

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 ✠

“Whoso treasureth up my words, shall not be deceived.”

Mat 24:39

WHAT IS SCRIPTURE

Peter appended a Psalm that he quoted in his Pentecostal sermon with these words: “*which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake*” (Acts 1:16).

Later, Paul prefaced his quote by saying, “*Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers*” (Acts 28:25).

The apostles considered scripture to be the words of the Holy Ghost.

Speech are the vibrations that people produce when they move their breath through their vocal chords. One might consider speech the words of that person's breath.

The Greek word translated Ghost means *breath*. *Holy Ghost* literally means *Holy Breath*. John

reports that Jesus breathed the Holy Ghost on His apostles. (John 20:22).

When the apostles taught that

scripture is the words of the Holy Ghost, they mean that it is the vibrations of God's breath as it moved on the vocal chords of each prophet. Peter observed,

“Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2P 2:21)

Just as a musician plays the same note on a trumpet and a flute, but with different tones, the breath of God produces the same message through the prophets, but with varied timbres. Its words, the scriptures, are God breathed—utterances of the Holy Ghost.





The Work of God's Hands

“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun” (Eccl 1:9).

As we begin to witness the “swing of the moral pendulum” in our culture today towards more liberal lifestyles, my mind goes back to the history as found in the scriptures. It is a history that tells us how God reacts to the world that He created, especially the tolerated limits He has toward those who free themselves from any divine restrictions. My mind cringes at the picture of events that awaits rebellious nations.

The memory of Sodom and Gomorrah recalls the total destruction decreed upon those cities. Today’s movement toward their conduct of unrestricted behavior—the free lifestyles that we see in this nation today—will only lead to the same immoral conditions that brought destruction upon the people of those cities. History also tells us of the first kingdom of Babylon. Their brazen display of inordinate sexual activity brought about their final destruction. You would think people would learn from history.

The kingdom of God was restored in the early 1800s, but today many of its members struggle with this issue. Despite the tremendous bounty of divine light that has been revealed to us, what was once sexual misconduct is becoming acceptable. It is becoming acceptable in organizational structures. It is becoming acceptable in individual practice.

Some toy with the words, “*What can we accept?*” Others ask, “*If we accept one thing, do we accept other things?*” What? Why is it about “*we?*” It should be about our Creator, our God. When it comes to our salvation and the salvation of others, the question is not: “*What can we accept?*” The question is: “*What does God accept?*” The scriptures have made it plain that this lifestyle is not acceptable.

Despite scriptural teachings, Christian organizations are opening up to this new morality. As it spreads across this great nation, my mind goes to a scripture found in the Doctrine and Covenants.

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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The Work of God's Hands (cont.)

“And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound; and when the time of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fullness of my gospel; but they receive it not, for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men; and in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled; and there shall be men standing in that generation that shall not pass, until they shall see an overflowing scourge, for a desolating sickness shall come over the land” (D&C 45:4b-d);

I have considered various theories of what the scourge mentioned in the above revelation might be: war or mob activity? In more recent years I thought that it might be a disease, like AIDS. Today, I see the rise of not only the single lifestyle, but a whole immoral culture, which includes the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and sex. These things affect the mind and the emotions. They appeal to worldly desires and encourage a departure from restrictive religious teachings.

When I look at the changes to America and its citizens in my lifetime, I wonder what happened to this nation—a nation that was founded on Christian principles—a nation that we know was established by the will of the Lord Jesus Christ and for His purpose. Those who accept the scriptures understand the spirit that advocates this iniquity, but why has it suddenly appeared and gained strength? This spirit has been at work for many years. The faithful have fought against it for centuries. Since the Restoration in 1830, faithful saints seemed to have prevailed against this spirit, at least until recently. What changed? The Inspired translation of the Bible holds a clue.

“Behold, there was a certain householder, who planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a wine-press in it; and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it” (Matt 21:35-36).

We know the treatment those servants—the Lord’s apostles and disciples—received. We know how Jesus, the householder's son, was killed. How did the householder respond in the parable?

“And Jesus said unto them, When the Lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will destroy those miserable, wicked men, and will let out the vineyard unto other husbandmen, who shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus said unto them, Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner; this is the Lord's doings, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matt 21:42-45).

The kingdom was taken from the Jews, and for a good reason. They had rejected the Lord. They had rejected His servants. Why? Because they relied on the teachings of their learned leaders—leaders who were awash in the pride of their intelligence—leaders who were blind to the pure and simple truth that Jesus Christ was working among them. They disallowed the divinity of the miracles that Jesus performed in their midst. In so doing, they rejected the chief cornerstone on which God’s kingdom is built. They denied the obvious fact that the Son of the living God was upon the earth and present among them.

Part 1 of The Work of God’s Hands by Joseph F. Smith. Part 2 will continue in our next issue.

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PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

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