

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 ✠

“Zion shall flourish upon the hills, and rejoice upon the mountains, and shall be assembled together unto the place which I have appointed.”
(D&C 49:5b)

THE TASK OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

One hundred eighty-five years ago, Moroni delivered the Book of Mormon plates to Joseph Smith.

Their task is to call Israel to repentance.

Joseph received the plates on Rosh Hashanah, the Feast of Trumpets. Anciently, the trumpets called Israel to repentance.

The Book of Mormon calls people to repentance. Mormon said they were destined to try

the Gentile's faith. Jesus added that its words will eventually go to scattered Jacob. They will more readily receive and obey His

law. We earnestly believe that day is at hand.



September Schedule

Joseph will travel to Bemidji, Minnesota in early September and to Tennessee and North Carolina at the end of the month.

The Redemption of Zion

The John Whitmer Historical Association held its annual symposium in September. Among its many presentations was one entitled The Course of Zion's Redemption. The paper documents the efforts of believers to establish and redeem Zion in the various generations since Joseph Smith. It also reviews the prophecies that describe its culmination. Those wishing a free copy may download one at www.jfsm.org/ZionsRedemption.pdf.



Will Zion Be?

While the Lord promised King David 3000 years ago that He would appoint land free from oppression and ordained for the gathering of His people, God did not reveal the appointed place until 1831. The early saints gathered to the designated spot, but not with the required devotion and obedience. They were expelled because of their rebelliousness. Unwilling to repent, they also missed the opportunity to redeem Zion when the Lord summoned them in 1834. The first generation of Latter-day Saints were subsequently scourged from city to city and few remained to receive their inheritances.

A faithful few and their children returned to the land of Zion. They gathered under two distinct banners: Branches from Illinois consolidated in the Crow Creek Branch and led by Granville Hedrick; and Branches united in the Reorganization with Joseph Smith III as president. A third banner, guided by William Bickerton assembled at Zion Valley, now St. Johns, KS, and became the bridge by which the LDS Church won converts in the Kansas City area.

The hope of redeeming Zion that motivated the regathering of saints to the land of Zion failed in all three organizations. The Church of Jesus Christ expelled the leadership of its St Johns Branch four years ago for administrative reasons. It has no presence there or in any of the regions about the land of Zion. The Church of Christ (Temple Lot) failed to build the Temple and divide into four other factions. The Reorganized Church failed in its several Zionic enterprises and abandoned the hope for a holy city in Jackson County almost a generation ago. These failures have caused many to conclude that the hope for Zion and its redemption is only a failed 19th century ideal.

To assert that the latter-day prophecies concerning the establishment and redemption of Zion only express 19th century ideals not only undermines the Doctrine and . . . (Continued on next page.)

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 to those who seek his ministry. Please send your tax deductible contributions to **The Joseph Smith Support Fund**, PO Box 774, Blue Springs, MO 64013. Thank you for your support.

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Will Zion Be? (Continued)

Covenants' divinity, but it also subverts the Bible's veracity. The Bible contains Nathan's prophecy that both promises an appointed land to which Israel will eventually gather and the Lord's promise to build His house among them. It also includes Ezekiel's prophecy: "*For 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 . . . And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes*" (Ezek 36:24-27).

Today, we better understand that some ancient Israelites were sown among the Gentiles (Hos 8:8). The migration of Gentiles to America is the beginning of the gathering of latter-day Israel "*into their own land,*" or to the appointed place. One could rightfully conclude that the founding of this nation and the establishment of the restored church are fulfillments of many Bible prophecies. Are these conclusions merely the perceptions of 19th century Americans, too? If so, where is the appointed land and the mountain in which God will build His house?

Testimony that Zion will be, which was once prevalent throughout the church, has been replaced in too many instances by disbelief. Peter foretells that latter-day doubt. It is more plainly stated in the Inspired Version: "*For this they willingly are ignorant of, that of old the heavens, and the earth standing in the water and out of the water, were created by the word of God: and by the word of God, the world that then was, being overflowed with water perished; but the heavens, and the earth which are now, are kept in store by the same word, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men* (2 P 3:5-7). Perhaps no other Christian teachings are more disbelieved than these three: that God created the heavens and earth, that the flood covered the earth in Noah's times, and that the earth will soon be burned by fire. The doubt that has now overtaken the world has also crept into the church.

Disbelief strips the doubter of any defense against temptation. The result is a generation that has fallen into immorality, greed and vice. Meanwhile, confusion and contention scatter and enfeeble the saints. Where are the saints actively building up the waste places of Zion? Where are they learning to live together in peace and love? If Zion is to be redeemed, the Lord must do it. God says in the Book of Mormon, "*I will shew unto the children of men, that I am able to do mine own work*" (2 N 11:143). Isaiah revealed, "*The Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people*" (Is 11:11). Jacob prophesied, "*And in the day that he shall set his hand again the second time to recover his people, is the day, yea, even the last time, that the servants of the Lord shall go forth in his power, to nourish and prune his vineyard*" (Jac 4:3). The Lord must arise and perform His strange act. It will perfectly complete all His promises, harmoniously fulfilling every pledge in a marvelous display of His power, protection and dependability.

Irrefutable divine intervention to complete the work—the Lord's protection of the righteous and the establishment of His kingdom on earth—will show everyone that God exists. Latter-day revelation discloses, "*Let the unbelieving hold their lips, for the day of wrath shall come upon them as a whirlwind, and all flesh shall know that I am God*" (D&C 63:2b). The Book of Mormon reveals, "*I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh: they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the mighty one of Jacob*" (1 N 6:55-56). Isaiah prophesied, "*The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God*" (Is 52:10). The redemption of Zion not only fulfills the Puritan hope and completes the latter-day glory as vouchsafed in the Restoration, but it so overwhelming confirms the presence and unequalled power of the Father and the Son that every person must confess that God is and that His Christ, their Savior, is worthy. Unto them and them alone belong all blessing, honor and glory.

Joseph Smith Ministries

PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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