

---

# DOCTRINE & COVENANTS 124-126

---



---

## CHRONOLOGY

---

- **April 6, 1839** – JS and others transferred to Gallatin.
- **April 11, 1839** – JS indicted for treason but granted a change of venue.
- **April 12, 1839** – JS departs for Columbia, MO to stand trial.
- **April 16, 1839** – JS and others allowed to escape.
- **April 22, 1839** – JS arrived in Illinois. Potentially indicates that he wants his son to become Church president.
- **April 30, 1839** – Church agents purchase land in Commerce, IL.
- **May 10, 1839** – JS and family move to Commerce, Illinois.
- **June 11, 1839** – JS starts dictating diary.
- **July 22, 1839** – Healings at Montrose, Iowa.
- **August 30, 1839** – Renames Commerce, Nauvoo.
- **October 29, 1839** – JS leaves for Washington, DC.
- **November 29, 1839** – US President tells JS that the Federal Government can do nothing for him and that the Bill of Rights only restrained the Federal Government.

**"Eighteen Forty may have been the happiest year of Joseph Smith's life."<sup>1</sup>**

- **Early March, 1840** – JS returns to Nauvoo.
  - **June 6, 1840** – First British converts arrive in Nauvoo.
  - **June 29, 1840** – WW Phelps writes to JS for forgiveness.
  - **July 14, 1840** – JS approves of the organization of a Stake in what was to be Ramus, IL.
  - **August 15, 1840** – JS first preaches Baptism for the Dead at a funeral.
  - **September 14, 1840** – On his deathbed, JS Sr. ordains Hyrum Smith to be Patriarch.
  - **ca. September, 1840** – JC Bennett moved to Nauvoo and baptized.
  - **December 16, 1840** – Governor signs the Nauvoo Charter.
- 
- **January 19, 1841** – Revelation, **D&C 124**; Temple, Nauvoo House, callings.
  - **January 24, 1841** – Hyrum Smith ordained Asst. President and Presiding Patriarch. William Law ordained member of the First Presidency.
  - **January 30, 1841** – JS elected sole Trustee-in-Trust for the church at special conference.
  - **February 3, 1841** – Nauvoo City Council organized with JS as member. JC Bennett Mayor.
  - **February 4, 1841** – Nauvoo Legion organized pursuant to the Nauvoo City Charter.
  - **March 1, 1841** – Nauvoo city ordinance. Religious tolerance: "the Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Latter-day Saints, Quakers, Episcopalians, Universalists, Unitarians,

---

<sup>1</sup> Bushman, *Rough Stone Rolling*, 403.

Mohammedans, and all other religious sects and denominations, whatever, shall have free toleration, and equal privileges."

- **ca. March, 1841** – Revelation, **D&C 125**; Iowa.
- **March 10, 1841** – JS appointed Lieutenant General of the Nauvoo Legion by governor (previously elected by the Legion members).
- **April 6, 1841** – Corner stones of the Nauvoo Temple laid, with military parade.
- **April 11, 1841** – JS and Rigdon rebaptize each other.
- **June 5, 1841** – JS arrested as a fugitive from Missouri, but not extradited.
- **July 9, 1841** – Revelation, **D&C 126**; Brigham Young.

## DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 124 REVELATION, JANUARY 19, 1841

---

### SETTING

---

This is the first documented revelation since July 1838 (2.5 years)!

### PUBLICATION HISTORY

---

This letter was first published in the *Times and Seasons* (June 1, 1841) in Nauvoo. It was added to the Doctrine and Covenants in the 1844 edition.

### COMMENTS

---

1-11. The Proclamation. Folks work on this for years, but are distracted by pressing matters and never get it done. W.W. Phelps apparently works on this in 1844 but the project is scrapped. In 1845, the Quorum of the Twelve (mainly Parley P. Pratt), wrote and published a proclamation in order to fill the command of the Lord. BYU has made a digital copy of the 1845 proclamation available:

<http://relarchive.byu.edu/MPNC/descriptions/proclamation.html>

The BYU introduction notes:

The revelation of January 19, 1841, enjoined Joseph Smith to write the proclamation in the spirit of meekness. But those outside of Mormonism must have viewed *Proclamation of the Twelve Apostles* as an arrogant tract—a fact implicitly acknowledged in the *Millennial Star* of October 15, 1845, which urged elders to use wisdom in distributing it "so as not to unnecessarily to expose themselves to difficulties and persecution."

What is the difference between a proclamation and a revelation?

12-13. Robert B. Thompson was the General Clerk of the Church. He died on August 27, 1841.

15-17. How do the Lord's comments differ between Hyrum Smith and John C. Bennett?

20-21. George Miller. We have a new Bishop.

22-23. This is a committee to build the "Nauvoo House." This is basically a hotel, which was incorporated and in which JS family had a room in perpetuity. The Lord s calling it his house. Interesting.

24. "healthful habitation." Remember that this was at the river's edge in a city that some have called a "pest hole." It is also interesting that this is the first home with temple flavored descriptions, something that is very common today.

25. The Saints are to gather in Nauvoo.

26-27. ...and bring their precious materials for a Temple.

28. This is the single most important verse, perhaps in the entire Doctrine and Covenants. Those with eyes, let them see.

29. The Saints had not ever built a font before. Note that later this year, JS also reveals another ordinance for the temple font: baptism for health.

30. "only in the days of your poverty." For a great history of baptism for the dead outside of temples (a fairly common thing), see Alexander L. Baugh "'For This Ordinance Belongeth to My House': The Practice of Baptism for the Dead Outside the Nauvoo Temple," *Mormon Historical Studies* 3 (Spring 2002): 47-58. (available online).

32-33. A wooden font was available in the fall of 1841 and in the April 1832 conference, JS said no more baptism for the dead, or baptism for health outside of the temple font....however the font had problems and so they continued outside the temple.

34. What do you think this means?

36. Where has the Lord ordained Baptism for the Dead?

37-39. "washings...these ordinances might be revealed...anointings...washings...baptisms for the dead...solemn assemblies...memorials...oracles in your most holy places...statutes and judgments...endowment...are ordained by the ordinance of my holy house. " What is an ordinance?

40-41. Again, what is an ordinance? See also vs. 28.

45. "they shall not be moved out of their place." How did that work out?

46-48. Some have used this to criticize the innovations during JS's final years.

49-54. So what does this mean for all those people looking for a Temple in Jackson, Co.?

55. It is all about the Nauvoo Temple!

56-59. See above regarding JS families room in the hotel.

57. Anointing on JS and "his blessing shall also be put upon the head of his posterity after him." BY waited in Utah for JS's sons to convert and take their rightful place.

60. And we have a name!

62. Quorum to be created for the building of the Nauvoo House. What do you think about that? See also vs. 117.

63. They will incorporate.

64-69. They are supposed to raise investment capital for the company.

70-71. Don't embezzle.

72-83. Specific commands for certain people to buy stock in the Nauvoo House.

83-86. William Law was planning on going to Kirtland, but the revelation is telling him not to. Almon Babbitt is living in Kirtland and gets in trouble for trying to encourage people to move there.

87. William Law to settle in Nauvoo...and that the health conditions would "redound to your glory."

89. William Law to get some serious responsibility here.

91. ...including being called to the First Presidency! Hyrum to focus more on his office of Patriarch.

92-94. This is really a profound set of blessings, folks. JS later says that he is turning over the church to Hyrum. Sealing power! "Prophet, Seer, and Revelator unto my church!" What ever happened to this office?<sup>2</sup>

95. "keys whereby he may ask and receive" See vs. 41.

97. see vs. 95.

98. Where else do we see these promises?

99. Love me some wafting.

100. Whoa. This is some serious blessings, folks. You don't just see this all over the place!

103-110. Rigdon to stay...he doesn't. He goes to Philadelphia. JS tries to kick him out of the FP in 1843, but Church votes to keep him.

119. Nauvoo House investors should believe in the Book of Mormon.

123-144. This is the priesthood organization. Note the order!

124. "First, I give you Hyrum Smith..." "...whereby you are sealed up"

---

<sup>2</sup> Check out this wonderful little book: Irene M. Bates and E. Gary Smith, *Lost Legacy: The Mormon Office of Presiding Patriarch* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1996).

125. JS to be a presiding elder over all my church (church president) and to be a translator, a revelator, a seer, and prophet.
126. Quorum of the First Presidency, to receive the oracles of the whole church.
127. Next...Brigham Young to preside over the Twelve.
131. High council.
133. Don Carlos Smith president of the High Priests Quorums.
135. This is the difference between the High Priest Quorum and the Quorum of the Twelve at this time.
136. Counsellors in the HP Quorum Pres.
137. The Elders' Quorum Presidency.
138. The Seventy's Quorum Presidency.
140. So...we do things a bit differently, now, eh?
141. Bishopric.
142. Priests, Teachers and Deacons President.
145. The Temple should have offices for all these folks.

## DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 125 REVELATION, CA. MARCH, 1841

---

### SETTING

---

In addition to the 50 or so acres purchased from Isaac Galland in Nauvoo, the Church also purchased 20 or so acres across the Mississippi River in Iowa. Many Saints lived there, and JS's famous healings occurred on the Iowa side of the river.

### PUBLICATION HISTORY

---

This revelation was first published in the *Deseret News* (January 25, 1855) as part of the "History of Joseph Smith." It was added to the Doctrine and Covenants in the 1876 edition.

### COMMENTS

---

Pretty strait forward, though we don't tend to think of the gathering occurring on both sides of the river.

## DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 126 REVELATION, JULY 9, 1841

---

### SETTING

---

On July 1, Brigham Young and other returned from their British mission.

### PUBLICATION HISTORY

---

This revelation was first published in the *Deseret News* (April 8, 1855) as part of the "History of Joseph Smith." It was added to the Doctrine and Covenants in the 1876 edition.

### COMMENTS

---

BY to stay home and not travel as a missionary. This is the beginning of the succession of the Twelve.