# W11 Gospel Research and Insight

Name: Gage Stong

# Introduction

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that baptism for the dead is the, *"most glorious of all subjects belonging to the everlasting gospel" (D&C 128:17).*

# Instructions

Follow the steps below to complete this activity. Save this document with your name in the filename. When you have completed this activity and answered all the questions, follow the instructions in your course to submit the document for grading and feedback.

## Step 01

Complete the following to better understand and appreciate this marvelous work.

1. Watch the video clip on [Why Mormons Build Temples](https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2010-05-1210-why-mormons-build-temples?lang=eng) and write a paragraph **(150-200 words)** on your insights and impressions.

After watching the video on why Mormons build temples, I learned that temples are very important to members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Temples are seen as holy places where people can get closer to God. In temples, members can participate in special ceremonies, such as baptisms for the dead and eternal marriages. These ceremonies help strengthen their relationship with God and make promises, or covenants, that bring spiritual blessings. The video showed that temples are not just buildings but places of peace and personal growth. I was especially touched by the idea that temples are places where people can find rest from the busy world and seek guidance from God. It also made me realize that the growing number of temples around the world shows how God is helping His work move forward. I felt inspired by the importance of temples and how they help people make important spiritual commitments that last for eternity.

1. Identify three important truths or ideas and write a paragraph **(150-200 words)** concerning the baptisms for the dead conveyed to the Saints in section 128. *Please provide a reference for each truth or idea.*

In *Doctrine and Covenants* 128, several important truths about baptisms for the dead are conveyed to the Saints. First, baptisms for the dead are essential for the salvation of all God’s children. Joseph Smith teaches that "the great and important promise" of baptism for the dead is part of God's plan to ensure everyone has the opportunity to receive the gospel, even if they did not hear it in this life (D&C 128:18). Second, this doctrine is rooted in the principles of justice and mercy. Joseph Smith explains that the work for the dead is necessary because, in God's perfect justice, everyone must have the opportunity to hear the gospel and choose to accept it (D&C 128:18). Third, baptisms for the dead are a sacred and powerful ordinance. Joseph Smith refers to this practice as a "glorious work" that is both a blessing for the living and the dead, as it allows the dead to be saved and come unto Christ (D&C 128:19). These truths highlight the eternal significance of the work for the dead and the importance of fulfilling this sacred responsibility for our ancestors.

1. Read and ponder each of the following scriptural references listed below:
   * Revelations 20:12
   * Matthew 16:18-19
   * I Corinthians 15:46-48
   * I Corinthians 15:29
   * Malachi 4:5-6
2. Consider these Biblical passages in context of Joseph Smith's use of them. In **150-200 words**, explain how Joseph Smith connects these Biblical passages with Baptism for the dead.
   * Revelations 20:12 (D&C 128:6-9)
   * Matthew 16:18-19 (D&C 128:10-11)
   * I Corinthians 15:46-48 (D&C 128:12-15)
   * I Corinthians 15:29 (D&C 128:16)
   * Malachi 4:5-6 (D&C 128:17-18)

Joseph Smith connects these Biblical passages to the doctrine of baptism for the dead by emphasizing that they point to the necessity of this ordinance for the salvation of all God's children.

In *Revelation 20:12* (D&C 128:6-9), Joseph explains that the "books" mentioned in the scripture represent all the deeds and actions of men, and that baptism for the dead is a key part of the judgment process. It allows the deceased to have their actions judged and sealed through the ordinances of the gospel, emphasizing God’s justice and mercy in ensuring everyone has the opportunity for salvation.

In *Matthew 16:18-19* (D&C 128:10-11), Joseph connects Christ’s authority to bind on earth and in heaven with the need for priesthood authority in performing baptisms for the dead. This authority is necessary for the work to be effective and valid, ensuring that those who have passed on can receive the same blessings as the living.

*I Corinthians 15:46-48* (D&C 128:12-15) teaches that the natural body must be changed into a spiritual body. Joseph interprets this as the necessity of baptism for the dead to allow the deceased to receive the same spiritual body and blessings as the living.

In *I Corinthians 15:29* (D&C 128:16), Paul’s reference to baptism for the dead is explained as a practice that has eternal significance, allowing the dead to receive the gospel.

Finally, *Malachi 4:5-6* (D&C 128:17-18) speaks of the prophecy of Elijah’s return to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, which Joseph interprets as being fulfilled through the practice of baptism for the dead, uniting families and restoring families through the gospel.

1. Search the BYU database called [***LDS Scripture Citation Index***](http://scriptures.byu.edu/) and see how other latter-day prophets have used these passages. Find two (2) additional insights from a latter-day prophet that increases your understanding of this great latter-day work.

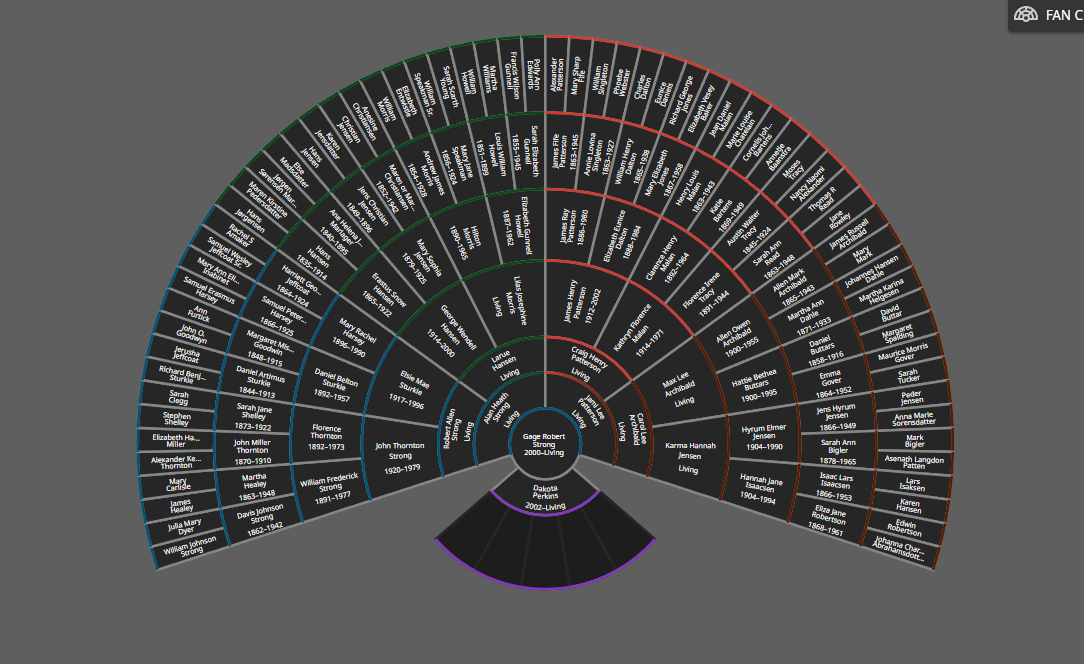
*Note: It is strongly recommended that you read****"****About This Site****"****to see how to use this technology most effectively.*

1.  **Elder Jeffrey R. Holland** has emphasized that judgment in the last days will be fair and just. He teaches that each individual will be judged according to their works, and that "every soul will be accountable for their deeds" (see *The Great Apostasy*). This aligns with the concept in Revelation 20:12, where people are judged "according to their works," and the contents of the "books" record their deeds throughout their lives.
2. **Elder D. Todd Christofferson** has also spoken on the final judgment, teaching that while God’s mercy is extended to all, there are degrees of responsibility based on the knowledge and light we have received. This ties into the concept in Revelation that those who knew more and rejected it bear greater responsibility, as seen in the scriptures. Christofferson notes that the judgment will be both merciful and exacting, taking into account our sincere desires and efforts (see his talks on judgment and accountability).

## Step 02

Using the link below, create a [***Genealogy Fan Chart***](https://familysearch.org/tree/#section=fan). This requires that you have a Church Account. If you do not have an account, the [**Church Account Registration**](https://ldsaccount.lds.org/sign-in/go/membershipInfo.jsf?referrer=FamilySearch&rd=BWyFvoSogvBCL01zO5JW-28vsFHRR41siRFvM8iLSkV0h0h8mBbAubCgwPPUvztmPM5nikEdHcQ%3D&locale=en&cid=LDSAccount-Registration-From-newFamilySearch) link below will help you get started (*you will want to start this process a couple of weeks in advance of the due date for this activity).*

Click or tap this box to insert your Genealogy Fan Chart. (You may need to right-click and choose change picture.)



## Step 03

Reflect on the insights you gained this week. Write a **150-250 word paragraph**; describe what the **single most powerful insight** was that came to you as you studies this week’s revelations and what you hope to do with it.

* **Your paragraph should contain:**
  + A description of what stood out to you.
  + What you hope to do better as a result of this new or deeper understanding you have been given.
* **Here are some questions to consider in writing this paragraph:**
  + Was there a particular “one-liner” in these revelations that captures your greatest insight?
  + What was your biggest “aha” moment in studying these revelations?
  + What do you hope to do better as a result of what you have studied?

As I studied this week's revelations, the insight that stood out most to me was in **D&C 128:9**, which says, "The dead who repent will be redeemed, through obedience to the ordinances of the house of God." This thought struck me because it highlights the importance of ordinances like baptism for the dead, which allow those who didn’t have the chance to hear the gospel in this life to still be saved. It made me realize that these ordinances are not just traditions but crucial steps in God's plan to offer everyone a chance at salvation, even after death.

My "aha" moment came when I understood that these ordinances aren't just symbolic acts—they have real, eternal power. They offer a way for those who have passed away to receive the blessings of the gospel and salvation. I also saw more clearly how important temple work is, not just for the living but also for our ancestors.

Because of this, I want to be more focused on participating in temple work and help others understand how essential these ordinances are for everyone. I hope to be more committed in my own worship and strive to help those around me see the power of these eternal acts.