

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 ✠

“Truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of my Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men.” (D&C 36:12e-f)

THE VINDICATION

Jesus is under attack. Not only do many dismiss His word, the scriptures, but they deny that Jesus arose. They attack the very essence of Christianity, our Savior's substitutionary death and resurrection. It is our evidence that He saves us from death and hell.



Christians will celebrate Jesus' resurrection this month. They will do so amid much criticism. As America loses its Christian foundation, opponents to our Savior will grow bolder in their hostility. They deny Jesus even at Easter.

God vindicates Himself. He promised to liberate the Hebrews from Egyptian captivity and He did. He promised to give Israel a sign, a baby born of a virgin. He did. He promised to save those who marked themselves with the Lamb's blood. He does.

God promised to reveal the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon. That revelation will vindicate Jesus. It will testify that Jesus died and rose from the dead. Jesus' disciples saw the resurrected Christ, but soon all flesh will see God's salvation.



The Ancient Promise

Jesus said, “*The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant-man, seeking goodly pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had and bought it*” (Matt 13:47).

The merchant in this parable was in the business of buying and selling pearls. While looking for good pearls He discovered one of great value. It was so valuable that he sold everything he had and bought it. Our Lord was teaching His disciples to seek things of great value and when they find it, give their all to obtain it.

During the 1820s the Lord began to rend the veil that had covered the earth since the apostolic age. Angels descended and spoke to people. Ancient scriptures came from the earth, which Joseph translated by the gift and power of God. Priesthood authority, like that which the apostles bore, returned and the church, long lost in apostasy, was restored. In the early days of this Restoration people esteemed it of great value. They sought the revelation contained in the Book of Mormon, which contained the fullness of the gospel. Like Isaiah prophesied (Is 29:23), those who had erred understood and those who had murmured learned doctrine. Today, the world does not consider this book of value, but it is! Do believers in the Book of Mormon fully comprehend how priceless this book is? Do we fully employ the divine light that it brings?

Not only did the Lord provide the Book of Mormon, but He gave revelations. The early elders considered those divine instructions beyond value, greater than the world’s wealth. How many believers in the Restoration consider them the priceless words of the Savior? How many consider them applicable for today and the conditions that they face? I have heard that some people dismiss them. Some suggest that they are an outgrowth of nineteenth century Americana and retain only an historical importance.

The Restored Church is entangled in a web of confusion, contention and division. It did not accidentally fall into that snare, but was carefully led there by the adversary. (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 Ancient Promise (con't)

He began his diabolical work long before our tenure. It started in the early days of the church. Although they esteemed it of great value, perhaps they did not prize it enough. Too few sold all that they had to buy this pearl. If they failed to recognize the value of this great work, which the Lord is performing in these last days, are we failing to recognize the worth of the restored gospel?

I believe that the Lord delivered a pearl of great price when He restored His church and ministerial authority. It is far greater than the glitter in the world. We all see how entertaining and attractive it is. We enjoy the prosperity and luxury that surrounds us. Are we willing to give all of it in exchange for this priceless pearl?

God promised to bring the New Jerusalem to earth again. He will establish this holy city in a promised land, the land of Zion. Over 3000 years ago the Lord appointed this special land, setting it aside for His work. He spoke to King David through Nathan, the prophet: *“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).

God does not fail to fulfill every promise that He makes. David died; Israel divided; Assyria defeated and exiled the Northern Kingdom; Nebuchadnezzar captured the Jews; Cyrus let them return; Jesus, God’s only begotten Son, took our flesh and died for our sins on the cross; Rome expelled the Jews from Palestine; and the Gentiles inherited Israel’s promises when they believed and obeyed the gospel. During all this time when did God appoint a land for Israel, a land of refuge, from which they would never again be removed? That appointment happened in 1831. The Lord spoke through Joseph Smith: *“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).

Some shrug off this appointment and consider it an outgrowth of American expansionism. Not me! I consider it the fulfillment of God’s ancient promise. It was no act of man, but the voice of God. Neither Joseph nor the elders who worked with him realized that the appointment of the land of Zion fulfilled Nathan’s prophecy, yet both the promise and the fulfillment stand.

Some survey the land of Zion today, whether it be the entire country or the centerplace, the spot specifically designated as the initial point of gathering. They see a mess, a government overreaching its constitutional origins and a people abandoning their foundational morality. Where is the holiness that will be the light from that city on a hill? Has wickedness hindered God’s work? Of course not! The Lord said, *“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. Remember, remember, that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men”* (D&C 2:1-2a).

When the saints were driven from Jackson County in 1833, the centerplace of Zion was lost. Do we understand the priceless pearl that we surrendered? I realize that the faithful returned, but it appears to me that they *“polluted their inheritances”* and have been *“thrown down”* (D&C 100:3c). Zion will not be, the Holy City will not shine, until people obey God. Paul taught, *“All the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”* (Gal 5:14). We must learn to love one another as Jesus loves us.

When I was a boy we sang a hymn with the line, *“What will you give in exchange for your soul.”* That causes me to think, what will we give for the restored gospel, for this pearl of great price? Will we sell all that we have for the Holy City? Some will, for God is raising up a *“pure people”* (D&C 97:4d). If we are not careful, they will replace those who profess with their lips, but do not love with their deeds.

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PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

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