

# Joseph Smith Ministries

VOL. 2

MARCH 2013

NO. 3

“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.



## Passover

Jesus died the day Passover lambs are sacrificed. The First Organization and the Reorganization happened on Passover. Will Passover mark anything significant this year?

## ✠ The Willing & Obedient ✠

*“It shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people.”*  
*Is 11:11*

## THE ENSIGN

Isaiah said that the Lord will raise an attracting beacon to gather His people. He wrote, “He will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth; and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly” (Is 5:26).

One noticeable feature of this ensign is that it will be far from ancient Israel and at the end of the earth. Since the earth is a globe, the end of the earth means the other side of the world. The American continents lie on the other side of the earth opposite the Middle East. America must be the land where the ensign rises.

Isaiah also linked the ensign to a “land shadowing with wings” (Is 18:1-3). Some people see the American continents as a pair of wings. A more focused view realizes that the symbol of the United States is an eagle with outstretched wings.

America also lies underneath a starry representation of a soaring eagle. The constellation Aquila is a flying eagle and appears in the northern sky. Looking at Aquila from Palestine when it was in the western sky would make it appear over a distant land equivalent to the United States.





## The Ensign (cont.)

If Isaiah was looking toward the western sky to view the far away ensign, what geographical object would he use to align it? A hunter uses the site on his rifle to point at the target. The prominent geographical slot that looks like a site is the Strait of Gibraltar. If so, from what place would Isaiah aim?

Isaiah also prophesied the establishment of the Lord's House in the last days. He wrote, "*It shall come to pass in the last days when the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it; and many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways*" (Is 2:2-3). This text reveals that the mountain of the Lord's house is an attracting beacon for many nations, much like, if not identical, to the prophesied ensign.

Since the ensign is associated with the Lord's house foretold to rise in the last days, it is likely that the spot from which the rising ensign is viewed is the house of God in ancient Israel. While some may consider that spot to be Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, a better place is Bethel in the land of Ephraim. Bethel means *House of God* and is the place where Jacob anointed the stone of Israel.

If one stands at Bethel and looks toward the Strait of Gibraltar, that line of site would continue into North America and directly through Hill Cumorah. The Book of Mormon is the ensign that Isaiah prophesied would be raised on the distant land opposite Israel.

Isaiah reveals that God will raise the ensign a second time. He said, "*In that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people*" (Is 11:10-11). If Joseph Smith lifted the ensign at Cumorah, then the root of Jesse will lift it a second time. It will not be book that is published, but the sealed portion, by which all the tribes of Israel are gathered.

### 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 Cleansing

---

In my youth, I heard five spiritual experiences, most directly from the people who received them. All five seemingly describe different parts of a single future event.

These manifestations portray a destructive storm on the church, which at first divides the membership and later removes its leadership. Such a grave event is foreshadowed in the 1946 revelation given to the Reorganized Church through Elbert A. Smith. It warned, “*This counsel is of great importance, because there remain other times of change and a time of crisis difficult to meet*” (RLDS CH 8:359). Today, the Reorganized Church is divided and its leadership clashing with some of its own members.

The fragmentation of the Reorganized Church is so deep and widespread that it may not survive long. Does its breakup mean that another portion of the original church is the proper successor? Unlikely, for each experience also foretells union and harmony among its members after the storm.

We have found that each portion of the original church that Joseph Smith, Jr. restored contain dedicated, godly people who not only serve our Lord well, but regularly commune with Him. The message that we receive from the Holy Spirit is that soon God will gather the faithful out of all parts of the Restoration. If that revelation is true, what do the five mentioned spiritual manifestations disclose about what God will do?

Just because these experiences describe a storm on the Reorganized Church that divides and ultimately cleanses it does not mean that the returning order, unity and concord is confined to members of that church. A more likely conclusion is that the fragmentation and cleansing of the Reorganization is a sign to its members that the faithful from all parts of the Restoration are about to join together as God brings order and peace to His church—not just one portion, but the original organization itself.

God promised the Palmyra Seer, “*In thee, and in thy seed, shall the kindred of the earth be blessed*” (D&C 107:18c). The union of all parts of the Restoration cannot take place without the descendants of Joseph Smith, but today, they are not leading any part of the Restoration. And they are just as scattered as other members.

The five manifestations that I mentioned at the beginning imply that the cleansing takes place at a General Conference. Since they were all given to members of the Reorganization, it is likely that the eventful conference is a conference of the Reorganized Church. If so, it begins the correction for the entire work.

It is important to note that the cleansing described in these manifestations does not come by legislation, but by divine intervention. God Himself must rise up to correct every wrong and heal every breach. His intervention will not be without chastisement. Each part of the Restoration has failed to redeem Zion. Each part has focused on goals other than God’s primary purpose for His latter-day work. God’s intervention must include rebuking His people for their collective failure. Isaiah revealed, “*I will turn my hand upon thee; and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin; and I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counselors as at the beginning; afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment*” (Is 1:25-27).

Could the cleansing judgment come during this April’s conference? Every portion of the original church is having one. It could, but that possibility does not mean it will. God will intervene at the time He chooses, not at the time of our speculation. The important thing for believers of the Restoration, regardless of the group in which they fellowship, is that they spiritually prepare for the divine judgment that certainly appears imminent. They must become willing to unite with believers from all parts of the Restoration and give their all for Zion’s redemption.

Bob Moore

# 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