

CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION ELDERS
KIRTLAND PRIESTHOOD TRIP
SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2007
40 Days of Preparation
“It is yet day, when all can work”

The idea of personal preparation is one which is not foreign to the church. Down throughout the ages, the Lord has called men to separate from the world and prepare to meet Him. Men such as Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Paul and even Jesus himself took time, sometimes many days or even years, to prepare for their ministry. It was during this time of extreme hardship and sacrifice that they drew close to God above and began to sense and feel His power in their lives. Promises were made and then fulfilled, duties given, power extended and lives saved. All of this was for the glory of God the Father which involves the salvation of mankind.

We once again, this year, look forward to a time – a short two and half days – at Kirtland where we can come and worship. We hope to play a part in God’s work and His glory – the salvation of man. However, it is a mistake to think that any good – or any more good than in previous years – can be had if we make the same preparation as before. If we want the greater blessings, we must make the greater sacrifice. If we want the greater power, then we must prepare by being stewards over the smaller things in our lives. In this way, with a much more focused attention we can come together and be blessed with power from on high.

The following 40 days of preparation have been prepared to gather our hearts and minds together in unity. It is intended for all, not just priesthood. Through a common study, our spouses, families and even branches can be united as we seek to humble ourselves and become vessels of honor for the Lord. Study groups could be formed, classes taught, but nothing will take the place of individual time in silent meditation and prayer to our God.

Contemplate the things that are below. Sometimes the reading for a day is a little long. Take time and notice those things ahead of time and prepare for it. A wise steward is not caught unaware. The call of the Lord has always been to “Come up higher”. We cannot think that the journey will be without struggle and hard work. If we diligently attend to our preparation our lamps will not be left empty, but filled and overflowing. Let us join together to praise and worship our Heavenly Father who ALONE is worthy to be praised.

Tentative Schedule:

Friday Sept. 21, 2007	2 pm	Gather at Temple Visitors Center for tour
	6-9 pm	Worship Service in the Temple
Saturday, Sept. 22, 2007	8:30 am	Gather at Kirtland Restoration Branch
		Daily activities similar to past
	6-9 pm	Worship Service in the Temple
Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007	8-11 am	Worship Service in the Temple
	Noon	Dismissal

A more detailed schedule will be available from the CRE Office and the website after Sept. 1, 2007. Phone 1-877-748-8947, or locally at 836-3421.

Website: eldersconference.org

40 DAYS OF PREPARATION

The following abbreviations are used:

LoF – Lectures on Faith

C.H. – Church History

August 12: **Who is God? And why is He worthy of our praise and service?**

First, He was God before creation and will still be God after it is finished.

Read the entire 3rd lecture on Faith during the first six days.

LoF 3:13, Hebrews 1:10-12, Revelation 4:9-11, 5:9-14, 7:9-17

August 13: Second, He is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abundant in goodness and he was from everlasting to everlasting.

LoF 3:14, Genesis 7:38, I N 1:13-14, D&C 28:1a

August 14: Third, God does not change

LoF 3:15, D&C 17:4a, Hebrews 1:12, Moroni 8:19

August 15: Fourth, that He is a God of Truth and cannot lie

LoF 3:16, Titus 1:2, D&C 62:2c, Ether 1:75

August 16: Fifth, that God is no respecter of persons

LoF 3:17, Moroni 8:13, Acts 17:22-26, Acts 10:34

August 17: Sixth, God is Love

LoF 3:18, John 3:15-8, I Nephi 3:54-65, D&C 33:1b, 18:2h-j

After completing the first six days answer the following questions:

1. Why is it important that we have an accurate understanding of what Gods nature is?
2. Are there any of the above characteristics that are dispensable?
3. Are you prepared to meet the God of creation face to face? If not, then what must you do to prepare for that experience?

August 18: **The story of the fall of man and the prepared way for salvation.**

Man's fall

Genesis 3:6-31, Genesis 4:4

It is interesting that the devil used the form of the serpent. Christ was likened to the brazen serpent raised up by Moses in the wilderness. Satan does not have the power to create. He can only take and twist that which has been given. Examine your own life and ask God to reveal those things that have been twisted (beliefs, expectations, actions, heritage, etc.).

August 19: Man is lost, cutoff from God.

I Nephi 3:6, II Nephi 1:110, Mosiah 8:74-5, Psalms 119:176

August 20: We cannot get back to God by our self – we are utterly hopeless on our own.

Job 6:1-13, Mosiah 2:8, 20, Helaman 4:57-61, D&C 22:7

Is there any good in man? Can we, on our own, do anything righteous?

August 21: God provided a way – a way to return unto Him.

D&C 22:1-4, Genesis 3:1-5, II Samuel 22:31-2, 47, Isaiah 43:11, 45:21-23, I Nephi 3:4-15

Is there any other way for the salvation of mankind? The world says this is an extreme position to take. How will you answer that?

August 22: Jesus accomplished the task given Him.

Matthew 27:54, John 19:30, III Nephi 5:10-12, D&C 18:2h-j

August 23: Purpose given of the New Covenant
Jeremiah 31:31-34, Jacob 3:5-6, Alma 16:214-217

August 24: What is our response to His sacrifice?
Isaiah 6, Enos 1:1-29, Mosiah 11:159-202, D&C 59:2e, 130:7

August 25: **Are we called? What are we called to?**
D&C 1:4a, 2:1-4b, 4:1c, I Corinthians 1:2, Romans 9:24

August 26: What are we called to? (Continued)
I Corinthians 1:9, 7:17-24, Romans 8:28-30, Galatians 1:15-16

August 27: What are we called to? (Continued)
Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 4:1, Colossians 3:14-15, I Thessalonians 2:12

August 28: What are we called to? (Continued)
Mosiah 3:8-13, 9:39, D&C 11-12

August 29: **Calling of priesthood**
Ephesians 4:11-16, D&C 104, II Timothy 2:6

August 30: Calling of priesthood (Continued)
Jacob 3:1-4, D&C 16:3f, Moroni 9:6, Mormon 4:101

September 1: Calling of priesthood (Continued)
I Thessalonians 5:12-24, Hebrews 4:9-12, II Nephi 6:100-104

September 2: Calling of priesthood (Continued)
D&C 19:3a, 32:1d, 42:12b, Matthew 25:14-31, Luke 12:38-40

1. What day do we live in?
2. Do we have time to relax and 'enjoy' the pleasures of this world?
3. How can we submit our will to His – to give up the pleasures of this world and serve Him continually?
4. Is He (God) offering something better than what the world has to offer?

September 3: **The Nature of a servant:**
Obedience

D&C 52:4b-d, 58:6d-i, 59:5b, 102:2c-d

September 4: The Nature of a servant: Obedience
Genesis 4:6, 22:19-22, Exodus 19:5, Deuteronomy 4:26-40, I Samuel 15:22

September 5: The Nature of a servant: Humility
Alma 12:1-36, 111-112

September 6: The Nature of a servant: Humility
Helaman 2:31, Philippians 2:1-11

September 7: The Nature of a servant: Willingness
I Samuel 17:1-51, Isaiah 6

September 8: The Nature of a servant: Willingness
Judges 6:11-27, I Nephi 1:65-67, Genesis 22:1-22

September 9: The Nature of a servant: Willingness
II Corinthians 9:7, Moroni 7:7, D&C 70:3d

September 10: **Worship**
Genesis 22:6, Matthew 17:1-2, Ether 1:47-83

September 11: Worship

Alma 16:76-101, Matthew 6:1-18, I Kings 18-19

Compare the way the Zoramites worshipped with the way Jesus taught his disciples to pray and fast. Then examine how Elijah worshipped in two separate instances in I Kings 18-19. Do you see any parallels?

September 12: Worship

D&C 59:2f-4a, John 4:1-26, Acts 8:5-25

September 13: Worship

C.H. Vol. 2, chapter 2

September 14: Worship

Galatians 4:4-7, Romans 8:14-17, Mark 14:36-46

September 15: **Sacrifice – the fuel of worship**

Matthew 5:31, 16:25-28, Titus 2:11-12, Moroni 10:29

September 16: Sacrifice

D&C 94:2f-g, Alma 14:118, III Nephi 4:49

September 17: Sacrifice – What does it cost to worship?

II Samuel 24:18-25, Mosiah 1:52-55, Mark 10:15-21

September 18: **Endowment**

I Nephi 5:68-178, Helaman 3

Both Nephi's received an endowment. Compare why God used them and gave them such a power and blessing.

1. Had Nephi (son of Lehi) ever built a boat before?
2. Was this boat like any other boat he'd ever seen?
3. What was the specific reason (towards the end of Helaman, chapter 3) that God gave Nephi the power to bind and seal on earth and heaven?
4. What struggles did Nephi face (specifically in this chapter) before this new covenant was entered into with God?

September 19: Endowment

Earl Curry's "Endowment" Question #5, characteristics #1-5

September 20: Endowment

Earl Curry's "Endowment" Question #5, characteristics #6-10

1. What must change in your life for you to be prepared to see and access these spiritual blessings God has for His church?
2. Are there "gifts" that you have been given to be a steward over?
3. How is that stewardship going? Do you need to reexamine your priorities in life?
4. Many times we think of endowment as the mighty rushing wind coming into a body of believers and resting upon them as it did in the book of Acts, chapter two. However, most of the time in history God gave individuals an endowment to fulfill specific things and tasks. Can we acknowledge before God that our view of endowment might not be His view? Can we purpose in our hearts to see that God desires to 'endow' each one of us, regardless of priesthood or sex or race? Can we testify that God is the God of all, no respecter of persons and desires all of us to stand in His presence for eternity? Will this not require an individual 'endowment' upon each one?

September 21: Endowment

C.H. Volume 1, chapter #2

The calling of Joseph Smith was an integral part of the restoration of the gospel to the earth. He was 'endowed' many times with a power not his own to accomplish the work he was given. After reading this chapter cite the instances where Joseph was 'endowed' and rethink our ideas of 'endowment' based upon the initial calling and establishing of the church from the wilderness.

September 22: Endowment

D&C 76:1-2

1. What is the promise given?
2. Who is it given to?
3. Can you participate in this promise?

September 23: Glory to God in the highest

Luke 2:1-14, Revelation 21, 22:1-6

The salvation of man is God's alone. No matter what we do, in the end, we will cast our crowns down before His throne. No matter how much power he extends, it is still His power. No matter how many people we baptize or heal, they will have been baptized unto God and healed in His name and for His glory. Let us never forget that we are less than the dust of the earth and He is All and in All and through All. He alone is worthy to be praised. Hosanna to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will to men.

NOTES OF YOUR EXPERIENCES: