Study Guide 24

UNIT 12: Martyrdom, Succession, and Exodus West   
Day 2: Succession and the Western Exodus

D&C 12.3, 12.4

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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):**

**12.3 The Prophet’s Final Charge to the Twelve, 1844**

1. At the very beginning of this Article, scholar B.H. Roberts observed, “***Accusations were repeatedly being made about this time that President Smith was a fallen prophet. But when the mighty doctrines [in his final general conference address delivered on April 6, 1844] are taken into account, and the spiritual power with which he is delivering them is reckoned with, no more complete refutation of his being a fallen prophet could be made.”*** After all you’ve learned in and outside of this class, what are your feelings on this quote? Do you agree? Disagree? Why?
   1. I agree with this quote. The doctrines that Joseph taught in that general conference sermon were very prophetic and original, and I feel that it gave sufficient evidence of his prophetic calling.
2. Describe Joseph’s Presidential platform and dream of America, according to this Article (Under “Kingdom of God Established” subsection)
   1. His platform defended all downtrodden of his time: slaves, whom he felt should be purchased from their masters with revenues from public lands; prisoners held under cruel and unsanitary conditions; court-martialed soldiers; and sailors, whose suffering at the hands of tyrannical ship captains was attracting the sympathy of reformers. To all, he promised justice
   2. He maintained that the Lord had a hand in founding the government of the U.S. and that he raised up men to write the constitution. However, he believed that this government had failed to protect certain peoples and needed to be reformed.
3. Who could have been the next Prophet had they not died in Carthage with Joseph?
   1. Hyrum Smith
4. How did William Clayton and other Apostles feel about the doctrinal revelations that came during the Nauvoo period?
   1. William Clayton, a convert from England noted, after hearing the Prophet preach in Nauvoo, “It seems like heaven began on earth.” To him, the doctrinal revelations of Nauvoo were not only prophetic but exhilarating
5. According to Wilford Woodruff, what did Joseph “roll off” onto the shoulders/heads of the Twelve Apostles?
   1. Joseph put all the labor, burden and care of this Church and Kingdom of God upon there shoulders
6. No matter what specific assignments various Prophets have received through the various dispensations of time, what has been the consistent thing they have always done?
   1. all prophets have stood as witnesses of the Lord
7. According to this article, at least how many times did Joseph Smith see the Savior of the World?
   1. 3 times

**12.4 Six Days in August, Brigham Young and Succession Crisis of 1844**

1. True or False? In the “Sidney Rigdon” segment of this article, after the surviving Apostles returned from their various missions, Sidney Rigdon did his best to work with them to figure out what the best course of action was after the martyrdom.
   1. FALSE
2. This section goes on to describes many of the claims that Rigdon made about why he should be the successor to Joseph. Starting on page 2, **list at least 3 claims/reasons** Rigdon felt he should be the Church’s next Prophet, or “Guardian.”
   1. He announced that he “was the identical man that the ancient Prophets had sung about, wrote and rejoiced over; and that he was sent to do the identical work that had been the theme of all the Prophets in every preceeding generation.”
   2. He said he had seen Joseph in the heavens and claimed to hold the keys of this dispensation
   3. He claimed that Joseph’s death had not dissolved the first presidency, and that he should be successor because he is the last living member of the group. Joseph previously had a revelation saying that Rigdon was equal to smith in holding the keys of the dispensation.
   4. Rigdon believed an anti-mormon president could be elected and they needed him to b their leader to ensure the church would stay intact.
3. True or False, Under the “Brigham Young” section, as soon as the news of Joseph Smith’s death came, Brigham Young wanted what Sidney Rigdon wanted – to be the new leader of the Church.
   1. False
4. Later in this section, AND in your other readings for today, you learned about something called the “final” or “last charge” (page 4) which is an interaction that Joseph and Hyrum had with the Apostles of the time. In your own words, describe the scene/events in **two sentences or less.**
   1. Joseph expressed worry to the apostles that he may be killed by his enemies and feared that the keys of the kingdom could be lost. Joseph then anointed the apostles to roll the burden of leading the church on their shoulders.
5. According to the “Deciding the Succession” section *(along with the previous sections)*, list **at least 4** of individuals who were considered succession possibilities to lead the church after Joseph Smith’s death?
   1. Sidney Rigdon, Brigham young, William Marks, and Samuel Smith.
6. Later, when people were gathered in a solemn assembly, who did Sidney Rigdon appoint to speak on his behalf, and how did that speech go?
   1. W.W. Phelps
   2. It was a disaster and Phelps went on to defend the quorum of the twelve
7. The story of Brigham Young’s transfiguration is an exciting one, and though the result is undeniably powerful, many people have strong feelings both for and against some of the more fantastical details. According to the very end of this article, how did Brigham Young feel about the ordeal?
   1. He never made any special claims about being transfigured, he just claimed to have been full of the Holy Ghost.
8. Share your act of service/planned act of service:
   1. Do the chores before my wife has a chance to.