answer to this question is found by comparing the name of the Church on the title pages of the first three printings of the revelations: 'The Church of Christ' (Book of Commandments, 1833), 'The Church of the Latter Day Saints' (Doctrine and Covenants, 1835), and 'The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' (Doctrine and Covenants, 1844).**"

The Savior told the Nephites that his church should be called in his name. (See 3 Ne. 27:8.) **[but if it be called in my name then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel.]** As a result, the restored Church's official title from 1830 to 1834 was **'The Church of Christ.'** That title is found in the revelation on the organization and government of the Church (D&C 20:1) and in early minute books. During this period, however, members of the Church regularly called themselves 'saints'; the word saint is used approximately three dozen times in the D&C before 1834.

On 3 May 1834, official action modified the name of the Church. In a priesthood conference presided over by Joseph Smith, a motion passed 'by unanimous voice' that the Church be known as **'The Church of the Latter Day Saints.'** (See The Evening and the Morning Star, May 1834, 2:160.) This alteration was not seen as a de-emphasis of Christ; on the contrary, it was done in hopes that the name of the Church would more clearly reflect the fact that Christ was at its head. **[The Church had come under condemnation in 1832 (See D&C 84) and Christ removed His Name from the Church. This is reflected in the title pages of the Book of Commandments/Doctrine & Covenants, but also in the sign about the door of the Kirtland house of the Lord. Joseph prayed in the dedication of the Kirtland House: D&C 109:79 "And also this church, to put upon it thy name." Why? Because the name had been removed by the Lord, and only the Lord could replace it.]**

Here is a table of the various names and characteristics of the Church over the years

| Name                                                    | Years       | Revelations | Source             | Characteristics                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Church of Christ                                        | 3/29 - 6/31 | 47          | D&C 20             | Church emerged out of the wilderness, attempted to live Law of Consecration, Missionary work                                                        |
| Church of God (the Father)                              | 6/31-12/34  | 58          | D&C 38,64,70,76,88 | Fullness of Melchizedek Priesthood offered, Morley farm, aka Church of Firstborn, Church of Zion                                                    |
| Church of the LDS                                       | 12/34-6/36  | 6           | D&C 84             | Church rejected everlasting covenant. Name of Christ removed from name, Name on Kirtland house of the Lord                                          |
| Church of JC of LDS                                     | 6/36-1/41   | 11          | D&C 109, 115,124   | Done without God's permission, continued rejection of the fullness, Nauvoo temple not completed                                                     |
| Corporation of the President of the Church of JC of LDS | 1920's      | 0           |                    | The heavens are closed. Apostles do not see Christ. People who have seen Christ are shunned or excommunicated. Gifts of the Spirit rarely manifest. |

**3 Nephi 27:10 And if it so be that the church is built upon my gospel then will the Father show forth his own works in it. 3 Nephi 27:11 But if it be not built upon my gospel, and is built upon the works of men, or upon the works of the devil, verily I say unto you they have joy in their works for a season,**

**and by and by the end cometh, and they are hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence there is no return.**

Section 116 Description of Adam-ondi-Ahman.

Section 117 concerning the immediate duties of William Marks, Newel K. Whitney, and Oliver Granger.

Section 118 Special instructions for the Twelve.

119:1-7 Verily, thus saith the Lord, **I require all their surplus property to be put into the hands of the bishop of my church in Zion, For the building of mine house, and for the laying of the foundation of Zion and for the priesthood, and for the debts of the Presidency of my Church.** And this shall be the **beginning** of the tithing of my people. And **after that**, those who have thus been tithed shall pay one-tenth of all their interest [**not income**] annually; **and this shall be a standing law unto them forever**, for my holy priesthood, saith the Lord. Verily I say unto you, it shall come to pass that all those who gather unto the land of Zion **shall be tithed of their surplus properties, and shall observe this law**, or they shall not be found worthy to abide among you. And I say unto you, **if my people observe not this law, to keep it holy, and by this law sanctify the land of Zion unto me, that my statutes and my judgments may be kept thereon, that it may be most holy, behold, verily I say unto you, it shall not be a land of Zion unto you.** And this shall be an ensample unto all the stakes of Zion. Even so. Amen.

**This law of tithing is a standing law forever and applies in all the stakes of Zion. Because the church is not living this law, it is vain to claim that the church is Zion.**

Section 120 Disposition of tithing money.

121:37 That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.

**There is a difference between power and authority in the priesthood. Authority to act in an office of the Priesthood within a church comes by ordination. Power in the Priesthood comes only from the Lord. The church's claims to the contrary, it is possible to lose authority in the Priesthood.**

D&C 122:4 And although their influence shall cast thee into trouble, and into bars and walls, thou shalt be had in honor; and but for a small moment and thy voice shall be more terrible in the midst of thine enemies than the fierce lion, because of thy righteousness; and thy God shall stand by thee forever and ever.

**Joseph Smith will be blessed because of his righteousness, and his voice will be powerful, even amongst his enemies.**

D&C 123:7 It is an imperative duty that we owe to God, to angels, with whom we shall be brought to stand, and also to ourselves, to our wives and children, **who have been made to bow down with grief, sorrow, and care, under the most damning hand of murder, tyranny, and oppression, supported and urged on and upheld by the influence of that spirit which hath so strongly riveted the creeds of the fathers, who have inherited lies, upon the hearts of the children, and filled the world with confusion,**

**and has been growing stronger and stronger, and is now the very mainspring of all corruption, and the whole earth groans under the weight of its iniquity. [the world system of Babylon]**

**The church isn't distancing itself from Babylon; it's shaking hands with it and embracing it.**

124:31-32 But I command you, all ye my saints, to build a house unto me; and I grant unto you a sufficient time to build a house unto me; and during this time your baptisms shall be acceptable unto me. But behold, at the end of this appointment your baptisms for your dead shall not be acceptable unto me; and if you do not these things at the end of the appointment ye shall be rejected as a church, with your dead, saith the Lord your God.

**The saints were commanded to build a house of the Lord in Nauvoo, with blessing attached to its completion, and curses attached to failure to complete. They failed to complete the house, the saints lost Joseph and Hyrum, and the people were driven out of the area.**

Section 125 Special instructions pertaining to the saints in Iowa.

Section 126 Special instructions for Brigham Young.

127:4 And again, verily thus saith the Lord: Let the work of my temple, and all the works which I have appointed unto you, be continued on and not cease; and let your diligence, and your perseverance, and patience, and your works be redoubled, and you shall in nowise lose your reward, saith the Lord of Hosts. And if they persecute you, so persecuted they the prophets and righteous men that were before you. For all this there is a reward in heaven.

Another reminder from the Lord to complete the Nauvoo temple.

**D&C 128:8 Now, the nature of this ordinance consists in the power of the priesthood, by the revelation of Jesus Christ, wherein it is granted that whatsoever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Or, in other words, taking a different view of the translation, whatsoever you record on earth shall be recorded in heaven, and whatsoever you do not record on earth shall not be recorded in heaven; for out of the books shall your dead be judged, according to their own works,** whether they themselves have attended to the ordinances in their own propria persona, or by the means of their own agents, according to the ordinance which God has prepared for their salvation from before the foundation of the world, according to the records which they have kept concerning their dead.

**A commandment to keep accurate records of your genealogies and your baptisms for the dead. Anybody who's worked with the church's online genealogy knows what a shambles it is. It's so bad that the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution will no longer accept LDS records as documents of ancestry.**

Section 129 Instructions for how to detect true and false angelic messengers.

130:22 The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us.

In the introduction to D&C 130 we are told that the section is not a revelation from the Lord, but, “Items of instruction given by Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Ramus, Illinois, April 2, 1843”. This is a bit misleading as the information in the chapter has changed over time so that the verse in question actually teaches exactly opposite of what Joseph Smith originally taught.

This verse evolved eight times after Joseph Smith’s death to the version we have today which adds new information and says exactly the opposite of what Joseph Smith originally taught. If you would like to know more about the evolution of this verse, you can read the “The Textual Development of D&C 130:22 and the Embodiment of the Holy Ghost” by BYU Professor Ronald E. Bartholomew.

<https://byustudies.byu.edu/article/the-textual-development-of-dc-13022-and-the-embodiment-of-the-holy-ghost/>

So, what is the correct version? If our faith unto salvation depends on having the correct knowledge of God, we are going to have to find our definition someplace else. If you consider that the “Holy Ghost” not the name of a person, but is the name of a function, title, or office, you can begin to grasp that the position of the “Holy Ghost” could be filled at various times by various people, just as the office of “2<sup>nd</sup> Counselor in the First Presidency” is the title of an office and can be filled at various times by various people, as Joseph Smith frequently did with Sidney Rigdon, Frederick G. Williams, and William Law, for example.

Joseph Smith also declared that “if ... God ... was to make himself visible, ... you would see him like a man in form-like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man” (TPJS, p. 345). Note the careful wording.

D&C 131:2 And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];

This is another item of instruction, not a revelation. Like Section 130, it was also inserted into the D & C by Orson Pratt, acting under the direction of Brigham Young, in support of polygamy. The bracketed comment was inserted by Orson Pratt. The “new and everlasting covenant was specified in Section 22, verse 1, and has nothing to do with marriage. This was another innovation by Brigham Young.

Section 132. Brigham’s “new and everlasting covenant of [plural] marriage” (verses 6 & 19) which replaces God’s “everlasting covenant” - which is the fulness of His gospel (D&C 1:15, 22:1, 45:9, 49:9, 66:2, 76:101, 133:57). This “fulness” begins with the two baptisms and the gifting of the Holy Ghost (D&C 6:15; 33:11-15; 39:6); (c) D&C 132 promotes the new doctrine of “exaltation” in connection with polygamy. There is no second witness for this anywhere in scripture. The word “exaltation” occurs 11 times in section 132, and only one other place, Section 124: “And again, I will visit and soften their hearts, many of them for your good, that ye may find grace in their eyes, that they may come to the light of truth, and the Gentiles to the exaltation or lifting up of Zion.” (D&C 124:9)

D&C 1:15. For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant;

133:57. And for this cause, that men might be made partakers of the glories which were to be revealed, the Lord sent forth the fulness of his gospel, his **everlasting covenant**, reasoning in plainness and simplicity—

**Another restatement that the Lord's everlasting covenant is the fullness of the Gospel. This revelation came early on in church history and was intended as an appendix to the revelations, just as Section 1 was intended to be a preface.**

134:9 We do not believe it just to mingle religious influence with civil government, whereby one religious society is fostered and another proscribed in its spiritual privileges, and the individual rights of its members, as citizens, denied.

**The church has violated this statement of belief many times. The most recent incident was the church's meddling in California Proposition 8, in 2008.**

Section 135 Announcement of the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.

Section 136 Instructions for the pioneers headed west.

137:5 I saw Father Adam and Abraham **[and Michael]**; and my father and my mother; my brother Alvin, that has long since slept;

**A vision given to Joseph Smith in the temple at Kirtland, Ohio, January 21, 1836. The occasion was the administration of ordinances in preparation for the dedication of the temple. Alvin was much-beloved by Joseph and was his role model, Alvin died at age 25 of a ruptured appendix, but he lived long enough to have heard Joseph speak of his initial visits with Moroni. Alvin believed his brother and wanted to know more. The original verse includes both Adam and Michael, but "and Michael" was subsequently deleted, to save embarrassment, as the church would suppose, but had they inquired of the Lord, He would have revealed a perfectly good reason why both Adam and Michael could appear in the same place. There is a simple explanation, but to tell and embrace this would be the undoing of much of the false LDS traditions which have been built up over the years, and which keep us from coming to Christ.**

Section 138 Joseph F. Smith's vision of the redemption of the dead.