

# 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 ✠

*“Every man walketh after his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world.” (D&C 1:3e)*

### GOD WILL PREPARE A PLACE

The command to build up Zion can only be accomplished by working together. When the saints first came to Missouri, most built their own homes and cleared their own land. The command to build the Temple went unheeded as people pursued their own interests.

Their lack of cooperation affected their assemblies. They let their differences separate them until their unity was shattered and the saints scattered.



The saints are now divided into many parts, with most chasing their own solution.

When will they realize that Zion cannot be built up by a divided people and their own solutions are not sufficient? It is only when we voluntarily lay down our differences, find common ground and work together that the Holy Spirit will bless us and help us bring about Zion.

When the faithful returned in the second generation, most concentrated on their personal needs. They believed. They attended church, but they did not work together. They failed to redeem Zion.



## *It Is Time to Be One!*

In the beginning, Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden of Eden because they disobeyed God's command. By the time of Noah, which was the tenth generation, mankind had become so disobedient that the Lord destroyed all people except eight souls: Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their wives. Ten generations later, God called Abraham from Ur and covenanted with him. Only two generations later, the children of that covenant entered Egypt, where they were subsequently enslaved.

After four hundred years of bondage, God sent Moses to free the children of Israel. He led them to worship God Almighty, but as soon as Moses ascended the holy mount to receive God's law, the Hebrews began to worship a golden calf. They proved disobedient despite a marvelous display of God's protective and delivering power. You would think that after the Lord led them through the Red Sea on dry ground, fed them manna in the wilderness and gave them water to drink, they would have learned to appreciate His blessings and worship such a benevolent and omnipotent benefactor. Like the rest of us, they were slow learners. The Lord complained, "*Thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities*" (Is 43:24). No wonder the Lord called Israel a stiff necked and rebellious people.

After bringing His people out of Egypt and giving them His laws and commandments, He led them into the land of promise expecting them to obey and serve Him in righteousness. Jeremiah criticized them for their continual disobedience and rebelliousness. He reminded them that God "*hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey; and they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedest them to do; therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them*" (Jer 32:22-23). The evil that came upon them was Assyria and Babylon, which drove them out of their land of promise.

History repeats itself. The Preacher observed, "*That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been, and God requireth that which is past*" (Ecc 3:15). (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*

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## *It Is Time to Be One! (con't)*

When the Assyrians drove the children of Israel out of the Promised Land, they placed most around the Caspian Sea, from which scattered Israel migrated into Europe. They eventually began marrying the Gentiles, who previously occupied that continent. These scattered Israelites gradually mingled their blood with the Gentiles, and ultimately took on their identity.

With Columbus' discovery of the New World, Gentiles began migrating to this land. As they came, they brought the blood of Israel with them. Isaiah prophesied this development. The Lord spoke to the land of Zion, saying, "*Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people; and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders*" (Is 49:22). The kings and queens of Europe financed and authorized the many explorations and colonies that followed. Just as God foretold, they carried descendants of Israel to this land. It became a promised land to them and a place of refuge.

The Book of Mormon chronicles how the Lord moved one household from the tribe of Manasseh, leading them from Jerusalem just before Babylon invaded the city. He guided Lehi's family through the wilderness and across the ocean until they reached this land. They endured many trials and hardships during their travels, but persevered because they believed the promise of a special land that God had prepared for them. These Israelites immigrated to the New World and became a great nation and a righteous people, only to lose their heritage because of disobedience. All these things happened long before the Gentiles came to the Americas. Is the pattern becoming clear?

God blessed the Gentiles who colonized North America, and the many descendants of Israel among them, liberating them from tyrants and inspiring their Constitution. He enlightened their Reformation and eventually restored His gospel. We are the recipients of these bountiful blessings, but we are very much like the Book of Mormon peoples. In the face of all God's rich rewards, we have proved disobedient. As Americans, we possessed the land, but we did not obey His voice. America rejected the restored gospel. As saints, we returned to the land of Zion, but we did not build up the Holy City. The early church was given the Kingdom of God, along with instructions to bring about Zion, but the saints proved haughty, greedy, prideful, arrogant, and selfish. They preferred to follow carnal delights. As a result, we find ourselves entangled in a mist of darkness.

We perpetuate our ancestors' errs. We cherish the rod of iron, but too often ignore what it says. Worse yet, some use it to condemn fellow believers. The time has come when we desperately need to humble ourselves before the Lord. We need to repent, to literally bow down on our knees and put on the cloak of righteousness. I beg you to put down your disagreements and divisions and learn to love one another. Join hand in hand with your brothers and sisters under the mantle of Christ. Become one that perchance He might claim us as His own. We have so little time to do this!

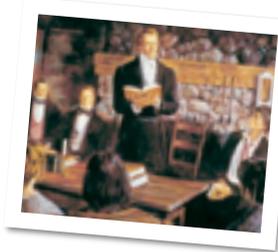
During the past few months, I have discussed the promised evil that is coming on this land. It is punishment for our disobedience. It will also cleanse the land in preparation for the coming of Zion. The prophet asked a pertinent question: "*But who may abide the day of his coming?*" (Mal 3:2). I believe it is those who have quit their contention and become one with their fellow saints.

More than 180 years, the Lord warned His people to prepared: "*Prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed*" (D&C 1:3b). I see too many saints lost in pride and confusion. Divided, they can look forward only to a grim future when they are weighed on the wrong side of the balance of justice. Come let us repent and prepare for that time of glory in Zion, when the house of the God of Jacob will be established on the top of the mountains with the Lord Jesus Christ in full command of God's Holy Mountain. May we be worthy to be included in that precious event.

*JOSEPH F. SMITH*

# Joseph Smith Ministries

PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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