

The Vision: Doctrine and Covenants 76

1. "I had read 'THE VISION' recorded in this Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and it had given me more light and more knowledge with regard to the dealings of God with men than all the revelations I had ever read, in the Bible or anywhere else. . . . This vision of which I speak opened my eyes. It showed me the power of God and the righteousness of God in dealing with the human family. Before I saw Joseph I said I did not care how old he was, or how young he was; I did not care how he looked—whether his hair was long or short; the man that advanced that revelation was a prophet of God. I knew it for myself" (Wilford Woodruff, *Deseret Weekly News*, vol. 43, p. 321).
2. "The vision given to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon is the greatest vision I ever knew given to the children of men, incorporating more in a few pages than any other revelation I have any knowledge of" (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 8:36).
3. "All sins shall be forgiven except the sin against the Holy Ghost; for Jesus will save all except the sons of perdition. What must a man do to commit the unpardonable sin? . . . He has got to say that the sun does not shine while he sees it; he has got to deny Jesus Christ when the heavens have been opened unto him, and to deny the plan of salvation with his eyes open to the truth of it; and from that time he begins to be an enemy. This is the case with many apostates of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When a man begins to be an enemy to this work, he hunts me, he seeks to kill me, and never ceases to thirst for my blood. He gets the spirit of the devil—the same spirit which they had who crucified the Lord of Life—the same spirit that sins against the Holy Ghost. You cannot save such persons; you cannot bring them to repentance; they make open war, like the devil, and awful is the consequence" (*TPJS*, pp. 357-358).
4. "The Church of the Firstborn is the church among exalted beings in the highest heaven of the celestial world. It is the church among those for whom the family unit continues in eternity. In a sense it is the inner circle within the Lord's church on earth. It is composed of those who have entered into that patriarchal order which is called the new and everlasting covenant of marriage. As baptism admits repentant souls to membership in the earthly church, so celestial marriage opens the door to membership in the heavenly church" (Bruce R. McConkie, *A New Witness for the Articles of Faith*, p. 337).
5. "Some might suppose that it would be a great blessing to be taken and carried directly into heaven and there set down, but in reality that would be no blessing to such persons; they could not reap a full reward, could not enjoy the glory of the kingdom, and could not comprehend and abide the light thereof, but it would be to them a hell intolerable and I suppose would consume them much quicker than would hell fire. It would be no blessing to you to be carried into the celestial kingdom, and obliged to stay therein, unless you were prepared to dwell there" (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.95).
6. "Those destined to inherit the terrestrial kingdom are: (1) those who died "without law"—those heathen and pagan people who do not hear the gospel in this life, and who would not accept it with all their hearts should they hear it; (2) those who hear and reject the gospel in this life and then accept it in the spirit world; (3) those "who are honorable men of the earth, who [are] blinded by the craftiness of men"; and (4) those who are lukewarm members of the true church and who have testimonies, but who are not true and faithful in all things" (see D&C 76:71-80) (Bruce R. McConkie, *A New Witness for the Articles of Faith*, p. 146).
7. "To hell there is an exit as well as an entrance. . . . True, we read of everlasting punishment, unending suffering, eternal damnation. That is a direful expression; but in his mercy the Lord has made plain what those words mean. 'Eternal punishment,' he says, is God's punishment, for he is eternal; and that condition or state or possibility will ever exist for the sinner who deserves and really needs such condemnation; but this does not mean that the individual sufferer or sinner is to be eternally and everlastingly made to endure and suffer. No man will be kept in hell longer than is necessary to bring him to a fitness for something better. When he reaches that stage the prison doors will open and there will be rejoicing among the hosts who welcome him into a better state" (James E. Talmage, *Conference Report*, Apr. 1930, p. 97).
8. "After a person has been assigned to his place in the kingdom, either in the telestial, the terrestrial, or the celestial, or to his exaltation, he will never advance from his assigned glory to another glory. That is eternal! That is why we must make our decisions early in life and why it is imperative that such decisions be right" (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, p.50).
9. "There are some people who have supposed that if we are quickened telestial bodies that eventually, throughout the ages of eternity, we will continue to progress until we will find our place in the celestial kingdom, but the scriptures and revelations of God have said that those who are quickened telestial bodies cannot come where God and Christ dwell, worlds without end" (George Albert Smith, *CR*, Oct. 1945, p.172).
10. "It has been asked if it is possible for one who inherits the telestial glory to advance in time to the celestial glory? The answer to this question is, No! The scriptures are clear on this point. Speaking of those who go to the telestial kingdom, the revelation says: 'And they shall be servants of the Most High; but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come, worlds without end'(D&C 76:112)" (Joseph Fielding Smith Jr., *Doc. of Sal.*, Vol.2, p.31).

11. “. . . I could explain a hundredfold more than I ever have of the glories of the kingdoms manifested to me in the vision, were I permitted, and were the people prepared to receive them” (*TPJS*, p. 305).
12. “If there is a law that God has revealed and it is necessary to be obeyed before celestial glory can be reached, I want to know it and obey it. All that I am on this earth for is to get celestial glory” (President George Q. Cannon, *CR.*, April 1900, p.55).
13. “If you and I ever get into the celestial kingdom, we have got to keep the law of that kingdom. Show me the law that a man keeps and I will tell you where he is going” (President Wilford Woodruff, *CR*, 1:325, July 29, 1889).
14. Celestial Kingdom: Attitudes and Behaviors of Exaltation:
- Those who received a testimony of Jesus (v. 51)
  - Those who received baptism (vs. 51)
  - Those who received the Holy Ghost (vs. 52)
  - Those who kept the commandments (vs. 52)
  - Those who overcame all things (vs. 60)
  - Those who were sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise (vs. 53)
  - Those who complied with the new and everlasting covenant of marriage (D&C 131:1-3)
15. Celestial Kingdom: Conditions and Rewards of Exaltation:
- Descend with Christ at his second coming (vs. 63)
  - Come forth in the morning of the first resurrection (vv. 64-65; 88:28-29)
  - Become members of the Church of the Firstborn (vs. 54)
  - Become kings and priests to God and receive of the Father’s fulness, glory, and grace (vv. 56-57, 94)
  - Receive all things from the Father (vv. 55,59)
  - Dwell forever in the presence of God and Christ (vs. 62)
  - Become gods (vv. 58; D&C 132:19-20)
16. Terrestrial Kingdom: Attitudes and Behaviors:
- Those who died without law (vs. 72)
  - Those who were not receptive to the testimony of Jesus on earth, but who afterwards accepted it (vv. 73-74)
  - Those honorable men of the earth who were blinded by the craftiness of others (vs. 75)
  - Those who received a testimony of Jesus but were not valiant therein (vs. 75)
17. Terrestrial Kingdom: Conditions, Rewards, and Limitations:
- Receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fulness of the Father (vs. 77)
  - Come forth in the first resurrection, after the resurrection of celestial beings (vv. 78; 88:99)
  - Serve as ministers to those in the telestial kingdom (vs. 86)
  - Dwell in a kingdom whose glory, power, and dominion exceed those of the telestial kingdom (vs. 91)
  - Receive of the Holy Ghost through ministrations of celestial beings (vs. 87)
18. Telestial Kingdom: Attitudes and Behaviors:
- Those who willfully reject the gospel, the testimony of Jesus, the prophets, and the everlasting covenant (vv. 99-101)
  - Those who once were murderers, liars, sorcerers, adulterers, and whoremongers (vs. 103; Revelation 22:15)
  - Those who deny not the Holy Spirit (vs. 83)
19. Telestial Kingdom: Conditions, Rewards, and Limitations:
- Will not be resurrected until the second, or last, resurrection (vs. 85)
  - Are cast into hell until the last resurrection (vv. 84, 104-6)
  - Can never go where God and Christ dwell (vs. 112)
  - Receive the Holy Ghost through the ministration of terrestrial beings (vs. 86)
  - Will be servants of the Most High (vs. 112)
20. Sons of Perdition: Qualifications (vs.31)
1. Know the Lords power
  2. Have been partakers of his power
  3. Allow the Devil to overcome them
  4. Deny the truth
  5. Defy the Lord’s power
21. Sons of Perdition: Conditions and consequences:
1. Suffer the wrath of God (vs.33)
  2. No forgiveness (vs.34)
  3. Shall not be redeemed (vv.37-38)
  4. Consigned to Everlasting punishment (i.e. outer Darkness) (vv.44-48)