

Christian History, Various Christian Beliefs, and the Restoration of the Gospel of Christ

2024- Fall Semester T/TH

nelsonmb@churchofjesuschrist.org

August 27th Introduction: What is the Great Apostasy?

Reading: 1 Nephi 10:18; Alma 22:13; Moses 5:58–59 Robert L. Millet, “The Eternal Gospel,”

August 29th Prophesied Apostasy

Reading: Amos 8:11–12; 2 Nephi 28:1–14; 29:3–6. James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ* (1916), 745–57 Chapter 40 (Found in Gospel Library under “Jesus Christ”).

September 3rd Dispensations

Reading: “The Restoration,” Doctrinal Mastery Core Document (2018). M. Russell Ballard, “Learning the Lessons of the Past,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 31–34.

September 5th Three Key Roles of Apostles: Pure Doctrine, Priesthood Authority, and Keys and Saving Ordinance and Covenants

Reading: “Rejoice in the Gift of Priesthood Keys” (Russel M Nelson April 2024), 2 Nephi 28:1–14; 29:3–6. D&C 1:16-18

September 10th Roman Empire’s Culture and Geography

Reading: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1975/09/the-church-and-the-roman-empire?lang=eng>

September 12th New Testament Apostles and Apostasy

Reading: Matthew 24:4–5, 9–11; Acts 20:29; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–3; 1 Timothy 4:1–3; 2 Timothy 3:1–9; 4:3–4. Dallin H. Oaks, “Apostasy and Restoration,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 84–87. 2 Thessalonians 2:1–15; 1 Corinthians 11:18; Galatians 1:6–7; 1 Timothy 1:5–7; 2 Timothy 1:15; 2 Peter 2. Neal A. Maxwell, “From the Beginning,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 18–20.

September 17th Forces of Apostasy

Reading: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1976/03/new-testament-backgrounds-galatians-through-colossians?lang=eng>

September 19th Death and Succession of the Apostles

Reading: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/jesus-the-christ/chapter-16?lang=eng>

September 24th A Season of Intense Persecution

Reading: Matthew 5:10–12, 44; 24:9–13; John 6:66–69; Revelation 6:9–11. M. Russell Ballard, “Restored Truth,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 65–68.

September 26th Post New Testament Christian Leaders

Reading: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1976/08/clement-ignatius-and-polycarp?lang=eng>

October 1st Loss of Doctrinal Purity: Apostolic Creed, Nicaea, Chalcedon and Other Key Ecumenical Councils

Reading: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2013/04/the-restoration-and-early-christian-teachings?lang=eng>, 1 Nephi 13:20–29; 2 Nephi 28:1–15; Mormon 8:27–41. Dallin H. Oaks, “Apostasy and Restoration,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 84–87

October 3rd Conference Prep-Prophetic Succession

October 8th Conference Review-Prophetic Direction and Exercising Faith

October 10th Loss of Priesthood Authority: Christian Leadership and the Role of Constantine

Reading: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1978/09/seventeen-centuries-of-christianity?lang=eng>

October 15th Loss of Key Ordinances and Covenants

Reading: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/youth/topic/covenants-and-ordinances?lang=eng>, <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1978/09/seventeen-centuries-of-christianity?lang=eng>

October 17th Formation of the Bible- Vulgate Bible (Latin)

Reading: M. Russell Ballard, "The Miracle of the Holy Bible," Ensign, May 2007, 80–82. Lenet H. Read, "How the Bible Came to Be, Part 2: The Word Is Preserved," Ensign, Feb. 1982, 32–37.

October 22nd Eastern and Western Christianity and Spiritual Debris of the True Church

Reading: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1971/05/eastern-orthodoxy?lang=eng>

October 24th Reformers Who Saw a Lack of Doctrine and Authority-European

Reading: Thomas S. Monson, "The Way Home," Ensign, May 1975, 15–16; Boyd K. Packer, "The Cloven Tongues of Fire," Ensign, May 2000, 7–9. Thomas S. Monson, "Led by Spiritual Pioneers," Ensign, Aug. 2006, 3–8.

October 29th Reformers Who Saw a Lack of Doctrine and Authority-English

Reading: Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service (2018), 35, 45. Boyd K. Packer, "The Standard of Truth Has Been Erected," Ensign, Nov. 2003, 24–27.

October 31st After Their Own Tongue: Role of the Bible Being Translated and Published in the Native Tongue

Reading: D. Todd Christofferson, "The Blessing of Scripture," Ensign, May 2010, 32–35. Lenet H. Read, "How the Bible Came to Be, Part 5: Glimmers of Light in Darkness," Ensign, June 1982, 38–46. Lenet H. Read, "How the Bible Came to Be, Part 6: No Price Too Great," Ensign, July 1982, 42–50.

November 5th The Further Splintering of Christianity: Protestantism and Various Denominations That Arose

Reading: https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Protestant_Reformation, <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/history/topics/christian-churches-in-joseph-smiths-day?lang=eng>

November 7th Changes in Key Doctrines (1-3)

Reading: Emailed Document

November 12th Changes in Key Doctrines (4-6)

Reading: Emailed Document

November 14th The Colonization and Formation of the United States-Preparation for the Restoration

Reading: 1 Nephi 13:10–19; 2 Nephi 1:5–9; 3:1–5; Ether 2:7–12; 13:1–12. Jeffrey R. Holland, "A Promised Land," Ensign, June 1976, 22–26. L. Tom Perry, "God's Hand in the Founding of America," New Era, July 1976, 44–50.

November 19th The Great Awakening and Age of Enlightenment-Preparation of the Restoration

Reading: Church History in the Fulness of Times Student Manual, 9–12, 22. James E. Faust, "The Restoration of All Things," Ensign, May 2006, 61–62, 67–68. David F. Boone, "Prepared for the Restoration," Ensign, Dec. 1984, 17–21.

November 21st The Second Great Awakening: Burned-Over District-Preparation for the Restoration

Reading: <https://byustudies.byu.edu/content/awakenings-burned-over-district-new-light-historical-setting-first-vision>

November 26th The First Vision

Reading: Joseph Smith—History 1:5–26. Church History in the Fulness of Times Student Manual, 29–36. James E. Faust, "The Magnificent Vision Near Palmyra," Ensign, May 1984, 67–69. Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Marvelous Foundation of Our Faith," Ensign, Nov. 2002, 78–81.

November 28th THANKSGIVING- NO CLASS

December 3rd The Restoration of Priesthood Authority and Keys

Reading: President Russell M. Nelson, "Rejoice in the Gift of Priesthood Keys" (April 2024), Joseph Smith—History 1:68–72; Doctrine and Covenants 110. Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Quorum

of the First Presidency,” Ensign, Dec. 2005, 46–50. Boyd K. Packer, “The Twelve,” Ensign, May 2008, 83–86. Dallin H. Oaks, “The Keys and Authority of the Priesthood,” Ensign, May 2014, 49–52.

December 5th The Restoration of Doctrine, Modern Scripture

Reading: Joseph Smith-History 1:10-17, 33-35, Doctrine & Covenants 1, Jeffery R. Holland, “A Perfect Brightness of Hope” April General Conference 2020.

Restoration Proclamation

Reading: Restoration Proclamation

The Restoration Continues: Eat You Vitamins

Credit:

1. Complete 75% of the assigned reading: Record reading on SI App or myinstitute.churchofjesuschrist.org
2. Attend 75% of classes or complete online assignment
3. Use a gospel study journal or write a paper (see Brother Nelson for Rubric), or complete an approved study project.