
Doctrine and Covenants 115 — The Name of the Church

A revelation given through Joseph Smith at Far West, Missouri, on April 26, 1838, making known the will of God concerning the building up of that place and the name by which the Church should be known.

This revelation gives the Church its name — *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* — by direct revelation, settling once for all what the restored Church should be called. It also calls for the gathering at Far West and the building of a temple there, and contains the luminous summons that the Church should *arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations*.

Hebrew Word Studies

hagioi / qedoshim (חַדְשִׁים) — "saints — the holy ones, the set-apart, the covenant people" v. 4. "Latter-day Saints" is not a new coinage but the old biblical word for the covenant people. The Hebrew qedoshim ("holy ones," Ps. 16:3; Dan. 7:18) and the Greek hagioi ("saints") name those set apart to God — the term Paul uses constantly for Church members ("to the saints which are at Ephesus"). "Saint" means not the perfected but the consecrated: one covenanted to the Lord. "Latter-day" simply marks the dispensation. The name claims continuity with the saints of every age — the same Church, the same Lord, the same covenant, now in the last days.

From the Chapter's Architecture

Eighteen verses. It opens addressing the **leaders and the whole Church** (vv. 1–4), and at its center gives **the name** — *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. It issues the **commission and gathering** (vv. 5–6): *arise and shine forth, be a standard for the nations, gather for defense and refuge*. And it gives **specific direction for Far West** (vv. 7–18): *build up the city, raise a house unto the Lord, beginning the foundation on the appointed day*. The architecture moves from identity to mission to place: first who the Church is (Christ's, the saints'), then what it is for (a light to the nations, a refuge), then where the next work lies (Far West). The naming at the center anchors everything — a Church that bears Christ's name, sent to shine.