

DC Lesson 18

The Temple

Introduction

Mal 4:5-6	These 2 verses close the dispensation of time prior to the coming of the Messiah. What do they mean?
3 Ne 25:5-6 DC 2	The Savior was commanded of the Father to give Malachi 3 and 4 to the Nephites which close with the same verses. The last Old Testament prophet the Nephites knew was Jeremiah, a prophet who lived at the time of Lehi. He was followed by Ezekiel and Malachi.
?	Why was this same revelation given to close one dispensation and open the last dispensation of time? As well as given to the Nephites so they would have the record as well?
?	What is the Lord trying to tell us about Temples?

Why has the Lord commanded us to build Temples?

DC 88:119	Establish a house, even a house of prayer, fasting, faith, learning, glory, order, a house of God
?	What is a house?
H.W. Hunter Ensign, 10/94	Counseled all members to “establish the temple of the Lord as the great symbol of their membership and the supernal setting for their most sacred covenants”.
Elder Russell M. Nelson, Q of the 12 Ensign, March 2002	<i>“Each temple is symbolic of our faith in God and an evidence of our faith in the life after death. The temple is the object of every activity, every lesson, every progressive step in the Church. All of our efforts in proclaiming the gospel, perfecting the Saints, and redeeming the dead lead to the holy temple. President Hinckley declared that “these unique and wonderful buildings, and the ordinances administered therein, represent the ultimate in our worship. These ordinances become the most profound expressions of our theology.” Ordinances of the temple are absolutely crucial. We cannot return to God’s glory without them.”</i>
BRM, Mormon Doctrine,	<i>“The inspired erection and proper use of temples is one of the great evidences of the divinity of the Lord’s work... Where there are temples, with the spirit and revelation</i>

p781	<i>resting upon those who administer therein, there the Lord's people will be found; where these are not, the Church and kingdom and the truth of heaven are not."</i>
H.W. Hunter, ibid	<i>Temples are sacred for the closest communion between the Lord and those receiving the highest and most sacred ordinances of the holy priesthood. It is in the temple that things of the earth are joined with the things of heaven.</i>
Matt 16:19 Matt 18:18	Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. What is it that can be bound on earth and in heaven?
Elder John A. Widtsoe, Q of the 12	<i>In our preexistent state, in the day of the great council, we made a certain agreement with the Almighty. The Lord proposed a plan, conceived by him. We accepted it. Since the plan is intended for all men, we become parties to the salvation of every person under that plan. We agreed, right then and there, to be not only saviours for ourselves but also measurably, saviours for the whole human family. We went into a partnership with the Lord. The working out of the plan became then not merely the Father's work, and the Savior's work, but also our work. The least of us, the humblest, is in partnership with the Almighty in achieving the purpose of the eternal plan of salvation. (Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine, Oct. 1934) DCSM: 8; MPSG1967: 87</i>
J. Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, V2, Pg 148-149	<i>It matters not what else we have been called to do, or what position we may occupy, or how faithfully in other ways we have labored in the Church, none is exempt from this great obligation. It is required of the apostle as well as the humblest elder. Place, or distinction, or long service in the Church, in the mission field, the stakes of Zion, or where or how else it may have been, will not entitle one to disregard the salvation of one's dead.</i> <i>Some may feel that if they pay their tithing, attend their regular meetings and other duties, give of their substance to the poor, perchance spend one, two, or more years preaching in the world, that they are absolved from further duty. But the greatest and grandest duty of all is to labor for the dead.</i>
?	What other temples have been built in ancient times? Moses (Tabernacle), Solomon, Temple of Herod
Bible Dictionary, Temples, pg	Read entire entry

What do we do in the Temples?

?	What ordinances do we perform in the Temple?
Russel M. Nelson, Ensign, March 2002	<p><i>“In the temple we receive an endowment, which is, literally speaking, a gift. We need to understand the spiritual significance of it and the importance of keeping the sacred covenants and obligations we make in receiving this gift. Each “temple ordinance is not just a ritual to go through, it is an act of solemn promising.”</i></p> <p><i>The temple endowment was given by revelation. Thus, it is best understood by revelation, vigorously sought with a pure heart. President Brigham Young (1801-77) explained that “your endowment is, to receive all those ordinances in the house of the Lord, which are necessary for you, after you have departed this life, to enable you to walk back to the presence of the Father, passing the angels who stand as sentinels, ... and gain your eternal exaltation.”</i></p>

What blessings do we gain from going to the Temple?

Ordinances	Our personal ordinances
Dead	Ordinances for our dead
Vision	<p>Elder John A. Widtsoe, CR, April 1922:</p> <p><i>Temple work... gives a wonderful opportunity for keeping alive our spiritual knowledge and strength. The might perspective of eternity is unraveled before us in the holy temples; we see time from its infinite beginning to its endless end; and the drama of eternal life is unfolded before us. Then I see more clearly my place amidst the things of the universe, my place among the purposes of God; I am better able to place myself where I belong, and I am better able to value and to weigh, to separate and to organize the common, ordinary duties of my life, so that the little things shall not oppress me or take away my vision of the greater things that God has given us.”</i></p>
DC 109:12-12	<p>Pres. Howard W. Hunter: concerning Section 109: <i>“It is a prayer that continues to be answered upon us individually, upon us as families, and upon us as a people because of the priesthood power the Lord has given us to use in His holy temples.”</i></p> <p>List the blessings that the Lord will give us as Joseph Smith asked in the dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple in</p>

	1836
H.W. Hunter, Ibid	“Has there ever been a people with such stirring and wonderful promises! No wonder the Lord desires that His followers point themselves toward His example and toward His temples. No wonder He has said that in His holy house, “I will manifest myself to my people in mercy.” (DC 110:7)

Conclusion

H.W. Hunter, Ibid	<p><i>“Let us be a temple-attending and a temple-loving people. Let us hasten to the temple as frequently as time and means and personal circumstances allow. Let us go not only for our kindred dead, but let us also go for the personal blessing of temple worship, for the sanctity and safety which is provided within those hallowed and consecrated walls. The temple is a place of beauty, it is a place of revelation. It is a place of peace. It is the house of the Lord. It is holy unto the Lord. It should be holy unto us.”</i></p> <p><i>“If we will be true and faithful to the Lord’s principles, then we will always be temple worthy, and the Lord and His holy temples will be the great symbols of our discipleship with Him.”</i></p>
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Text Quotation