

Joseph Smith Ministries

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“LAY DOWN THE FENCES AND FIND COMMON GROUND”

✧ The Willing & Obedient ✧

“Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.”
(Is 62:10)

ONE MIGHTY AND STRONG

World tensions continue to increase, while domestic difficulties abound. Meanwhile, nature increasingly ravages places around the world with once-in-a-lifetime events. These conditions are no surprise to believers, for God warned about them.

God Himself must save his latter-day work. Isaiah wrote, *“The Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act”* (Is 28:21). His intervention should embarrass those who claim to serve His cause.



Instead of the faithful gathered in unity, they are scattered, not only by location, but by fellowship. Their disunity saps their ability to present one faith. As the nations turn to the center place of Zion, they cannot find the support or relief that they need.

If the saints in the land of Zion remain unable to sustain the nations, God will intervene. He will cast up the highway, but unless the professing saints are already on that highway, they may find themselves left out.



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.



Turning to Zion

Parts of the Community of Christ in other lands are leaving. They are turning to professing believers of Zion. Please contact us if you would like to help their plight.



The Way of Holiness

By 1833 the difficulties between the newly arrived Saints and the locals in Jackson County, Missouri had reached a point that the citizens felt they could no longer tolerate. Violence erupted, replacing talk, and the saints agreed to leave. Instead of waiting for the the agreed departure date, the locals forced the saints to leave at winter's onset with just the clothes on their backs. Most could take very few provisions.

When news of this event reached Joseph and the Saints at Kirtland sometime in the fall of that year, it devastated them. God had designated the center place of Zion, the location of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. He had told them to build His house there, from which God's perfected ministry would go forth to accomplish the salvation of mankind. This place was to become the center for the government of the house of the God of Jacob and the place to which Israel would be gathered. In its courts, latter-day Israel was to be polished until it became the salt of the earth, the city set on a hill, the candle set on the candlestick for a light to all the world, and the place set for the glorification of our Heavenly Father (Mic 4:1-2, Matt 15:15-18).

The building of Zion beginning at Independence is the pivot point on which all the work of the restored church hinged. It was the central mission of the Lord's commission in these last days. The early Saints embraced this task and realized what the disturbing news meant. The saints expulsion from Jackson County threw the Church into disruption. Establishing Zion, the city New Jerusalem, and the gathering of Israel seemed overthrown. After the failure of Zion's Camp to redeem Zion, the saints virtually laid down their hope. That task has not been as enthusiastically undertaken by any part of the Restoration to this date.

The Lord spoke through Joseph on December 16, 1833. He promised that this trouble will not alter His designs. He said, "*Zion shall not be moved out of her place,* (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.

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The Way of Holiness (con't)

notwithstanding her children are scattered, they that remain and are pure in heart shall return and come to their inheritances; they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to build up the waste places of Zion. And all these things, that the prophets might be fulfilled" (D&C 98:4g). God promised that the fury of Zion's opponents will not stop Him from establishing that holy city. He was assuring the saints of that day and assures faithful saints today that Zion will be founded in the land that He set aside for it at the beginning of the Restoration movement. He promises that those who remain true and pure of heart will return to the land of Zion and build up the waste places. God's promise places great importance on the saints' return and how that occurs.

Isaiah foresaw this great gathering. He prophesied, "*The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away*" (Is 35:10). What glorious hope! The ransomed of the Lord, those who are faithful, who are pure in heart, will return with songs of joy. They will come to the land of Zion and build up that holy city.

Members of both the Reorganized Church and the Church of Christ returned to Jackson County in the 1860s and 1870s. Some wrote hymns of joy and expectation as members reoccupied lands from which their forefathers were driven. Despite their gathering, Zion was not built up. The holy city did not come into being. Instead, Jackson County, Missouri is just like any other part of the world, despite the fact that many believers of the restored gospel live there.

Will Zion be? Will the faithful rebuild its waste places? The scriptures promise they will. Isaiah explained: "*A highway shall be there; for a way shall be cast up, and it shall be called the way of holiness. The unclean shall not pass over upon it; but it shall be cast up for those who are clean, and the wayfaring men, though they are accounted fools, shall not err therein*" (Is 35:8).

What kind of highway does Isaiah foretell? A physical one? Perhaps. Or a spiritual one? While there may be a physical avenue upon which the ransomed may travel, I believe the way of holiness spoken of here is the spiritual way one must travel to return to Zion. Isaiah specified that only the *clean* can travel this highway. The unclean cannot enter it.

How do we become clean? It is by the power of the gospel. We must first have faith in Jesus. If we do, we will change our life through repentance. Once we are converted to the will of God, we will want to turn from our dead works and enter the waters of baptism where our bodies are cleansed in preparation for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Then, we become a child of God. We will be born of God.

As God's children, we learn to walk in the light of God's word. Jesus said, "*If therefore thine eye be single to the glory of God, thy whole body shall be full of light*" (Matt 6:22). Obeying God's words not only helps us become enlightened, righteous and committed, it makes us holy. It leads us along the way of holiness, on the road to Zion, and prepares us to abide the celestial law of God. God warned, "*Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself; and my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer*" (D&C102:2c-d).

We are entering a period of intense tribulation. That tribulation may be the greatest ever known to man. The difficulties that faced the saints, both in the past and today, are designed to make us holy. The Lord said, "*It shall come to pass, they that are left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even everyone that is written among the living in Jerusalem; 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 4:2-3). Those that remain will walk the highway of holiness foretold by Isaiah. They will be clean. The ransomed of the Lord will return and build up the waste places of Zion.

Joseph F. Smith

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PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

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