

Joseph Smith Ministries

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“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 ✧

“I will raise up unto myself a pure people, that will serve me in righteousness; and all that call on the name of the Lord and keep his commandments, shall be saved.” (D&C 97:4d)

ST GEORGE REPORT

The time Joseph spent in St George, Utah produced several benefits. One initial goal was to meet some dissatisfied LDS members.

Joseph hoped his testimony would rally their faith.

Dissatisfied members tend to remain in a pliable state for only a short time. Apparently, they need to

quickly resolve their beliefs with their concerns. We may have been too late for some.



Joseph' talk made friends. A Stake President and a Ward Bishop invited him to return this fall. With their help, Joseph will be able to

address all interested LDS members who want to hear.

July Schedule

Joseph will minister in South Central Missouri and then travel to North Carolina to share the restored gospel with some interested people there.

The Hope of Zion

The first latter-day saints yearned for the holy city—braving the rigor of the American frontier to settle virgin land in Jackson County. Although they did not succeed in that day, the hope of Zion has burned brightly in many saints since that time. Although no effort is now in place to build Zion in the specified area, God has not forgotten it. He will redeem it himself and soon.



Plans for North Carolina

People are contacting Joseph Smith, either directly or through Joseph Smith Ministries. They are asking for advice, support and/or ministry. These contacts indicate that God is working to complete His latter-day work. Joseph has a part to play in that consummation.

One place requesting ministry came from North Carolina. We plan to spend at least a week during the latter part of July holding meetings and teaching the restored gospel there. Our goal is to attract and equip those who want to help build up the kingdom of God on earth.

Those familiar with the movement within mainstream Christianity are aware of a significant shift, especially in the interest of young adults. Many are much more interested in seeing the works of righteousness than hearing descriptions about them—more exciting about living like Jesus' disciples than in studying about them—more motivated by good deeds than good words.

Just a brief survey of the top Christian songs, such as Jesus, Friend of Sinners; God's Not Dead; Live Like That; Courageous; We Are; City on the Hill; White Flag, Proof of Your Love and Power of Your Name reveal the surging interest in living the gospel—of seeing the holy city. We believe that God is at work in this generation to prepare a people who want to do what He says—to live the life of a disciple.

God prepared a generation to receive the restored gospel when He first brought it forth—lifting up the ensign to gather His people in this last dispensation. That effort began this great work, but has not yet produced the holy city. Neither has the wicked fallen nor their unrighteous deeds stopped. We believe that God is preparing this generation to receive His work when He raises the ensign for a second time. Some are already part of the Restoration, but so many more are not.

God will gather them all—to His glory and wonder of His consummation. One goal of Joseph Smith Ministries is to assist in that work. The trip to North Carolina is one step in that direction.

Support Joseph

Joseph has a message and a plan. The time of tribulation is very near and Zion's redemption is just as close. You, along with fellow believers, can begin preparing today. And you can help others, too.

We depend on your contributions to take Joseph's message and promote his plan. Your tax deductible contributions will help send Joseph to North Carolina this month. Please send them 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 or 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.

A Time of Vexation Ahead

The early saints were forcibly and illegally removed from Jackson County and eventually from Missouri. Their homes were vandalized and burned, their property stolen. In some cases their wives raped and their children killed. Yet, God advised them to seek a peaceable redress. He said, “*Let them importune at the feet of the judge; and if he heed them not, let them importune at the feet of the governor; and if the governor heed them not, let them importune at the feet of the president*” (D&C 98:12a).

Jesus taught His disciples to return good for wrong: “*Resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also*” (Mat 5:39). He even chided impetuous Peter when the apostle defended his Master and cut off a guard’s ear. After healing the ear, Jesus observed, “*All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword*” (Matt 26:50).

God does not want His people using force to accomplish His will. His kingdom is built on the gospel—a gospel of peace. It wins people’s hearts and never coerces compliance.

The Savior’s church is not a civil government. The government is charged with defending its citizens, not the church. For this reason, God inspired America’s founders to frame just laws that protect citizens. He revealed, “*For this purpose have I established the constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose*” (D&C 98:10h). He expects all citizens, including the saints, to rely on its statutes. That is why He specified, “*It is my will that they [the saints] should continue to importune for redress, and redemption, by the hands of those who are placed as rulers, and are in authority over you*” (D&C 98:10e).

When someone resists evil and acts righteously, that person follows Jesus’ example. Jesus did not defend himself when He stood before His accusers—with neither arms nor words. Replicating Jesus’ behavior makes us like our Savior. It makes us good.

God prefers His people to be like His Son, even if it means losing their possessions or their lives; for just as God glorified His Son, He will glorify His people. The duty of a latter-day saint is to live peaceably and rely on his Savior to provide relief. This is why God told the church to appeal to the government for redress.

The church obeyed. Joseph Smith even went to Washington and met with leaders of the judicial, legislative and executive branches. President Van Buren apologetically denied Joseph’s appeal: “*Gentlemen, your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you . . . If I take up for you I shall lose the vote of Missouri.*”

The Lord promised to fight Zion’s battles. He said, “*I do not require at their hands to fight the battles of Zion; for . . . I will fight your battles*” (D&C 102:3f). This promise was attached to the Lord’s commandment to seek redress from the government: “*If the president heed them not, then will the Lord arise and come forth out of his hiding place, and in his fury vex the nation, and in his hot displeasure, and in his fierce anger, in his time, will cut off these wicked, unfaithful, and unjust stewards*” (D&C 98:12b).

Judgment befell the Union in 1860, just as Joseph prophesied, when South Carolina seceded and sparked the Civil War—the second woe in George Washington’s vision. The judgment that began then was prophesied to last “*unto the third and fourth generation, so long as they repent not*” (D&C 107:15b). We live at the end of that time of judgment, when Americans’ insistence in living according to their wishes, coupled with their unwillingness to repent, has placed the nation in precarious economic, political and military dangers—any one of which could end America as we know it.

There is a vexation ahead, a just one. Many sense its approach. It is the consequence of our corporate sins—the culmination of our disobedience. The coming vexation is the third woe in Washington’s vision—a terrible tribulation that will require the Lord to fight Zion’s battles.

It is time to repent. It is time to prepare for Zion’s redemption.

Joseph Smith Ministries

PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

PO Box 774

Blue Springs, MO 64013