

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.



The Promise to Zion

We depend on the grace of Jesus, especially when we leave this life. The mission of Christ, for which He restored His church, now depends on His grace, too. Only He can do it.

✠ The Willing & Obedient ✠

“Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in mine own due time: for I will shew unto the children of men, that I am able to do mine own work.” (2 N 11:143)

THE UNION OF THE SAINTS

When enemies murdered Joseph and Hyrum, the church divided into over 20 parts. Animosity between the groups ran high.

Today only six groups remain. One has only 12 members, but each one considers itself the only true church.

Last weekend, BYU, along with parts of the Reorganized Church, conducted a Book of Mormon seminar in Independence. The most obvious conclusion is that saints in the various parts of the Restoration have much in

common. God wants His people to come together.

In 1841, the Lord told the saints, “*If my people will hearken*

unto my voice . . .

they shall not be moved out of their place”

D&C 107:13e).

The saints were expelled from Nauvoo.

He added, “*I will visit upon the*

heads of those who hindered my work, unto the third and fourth generation” (D&C 107:15b).

We are at the end of the fourth generation. God will end this judgment by stitching all believers from the various Restoration parts together.





For This Cause

While studying the scriptures one occasionally finds something that catches his or her attention. I have read some passages many times and never caught the full meaning. Has that happened to you?

Recently while studying the Doctrine and Covenants I saw something new. The passage reads, *“And for this cause, that men might be made partakers of the glories which were to be revealed, the Lord sent forth the fullness of his gospel, his everlasting covenant, reasoning in plainness and simplicity, to prepare the weak for those things which are coming on the earth”* (D&C 108:11a).

A builder normally begins with a plan of action. It is called a blueprint. That plan states the goal, depicts the structure and usually describes the purpose. The same procedure is followed when people undertake any endeavor of significance.

The revelation from which I quoted was given in November 1831. The specific passage, although only one small portion, establishes every element for a good plan.

Consider the phrase, *“that men might be made partakers of the glories which were to be revealed.”* Not only does it include the salvation of one's soul, but also introduces the possibility for mankind to enjoy the final glory. John foresaw the angel flying in the heavens having the everlasting gospel (Rev 14:6). What was its purpose? This revelation tells us that the everlasting gospel restored by the angel is the fullness of His gospel. It is also His everlasting covenant. When the angel Moroni taught it to Joseph, he explained it in simplicity and plainness. What is its purpose: to prepare mankind for the coming final glory.

One can search the scriptures and list many reasons for establishing the Restoration movement. Perhaps preparing mankind for the glory which is to come is just one item on that list. Perhaps some lists omit it. Would you place it on your list? Would it be at the top? When I consider the condition of the Restoration movement today in all its parts and fractions, I see too few saints interested in preparing people for that which is coming. I am concerned. (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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For This Cause (con't)

I am reminded of a statement that Christ made. He said, *“While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light”* (John 12:36). God blessed the early church with much light, divine light. Glorious manifestations adorned many of its assemblies. Angels appeared. The heavens were opened. Did those saints grasp the full light that was given, even though it came in *“plainness and simplicity”*? Did they believe in all that light? Did they become the *“children of light”*? Did they comprehend the work of God's hands? Or, did they fail to see the full picture?

What is clear is that the saints did not establish the holy city on the appointed spot. They were driven from the land of Zion. Their *“enemies are upon you, and ye shall be scourged from city to city, and from synagogue to synagogue, and but few shall stand to receive an inheritance”* (D&C 63:8e).

Where was the malfunction in the Restoration movement? What was the weakness of the saints? Why did they fail to become the children of light so that their light shined as a city on a hill? In September 1832, the Lord complained: *“Your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation”* (D&C 83:8a).

The revelations given to the restored church clearly show that many saints did not fully believe the light that God gave. They treated it too lightly. The reason why was their vanity and unbelief. Vanity means *“excessive pride in one's own appearance, qualities, abilities, achievements, etc.”* Like the rest of the world, these early saints thought too highly of themselves. They placed man's concepts above God's and in so doing brought the whole Church under condemnation. The Lord warned, *“But every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world”* (D&C 1:3e).

When the Lord scolded the saints for their unbelief, He admonished them to *“repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written”* (D&C 83 8b). He wanted them to produce the fruit that the children of light produce, to show the world the fruits of the Holy Spirit: *“Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance”* (Gal 5:22-23). The Lord even revealed the reason for His appeal: *“That they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom”* (D&C 83:8c). The King of Zion was pleading for His saints to become the children of light. Unless they became those people, they could not remain in the land of Zion. He added, *“Otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay”* (D&C 83:8c)

What happened to the Church a year after this 1832 revelation? In 1833, they were driven out of the land of Zion, and eventually out of the state of Missouri. They moved to Illinois but found no peace there. Eventually, they were broken into different segments and scattered. Did the *“cause”* fail? No! When the Saints were driven out of Jackson County, Missouri, the work of establishing Zion was laid down. It has yet to be adequately picked up. The Lord must do what His people would not do. He promised, *“The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God, cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught, for God doth not walk in crooked paths; neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left; neither doth he vary from that which he hath said; therefore his paths are straight and his course is one eternal round”* (D&C 2:1a-2a). All the works of men produced in the various parts of the church will fade, but the work of bringing Zion forth will succeed. *“Remember, remember, that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men”* (D&C 2:2a).

I believe in the cause of the Restoration and in the cause of Zion. Its redemption is near. This time God will complete the task. May the saints prepare for the glories that are coming.

Joseph F. Smith

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PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

PO Box 774

Blue Springs, MO 64013