

Joseph Smith Ministries

VOL. 3

JUNE 2014

NO. 6

“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

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.

✠ The Willing & Obedient ✠

*“Wherefore, I have called upon the weak things of the world, those who are unlearned and despised, to thresh the nations by the power of my Spirit.”
(D&C 34:4a)*

WINNOWING THE CHAFF

When the first elders preached the restored gospel, they were endowed with power. They invited the Gentile nations to help build up the kingdom of God on earth.

The Gentile nations were too busy colonizing the world to help Zion. Those nations have lost their world dominion, all because they refused the unlearned whom God had called.

The Gentiles have lost something far greater. They lost the Christianity they once had. Jesus prophesied it (3N 7:35). Great cathedrals which once

filled weekly with devout believers seat few worshippers now. Instead, the people flock to amusements and parties.

They value personal freedom and disobey God's commands.

The threshing that began in 1830 has separated the wheat and the

chaff. Like all threshing floors before the chaff is blown away, the chaff now hides the wheat. When the Spirit blows, the chaff will fly away and the wheat left alone. Soon, God will pour out His Spirit. The rebellious will be cut off, the faithful rejoice and Zion be redeemed.





Pentecost

Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied that God would establish a new covenant with Israel. The New Testament quotes Jeremiah: *“I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah . . . I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people . . . For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more (Heb 8:8-12).* Ezekiel expressed it this way: *“I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh; that they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God” (Ezek 11:19-20).*

Jesus perfected this new covenant when He died on the cross. The Bible calls *“Jesus the mediator of the new covenant”* (Heb 12:24). No one merits the generous terms that the New Covenant guarantees. It is a gift wrought by Jesus and given to those who follow Him. Jesus said, *“He that believeth on me hath everlasting life”* (John 6:47). He told the Nephites, *“Whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name, shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father, at that day when I shall stand to judge the world”* (3 N 12:29).

God gives evidence to those who make covenant with Him. The Bible calls it an *earnest*. We normally call it a *downpayment*, although sometimes we use *earnest deposit*. Paul wrote that God *“hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit”* (2 Cor 5:5). He also wrote, *“Ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory”* (Eph 1:13-14). The Holy Ghost is God’s downpayment to those who enter the New Covenant with Him. It is an abiding Comforter, *“the record of heaven,”* which brings *“the peaceable things of immortal glory”* (Gen 6:64).

Jesus promised to send the Holy Ghost to His disciples after He left them. He said, *“If I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you”* (John 16:7). When Jesus ascended to sit at His Father’s right hand, He told the disciples to

(Continued on next page)

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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.

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Pentecost (con't)

return to Jerusalem and wait, for *“ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence”* (Acts 1:5).

Once the apostles received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, they bestowed it on others by the laying on of hands after baptism. The Bible records, *“Then laid they their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 8:17). Jesus gave the same power to His disciples in ancient America. He told them, *“Ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles”* (Mri 2:2). The gospel that Jesus sent into the world invited all people to enter the New Covenant, which He mediated in the beginning and perfected on the cross. Those who believe and repent gladly received baptism in water. Afterwards, they were filled with the Holy Ghost. When God places His Spirit in them, they become His children, just like Ezekiel prophesied.

Jesus atoned for the sins of the world and delivered all people from death at Passover, the first Hebrew feast day. He died on the 14th of Nisan at the same time that the priests were killing the Pascal Lambs. His death frees everyone from the bands of death just as surely as the lamb's blood delivered the ancient Hebrews over 1500 years before. The next day, Nisan 15, was the feast of Unleavened Bread. The bitter herbs mixed into it (Ex 12:8) represents the bitterness Jesus endured as His body laid in the grave. On the third day, Nisan 16, the Feast of First Fruits, Jesus rose from the dead as the first fruits in the resurrection. He rose before daybreak to insure that his offering of first fruits occurred before the Jewish priests offered theirs. The fourth Jewish feast, called Pentecost, is 50 days after First Fruits and is associated with the giving of the Law. On Pentecost immediately following Jesus' resurrection, God fulfilled His oath, the promise that Jesus gave His disciples, and baptized them with the Holy Ghost.

Joel foresaw a day when God would fill every person on earth with the Holy Ghost. The Lord said through him, *“I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit”* (Joel 2:28-29). Peter explained that Joel's prophecy was beginning to be fulfilled on that Pentecostal day (Acts 2:16-18). Although the apostles started spreading the gospel throughout the world and the Holy Spirit was poured out on many, the great apostasy interrupted the work. Christendom came to believe that spiritual gifts were done away.

The Restoration returned divine authority to baptize. The Holy Ghost was again bestowed by the laying on of hands after baptism. Spiritual gifts returned. The Lord began pouring out His Spirit on all flesh and making believers into new creatures who lovingly obeyed God's statutes.

We live in a day when the restored gospel is still taught and the Holy Spirit bestowed by the laying on of hands; but the gathered community on the appointed land as a whole is disobedient. That slothfulness will not inhibit the Lord's work. He will perform a remarkable feat. He said, *“I may bring to pass my strange act, that I may pour out my Spirit upon all flesh”* (D&C 92:1c). Nephi foresaw that when *“the great mother of abominations”* gathered *“against the Lamb of God . . . the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory”* (1N 3:229-231).

Today, the false religion is being broadcast throughout our society. People are adopting its precepts and practices. Christianity is in decline. The saints cannot redeem Zion. The Lord promises that He will yet pour out His Spirit on all flesh. His strange act will finish His work.

Wednesday, June 4 is Pentecost. It is the anniversary on the lunar calendar of the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit. On that day the saints received power to live separate from the world and the apostles obtained authority to confront Ananias and Sapphira, believers who refused to give their all. It is a reminder that the last outpouring of His Spirit is near when the saints will be freed and priesthood endowed. May the saints be prepared to give their all when Zion is redeemed.

Joseph Smith Ministries

PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

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