

Joseph Smith Ministries

VOL. 2

NOVEMBER 2013

NO. 11

“LAY DOWN THE FENCES AND FIND COMMON GROUND”

✠ The Willing & Obedient ✠

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion.”
(Is 59:19-20)

THANKSGIVING

November is the month of Thanksgiving. We remember all that God has given us. The day has its roots in the Pilgrims who were twice saved by God’s bountiful goodness.

The first happened after the Pilgrim’s first full season in America. They had survived the winter on 5 kernels of corn per person per day. Lacking knowledge of how to live in the New World, God sent them Squanto, an English speaking Indian who had lived in England. He taught them how to fish, raise maize and thrive in New England.

The second Thanksgiving happened three years later, after the Lord spared them from a crop destroying draught. When

their fields were drying up, the Pilgrims only knew one thing to do, pray. They called a day of fasting and prayer.

Everyone gathered at their meetinghouse. As they prayed on into the afternoon, the skies darkened and a gentle rain began falling.

Thanksgiving is a day to remember our dependency of God, not just for our blessings, but for our Christian heritage.



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.



The Promise to Zion

Despite the difficulties that threaten the saints, despite the problems besetting America, God promises a deliverer who will rescue His people and His work when the enemy comes.





Deliverance and Dedication

In 167 BC Antiochus Epiphanes conquered Jerusalem. He took all her treasures, removed the daily sacrifice and desecrated the Temple by erecting a statue of Zeus in his likeness, placing it on the altar. He also commanded the Jews to abandoned their religion, executing as many as he could who did not. The title that he took, Epiphanes, literally means *God Manifest*. Antiochus is the prototype of the antichrist described by Paul. Paul warned that he “*exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*” (2 Thes 2:4). Many Jews agreed to live like the Greeks. Those who did were called Hellenized Jews.

Mattathias, a member of the Hasmonean family, was a rural Jewish priest from Modiin. The Hasmonean family was a ruling family from antiquity. Mattathias refused to worship the Greek gods. He killed a Hellenized Jew who had stepped forward to offer a sacrifice to an idol in Mattathias' place. Mattathias and his five sons fled to Judah's wilderness. After Mattathias' death in 166 BC, his son Judas Maccabee led an army of Jewish dissidents to victory over Antiochus and his Seleucid dynasty. The Maccabees used guerrilla warfare, directing it at first against Hellenized Jews. The Maccabees destroyed pagan altars in the villages and circumcised boys, forcing many Jews to re-embrace their religion. Their forcefulness earned the guerrilla leaders the term Maccabees, which means *hammer*. Their relentless and innovative tactics, finally defeated their oppressors, creating the Maccabee dynasty which ruled an independent Jewish state until 63 BC.

After the victory, the Maccabees entered Jerusalem in triumph and ritually cleansed the Temple, reestablishing traditional Jewish worship and installing Jonathan Maccabee as high priest. A large Seleucid army was sent to quash the revolt, but Antiochus died at the age of 50 before it could reach Judea. The army returned to Syria. His premature death spared Judea from certain defeat and perhaps, annihilation. It also symbolized the divine overthrow of the antichrist. (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 or 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.

Deliverance and Dedication (con't)

The Jews rededicated the cleansed Temple exactly three years after it was desecrated. The Talmud reports that there was only a one-day supply of oil to light the Temple, but it was miraculously enlarged so that the Temple was lit all eight days of the dedication. The Jewish festival called Hanukkah celebrates that dedication and the deliverance that the Lord provided His people.

Eight refers to Jesus. The number of Jesus' name in Hebrew, Greek and Latin is eight. Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week, which is also the eighth day of the previous week. The eternal life that Jesus gives to all those who believe and follow Him is after the millennium, or seventh dispensation, placing eternal life in the eighth dispensation. He is the light of this world and eternity.

Daniel had prophesied Antiochus' wickedness: "*They shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.*" (Dan 11:31), but Jesus said that Daniel's prophecy also foretold future events. The Savior revealed, "*When ye therefore, shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, then ye shall stand in the holy place*" (Mat 24:12). Antiochus' occupation of Jerusalem and desecration of the Temple symbolizes a future tyrant. Daniel prophesied it. He saw the rise of the fifth kingdom, which replaced Rome. It was symbolized by a king who attacked believers. He saw, "*The same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them*" (Dan 7:21). Later Daniel added, "*Out of one of them came forth a little horn . . . he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.*" (Dan 8:9-11). John also predicted this future tyrant. He wrote, "*He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints*" (Rev 13:6-7).

When a succession of ten invading kings defeated the Roman Empire, the Papacy ruled the people of God. It enforced a corrupted and paganized form of Christianity and killed those who opposed it. Although Jesus died for our sins on the cross and eternally fulfilled the Mosaic Law that required the daily sacrifice, the Papacy replaced Jesus' single eternal sacrifice. It created a continuing sacrifice when it instituted the Mass. Each Mass claims to sacrifice Jesus anew. The Catholic Catechism teaches that in each Mass Jesus "*is offered in an unbloody manner.*" Pope Gregory, who reigned immediately after Rome's fall (590-604 AD) finalized the Mass' ritual. As it emerged, the Papacy removed the daily sacrifice of the Mosaic Law as Jesus fulfilled it. When it did, it magnified itself by asserting that it, like God, is infallible, thereby setting up the "*man of sin*" who claimed that "*he is God*" (2 Thes 2:3-4)

The Reformation, founding of America and the Restoration ended the Papacy's power to scatter the "*holy people*" (Dan 12:7). They provided a land of refuge where liberty prevailed and protected those who wanted to serve God and build up His kingdom. The Lord even appointed the center place for Zion; but the *man of sin* did not fall. Like the time of Antiochus, forces are besieging Christianity and democracy. Rumors and fears about a coming antichrist vibrate through society, amplified by evangel Christianity. In the face of a coming disaster the Reorganization lies fragmented and enfeebled. No part of the Restoration is building up the land that God appointed as the spot for Zion. Instead, like Hellenized Jews, the saints have returned to the world over 50 years ago for their equipment. Today, they are held captive by worldliness, political intrigues and a faulty economy.

The message of Hanukkah is that God delivers His people from the antichrist. The Temple will be dedicated. The fact that Hanukkah begins on our Thanksgiving this year specifically promises that God will deliver America and the Restoration. Just as Antiochus died as his army approached Jerusalem, those who plot against Zion will fall. The Book of Mormon promises, "*They shall fall into the pit which they digged to ensnare the people of the Lord. And all that fight against Zion, shall be destroyed*" (1 Ne 7:29-30).

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