

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.



Ministry

Joseph continues to provide ministry each month. If you or your branch would like to include him, contact Joseph Smith Ministries at PO Box 774, Blue Springs, MO 64013.

✧ The Willing & Obedient ✧

“Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.”
Isa 1:27.

THE JUDGMENT

The saints are well acquainted with the place divine judgment plays in Zion's redemption.

The D&C states, “*The rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion, and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the land; for, verily, I say that the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim*” (D&C 64:7b). Those were the last words printed for the Book of Commandments before the mob destroyed the press in July 1833 and drove the saints from Jackson County.

Years ago the faithful from that generation returned, but many of their descendants have forgotten their calling and have

returned to the world. As the nations fall further into immorality and disbelief, the

saints are no longer able and perhaps not willing to raise Zion's banner and be a city on a hill.

Judgment must come and cleanse the land. Jesus warned, “*The angels shall come*

forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them out into the world to be burned” (Matt 13:51). Peter asked, “*If then all these things shall be destroyed, what manner of persons ought ye to be*” (2 P 3:11). The twelfth prophet agreed: “*Who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth*” (Mal 3:2)?





The Righteousness

People naturally understand power and regularly assert it to reach a goal. We easily recognize that God could use His power to redeem the land of Zion. The Bible even refers to a time, *“when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning”* (Is 4:3).

Isaiah’s prophecy reveals more than the judging power that cleanses Zion and Jerusalem. It promises that the Lord will redeem *“her converts with righteousness”* (Is 1:27). What does this phrase mean?

All latter-day saints are familiar with the verse that describes the Book of Mormon: *“Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven”* (Ps 85:11). The hidden record of ancient America, which contained truths lost to Christendom, sprang from the earth. We believe that the Psalm foretold it. We assert it. What is the righteousness that the Psalm said would come down from heaven?

We often call the restored gospel the angel message. That is because it was delivered to Joseph Smith by angels. Moroni, John the Baptist, Peter, James and John all appeared to Joseph and others before the church was organized. These appearances fulfill John’s vision in which the apostle saw *“another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people”* (Rev 14:6).

These angelic visitations were just the beginning of frequent spiritual manifestations that graced the church—healings, miracles, dreams, visions, prophecies, tongues and interpretation of tongues. Over and over again church members would receive wonderful spiritual manifestations that affirmed the latter-day gospel and lifted them into heavenly places. This is the righteousness that came down from heaven after the coming forth of the Book of Mormon.

Nephi foresaw the day when the *“mother of abomination”* began to fight against the the Lamb of

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The Righteousness (continued)

God. We live in that day. We see the machinations that have carefully waged war against our nation and successfully fragmented our church. We stood helplessly by as seemingly unseen but coordinated hands systematically changed our teachings and altered our observances. Too many of us willingly participated in the divisions and their attending combative and accusatory rhetoric. Now the work appears entirely undone and the assigned task of redeeming Zion far bigger than either our ability or resources.

Nephi saw the Lord's response. He observed how God would rescue His work when devilish inventions threatened its attainment. He wrote, "*I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory*" (1 N 3:230). Although both the members of the church and the covenant people of the Lord, two different groups of people, are scattered, the Lord promised to shower them with righteousness when they were near defeat. It is a gift, an unearned and unmerited endowment. The arid intellectualism and empty arrogance that has multiplied doubt and amplified sensuality has left His saints and His elect without sufficient faith to wield the powers of heaven. They are unsure of their calling or even of His existence. They lost their spiritual armor and misplaced their divine weaponry, but they are not beyond God's grace, nor His power to save.

The Assyrians attacked the city where Elisha lived. They wanted to silence the prophet who was revealing their plots against Israel. The army's appearance at the city in dawn's early light alarmed Elisha's servant, who asked, "*Alas, my master! how shall we do*" (2 K 6:15)? Elisha replied, "*Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them*" (2 K 6:16). The prophet asked God to open his servant's eyes. He saw the mountain filled with horses and chariots of fire, while the Assyrians were struck blind.

The powers of heaven will descend on the saints and on the covenant people. They will be armed with the same powers of righteousness that raised the first members of the restored church into heavenly places and showered them with spiritual gifts. This is the power that gave Elisha utterance and revealed the Assyrians' schemes. It is the power that saved Daniel from the lions and delivered the three children from Nebuchadnezzar's furnace. It is the power that freed Peter from prison and Jesus from the tomb.

Joseph Smith taught that the angels must assist in Zion's redemption. Their concern for the city's appearance is overwhelming. The Palmyra Seer said, "*Paul spoke of the dispensation of the fullness of times, when God would gather together all things in one; and these men to whom those keys have been given, will have to be there; and they without us cannot be made perfect. These men are in heaven, but their children are on earth. Their bowels yearn over us. God sends down men for this reason. All these authoritative characters will come down and work hand in hand in bringing about this work.*"

The fire that purges the land of Zion is not limited to the fire that filled Nebuchadnezzar's furnace. It is the fire that descended on Jesus in the form of a dove. It is the fire that Jesus breathed on His apostles and that filled the house on Pentecost with cloven tongues of fire. This is the unquenchable fire with which the wicked are slain.

Those who are consumed by the Spirit of God are those who refuse to submit to its will and yield to its guidance. They mock faith and consider it a sign of weakness. Faith is not weakness. It is trust, a reliance on God to preserve those who honor Him and who serve Him. The faithful receive His Spirit and follow its direction. They rejoice in its presence, but the wicked lament its appearance and flee its company. Having habitually made deceitfulness their tactic and lies their refuge, they are exposed by truth; but they cannot hide the descent of the Holy Spirit, a deluge of righteousness that will fill the earth with the knowledge of the Lord. Zion's converts will be redeemed by righteousness.

Joseph Smith Ministries

PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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