

# Joseph Smith Ministries

VOL. 1

DECEMBER 2011

NO. 1

“LAY DOWN THE FENCES AND FIND COMMON GROUND”



## Joseph F. Smith

*is the son of Arthur Smith, the grandson of Alexander Smith, and the great-grandson of Joseph Smith, Jr. He comes in Christ's name to invite all those who believe in the Book of Mormon and the restored gospel to prepare for Zion's redemption.*



## ✘ The Willing & Obedient ✘

*“Therefore, in consequence of the transgression of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion” (D&C 102:3c)*

### THE REDEMPTION OF ZION

In 1831, the Lord revealed the place for His holy city and the spot for the temple. The latter spot was dedicated in August 1831.

Although the saints purchased some lands, they never began the temple. Their enemies drove them out of

Jackson County in November 1833. Zion languished.



The effort to redeem the land failed and the elders had to “wait for a little season.” That was 177 years ago.

Conditions tell us that tribulation is near. Who is ready for Zion's redemption?

### December Schedule

*Joseph will be working in the Richmond, Missouri area during the month of December. If you know any in that region who still long for Zion, invite them.*

Saturday, December 10  
7:00 PM  
301 S College St  
Corner of College  
and Lexington Streets  
Richmond, MO

Sunday, December 11  
11:00 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship and Preaching  
919 S Delaware St  
Independence, MO



## Unto the Third and Fourth Generation

In 1841, the Lord told the church at Nauvoo to finish the Temple within the allotted time or they would be cast out along with their dead. They did not finish the Temple and the church was rejected.

In the same revelation, the Lord said, *“I accepted the offerings of those whom I commanded to build up a city and a house unto my name, in Jackson County, Missouri, and were hindered by their enemies”* (D&C 107:15c). He also promised to bring judgment on those who hindered the work *“unto the third and fourth generation”* (D&C 107:15b). Since the saints’ transgressions helped hinder the work, they also received divine judgment: *“By your own works, [you]bring cursings, wrath, indignation, and judgments, upon your own heads”* (D&C 107:14b).

Peter prophesied, *“Judgment must begin at the house of God”* (1 P 4:17). The Covenants agree: *“Upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth”* (D&C 105:10a). Since 1844, the church has remained under divine judgment, in a scattered and separated condition, unable to redeem Zion.

If one considers Joseph Smith, Jr. a member of the first generation, Joseph F Smith is a member of the fourth generation. He is not the only one. We are living at the end of the time of judgment on the church. Our Lord is beginning to take His judgment from the church and pour it onto the world. Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit is drawing honest believers of the Restoration together. Joseph F. Smith is the first descendant of Joseph in the fourth generation to invite saints to prepare for Zion’s redemption.

### Support Joseph

Joseph work most of his life as a logger and carpenter. His Social Security is meager. At 76, he quit his job to take his message to the world full-time and depends on the the generous support of the saints.

Joseph Smith Ministries also depends on the saints’ contributions. It pays Joseph a modest stipend and funds his ministerial expenses. Please send you contributions to **The Joseph Smith Support Fund**, PO Box 774, Blue Springs, Mo 64013. Thank you for your support.

### Follow Joseph on the Web

For those who use the Internet, you may find up-to-date information at our website. Either [www.josephsmithministries.org](http://www.josephsmithministries.org) or [www.jfsm.org](http://www.jfsm.org) will take you to it. You may contact us through that site or us write at the address to the left.

### Want Your own Newsletter?

If you are not receiving your own Newsletter please request one by writing us or signing up at [www.jfsm.org/newsletter.html](http://www.jfsm.org/newsletter.html).

# Preparing for Zion

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The Holy Spirit revealed through Isaiah that in the last days *“the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people,”* adding, *“He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth”* (Is 11:11-12). Although God scattered and secluded Israel's descendants around the world, He promised to gather them to a place called Zion: *“The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy”* (Is 35:10). The poor and unlearned will accompany them: *“With them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither”* (Jer 31:8).

What a glorious and stupendous gathering that will be. The Bible says that Moses led 600,000 men, implying a total of over 2,000,000 people who escaped Egyptian bondage. Despite that spectacular liberation, the prophet foretold, *“The days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them”* (Jer 23:7-8). Israel's latter-day gathering will supplant the Exodus as God's greatest temporal deliverance.

How spectacular will the future gathering be? *“They who are in the north countries shall come in remembrance before the Lord, and their prophets shall hear his voice, and shall no longer stay themselves, and they shall smite the rocks, and the ice shall flow down at their presence. And an highway shall be cast up in the midst of the great deep. Their enemies shall become a prey unto them, and in the barren deserts there shall come forth pools of living water; and the parched ground shall no longer be a thirsty land”* D&C 108:6a-b). Millions will gather from the isles of the sea and the frozen seclusions of the North. *“The Lamanites shall blossom as the rose”* (D&C 49:5a). *“They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them; for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them”* (Is 49:10). All these vast multitudes will *“bring forth their rich treasures unto the children of Ephraim my servants. And the boundaries of the everlasting hills shall tremble at their presence”* (D&C 108:6a-c).

With such an overwhelming multitude of people, cultures and languages, how can the saints in America, some of whom will also have to flee to Zion for safety, be able provide and care for them? It will not be a matter of provisions, for the hoarding of food and necessities by a small group is insufficient to meet the enormous demands of that day. It will require divine blessings greater than the provisions God supplied the Hebrews during the Exodus. But those supplies will not come until after the sacrifice of God's people. The hymn says, *“You never can prove the delights of his love until all on the altar you lay.”* Those left in Zion to receive the gathering remnants must give everything that they have to sustain the arriving people. They must give their all.

If those who profess to be the Lord's people cannot work and worship in peace and fraternity with fellow saints today, people with a common heritage, language and faith, how will they be willing to give all to a multitude of people with different customs and expectations? The relevant message for the faithful today is: we have but a short time to learn how to love and sacrifice for each other in preparation for Zion's redemption.

This is the message that Joseph brings. There is so much more that should bind us together. For Zion's sake we must lay down our fences and find common ground. We must focus on the numerous things that we hold in common, and put aside the few matters on which we disagree. We must quickly learn how to worship and work together. Those who learn to live this way, will find place in Zion when it is redeemed.

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