

# Joseph Smith Ministries

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NO. 2

“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)*

### ZION'S REDEMPTION

God promised that He will establish His house at the top of the mountains and all nations will flow to it (Is 2:2). The Restoration received the keys of that kingdom and the command to build that house.

The Lord said, *“I am able to do mine own work”* (Is 29:23). Jesus will do what His people did not. He will perform His *“strange work.”*



The time is near: *“The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and*

Where is the Lord's house? Where is God's kingdom? Where is Zion?

*all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God”* (Is 52:10).

### February Schedule

Joseph will be teaching the adult Sunday School class at Zarahemla Branch during the month of February. He will also preach on the 3rd Sunday.

### A View From the End

One of the joys at life's end is to review all the good that comes from a life of service—to see how God uses even the least of them to lift up many. We live at the end of time, when under the guidance of the Holy Spirit Jesus' servants can readily see the works of God's hands—more especially, how Jesus is bringing all those works to their promised consummation. How majestic is our God. Soon he will cover the earth with His glory.



## The Work of God's Hands

*“Thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not; for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine” (Is 43:1).*

*“Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he; before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no savior” (Is 43:10).*

Now and then as I study the scriptures, I come upon a verse or two that seems to spark an interesting subject of study. The words that I have highlighted above is one of those sparks. As I read the above, I remembered something that I had read sometime ago: *“The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider” (Is 1:3).*

I am reminded of the problem Jesus had when He came to Jerusalem. He was trying to get the Jews to recognize Him as the Son of God. Because they lacked understanding of the prophecies that foretold of His coming, they were unable to recognize Him as the Messiah. That is why He asked His disciples who the people thought He was. Their answer was that some thought He was Esias, or Jeremiah, or John the Baptist. Of course Peter spoke up and said He was the Son of the living God.

This was an ongoing question to those Jews of His days. Even Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, who came slipping around at night so his fellows of the higher education would not know that he had visited Jesus, questioned whether Jesus was a Son of God. He greeted Jesus, *“Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God” (John 3:2).* Jesus was a teacher come from God, but He did not come as a teacher, but as the Son of God.

*“Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he” (Is 43:10).*

### 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](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).

# *The Work of God's Hands (cont)*

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One of our problems today is knowing Him. More than that, we have the problem of making Him a reality in our lives. While the above tells us that God has chosen Israel and those who have covenanted with Him, so that we may know and believe Him, we face the mass of confusion around us. It blinds our understanding of the work of His hands. We find it difficult to separate Him and the works of His hands from the daily events of our lives.

If we become stagnated on the subject of Christ on the cross and don't look beyond His work in Jerusalem, then we fail to see the fullness of His works. Jesus performed a magnificent and very important work when He came to Jerusalem, but His work did not end there. Notice this saying of his: *Jesus said unto them, My meat is to do the will of him who sent me, and to finish his work*" (John 4:36).

Jesus has a lot of work to do after His resurrection. Remember, He had to go to some of the lost tribes of Israel. *"Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd"* (John 10:16).

Also remember that Christ received the Kingdom (Dan 7:13). He must bring that Kingdom to perfection before He gives it up to the Father just before time ends. (1 Cor 15:24).

Again, He must bring Israel to the top of the mountains to be an example to the whole world as prophesied in Isaiah (Is 2:1-4) and Micah (Mic 4:1-4). These are just a few of the things that Jesus must do to finish the work of God's hands.

If we are to get to know and believe Jesus, we need to study our scriptures; but we must also enlist the aid of the Holy Ghost, which has been given us to help us understand all things. We receive the Holy Ghost by prayer. This is a gift of the Lord for our benefit. We must recognize Him as a reality in our lives, make Him real, believe Him, and put our faith in His words. As David teaches us in Psalm 28, we must regard the works of His hands.

*"Unto thee will I cry, O Lord, my rock; be not silent to me; lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit. Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands towards thy holy oracle. Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbors, but mischief is in their hearts. Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavors; give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert. Because they regard not the works of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up"* (Psalms 28:1-5).

We dare not be neglectful in learning what is the work of God's hands. To do so would result in our not knowing the fullness of His work. By not knowing, we would be left in the same blind condition as the churches of the world around us. Making full use of the divine light that was returned in the 1820s and 1830s when the Lord restored His Church will bring us to an understanding and a respect of the work of His hands.

Once our eyes are opened to see the fullness of His work, our joy will be in its fullness.

God Bless.....

Joseph

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PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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