

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 ✠

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe . . . that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.” (John 17:20-21)

OUR CALLING

Joseph Luff stood in the basement of the Stone Church on a Wednesday night in 1906. He was on the second row, left side of the room, facing the podium. During the testimony portion of the service he stood under the influence of the Holy Spirit and sang in tongues. Then, under the same Spirit, he sang the interpretation. The RLDS Church published the hymn with four stanzas of the original 8-stanza gift in its 1956 hymnal.

The hymn, known as Admonition, is a favorite among

many who sing it. It catches up the hope of Zion and gives divine direction about how to prepare for its redemption.

The 3rd stanza contains vital guidance. It tells us to love God and all people just as Jesus

loves us. It is our calling and God's purpose. It is the light that will shine from the Holy City.

**“Love ye me and love all people—
Love as I have loved you
This your calling—this my purpose—
Thus be my disciples true.”**

As we focus on preparing for Zion, we should concentrate on loving all people. The popular Christian song by Casting Crowns asks Jesus, “*Break our hearts with what breaks Yours.*” May we love like Jesus does.



Let Zion's Light Shine

The morning breaks, the shadows flee
Lo, Zion's standard is unfurled
The dawning of a brighter day
Majestic rises on the world

....

Angels from heaven. And truth from earth
Have met, and both have record borne
Thus Zion's light is brusting forth
To bring Her ransomed children home

....

The poetic words of this hymn describe the marvelous message delivered by that heavenly angel Moroni, who was sent by the hand of God. The hope of Zion was born when the angel appeared. It promised a place of gathering for God's people—a promise given almost 3000 years before: “*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). The hope of Zion filled those early Saints’ hearts with unspeakable joy. Zealous men and women basked in the latter-day light and ministers pushed forward that great cause of Zion. Was there a reason to falter? Was there a reason to fear? Was not this the work of God’s hands?

The early Saints rushed into the work with full purpose of heart. Confusion about Christ’s gospel ended as the Book of Mormon sprang from the earth and revealed its fullness. How well it agreed with the Bible! The scriptures became clear and people were no longer engulfed in the spiritual darkness. No longer did tradition reign over the pathway of righteousness. (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.

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If you are not receiving your own Newsletter, please request one by writing us or signing up at www.jfsm.org/newsletter.html.

Let Zion's Light Shine (con't)

The joyous day of divine light had arrived. The Lord began speaking again by prophecy, shattering the dimness covering the minds of men.

As comes the beautiful days of spring, also comes the stormy clouds with wind and rain. Likewise, as heavenly rays enlightened repenting believers, devilish temptations blew in, too, leading people astray. In the rush of excitement some saints slackened their diligence. Disobedience reared its ugly head. *"There were jarrings, and contentions, and envyings, and strifes, and lustful and covetous desires among them"* (D&C 98:3a). The appointed place of gathering was lost. Division and contention increased until the church fragmented. Today, the land of Zion is no different than the rest of America and the saints behave just like the world. We are unprepared for the coming of the Lord.

Now we are scattered across this great land. Branches, segments, and organizations exist everywhere, all claiming to be of the Lord. Where is that hope of Zion among them? Some say it was a 19th century ideal and invite people to do good where they are. They no longer teach of Zion, nor preach of Zion, nor sing of Zion. Have they lost the hope? Others maintain that it will come. I agree. It will come, but are our sermons and our songs about Zion enough? Are we prepared? What about our children? Are we ready to live in its light and under its rules?

Book of Mormon history reports that when God blessed and enriched His people, they grew apathetic in their service of Him. Helaman wrote, *"We may see at the very time when he doth prosper his people; yea, in the increase of their fields, their flocks, and their herds, and in gold, and in silver, and in all manner of precious things of every kind, and art . . . doing all things for the welfare and happiness of his people; yea, then is the time that they do harden their hearts, and do forget the Lord their God"* (Hel 4:49-50). God has blessed and enriched America. He has prospered the saints. Is America forgetting God? Are the saints now slow to remember Him?

I am concerned that we have become careless in our service to God. Some have let educated skeptics increase their doubt. Others have become at ease in Zion. Who earnestly seeks *"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (Jude:3)—the original faith that is free from the traditions that may have been heaped on them? Why the concern? In Book of Mormon times, the Lord punished His people until they became obedient. Helaman added, *"Thus we see, that except the Lord doth chasten his people with many afflictions, yea, except he doth visit them with death, and with terror, and with famine, and with all manner of pestilences, they will not remember him"* (Hel 4:49-52). I fear that we are ripe for this kind of judgment.

The Lord told Enoch, *"I said, and also gave commandments, that they should love one another, and that they should choose me, their Father"* (D&C 36:7b). Our God wants us to have patience and charity with one another. He wants us to begin to practice true brotherhood as we try to achieve unity in purpose. In Enoch's day *"the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness"* (D&C 36:2h). We must be of one heart and one mind to participate in Zion when it comes.

God is the same today as when He sent the angel to deliver His message. He has not changed. How often has He told Israel, "Fear not, for I am with you. Follow me." I invite the saints to become one in heart and mind. If we do, our God will not forsake us, but fulfill His purpose in us. He will bring forth the Holy City—the Kingdom of God—in the appointed land.

We have common ground. We should come together on it and begin to prepare the Saints for the coming of our Lord—to prepare the path for scattered Israel to gather to Zion. Let us fulfill the purpose for which we were called out of darkness into the marvelous light—the fullness of this glorious gospel. We must seek a pardon for the lethargy and neglect of our past. Remember a pardon cannot be granted without a change in conduct. Let us seek God's mercy as we rise up to the challenge.

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PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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