Lesson 17

Doctrine and Covenants 59:13–14, 21; 119; and 120

Thought questions for D&C 59 were included in lesson 16.

Doctrine and Covenants 119

Verses 1–3: What did the Lord mean when he said that the consecration of all surplus property would be the beginning of tithing? What is surplus?

How does verse 2 dictate the uses of tithing? Do we still use tithing only for those purposes?

Verse 4: What does this verse tell us will happen to tithing if we return to fully living the law of consecration?

Verse 5: To whom did this verse apply?

Is there a difference between putting all of your surplus into the bishop’s hands (verse 1) and tithing your surplus (verse 5)?

Verse 6: How does the law of tithing sanctify the land of Zion to the Lord?

The end of the verse tells us that if we do not tithe, we will not have a land of Zion. Why not?

How does tithing make it possible for us to keep the Lord’s statutes and commandments? Why is it necessary if the land of Zion is to be holy? Is that different than being sanctified to the Lord? If not, why is it mentioned?
We know who the First Presidency is, but in the terms we use today, who is the bishop and his council that are referred to here? In our terms to whom does “my high council” refer?

Why was it important that we have a revelation telling the Church who is to decide how the tithing funds are to be spent? In other words, why not simply allow the Church to have figured that out over time, as we have figured out so many other things?