

“Restoration of the Gospel” in
Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon
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RESTORATION OF THE GOS- PEL.

See ABRAHAMIC COVENANT,
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LAT-
TER-DAY SAINTS, DISPENSATION
OF THE FULNESS OF TIMES, ELIAS,
GATHERING OF ISRAEL, GOSPEL,
JOSEPH SMITH THE PROPHET,
KINGDOM OF GOD, RESTORATION
OF ALL THINGS, TIMES OF RESTI-
TUTION, ZION. Since the gospel was
first given to Adam, each time it
was thereafter lost by apostasy and
then revealed to man again has
been a *restoration of the gospel*.
Our Lord in his personal ministry,
for instance, restored the original

RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL

gospel, the same plan of salvation
which he had revealed to Adam in
the beginning. But when men in
this day speak of the restoration
of the gospel, they mean the final
great restoration which has now
taken place as part of the restora-
tion of all things. This dispensa-
tion is the age of restoration to
which all the ancient prophets
look forward. In it all things are
to be restored “which God hath
spoken by the mouth of all his holy
prophets since the world began.”
(Acts 3:19-21.) All things are being
gathered together in one in Christ.
(Eph. 1:10.)

Gospel restoration is accom-
plished in the same way in which
the gospel was first revealed to
Adam; that is: 1. Angelic minis-
trants are sent from heaven to
declare it; 2. God declares its truths
by his own voice; and 3. The gift
of the Holy Ghost is given to men.
(Moses 5:58.) Foreseeing the final
great restoration of the gospel, the
ancient apostle wrote: “And I saw
another angel fly in the midst of
heaven, having the everlasting gos-
pel to preach unto them that dwell
on the earth, and to every nation,
and kindred, and tongue, and peo-
ple.” (Rev. 14:6.)

This angel of the restoration was
a *composite angel*, meaning that a
number of angels were destined to
participate in the events which
necessarily must take place to
complete the restoration. Moroni
came in fulfilment of this promise,
because he effected the restoration

RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL

of the Book of Mormon wherein
the doctrines of the true gospel
are recorded. (D. & C. 133:36-40.)
John the Baptist, Peter, James,
and John, Michael, Raphael, Gab-
riel, Elias, Moses, Elijah, and “div-
ers angels” (D. & C. 128:20-21),
all came in fulfilment of this prom-
ise because they restored the priest-
hood and keys whereby the gospel
is administered and made operative
in the lives of men. (D. & C. 13;
27:12-13; 88:103-104; 110:11-16.)

Among those things to be re-
stored as part of the gospel or as
necessary accompaniments to the
restoration are the following:

1. GOSPEL KNOWLEDGE.—Until
the true doctrines of Christ are
known, man cannot conform his
life to that high standard of per-
sonal righteousness whereby salva-
tion may be gained. Much of this
gospel knowledge has already been
restored by way of the Book of
Mormon, the host of latter-day
revelations, and the manifestations
of the Spirit to the faithful. Many
more gospel truths are, of course,
yet to be revealed. (Ninth Article
of Faith; D. & C. 101:32-34; 121:
26-32; 132:66.)

2. OPENING OF THE HEAVENS.—
This transcendent change from the
condition that had prevailed during
the long night of apostate dark-
ness took place in the spring of
1820 with the appearance of the
Father and the Son to the Proph-
et. (Jos. Smith 2.) Since then
visions, revelations, and the minis-
tering of angels have been the heri-

RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL

tage of the faithful, a status which will continue "so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved." (Moro. 7:36.)

3. PRIESTHOOD AND KEYS.—These have already come again in their fulness. All of the priesthood and all of the keys needed to save and exalt men in the highest heaven have now been given. (D. & C. 13; 27:12-13; 110:11-16; 128:20-21.)

4. COMING OF ELIAS.—This mighty prophet holds "the keys of bringing to pass the restoration of all things spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began, concerning the last days." (D. & C. 27:6; 77:9, 14-15; Matt. 17:11; Mark 9:12.) These keys have already been conferred upon man, and such things as have not already been revealed will be made known "in due time." (D. & C. 132:40, 45.)

5. GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST.—Receipt of this gift, as far as an individual is concerned, is the heart and core of the restoration, for it is by the power of the Holy Ghost that men are sanctified so as to be qualified for a celestial inheritance. (3 Ne. 27:19-21.) By virtue of the restoration of the higher priesthood and its keys this gift is again bestowed upon faithful converts to the truth.

6. GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT.—These gifts—visions, revelations, miracles, healings, the ministering of angels, tongues, and so forth—are always

RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL

showered upon the true saints, and their presence constitutes a sign that the gospel has been restored. (Mark 16:16-20.)

7. TRUE CHURCH AND KINGDOM.—In all ages the gospel has been administered by and through the formal organization of the Church, and until the church organization was perfected the restoration was not complete. (D. & C. 84:2.) The general framework of the organized kingdom was set up on the 6th of April in 1830, and the organization was perfected by about April, 1844, when all of the powers and keys had been conferred upon the Council of the Twelve so that the Church became a self-perpetuating body in accordance with the divine pattern.

8. APOSTLES, PROPHETS, AND CHURCH OFFICERS.—"God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets." (1 Cor. 12:28.) These and other officers are to continue in the true Church as long as there are prospective candidates for salvation who need the guidance of such officers. (Eph. 4:11-14.) Manifestly these officers must serve in the era of restoration. "And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning," saith the Lord, for "Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness." (Isa. 1:26-27.)

9. GATHERING OF ISRAEL.—(1 Ne. 15:19-20; 2 Ne. 3:13, 24; D. & C. 45:17; Acts 1:6.) By this is meant: (a) *Conversion of the scat-*

RESTORED CHURCH

tered remnants of Jacob to the true Church (2 Ne. 9:2); "And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers" (2 Ne. 30:5; Morm. 9:36); and they shall come again "unto the knowledge of the covenant" made with their fathers. (3 Ne. 5:25; 21.) (b) *Their assembling to Zion or Jerusalem as the case may be.* (Tenth Article of Faith; D. & C. 110:11; 2 Ne. 25:11; 30:8; Morm. 5:14.)

10. TEMPLE ORDINANCES.—It is only through the ordinances of his holy house that the Lord deigns to "restore again that which was lost unto you, or which he hath taken away, even the fulness of the priesthood." (D. & C. 124:28; 127:8; 128:17.)

11. REDEMPTION OF ZION.—(D. & C. 103:13-29.) When this glorious event, the redemption of Zion, has been accomplished, all will be in readiness for the restoration of the Zion of old to the earth. (Moses 7:60-64.)