

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 ✠

*“Righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out my own elect from the four quarters of the earth unto a place which I shall prepare.”
(D&C 36:12f)*

GOD WILL PREPARE A PLACE

Over 3000 RLDS members joined the Church of Christ, Temple Lot after their church adopted Supreme Directional Control in 1925. In 1927 they decided to build the Temple on the appointed place.

Perhaps some believed that the Lord would sanction their endeavor to the embarrassment of their former church.

On February 19, 1930 Joseph Luff prophesied during their Wednesday prayer service, telling them that God would not permit them to build that House. He added, “Upon the

ruin of your brother's hopes ye shall not erect a monument for Christ.”

One central reason that God restored His church was to build

up a righteous kingdom on earth, a city on a hill. How can building a temple bring a righteous city, when it is founded on proving one

group right?

In September 1933, the excavation's north bank collapsed; construction stopped. The Lord cannot accept a holy house until He has a holy people. That will only happen when the saints dissolve their differences and learn to be one.





How Far From the Mark?

The past 30 years have been a period of turmoil for the Restored Church, but we must remember that the past 180 years have also been tumultuous for the entire Restoration. When we look at what the Lord intended the Restoration to accomplish and compare how He began it to what its condition is today, we can better see how it has failed so far. Looking throughout the entire movement, we can find organizations that contain some of the qualities that God gave the Church at the beginning; however, we cannot find any that have come up to the standard that the Lord established at the onset — standards that He still requires to complete His work.

When I think of how the Restoration has so widely missed the mark, it brings tears to my eyes, sorrow to my heart, and a rising spirit of indignation. Look at how America is drifting ever faster into immorality and internal conflict. Consider the plight of our children who are being misled by an increasingly godless culture. What would those conditions be today if the saints had built up Zion?

As the Restoration Branches continue to drift apart and their members scatter, our natural desire is to return to familiar comforts. One consolation is trying to rebuild the House of God as we once knew it. Do we think that in our weakness that we can bring it to a better state than it was in our youth?

Once I was the lead carpenter for company that built houses. There is a proper method of sound construction. The builder begins by pouring the foundation. Then, he frames the house before installing the windows and doors. This order of operation makes sense. It is not until the building is framed, that he installs the windows and doors, which provide entry and light.

In the House of God, Jesus is the door and the windows represent His ministry, who provide light for the house. Trying to install these doors and windows in the House of the Lord without first preparing the building is impossible. Their presence may make us feel comfortable, it does not make a safe house. (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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How Far From the Mark? (con't)

Ezra faced a similar situation as he began rebuilding Jerusalem. First, he gathered the tribes and the ministry together and proclaimed a fast. *“I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance”* (Ezra 8:21). If we want to rebuild Zion, I believe we need to start like Ezra when he began rebuilding Jerusalem. We need to come together, united as one, and proclaim a fast from controversy and division. The work of God is not determined by our natural desires to rebuild the House of God by installing windows before the building is framed.

The promise of Zion—the promise of a New Jerusalem here upon this land—is confirmed by the Book of Mormon and is part of the fullness of the Gospel, the good news that it contains. Those who obey and are baptized receive the Holy Ghost, which gives people power to become holy. While the Lord laid down this latter-day work in 1833, the expulsion of the Saints out of the land of Zion does not mean the work is ended. The scripture says, *“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”* (2:1a-2a).

Sometimes the saints forget some of the scriptures and fail to apply them in time of need. Consider one example. Jesus taught, *“I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, that they may not ask amiss, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”* (Matt 18:19.) If this is the word of God, why are we divided up into so many different sections of the Church? Why are we not one? Perhaps it is because we hold too dearly to vain traditions. Traditions can become idols that we serve.

If the history of the past has proven unfruitful, should we not seek a different path? It is senseless to try the same thing when it has failed so many times. We are living in a period of transition from disobedience into holiness through a series of divine corrections. We need to fully recognize what God is doing. What lies before us is the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise that He prophesied. He will cleanse the land that He might prepare His Holy City, the New Jerusalem.

This event will soon be upon us. Just as the Lord punished ancient Israel when Assyria invaded them—just as Babylon destroyed the Kingdom of Judah—similar invasions are coming on America, bringing war and bloodshed. Isaiah promises that they will cleanse His people: *“It shall come to pass, they that are left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even everyone that is written among the living in Jerusalem; when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning”* (Is 4:2-3).

This prophecy tells me that it is our duty to prepare our people so that they qualify to be called holy—that they might be one. How can debate about organization help that effort? Instead, why not lift the warning voice to the nations and invite them to obey the restored gospel? That was the warning the first elders proclaimed. The Lord said through Joseph Smith in 1831: *“Wherefore fear and tremble, O ye people, for what I the Lord have decreed, in them, shall be fulfilled. And verily, I say unto you, that they who go forth, bearing these tidings unto the inhabitants of the earth, to them is power given to seal, both on earth and in heaven, the unbelieving and rebellious; yea, verily, to seal them up unto the day when the wrath of God shall be poured out upon the wicked without measure; unto the day when the Lord shall come to recompense unto every man according to his work, and measure to every man according to the measure which he has measured to his fellow man. Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear; 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 1:2b-3b).

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PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

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