

# Joseph Smith Ministries

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“LAY DOWN THE FENCES AND FIND COMMON GROUND”

## ✠ The Willing & Obedient ✠

*“I will raise up unto myself a pure people, that will serve me in righteousness.”*  
(D&C 97:4d)

### BECOMING THE PURE IN HEART

As faithful as the saints were when they first came to the land of Zion, their disobedience “polluted their inheritances” (D&C 98:3a). Likewise, those who returned to the land of Zion 30 to 40 years later did the same. Today, we look back on those saints as stalwarts, braving great difficulties and possessing effective faith.

Some suppose that we need a better law; others, better obedience to the law that we have. Righteousness does not come by the law—any law. Paul said, “If righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain” (Gal 2:21). Righteousness comes by faith in Christ. The pure in heart put on Christ and become like Him. They live as He lived, giving their all.



Their failure and our admiration of their faith raises a provocative question. How can our righteousness ever be sufficient? If they failed, how can we become the pure people prepared to live in Zion?

There is a difference between talking about Jesus and living like Him. Those who live like Him, give like Him—all that they have and without discrimination.



*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.*



### Our Hope In Zion

*Rally and workshop, Friday, September 20-21, 2013 to be held in the Luff Auditorium of the Stone Church, 1012 W Lexington, Independence, MO. It is time to make ready.*



## The Work of God (Part 4)

The past three parts (May, June and July 2013) I examined the kingdom's sojourn, first among the Jews, then the Gentiles and finally in America. None of these efforts have produced the kingdom of God on earth.

The building of the kingdom in Jerusalem crumbled in the Lord's hands just as He foretold through Jeremiah. He likened Israel to clay in the hands of the potter that was cast aside and reformed. The Lord also let out the vineyard, this time to the Gentiles here in this land. He restored the church with the same officers and for the same purpose. Along with the church and the priesthood came the Book of Mormon. It contains the promise of a New Jerusalem to be built here in this land to which the children of Israel should be gathered. This promise coincides with prophecies in the Bible and helps us begin to see the purpose of the Lord.

Micah prophesied, *"In the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem"* (Micah 4:1). If we understand that the word *mountain* represents governments in prophecy, then we see the meaning of the first verse. The government of the Lord is to be established in the top, or as the greatest government of the world. Today, the USA is that government. The prophecy also says that people would flow unto it. Notice the second verse: *"Nations shall come and say, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord."* Why will they say this? It is because they will see a people brought to perfection, walking in righteousness and glorifying their Father. That sight will cause them to desire to learn of  
(Continued on next page)

### Support Joseph

Joseph has a message and a plan. The time of tribulation is near and Zion's redemption is now. You, along with fellow believers, can begin preparing for it today.

Taking this message and promoting this plan takes money. We depend on your contributions. They will help send Joseph where he is needed. All contributions are tax deductible. Please send your 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 (Part 4)

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God's ways and walk in His paths. Here, we begin to see the purpose of the Lord in this land. He wants His kingdom built up in this land and be an example for the whole world. Why bring descendants of ancient Israel to this land? Are they going to make up this House of the God of Jacob? Let us see.

When Jesus preached His sermon on the mount, He spoke to Israelites. He told them, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the salt of the earth; but if the salt shall lose its savor, wherewith shall the earth be salted? the salt shall thenceforth be good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the light of the world; a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Behold, do men light a candle and put it under a bushel? Nay, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light to all that are in the house. Therefore, let your light so shine before this world, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*" (Matt 5:15-18).

I am always fascinated at the use of salt as an example of what these people were to be until one day it dawned on me that salt is a changer. Salt changes things. It changes the flavor of our food. It melts ice. It preserves, along with many other uses. A city set on a hill would be like a banner—a beacon to draw attention. It would be a light to drive away darkness. When Jesus says to shine our light so that others may see our righteousness and glorify our Father in Heaven, He is asking us to change the world—to attract it from darkness to light. The Restoration is the fulfillment of ancient prophecy that promises a city on a hill attracting the world to the light of Christ.

God told the Saints to establish the land of Zion. He sent Joseph and several elders to Jackson County, Missouri in the spring of 1831. Oliver Cowdery and others were already there. When they arrived in late July, the Lord directed them in laying out the center place of Zion. At the same time, Joseph Smith, Jr. received the following revelation: "*Hearken, O ye elders of my church saith the Lord your God, who have assembled yourselves together, according to my commandments, in this land which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of the Saints: wherefore this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion*" (D&C 57:1a-b).

This revelation is so interesting to me because of the prophecy in the Bible that says, "*Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them anymore, as before time*" (2 Sam 7:10). Both prophecies contain the word "*appointed*." The Lord promised King David that He would appoint a place for Israel. He fulfilled that promise in the revelation of 1831. He also said that He would "*plant them*." God promised to bring them to the appointed place: "*To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion; to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified*" (Is 61:3).

God brought the Gentiles to this land. They carried the blood of ancient Israel to whom the Kingdom was given. One of their assignments was to carry this information to the Lamanites, who were the American Indians—the posterity of Lehi and descendants of both Israel and Manasseh. In a way, they were kin to the Gentiles, but those saints failed. By the summer of 1833 they had become at odds with the native Missourians in the land of Zion and were about to be driven out of their inheritances, the land they had purchased. Why? They had become rebellious. They were proud and arrogant. They had not humbled themselves as they had been directed. Neither did they obey the instructions that the Lord had given them. The result was that they lost the land of Zion. They lost their homes, their livestock, crops, money, even the bare essentials of life, and were driven out of Jackson County. Eventually, they were banned from Missouri.

Joseph F. Smith

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# Joseph Smith Ministries

## PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



## TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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