



BAPTISMS FOR THE DEAD— WITNESSES and RECORDINGS, RECORDS IN HEAVEN—REVIEW OF THE RESTORATION

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS SECTIONS 127-128

IMPORTANT GOSPEL PRINCIPLES:

- The righteous who endure persecution will be rewarded (127:1-4).
- Temple ordinances must be recorded and verified by two or three witnesses. These records will be offered to the Lord (127:5-9, 128:1-10, 24)
- Baptism by immersion represents death, burial, and resurrection (128:12-14).
- Elijah restored the keys necessary to perform saving ordinances for the living and the dead and to seal families together eternally. We cannot be made perfect without being sealed to our righteous ancestors (128:15-18).
- The Lord has revealed the fulness of the priesthood keys and powers in our day. We should rejoice in these restored blessings (128:19-23).

BAPTISMS FOR THE DEAD (key principles):

Joseph Smith expounded three essential gospel principles:

1. The salvation of an individual's dead ancestors is "essential to our salvation," that is, one's life is inextricably intertwined with his ancestors' lives, for he cannot become perfect without them nor they without him.
2. Baptism for the dead is the "most glorious of all subjects belonging to the everlasting gospel." (verse 17) Few doctrines present more clearly the love and mercy of an all-wise Father in Heaven.
3. Baptism for the dead helps to prevent the earth from being smitten with a curse. If Elijah had not come, we are led to believe that all the work of past ages would have been of little avail, for the Lord said that the whole earth would be smitten at his coming.

