

# Joseph Smith Ministries

VOL. 1

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NO. 4

“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 Spirit of Judgment ✧

*“Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.” (Isaiah 1:27)*

### PREPARE FOR ZION'S REDEMPTION

Isaiah described the “*stretched-forth necks and wanton eyes*” (Isa 3:16) of Zion's daughters. Although faithful saints returned to the land of Zion, they quickly turned to the world.

God wants a pure people. He will “*purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin*” (Isa 1:25).

The time of trouble is fast approaching. When over, it will have “*have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion*” (Isa 4:3).



Joseph is calling the saints to prepare spiritually. Only by working together will those left in Zion be able to build up its waste places and care for others.

## March Schedule

*Joseph will be in Independence & Warrensburg, Missouri areas during March. If you know any in that region interested in Zion's redemption, invite them.*

### Friday Activities

Friday, March 9 7:00 PM  
Friday, March 16, 7:00 PM  
Friday, March 30, 7:00 PM

### Friday Activities

Saturday, March 10, 7:00 PM  
Saturday, March 17, 7:00 PM  
Saturday, March 31, 7:00 PM

All above events at 801 W 23 St, Independence, MO

Sunday, March 11, 10:00 AM Warrensburg at Community Center



## Help In Your Spiritual Preparation

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The first saints who came to Independence failed to build up Zion. The Lord complained, *“They have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh Saints, to the poor and afflicted among them, and are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom”* (D&C 102:2b).

We live 180 years or approximately five generations later. Are we any better as a society or as people, more righteous, more generous, more caring?

When God removed the saints from Jackson County in 1833, He vowed, *“I will raise up unto myself a pure people, that will serve me in righteousness”* (D&C 97:4d). The time is coming. Perhaps it is very near. God will bring forth that pure people. Wickedness will be removed: *“He shall send forth his angels and messengers of heaven. And they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity, and shall cast them out among the wicked”* (Matt 13:42-43). He told the latter-day church, *“The rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion, and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the land”* (D&C 64:7b).

Who can abide that day? How can each of us prepare? Joseph Smith Ministries invites everyone to get ready. But how can anyone practice living as consecrated as we must when that day comes? How can we consecrate our all *“as becometh saints?”* The first Christians *“had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need”* (Acts 2:44-43). We must do no less.

The best way to prepare is to practice in small groups, groups of friends who love us. It will be easier to trust each other, depend on each other and consecrate our substance to each other in these small groups. We call these groups Chapters. We invite everyone to start preparing. Consider forming a chapter of other believers who want to learn how to live together before necessity demands it.

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### Joseph Smith Ministries

is the ministry of Joseph F. Smith, great grandson of Joseph Smith, Jr. He has an important and urgent message. The time of trouble is very near. Zion's redemption will follow. You, along with fellow believers, can begin preparing for it today with real and concrete efforts.

Joseph depends on your support to continue his ministry. Please send your 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 write us 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).

## Organize a Chapter

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Forming a Chapter is a great way to prepare for the day of desolation that is fast approaching. It is also an outstanding way to practice “*pure religion*” (Jam 1:27).

**What is a chapter?** It is a localized group of people who have pledged themselves to prepare for the time of tribulation and to give all their substance to the redemption of God’s kingdom during that difficult day.

**What are a member’s expectations?**

- Members are expected to meet with Chapter members at least once each month.
- They are expected to learn to work together in love.
- They agree to help and support all members when needed.
- They work together in meeting their focus of service.
- They will give all their substance to Zion’s redemption when the time comes.

**How do I form a Chapter?** Anyone can form a chapter. All it takes is desire and initiative. Two people can form a Chapter. Once one is started, participants can invite others who might be interested. If the size becomes too big, divide. Here are two suggestions on how to begin.

- Invite specific people to meet. Confer about your group’s current situation and the challenges of meeting the future. Discuss everyone’s attitudes about joining in a commitment. Discuss possible objectives for the Chapters. If some are agreeable, chose a time to meet. At your first meeting, select the Chapter’s focus or objective.

- Pursue a specific focus or objective. If you have a passion for a specific objective, you probably know others with a similar interest. Share the Chapter concept with them. If any show interest, invite them to meet and discuss the matter further. Talk about dedicating the pursuit of your common interest to building up the holy nation. Discuss everyone’s attitudes about making the commitment. If some are agreeable, choose a time to meet.

**What are its activities?** Chapter meetings should include prayer time and worship time. The remainder of its time should be spent on fulfilling its purpose. All decisions should be made by consensus.

**In conclusion:** A Chapter is an independent group that should be led by the Holy Spirit. Chapters can coordinate and interact with other Chapters. For this reason, Chapters may choose to network with other Chapters through [Last Generation Network.org](http://Last Generation Network.org).

## Book of Mormon Celebration

There is a Book of Mormon Celebration scheduled for Friday evening, March 23 and all day Saturday, March 24. The various speakers come from Book of Mormon backgrounds and include members of Restoration Branches, an apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ (Bickertonite), two BYU professors and a Protestant who advocates the Book of Mormon. The event will be held at the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located at 2820 S Highway 291, Independence.

All activities of Joseph Smith Ministries will be canceled for those evenings in deference to the celebration. Joseph will attend, but is not giving a presentation. We believe that the Book of Mormon celebration is a worthy event and helps the saints to both appreciate each other and find common ground. We urge all to attend the entire celebration.

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## Utah

Joseph wants to go to Utah and share his message throughout the Salt Lake City Valley. He will draw a large number of people. And we are equipped to help them prepare for the day of desolation and the gathering to Zion. He will also share his testimony in several bridge-building conferences.

Joseph needs your help. It will cost several thousand dollars. Will you contribute to his trip? Please send your contributions to The Joseph Smith Support Fund, PO Box 774, Blue Springs, Mo 64013.

# The Lord's House

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When David considered building a house for the Ark of the Covenant, the Lord forbade him: *"Thou shalt not build me a house to dwell in"* (1 Chr 17:4). Instead, God promised, *"The Lord will build thee a house"* (1 Chr 17:10).

Most Bible students believe that Solomon fulfilled this promise by building the Temple at Jerusalem. David told his son Solomon, *"The Lord hath chosen thee to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it"* (1 Chr 28:10). *"And Solomon determined to build a house for the name of the Lord"* (2 Chr 2:1).

But Solomon's Temple was the fulfillment of another part of Nathan's prophecy: *"I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build me a house"* (1 Chr 17:11-12). This promise is different than the former one. This promised that David's son would build the house that David wanted to build. The other promised that the Lord would build a house for David.

God promised that he would establish His house in the last days: *"In the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it"* (Micah 4:1). Why did God wait for the end times?

When God led the Hebrews to the Promised Land, He commissioned them to build a holy nation: *"Ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation"* (Ex 19:5-6). They failed. Moses' law proved insufficient. The Bible explains, *"For the law was administered without an oath and made nothing perfect, but was only the bringing in of a better hope"* (Heb 7:19). It *"was our schoolmaster until Christ, that we might be justified by faith"* (Gal 3:24). The holiness necessary for producing a holy nation required a better law.

Jesus made a new covenant, one that was sealed, not with the blood of animals, but by His own blood, shed on Calvary's cruel cross. This new covenant can make people holy. Jesus bore our sins on the cross and appeased the demands of the law, not just for one person, but for all. Jesus is God in the flesh, infinite and eternal. His redemption can save all people. It can release us from the just reward of eternal separation and punishment—eternal damnation.

Because Jesus freed us from the consequences of past sin, those who come to Him can be remade—transformed into new creatures: *"If any man live in Christ, he is a new creature"* (2 Cor 5:17). Jesus called this change a rebirth. He told Nicodemus, *"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (Jn 3:3), adding, *"Except a man be born of water, and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"* (Jn 3:5). Apostle Paul explained, *"As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ"* (Gal 3:27). Elsewhere, he said, *"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"* (Gal 2:20).

Those who covenant with Christ in baptism receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. When the apostles learned that converts were baptized in Samaria, they sent Peter and John. *"Then laid they their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost"* (Acts 8:17). Those who bear the Holy Ghost within their bodies are temples of God. Paul explained, *"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"* (1 Cor 6:19).

Individuals, all who are temples of the Holy Ghost, are living stones, like those that comprised Solomon's Temple. They can be perfectly put together into a holy habitation. Paul likened the church to a "*building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit*" (Eph 2:21-22). Peter explained, "*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house*" (1 P 2:5). This is how the commission given the Hebrews by Moses is accomplished: "*A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people*" (2 P 2:9).

The Apostolic church was not built for King David. The Jews, descendants of David's subjects, rejected it. Members of the Holy Family, who were David's offspring, only occupied Jerusalem's episcopate for four generations. Afterwards, Gentiles governed the church. While Jesus sealed the covenant by which God could erect His house, its establishment for David had to wait for the last days.

Attached to God's pledge to build His house is the promise of another land. He said, "*I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them anymore, as at the beginning*" (1 Chr 17:9). The land attached to the establishment of God's house could not refer to land in the Middle East, for that is where David reigned.

When the time came, God led devout Christians, Pilgrims and Puritans, to the appointed land. John Winthrop quoted Nathan's prophecy as the first envoy of Puritans set sail for America: "*Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them anymore, as before time*" (2 Sam 7:10).

God's house, that holy Temple of living stones, can only be made out of people who are reborn. That is why Pilgrims and Puritans comprised America's first immigrants. They were devout followers of Jesus. Equally important, they were Israelites. Centuries before, God scattered Israel among the Gentiles (Hos 8:8). When God led the Pilgrims and Puritans to the appointed land, He led descendants of David's kin.

America is the ordained place in which the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will build His house for David. The prophecy promises, "*For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord God, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me; there will I accept them*" (Ezek 20:40). It is God's great latter-day work to produce a righteous kingdom in America. All citizens will be cleansed by the blood of Jesus and recipients of the Holy Ghost—born again Christians who walk with God in all they do.

Its establishment completes God's promise: "*I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you. . . And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them. . . Ye shall be my people, and I will be your God*" (Ezek 36:24-28).

When the house that the Lord builds is complete, shining in all its sublime splendor, Jesus will descend to reign in the midst of His people. David's house will be perfectly finished: "*I will be their God. And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd; they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them*" (Ezek 37:24).

# Joseph Smith Ministries

## PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR THE TIME



## OF TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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