**Study Guide 15**

**UNIT 8: The Restoration of the Plan of Slavation**

**D&C 88; 89; 109; 110**

**Additional Reading 8.2**

**Name: Ryan George**

Instructions: The purpose of the study guide is to direct your course of study of the Foundations of the Restoration, and assist you to focus on important salient points of your reading and study. The study guides are due on Learning Suite each class period by **8:59 am**. Your upload should only include the questions with your answers highlighted in yellow.

**Church History:**

**People (Go to JosephSmithPapers.org and search under Reference and People):**

**Places (Look at the Maps in your Scriptures):**

**D&C 88:97-115**

1. Within these verses, resurrection and the Millennium are discussed. One thing revealed is that the dead will be resurrected in a specific order; Celestial bodies (vs 97-98) Terrestrial (vs 99) Telestial (vs 100-101) and then Sons of Perdition (vs 102). Did you know before this that sons of perdition are also going to be resurrected?
   1. Yes I did.

**D&C 89**

1. This section gives the “Word of Wisdom” to help with “temporal salvation” of the body (verses 1-2). For those who obey the Lord’s advice, what does He promise (verses 18-21)
   1. The Lord promises health, strong bones, wisdom, great treasures of knowledge, and the ability to run and not be weary.

**D&C 109**

The Saints worked for nearly three years to build the Kirtland Temple. When they were finished, the Lord revealed that this prayer that was to be offered at the temple’s dedication. The Prophet read the prayer as part of the dedicatory services on March 27, 1836.

1. Each Dedicatory Prayer contains specific blessings for that specific edifice. However, many blessings contained therein apply to all Temples. Reading in verses **6-34**, what are three specific blessings you are grateful for/think is comforting to know that the Temple can offer in your life?
   1. Feel the Lord’s power and His holiness
   2. Learn wisdom out of the best books
   3. Leave the temple being armed with power and having angels round about

**D&C 110**

1. After the Dedicatory Prayer of the last section, how does the Lord respond here in verses 1-7?
   1. The Lord responds by saying that the people should rejoice for the new temple and that he accepts the house, and will manifest mercy in the house.
2. After Christ, three other messengers appeared and committed important keys of this dispensation. **What were their names**, and **what did they restore** respectively?
   1. Moses restored the keys of the gathering of Israel, Elijah restored the sealing keys, and Elias restored the keys of the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham.

**8.2 Becoming Like Gods – GT**

Throughout this Gospel Topics Essay you should be making connections to yesterday’s reading on “The King Follet” Discourse

1. Different faiths understand the “parent-child” relationship between God and humans in different ways. How do Latter-day Saints see it?
   1. Latter-Day saints see all people as children of God in a full and complete sense and consider all people of a divine origin. We may become like God through living in harmony with is commandments.
2. There are many scriptures in the Bible that can be interpreted to mean that we are literal children of a Father in Heaven. Share your favorite one, either that was listed or another that you are aware of, and explain why it is your favorite.
   1. My favorite is the one from Romans chapter 8 where it says that we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. I like this because it tells us that he are an heir of all that God has. The scriptures make it clear that Christ is a God, and if we are joint heirs with him then then we must be able to become Gods.
3. Is the Mormon belief in Deification (The process of humans becoming like God) unique? In other words, in the past were there any other people who held the same interpretation of the scriptures?
   1. No, there were other early Christians that also believed in similar ideas of deification.
4. Explain how this belief in deification faded away? What does “ex nihlo” mean?
   1. These beliefs faded due to changing perspectives on the creation of the world. The earliest Jewish and Christian commentaries assumed God created the world out of pre-existing materials, but new ideas arose in the second century that God created the world out of nothing.
   2. Ex Nihilo means to create out of nothing.
5. In the section **“How were ideas about deification introduced to Latter-day Saints”** it explains that the Lord revealed it unto Joseph through scriptures in the Book of Mormon, the Book of Abraham, in D&C 76, the King Follett Discourse, and other scriptures we have been studying. It is very clear that the understanding came line upon line, precept on precept. Now that this reading is summarizing/combining your past readings, are there any new thoughts that stand out to you? If not, why do you think the history and idea of deification is important to at least understand in today’s world?
   1. I think its very important that we understand the idea of deification in todays world because it helps us see each other in a different light. If we understand that all has a divine potential and heritage, it may lead us to be a little kinder to the people we interact with on a daily basis and see them the way God sees them.
6. Read the section **“What has been taught in the Church about divine nature since Joseph Smith?”** and select one of the things that has since been preached or revealed that stands out to you as significant (Examples include teachigns from Lorenzo Snow, Gordon B. Hinckley, Eliza R. Snow, Dallin H. Oaks, etcetera).
   1. Lorenzo Snow’s phrase about God being as we are and us becoming like him is significant I think. The topic of deification can seem deep and overwhelming, but President Snow put it in an easy way to understand and remember.
7. How would you respond to someone asking to explain how Latter-day Saints are not polytheistic if they believe the divine potential everybody has to one day become Gods and Goddesses?
   1. Although we believe that all can become Gods, we aren’t polytheistic because we only worship and pay devotion to a single God. Although there are many sets of parents in this world, each child only has one set of parents to whom they belong.
8. Explain and elaborate the fundamental LDS belief surrounding the quote, *“That same sociality which exists among us here will exist among us there, only it will be coupled with eternal glory, which glory we do not now enjoy.”* **(Use the context of the section “How do Latter-day Saints envision exaltation?” if needed)**
   1. We believe that the next life won’t be structured much different than life is now. We will still have relationships and be striving to progress like we are now. The main difference is that there will be no more pain and suffering.
9. Time to share something you learned today, something that stood out, something important you were reminded of, or something you are excited to continue studying in your own personal pursuits!
   1. I’m excited to study what early church fathers said about deification. I had forgotten that these beliefs may have been common among early Christians and I want to study what was said on the subject in more depth.