

# Gospel Doctrine Lesson 35: God Reveals His Secrets to His Prophets

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## Abstract

To teach class members that in the latter days, the Lord reveals his secrets to his prophets and pours out his Spirit on all people.

## Preliminary Thoughts

### Past Lessons

This year I have taught the following lessons:

- Lesson 14: *Ye Shall Be a Peculiar Treasure unto Me* (Exodus 15-20, 32-34)
- Lesson 28: *After the Fire a Still Small Voice* (1 Kings 17-19)
- Lesson 30: *Come to the House of the Lord* (2 Chronicles 29-30; 32; 34)

As I have prepared for and taught these lessons I have seen a clear message emerge from them that is coherent and powerful. Today's lesson continues in that process. I'm grateful to the Lord for showing me these things.

## Background Concepts and Ideas

The central scriptural source for this lesson is the well known verses in Amos 3:6-7

**6** *Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath done it?*

**7** *Surely the LORD GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.*

- It is important to start off right with these verses. The first big hint is that verse 7 is known as a Deuteronomistic verse (see 2 Kings 21:10). What does this mean?
- The word *Deuteronomy* comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible known as the Septuagint, and it means “*second law*” (see Deuteronomy 17:18). It was seen as reprise of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, though there are some parts that revise and challenge the earlier understanding of the law.
- Deuteronomistic theology is conceived of as a covenant (a treaty) between the Israelites and Jehovah, who has chosen the Israelites as His people, and requires Israel to live according to His law - referred to as Torah. The prophets were seen as the guardians of the law.
- To apply this to ourselves in our day (see 1 Nephi 19:23) we need to come to understand the Torah of Christ as revealed through the early Christian leaders after the time of Jesus (especially the Apostle Paul) and our own modern prophets (especially Joseph Smith). We will come to see that this was the **real** meaning of the Old Testament concept all along and has been re-revealed in our day.

## The Lord’s Secret Revealed

- One of the key words in the above scriptural text is the word “*secret*” (NB: notice that the word is singular and not plural).
- The Apostle Paul gives us some crucial insight to this concept as taught by *the revelations of Jesus Christ* in 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

**6** *Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the > princes of this world, that come to nought:*

**7** *But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery**, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:*

**8** *Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the **Lord of glory**.*

**9** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

**10** *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*