



52 WEEKS OF INSPIRING FAMILY HISTORY & TEMPLE SERVICE QUOTES

COMPILED BY CLAUDIA & STERLING SUDWEEKS
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And if you really get into the spirit of this...

More Scriptures to Reflect Upon

- D&C 76:3 (We can't mess things up!)
- D&C 128:22-23 (And all of Section 128 – baptism for the dead)
- D&C 18:16 (how great will be your joy)
- Moses 1:39 (to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man)
- D&C 138 (President Joseph F. Smith's vision concerning the time the Savior went to visit the spirits of the dead while his body was in the tomb)
- D&C 109 (the Kirtland Temple dedication)
- D&C 110 (Keys restored in the Kirtland temple)

Some of our very favorite family history and temple service articles:

- David A. Bednar, "The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn," *Ensign*, November 2011
- Howard W. Hunter, "Exceeding Great and Precious Promises," *Ensign*, November 1994
- Thomas S. Monson, "The Key of Faith," *Ensign*, February 1994
- Henry B. Eyring, "Hearts Bound Together," *Ensign*, May 2005
- Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Century of Family History Service," *Ensign*, March 1995
- Russell M. Nelson, "A New Harvest Time," *Ensign*, May 1998
- Dennis B. Neuenschwander, "Ordinances and Covenants," *Ensign*, August 2001
- LeBaron, E. Dale, "Elijah's Mission: His Keys, Powers, and Blessings from the Old Testament to the Latter Days" in *Sperry Symposium Classics: The Old Testament*, ed. Paul Y. Hoskisson (Provo and Salt Lake City: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, and Deseret Book 2005), 283–297

Week 1 – the true meaning of the Spirit of Elijah

“Today we are reaping a harvest of family love from seeds sown years ago. **Preparations to strengthen family ties** came in 1823, when the angel Moroni first appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Moroni announced the coming of Elijah, who would cause the hearts of children to be turned to their fathers.

“Elijah’s return to earth occurred at the first temple built in this dispensation, where he and other heavenly messengers, under direction of the Lord, entrusted special keys of priesthood authority to the restored Church:

- Moses committed the keys of the gathering of Israel;
- Elias committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham; and
- Elijah came to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the children to the fathers.

“With that, natural affection between generations began to be enriched. This restoration was accompanied by what is sometimes called **the Spirit of Elijah—a manifestation of the Holy Ghost bearing witness of the divine nature of the family**.”

Russell M. Nelson, “A New Harvest Time,” *Ensign*, May 1998, p. 34

[Referring to this last line by Elder Nelson] “This distinctive influence of the Holy Ghost draws people to identify, document, and cherish their ancestors and family members—both past **and present**.”

David A. Bednar, “The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn,” *Ensign*, Nov 2011

Week 2 – the Spirit of Elijah – the answer to Satan’s attack on the family

“In my opinion, members of the Church have the most effective cure for our decaying family life. It is for men, women, and children to honor and respect the divine roles of both fathers and mothers in the home. In so doing, mutual respect and appreciation among the members of the Church will be fostered by the righteousness found there. In this way, the great sealing keys restored by Elijah, spoken of by Malachi, might operate ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse.’ (D&C 110:15; see also Mal. 4:6.)

“President Joseph Fielding Smith stated concerning the keys of Elijah: ‘This sealing power bestowed upon Elijah, is the power which binds husbands and wives, and children to parents for time and eternity. It is the binding power existing in every Gospel ordinance. ... It was the mission of Elijah to come, and restore it so that the curse of confusion and disorder would not exist in the kingdom of God.’ (*Elijah the Prophet and His Mission*, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1957, p. 5.) Confusion and disorder are all too common in society, but they must not be permitted to destroy our homes.”

James E. Faust, “Father, Come Home,” *Ensign*, May 1993

“In the ordinances of the temple, the foundations of the eternal family are sealed in place. The Church has the responsibility—and the authority—to preserve and protect the family as the foundation of society. The pattern for family life, instituted from before the foundation of the world, provides for children to be born to and nurtured by a father and mother who are husband and wife, lawfully married. Parenthood is a sacred obligation and privilege, with children welcomed as a ‘heritage of the Lord’ (Ps. 127:3).

“A worried society now begins to see that the disintegration of the family brings upon the world the calamities foretold by the prophets. The world’s councils and deliberations will succeed only when they define the family as the Lord has revealed it to be. ‘Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it’ (Ps. 127:1).

“As we become more removed from the lifestyle of the world, the Church becomes more the welcome refuge for hundreds of thousands who come each year and say, ‘Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem’ (Isa. 2:3).”

Howard W. Hunter, “Exceeding Great and Precious Promises,” *Ensign*, Nov 1994

(*Read this whole talk if you can.*)

Week 3 – Saviors on Mt. Zion

“We shall continue the great work that goes on in our temples, an unmatched work of love reaching out even to those who have gone beyond the veil of death. Can there be a greater labor of love than this? It comes more nearly of partaking of the spirit of the Lord himself, who gave his life as a vicarious sacrifice for all of us, than any other work of which I know. It is done in the name of him whose salvation is universal.”

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Reach Out in Love and Kindness,” *Ensign*, Nov 1982, p.77

“Elder Widtsoe said, ‘In our preexistent state, in the day of the great council, we made a[n] ... agreement with the Almighty. The Lord proposed a plan, conceived by him. We accepted it. Since the plan is intended for all men, we became parties to the salvation of every person under that plan. We agreed, right then and there, to be not only saviors for ourselves but measurably, saviors for the whole human family. We went into a partnership with the Lord. The working out of the plan became then not merely the Father’s work, and the Savior’s work, but also our work. The least of us, the humblest, is in partnership with the Almighty in achieving the purpose of the eternal plan of salvation. ...

“That places us in a very responsible attitude towards the human race. By that doctrine, with the Lord at the head, we become saviors on Mount Zion, all committed to the great plan of offering salvation to the untold numbers of spirits. To do this is the Lord’s self-imposed duty, this great labor his highest glory. Likewise, it is man’s duty, self-imposed, his pleasure and joy, his labor, and ultimately his glory.” (“The Worth of Souls,” *The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine*, Oct. 1934, p. 189.)

David B. Haight, “Temples and Work Therein,” *Ensign*, Nov 1990, p.59

“The Prophet Joseph wrote: ‘But how are they to become saviors on Mount Zion? By building their temples, ... and receiving all the ordinances, ... ordinations and sealing powers upon their [own] heads, [and] in behalf of all their progenitors who are dead, and redeem them that they may come forth in the first resurrection and be exalted to thrones of glory with them; and herein is the chain that binds the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, which fulfills the mission of Elijah.’” (*History of the Church*, 6:184.)

David B. Haight, “Temples and Work Therein,” *Ensign*, Nov 1990, 59

Week 4 – God of the Living (*The people we seek are known to God.*)

“God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” (Matthew 22:32.) There are no dead except those who have chosen to be dead as to the law, dead as to the benefits, dead as to the blessings, dead as to the eternal nature of the gift.

Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p.540

Week 5 – Lifting the Veil

[If] “the veil were lifted off the face of the Latter-day Saints,” [and they] “could see and know the things of God as they do who are laboring for the salvation of the human family who are in the spirit world ..., this whole people, with very few, if any, exceptions, would lose all interest in the riches of the world, and instead thereof their whole desires and labors would be directed to redeem their dead.”

Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, p.152

Week 6 – Tremendous Significance

“It is tremendously significant to me that this declaration, this repetition of the wondrous words of Malachi concerning the work for the dead, was given to the boy Joseph four years before he was allowed to take the plates from the hill. It was given before he received either the Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood, before he was baptized, and well before the Church was organized.

“It says much concerning the priority of this work in the plan of the Lord.”...

“And without this work, the Lord indicated the whole purpose of creating and peopling the earth would be frustrated, would be wasted.”

Gordon B. Hinckley, “A Century of Family History Service,” *Ensign*, Mar 1995, p.61

(Malachi 4:5-6, 3 Nephi 25:5-6, D&C 2:1-3 – It is amazing how many more references to the turning of hearts and the promises made to the fathers are found throughout the scriptures.)

“Moroni’s instructions to the young prophet ultimately included two primary themes: (1) the Book of Mormon and (2) the words of Malachi foretelling the role of Elijah in the Restoration “of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21). Thus, the introductory events of the Restoration revealed a correct understanding of the Godhead, emphasized the importance of the Book of Mormon, and anticipated the work of salvation and exaltation for both the living and the dead. This inspiring sequence is instructive about the spiritual matters of highest priority to Deity.”

David A. Bednar, “The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn,” *Ensign*, Nov 2011

Week 7 – Purpose of the Priesthood

“We are called, as it has been told you, to redeem the nations of the earth. The fathers cannot be made perfect without us; we cannot be made perfect without the fathers. There must be this chain in the holy Priesthood; it must be welded together from the latest generation that lives on the earth back to Father Adam, to bring back all that can be saved and placed where they can receive salvation and a glory in some kingdom. This Priesthood has to do it; this Priesthood is for this purpose.”

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.623

Week 8 – the Atonement is for All (See Article of Faith 1:3)

“By the baptisms we perform in behalf of the dead, we testify that “as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ... By identifying our ancestors and performing for them the saving ordinances they could not themselves perform, we are testifying of the infinite reach of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Christ ‘died for all.’”

D. Todd Christofferson, “The Redemption of the Dead and the Testimony of Jesus,” *Ensign*, Nov 2000, pp.9-11

“[Jesus Christ] died, was buried, and rose on the third day to make the atoning sacrifice for all mankind so that death would not hold permanent power. Because of that act, all would rejoice and enjoy mortality.”

L. Tom Perry, “The Great Plan of Our God,” *Ensign*, Feb 2009, 62-66

“Each time we enter these sacred edifices, we play a role in the hallowed, redemptive work of salvation made available to all of God’s children as a result of the Atonement of the Only Begotten of the Father. This is a selfless and holy service and one that allows us as mortals to participate in the glorious work of becoming saviors on Mount Zion.”

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Temple Blessings,” *Ensign*, Aug 2010

Week 9 – Ordinances (See also Ephesians 4:5)

“Ordinances and covenants become our credentials for admission into His presence. To worthily receive them is the quest of a lifetime; to keep them thereafter is the challenge of mortality.

“Once we have received them for ourselves and for our families, we are obligated to provide these ordinances vicariously for our kindred dead, indeed for the whole human family.”

Boyd K. Packer, “Covenants,” *Ensign*, May 1987, 24

“Ordinances instituted in the heavens before the foundation of the world, in the priesthood, for the salvation of men, are not to be altered or changed. All must be saved on the same principles.”

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith (1976), 308

“Basic to all Christian understanding is the timeless statement made by Jesus: ‘Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’ (John 3:5)

“Following His crucifixion, Jesus ministered in the spirit world, setting in motion missionary work among those who had died without hearing the gospel. Baptism for these souls would logically be expected. Yet, only one verse in the New Testament refers directly to that need: ‘Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?’ (1 Corinthians 15:29)

“Those questions of the Apostle Paul—without latter-day revelation—would remain an enigma.”
Russell M. Nelson, “The Spirit of Elijah,” *Ensign*, November 1994

“Now the gospel of Jesus Christ teaches that all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances thereof. Nor is the term "all" restricted in meaning to include only a chosen few; it means every child of a loving and divine Father. And yet, hundreds of millions have died without ever having heard that there is such a thing as a gospel plan...

“All nations and races have a just claim upon God's mercies. Since there is only one plan of salvation, surely there must be some provision made whereby the "uncounted dead" may hear of it and have the privilege of either accepting or rejecting it. Such a plan is given in the principle of salvation for the dead.

“Truly, ". . . there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.) All ordinances performed by the priesthood of the Most High are as eternal as love, as comprehensive and enduring as life, and through obedience to them, all mankind, living and dead, may enter into and abide eternally in the kingdom of God. -- MS, 85:680-682 (1923).”

David O. McKay, *Gospel Ideals*, pp.17-18

“The Prophet Joseph Smith explained, ‘The spirit, power, and calling of Elijah is, that ye have power to hold the key of the ... fullness of the Melchizedek Priesthood ... ; and to ... obtain ... all the ordinances belonging to the kingdom of God’ (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith [2007], 311; emphasis added). This sacred sealing authority is essential for priesthood ordinances to be valid and binding both on earth and in heaven.”

David A. Bednar, “The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn,” *Ensign*, November 2011

Week 10 – Covenants

“What is the source of such moral and spiritual power, and how do we obtain it? The source is God. Our access to that power is through our covenants with Him. A covenant is an agreement between God and man, an accord whose terms are set by God. ... I pray that through your covenants, you may become a powerful instrument for good in the hands of Him who is our Lord and Redeemer...”

D. Todd Christofferson, “The Power of Covenants,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 19–23

“President Spencer W. Kimball said, ‘We made vows, solemn vows, in the heavens before we came to this mortal life. . . . We have made covenants. We made them before we accepted our position here on earth. . . . We committed ourselves to our Heavenly Father, that if He would send us to the earth and give us bodies and give to us the priceless opportunities that earth life afforded, we would keep our lives clean and would marry in the holy temple and would rear a family and teach them righteousness. This was a solemn oath, a solemn promise.’”

Spencer W. Kimball, devotional address given at the Salt Lake University Institute of Religion, January 10, 1975

Week 11 – Children of the Covenant – Exaltation is a Family Affair

“We as children of the covenant are highly favored. In our hearts have been planted the promises made to Fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Lord has said:

“Ye are lawful heirs, according to the flesh, and have been hid from the world with Christ in God. ...

“Therefore, blessed are ye if ye continue in my goodness, a light unto the Gentiles, and through this priesthood, a savior unto my people Israel.’ D&C 86:9, 11.

“This life is the time to prepare for salvation and exaltation. In God’s eternal plan, salvation is an individual matter; exaltation is a family matter.”

Russell M. Nelson, “Salvation and Exaltation,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 7–10

“Ours is the privilege of opening the doors of salvation to those souls who may be imprisoned in darkness in the world of spirits, that they may receive the light of the gospel and be judged the same as we. Yes, ‘the works that I do’ -- preferring the saving ordinances of the gospel to others -- ‘shall ye do also’ (see John 14:12). How many thousands of our kindred yet await these sealing ordinances? It is well to ask, ‘Have I done all I can as an individual on this side of the veil? Will I be a savior to them my own progenitors?’ Without them, we cannot be made perfect! EXALTATION IS A FAMILY AFFAIR.”

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p.254

“With that doctrine [the doctrine of the Abrahamic covenant] implanted deeply within our souls, the sting of death is soothed and spiritual protection is provided. Children of the covenant will be blessed—here and hereafter—I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.”

Russell M. Nelson, “Children of the Covenant,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 32

Week 12 – Abrahamic Covenant – “Shall All the Families of the Earth Be Blessed” (Read Abraham 2:8-11)

- *Promise 1 (A promised land)*: “Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: “For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever” (Gen. 13:14-15).
- *Promise 2 (a great posterity)*: “I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered” (Gen.13:16).
- *Promise 3 (Priesthood & gospel blessings)*: “I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee” (Gen. 17:7).
- *Promise 4 (A mission of salvation to others – Christ)*: “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 22:18).

Kent P. Jackson, “The Abrahamic Covenant: A Blessing for All People,” *Tambuli*, Feb 1994, 43

Week 13 – Seek Both Halves of the Blessings

“...there are some members who engage in temple work but fail to do family history research on their own family lines. Although they perform a divine service in assisting others, they lose a blessing by not seeking their own kindred dead as divinely directed by latter-day prophets. ...

“I have learned that those who engage in family history research and then perform the temple ordinance work for those whose names they have found will know the **additional joy of receiving both halves of the blessing.**”

President Howard W. Hunter , “A Temple-Motivated People,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1995, pp.4-5

Week 14 – Blessings of Family History and Temple Service (Listen carefully at the veil of the temple during the endowment)

“Whosoever seeks to help those on the other side **receives help in return in all affairs of life.** I can think of no better preparation for one’s labor on the farm, in the office, wherever it may be, than to spend a few hours in the temple, to partake of its influence and to give oneself unselfishly for the benefit of those who have gone beyond the veil.” ”

John A. Widstoe, *Improvement Era*, October 1952, p. 719

“... a work that enlarges the soul of man, broadens his views regarding the welfare of his fellowman, and plants in his heart a love for all the children of our Heavenly Father. There is no work equal to that in the temple for the dead in **teaching a man to love his neighbor as himself.**”

Joseph Fielding Smith, Jr., *Church News*, October 24, 1970, p.3

“When you attend the temple...certain blessings will come to you:

- You will receive the spirit of Elijah, which will turn your hearts to your spouse, to your children, and to your forebears.
- **You will love your family with a deeper love than you have loved before.**
- Your hearts will be turned to your fathers and theirs to you.
- You will be endowed with power from on high as the Lord has promised.
- You will receive the key of the knowledge of God. (D&C 84:19.) You will learn how you can be like Him. Even the power of godliness will be manifest to you. (D&C 84:20)
- You will be doing a great service to those who have passed to the other side of the veil in order that they might be ‘judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.’ (D&C 138:34.)”

Ezra Taft Benson, “**What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children about the Temple**”, 17 May 1984, Logan Temple Centennial, *Ensign*, Aug 1985, p10

(There are many, many, many blessings promised for doing this work – too many great quotes to list here. If you want to see more, go online to: <http://sudweeksfamily.com/handouts.htm> and click on “Blessings of Family History and Temple Service”.)

Week 15 – The Temple Blesses Us

“The temple is the binding link between generations, in this life and for eternity. All the temples have been dedicated for the same purpose: to assist in accomplishing the divine work and glory of God, our Eternal Father, ‘to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man’ (Moses 1:39). These temples are sacred structures in which eternal questions are answered, truths are taught, and ordinances performed so that we can live with an understanding of our divine inheritance as children of God and with an awareness of our potential as eternal beings. The house of the Lord helps you to see the end from the beginning.”

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “See the End from the Beginning,” *Ensign*, May 2006

“... Occasionally we read of people who are shown truths or are taught principles they are forbidden to reveal or write down. Jesus prayed with the Nephites, for example, and ‘the things which he prayed cannot be written.’ (3 Nephi 17:15) The moment was sacred, too holy and profoundly beautiful to commit to paper.

“As an English major, I used to wish I could **see or hear something so wonderful it could not be written**. Then, one day, the Spirit whispered, ‘You have, many times, in the Lord’s house.’ The endowment and other ordinances are too sacred to be written down for all to see.”

S. Michael Wilcox, *House of Glory*, p. 20

Week 16 – Role Models – Searching for Personal Identity

“Among the magnificent and abundant teachings of President Howard W. Hunter is this assertion, ‘The greatest search of our time is the search for personal identity and for human dignity.’...”

“Recently, we met with a [Jewish] executive of a large entertainment corporation. ... As our meeting ended, she asked me a question, ‘Why is your church so interested in genealogy?’

“I responded, ‘Let me answer you by asking you the same question, why are Jews interested in their genealogy?’

“She answered, a little surprised by my query: ‘Why? It is of ultimate and profound importance. It is how we obtain and maintain our identity. It is how I know who I am. The history and lives of our ancestors are

the glue that holds the entire Jewish community together.”” She concluded, ‘How else would you know who you are?’

“I responded to her, ‘That is also one of the reasons why our church is interested in genealogy.’

“My brethren of the priesthood, how do we now answer this centuries-old question: Who am I?

“First of all, we are sons of God created in His image. We are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Our connection and identification with the Church has been maintained by many of our members for more than a century and a half. Without question, the environment of our homes and families is the single greatest influence in our identity as individuals. This was true of our parents’ families and their parents’ families before them. We need not look beyond our own family to find wonderful role models whose high standards are more than adequate in our search for our own personal identity. As Elder Russell M. Nelson taught us this afternoon, we are children of the covenant.”

Monte J. Brough, “Search for Identity”, *Ensign*, May 1995

Week 17 – Blessing of Protection

“I promise you that all who faithfully attend to temple work will be blessed beyond measure. Your families will draw closer to the Lord, unseen angels will watch over your loved ones when satanic forces tempt them, the veil will be thin, and great spiritual experiences will distill upon this people.”

Vaughn J. Featherstone, Mount Vernon Washington Stake Conference, June 1985

“Many parents, in and out of the Church, are concerned about protection against a cascading avalanche of wickedness, which threatens to engulf the world. There is a power associated with the ordinances of heaven, even the power of godliness, which can and will thwart the forces of evil, if we will but be worthy of those sacred covenants made in the temple of the Lord. Our families will be protected, our children will be safeguarded as we live the gospel, visit the temple, and live close to the Lord.”

Ezra Taft Benson, *Receive of His Fullness*, videocassette

“No work is more of a protection to this Church than temple work and genealogical research which supports it. No work is more spiritually refining. No work we do gives us more power. No work requires a higher standard of righteousness. Our labors in the temple cover us with a shield and a protection both individually and as a people.”

Boyd K. Packer, *the Holy Temple*

Week 18 – Rescuing This Generation

“How shall God come to the rescue of this generation? He will send Elijah the prophet. . . . Elijah shall reveal the covenants to seal the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers. . . . What is this office and work of Elijah? It is one of the greatest and most important subjects that God has revealed. . . . The power of Elijah is sufficient to make our calling and election sure.”

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 323, 337–38

Week 19 – Blessing of the Work of Elijah

The story of Elijah & the Widow of Zarephath - Read 1 Kings 17: 13-16. *When it seems that we have so little to give to the work of Elijah, remember this story. We will be blessed with enough resources to do what we need to in this life. Consecration is the key (2 Nephi 32:9). Remember:*

“[The Lord] has promised you this: ‘But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’ That is a true promise. When we put God’s purposes first, He will give us miracles. If we **pray to know what He would have us do next**, He will multiply the effects of what we do in such a way that **time seems to be expanded.**”

Henry B. Eyring, "Education for Real Life," CES Broadcast 6 May 2001, p. 4-5

Week 20– Other Lessons from the Life of Elijah

“And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire **a still small voice.**”
(1 Kings 19:12)

“How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.”
(1 Kgs. 18:21) *(Read the rest of this story about Elijah. Watch as he first asks in this question if they have faith. Then he rebuilds the altar correctly symbolizing repentance. Then he covers the altar with water. Then he calls upon the fire from heaven – the Holy Ghost. See Articles of Faith 1:4)*

Think about his interactions with King Ahab & Queen Jezebel, Elijah being fed by the ravens, sealing the heavens, fasting for 40 days & nights, raising a young boy from the dead, conversing with the Lord on Mount Horeb (Sinai), being translated (the great chariot & whirlwind scene), the mantle & spirit of Elijah falling on Elisha, foreshadowing Christ, and appearing in the Kirtland temple to restore the priesthood keys.

Week 21 – Passover Prophecy

“‘It was ... on the third day of April, 1836,’ said President Joseph Fielding Smith, ‘that the [Jewish people], in their homes at the Paschal [Passover] feast, opened their doors for Elijah to enter. [However,] on that very day Elijah did enter—not in the home of the Jews to partake of the Passover with them, but he appeared in the House of the Lord ... in Kirtland, and there bestowed his keys.’” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1936, p. 75.)

David B. Haight, “Temples and Work Therein,” *Ensign*, Nov 1990, 59

Week 22 – Elijah’s Mission – This Side of the Veil

“When the full measure of Elijah’s mission is understood, . . . the hearts of the children will be turned to the fathers, and the fathers to the children. It applies just as much on this side of the veil as it does to the other side of the veil. If we neglect our families here in having family home night and we fail in our responsibility here, how would heaven look if we lost some of those [we love] through our own neglect? Heaven would not be heaven until we have done everything we can to save those whom the Lord has sent through our lineage. So, the hearts of you fathers and mothers must be turned to your children right now, if you have the true spirit of Elijah, and not think that it applies merely to those who are beyond the veil. Let your hearts be turned to your children, and teach your children; but you must do it when they are young enough to be schooled. And if you are neglecting your family home evening, you are neglecting the beginning of the mission of Elijah just as certainly as if you were neglecting your research work of genealogy.”

Harold B. Lee, banquet speech delivered at the Eighth Annual Priesthood Genealogical Seminar, August 3, 1973; printed in “Syllabus for the Ninth Annual Priesthood Genealogy Seminar,” 529–30, typescript.

Week 23 – Armies Around Us *(Every time we proxy for another family member, we increase the power and size of our own personal armies – which protect our families and our communities.)*

“And he answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.

“And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”

2 Kings 6:16-17

“In the gospel of Jesus Christ you have help from both sides of the veil and you must never forget that. When disappointment and discouragement strike—and they will—you remember and never forget that if our eyes could be opened we would see horses and chariots of fire as far as the eye can see riding at reckless

speed to come to our protection. They will always be there, these armies of heaven, in defense of Abraham's seed."

Jeffrey R. Holland, "For Times of Trouble," *New Era*, October 1980, p. 6

Week 24 – Blessing All Ages

"We need converts to temple work, drawn from all ages, from the young, from the middle-aged, and from the rich and poor, from among the busy and those of leisure. The time has come, I verily believe, in this new temple movement, to bring into active service all the people, of all ages. From the children doing baptisms, to the aged grandparents doing endowments for the dead, all the members of the family, if we do our duty well, must be brought into the work. Temple work is quite of as much benefit to the young and the active, as it is to the aged, who have laid behind them many of the burdens of life. The young man needs his place in the temple even more than his father and grandfather, who are steadied by a life of experience; and the young girl just entering life, needs the spirit, influence and direction that come from participation in the temple ordinances. If I say nothing else that will linger, I hope you will remember that temple work is for the young and for the middle-aged and for the aged—for all—and not for one specialized, separated class within the Church organization."

John A. Widstoe, from Archibald F. Bennett's *Saviors on Mount Zion*, p.148

Week 25 – The Youth

"It is no coincidence that FamilySearch and other tools have come forth at a time when young people are so familiar with a wide range of information and communication technologies. Your fingers have been trained to text and tweet to accelerate and advance the work of the Lord—not just to communicate quickly with your friends. The skills and aptitude evident among many young people today are a preparation to contribute to the work of salvation.

"I invite the young people of the Church to learn about and experience the Spirit of Elijah. I encourage you to study, to search out your ancestors, and to prepare yourselves to perform proxy baptisms in the house of the Lord for your kindred dead (see D&C 124:28–36). And I urge you to help other people identify their family histories.

"As you respond in faith to this invitation, your hearts shall turn to the fathers. The promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be implanted in your hearts. Your patriarchal blessing, with its declaration of lineage, will link you to these fathers and be more meaningful to you. Your love and gratitude for your ancestors will increase. Your testimony of and conversion to the Savior will become deep and abiding. And I promise you will be protected against the intensifying influence of the adversary. As you participate in and love this holy work, you will be safeguarded in your youth and throughout your lives. ...

"My beloved young brothers and sisters, family history is not simply an interesting program or activity sponsored by the Church; rather, it is a vital part of the work of salvation and exaltation. You have been prepared for this day and to build up the kingdom of God. You are here upon the earth now to assist in this glorious work.

"I testify Elijah returned to the earth and restored the sacred sealing authority. I witness that what is bound on earth can be bound in heaven. And I know the youth of the rising generation have a key role to play in this great endeavor. I so testify in the sacred name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen."

David A. Bednar, "The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn," *Ensign*, November 2011

"This is the work of salvation. It's not just indexing. It's not just researching names. These are people, sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. We are here to participate in the work of salvation in inviting all of these people to come unto Christ and receive the saving ordinances of the gospel. That's who we are. That's why we're here on the earth. With the technology capability that you young people have, you were prepared for this day. The time is now."

David A. Bednar, "The Time Is Now," Video clip on [lds.org/youth/family-history](https://www.lds.org/youth/family-history), Oct 2011

“Blessed with youthful vigor, mental alertness, and scholastic training denied many of their parents and grandparents, there is much that can be done by youth.”

Archibald F. Bennett, *Saviors on Mount Zion*, p. 145

“I believe the youth are not only willing and able to do genealogical research, but they are a good means of giving life to the whole program. How often have the youth actually been driven away by those who would close the door on genealogy to them, or at the best, insist that they must “drink milk” when they are ready for the “meat”.”

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 163

[Referring to the youth] “They have been reminded that these temples are not only for their parents but also for them. When 12 years of age, they may enter the house of the Lord and stand as proxies in baptisms for those beyond the veil of death. What a great and unselfish service this is. What a wonderful thing for our youth to be involved in this totally selfless act in behalf of others who are powerless to help themselves.”

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Welcome to Conference,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1999

Week 26 – Personal Revelation – A Family History Research Necessity (See also 1 Nephi 4:6)

“... guidance will come only when the Lord is sure you will obey to know His will you must be committed to do it. The words, “Thy will be done,” written in the heart, are the window to revelation.”

Henry B. Eyring, “Rise to Your Call”, Conference Oct 2002

“Several years after Joseph Smith was martyred, he appeared to President Brigham Young. His message for the Saints at that time [was]:

“Tell the people to be humble and faithful, and be sure to keep the spirit of the Lord and it will lead them right. Be careful and not turn away the still small voice; it will teach you what to do and where to go; it will yield the fruits of the kingdom. Tell the brethren to keep their hearts open to conviction, so that when the Holy Ghost comes to them, their hearts will be ready to receive it.”

Manuscript History of Brigham Young, February 23, 1847; Ezra T. Benson, *Come Unto Christ*, P. 17

Week 27 – Revelation 101 & the Need to Write It Down!

“Perhaps we regard the power bestowed by Elijah as something associated only with formal ordinances performed in sacred places. But these ordinances become dynamic and productive of good only as they reveal themselves in our daily lives. Malachi said that the power of Elijah would turn the hearts of the fathers and the children to each other. The heart is the seat of the emotions and a conduit for revelation.”

James E. Faust, “Father, Come Home,” *Ensign*, May 1993, p.37

“We shall learn by the spirit of revelation whom to be baptized for, and whom to officiate for in the holy ordinances of the Gospel. Herein is the necessity of revelation. Take away revelation from this great dispensation of the fullness of times, and I would not give you much for the mission of Elijah or for the dispensation itself.”

Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses* 7:86

One of the miracles we have found in doing family history research is learning how we personally receive revelation. Do you receive revelation more consistently through thoughts, feelings, dreams, words or actions of others, words of scriptures or songs, angelic ministrations, or how?

“Write down in a secure place the important things you learn from the Spirit. You will find that as you write down precious impressions, often more will come. Also the knowledge you gain will be available

throughout your life. Always, day or night, wherever you are, whatever you are doing, seek to recognize and respond to the direction of the Spirit. Express gratitude for the help received and obey it. This practice will reinforce your capacity to learn by the Spirit. It will permit the Lord to guide your life and to enrich the use of every other capacity latent in your being.”

Richard G. Scott, *BYU Magazine*, Summer 2001, page 58-9

Week 28 – Dreams – One of the Greatest Sources of Revelation in Family History (See Job 33:14-16)

“Now there's one more way by which revelations may come, and that is by dreams. Oh, I'm not going to tell you that every dream you have is a direct revelation from the Lord—it may be fried liver and onions that have been responsible for an upset or disorder. But I fear that in this age of sophistication there are those of us who are prone to rule out all dreams as of no purpose, and of no moment. And yet all through the scriptures there were recorded incidents where the Lord, by dreams, has directed His people. When we begin to understand that beyond sight, as Brigham Young said, the spirit world is right here round about us, and if our spiritual eyes could be open, we could see others visiting with us, directing us. And if we will learn not to be so sophisticated that we rule out that possibility of impressions from those who are beyond sight, then we too may have a dream that may direct us as a revelation.”

Harold B. Lee, *Stand Ye In Holy Places*, p.142-143

Family history dreams often include images that symbolize the concepts found in the following 2 verses (people who are starving, missing clothing (needing the robes of the priesthood) or missing something, are imprisoned, lost or otherwise afflicted).

- “And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good—to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted. (Jacob 2:19)
- “...after ye have done all these things [prayed without ceasing], if ye turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance, if ye have, to those who stand in need-- I say unto you, if ye do not any of these things, behold, your prayer is vain, and availeth you nothing... (Alma 34:28)

“The hearts of men have turned to their fathers in fulfillment of the words of Malachi. The vision of Joel has been fulfilled wherein he declared:

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

“And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” (Joel 2:28-29)

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Living in the Fullness of Times,” *Ensign*, Nov 2001

Week 29 – Ministering Angels (See 2 Nephi 32:3)

“One of the things that will become more important in our lives the longer we live is the reality of angels, their work and their ministry. I refer here not alone to the angel Moroni but also to those more personal ministering angels who are with us and around us, empowered to help us and who do exactly that”....

“I believe we need to speak of and believe in and bear testimony of the ministry of angels more than we sometimes do. They constitute one of God’s great methods of witnessing through the veil, and no document in all this world teaches that principle so clearly and so powerfully as does the Book of Mormon.”

Jeffrey R. Holland, “For a Wise Purpose,” *Ensign*, Jan 1996

“[John the Baptist] He said that this priesthood of Aaron “holds the keys of the ministering of angels.” It is a tremendous thing to have the right to the ministering of angels. ... “I am convinced that the Lord would not have given it to us had He not desired that we have it so that we might enjoy the wonderful gifts, guidance, and protection which come therefrom.”

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Words of the Prophet: ‘Upon You My Fellow Servants’,” *New Era*, May 2002, p. 4

“When messengers are sent to minister to the inhabitants of this earth, **they are not strangers, but from among our kindred, friends, and fellow-beings and fellow-servants**...Our fathers and mothers, brothers, sisters and friends who have passed away from this earth, having been faithful, and worthy to enjoy these rights and privileges, may have a mission given them to visit their relatives and friends upon the earth again, bringing from the divine Presence messages of love, of warning, or reproof and instruction, to those whom they had learned to love in the flesh.”

Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1970, pages 435-36

Week 30 – Lost Information will be Revealed

“there are...hundreds of thousands and millions...in the spirit world who long to receive this gospel and have been waiting hundreds of years for their deliverance. They are waiting on you. They are praying that the Lord will awaken your hearts in their interest. They know where their records are.... I testify to you that the spirit and influence of your dead will guide those who are interested in finding those records. If there is anywhere on the earth anything concerning them, you will find it... If we have done our best and have searched and have discovered all that is available, then the day will come when God will open and part the veil, and the records ... will be revealed.””

Sermons and Missionary Services of Melvin J. Ballard, 229-231

Week 31 – Doing Something

"If you get it into your heart and soul that this is one of the most important things you as Latter-day Saints can do, you will find a way to do it."

Heber J. Grant, *Improvement Era*, 44:459

“Our effort is not to compel everyone to do everything, but to encourage everyone to do something.”

Dallin H. Oaks, “Family History ‘in Wisdom and in Order’,” *Ensign*, June 1989, p.6

“Prayerfully determine what you should do for your ancestors. Many factors affect this—what other family members might have done already, your own abilities and interests, the time you have available. But it is important that you do something.”

David B. Haight, "Personal Temple Worship," *Ensign*, May 1993, 23

Week 32 – Nourish the Seed Planted by Elijah

“Moroni’s account of Elijah’s mission is especially significant. Moroni says: ‘And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers’ (D&C 2:2; emphasis added). Because we do not remember our experiences before birth, the verb plant should be given careful consideration. The mission of Elijah plants in our hearts the awareness of our responsibilities to be saviors to our fathers. It then becomes our responsibility to nourish the tender plant so that it grows and produces fruit. Some of us excuse ourselves from genealogical and temple work, saying, ‘I just can’t get interested’ or ‘Others in the family have done it all.’

“Alma used a powerful analogy that can be applied here. He taught that after the seed is planted, we should desire to believe and not cast it out. He promised:

“‘If ye nourish it with much care it will get root, and grow up, and bring forth fruit.

“‘But if ye neglect the tree, and take no thought for its nourishment, behold it will not get any root; . . . and ye pluck it up and cast it out.

“‘Now, this is not because the seed was not good, neither is it because the fruit thereof would not be desirable; but it is because your ground is barren, and ye will not nourish the tree, therefore ye cannot have the fruit thereof. . . .

“‘But if ye will . . . nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life. (Alma 32:37–41)

LeBaron, E. Dale, "Elijah's Mission: His Keys, Powers, and Blessings from the Old Testament to the Latter Days" in *Sperry Symposium Classics: The Old Testament*, ed. Paul Y. Hoskisson (Provo and Salt Lake City: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, and Deseret Book 2005), 283–297

Week 33 – Many Drawn into the Work

"There are millions across the world who are working on family history records. Why? Why are they doing it? I believe it is because they have been touched by the spirit of this work, a thing which we call the spirit of Elijah. It is a turning of the hearts of the children to their fathers. Most of them do not understand any real purpose in this, other than perhaps a strong and motivating curiosity."

"There has to be a purpose in this tremendous expenditure of time and money. That purpose, of which we bear solemn witness, is to identify the generations of the dead so that ordinances may be performed in their behalf for their eternal and everlasting blessing and progress."

Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Century of Family History Service," *Ensign*, Mar 1995, p.62

"The Spirit of Elijah affects people inside and outside of the Church. However, as members of Christ's restored Church, we have the covenant responsibility to search out our ancestors and provide for them the saving ordinances of the gospel. 'They without us should not be made perfect' (Hebrews 11:40; see also Teachings: Joseph Smith, 475). And 'neither can we without our dead be made perfect' (D&C 128:15)."

David A. Bednar, "The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn," *Ensign*, Nov 2011

Week 34– Miracles of Technology

"In recent years we have begun using information technology to hasten the sacred work of providing ordinances for the deceased. The role of technology in this work has been accelerated by the Lord himself, who has had a guiding hand in its development and will continue to do so. However, we stand only on the threshold of what we can do with these tools. I feel that our most enthusiastic projections can capture only a tiny glimpse of how these tools can help us—and of the eternal consequences of these efforts."

Howard W. Hunter, "We Have a Work to Do," *Ensign*, Mar 1995, 65

"Going hand in hand with this increased temple activity is an increase in our family history work. The computer in its various ramifications is accelerating the work, and people are taking advantage of the new techniques being offered to them. How can one escape the conclusion that the Lord is in all of this? As computer facilities improve, the number of temples grows to accommodate the accelerated family history work."

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Welcome to Conference," *Ensign*, Nov. 1999

Archibald F. Bennett, a prominent genealogist, said: "Sister Susan Young Gates...once asked her father [Brigham Young] how it would ever be possible to accomplish the great amount of temple work that must be done. He told her that there would be many inventors of labor-saving devices, so that our daily duties could be performed in a short time, leaving us more and more time for temple work. The inventions have come, and are still coming but many simply divert the time gained to other channels, and not for the purpose intended by the Lord."

Brigham Young quote, *Improvement Era*, Oct 1952

"The Lord has poured out knowledge about how to make that information available worldwide through technology that a few years ago would have seemed a miracle."

Henry B. Eyring, "Hearts Bound Together," *Ensign*, May 2005, 77

"The Lord has poured out His Spirit upon His children—which is manifest in new technology, simplified procedures, and expanding resources, which enable us to accelerate our progress in the redemption of the dead.

"When we have conscientiously done all we can to locate records of our ancestors, the Lord will direct our attention to obscure records in unlikely places where ancestral information has been preserved."

David B. Haight, "Personal Temple Worship," *Ensign*, May 1993, 23.

(*new.familysearch.org is the fulfillment of this prophecy*) "A universal system of intelligent cooperation will bring together on one record sheet every fact in existence regarding a particular family. This wealth of data will insure accuracy and banish error. Expensive and time-consuming duplications in research and repetitions in ordinances will be eliminated. No sooner will a new fact be uncovered in any part of the world by a researcher than it will be communicated to the Archives center and be assigned to its proper place, on some family record."

Archibald F. Bennett, Secretary of Genealogical Society of Utah, *Church News*, December 20, 1947, p.20

Week 35 – Finding the One – Missionary Work and Family History Work are the Same Work

"Often it is just one member of the family who joins the Church. I have many husbands and wives come to me, each one being the only member of the Church in his immediate family. I believe the Lord deliberately designates and sends a valiant spirit into a special family in a special location, even in far-off missions, for the explicit purpose of having a spirit who will accept of the gospel of Jesus Christ, hear the voice when it comes to him, and recognize it as true. Then, after becoming a member of the Church, he will gather the records that the promises to the fathers may be fulfilled."

Eldred G. Smith, Church Patriarch, Conf. Report, April 1959

"Missionary work is not limited to proclaiming the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people now living on the earth. Missionary work is also continuing beyond the veil among the millions and even billions of the children of our Heavenly Father who have died either without hearing the gospel or without accepting it while they lived on the earth. Our great part in this aspect of missionary work is to perform on this earth the ordinances required for those who accept the gospel over there. The spirit world is full of spirits who are anxiously awaiting the performance of these earthly ordinances for them. I hope to see us dissolve the artificial boundary line we so often place between missionary work and temple and genealogical work, because it is the same great redemptive work!" (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, p. 540)

Spencer W. Kimball, "The Things of Eternity-Stand We in Jeopardy?" *Ensign*, Jan. 1977, 3

"Why is it that sometimes only one of a city or household received the Gospel? It was made known to me that it is because of the righteous dead who had received the Gospel in the spirit world exercising themselves, and in answer to their prayers elders of the Church were sent to the homes of their posterity that the Gospel might be taught to them and through their righteousness they might be privileged to have a descendant in the flesh do the work for their dead kindred. I want to say to you that it is with greater intensity that the hearts of the fathers and mothers in the spirit world are turned to their children than that our hearts are turned to them."

Melvin J. Ballard, in Briant S. Hinckley's *Sermons and Missionary Services of Melvin Joseph Ballard* (SLC: Desert Book, 1949) p. 249

"We often wonder if our ancestors will accept the gospel. Ironically, in many instances, they accepted it before we did. Their prayers and faithfulness have brought the gospel into our lives instead of the other way around. Officiating in the temple for them is a deep expression of our gratitude and helps bind us to them."

S. Michael Wilcox, *The House of Glory*, p.106

Week 36 – Temple Links Missionary Work on Both Sides of the Veil

"'[The Lord] will hasten [His] work in its time' (see D&C 88:73). When He hastens His work, He hastens it on both sides of the veil. This is why, of course, the holy temples are so crucial especially at this time in human history. The constituency in the spirit world, by the way, is many times larger, numerically, than here. Whenever we open new nations on this side of the veil, as is now happening, we have simultaneously opened the door to thousands beyond the veil. The temple provides the precious spiritual linkage."

Neal A. Maxwell, in *Church News*, September 1, 1990, 7

Week 37 – Activating Members

“Family history builds bridges to activity in the Church. Family history work solidifies converts and strengthens all members of the Church. Family history research and the preparation of names for the temple can be most valuable in the retention of new members. Faith and confidence grow as family members are included in the saving ordinances of the gospel. Participation in temple ordinances is, after all, at the center of our gospel experience. ...

“Family history builds bridges to the temple. Family history work leads us to the temple. Family history and temple work are one work.”

Dennis B. Neuenschwander, “Bridges and Eternal Keepsakes,” *Ensign*, May 1999, 83

“Remember, just filling out family forms can lead us to thinking about those on the other side and allow the Spirit of Elijah to enter that heart and home like a fire. Family research becomes contagious and spiritually motivating in fulfilling that great commandment to search out our ancestors.

...“With smiles and prayers, the missionary couples make friends, build bridges of trust, advance that person's family history work, and bring them back into activity. In addition, in many of those homes they visit, they not only reactivate the less-active member but also form bonds of love that lead to the baptism of spouses, children, and other relatives living there or close by.”

Robert E. Wells, *Hasten My Work*, p.96

Week 38 - Journals

“What could you do better for your children and your children's children than to record the story of your life, your triumphs over adversity, your recovery after a fall, your progress when all seemed black, your rejoicing when you had finally achieved?” said President Spencer W. Kimball. “Get a notebook. ... Begin today.”

New Era, Oct. 1975, pp. 4-5

“Keeping journals reminds us of blessings. Those who keep a book of remembrance are more likely to keep the Lord in remembrance in their daily lives. Journals are a way of counting our blessings and of leaving an inventory of these blessings for our posterity.” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 349)

L. Tom Perry, “The Value of a Good Name,” *Ensign*, Feb 2009

Week 39 – Traditions

“Brethren and sisters, every family has keepsakes. Families collect furniture, books, porcelain, and other valuable things, then pass them on to their posterity. Such beautiful keepsakes remind us of loved ones now gone and turn our minds to loved ones unborn. They form a bridge between family past and family future.

“Every family has other, more valuable, keepsakes. These include genealogies, family stories, historical accounts, and traditions. These eternal keepsakes also form a bridge between past and future and bind generations together in ways that no other keepsake can.

... “Some years ago, I met the director of a Russian Orthodox monastery. He showed me volumes of his own extensive family research. He told me that one of the values, perhaps even the main value, of genealogy is the establishment of family tradition and the passing of these traditions on to younger generations. “Knowledge of these traditions and family history,” he said, ‘welds generations together.’ Further, he told me: ‘If one knows he comes from honest ancestors, he is duty and honor bound to be honest. One cannot be dishonest without letting each member of his family down.’”

Dennis B. Neuenschwander, “Bridges and Eternal Keepsakes,” *Ensign*, May 1999, 83

“Despite all the distractions, we can see to it that Christ is at the center of our celebration. If we have not already done so, we can establish Christmas traditions for ourselves and our families which will help us capture and keep the spirit of Christmas.”

Thomas S. Monson, “Because He Came,” First Presidency Christmas Fireside, Dec 2011

“The most important traditions are connected with the way we live our lives and will last beyond us as our children’s lives are influenced and shaped.

... “Can we do this for our children? What is the legacy we are giving them today? What will it be tomorrow? It can start with us. Will their hearts and lives be full of traditions that make it easy for them to accept and follow the Lord and the latter-day prophets? Will we as families be able to claim the blessings promised, “that Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life” (Mosiah 5:15)?”

Cheryl C. Lant, Primary General President, “Righteous Traditions,” *Ensign*, May 2008

“Uplifting traditions play a significant role in leading us toward the things of the Spirit. Those that promote love for Deity and unity in families and among people are especially important.”

Donald L. Hallstrom, “Cultivate Righteous Traditions,” *Ensign*, Nov 2000

Week 40 – Teach the Children

“God bless Israel! God bless those of our forebears who constructed this holy edifice. God bless us to teach our children and our grandchildren what great blessings await them by going to the temple. God bless us to receive all the blessings revealed by Elijah the prophet so that our callings and election will be made sure.”

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p.254

“The home is to be God’s laboratory of love and service.”

Russell M. Nelson, “Salvation and Exaltation,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 7–10

Week 41 – Share Our Testimony of Family History

“The work is progressing but I am afraid that genealogy remains just a word to be avoided or ignored by the average member of the Church. Those of you who have worked at your genealogies, who realize the importance of the work and have felt the excitement that comes from tying families together and learning of your noble heritage, need to share that excitement with others. Help them to see the joy and fulfillment you see in the work. We need to proselyte more of our members into this work. There is much to be done, as you all know, and there are many, many members who could do the work and who would enjoy doing the work if some of us -- all of you -- would just ignite that spark in them through your enthusiasm, example, and devotion.”

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, pp.161-162

“Is it any wonder that when we receive a testimony of this work, we desire to give so much to its progress and its advancement? Barriers evaporate as mists before the morning sun. When we perform our work with abiding faith, we will qualify for the desired blessings.”

Thomas S. Monson, “Happy Birthday,” *Ensign*, March 1995

Week 42 – Gratitude for our Heritage

[Referring to his own ancestors, Elder Nelson said,] “My debt to them is reflected in these biblical verses: ‘One soweth, and another reapeth’ that ‘both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.’” (John 4:37, 36)

Russell M. Nelson, “A New Harvest Time,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 34

"I am indebted to my kindred dead who made it possible for me to live in this dispensation and to have the privilege of being a member of the 'only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.' (D&C 1:30.)"

David B. Haight, "Temples and Work Therein," *Ensign*, Nov 1990, 59

Week 43 – Gratitude to the Lord

"More and more we come to the temple not only for our needs, seeking guidance or comfort, but just to be near the Lord's Spirit and to say, 'Thank you.' The more we see the temple as a house of learning, a house of refuge, a house of order, and a house of glory, the more we understand why it is also a house of thanksgiving."

S. Michael Wilcox, *The House of Glory*, p.133

Week 44 – Gratitude of those Waiting and of the Lord

"For me, knowing that turns my heart not only to my ancestors who wait but to the missionaries who teach them. I will see those missionaries in the spirit world, and so will you. Think of a faithful missionary standing there with those he has loved and taught who are your ancestors. Picture as I do the smile on the face of that missionary as you walk up to him and your ancestors whom he converted but could not baptize or have sealed to family until you came to the rescue. I do not know what the protocol will be in such a place, but I imagine arms thrown around your neck and tears of gratitude...."

"If you can imagine the smile of the missionary and your ancestor, think of the Savior when you meet Him. You will have that interview. He paid the price of the sins of you and all of Heavenly Father's spirit children. He is Jehovah. He sent Elijah. He conferred the powers of the priesthood to seal and to bless out of perfect love. And He has trusted you by letting you hear the gospel in your lifetime, giving you the chance to accept the obligation to offer it to those of your ancestors who did not have your priceless opportunity. Think of the gratitude He has for those who pay the price in work and faith to find the names of their ancestors and who love them and Him enough to offer them eternal life in families, the greatest of all the gifts of God. He offered them an infinite sacrifice. He will love and appreciate those who paid whatever price they could to allow their ancestors to choose His offer of eternal life."

Henry B. Eyring, "Hearts Bound Together," *Ensign*, May 2005, 77

Week 45 – Remember

"Family history and temple work have a great power, which lies in their scriptural and divine promise that the hearts of the fathers will turn to the children and those of the children will turn to their fathers. Woodrow Wilson stated: 'A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.' Well might this be said of families also: A *family* 'which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.'"

Dennis B. Neuenschwander, "Bridges and Eternal Keepsakes," *Ensign*, May 1999, 83

("Always Remember Him"... "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." We covenant to remember our Savior in every sacrament meeting. When we do this work of salvation and remember those who have gone before us, we remember Christ, and at the same time, bring our loved ones unto Christ.)

"O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it, that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy

Son, and **always remember him** and keep his commandments which he has given them; that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.”

“O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son, which was shed for them; that they may witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they do **always remember him**, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.”

D&C 20:77, 79

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Matthew 25:40

Week 46 – the Family Tree

“Famous *Roots* author, Alex Haley, once said: ‘In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage—to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still ... an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.’

“Through family history we discover the most beautiful tree in the forest of creation—our family tree. Its numerous roots reach back through history, and its branches extend throughout eternity. Family history is the expansive expression of eternal love.”

J. Richard Clarke, “Our Kindred Family—Expression of Eternal Love,” *Ensign*, May 1989, 60

(Ponder the tree as referenced in the scriptures – especially 1 Nephi 11:25 and the allegory of the olive tree in Jacob 5.)

Week 47 – Faith

“...There is a much greater key—a key which each one of us earnestly seeks to obtain and which will open the locks to the treasure houses of the knowledge which we desire to acquire. That key is the key of faith. In this work, no lock will open without it.

“I testify that when we do all we can to accomplish the work that is before us, the Lord will make available to us the sacred key needed to unlock the treasure which we so much seek.

“The oft-quoted epistle of James was not meant exclusively for investigators. It was meant for you and me as well: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”

“Should any obstacles be encountered, one must seek the companionship of the Holy Spirit for guidance to solve the problem faced. I testify that the Spirit will come, the way will be opened, and the key will be provided. ...

“We need the key of faith. No locked door can withstand its opening capacity. Faith is a requisite to this work. There is within our grasp the key which will unlock to our view that which we earnestly seek. ...

“The key of faith can be ours. May we use it wisely, thus opening to the view of those who have gone before us that great vision of their opportunity in the kingdom of our Heavenly Father.”

Thomas S. Monson, “The Key of Faith,” *Ensign*, Feb 1994, 2

Week 48 – Duty

“I like the word duty. Duty to me is something sacred. I think of the words of Harry Emerson Fosdick, who declared:

“Men will work hard for money, and men will work harder for other men, but men will work hardest of all when they are dedicated to a cause. Until willingness overflows obligation, men fight as conscripts rather than following the flag of duty as patriots. Duty is never worthily performed until it is performed by one who would gladly do more if only he could.’ Those devoted to family history, including all of you here tonight, meet this definition of duty. You are dedicated.

“Though temporary obstacles to family research may seem insurmountable, frequently, in a miraculous way, there shall appear before us a clear pathway through a field of turbulence.”

Thomas S. Monson, “Happy Birthday,” *Ensign*, March 1995

Week 49 – The Temple: the Symbol of Our Membership

“...Look to the temple of the Lord as the symbol of your membership. It is the deepest desire of my heart to have every member of the Church worthy to enter the temple...”

“Let us be a temple-attending people. Attend the temple as frequently as personal circumstances allow. Keep a picture of a temple in your home that your children may see it. Teach them about the purposes of the house of the Lord. Have them plan from the earliest years to go there and to remain worthy of that blessing.

“If proximity to a temple does not allow frequent attendance, gather in the history of your family and prepare the names for the sacred ordinances performed only in the temple. This family research is essential to the work of the temples, and blessings surely will come to those who do that work.”

Howard W. Hunter, “Exceeding Great and Precious Promises,” *Ensign*, November 1994, p.8

“God is looking upon us and has called us to be saviors upon Mount Zion. And what does a savior mean? It means a person who saves somebody.... Would we be saviors if did not save somebody? I think not. Could we save anybody if we did not build Temples? No, we could not; for God would not accept our offerings and sacrifices.”

John Taylor, *Journal of Discourses*, 22:308, August 28, 1881

“This entire continent is the land of Zion, and the time will come when there will be temples established over every portion of the land, and we will go into these temples and work for our kindred dead night and day, that the work of the Lord may be speedily accomplished, that Jesus may come and present the kingdom to his father.”

Lorenzo Snow, *Millennial Star*, 61:546, May 8, 1899

Week 50 – Service to Our Loved Ones (*What this author thinks each time he proxies for someone*)

"Here are my eyes; together we will look upon the beauty of the Lord's house. Here are my ears; let us hear the words of eternal life. Here are my lips; we will make sacred covenants. Here are my hands; together we will receive the gifts of life everlasting. Here are my knees; kneel with me at the altars of salvation, there to become one with all those we both love. I will remember you."

S. Michael Wilcox, *House of Glory*, p.96

Week 51 – Millennium (*We should do all that we can during our time on earth, but know that for those things we cannot find or fix, there is a plan.*)

“In the Millennium, when the Kingdom of God is established on the earth in power, glory and perfection, and the reign of wickedness that has so long prevailed is subdued, the Saints of God will have the privilege of building their temples, and of entering into them, becoming, as it were, pillars in the temples of God [see Revelation 3:12], and they will officiate for their dead. Then we will see our friends come up, and perhaps some that we have been acquainted with here. ... And we will have revelations to know our forefathers clear back to Father Adam and Mother Eve, and we will enter into the temples of God and officiate

for them. Then [children] will be sealed to [parents] until the chain is made perfect back to Adam, so that there will be a perfect chain of Priesthood from Adam to the winding-up scene.”

Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young, 1997, 333-334

“Many people have died without receiving these ordinances. People on the earth must perform these ordinances for them. This work is now being done in the temples of the Lord. There is too much work to finish before the Millennium begins, so it will be completed during that time. Resurrected beings will help us correct the mistakes we have made in doing research concerning our dead ancestors. They will also help us find the information we need to complete our records. (See Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 2:167, 251–52.)

“Chapter 45: The Millennium,” *Gospel Principles*, p.265

“Because of the righteousness of [the Lord’s] people, Satan has no power; wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years; for he hath no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness, and the Holy One of Israel reigneth”

1 Nephi 22:26

(As we choose to be righteous, we lessen the power of Satan and do not have to wait for the millennium to do this. As we join in the work of Elijah, we lessen the power of Satan.)

Week 52 – Temples – Monuments to the Resurrection & Exaltation of the Human Family

“Some years ago, at the dedication of the temple in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Elder **Boyd K. Packer** said: ‘We are dedicating a monument to [the] resurrection and exaltation of the human family. If the outside world knew about what was happening here, the cars would stop, planes would not take off, and people would gather to see what the Lord hath wrought. This work we have a part in; it is cause for great rejoicing.’ (*Church News*, January 26, 1986, 6)”

LeBaron, E. Dale, “Elijah’s Mission: His Keys, Powers, and Blessings from the Old Testament to the Latter Days” in *Sperry Symposium Classics: The Old Testament*, ed. Paul Y. Hoskisson (Provo and Salt Lake City: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, and Deseret Book 2005), 283–297

Our Closing Thought: We must remember that the family was designed by God.

“The strength in the nations lies in the homes of the people. **God is the designer of the family.** He intended the greatest of happiness, the most satisfying aspects of life, the deepest joys should come in our associations together and our concerns one for another as fathers and mothers and children.”

Gordon B. Hinckley, “What God Hath Joined Together,” *Ensign*, May 1991, 74