

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith

Winter 2008, Stanford Institute

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Texts: Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, ed. Joseph Fielding Smith, Deseret Book (ISBN: 087579243X) (free online). A few other reading materials will be provided. The standard works, particularly the Doctrine and Covenants, are also essential because we will discuss the contents of TPJS within their doctrinal framework.

Goals: We will discuss the prophet's quasi-canonical teachings as contained in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith (TPJS), along with the historical setting of these teachings. It is hoped that students will gain a greater familiarity, understanding, and appreciation of the prophet's teachings. Finally, it is hoped that they will strengthen their testimonies that Joseph Smith, as an imperfect mortal, was called of God to reveal divine truth.

Website: www.stanford.edu/~jsdaniel/TPJS/. Everything I have electronically will be posted, and links are provided to free online resources (including entire text of TPJS). For protected documents: TPJS, Nauvoo.

Class Format and Expectations:

This class will be taught in discussion format. Therefore, it is important that each student review the assigned reading every week – typically 10-20 pages. I expect that this can easily be incorporated into your gospel study routine.

Each week a different student will be in charge of leading the opening discussion of the week's reading. Highlight the passages that you feel are the most interesting and important. Why are they important? What do they teach us? How did they apply in the historical context and how do they apply today? Are there relevant passages in the standard works?

The general format of each week's class will be as follows, depending on exact content:

- 20-25 minutes – student-led discussion of text and related doctrines
- 20-25 minutes – continued discussion of text and related doctrines
- 5-10 minutes – overview of historical background for next class

Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Approximate Dates</u>	<u>Supplementary Material</u>
09-Jan	pages 92-102	Sept - Dec 1835	
16-Jan	pages 103-113	Jan - Apr 1836	D&C 109, D&C 110
23-Jan	pages 117-129	1838	
30-Jan	pages 129-148	Mar 1839	D&C 121-123
06-Feb	pages 148-164	Jun 1839 - May 1840	
13-Feb	pages 165-180	Jun 1840 - Oct 1840	
20-Feb	pages 180-195	1841	
27-Feb	pages 195-202 + WL	Jan - Mar 1842	Wentworth Letter
05-Mar	pages 202-217	Apr 1842	
12-Mar	pages 217-233	Apr - May 1842	
19-Mar	pages 237-254	May - July 1842	