

Joseph Smith Ministries

VOL. 3

FEBRUARY 2014

NO. 2

“LAY DOWN THE FENCES AND FIND COMMON GROUND”

✧ The Willing & Obedient ✧

“It is my will, that all they who call on my name, and worship me according to mine everlasting gospel, should gather together and stand in holy places.” (D&C 98:5a)

THE BOOK OF MORMON IN ZION

A Celebration of the Other Testament of Jesus Christ Friday and Saturday, March 7-8, 2014

A First-Time Conference of Eight Prominent Book of Mormon
Scholars from Different Fellowship Backgrounds

Friday Evening, 6 PM to 9 PM
LDS Independence Missouri Stake Center
705 W. Walnut, Independence, MO

Dr. Jeffrey Marsh: The Keystone as the Key
Dr. Shon Hopkin: Book of Mormon Voices on the Fall and Redemption
Dr. Lynn Ridenhour: The Glad Tidings of the Book of Mormon
Dr. J. B. Haws: The Bible and the Book of Mormon

Saturday Morning, 9 AM to 12 PM
The Gathering place (The Remnant Church)
2820 S. 291 Highway, Frontage Road, Independence, MO

Dr. Camille Fronk Olson: Redemption through the Holy Messiah
President Marlin Guin: God’s Covenants with the House of Israel
Dr. Mark Alan Wright: The Book of Mormon and Mesoamerica
Dr. Robert L. Millet: The Book of Mormon Challenges the World



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.



Book Of Mormon

BYU is directing an inter-Restoration celebration on Friday evening at the LDS Independence Stake Center and Saturday Morning at the Remnant Gathering Place.



Standing in Holy Places

After Adam and Eve fell, God asked them an astounding question. The Bible reports, “*They heard the voice of the Lord God, as they were walking in the garden, in the cool of the day. And Adam and his wife went to hide themselves from the presence of the Lord God, amongst the trees of the garden. And I, the Lord God, called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where goest thou?*” (Gen 3:14-15). God knew where Adam and Eve were and where they were going. What He was really asking was whether they knew. Did they know where they were, what they had become, or where their choice was taking them? Did they understand what had happened to their relationship with God? Did hiding from His presence tell them anything about their eternal destiny unless they found a Savior? I do not think that they knew, for their knowledge of God was limited.

Suppose God were to ask us the same question today? Do we know where we are or where we are going? Are we avoiding His presence? Do we know our eternal destination? What is our relationship with God today? Many believers say that they are confident about their salvation. Many latter-day saints can truthfully say that they have faith in God and that they have repented of their sins by turning away from them and changing their lives. They have gone down into the waters of baptism, risen from the watery grave and received the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. Is that it? Is that their destination? What did faith, repentance and baptisms do? According to Nephi, it is how we enter that “*strait and narrow path*” (2N 13:27). The question remains: If the Lord came walking in our garden today, would we run and hide? When He asked where we were going, could we confidently answer?

The Lord frequently declared that in the last days He would destroy all the wicked in the land. For instance, He said, “*I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the Lord*” (Psalm 101:8). Elsewhere, He said, “*The Lord preserveth all them that love him; but all the wicked will he destroy*” (Ps 145:20). Jesus taught, “*The tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of this world*” (Mat 13:41).

(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.

Standing in Holy Places (con't)

Is the end near at hand? Joseph Smith Jr. declared, “*The Lord God hath sent forth the angel, crying through the midst of heaven, saying: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths strait, for the hour of his coming is nigh*” (D&C 108:5b-c). We see signs of its approach: signs in the sky and on earth; disasters, earthquakes, famine, distress of nations. The world’s governments with their intertwined economies are like a ball of string neatly wound up. They give the illusion that our modern culture is harmoniously interconnected and working together. Despite the propaganda, hints of discord are rising. That ball of twine is starting to unravel. I testify that the time for the return of the Lord is near and those things which have been prophesied to transpire before He comes is imminent. That is why I ask, “*Where are you going?*”

The Lord said, “*Ye can not behold with your natural eyes, for the present time, the design of your God concerning those things which shall come hereafter, and the glory which shall follow, after much tribulation*” (D&C 58:2a). History reveals the thoroughness with which the Lord deals with those who have refused Him, especially after He revealed Himself to them. Those who rebel against Him, turn from Him, or ignore Him always suffer the wrath of a just God. Sodom and Gomorrah, ancient Israel, the Northern Kingdom and the Jews who crucified our Lord are prime examples.

God promises to extend His favor to those who obey His commandments. Those who love Him receive His offerings with joy and cling to His righteousness. They become His disciples, that is, they discipline their lives after His teachings. These are the people who God promises to spare. He said, “*The heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve*” (D&C 36:12e).

Those who make a different choice choose a different future. The Lord warned, “*My disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God, and die*” (D&C 45:4e). The question that God asked Adam and Eve applies today. Where goest thou?

The Lord’s disciples head toward holy places, but where is that location? In the early days of the Restoration, the church taught that Israel would be gathered to Zion, the city New Jerusalem. The Lord called it “*a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the most high God*” (D&C 45:12c). The land of Zion could have been made into a holy place then, but the early saints failed. The city was not built; neither were its inhabitants made holy. After the church’s expulsion from Missouri and during its exile in Illinois, the Lord lamented, “*The day of my visitation cometh speedily, in an hour when ye think not, and where shall be the safety of my people, and refuge for those who shall be left of them?*” (D&C 107:2d). Without a place of refuge the Lord’s disciples lie scattered throughout the world and outside the Promised Land.

In Old Testament times, when Israel wandered outside their Promised Land, the Lord established the Tabernacle. It was a place set aside for Aaron and the priests to offer the sacrifices of the people. God called it a “*holy place*” (Lev 14:13).

I believe a holy place is where the Lord’s people offer their sacrifices. The kind of sacrifices that the Lord cherishes are a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Have the difficulties and disasters that attended our wrong choices broken our pride? Have we given up pursuing our own will and offered our shattered hopes to God? That is the offering He wants and the holy place He calls us to occupy.

If we offer a broken heart and a contrite spirit, we can expect His protection, just like the Nephites received during the three days and nights of darkness, when millions suffered God’s wrath and died. Only the more righteous were spared. Stores of food, water, warm clothing and abundant shelter failed. Only those in holy places remained. Let us stand in holy places. “*Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me*” (Ps101:6).

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PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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