Lesson 37

Doctrine and Covenants 1:38; 20:21–26; 21:1, 4–6; 43:2; 68:3–4; 101:43–54; and 107:22, 91–92

Doctrine and Covenants 1

Verse 38: What is his word that will not pass away? How can a word be fulfilled? How can it be fulfilled by someone speaking? By a voice? What does it mean to say that the words of the Lord will be fulfilled? In the case of prophecy of future events, the answer is clear, but what about in other cases, such as when he gives commandments?

Doctrine and Covenants 20

Verses 21–26: Why does a section devoted mostly to priesthood duties begin with this testimony?

Verse 21: The word wherefore means something like “because of this.” Because of what?

Verse 22: What does it mean to suffer (allow, permit) temptation, if he gave it no heed?

Verses 23–35: Some have suggested that this could have stood as a creed for early Mormons. (A creed is a formal statement of beliefs.) There are many ways in which these verses look similar to the creed of other churches. Yet Joseph Smith insisted that we have no creed. He said, for example, “the creeds set up stakes, & say hitherto shalt thou come, & no further.—which I cannot subscribe to” (Ehat
and Cook, *The Words of Joseph Smith*, p. 256). How do you explain these verses if they aren’t a creed?

**Verses 23–28:** This is a long and complex sentence. What is it about? Can you give a paraphrase? How are the ideas of each verse related to the ideas of the verses before and after? For example, verse 25 begins with the word *that*, which seems to mean “so that.” That suggests that verses 23 and 24 explain verse 25. How are verses 26–28 related to verse 25? How is verse 28 related to verse 27?

**Verses 23–24:** Why is this important for us to know?

Why does this mention the crucifixion, but not the suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane?

**Verse 25:** Why aren’t ordinances or good works mentioned in this verse?

**Verses 26–27:** To be saved, those who came before Christ must have believed in the words of the prophets, spoken as they were inspired by the Holy Ghost. Those who come after must believe in the gifts and callings of God by the Holy Ghost. How are these two the same, assuming that they are? Ought we to assume that they are the same? If they aren’t the same, why are the requirements for those who came before the meridian of time different than those for people who came afterwards?

**Doctrine and Covenants 21**

**Verse 1:** What does each of these designations of the Prophet Joseph mean: seer, translator, prophet, apostle, elder? Do they all apply to the present prophet? How so or why not?
What does it mean to say that the prophet is prophet through the will of God the Father? What does it mean to say that he is prophet through the grace of Jesus Christ?

**Verses 4–6:** What does it mean to heed something? How is that different from listening to it?

Why are we admonished to receive his word “in all patience and faith”?

**Doctrine and Covenants 43**

**Verse 2:** Has anyone beside the prophet been appointed to receive commandments and revelations from the Lord? If so, who and how?

**Doctrine and Covenants 68**

**Verses 3–4:** Whom do these verses describe? What does this doctrine require of us?

**Verse 4:** Will, mind, word, voice, and “power of God unto salvation” are grammatically parallel here. In this context, do they mean the same, or does each mean something different. If they mean the same, how do we understand the will, mind, word, voice, and power of God to save to be the same thing? If different, to what does each refer?

**Doctrine and Covenants 101**

**Verses 43–54:** Why does the Lord employ a parable here? Sometimes he reveals his word straightforwardly, as a commandment, for example, or as an explanation. Why not do
so here? Is there something that a parable can do that more straightforward language doesn’t do?

Who is the watchman on the tower? How do we fail to build the tower? How does this parable teach the will of the Lord “concerning the redemption of Zion” (verse 43)?

Does the workers’ “variance” with one another cause them to be slothful?

**Verses 55–62:** What does the rest of the parable, the part not assigned for this lesson, teach? Is it about taking revenge on enemies, for example?

**Verse 61:** Explain what this verse says. Is the part of the sentence after the dash a description of the servant to whom the lord is speaking, or does it tell us what the lord of the vineyard is promising as a “seal and blessing”?

Do the words *seal* and *blessing* mean the same thing in this verse? If so, explain how they do. If not, what does each mean?

**Doctrine and Covenants 107**

**Verse 22:** What sustains the quorum of the Presidency of the Church? How so?

**Verses 91–92:** Why does the Lord compare the present-day prophet to Moses? How is he like Moses?