

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 ✠

“Kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.”
(3 N 9:83)

THE LORD WILL COMPLETE HIS WORK

Our society celebrates the birth of Jesus during this season. It recalls the miracles surrounding His birth and the purpose of His advent. They confirm His divinity and point to His mission.

Jesus said, My meat is to do the will of him who sent me, and to finish his work” (Jn 4:36).

The will of the Father was for Jesus to be lifted on the cross and atone for the sins of the

world. But the finishing of the Father's work remains undone. It is the perfecting of God's kingdom.

Soon the Savior must set His hand to redeem Zion and perfect the kingdom.

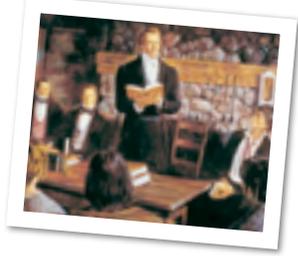


December Schedule

Joseph will be providing ministry in Missouri during the month of December. He wants to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Joseph's Blog

Please note a new feature on our website. Joseph will provide a blog containing comments on the church, nation and world as it relates to the Restoration and its ultimate victory in the redemption of Zion. You may send comments that can be posted. You may ask questions, to which Joseph can respond. Our blog is accessible at <http://www.jfsm.org/blog.html>. A link to make comments or ask questions is on that page.



Cultivate Union and Friendship

Since 1844, latter-day saints have argued over how the church should be organized. The original 20 plus factions have gradually boiled down to six. One, the Church of Christ (Culterites) has less than 10 members. The contention over how to organize and which organization is proper has divided the saints and kept them from their primary task—redeeming Zion—as they argue over which is right.

In the 168 years that have intervened since the deaths of Joseph and Hyrum, the differences between the various factions of the original church have become smaller. The two-mile fences that separated us then are now only two inches high, but we still treat them as impenetrable barriers. We even erected new ones—silly ones. The time must come where we lay down those barriers and worship together. Joseph prophesied in 1843, *“If I esteem mankind to be in error, shall I bear down on them? No. I will lift them up, and in their own way too, if I cannot persuade them my way is better. I will not seek to compel any man to believe as I do, only by force or reasoning, for truth will cut its own way. Do you believe Jesus Christ and the gospel of salvation, which he revealed? So do I. Christians should cease wrangling and contending with each other, and cultivate the principles of union and friendship in their midst; and they will do it before the millennium can be ushered in and Christ takes possession of His kingdom.”*

The time of union is near. It is the day when the Lord will raise the ensign for the second time. It is an event that will end the need for contention and division. The faithful believers will rally to the attracting sign. They won't be joining the right organization, but clinging to the Savior, much like they did in ancient America.

Should we wait until that time to lay down the fences and find common ground? Or, is it better to lay them down now and work together for the kingdom in ways that will prepare for Zion's redemption? Joseph says its time to begin today. He hopes that we will.

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.

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.

King of Kings

Recent advances in computer technology allow researchers to view the skies as they appeared centuries ago. This has helped identify the star that the Wisemen followed. The matter remains speculative and the specific star unknown. It may have been a supernova that no longer exists. The astronomical evidence indicates that the heavenly sign led the Wisemen to Jesus on December 25, 2 BC. The Book of Mormon reveals that Jesus would have been about 9 months old at that time.

The significance of the Wisemen bringing their gifts to Jesus on December 25 is astounding. In 2 BC, the winter solstice fell on December 25. For pagans, it marked the rebirth of the sun. Their ceremony of mirth rejoiced in the fact that the sun would not continue sinking and the world freeze in darkness and cold. These pagans personified the sun in deities such as the Egyptian Ra, to whom they offered gifts in their ceremonial worship. The Wisemen came to worship Jesus and offer Him gifts on the same day that pagans were worshiping their false gods and offering gifts to them. The Wisemen's homage testified to the world that the baby Jesus is God of gods, Lord of lords and King of kings.

This year the winter solstice falls on December 21, a notorious date this year. Headlines announce that it is the end of the Mayan calendar—not the most accurate of statements. It is the end of a 5125-year-long cycle in the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar, most likely invented by the Olmec. Today, scholars calculate that the long cycle began August 11, 3114 BC, about the time of Noah's flood. Mayans maintain that the end of the cycle marks a new era—perhaps a spiritual transformation—maybe accompanied with physical changes.

The long cycle calendar is divided into 13 shorter cycles of about 394 years. That means that the 13th shorter cycle that also ends on December 21, 2012 began on September 21, 1618. 1618 marks the date of the first Puritan settlement in America, the little known plantation on the Isle of Wright at the mouth of the James River in Virginia.

Believers of the Restoration are quick to see associations. The end of the flood marked a new era for the world. The old world was immersed in water, a baptism at the end of the eighth generation and a rebirth that will eventually bring a conflagration, or baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Bible promises, *“It shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh”* (Joel 2:28). What a spiritual transformation will come when *“the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”* (Hab 2:14).

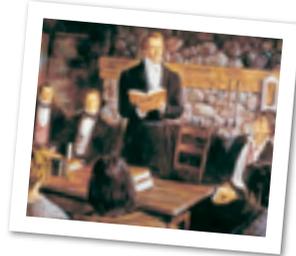
The settlement of Puritans in the New World signals an era for this continent and the the world as well. The Lord brought believing Gentiles to America expecting them to serve Jesus. He warned them if they refused, they would be swept off the face of the land *“Whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them.”* (Eth 1:31). Look at what America, so rich in spiritual promise at the beginning of this short cycle, has become. It is ripe for divine judgment?

Another important cycle is also drawing to an end. The Lord revealed through Joseph Smith in 1841 that the judgment promised to begin on the church (D&C 105:9-10) would last until the third and fourth generation. He said, *“I will answer judgment, wrath and indignation, wailing and anguish, and gnashing of teeth, upon their heads, unto the third and fourth generation”* (D&C 107:15d). Five great-grandchildren of Joseph Smith still live. The youngest will be 78 next month. They mark the end of the the fourth generation. The judgment on the church that began at the Seer's murder is about over and ready to befall the world.

This Christmas carries a whisper of a coming change—a transformation that will bring the redemption of Zion, the gathering of all believers, and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. Then, Jesus will descend in glory and reign in righteousness as King of kings!

Joseph Smith Ministries

PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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