

## New & Everlasting Covenant Outline – Mike Baird

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### What is a covenant in the context of the gospel?

- Bruce R McConkie  
" In the gospel sense, a covenant is a binding and solemn compact, agreement, contract, or mutual promise between God and a single person or a group of chosen persons. ([D&C 5:3, 27-28; 54:4.](#))" (Mormon Doctrine, 166)
- Joseph Fielding Smith  
"Each ordinance and requirement given to man for the purpose of bringing to pass his salvation and exaltation is a covenant" (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:152)

### What is *the* gospel covenant?

- Joseph Fielding Smith  
"The gospel covenant is the promise of God to grant to man, through man's obedience and acceptance of the ordinances and principles of the gospel, the glory and exaltation of eternal life. It is the Father in Heaven who stipulates the terms of the covenant. Man has no say in the matter or right to alter or annul any provision of the covenant" (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:152)

### What is *the* everlasting covenant?

- D&C 66:2  
"..blessed are you for receiving mine everlasting covenant, *even the fulness of my gospel,*..."
- Bruce R McConkie  
"The gospel is the everlasting covenant because it is ordained by Him who is Everlasting and also because it is everlastingly the same. In all past

ages salvation was gained by adherence to its terms and conditions, and that same compliance will bring the same reward in all future ages" (Mormon Doctrine, 529)

### **What is *the new and everlasting covenant*?**

- Bruce R McConkie  
"Each time this everlasting covenant is revealed it is new to those of that dispensation. Hence the gospel is the new and everlasting covenant." (Mormon Doctrine, 529)
- Joseph Fielding Smith  
"The new and everlasting covenant is the fullness of the gospel.(D&C 66:2) It is composed of "All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations" that are sealed upon members of the Church by the Holy Spirit of promise, or the Holy Ghost, by the authority of the President of the Church who holds the keys.(D&C 132:7) The President of the Church holds the keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood. He delegates authority to others and authorizes them to perform the sacred ordinances of the priesthood." (Answers to Gospel Questions, 1: 63)

### **Apostasy is breaking the everlasting covenant**

- D&C 1:15-22  
"For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and *have broken mine everlasting covenant*; They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.  
Wherefore, I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments... That mine *everlasting covenant might be established*;"
- Isaiah 24:5 (1-12)  
" The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, *broken the everlasting covenant*"

- Bruce R McConkie  
 "Apostasy consists in breaking the everlasting covenant. (D&C 1:15) Isaiah said the universal apostasy would come because men had "transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." (Isa. 24:5) Those who break their covenants are condemned more severely than they would have been had they never made the initial contract with the Lord. (D&C 41:1, D&C 82:2, D&C 132:27) In covenant-keeping there is salvation; in covenant-breaking, damnation. (D&C 76:101, D&C 132:5, 15-27)" (Mormon Doctrine, 530)

## **Covenants we make are a covenant in *the* new and everlasting covenant**

- Joseph Fielding Smith  
 "Marriage for eternity is a new and everlasting covenant. Baptism is also a new and everlasting covenant, (D&C 132:22.) and likewise ordination to the priesthood, and every other covenant is everlasting and a part of the new and everlasting covenant which embraces all things. In the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 132, the Lord speaks of two covenants that are everlasting and a great many have confused the two. The first everlasting covenant is revealed in verses four and five as follows: ...  
 This covenant pertains to the covenant of marriage which was to be revealed. Then the Lord speaks of *the* new and everlasting covenant which is obedience, faith, in God, repentance from sin and baptism for the remission of sins and the keeping of every commandment belonging to the plan of salvation" (Answers to Gospel Questions, 1: 63)
- D&C 132:7  
 "And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made and entered into and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on the earth to hold this power... are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead"
  - Joseph Fielding Smith  
 "Now there is a clear-cut definition in detail of the new and

everlasting covenant. It is everything-the fullness of the gospel. So marriage properly performed, baptism, ordination to the priesthood, everything else-every contract, every obligation, every performance that pertains to the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise according to his law here given, is a part of the new and everlasting covenant" (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:152)

### ***Eternal Marriage***

- D&C 132:4  
" For behold, I reveal unto you *a* new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory"
- Joseph Fielding Smith  
" Here we discover that marriage for eternity is not *the* new and everlasting covenant, but *an* everlasting covenant embraced in the new and everlasting covenant which covers all things" (Answers to Gospel Questions, 1: 63)
- May be also properly referred to as "the new and everlasting covenant of marriage"

### ***Baptism***

- D&C 22:1-2  
"Behold, I say unto you that all old covenants have I caused to be done away in this thing; and this is *a* new and an everlasting covenant, even that which was from the beginning.  
Wherefore, although a man should be baptized an hundred times it availeth him nothing, for you cannot enter in at the strait gate by the law of Moses, neither by your dead works."
- Joseph Fielding Smith  
"So here the Lord speaks of baptism as *a* "new and everlasting covenant." However, in Section 132, verses 6 and 7, the Lord speaks of the new and everlasting covenant and in detail explains what it is" (Answers to Gospel Questions, 1: 63)
- Joseph Fielding Smith  
" Baptism for the remission of sins is a covenant. When this ordinance was revealed in this dispensation, the Lord called it "a new and an everlasting covenant, even that which was from the beginning."  
This covenant was given in the beginning and was lost to men through

apostasy, therefore, when it was revealed again, it became to man a new covenant, although it was from the beginning, and it is everlasting since its effects upon the individual endure forever." (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:152)

- May be also properly referred to as "the new and everlasting covenant of baptism"

### **Some Covenants only for particular dispensations**

- Genesis 17:13 (9-14)  
" He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant"
- Bruce R McConkie  
"Other covenants are made for special purposes in particular dispensations; circumcision is this type of a covenant" (Mormon Doctrine, 530)