

Introducing Joseph Smith

Messages on The Prophet's Life, Role, &
Teachings on Revelation



Nate Richardson

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Special thanks to Hyrum Andrus and Truman G. Madsen,
some of their work on Joseph is summarized in this book.



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D&C 135: Acclaiming the Great Joseph Smith

1 To seal the testimony of this book and the Book of Mormon, we announce the martyrdom of Joseph Smith the Prophet, and Hyrum Smith the Patriarch. They were shot in Carthage jail, on the 27th of June, 1844, about five o'clock p.m., by an armed mob—painted black—of from 150 to 200 persons. Hyrum was shot first and fell calmly, exclaiming: I am a dead man! Joseph leaped from the window, and was shot dead in the attempt, exclaiming: O Lord my God! They were both shot after they were dead, in a brutal manner, and both received four balls.

2 John Taylor and Willard Richards, two of the Twelve, were the only persons in the room at the time; the former was wounded in a savage manner with four balls, but has since recovered; the latter, through the providence of God, escaped, without even a hole in his robe.

3 Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it. In the short space of twenty years, he has brought forth the Book of Mormon, which he translated by the gift and power of God, and has been the means of publishing it on two continents; has sent the fulness of the everlasting gospel, which it contained, to the four quarters of the earth; has brought forth the revelations and commandments which compose this book of Doctrine and Covenants, and many other wise documents and instructions for the benefit of the children of men; gathered many thousands of the Latter-day Saints, founded a great city, and left a fame and name that cannot be slain. He lived great,

and he died great in the eyes of God and his people; and like most of the Lord's anointed in ancient times, has sealed his mission and his works with his own blood; and so has his brother Hyrum. In life they were not divided, and in death they were not separated!

4 When Joseph went to Carthage to deliver himself up to the pretended requirements of the law, two or three days previous to his assassination, he said: "I am going like a lamb to the slaughter; but I am calm as a summer's morning; I have a conscience void of offense towards God, and towards all men. I shall die innocent, and it shall yet be said of me—he was murdered in cold blood."—The same morning, after Hyrum had made ready to go—shall it be said to the slaughter? yes, for so it was—he read the following paragraph, near the close of the twelfth chapter of Ether, in the Book of Mormon, and turned down the leaf upon it:

5 And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord that he would give unto the Gentiles grace, that they might have charity. And it came to pass that the Lord said unto me: If they have not charity it mattereth not unto thee, thou hast been faithful; wherefore thy garments shall be made clean. And because thou hast seen thy weakness, thou shalt be made strong, even unto the sitting down in the place which I have prepared in the mansions of my Father. And now I ... bid farewell unto the Gentiles; yea, and also unto my brethren whom I love, until we shall meet before the judgment-seat of Christ, where all men shall know that my garments are not spotted with your blood. The testators are now dead, and their testament is in force.

6 Hyrum Smith was forty-four years old in February, 1844, and Joseph Smith was thirty-eight in December, 1843; and

henceforward their names will be classed among the martyrs of religion; and the reader in every nation will be reminded that the Book of Mormon, and this book of Doctrine and Covenants of the church, cost the best blood of the nineteenth century to bring them forth for the salvation of a ruined world; and that if the fire can scathe a green tree for the glory of God, how easy it will burn up the dry trees to purify the vineyard of corruption. They lived for glory; they died for glory; and glory is their eternal reward. From age to age shall their names go down to posterity as gems for the sanctified.

7 They were innocent of any crime, as they had often been proved before, and were only confined in jail by the conspiracy of traitors and wicked men; and their innocent blood on the floor of Carthage jail is a broad seal affixed to “Mormonism” that cannot be rejected by any court on earth, and their innocent blood on the escutcheon of the State of Illinois, with the broken faith of the State as pledged by the governor, is a witness to the truth of the everlasting gospel that all the world cannot impeach; and their innocent blood on the banner of liberty, and on the magna charta of the United States, is an ambassador for the religion of Jesus Christ, that will touch the hearts of honest men among all nations; and their innocent blood, with the innocent blood of all the martyrs under the altar that John saw, will cry unto the Lord of Hosts till he avenges that blood on the earth. Amen.

Introductory Quotes

D&C 122:1-3: “The ends of the earth shall inquire after thy name, and fools shall have thee in derision, and hell shall rage against thee while the pure in heart, the wise, and the noble, and the virtuous, shall seek counsel, and authority, and blessings constantly from under thy hand. And thy people shall never be turned against thee by the testimony of traitors.”

D&C 121:16-17: “Cursed are all those that shall lift up the heel against mine anointed, saith the Lord, and cry they have sinned when they have not sinned before me, saith the Lord, but have done that which was meet in mine eyes, and which I commanded them. 17 But those who cry transgression do it because they are the servants of sin, and are the children of disobedience themselves.”

Gordon B. Hinckley said, “**The present effort of trying to find some other explanation for the organization of the Church, for the origin of the Book of Mormon, and for the priesthood with its keys and powers will be similar to other anti-Mormon fads which have come and blossomed and faded.** Truth will prevail. A knowledge of that truth comes by effort and study, yes. But it comes primarily as a gift from God to those who seek in faith.” (GBH “Lord, Increase Our Faith”)

Joseph said, “It is my meditation all the day, and more than my meat and drink, to know how I shall make the Saints of God comprehend the visions that roll like an overflowing surge before my mind. Oh! How I would delight to bring before you things which you never thought of!” (Joseph Smith, Joseph Smith Hist. vol D-1, 16 April 1843, 1556, The Joseph Smith Papers)

Wilford Woodruff: “The fact is, there are a great many things taught in the building up of this kingdom which seem strange to us, being contrary to our traditions, and are calculated to try men. Brother Joseph used a great many methods of testing the integrity of men; and he taught a great many things which, in consequence of tradition, required prayer, faith, and a testimony from the Lord, before they could be believed by many of the Saints. His mind was opened by the visions of the Almighty, and the **Lord taught him many things by vision and revelation that were never taught publicly in his days; for the people could not bear the flood of intelligence** which God poured into his mind.” (Wilford Woodruff, “Necessity of Adhering to the Priesthood in Preference to Science and Art” JD vol. 5 April 9, 1857)

President Heber J Grant spoke of those who could accept the church if we just eliminated Joseph Smith from it. But says he, **“The day can never come when we will do that. As well might we undertake to leave out Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.”** (*Gospel Standards*, 3.) And that **“the whole foundation of this Church rests firmly upon the inspiration of the living God through Joseph Smith the Prophet.”** (*Gospel Standards*, 83.) (Both are quoted in Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Heber J. Grant: Ch. 2: The Mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teachings-heber-j-grant/chapter-2?lang=eng>)

President David O McKay’s father was on a mission and found his audience was bitter. He resolved to not teach about the restoration, but just of general gospel principles. He found that he soon became gloomy, depressed, and “could not enter into the spirit of his work” being so hampered and obstructed.

He prayed to God of how to go on in the work, feeling that he simply could not do it. He then heard a distinct voice say, “Testify that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God.” He then remembered that **6 weeks prior he had made the decision to not teach of the restoration. He now knew that “he had not given that special mission the attention it deserved.”** He was then able to go forth from the cave in which he was praying and effectively preach the gospel.

“Joseph Smith holds the keys of this last dispensation, and is now engaged behind the veil in the great work of the last days....It is his mission to see that all the children of men in this last dispensation are saved, that can be...” (Brigham Young “Intelligence Etc,” in JD vol. 7:289)

“The greatest activity in this world or in the world to come is directly related to the work and mission of Joseph Smith – man of destiny, prophet of God....The Prophet Joseph Smith was not only “one of the noble and great ones,” but he gave and continues to give attention to important matters here on the earth even today from the realms above.” (Ezra Taft Benson, God Family Country: Our Three Great Loyalties 1974 p. 30-31)

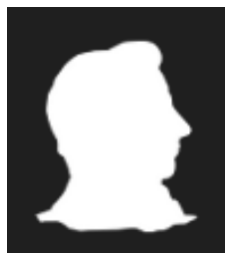
“The measure of a person’s spiritual maturity is found in his or her loyalty to the Prophet Joseph Smith.” (Bruce R. McConkie; “The Bruce R McConkie Story” p. 6)

Brigham Young said he knew Joseph as well or better than anyone, that Joseph was persecuted for the same reasons any righteous man was, and that Joseph was the best man second to Jesus Christ. (JD 9:332)

Lorenzo Snow said he was intimately acquainted with Joseph Smith for years like a brother, and that “there never was a

man that possessed a higher degree of integrity and more devotedness to the interest of mankind than the Prophet Joseph Smith.” (Conf. Report Apr. 1898, 64)

Lorenzo Snow said Joseph was “full of the spirit of his calling...honest in all his endeavors. No one that was as intimately acquainted with him as I was could find any fault with him, so far as his moral character was concerned....I bear testimony of the good character of Brother Joseph smith, of his honesty, his fidelity, his faithfulness, his generosity, and benevolence, as a man and as a servant of God.” (Millennial Star vol.57 no.26 1895, 402)



Heber C. Kimball said we will have plenty of opportunities to “show that you are true to God and his work. **This Church has before it many close places through which it will have to pass** before the work of God is crowned with victory. To meet the difficulties that are coming, **it will be necessary for you to have a knowledge of the truth of this work for yourselves.** The difficulties will be of such character that the man or woman who does not possess this personal knowledge or witness will fall. If you have not got the testimony, live right and call upon the Lord and cease not till you obtain it. If you do not you will not stand....The time will come when no man nor woman will be able to endure on borrowed light. Each will have to be guided by the light within himself. If you do not have it, how can you stand? Do you believe it?” (Heber C Kimball, “Life of Heber C Kimball p. 461) p. 226

Heber C Kimball prophesied of the Prophet Joseph’s “boys” who are asleep, who will rise and bear testimony of Joseph:

“At present the Prophet Joseph’s boys lay apparently in a state of slumber, everything seems to be perfectly calm with them, but by and by God will wake them up, and they will roar like the thunders of Mount Sinai. There is much work to be done: God is not asleep and He will wake up our children and they will bear off this kingdom to the nations of the earth, and will bear testimony to the truth of this work, and of the integrity and true character of Joseph...” (Heber C Kimball, “The Saints Should Prepare for Future Emergencies” JD vol. 4 p6, discourse given June 29, 1857)

Brigham Young said Joseph Smith holds the keys of this last dispensation... and **“no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith”**, that we “must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are – I with you and you with me. I cannot go there without his consent. He holds the keys of that kingdom for the last dispensation – **the keys to rule in the spirit world; and he rules there triumphantly**, for he gained full power and a glorious victory over the power of Satan while he was yet in the flesh, and was a martyr to his religion and to the name of Christ ,which gives him a most perfect victory in the spirit world. **He reigns there as supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling, as God does in heaven.** Many will exclaim – “Oh, that is very disagreeable! It is preposterous! We cannot bear the thought!” But it is true.... Joseph Smith, junior, **will again be on this earth dictating plans and calling forth his brethren**...he will never cease his operations, under the directions of the Son of God, until the last ones of the children of men are saved that can be, from Adam till now. Should not this thought comfort all people?

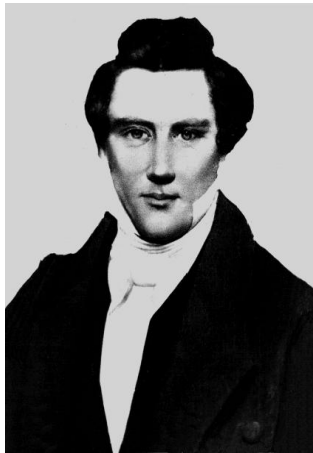
They will, by-and-by, be a thousand times more thankful for such a man as Joseph Smith, junior, that it is possible for them to be for any earthly good whatever....[The Lord] has watched that family and that blood as it has circulated from its fountain to the birth of that man. He was foreordained in eternity to preside over this last dispensation.” (JD 7: 289-290)

Brigham Young said “...no matter how odious his name may be to the inhabitants of the earth. I will defy any nation to hate a man more than the Jews hated the name of Jesus Christ – when he lived in the flesh. I honor and revere the name of Joseph Smith. I delight to hear it; I love it. I love his doctrine.... Should I be hated and my name cast out as evil because I love the truth? Yes, or the words of Jesus could not be fulfilled, for he said, “Ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.”” (JD 13:216)

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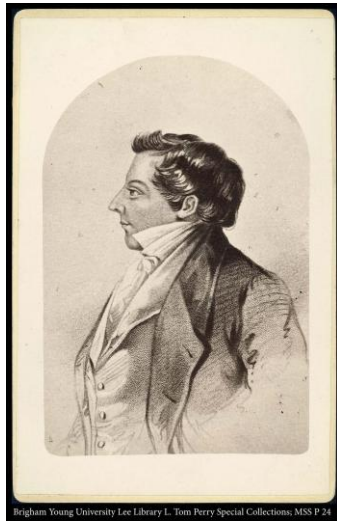


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Depiction of young Joseph reading his Bible.

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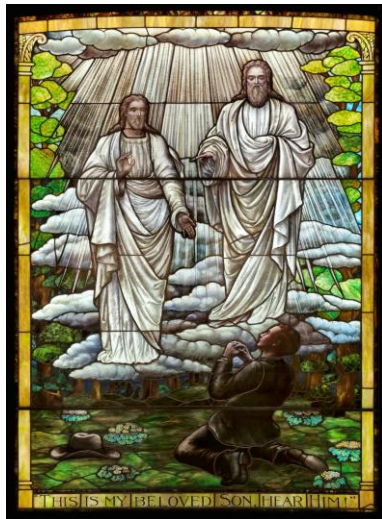


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The First Vision.

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Visited by the angel Moroni.

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Joseph receiving the plates from the angel Moroni.

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Joseph in his Nauvoo Legion uniform.

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Death masks of Joseph (left) and Hyrum Smith.

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Truman G. Madsen's Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith

*These are excerpts in my words on messages shared by
Madsen in his presidents lecture series / book on church
presidents.*

Joseph Smith said were he the emperor of the world he would guarantee all people religious rights. (He wanted to give to others what we have sometimes been denied.)

You think of me as a boy like one of you, Joseph said to Zion's Camp members, but I'm in a position where I'm

governed and controlled by the Lord.

If they send us to hell we'll turn the devil out and make a heaven out of it. (This is basically what happened when leaders of the Church were sent to prisons.)

Madsen says that people say there are 2 Joseph Smiths and that Madsen only teaches the good one. The truth is that **all the firsthand accounts speak of Joseph Smith as being a good man.** The second Joseph Smith is fictitious and a fabrication of evil conspiring men.

They were strict to keep journals from the beginning days of the Church for they knew that they were making history and that one day people would refer to those as scripture.

If they take his rights, fine, but if they go after those of the Saints, he would stand for them. He said this with sword in hand.

The Smith family had verbal threats for their lives. Hence Emma Smith must have wanted to stay back so as to not jeopardize the entire camp going west.

Joseph Smith was said by another prophet to manifest the

power of all the prophets.

The revelation said his life wasn't YET as Job, and it increasingly came to be as time went on.

He was kissed by a man who would betray him.

People broke the law to slay him.

People met in secret to plan his death.

About 150 people were ready to swear with their hand on a bible to not rest until he was killed.

Joseph gave Hyrum a blessing of long life and what would come. But Hyrum forfeited that blessing in order to go with Joseph.

The relationship between Joseph and Hyrum surpasses anything you'll read of any two mortal people in history.

Joseph walked CALMLY toward the window, knowing that whether inside or outside of the jail he would be killed. He was shot in the back and pulled himself through the window, and fell down; in so doing, he managed to save two other

people who were in the jail, for once Joseph had fallen out the window, they yelled “he’s out!” and left.

Hyrum made a covenant with the God of Israel to be where Joseph was, and to die where he died.

Joseph told some with him near his death: don’t worry, they cannot do to us more than they did to the Master. They can only kill our bodies. We and our message will live on.

He said Hyrum demonstrated the very meekness and love of Christ.

One of the prophets said soon the church would be 10 million then one hundred million, in an extension of Joseph Smith’s words that the church would grow to fill North and South America, and eventually to fill the world.

All truth belongs to Mormonism; that if there is any truth in hell, it belongs to the Mormons. That the devil has no attractive kingdom, the devil merely distorts truth. The devil has NOTHING.

Another prophet said that WHEN (not if) the law fails to avenge the blood of Joseph Smith, leave it to God.

The day will come, another prophet said, that Joseph will be known as a temporal and spiritual deliverer of this dispensation like Joseph in Egypt was in his.

When asked “who are you?” He said, “**Noah came before the flood. I have come before the fire.**”

Note: No, the fire didn’t happen in Joseph’s lifetime, but he set the stage to prepare people for it, so he is rightly classed with Noah on this level. He was and is still the head of this dispensation, is still involved with the saints, and will yet be among them, as several prophecies tell.

At the time when things were tense and Joseph was about to be killed, Joseph saw some packing their wagons and leaving the gathering of the Saints. He said as he watched them leave, “there go the cowards.”

No one was convicted for any crime in the murder of Joseph Smith.

The murder of Joseph Smith was an obvious conspiracy.

After Joseph Smith was killed, mobsters continued to rape and plunder the Saints.

Joseph said he doesn't care what they do to him so long as they don't hang him. Hearing this, a 300-pound man (a close associate George Smith I think) offered to be hung in the stead of Joseph Smith.

If you can get the LDS to agree on any matter, you can know that such a matter is of God.

He and Emma moved about 14 times.

He revealed to Eliza Snow that we have a Mother in Heaven.

He said once when strongly influenced by the spirit, that it's as though we were in the presence of The Father and the Son and others who have given their entire lives to build up the Kingdom of God and heal and seal family relationships.

He believed we likely have relatives (now dead) who are our guardian angels who care more for us than we can for them and they have influence in our lives and aren't far from us.

He spoke of the Godhead as the matchless governing quorum over all the creations of the Father.

He taught earnestly against using black and mourning clothes at death and funerals; instead wear white! Eliza Snow said he taught her this.

On Sacred Ground: Reflections on Joseph Smith by Truman G Madsen – Documentary Highlights

When darkness happens, you can rejoice knowing light is about to come. Joseph Smith had such an experience just before his First Vision, and when he heard one missionary had such an experience, he rejoiced knowing that soon the work would go forward well in that region.

At Joseph's first vision, he first see's one being come down and touch his forehead, then another descends. The first person says pointing to the other, "This is my beloved Son".

Physicists have found that there are planets with one trillion times the brightness of our sun. This goes with what Joseph Smith said that a person must be transformed to endure the presence of God, the radiation from Him, that brightness.

The angel Moroni has light gathered around him when he leaves Joseph Smith's room, this suggests that light is an intrinsic part of the personality of resurrected beings, and that they can spread that light.

There is record of at least 23 subsequent visits of Moroni to Joseph Smith; he was his tutor, a full semester of one on one training.

John Taylor said that Joseph Smith was as familiar with ancient prophets as we are with one another

Hyrum Smith said that there were prophets before, but Joseph Smith has the element of all of those prophets. There were things of the prior prophets which had to do with elements of the life of Joseph Smith.

One revelation says about Emma Smith the wife of Joseph Smith, "whom I have given unto you" which suggests that the Lord made that marriage.



Adam and Eve together understood what they were doing in The Fall; it was to keep procreation going; marriage, contrary to what was the current opinion, was good, and to prepare for

heaven, and could continue after death, and is required for the exaltation of a person. Hence the latter-day saint religion is known as a family religion.

Urim and Thummim means light and truth; anciently it was used in determining the innocence of guilt of someone; also at times Urim meant yes, the Thummim meant no for cases where they were seeking divine guidance. But it did more. There was visual aspects to it. Toward the end of the translation process he didn't need this tool, since he himself became a sort of a Urim and Thummim, a seer.

Note: I don't know about that, the best information is from the scriptures that report that the Urim & Thummim were the prophesied tools for translating the sacred record.

When Martin Harris lost the manuscript, Joseph Smith doesn't blame Harris, but himself. He asked the Lord too many times and didn't accept the Lord's first answer.

In Hebrew terms, John the Baptist means John the immerser.

John the Baptist thought of Jesus Christ in ancient terms, anointed one, Messiah. Hence, he says in the name of Messiah when he confers the Aaronic Priesthood to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdry.

Joseph said that when he was baptized and got the Holy Ghost, he understood the scriptures like he never before could, even though he had visions and divine tutoring before this point.

There were 160 at least trials against Joseph, these were frivolous.

Twice the Old Testament says in good Hebrew, that Moses communed with God panim v panim, face to face. Then it goes on to say, “as one man converses with another.” This is the ultimate blessing of the Melchizedek Priesthood.

The book of Third Nephi can be called a 5th gospel.

Why do we have the angel Moroni on the temples? For he is the messenger spoken of in the book of Revelation who tells of the coming of the Latter-day Kingdom.

Book of Mormon is called a golden bible, replacing the bible, but that's the reverse of the truth, for this book is to help establish the bible. It's not like Jews who say it's all closed after the Torah, or the Islam who says it's all closed after the Quran, or the Christians who say it's all closed after the bible. Books have been coming forth, Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Phillip, these have echoes of the authentic teachings of Christ. Scholars say there is just as much reason to trust these as words of Jesus as the other gospels in the bible. So why not look at more potential scriptures like the Book of Mormon?

Unorganized religion isn't living; isn't vital. There must be a people meeting together fulfilling the purposes of God, where the ordinances of the scriptures are performed.

Being baptized is merely being born again; then we must grow up unto Christ, and this requires higher and higher ordinances.

Many saw the Prophet Joseph Smith or parts of the restoration in vision before missionaries arrived to them which helped them know that these were messengers from the Lord

Joseph learned that the fullness of the Priesthood is only available in the House of the Lord.

John Taylor in the early Church said that if we understood the restoration of the gospel, how the ancients saw it, we would spend all of our time to promote it. He insisted we don't comprehend its magnitude, nor have we caught the vision.

Without the powers of the higher Priesthood, the powers of Godliness are not manifest unto men says the scripture Joseph Smith brought forth.

The ancients have looked forward to this time of Joseph Smith and the restoration, they rhapsodized about it and sang about it. Now it's for us to roll it forth.

It takes discernment to know which spirits are of God and which are of the devil.

The school of the prophets which Joseph Smith set up was because they could not be saved in ignorance.

There was a formal greeting of brethren which spoke of their love and covenant to uphold each other remembering the New and Everlasting Covenant which they were to say to each other upon meeting one another.

When the Word of Wisdom was revealed, the brethren present took their pipes and threw them into the fire.

Perfect love entails our love to God and recognition of the love to God toward us. Joseph Smith said that until we have this love we are liable to fall. This entails getting our names into the Lamb's book of life, into his book of remembrance, then it's impossible for false Christ's to deceive us.

Those who have not seen God are considered "in the wilderness."

Some of the witnesses had visions where they actually saw Christ on the cross. They could stand with Joseph Smith and say they knew he lives; they know the gospel is true. These are the "Special Witnesses."

Joseph taught that if you are faithful in the gospel of Jesus Christ, ALL of your losses will be made up to you.

God cannot force us to heaven, we can resist him forever. It's not only that he will not, he cannot. This is what Joseph Smith taught. Such would be contrary to the nature of God.

When we don't honor the power of Christ, in the eternities, the powers of procreation will be denied us.

The only time Christ referred to himself as perfect (3 Nephi) was after his Resurrection when he had a body of flesh and bones. This shows such is essential, and reminds us that God the Father has a body of flesh and bones.

Anything you can say about Christ you can potentially say about mankind. This is blasphemous in the traditional Christian theology.

As the Jews see it, when you kill a person you kill a nation, or when you save a person you save a nation, and they view themselves as accountable to God as a whole, as a people.

Some see salvation as 41% good and 51% bad you go to hell, and vice versa, but not so. You are rewarded according to your deeds, it's not a line in the sand.

There was the Kirtland temple dedication where the building looked like it was on fire, the Holy Ghost was so strong poured out upon it.

What's different with a temple compared to a normal meeting house? God had promised to reveal himself in the temple.

Some people tried to set fire to the temple at one time and it didn't work. God was protecting it till his time with it was finished.

At the dedication of the Kirkland temple angels were standing in and on the temple, children and many others could see them.

When Christ comes you'll shout with your whole being Hosannas.

After great blessings will come trial; such Joseph Smith taught after many spoke in tongues etc. at the Kirkland temple dedication; indeed persecution came.

They saw Jesus Christ standing on the pulpit of the Kirkland temple; His hair white, His voice as that of the rushing of great waters.

Daniel speaks of the Ancient of Days coming to sit at a great meeting. We proclaim it will be at Jackson County Missouri at the meeting of Adam-ondi-Ahman.

Adam was told "in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surly die". Considering that one thousand years is a day to God, indeed, Adam died within our thousand years of the time he ate that fruit. (*No man has ever lived more than 1000 years on this earth, though some have come close.)

The word Eve Joseph Smith translated as "Lives", suggesting plurality of her motherhood.

Joseph was charged with treason, but in courts today, that would have been considered flimsy and not had against him.

Joseph played sports with the boys he said 'this will help the boys and the boys will become trusted' that became true. Joseph Smith said that we should not think that he is unaware

of the issues in the church etc. just because he plays sports etc.

When boys vandalized a fence, the court wanted them in jail for six months. Joseph Smith said no, that would only make them hardened. Let me be responsible, I'll have them filling in pot holes in the road till they make enough money to pay for the damages. The boys did so, and in their journals they said they became better men for it.

When newcomers came and they had children, Joseph Smith first greeted the children, almost ignoring the parents, then he would greet the parents.

Joseph was always the first to jump to his feet when he heard a child crying.

Joseph said, "if a man is not honored in his own home, the only reproach is on him." he would often help with all the household chores.

Joseph would have people listen to other preachers and tell them to take all well of what was said well, then Joseph Smith would fill in the blanks from the restored gospel.

One man couldn't confound Joseph Smith with his preaching, and went and called for God to send fire down to consume Joseph Smith. Joseph said "your God does not hear you"

The man on the cross question, Joseph Smith was asked that by a preacher who said that man was not baptized. Joseph

laughed and said ‘how do you know he was not baptized? But that is not the point. He went to the world of spirits.’

Joseph would often come home with guests for dinner with little or no warning.

Joseph had an incredible recuperative power, as he went through trials he seemed not to age but to get even more exuberant and lively.

Joseph would never ask what the consequence would be to him, rather what the right thing to do would be. He was a man of principle.

Joseph could concentrate well even with children playing in the room.

Joseph was not hard to get along with or odd, just the opposite.

Joseph taught his family that they should pray together 3 times a day

Basically there were always guests in the Joseph Smith home.

When people heard Joseph kneel and pray, they observed he did so humble as a little child, recognizing his total dependence on God. He didn’t much change his voice tone, just a humble conversation with the living God

Joseph said that if you don't feel the spirit by the end of your prayer it wasn't very good, not all the way heard by God, or not to expect it totally to be answered.

While Joseph prayed some stood and rubbed their knees then knelt again since it was so long.

Once they had only Johnny cake (corn bread) to eat. Joseph prayed thanks for it, and that they might have something better. There something of new food was on their porch, a turkey and a ham. Joseph said "See Emma? God has answered my prayer!"

Make a list of all the headings Jesus Christ did, they can all be matched in a column alongside it by what Joseph did, including raising the dead.

Joseph prayed to be like Enoch, that he could prepare a people for the very presence of God.

Joseph promised the Saints a new manna and a new name and to be kings and priests unto God if they were faithful. These are temple promises. The white raiment promise is given, such is worn in the temple to foresee that.

Joseph taught the Saints that they needed the temple endowment in order to overcome all things. Where is this in the scriptures? Joseph taught that Peter in the day of Pentecost even after the temple had been defiled, he obtained a house and practice baptism for the dead and ordinances of washing and anointing etc.

Bible scholars today agree that Paul wrote of baptism for the dead because it was practice of the Christian church.

Joseph taught the Saints that they could not begin to comprehend how grateful people are for whom we do work for in the temples. He said those people would one day kneel at your feet and express such gratitude to you that it's hard to comprehend.

Joseph taught that our ancestors know our feelings and are often pained by such.

Joseph taught that Adam and Eve partook of the fruit somewhat knowingly, so they could help the human family come to the world.

Joseph taught that to have a body was a step forward in progression rather than being a form of a prison.

Joseph taught that family relations will be intensified for the faithful in the next life.

Joseph taught the biblical idea that if the wife of a man die, then he marry again (*these marriages being sealed in the temple; recall the scripture saying none have the wife if it's not sealed), then the man will have several wives in heaven, and that such would be a blessing to the family raising up more posterity. This seems bitter at first, but one comes to see it is from the Lord.

An angel with a drawn sword came to Joseph and told him that he could not move the church forward one more inch without this principle of plural marriage. Like the book of Jacob says, it's what the Lord uses at times to raise up seed unto Him.

Eliza Snow was asked how she put up with plural marriage, she said she learned to love the beauty of that principle.

The women were not able to live the law of plural marriage without getting a witness from the spirit that this principle was true. They learned that it would cause them to have righteous posterity, and other blessings. They would in turn be the army of missionaries that could build up the gospel in the world. This is what they believed.

If you think plural marriage was for lust, think about it. Polygamy required you to provide for your wives, and to serve them daily in your home. There are easier ways to get lust than that.

Joseph changed the bible passage saying love not things on the earth to love not things of the world. This is because the earth itself is a temple, it is created of the Lord.

Joseph knew that stage by stage, covenant by covenant, Christ was waiting. He brings blessings for each covenant. For baptism, get fire and the Holy Ghost. For Priesthood, get endowment. For sacrament, get the spirit to always be with you. At temple, get promise that He will give us all He has. You see, being born again comes by ordinances of the

kingdom of God. These are found at the temple and all Saints are invited there through their whole life.

They would meet with the prophet almost daily, it seemed he would not leave them alone. When asked why, Joseph responded “The Spirit urges me.”

Joseph conferred all the authority to lead the Church on the heads of the 12 Apostles before he died, having a sense that he was going to die, so that they could carry on the ministry. He did the laying on of hands like the bible says. He said he was going to rest. They didn’t understand what that meant. He told them they have all the authority to lead the Church toward the Celestial Kingdom of God. He said he didn’t expect to live to see the temple finished but sensed he would be killed. He was.

Joseph told the Apostles that they must round up their shoulders and bear off the kingdom or they would be damned.

An audio recording of 1897 of Wilford Woodruff is on the film, John Taylor then being the only person still living who knew Joseph in person.

Joseph said to the Apostles, ‘if you have to die, I pity you, but remember, Christ had to die first.’

Joseph said always go with the majority of the 12 Apostles and the records of the Church and you will not go astray.

Joseph said he could trust Willard Richards with everything

Joseph told people your journals will be sought after as history etc.

BH Roberts said Journal of Wilford Woodruff is one of the greatest historical treasures we have.

Joseph wouldn't sleep until he had written down sermons he gave, this has been a great blessing to us. (This might be a typo on my part, it might be that Woodruff wouldn't let himself sleep until he had transcribed Joseph's speeches.)

Joseph said children are what Abraham was promised; Abraham said I want quality children; the Lord said that his children would be like the stars, meaning that kind of magnitude, that quality, and also many in number.

When we do ordinances in the temple, it helps families which had been divided by hate come back together; the abused persons can plea to God for the mercy of their abusers, and God will hear their cries and forgive them for the sake of the abused persons. This is how people come together, and merit the sanction of God, and become as the stars, majestic.

Hyrum Smith said to Joseph, In the name of Jesus Christ, I will go where you go, and I will die where you die. Joseph said Amen. Joseph plead with Hyrum to leave him on the road to Carthage, Hyrum said he could not, for he promised that he would not.

Willard Richards offered to be hung in the stead of Joseph.

One who saw Joseph die said that he died with a smile on his face.

It has been said that a true martyr doesn't seek nor resist martyrdom; Joseph falls into that category; Joseph had been told by the Savior, even if they do to you what they have done to me, blessed are ye for ye shall dwell with me in glory.

Joseph said that were it not for the love he had for his family and friends, death to him would be as sweet as honey

Brigham told Joseph that he was laying out 20 years' worth of things to do; then Joseph responded "yes, and you are going to do it!"

When it was near the time of the death of Joseph, Joseph said 'I could do more to build the kingdom on the other side of the veil than I could here.'

Joseph saw visions of the resurrection so vivid, he saw people come up out of their graves, the grave open, the person sit up, then embrace the person by them exclaiming 'my mother! my father! This is why Joseph commanded Brigham to bury him near his family.

People describing Joseph often used superlatives when describing Joseph. For example John Taylor said Joseph was the most learned man he ever knew despite having traveled continents.

Brigham called the sermons of Joseph sweet like honey.

Brigham wanted to hear all Joseph had to say even if it was merely his own opinion.

Wilford Woodruff said Joseph was like a bed of gold hidden from the view of his generation, that people didn't recognize him for what he was.

-Franklin D Richards said that Joseph was the most healing in his personal presence; simply to shake his hand or be with him a few minutes as a healing uplifting experience.

Emeline B Wells wrote that she hardly knew how to live without occasionally hearing the prophet; she said he was like the prophet poet mixed together.

Emma Smith said the greatest miracle of Joseph was Joseph himself.

Bathsheba Smith said that Joseph's blue eyes seemed to penetrate the deepest hearts.

Personal Glimpses of the Prophet Joseph Smith by Hyrum & Helen Andrus – Book

Notes

Hyrum Andrus is a well-known Joseph Smith scholar who taught at BYU and gave stirring lectures on the doctrines of the restoration.

This book adds to quotes from Andrus' book "They Knew the Prophet," another brilliant resource.

One family was promised by Joseph Smith that the mob wouldn't hurt them, 3 torches were put to their home, but none would light the home on fire.

One boy was clubbed all the way home because he believed in the prophet Joseph Smith. This boy also was a target for an assassin to drown in a river, but the assassin said the boy could go after the boy insisted he had done no evil to him.

Joseph Smith once quickly disguised himself when a mob approached as an old lady to be able to escape from the mob.

Joseph Smith as General rode a black horse and wore a tall feather in his hat as he led his men sword in hand.

Once Joseph Smith entered the room you knew it; his gaze seemed to pierce you, his humility and innocence shone.

Joseph Smith quoted scriptures in Greek Hebrew Latin and German.

Joseph Smith told the people you don't know me and never will till you see me weighed in the balance.

Joseph Smith said I wish I could release my feelings; there are things I could tell you which some on the stand would kill me were I to speak.

The prophet had 24 youth who could go up a mount and speak with God face to face as did Moses on Mt. Sinai to help find the Saints a place to locate; One boy prayed weather he should accept the calling when he was asked to be a part of the group, he stood to object and a voice told him stay and rest a while though no one was close to him to speak it. He was also shown a vision of the USA as it would be in the future, entirely as the Garden of Eden, and other travels he was to do were shown to him, including how he would have to pass by guards who would ask him passwords, the which would come to him by inspiration as he approached the guards.

Joseph said this gospel gathers up some of the meanest creatures of this creation and some of the finest.



Joseph, after having given the authority to the twelve said I'm going to rest now a while; they didn't quite understand what he meant.

On the way to Carthage Joseph Smith rode over to his farm workers and said, "How are you boys!" He noticed them even in this dire moment; he loved to be among the farm animals; he was the lover of a good horse; he told those soldiers that were marching him to Carthage, "Gentlemen, these are my friends!" then he told them their names, shook the hands of the farm workers and bid them a good day and farewell. The farm workers of Joseph called him **the most frank man** they had ever known.

Joseph rebuked a guy, and the guy wanted to fight him, so Joseph went ahead and fought him.

Egyptian mummies were kept in the prophet's home.

A boy would sit in the prophet's lap and look in the Urim and Thummim.

Porter Rockwell would come to Joseph's home and if he would wave his hat it meant all is well if not it meant a mob

was coming; there was a book shelf that would appear full, they would put such in front of a cellar in which Joseph would go hide.

Sara Elizabeth Homes, a young girl, would sit on the porch of Joseph Smith's home and watch for mobs.

Not in the form of a dove but the sign of a dove did the Holy Ghost ascend upon Jesus at his baptism.

Joseph said the German rendition of the bible is better than the Saint James version.

At the time of the tower of Babel when the tongues were confounded, each tongue had a part of the pure language, and when the pure language is restored, it will have a part of each language (as we now know them) Joseph says.

Joseph said I am an innocent man. If I have to go I will go like a man, if I have to die I will die like a man.

When Joseph was going to be in very dangerous circumstances he was going to go into hiding but his friends didn't want him to so he said, 'if my life is of no worth to my friends it is of no worth to myself' and he didn't go into hiding.

Joseph was so considerate and manly and sympathetic you couldn't help but like him.

Joseph would play ball with the boys for a considerable amount of time then he would say ‘well boys I must go home and work’ then the rest of the boys would go at the same time. This showed his considerable influence.

Joseph said that the Constitution of the USA is part of his religion and a good part too.

Joseph said if needed he could go and lead the abled bodied men and the world would see what they could do.

Joseph said ‘brethren if any of you have anything against me come and tell me and make it right do not be backward come publicly or privately be satisfied that I talked to you about anything against me.

Joseph said when your enemies call for quarters be sure you give them the same and you’ll have power over the world.

Joseph said if you are called to fight make sure to not stain your garments with the blood of women and children.

Joseph said our persecutions are like a wheel of fortune, that if the wheel is on top of us right now (being persecuted presently) then eventually the wheel will roll on and we will be on top of it.

Joseph asked the people ‘are you willing to die for me?’ they all said yes. Joseph said, ‘I am your father. **Shall I not be your father?**’ they all said yes. Joseph said, ‘I am willing to lay down my life for you.’

Joseph said 'I have unsheathed my sword and it shall never again be sheathed until there be vengeance upon all of our enemies. The earth shall tremble and the with earthquakes shall the earth be shaken and the seas will heave themselves beyond their bounds. These things shall be brought against your enemies for your preservation as the people of the Lord. Now I deliver myself up to their hands.'

One man was about to die he was carried on a sheet to a place to be baptized he knew if he could be baptized he could live. When he was baptized he felt as good as he ever did.

For D&C 104 it was a revelation Joseph got; someone walked in with Joseph in their arms he being limp; Joseph was in a revelation at the time.

One family borrowed to Joseph 50 dollars, they told Joseph 'if we don't go then we won't need the money.' Joseph said 'it is the will of the Lord that you should go. I don't know how we will get the money, but it will come.' Joseph was able to sell a half acre lot and said, 'I told you I would give you the money!'

Joseph would teach and his face would seem almost transparent.

Joseph said, 'if I would make known what God has revealed to me to some of these who pretend to be my friends they would seek my life' (to kill me)

Joseph was teaching so powerfully even the young boys came to hear; a policeman came to take them away but Joseph said, 'let the boys alone, they will learn something they will never forget.' (Journal of Harvey Harris Cluff)

Joseph had the people travel sometimes with arms, sometimes without. They didn't travel on Sundays but stopped and held meetings.

Joseph prophesied that the cholera that was going to come upon them as a scourge right before it came. He tried to get rid of it.

-One man was screaming a prayer so all could hear, Joseph Smith told him not to pray like that, braying like a jackass, and said don't ever let me hear you praying like that again. The man went away much upset.

Joseph said when a man crosses a place where much blood has been shed he will feel depressed and uncomfortable.

The company found 3 rattlesnakes and were going to kill them, but Joseph stopped them saying that the lion will lie down with the lamb when man ceases to wage war with the reptiles. Then the serpent's disposition would change. They then carried the snakes across the creek on sticks. During the journey they didn't kill any kind of game unless they needed it. There was a rattlesnake by the head of one sleeping the folks gathered round and were going to kill it but the man woke and said 'no you shan't kill it for he and i have had a good nap together. I will protect him.'

Some were jesting with swords and one cut the skin from anthers hand and Joseph told them to be careful and control their spirits and never to hurt one another in such situations.

Joseph got sweet bread from a cook while the others got sour bread; Joseph reproved the cook and chose rather to eat the sour with the rest.

Some said they didn't think a college could change people as much as did this camp.

Whenever spies came into the camp they picked out the weakest one in the camp to quiz.

They found what they thought to be turtle eggs; Joseph said don't eat them, they could be of a poisonous reptile like snake eggs; they ate them anyway and got sick.

Joseph had a faithful watchdog; people wanted to kill it for barking in the night; Joseph said 'I will give you a sampling of the spirit that is among this camp. If a dog bites them they want to kill it. If a man offends him, they want to kill him. That is the spirit which is keeping this world bad.'

Martin Harris playing with a black snake to show how he had power over serpents as the scriptures said, he was bitten. Joseph said not to do that, that such protection is void when we egg on the danger.

The promise was only for when a man of God accidentally was bitten.

At times they had to wade through mud and water waist deep and some without even stockings.

They usually ate mush, and once when there was some ham but not enough for everyone they didn't use it.

They would gather dry leaves to make for a bed.

They would wet the tent so that water would run over it.

Water ran over some until their blankets were 6 inches in water.

250 men came to attack the camp, but a huge storm came; one was killed by lightning, another had his hand torn off by a horse; the men of Zions camp had all their pistols working dispute the rain. Had the storm been as strong in Zions camp falling branches would have no doubt killed many of the members of the camp. The enemies fled.

One man was more concerned with his food and his family than the welfare of Zion and was rebuked.

The appearance of Joseph was very kind noble and compassionate.

When people would hear Joseph explain the bible they would wonder why they had never considered it in that way or in that light.

When Joseph would wrestle a certain man, the other guy would win when it was Joseph the man he was wrestling, but when it was Joseph the Prophet he was wrestling, yes when Joseph was thus under the spirit of the Lord, Joseph would always win.

Joseph shook hands with the members of Zions camp and carefully took care to their comforts with a happy smile and a cheerful countenance.

Joseph was the busiest man in the camp yet when he saw a child he would turn and say a word of comfort to them.

Joseph would go to a little boy in the camp and say 'is there no place for you my boy? If not, we must make one.'

Joseph was fond of children. He would not cross a child without speaking to the child; even if one was across the street, if it was alone, he would cross the street to speak with the child.

Joseph also helped the aged with his strong arm.

They had come across a book they were going to write the history of the church on, well bound, good pages, but they counted the pages it had to see if it would be cheaper to buy the pages in a ream. This shows how poor they were. (they also recorded revelations on scrap paper when they couldn't afford other paper, one page lined, another not lined, one white, one yellow, one torn, etc. (see Madsen's Joseph Smith lectures))

One wanted work Joseph told him 'I'll give you work enough for twenty men.'

In the middle of a temple dedication prayer, the angel Peter came inside to approve of such. They felt an astonishing influence come over them during the prayer, a swift thing, which Joseph explained was Peter entering the temple for such.

Some who had bodily afflictions had such glorious visions that they basically forgot about their bodily afflictions.

One saw a vision of a grave opened up for him; he was very ill at the time of the vision; but then in the vision the earth filled up the grave instead of himself. From that time on he quickly recovered.

The faithful in the church would inspire their children with much respect for the prophet.

One boy at age 14 when the prophet Joseph was murdered, felt that he was willing to lay down his life for the kingdom as well, he felt that way the rest of his life.

It was a privilege to look upon Joseph, a man who had seen angels.

Wicked men hunted Joseph like a wild doe in the mountains and he had to flee before them into the holes and rocks and dens of the earth.

Joseph said to speak in your natural tone. Don't do gestures that are unnatural.

He taught that if we are all obedient, the word of God is truth, so we are all one man, and like the angels and have communion with them.

Phrenology, Joseph thought of, but was rebuked by the Lord. God said it's of the devil. It was the works of the devil and there is no reality in such a science.

He taught that this is not God's first world, for Jesus teaches that he does nothing but what he has seen His Father do, so he must have seen the Father creating worlds.

He said it's not a vice for you to defend yourself when your country is attacked.

He heard that one in coming to rescue him his horse got hurt and was breathing loud; Joseph said I will yet compensate you for that service.

2 men had arrested Joseph and abused his rights and so forth. He had them stay for dinner before he would let them leave and he introduced them to his children and treated them just like anybody.

Joseph told the brethren that it was time that the prophecy of the hearts turning to the fathers it is time for such; he told them to pray for it until they receive it; one brother prayed for it each morning at a time set apart for such and he eventually

a feeling encompassed him about how he is nothing compared to God and a conviction that to get salvation he needs to be exactly obedient.

One man was getting after his cow. He said, "Get on you old fool!". Joseph Smith happened to be riding by. Joseph got off of his horse and came and patted the head of the cow and said, "you aren't a fool are you little missy?" the man never forgot that, and it would always make him cry when he told it to his grandchildren.

He said that when the earth was created it was too big; in the days of Peleg it was decided, then again when the ten tribes went to the land of the north it was divided.

Joseph said that the earth will come into contact with more matter, another planet or something, and that will cause it to reel

Joseph loved fish and the outdoor life.

One man had an unlawful cow; he asked Joseph Smith about it; Joseph said to return the cow to its rightful owner, and soon you will have cows more than you can feed. (from the life sketches of Moses Emit from BYU library)

A storm was coming once when Joseph Smith was preaching, he told those in attendance to just stand up, and that everything would be alright. They did so, and the sun came out and all was well.

Joseph had a cheerful countenance and always seemed to be happy.

When Joseph died, Brigham Young stood to speak. As he did, the voice of Joseph was heard from him. Other accounts state that the face of Joseph was also seen. (This was a sign to the saints that Brigham was the next leader of the saints and is referred to as the transfiguration of Brigham.)

Joseph had 48 lawsuits and none of them could bring any wrong against him.

Joseph went to a cave where there were as many plates as could fill wagon loads; the sword of Laban was on the wall; it was bright as day; they didn't know if the sunlight was there or if it was artificial light, they didn't think about it.

Joseph said the good love me weak and humble as I am, and the evil hate me. I will lead people to salvation if they will let me. I'll take them by the hand like a child and lead them like a father in the way that will bring them to salvation.

Joseph got revelation line upon line until he had everything he needed for the salvation of people.

One man spoke of how it was worth traveling 400 miles to see the prophet.

Some went to find Joseph Smith and they thought he would just be sitting in some sanctum giving out spiritual blessings and instruction for the Kingdom, but they were told when

they went to his house that he was a half mile away chopping firewood. They had forgotten the temporal part. When he saw them he said, “brethren I am glad to see you!” He threw down his axe and said, “boys take care of my axe.” (an account from Joseph Young)

Joseph told Joseph Young how Sidney Rigdon will go to hell until the day of redemption since he is always trying to take my place.

One man had to work his crops before he could go help with the publication of the Book of Mormon. He woke in the morning to go do that, and all of his cropping was done. He didn’t know who did it, but it was done just as he would’ve done it.

As they were departing there was an old man sweating and he said “good morning gentlemen! It’s a warm morning!” he had a brown woolen clothe suit, was heady set, had a white beard. They invited him to come with him, but he said, “I am going to Cumorah” and then he disappeared.

On the way home with the plates Joseph got smacked by someone with a club demanding the plates, Joseph knocked the man down and ran home.

Joseph moved the plates from being under the floor the day before someone came and tore up his floor.

One detractor said of Joseph, “Damn him! Angels appearing to this day in age?! Damn him! He ought to be tarred and feathered for telling such a lie!”

Abraham Lincoln said if you should tar and feather all the liars you should soon run out of funds to purchase all the material. He said how it doesn’t matter what people believe, it doesn’t hurt you.

Joseph said that he was told to quit the company with the money diggers, that they were evil people and that he must have nothing more to do with them. He must not lie or swear or steal.

Joseph was instructed that he was to look in the spectacles to see that man that would assist him and he did and he saw Martin Harris. Martin Harris said, “you ought to be careful.” Joseph told him “I saw you standing before me as plainly as anything.” Harris then said “if it’s the devil’s work I want nothing to do with it, but if it’s the God’s work, I’ll help you get all the money you can to help put it forward. If the Lord shows me that this is his work, you can have all the money you need to put it forward [from me].” he prayed telling God that if he would make it known to him whether this was the work of God he would give all he had to put it forward. At that point it was made known unto him that this work was true.

In translating the Book of Mormon, a sentence would appear. Joseph would read it. It would be written by a scribe. If it was written correctly, the sentence would disappear, and another

would appear. If it was not written correctly, the sentence would not disappear.

During the translation of the Book of Mormon, they would go out and throw stones into the river for exercise; there was a stone Martin Harris found that looked like the one they were using to translate; Harris put it in place of the stone they were using to translate. Joseph looked down at the translation table with the stone on it for a time, he usually was quick but this time he paused. He told Harris, “All is as dark as Egypt! What have you done?” Harris said he had replaced the stone with a fake one to stop the mouths of fools who were claiming that Joseph Smith had merely been memorizing the sentences.

Note: The source for this story about the river rock and translation by seer stone may itself be questionable, particularly in light of scriptures teaching of a Urim & Thummim translation.

The Spirit is able to make much known in a short amount of time. The world thinks that Joseph Smith’s publications are false for there is so much material in them, and normally it takes a long time to learn information.

As they got visions they spoke of how doubt fled forever never to rise again. They said the words of the angel who came to give them the Priesthood were so lovely and powerful that no mortal could speak that way.

One word from the mouth of the Savior from the bosom of eternity strikes all the evils down.

THE ROLE & MISSION OF JOSEPH

President Hinckley Shows: We Look to Joseph Smith's Revelations

Gordon [B. Hinckley] "Q: And this belief in contemporary revelation and prophecy? As the prophet, tell us how that works. How do you receive divine revelation? What does it feel like?

A: Let me say first that **we have a great body of revelation, the vast majority of which came from the prophet Joseph Smith. We don't need much revelation. We need to pay more attention to the revelation we've already received.** Now, if a problem should arise on which we don't have an answer, we pray about it, we may fast about it, and it comes. Quietly. Usually no voice of any kind, but just a perception in the mind. I liken it to Elijah's experience. When he sought the Lord, there was a great wind, and the Lord was not in the wind. And there was an earthquake, and the Lord was not in the earthquake. And a fire, and the Lord was not in the fire. But in a still, small voice. Now that's the way it works"

[San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday, April 13, 1997]

Brigham Young on Standing With Joseph Smith

"I am a Josephite, or, in other words, I am a full believer in the mission and calling of Joseph Smith, Jun., as a Prophet of God to this world in this generation, and I wish the people everywhere to distinctly understand this fact.

The Saints in all ages have been protected, sustained, and upheld by an Almighty Power, in their sufferings, and the power of the religion of Jesus Christ has ever sustained them. The Jews anciently said let His blood be upon us and upon our children, and God took them at their word.

This nation, by their works said, "Let the blood of Joseph the Prophet and of his brethren be upon us and our children," and it will be so. If they had known Joseph Smith in his true character, and acknowledged him, he would have led this nation long before now, and this dreadful war would not have prevailed throughout the land; but now it will be death upon death, and blood upon blood until the land is cleansed. I pray God to save the innocent, the righteous, and the honest poor, and to let those who desire to shed the blood of each other fall first in this deadly strife."

—Brigham Young, JD 10:282

Joseph Smith Knew More Than He Was Allowed To Teach

Joseph Smith said he knew much more than he taught, and could have taught MUCH more than he did, but was held back due to the unrighteousness of the saints.

Joseph Smith: “It is my meditation all the day, and more than my meat and drink, to know how I shall make the Saints of God comprehend the visions that roll like an overflowing surge before my mind. Oh! How I would delight to bring before you things which you never thought of!” (Joseph Smith, JS Hist vol D-1, 16 April 1843, 1556, The Joseph Smith Papers)

Joseph Smith: “I could explain a hundred fold more than I ever have, of the glories of the Kingdoms manifested to me in the vision, were I permitted, and were the people prepared to receive it, the Lord deals with this people as a tender parent with a child, communicating light and intelligence and the knowledge of his ways, as they can hear it.” (Joseph Smith, JS Hist vol D-1, 16 April 1843, 1556, The Joseph Smith Papers)

Joseph Smith: “Brother Brigham, if I was to reveal to this people what the Lord has revealed to me, there is not a man or woman would stay with me.” (Joseph Smith; JD vol 9, discourse given May 25 1862, Brigham Young “Endless Variety of Organizations – Blessings that Await the Faithful”) p209

Wilford Woodruff: “The fact is, there are a great many things taught in the building up of this kingdom which seem strange to us, being contrary to our traditions, and are calculated to try men. Brother Joseph used a great many methods of testing the integrity of men; and he taught a great many things which, in consequence of tradition, required prayer, faith, and a testimony from the Lord, before they could be believed by many of the Saints. His mind was opened by the visions of the Almighty, and the Lord taught him many things by vision and revelation that were never taught publicly in his days; for the people could not bear the flood of intelligence which God poured into his mind.” (Wilford Woodruff, “Necessity of Adhering to the Priesthood in Preference to Science and Art” JD vol. 5 April 9, 1857)

Brigham Young: “In the due time of the Lord, the Saints and the world will be privileged with the revelations that are due to them. They now have many more than they are worthy of, for they do not observe them. The Gentile nations have had more of the revelations of God than is their just due. And I will say, as I have before said, if guilt before my God and my brethren rests upon me in the least, it is in this one thing – that I have revealed too much concerning God and his kingdom, and the designs of our Father in heaven. If my skirts are stained in the least with wrong, it is because I have been too free in telling what God is, how he lives, the nature of his Providences and designs in creating the world, in bringing forth the human family on the earth, his designs concerning them, &c. If I had, like Paul, said – “But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant,” perhaps it would have been better for the people.” (BY, “Privileges of the Sabbath – Duty of Living Our Religion – Human Longevity, &c,” in JD vol.8:58)

Messiah Ben Joseph: Ancient Jewish Legend Identified as Joseph Smith the Prophet

Book and his name shall be Joseph by Joseph Fielding McConkey on the Messiah ben Joseph Jewish legend. Messiah means anointed one. He is Messiah the king and did Joseph was anointed king of Israel he is to be of the seed of Joseph of Egypt and in a patriarchal blessing of Joseph Smith from his father it was revealed that Joseph of Egypt wept and hope to see who would bring the people together in the last days of his posterity and he saw Joseph Smith Jr the prophecy is also that he would be able to tribe of Ephraim and the doctrine and covenants tells us Joseph is of the tribe of Ephraim. Is to live on the earth before Messiah Ben David.

His teaching causes erroneous things that have crept into Israel to vanish after a period of apostasy Joseph comes and corrects things and this he did. That Elijah would return during the days of Messiah Ben Joseph which he did. That he would build a temple in Israel and restore true worship. Messiah Ben Joseph would be protected by Messiah Ben David and we have the prophecy of Joseph Smith that he would not die until his work was complete. He would die as a martyr. John Pratt and LDS astronomer wrote of how in ancient Israel there were two sacrifices one representing

Messiah and Judah and another in the evening representing the last days Messiah Ben Joseph. Elijah came to give keys to Joseph Elijah sacrificed the evening Bullock which is the bull which represents Joseph with the two horns Ephraim & Manasseh it was looking forward to the sacrifice of Joseph Smith.

Joseph Smith Righteously Boasts in His Accomplishments for God

Before the quote, remember Joseph isn't saying he is better than Jesus, he is stating the fact that he is doing something that has never been done before: setting up a church that won't apostatize.

I love this quote because it shows the personality of Joseph as someone who wasn't afraid to offend the Devil while working for the Lord, one who knew what he was doing, and wasn't shy about it.

This was also directed at his enemies who had been trying relentlessly to take him down and stop the work of the Lord.

Here we go:

“Come on ye prosecutors, ye false swearers; all hell boil over; ye burning mountains roll down your lava; for I will

come out on the top at last. I have more to boast of than ever any man had; I am the only man that ever has been able to keep a whole church together since the days [HC 6:408] of Adam; a large majority of the whole have stood by me: neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as me; the followers of Jesus ran away from him; the latter day saints never ran away from me yet. You know my daily walk and conversation. I am in the bosom of a virtuous and good people. How I do love to hear the wolves howl; when they can get rid of me the devil will also go."

"History, 1838–1856, volume F-1 [1 May 1844–8 August 1844]," p. 58, The Joseph Smith Papers, accessed February 6, 2023,

<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/history-1838-1856-volu-me-f-1-1-may-1844-8-august-1844/64>

On Joseph Smith as an Unknown Hero, "You do not know me" - Quotes

"People little know who I am when they talk about me, and they never will know until they see me weighed in the balance of the Kingdom of God. Then they will know who I am, and see me as I am. I dare not tell them and they do not know me." These words were spoken with such power that they penetrated the heart of every soul that believed on him. (Joseph Smith, as quoted by Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner, speech given at BYU, 1905)

John Taylor said this of the prophet:

"I have heard him [Joseph Smith] say on certain occasions, "You do not know who I am." The world did not like him. The world did not like either the Savior, or the Prophets; they have never liked revealed truth; and it is as much as a bargain for the Saints even to bear the truth." (John Taylor, October 20, 1881, JD 26:106)

Joseph Smith said, "I have intended my remarks for all, both rich and poor, bond and free, great and small. I have no enmity against any man. I love you all; but I hate some of your deeds. I am your best friend, and if persons miss their mark it is their own fault. If I reprove a man, and he hates me, he is a fool; for I love all men, especially these my brethren and sisters.

I rejoice in hearing the testimony of my aged friends. You don't know me; you never knew my heart. No man knows my history. I cannot tell it: I shall never undertake it. I don't blame anyone for not believing my history. If I had not experienced what I have, I would not have believed it myself. I never did harm any man since I was born in the world. My voice is always for peace. I cannot lie down until all my work is finished. I never think any evil, nor do anything to the harm of my fellow-man. When I am called by the trump of the archangel and weighed in the balance, you will all know me then. I add no more. God bless you all. Amen."

(History of the Church, 6:317, from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on April 7, 1844; cited in Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Joseph Smith, 2007, 525.)

"You did not know who you had amongst you. Joseph so

loved this people that he gave his life for them; Joseph and Hyrum have given their lives for the church. But very few knew Joseph's character; he loved you unto death- you did not know it until after his death; he has now sealed his testimony with his blood. If the Twelve had been here we would not have seen him given up. He was in your midst, but you did not know him; he has been taken away, for the people are not worthy of him." (Brigham Young, August 8, 1844, BYA 1:45)

"I feel like shouting Hallelujah, all the time, when I think that I ever knew Joseph Smith, the Prophet whom the Lord raised up and ordained, and to whom he gave keys and power to build up the Kingdom of God on earth and sustain it" (Brigham Young, DBY, 456).

"The same Spirit that testifies to the souls of man that Jesus the Christ was the Son of God ... bears witness to the receptive soul that the Prophet Joseph Smith was a prophet of Jesus Christ. One cannot truly say that he knows the one and deny the other. "... No man can have a testimony that Christ is Christ without knowing—when he hears this name and knows even a little of his life—that He had a prophet named Joseph." (Truman G. Madsen)

The Many Angels Who Visited Joseph Smith to Give Keys & Instruction in this Dispensation of the Fullness of Times

First some quotes:

“He [Joseph Smith Jr.] was visited constantly by angels ... These various angels, the heads of dispensations, . . . ministered unto him. . . . He had vision after vision in order that his mind might be fully saturated with a knowledge of the things of God, and that he might comprehend the high and holy calling that God had bestowed upon him” (George Q Cannon, Journal of Discourses, 23:362).

“He [Joseph Smith Jr.], therefore, received the ministration of divers angels—heads of dispensations—from Michael or Adam down to the present time; every man in his time and season coming to him, and all declaring their dispensation, their rights, their keys, their honors. Joseph, the head of this dispensation, Prophet, Seer and Revelator, whom God raised up, received from all these different sources, according to the mind and will of God, and according to the design of God concerning him; he received from all these different sources all the power and all the authority and all keys that were necessary for the building up of the work of God in the last days, and for the accomplishment of His purposes connected with this dispensation. He stands at the head. He is a unique character, differing from every other man in this respect, and excelling every other man” (George Q Cannon, Journal

of Discourses, 23:361).

Now special thanks to Ryan Allen and the "On Fire" podcast for compiling and sharing this list of angels who visited Joseph Smith with references:

Personage Selected References Keys given or nature or appearance:

God the Father JS-H 1:17; HC 1:5; D&C 76:2 Opened this dispensation introduced the Son.

Jesus Christ JS-H 1:17; HC 1:5–6; D&C 76:20–24; 110:2–10 Called Joseph as a prophet; accepted the temple.

Moroni JS-H 1:30–49, 59; JD 17:374 Tutored Joseph; gave him keys of stick of Ephraim

John the Baptist D&C 13:1; HC 1:39–42 Restored Aaronic Priesthood and its keys.

Peter, James, John D&C 27:12; 128:20; JD 18:326; HC 1:40–42 Restored Melchizedek Priesthood and apostleship and keys.

Moses D&C 110:11; JD 21:65; 23:48 Restored keys of gathering and leading the ten tribes.

Elias D&C 27:6; 110:12; JD 23:48 Committed the “gospel of Abraham” Elijah D&C 110:13–16 Conferred the sealing power.

Adam (Michael) HC 2:380; 3:388; D&C 128:21; JD 18:326; 21:94; 23:48 Restored keys (perhaps of the presidency over the earth).

Noah (Gabriel) D&C 128:21; JD 21:94; 23:48 Restored keys (perhaps of the power to preach the gospel).

Raphael D&C 128:21 Restored keys (perhaps of the dispensation of Enoch's day).

Various angels D&C 128:21 Restored keys (all declaring their individual dispensation).

Lehi JD 16:265–66 Ministered to him.

Nephi JD 21:161; 16:266; 17:374 Tutored Joseph; gave him keys. Mormon JD 17:374 Tutored Joseph; gave him keys.

Unnamed angel D&C 27; HC 1:106 Taught concerning use of wine in the sacrament.

Unnamed angel Life of Heber C. Kimball; Temples of the Most High Sent to accept dedication of the Kirtland temple.

Unnamed angel Biography and Family Records of Lorenzo Snow Visited Joseph three times; commanded him to practice plural marriage, as previously revealed by the Lord.

Although keys, instructions, or information may have been given by some of the personages in the following list, they are generally noted as simply having been seen by Joseph:

Abel JD 18:325; HC 3:388

Seth JD 21:94; D&C 107:53–57; HC 3:388

Enos HC 3:388; D&C 107:53–57; HC 3:388

Cainan HC 3:388; D&C 107:53–57

Mahalaleel JD 18:325; D&C 107:53–57; HC 3:388

Jared (Bible) HC 3:388; D&C 107:53–57

Enoch HC 3:388; D&C 107:53–57; JD 21:65

Methuselah JD 18:325; D&C 107:53–57; HC 3:388

Lamech JD 18:325

Eve Oliver B. Huntington diary

Abraham D&C 27:10; JD 21:94; 23:48

Isaac D&C 27:10; JD 21:94

Jacob D&C 27:10; JD 21:94

Joseph, son of Jacob D&C 27:10

Twelve Jewish Apostles (Peter, James, and John already counted above) JD 21:94 (Names in Matthew 10:1–4, Luke 6:13–16)

Twelve Nephite Apostles (Includes the Three Nephites) JD

21:94 (Names recorded in 3 Nephi 19:4)

Zelph the Lamanite Times & Seasons, 6:788

Alvin Smith (Joseph's deceased brother)HC 2:380

Paul TPJS 180

Alma JD 13:47

"I saw many angels" Warren Cowdery's account of the First Vision

Satan and his associates JSH 1:15–16; D&C 128:20; JD 3:299–30

Joseph's Teachings Revealed by Brigham

Jesus' teachings came to us from scribes, those who heard him teach. Remove the scribes and apostles who reported his teachings, and we have no Jesus.

Same with Brigham as to Joseph Smith. Everything Brigham taught was from Joseph Smith. Remove Brigham, and we have no Joseph.

Willard Richards had complete confidence of Brigham, who assigned Willard to keep the church history up to date.

If we won't study our history, we will fall to unrighteous men who corrupt our history.

You won't have a problem with plural marriage if you just study the women who defended it. Helen Mar Kimbal age 14 fasted for 7 days before getting the testimony of it. That marriage was never consummated, it just unites their families for eternity.

Joseph did prophecy he would live to complete his work. It was a parallel to Christ, this servant of Christ is a type and shadow of Christ, he cannot die until his work is done.

Note: We recognize the important role plural marriage played, and that it is not currently in operation in the church.

Quotes on The Dispensation of the Fullness of Times & Joseph Smith's Mission

“This is the dispensation of the fullness of times, and we see running into it, as mighty streams rush into the ocean, all the former dispensations, putting us in touch with them, putting them in touch with us; and we see that God has had but one great purpose in view from the beginning, and that has been the salvation of His children. And now has come the final day, the final dispensation, when truth and light and righteousness must flood the earth.” (B. H. Roberts, in

Elder Bruce R. McConkie:

"Whenever the Lord reveals the plan of salvation anew so that men do not have to rely solely upon prior dispensings from heaven of the same glories and wonders, it is called a dispensation of the gospel. This may or may not involve a restoration of keys and powers and priesthoods. It did when Jesus came to replace the Mosaic dispensation, for instance, but not when the dispensations of Enoch and Noah were ushered in.

We do not know how many dispensations there have been, probably dozens or scores; nor can we be certain how long each lasted, or how one dispensation blended into another. For the present we know only that a gracious God has made his saving truths available at those times and under those circumstances, when men were prepared to receive them.

We live in the dispensation of the fulness of times. That is to say, we live in the dispensation of the fulness of dispensations. We have received all of the "keys, and powers, and glories," possessed by them of old. Angelic ministrants have come from those Biblical dispensations which had distinctive keys and powers--"all declaring their dispensation, their rights, their keys, their honors, their majesty and glory, and the power of their priesthood" (D&C 128:18-21).

"In the dispensation of the fulness of times," as Paul promised, the Lord will "gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth" (Eph. 1:10). All of the rivers of the past have or will flow

into the ocean of the present; already all of the keys and powers have fallen to our lot; in due course all of the doctrines and truths will be manifest to us."

(This Final Glorious Gospel Dispensation - Elder Bruce R. McConkie - Ensign, Apr. 1980, pp. 21-25)

Hyrum Smith, the prophet's brother, once observed, "There were prophets before, but Joseph has the spirit and power of all the prophets" (History of the Church, 6:346).

Joseph Smith's Prophetic Death Fulfilling Messiah Ben Joseph Prophecies & Daniel's Prophecy – Highlighting a Kimberly Smith Lecture

The following are highlights from a lecture with Kimberly Smith, on The Mormon Renegade Podcast Episode 11:

https://open.spotify.com/episode/3c6y5gfH49U8s7pM5Wl6Yj?si=1A4WBluvQYK1ICg59nJOig&utm_source=copy-link (Not that I do not endorse all of the messages on this podcast.)

Joseph Smith in the upper room of the Red Brick Store,

revealing the signs parallels Jesus in the upper room before his death, revealing the signs.

Anticipating the Martyrdom:

Joseph said, "If they do not massacre me, I was never a prophet." He knew the state and mobs would kill him, and he said that.

Joseph said, "If the saints can't have their rights, then my blood will fall like rain on the ground."

Joseph was prophesied of anciently. His life and his death were fulfillments of prophecy.

Joseph asked his arrestors their personal opinion, whether he appeared to be the evil man people made him out to be. They said no, but we can't tell your heart. Joseph said that's right, you can't tell my heart, but I can tell yours. Joseph then told them that they thirst for his blood and won't be satisfied until they have it, and that they would, and have more thereafter than they wish to see.

Every state in the union except for three agreed that if Joseph was killed, no one would go to justice for it. This is from Stephen Markham, a reputable source present at many of these restoration events.

Joseph said to the Council of Fifty that he was a god to this generation. He said the people don't know who he is.

Joseph said he had to seal his work with his blood, for the testament was of no force without the death of the testator. Testament originally read covenant in the scripture; Joseph was bringing back the Abrahamic covenant.

Joseph was a willing sacrifice next to Jesus.

It's not just that Joseph would be killed, it's that he would lay himself down as that sacrifice. Joseph said 'I am like a lamb going to the slaughter. I am calm as the summer's morning. I am innocent and it will be said of me he was murdered in cold blood.'

Joseph said he was ready to die. He said (and I paraphrase), 'when they kill you that's the end of their power don't be afraid to die for truth or you'll lose eternal life. That we will be resurrected and become as Gods while the mobs go to hell. I am willing to sacrifice my life for your preservation.'

Messiah Ben Joseph Prophecy Fulfilled in Joseph Smith Jr.:

Elder McConkie said that any prophecy of the last days is essentially a prophecy of Joseph Smith.

See the book "And His Name Shall be Joseph" by Joseph Fielding McConkie on the Messiah Ben Joseph Jewish legend. Messiah means anointed one. Joseph was anointed king of Israel. The figure of this legend is to be of the seed of Joseph of Egypt.

(Note: Remember 2 Nephi 3, a prophecy of Joseph in Egypt about Joseph Smith Jr., as follows: "11 But a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins—and not to the bringing forth my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them. 12 Wherefore, the fruit

of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days, and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord. 13 And out of weakness he shall be made strong, in that day when my work shall commence among all my people, unto the restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord. 14 And thus prophesied Joseph, saying: Behold, that seer will the Lord bless; and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise, which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of my loins, shall be fulfilled. Behold, I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise; 15 And his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father. And he shall be like unto me; for the thing, which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, by the power of the Lord shall bring my people unto salvation. 16 Yea, thus prophesied Joseph: I am sure of this thing, even as I am sure of the promise of Moses; for the Lord hath said unto me, I will preserve thy seed forever.”)

In a patriarchal blessing of Joseph Smith from his father it was revealed that Joseph of Egypt wept and hoped to see who would bring the people of his posterity together in the last days, and he saw Joseph Smith Jr.

The prophecy of Messiah Ben Joseph is also that he would be of the tribe of Ephraim, and the Doctrine and Covenants tells us Joseph is of the tribe of Ephraim. He is to live on the earth before Messiah Ben David.

Messiah Ben Joseph's teaching is to cause erroneous things that have crept into Israel to vanish after a period of apostasy. Joseph Smith Jr. comes and corrects things.

The Messiah Ben Joseph prophecy says that Elijah would return during the days of Messiah Ben Joseph, which he did. Elijah came to give keys to Joseph.

The prophecy says he would build a temple in Israel and restore true worship.

Messiah Ben Joseph would be protected by Messiah Ben David, and we have the prophecy of Joseph Smith that he would not die until his work was complete.

Messiah Ben Joseph would die as a martyr.

John Pratt, an LDS astronomer, wrote of how in ancient Israel, there were two sacrifices: one representing Messiah and Judah, and another in the evening representing the last days, Messiah Ben Joseph. Elijah sacrificed the evening bullock which is the bull which represents Joseph with the two horns Ephraim & Manasseh - it was looking forward to the sacrifice of Joseph Smith.

When you mock Joseph Smith, you mock Christ, whose servant he is.

The Book of Daniel & The Miller Prophecy:

Joseph said the kingdom of Daniel was set up, and he was the king over it. He said he would revolutionize the world. We have Daniel's book as a blueprint for the Latter-Day Kingdom; it is the kingdom spoken of by Daniel that would

roll to fill the Earth.

The Book of Daniel pinpoints 1844, the year of the martyrdom, as a prophetic event. William Miller calculated 1844 as the return of Christ, see Dan. 8:14. The prophecy is symbolic, about the sanctuary being cleansed. Days means years in Hebrew (work for 7 days for Rachel translated 7 years, and so it was). John D Nelson reviews this Miller research, showing the starting date, taking it to 1844.

Hundreds of Bible scholars around the world agreed that the 1840s would be the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy. Miller and others thought the return of Christ would be then, they didn't know what other event would happen, but they all knew it was an appointed prophetic time. Christ not coming then, it was called "the great disappointment of 1844," recognized worldwide.

God's appointed times are always in spring and fall; this is true of church history, too. In 1844, they knew something prophetic had happened, but they didn't know what. They predicted the very day of martyrdom. June 27, the day of martyrdom, they knew something was happening.

The spilling of Joseph's blood means the covenant is now in force, the keys are here, we now know where to look. "Thy days are known and thy years shall not be numbered less" Christ tells Joseph in liberty jail, showing the appointed time of Joseph's death.

One Joseph Smith scholar said that more prophecy was fulfilled in Joseph Smith's lifetime than had been fulfilled 2000 years prior.

Ancient Jews, Millerites, scripture, and other sources all

prophecy of Joseph's death.

Millerites, now Seventh Day Adventists, now link Daniel's prophecy to the martyrdom of the two revelation prophets. See Stoddard's documentary on the Mystery of the Two Prophets, which links Joseph and Hyrum's deaths to the two prophets' deaths in the Book of Revelation. Their deaths were 3.5 years after they called Israel to gather geographically.

D&C 21 says give heed to all Joseph's words as from God, and the gates of hell won't prevail against you. This generation would have Christ's word through Joseph. It is by Joseph that we learn of Christ.

Note: Elder Bruce R. McConkie rightly called Joseph Smith 'the revealer of Christ.'

Joseph Smith against Blindly Following Prophets & Holding Leaders Accountable

Against following blindly:

“President Joseph Smith read the 14th chapter of Ezekiel—said the Lord had declared by the Prophet, that the people should each one stand for himself, and depend on no man or

men in that state of corruption of the Jewish church—that righteous persons could only deliver their own souls—applied it to the present state of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—said if the people departed from the Lord, they must fall—that they were depending on the Prophet, hence were darkened in their minds, in consequence of neglecting the duties devolving upon themselves. . . .”

(History of the Church, by Joseph Smith, Vol. 5, p. 19.
Address of the Prophet to the Relief Society, reported by
Eliza R. Snow Smith)

On holding leaders accountable:

“It is my object to ascertain the standing of the first presidency, (as I have been instructed) I present myself for trial, I shall next present my councillors for trial. . . .

“Are you satisfied with the first presidency, so far as I am concerned, or will you choose another? If I have done any thing to injure my character in the sight of men & angels — or men & women, come forward tell of it & if not ever after hold your peace.”

(Joseph Smith, “President Joseph Smith’s Journal,” Journal, 4 vols., Dec. 1842–June 1844, p. 50-51.)

The Prophet Joseph: More Than We Know by the Joseph Smith Foundation – Documentary Highlights



As they are extensive, these highlights are shared with permission of the author.

Key Points:

The root of Jesse is Joseph Smith, he is the servant of Christ, the David of the latter days who will yet have political and ecclesiastical authority over all the earth, who will return in the flesh to lay out inheritances in Missouri the New Jerusalem, who will unite old and new Jerusalem, who will call down the plagues of the last days, a Millennial leader under Christ like Joseph in Egypt was under Pharaoh in his day, etc.

As Jesus is the revealer of the Father, so is Joseph Smith the revealer of Jesus. As Jesus visited his people after his resurrection, so will Joseph Smith after his. Joseph will lead the Great Council of God in Zion and Jerusalem.

Like Christ, Joseph Smith was largely rejected in his mortal ministry, but will be accepted in his second coming. People of this dispensation need the consent of Joseph Smith to enter the celestial kingdom where God and Christ are. Joseph

Smith is the angel of the last days spoken of in Revelation 14, the servant in Jacob 5, the servant in D&C 101, the latter-day Elias preparing the way of the Lord.

Details:

For another presentation by the Joseph Smith Foundation related to the signs of the times, see “The Mystery of the 2 Prophets” discussing how Joseph and Hyrum Smith could fit the Rev. 11 two prophets.

“Would to God, brethren, I could tell you who I am! Would to God I could tell you what I know! But you would call it blasphemy...” (Joseph Smith)

Joseph is a messenger, a David, a witness, a servant, etc. Some LDS scholars think Joseph Smith is proud and arrogant, but we will see that he simply stood in his rightful place.

Who is the latter-day servant of Isa. 42? Is his name David? Who is this “one mighty and strong”?

The latter-day witness isn’t just A witness, he is THE witness. The leader of the world. He has all political authority under the Savior, and all direction of the church under the Savior. The Moses of the latter-day exodus. It is even likely that ancient Israel sacrifices prefigure this man.

Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, and the ancient authors of holy writ knew who the latter-day servant is.

If we don’t know who the servant is, we lose much perspective of the latter days.

see discourse “Joseph Smith: A Revealer of Christ” where Bruce McConkie shows that just as Jesus Christ is the

revealer of Heavenly Father, so is Joseph Smith the revealer of Jesus Christ.

Joseph clarified Gabriel as Noah, and Michael as Adam. Who is Joseph Smith?

3 Nephi 21:9 speaks of a marvelous work and a wonder that people won't believe although a man declare it to them.

Isaiah 52 speaks of Christ being marred, similarly 3 Ne. 21:10 speaks of the servant of the latter days being marred.

LDS scholars have said that the latter-day servant would seal the 144,000, would be a king in Israel, would call down plagues upon the wicked in the last days, would preach to the Jews after they had rebuilt Jerusalem, etc. Joseph Smith can fit all of these roles, especially in light of the repeated doctrine that Joseph Smith will return. As the scripture says, he was marred, and will be healed. Like the Savior, his first coming was largely rejected, but his second coming will be wonderful.

“Though
Israel be
not
gathered,
yet shall I
be
glorious
in the
eyes of
the Lord



and my God shall be my strength” this ancient prophecy can apply to Joseph Smith and Jesus Christ. Mortality is not the end, like how patriarchal blessings need not all be fulfilled within the time frame of mortality.

Heber C Kimball taught in 1861: You will see the say when Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, and Brigham Young etc. will be there in the flesh laying out the inheritances in Missouri. The quote continues "...the day will be when I will see those men [the aforementioned latter-day brethren] in the general assembly of the Church of the First Born, in the great council of God in Jerusalem too....I heard Joseph say twice that Brother Brigham and I should be in that council in Jerusalem, when there should be a uniting of the two divisions of God's government."

D&C 85:7 speaks of the one mighty and strong with a scepter and arranging by lot the inheritances of the saints

D&C 77 speaks of 2 prophets raised up to the Jewish nation at the time of the restoration after the Jews are gathered and have built Jerusalem in the land of their fathers. The time of the restoration is the time of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. More on that in the Joseph Smith Foundation film "The Mystery of the Two Prophets"

Isa. 11:10 speaks of a "root of Jesse" coming from the stem of Jesse (Jesus Christ); D&C 113:5 speaks of the "root of Jesse" and gives this interpretation in verse 6: "[the root of Jesse] is a descendant of Jesse, as well as of Joseph, unto whom rightly belongs the priesthood, and the keys of the kingdom, for an ensign, and for the gathering of my people in the last days." The root of Jesse could well be Joseph Smith, Bruce R McConkie teaches that he is this servant and is this servant.

Ezek. 34:24 speaks of Jehovah's servant David as a prince

Days before his martyrdom, Joseph Smith said to his Nauvoo legion "I promise you when I come again I shall lead you forth so that where I am you shall be also." He also said just before his martyrdom, "Don't be sad, don't be cast down, I

will come back again...as soon as I can” (autobiography of Wandle Mace)

“Joseph, Hyrum, Father Smith, and many others will be there [during the Millennium] to dictate and preside. Joseph will stand at the head of this dispensation and hold the keys of it, for they are not taken from him; they never were in time; they never will be in eternity. I shall be there if I live or if I die.” (President Brigham Young, April 1853, when JS had been dead nearly 9 years)

Joseph Smith will reign during the Millennium under Christ in a similar way that Joseph of old ruled in Egypt under Pharaoh. Joseph in Egypt was a type of Joseph Smith, foreshadowing the even greater role that Joseph Smith would play.



“I said to Brother Joseph, the spring before he was killed, “you are laying out work for 20 years.” He replied, “you have as yet scarcely begun to work; but I will set you enough to last you during your lives, for I am going to rest.” All I can do or ask now is to do the work, so that it will be right and acceptable to him when he comes here again.” (President Brigham Young, 1857)

Brigham understood that he held a stewardship to carry out what Joseph told him to do. The marching orders of latter day prophets are dictated by Joseph Smith.

“Joseph Smith Junior will again be on this earth dictating plans...And he will never cease his operations, under the directions of the Son of God, until the last ones of the children of men are saved that can be, from Adam till now. There is an almighty work to perform in the spirit world. Joseph has not yet got through there. When he finishes his mission in the spirit world, he will be resurrected, but he has

not yet done there...When his spirit again quickens his body, he will ascend to heaven, present his resurrected body to the Father and the Son, receive his commission as a resurrected being, and visit his brethren on this earth as did Jesus after his resurrection.” (President Brigham Young, 1857)

Brigham taught that Joseph Smith has some stewardship for everyone that has lived on this earth, and that he has Millennial keys.

President Kimball’s prophecy, “An army of Elders”: there will be great prosperity in the west followed by financial bondage, “then persecution comes next and all true latter-day saints will be tested to the limit. Many will apostatize and others will be still not knowing what to do. Darkness will cover the earth and gross darkness the minds of the people. The judgements of god will be poured out on the wicked to the extent that our elders will be called home, or in other words, the gospel will be taken from the Gentiles and later on carried to the Jews. The western boundary of the state of Missouri will be swept so clean of its inhabitants that, as Brigham Young tells us, when you return to that place there will not be left so much as a yellow dog to wag his tail. Before that day comes however, the saints will be put to a test that will try the integrity of the best of them. The pressure will become so great that the more righteous of them will cry to the Lord day and night until deliverance comes. Then the prophet Joseph and others will make their appearance and those who have remained faithful will be selected to return to Jackson County Missouri and take part in the building of that beautiful city, the New Jerusalem.”

After Joseph’s martyrdom, Parley Pratt received a revelation that “my servant Joseph still holds the keys of my kingdom in this dispensation, and he shall stand in due time on the earth in the flesh and fulfil that to which he is appointed.”

“Those who are your friends are my friends, and I promise you when I come again, I will lead you forth, so that where I am you shall be with me.” (Joseph Smith)

The SLC temple east doors niches held statues of Joseph and Hyrum until 1911.

Joseph likely also fits the description of angels and prophets in the book of Revelation. Revelation 14 speaks of an angel.

The original architectural designs for the angel Moroni atop the temples featured a temple with the book of Mormon in one hand, and a trumpet in the other, on a weather vane, featuring a stylized tongue of fire, a compass, and a square.

Brigham saw years before the construction of the SLC temple every time he went to the place it was to be constructed. He never had to ask God how to build it because it was shown him plainly. Similarly, the Nauvoo temple was shown to Joseph Smith.

According to the Perrigrine Sessions journal, “on this day they raised the figure which is the representation of an Angel in his Priestly robe with the book of Mormon in one hand and a trumpet in the other which is over laid with gold leaf”

Many say this angel on our temples is a representation of Rev. 14:6-7 the angel flying through the midst of heaven with the gospel to preach to every nation, telling that the hour of the judgement of God is come. Its clear this angel has a large role in the latter days. Some have speculated that this angel is Moroni, who indeed helped Joseph Smith. But it could be Joseph Smith himself. Joseph Smith said he would give “a literal rendering” of Matthew 24. Joseph said, “The Savior said when these tribulations should take place, it should be committed to a man who should be a witness over the whole world...the keys of knowledge, power, and revelations should be revealed to a witness who should hold the testimony to the

world” (Joseph Smith, cited May 12, 1844, Thomas Bullock report). This witness and the tribulations are clearly referencing the last days.

“It has always been my providence to dig up new things, hidden things for my hearers. Just at the time when some men think I have no right to the keys of the priesthood, just at that time, I have the greatest right...All the testimony is that the Lord in the last days would commit the keys of the priesthood to a witness over all people. Has the Gospel of the kingdom commenced in the last days? And will God take it from the man until He takes him Himself?” (Joseph Smith, 1844). We realize that aside from Jesus Christ, Joseph Smith was prophesied of more than anyone in scripture. Here we see that Joseph identifies himself as the witness of the last days.

“The building up of Zion is a cause that has interested the people of God in every age. It is a theme upon which prophet’s priests and kings have dwelt with particular delight. They have looked



forward with joyful anticipation to the day in which we live, and fired with heavenly and joyful anticipations, they have written and sung and prophesied of this our day. But they died without the sight. We are the favored people that God has made choice of to bring about the latter-day glory. It is left for us to see, participate in, and help to roll forward the latter-day glory.” (Joseph Smith)

Since the mission of the witness is to build Zion, how could it be someone other than Joseph Smith?

“Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.” (John Taylor)

“no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith...every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, Junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are... [Joseph Smith] reigns there as supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling, as God does in heaven. Many will exclaim- “Oh, that is very disagreeable! It is preposterous! We cannot bear the thought!” But it is true.” (Brigham Young, 1859)

The prophet Joseph Smith reigns under Jesus Christ in the celestial kingdom

“Jesus Christ excepted, no better man ever lived or does live upon this earth.” (Brigham Young referring to Joseph Smith)

“Has the gospel of the kingdom commenced in the last days and will God take it from the man until he takes him himself? I have read it precisely as the words flowed from the lips of Jesus Christ. John the revelator saw an angel flying through the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth. The scripture is ready to be fulfilled when great wars famines pestilence great distress judgements and so forth are ready to be poured out on the inhabitants of the earth. John saw the angel having the holy Priesthood, who should preach the everlasting gospel to the nations. God had an angel- a special messenger- ordained and prepared for that purpose in the last days. Woe, woe be to that man or set of men who lift up their hands against God and His witness in these days: for they shall deceive almost the very chosen ones.” (Joseph Smith, May 12, 1844, Thomas Bullock report) Here Joseph Smith connects the angel of Rev. 14 with the special messenger/servant of the last days, and essentially acknowledges that he is the man.

Joseph Smith shows us that the angel is the special witness, who is the messenger, who is himself.

the documents from this presentation are available at josephsmithfoundation.org/research

The above citations by Joseph Smith show himself to be the latter-day witness:

- a. he speaks of the latter-day witness,
- b. he makes direct reference to himself,
- c. again he references the witness,
- d. understanding the context of the passage we see that he again directly speaks of himself,
- e. he invokes Christ as a witness of this claim,
- f. he then introduces the Rev 14 angel as the revealer of the Gospel to all the earth,
- g. he places the angel in a latter-day context
- h. he speaks of this angel's right to the priesthood and keys in the latter days
- i. he identifies the angel as the messenger who holds the keys in the latter days
- j. he finally warns against all those who attempt to slander or vilify himself as the witness in the latter days

Malachi's messenger 'preparing the way' may allude to Joseph Smith, a latter-day prophet crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord.

"Malachi as Isaiah speaks of the Lord sending his servant to prepare the way before him and while that does have reference to the coming of John the Baptist, it is one of those scriptures that has double fulfilment, it has reference also to the coming of the prophet Joseph Smith because that messenger which was to come and prepare the way before him was to come in this day, the latter days." (President Joseph Fielding Smith)

The Lord coming suddenly to his temple was fulfilled in the Kirtland temple, but will have dual fulfillment.

“Why do not my enemies strike a blow at the doctrine? They cannot do it: it is truth, and I defy all men to upset it. I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, “Repent ye of your sins and prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man”...for the kingdom of God has come unto you, and henceforth the ax is laid unto the root of the tree; and every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, God Almighty (and not Joe Smith) shall hew it down and cast it into the fire.” (Joseph Smith) Here Joseph directly quotes John the Baptist, making himself a latter-day John.

Malachi 3:2 speaks of Christ as a refining fire; Isaiah 10:17-18 speaks of “the light of Israel for a fire and his Holy One for a flame”; Isa. 31:9 speaks of the Lord’s fire being in Zion

“The Lord in the former dispensation sent a messenger to prepare the way before him, and in this dispensation it was just as necessary that a messenger be sent to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and the establishment of the reign of peace. If Joseph Smith was not that man, then we must look for another.” If we must look for another, the Book of Mormon, LDS ordinances, and Joseph Smith himself are a fraud. Joseph declared himself to be this man. We know he fulfilled his mission.

“The Lord declared, through one of his prophets, that before his second coming a messenger should be sent to prepare the way and make it straight. You may apply this to John if you will, [speaking of John the Baptist] and it is true. John, the messenger who came to prepare the way before the Lord in the former dispensation, also came in this dispensation, as a messenger to Joseph Smith; so it applies, if you wish to apply it so, to John who came as a messenger to prepare the way before the Lord. But I go farther and maintain that Joseph Smith was the messenger whom the Lord sent to prepare the

way before him. He came, and under direction of holy messengers laid the foundation for the kingdom of God and of this marvelous work and a wonder that the world might be prepared for the coming of the Lord.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith)

We also consider Joseph Smit has fulfilling the role of the Elias to restore all things, the 2 prophets in Rev. 11, the servant in D&C 101, the 1 sons in Isaiah, the servant in Jacob 5, the Davidic prince, etc.

“The Restoration of the gospel is true. Someday we’ll know of the greatness of the Prophet Joseph Smith.” (Elder David B. Haight, 1996)

[Pictures featured in this chapter were featured in the documentary.]

The Prophet Joseph: More Than We Know by The Joseph Smith Foundation - Quotes Referenced

<http://josephsmithfoundation.org/research/the-prophet-joseph-more-than-we-know-dvd/>

This is the text found in the above link containing the full quotes including their citations which were used in the documentary.

Documents Referenced in Presentation

Sermon by the Prophet Joseph Smith discussing Revelation 14 Angel, Messenger and Witness (Sermon delivered at Nauvoo temple grounds on Friday May 12, 1844)

Statements Referenced in Presentation

Joseph Smith

“I shall read the 24th. ch of Matthew and give it a littoral rendering and reading, and when it is rightly understood it will be edifying (he then read & translated it from the German) . . . “And it will preached be; the Gospel of the Kingdom in the whole world, to a witness overall people, and then will the end come.” I will now read it in German (which he did, and many Germans who were present said he translated it correct) the Savior said, when those tribulations should take place, it should be committed to a man, who should be a witness over the whole world, the keys of knowledge, power, and revelations, should be revealed to a witness who should hold the testimony to the world; it has always been my province to dig up hidden mysteries, new things, for my hearers just at the time when some men think that I have no right to the keys of the Priesthood just at that time, I have the greatest right the Germans are an exalted people. The old German translators are the most correct; most honest of any of the translators, and therefore I get testimony to bear me out in the revelations that I have preached for the last 14 years the old German, Latin, Greek and Hebrew translations all say it is true, they cannot be impeached, and

therefore I am in good company all the testimony is, that the Lord in the last days would commit the keys of the Priesthood to a witness over all people has the Gospel of the Kingdom commenced in the last days? and will God take it from the man, until he takes him, himself?

I have read it precisely as the words flowed from the lips of Jesus Christ—John the Revelator saw an angel flying thro' the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, &c. the Scripture is ready to be fulfilled when great wars, famines, pestilence, great distress, judgments, &c are ready to be poured out on the Inhabitants of the Earth—John saw the angel having the holy Priesthood who should preach the everlasting gospel to all nations,—God had an angel, a special messenger, ordained, & prepared for that purpose in the last days.

Woe! Woe! be to that man, or set of men, who lift up their hands against God and his Witness in these last days. For they shall deceive almost the very chosen ones” (Joseph Smith, Sermon delivered at Nauvoo temple grounds on Friday May 12, 1844)

“The building up of Zion is a cause that has interested the people of God in every age; it is a theme upon which prophets, priests and kings have dwelt with peculiar delight; they have looked forward with joyful anticipation to the day in which we live [the Prophet Joseph Smith’s day]; and fired with heavenly and joyful anticipations they have sung and written and prophesied of this our day; but they died without the sight; we are the favored people that God has made choice of to bring about the Latter-day glory; it is left for us to see, participate in and help to roll forward the Latter-day glory,” (History of the Church, 4:609–10; from “The Temple,” an editorial published in Times and Seasons, May 2, 1842, p. 776; Joseph Smith was the editor of the periodical.)

“Why do not my enemies strike a blow at the doctrine? They

cannot do it: it is truth, and I defy all men to upset it. I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Repent ye of your sins and prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man; for the kingdom of God has come unto you, and henceforth the ax is laid unto the root of the tree; and every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, God Almighty (and not Joe Smith) shall hew it down and cast it into the fire." (History of the Church 6:273-74., Discourses of Joseph Smith, pg. 200)

Brigham Young

"Joseph, Hyrum, father Smith, and many others will be there to dictate and preside. Joseph will stand at the head of this dispensation and hold the keys of it, for they are not taken from him: they never were in time; they never will be in eternity. I shall be there if I live or if I die." (Brigham Young, "Heirship", Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, pp. 306-308, April 8th, 1853.)

"I said to Brother Joseph, the spring before he was killed, 'You are laying out work for twenty years.' He replied, 'You have as yet scarcely begun to work; but I will set you enough to last you during your lives, for I am going to rest.' All I can do or ask now is to do the work, so that it will be right and acceptable to him when he comes here again." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 5, pp. 327-333, October 7th, 1857.)

"Joseph Smith Junior will again be on this earth dictating plans . . . And he will never cease his operations, under the directions of the Son of God, until the last ones of the children of men are saved that can be, from Adam till now." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 7, pp. 282-291,

October 9th, 1859.)

“There is an almighty work to perform in the spirit world. Joseph has not yet got through there. When he finishes his mission in the spirit world, he will be resurrected, but he has not yet done there. . . . When his spirit again quickens his body, he will ascend to heaven, present his resurrected body to the Father and the Son, receive his commission as a resurrected being, and visit his brethren on this earth as did Jesus after his resurrection.” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 4, pp. 279-291, March 15th, 1857.)

“ . . . five years ago last July I was here, and saw in the Spirit the Temple not ten feet from where we have laid the Chief Corner Stone. I have not inquired what kind of a Temple we should build. Why? Because it was represented before me. I have never looked upon that ground, but the vision of it was there. I see it as plainly as if it was in reality before me.” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, pp. 131-137, April 6th, 1853.)

“Joseph Smith holds the keys of this last dispensation, and is now engaged behind the vail in the great work of the last days. I can tell our beloved brother Christians who have slain the Prophets and butchered and otherwise caused the death of thousands of Latter-day Saints, the priests who have thanked God in their prayers and thanksgiving from the pulpit that we have been plundered, driven, and slain, and the deacons under the pulpit, and their brethren and sisters in their closets, who have thanked God, thinking that the Latter-day Saints were wasted away, something that no doubt will mortify them—something that, to say the least, is a matter of deep regret to them—namely, that no man or woman in this dispensation will

ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith. From the day that the Priesthood was taken from the earth to the winding-up scene of all things, every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are-I with you and you with me. I cannot go there without his consent. He holds the keys of that kingdom for the last dispensation-the keys to rule in the spirit-world; and he rules there triumphantly, for he gained full power and a glorious victory over the power of Satan while he was yet in the flesh, and was a martyr to his religion and to the name of Christ, which gives him a most perfect victory in the spirit-world. He reigns there as supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling, as God does in heaven. Many will exclaim-"Oh, that is very disagreeable! It is preposterous! We cannot bear the thought!" But it is true." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 7, pp. 282-291, October 9th, 1859.)

"Jesus Christ excepted, no better man ever lived or does live upon this earth." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 9, pp. 329-334, August 3rd, 1862.)

Heber C. Kimball

"I am pretty sure of one thing: we shall go to Jackson County, Missouri; that is, those who do right and honor their callings, doing what they have been told to do. You will be blessed, and you will see the day when Presidents [Brigham] Young, [Heber C.] Kimball, and [Daniel H.] Wells, and the Twelve Apostles will be in Jackson County, Missouri, laying out your inheritances. In the flesh? Of course. We should look well without being in the flesh! We shall be there in the flesh, and all our enemies cannot prevent it. Brother Wells, you may write that. You will be there, and Willard [Richards] will be there, and also Jedediah [Grant], and Joseph and Hyrum

Smith . . . the day will be when I will see those men in the general assembly of the Church of the First Born, in the great council of God in Jerusalem too. Will we want you to be along? I heard Joseph say twice that Brother Brigham and I should be in that council in Jerusalem, when there should be a uniting of the two divisions of God's government." (Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses 9:27)

Persecution comes next and all true Latter-day Saints will be tested to the limit. Many will apostatize and others will be still not knowing what to do. Darkness will cover the earth and gross darkness the minds of the people. The judgments of God will be poured out on the wicked to the extent that our Elders from far and near will be called home, or in other words the gospel will be taken from the Gentiles and later on carried to the Jews.

The western boundary of the State of Missouri will be swept so clean of its inhabitants that as President Young tells us, when you return to that place, there will not be left so much as a yellow dog to wag his tail.

Before that day comes, however, the Saints will be put to a test that will try the integrity of the best of them. The pressure will become so great that the more righteous among them will cry unto the Lord day and night until deliverance comes.

Then the Prophet Joseph and others will make their appearance and those who have remained faithful will be selected to return to Jackson County, Missouri and take part in the building of that beautiful city, the New Jerusalem. (An Army of Elders, May 1868, Heber C. Kimball Reported by his son J. Golden Kimball, CR October 1930, p. 58. See also Prophetic Sayings of Heber C. Kimball to Sister Amanda H. Wilcox)

Parley P. Pratt

“I walked onward, weighed down as it were unto death. When I could endure it no longer, I cried out aloud, saying, ‘Oh Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ I pray Thee, show me what these things mean, and what I shall say to Thy people?’ Suddenly the Spirit of God came upon me, and filled my heart with joy and gladness indescribable; and while the spirit of revelation glowed in my bosom with as visible a warmth and gladness as if it were fire, (c) the Spirit said unto me, ‘Lift up your head and rejoice. For behold, it is well with my servants Joseph and Hyrum. My servant Joseph still holds the keys of my kingdom in this dispensation, and he shall stand in due time on the earth, in the flesh, and fulfill that to which he is appointed.” (Parley P. Pratt, Autobiography pg. 333)

Wandle Mace

“Those who are your friends are my friends, and I promise you when I come again, I will lead you forth, so that where I am you shall be with me.” (Autobiography of Wandle Mace)
“While they were taking our arms, Joseph . . . looking around him at his friends the Nauvoo Legion, and seeing our sad faces he said, ‘Boys,’ he always called us boys, ‘His Boys,’ ‘Don’t be sad, don’t be cast down, I will come back again.’ After a little hesitation he added, ‘as soon as I can.’ That expression, ‘As soon as I can’, sank deep into my heart and confirmed my fears. I never expected to see him again alive. The sad expression upon his face as he looked upon us, ‘His Boys’ for the last time I shall never forget. I felt in my inmost soul that he was going to be butchered, and we should see him no more alive.” (Autobiography of Wandle Mace)

Joseph Fielding Smith

“Malachi [as Isaiah] speaks of the Lord sending his messenger to prepare the way before him, and while that does have reference to the coming of John the Baptist, it is one of those prophecies in the scriptures that has a double fulfilment. It has reference also to the coming of the Prophet Joseph Smith, because that messenger which was to come and prepare the way before him, was to come in this day [the latter days]. . . .

“The Lord in the former dispensation sent a messenger to prepare the way before him, and in this dispensation it was just as necessary that a messenger be sent to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and the establishment of the reign of peace. If Joseph Smith was not that man, then we must look for another. . . .

“The Lord declared, through one of his prophets, that before his second coming a messenger should be sent to prepare the way and make it straight. You may apply this to John if you will [speaking of John the Baptist], and it is true. John, the messenger who came to prepare the way before the Lord in the former dispensation, also came in this dispensation as a messenger to Joseph Smith; so it applies, if you wish to apply it so, to John who came as a messenger to prepare the way before the Lord.

“But I go farther and maintain that Joseph Smith was the messenger whom the Lord sent to prepare the way before him. He came, and under direction of holy messengers laid the foundation for the kingdom of God and of this marvelous work and a wonder that the world might be prepared for the coming of the Lord.” (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:193–95.)

Bruce R. McConkie

“Are we amiss in saying that the prophet here mentioned is Joseph Smith, to whom the priesthood came, who received

the keys of the kingdom, and who raised the ensign for the gathering of the Lord's people in our dispensation? And is he not also the 'servant in the hands of Christ, who is partly a descendant of Jesse as well as of Ephraim, or of the house of Joseph, on whom there is laid much power'? (D&C 113:4-6.) Those whose ears are attuned to the whisperings of the Infinite will know the meaning of these things." (Bruce R. McConkie, *The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of the Son of Man* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1982], 339.)

Perrigrine Sessions

"representation of an angel in his priestly robes with a Book of Mormon in one hand and a trumpet in the other which [was] overlaid with gold" (Perrigrine Sessions Journal, 30 Jan 1846, Church Archives)

David B. Haight

The Restoration of the gospel is true. Someday we'll know of the greatness of the Prophet Joseph Smith. David B. Haight (David B. Haight, April General Conference 1996)

A Few Quotes & Notes on The Grandeur & Continuing Authority of Joseph Smith

Once Joseph stayed at the same house as one of his enemies and they didn't know he was there.

Once Joseph was passed right by one of his enemies who recognize him.

“Joseph Smith holds the keys of this last dispensation, and is now engaged behind the veil in the great work of the last days....It is his mission to see that all the children of men in this last dispensation are saved, that can be...” (Brigham Young “Intelligence Etc,” in JD vol. 7:289)

“The greatest activity in this world or in the world to come is directly related to the work and mission of Joseph Smith – man of destiny, prophet of God....The Prophet Joseph Smith was not only “one of the noble and great ones,” but he gave and continues to give attention to important matters here on the earth even today from the realms above.” (Ezra Taft Benson, God Family Country: Our Three Great Loyalties 1974 p30-31)

To hear the prophet Joseph Smith speak at any time on any subject, Brigham Young always went, even when it meant hunger and poverty would result for himself and his household.

Joseph was a storekeeper, general, Mayor of Nauvoo, general in Nauvoo, Chief Judge in Nauvoo, store builder, service project leader, prophet, farmer, city founder, pioneer, employer, temple builder, translator, student of languages, interpreter, reader of ancient texts, editor of a church newspaper.

“Keep the commandments, and a halo of glory will be around your path” -Teachings on charity chapter on Joseph Smith’s Teachings.

“Seek own furtherance while brethren are in poverty can’t have the spirit.” -Josph Smith teachings, charity chapter.

Joseph Smith after playing in a ballgame would say to the people to come build a cabin, or hitch up and gather wood for poor and cut such, or give his shoes from his feet for a man without, and put people up in his home to care for them and sleep in a tent as his 4 room house would be so full. -Joseph Smith teachings, charity chapter.

Satan flatters us of our own righteousness. No man ought declare his own righteousness. -Joseph Smith teachings in the Relief Society chapter and another, perhaps the one on charity.

Note: Heber J Grant would call it ‘devil talk’ when people would praise him.

Martyrdom:

Joseph was walking from his farm said you would look at it several times too knowing you would never see it again.

Joseph said to a guard at Carthage: do I look like the fearsome man you make me out to be? The man said no quite opposite actually. But I can’t tell what is in your heart by your appearance. JS said that is true, but I can see in yours. You thirst for blood and won’t be satiated until you see plenty of it. And you will (The Civil War). And cannon blast will be pointed at you from a source you know not (cannons in Civil war in great amounts).

Hyrum was shot by the nose, Joseph said, holding him, “Oh my poor brother Hyrum!” Joseph went for the window and

said, “My Lord and My God!” Then was shot as he spoke this on both sides and fell from the window, hit the ground by a well, and after a few breaths there, he died.

How heartbreaking for Joseph Smith to see his brother die in the cause that he called him to! How frightening to be running for your life and to be attacked by mobs and running from one corner to another to escape death! How wretched to know you are walking to your death! This is the fearsome fight for Christ and all men.

For some of these martyrdom descriptions, see “Joseph and Hyrum their final days” with historian C. Michael Trapp.

Where is Joseph Smith in the Bible?

On my mission in the bible belt, one of the questions we were often asked was “if Joseph Smith is so important, which bible prophets prophesied of his coming and the work he would do?” This document helps answer that question, though it is far from exhaustive. There are many parallels and symbols in the bible which can be applied to Joseph Smith, the great prophet of the latter-day!

MANY references could be added to this list as an understanding of the scriptures unfold. See studies on the return of Joseph Smith for more information. We are only scratching the surface on who this mighty prophet truly is. Here are a few introductory studies on Joseph Smith in the bible.

A strong case could be made that Joseph Smith is THE servant spoken of in the book of Isaiah. Additionally, John the Baptist was asked who he was. He said he was not 'that prophet' (Christ). He also said he was an Elias, but not 'that Elias' who was to come and restore all things. Foretold throughout the generations are prophecies of Christ and his servant: Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith is the restorer of all things.

The real answer of course comes as we ask the real question. It isn't "where is Joseph Smith in the bible?" but "where is the doctrine that God will always call prophets in the bible?" Amos 3:7. Once that is established, it doesn't really matter what the name of modern prophets are, nor need we look for them.

As Jesus Christ wasn't mentioned in Old Testament but is figure of the New, so is Joseph Smith not mentioned in the New, but is figure of the latter-day. How do God fearing people know that Jesus Christ is the Messiah? Because they read the Old Testament, and read the New Testament, and God told them that both were true. Christ himself said that no one can believe in Him without revelation from the Father (remember that he told Peter 'flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven). So how does someone know if Joseph Smith is the prophet to lead Christ's church today? They read the Old Testament, read the New Testament, read the Book of Mormon, and ask if each is true. The Father will indeed reveal that each is true. The saints of God must step by step follow him, and be willing to receive more when He is ready to give! Several scripture passages condemn those who are not willing to receive more of God's word. Some say 'I won't read it so that I won't be held accountable for what it says'; but those are guilty of the sin of not being willing to learn. There are 2 sins: not being willing to learn, and the second is not be willing to obey what you have learned. So those hiding from

learning to try and not be accountable for further light and truth are already condemned.

The Bibles one in hand prophecy of Ezekiel now fulfilled.

Rev. 11 The 2 prophets are fulfilled by Joseph & Hyrum Smith, at least on one level.

Ezek. The David rule under Jehovah. This is Joseph Smith.

Joseph in Egypt is a type of Joseph Smith saving the saints in the days preceding the millennium. Many are the prophecies of his return.

Gen. 49 the seed of Joseph shall go over the wall, meaning come to the new world over the ocean; this is where the Book of Mormon takes place; also George Washington put his hand here when he swore into office, which suggests that he, like many others, believed that they were a remnant of Israel in a new promised land.

Lehi reads in 2 Ne. 2 of a deleted bible passage written by Joseph in Egypt which speaks of a coming JS and JS Jr.
-the bible speaks of a marvelous work and a wonder, this is the gathering which Joseph Smith and his predecessors are executing

Isaiah speaks of a servant, this is another possible fulfillment, in addition to the Messianic fulfillment

Jacob 5 teaches a lost bible doctrine of vineyard, the servant potentially being Joseph Smith

though some of these could be considered to not refer to JS, the way of the Lord is often to give hints and leave the rest to those filled with the spirit of God to discern and prophecy.

You find no Old Testament mention of Paul the Apostle,

despite the epic influence he had on the church from his doctrinal messages. Yet there stands Paul, great testator of Christ!

Similarly, to how Jews reject scriptural symbols alluding to Christ, so do Protestants and Catholics reject scriptures which allude to Joseph Smith!

This is the time of restoration of all things spoken of in scripture.

The Biblical structure of giving some prophets for the perfecting of the saints in Ephesians is fulfilled.

Stephen saw the father and the son just as Joseph Smith saw both the Father and the Son.

The scripture of the man which shall say I cannot read a sealed book is fulfilled in the man who rejected the Book of Mormon foreign excerpt with these same words.

The Rev. 14 another angel flying in the midst of heavens is fulfilled as the angel Moroni delivering the sacred record.

The lion Judah and the unicorn Ephraim are joined. The marriage of Joseph Smith and Eliza Snow particularly joins these together, and their family will yet bring to pass more of these promises.

Out of Zion shall go forth the law. This is fulfilled in the American Zion and its banner of freedom.

Dispensation of the fullness of times spoken of in Ephesians is now being fulfilled by Joseph Smith and his predecessors. These things must be fulfilled, and it is up to us to discern how and by whom. The bible doesn't can't and shouldn't spell out every little detail for us.

Deleted bible parts such as the book of Joseph in Egypt, part of which is found in the Book of Mormon, refer to Joseph Smith; a man called after the name of Joseph, who would also be a son of Joseph. Indeed Joseph Smith's father was also named Joseph.

Show how doctrines in the bible are taught by JS which are not taught by others, this shows that JS is of the bible. Ie. Polygamy, 12 apostles, deacons, priests, seventies, high priests, Aaronic priesthood, Melchizedic priesthood, temples, body a temple

Book of Mormon speaks of biblical doctrines of faith in Christ, baptism, reception of the Holy Ghost, and calls for continued faithfulness for salvation.

An Elias to prepare the way of the Lord has come.

A falling away first; that is fulfilled.

Moses says that angels shall declare it to the 4 corners of the earth – the Latter-day Saint missionary fleet unmatched in all the world.

The book of Revelation speaks of the woman chased into the wilderness.

Concerning the two witnesses prophecy 1260 days Rev. 11: The same time is spoken of in this scripture of 1260 days is the amount of time from when Joseph and Hyrum Smith (joint prophets) issued the call to gather to Zion to the day of their death 1260 days later.

If we had the records of Joseph in Egypt (yes, some of them appear in the Book of Mormon), he prophesied of a man coming in his name, whose name is also that of his father, who would be the latter-day restorer.

We also know of the Jewish legends of Messiah Ben Joseph, that the sacrifices were offered as symbols foreshadowing the life of Christ, and an evening sacrifices about the latter-day anointed one Joseph Smith. Messiah means anointed one.

Elder McConkie taught that essentially any prophecy about the last days centers around or is about Joseph Smith.

ATTACKS & DEFENSES

Boyd K. Packer & J. Reuben Clark: Attacks Not Just from Outside the Church

These teachings from Elder Packer remind us that we might expect attacks against Joseph Smith, even from within the church:

“Atheists and agnostics make nonbelief their religion and today organize in unprecedented ways to attack faith and belief. They are now organized, and they pursue political power. You will be hearing much about them and from them. Much of their attack is indirect in mocking the faithful, in mocking religion.

The types of Sherem, Nehor, and Korihor live among us today (see [Jacob 7:1–21](#); [Alma 1:1–15](#); [Alma 30:6–60](#)). Their arguments are not so different from those in the Book of Mormon. You who are young will see many things that will try your courage and test your faith. All of the mocking does not come from outside of the Church. Let me say that again:

All of the mocking does not come from outside of the Church. Be careful that you do not fall into the category of mocking.” (President Boyd K Packer, Jan. 16 2007 [Lehi's Dream and You - Boyd K. Packer - BYU Speeches](#)))

“Largely because of television, instead of looking over into that spacious building, we are, in effect, living inside of it. That is your fate in this generation. You are living in that great and spacious building.” (President Boyd K. Packer Jan. 16 2007 [Lehi's Dream and You - Boyd K. Packer - BYU Speeches](#))

And here from J. Reuben Clark:

“The ravening wolves are among us, from our own membership, and they, more than any others, are clothed in sheep’s clothing, because they wear the habiliments of the priesthood... We should be careful of them.” (J. Reuben Clark, Conference Report, April 1949)



Leah Stoddard on Why Bushman's "Rough Stone Rolling" Book Doesn't Work (Defames Joseph & Excludes Spiritual Nature)

Shared with permission.

Recently, I have been preparing to present with my good friend Kimberly Watson Smith at the FIRM Foundation expo on the subject of the book *Rough Stone Rolling*. When I first sat down and started looking at all the data and information, I had two very distinct impressions from the Spirit. The first was that **the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Smith family, and the other staunch witnesses of the Restoration were very, very good people**, the best of the best. That, **if I was going to work on a presentation defending their character, I should live even more clean and honorable**. That it was an honor to defend these great people, and that it had to be done with a good, pure spirit, or it should not be done or tampered with. The other thing that was impressed on me was that **there was no way to present on Joseph Smith and the Restoration based on data, facts, and history alone**. This was a subject that had to be **understood by the Spirit** and the Holy Ghost. This is something I appreciate so much about my Dad. He was able to present with power because he lived more purely than anybody I know, and lived a sacrificial, dedicated life, a life of hours and hours studying the scriptures. I really started

digging deep, in one way by listening to the audiobook of They Knew the Prophet to learn more deeply the information from a strong, faith-building perspective.

One of the most ironic things about these two impressions is **that these are two key issues with Rough Stone Rolling**. The one is the idea that Joseph Smith was a “weak,” “prideful,” and “angry” man who was able to accomplish great things not because he lived pure, but because he was somehow magically blessed with the gift of greatness. **The other is that Joseph Smith can be represented purely based on facts and devoid of a spiritual foundation and testimony** (and in Rough Stone Rolling’s case, in many ways from the perspective of men who tried to tear down the Restoration and had very faulty characters). I will always be one of the first people to strive to look objectively at the facts, devoid of bias. At the same time, I have come to understand that, like President Joseph F. Smith said, **"God will reveal himself, or remain unrevealed. If we don't have the Spirit from repentance and a clean heart, we will never be able to understand the Lord's perspective--only our own narrow perspective.** Interestingly enough, the historical facts and data support Joseph Smith’s greatness.

I just thought I would share that. Plus, I have really been surprised that while working on a project that seemed discouraging because it required reading a lot of disparaging material, my testimony in the Restoration, Book of Mormon, and Joseph Smith has gotten so much stronger. If you have kids and are looking for ways to help build their testimony, find projects that support and defend the Restoration! I am so grateful for all the JSF projects my Dad

and sister have worked with us on, especially when it would have been easier to do it themselves. There is so much work that can be done to build up the good.

Alma Allred on Bushman and Arrington

Shared with permission.

I think the answer to the question of Arrington and Bushman isn't as easy as your question implies. I think they both (Arrington is dead, Bushman, not yet AFIK), subject to different motivations that carried with them unfortunate baggage.

It's apparent to me that **Bushman** wanted to present to the academic world a case for accepting Joseph Smith as an honest, sincere man whose life is worthy of examination. However, in such a presentation, he had **to leave out elements of faith—including any supernatural considerations, so that they wouldn't automatically dismiss** his presentation. He wanted to produce a biography that would replace Fawn Brodie's psycho-history which has held sway in academia for more than a generation. I think **that's a fool's errand because you cannot remove faith and miracles while honestly evaluating a prophet of God.** The elements that make Joseph Smith worthy of a biography reside in the spiritual realm. You can appeal to those who reject God, but it can only be done while holding on to the iron rod.

It's like trying to ride two independent horses standing with one foot on each saddle. Soon, you'll have legs up to your eyeballs and you will be forced to abandon one. **Bushman saw his audience as academics and that horse could not accept miracles.**

I think Leonard Arrington is a different case--perhaps because **he thought that he could produce his personal historical perspectives with the Church as his publishing house.** The Church's mission is to convert those who will have faith in Christ, repent, and accept the prophets of the restoration. It seems to me that **he thought he could present his personal conclusions as unvarnished truth,** and was very **disappointed to learn that the apostles and prophets didn't support that perspective because their view was on the Church's mission and his was on presenting what he thought took precedence.**

I don't think that either of them thought of Joseph as a schmuck. I think they believed Joseph was a prophet and that they could present their academic perspectives without regard to the impact such perspectives would have on those who were weak in the faith but in the Church.

I hadn't read "Rough Stone Rolling" until I had students come to me after class, troubled with what they had been reading in his book. I read it several times, and **didn't agree with a lot of his perspectives.** He came to the UofU Institue of Religion and gave a presentation to the faculty. I was there for a while but got disgusted and left halfway through.

I mentioned to a member of the presidency of the Seventy who was a friend that I was reading it. He asked if he could borrow my copy (I don't recall now whether I bought it or got it at the library). When he finished it, he brought it back to me and said, **"I'd hate to be in his shoes when he gets to the other side and tries to explain himself to the prophet."**

It may be a simple enough explanation to point out that **claiming that the prophets weren't perfect just may be evil speaking of the Lord's anointed.** Everyone has sins, and the penchant of historians to emphasize that the prophets aren't perfect is dangerous ground. When I taught Church History, I taught what I thought was important; but I didn't teach everything I knew, because some things can be troubling. **Historians like to publish the troubling items because they think that's "truth."** They would possibly think that I wasn't truthful in my classes because **I didn't "challenge" students with troubling facts. But I maintain that's not the purpose of the Church Education System.**

I did teach that Joseph used the seer stone and I never shied away from answering questions honestly. (Note: The subject of the stone is something I take up in a different book). However, if someone said, "Did Joseph Smith marry other men's wives?" I'd answer, "No," and let them know **there's a lot more to the subject** that we could discuss after class. I think that serves as a good illustration that so-called "historians" distort facts while thinking they're just presenting truth. Todd Compton presented his perspective of plural marriage but consistently **conflated "marriage" and "sealing."** **Those were not synonyms.** Compton claimed that when Joseph died many women who had been sealed to

Joseph became widows--even if they were married to someone else at Joseph's death. The distinction between "marriage" and "sealing," is obvious even today. I had kids in my ward who had been sealed in the temple and subsequently divorced. Their sealing had not been canceled; but they knew they couldn't sleep with their ex-spouses even though they were still sealed--because "sealing" and "marriage" weren't the same. I'm sure Todd Compton is convinced that he was just presenting the unvarnished truth about plural marriage. I'm just as convinced that was deceiving himself and those who read his book.

Similarly, Arrington and Bushman thought and think their perspective reflects the truth and must be faced by the world and the apostles and prophets. I think Arrington was surprised when he got to the other side, as will be Bushman.

Richard Bushman, author of “Rough Stone Rolling,” Toying with Anti-Christ Narratives

The following is by Kimberly Smith, Joseph Smith Foundation contributor, and is shared with her permission.

During General Conference October 1970, President Benson identified and named five specific antichrists in our own day. Among the 5 Anti-Christ's named, Sigmund Freud was the TOP of the List.

We must keep this in mind. A prophet of God identified a modern Anti-Christ in our day!

An antichrist is an opponent of Christ; he is one who is in opposition to the true gospel, the true Church, and the true plan of salvation. President Benson taught that the purpose of the Book of Mormon is to bring men to Christ by “testifying of Christ and revealing His enemies.

In 2005, Historian and LDS Author Richard Bushman wrote an explosive Biography, *Rough Stone Rolling*, on the Prophet Joseph Smith completely changing his nature and character from a Prophet of God, so Holy and Pure that both the Father and Son would come to while yet in his youth, into a Lazy, adulterous, Treasure Digger, involved in magic and the occult claiming these activities served as a "preparatory gospel". Bushman even went as far as to INSIST that the Church must CHANGE ITS DOMINATIVE NARRATIVE, change the history that was upheld for over 190 years by every President of the Church!

Was Richard Bushman writing a "Faithful History" based on credible, authenticated sources? Must we accept this "New Joseph Smith" and re-write our history to reflect Bushman's NEW interpretations.??

Richard Bushman in a series of lectures regarding the writing of his magnum opus, *Rough Stone Rolling*, admitted the following:

“I don’t think many professionals set as their goal to determine if Joseph Smith was a true prophet. Most begin with a desire to understand the person they are writing about and portray him as accurately as they can. In my case, I wanted to understand how Joseph Smith understood himself... I try to get inside my subject’s mind. That is the kind of history I like to read and choose to write”.

What does it say about Bushman that he used the psychology of a known "ANTICHRIST" instead of facts and data to

interpret Joseph Smith? And how different are his delusions about the mind of one of the greatest men to ever walk the face of the earth compared to what God says about him?

In Section 121 of the Doctrine of Covenants Jesus Christ said to the Joseph Smith:

"God shall give unto you knowledge by his bHoly Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost, that has not been revealed since the world was until now"

In other words, God is saying that Adam, Enoch, Abraham, and etc had KNOWLEDGE but the Prophet Joseph Smith had MORE knowledge than them!!!

Ricard Bushman did not write a faithful Biography of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He saw Joseph Smith as a sick patient who needed to be diagnosed. Instead of writing a truthful history, he wrote a "Psychohistory" using Freudian psychology to misuse evidence and to serve up "questionable interpretations". This is NOT an honest Scholarship.

"In an effort to understand eighteenth-century religious and political thought, Bushman was a Young scholar who took seminars from psychosocial theorist Erik Erikson, a student of Freud's. Psychological theory had entered the writing of historians trained in the generation after World War II And Bushman found in what later became known as "psychohistory" a way to extend his empathetic approach" (Bushman, Believing History, Introduction xiii).

"All of these Eriksonian notions were in the back of my mind when I worked in the Prophet Joseph Smith over the past eight years. I really didn't set out to do a deep psychological portrait of the Prophet. I knew I lacked Erickson's finesse, but after completing the biography last year, I realized that Erickson's influence could be seen in its pages". Richard Bushman

Bushman's ego and confidence in "psychology" were greater than his knowledge and confidence in God and his chosen Latter-day Servant even the Prophet Joseph Smith. For "there is not so great a man as Joseph standing on this generation... His mind, like Enoch's, expands as eternity, and ONLY GOD can comprehend his soul".

I highly recommend this Two-Part Vidcast from the Joseph Smith Foundation in order to get the REAL HISTORY, the TRUE FACTS, and the REAL DATA about Bushman's claims.

Part One: <https://fb.watch/5jVwucn1dx/>

Part Two:

<https://www.facebook.com/JosephSmithFoundation/videos/1094141174426752>

Joseph Smith's Role Fading

There's a book by a Christian pastor entitled Ashamed of Joseph (authors are Steven A. Crane and Charles A. Crane) which posits that the LDS Church is becoming increasingly uncomfortable with some of Joseph Smith's Teachings, and is increasingly de-emphasizing them. In the first chapter of the book, for example, it says this:

"Before this (1993) trip, our most recent visit (to the LDS Visitor's Center at Temple Square) had been in 1973. In days gone by a central theme that ran through the tour had

been the life and teachings of Joseph Smith. In the Visitor's Center were several large paintings about him and his work; in the courtyard stood two large statues of Joseph and his brother Hiram... This day, however, there was not one word mentioned about Joseph Smith... This prompted me to ask several questions of the young lady who was our guide... I pressed her to tell why nothing was said about their founding prophet during the whole length of the tour. Her reply shocked us! 'We are told to not talk about Joseph Smith.' ... I asked, 'Why?' She replied, 'We are sort of embarrassed by him today.'"

Being told not to talk about Joseph is strange. The missionary handbook (Preach My Gospel) specifically tells missionaries to testify of Joseph Smith's prophetic calling. If there ever was a discouragement from speaking about Joseph, hopefully we are past that. Unfortunately it is obvious that a witness of his role is not at the level it should be among the saints. As Elder Bruce R. McConkie, taught, Joseph is the revealer of Christ.

The good old days are dying out, and a revival must and will take place, with Joseph's teachings at its center. I do know that there are many saints who love Joseph and his message. There have also been some recent general conference talks that supported this. I would love to hear more of his teachings at the conferences, etc.

It was particularly sad to me when at the General Conference celebration of an anniversary of Joseph Smith, that most of the talks weren't about Joseph. I recall Elder Ballard spoke of Joseph, another spoke of a Book of Mormon story, but for most, any mentions of Joseph were reserved for sort of a one-line mention at the end of their

message, if at all.

In scholarly circles it's particularly bad. I'll always be haunted by something a friend of mine said who was ascending fast in the ranks of BYU religion scholarship. When I brought up some teachings of Joseph, he said, "yeah, Joseph said a lot of things" in a very dismissive way.

In this church, the name of Joseph Smith must always remain essential. You can't have the real Jesus while rejecting the true messengers of Jesus.

Truman G. Madsen Testifies of Joseph Smith's character

"It's the character of Joseph Smith that's being assaulted and vilified," Truman noted. "You go on the web, you're going to find every kind of vicious statement about how rotten a man he was. These [the Quorum of the Twelve of Joseph Smith's day] are people who knew him daily and intimately and in [the] most sacred circumstances, and they leave no question that his life was noble and true and that, in my way of summing it up, he went through the veil without spot and blameless. I not only have a testimony that he was a prophet, I have a testimony of his character, which then gives me confidence in everything else he did and everything else he said." (The Truman G. Madsen Story)

Bruce R. McConkie: We Must Boldly Preach the Restoration

The following is adapted from the Bruce R McConkie biography, 'The Story of Bruce R McConkie' by Joseph Fielding McConkie, 2003

He taught that we can't present the message of the restoration independent of the testimony of Joseph Smith. We can't just profess faith in Christ, we must profess our faith in that Christ revealed to Joseph Smith the Prophet. He said, "Joseph Smith is the revealer of the knowledge of Christ for our dispensation. If it were not for him and the witness and testimony he has given, we would not have more knowledge than the sectarian world has; hence, we bear testimony of Joseph Smith."

He said "Now I'm not too impressed with the fact that we try to be very soft and very gentle in all the visitors centers and in the missionary work and in everything else, just trying to leave people feeling good. I think we've got a message, and it ought to be delivered. It's a worldwide message, and our centering should be on Joseph Smith. Here is Joseph Smith and he revealed Christ, and here is Christ, and here is salvation through this system. That kind of approach will have the effect of dividing people on one hand or the other, but so you divide them. You divide them- you get some people who are interested. You don't make friends with everyone."

President Clark said you can't tell the Joseph Smith story without offending people.

President Clark said we don't need to be so anxiously concerned about not offending the world.

President Clark said "Jesus offended people. now we are trying not trying to offend people but he offended them by the nature of the message that he presented, and we, in my judgment, just have two more affirmatively present our message"

Elder McConkie conducted a missionary training center survey of their testimony where he asked missionaries to rate whether they knew believed didn't know or doubted the doctrines of one God is my father the father of my spirit to Jesus is the Christ the son of God three Joseph Smith is a prophet of God for the Book of Mormon is the word of God five Spencer W Kimball is a prophet of God today. The lowest rated of these were item three Joseph Smith is a prophet of God and item for the Book of Mormon is the word of God. To this elder McConkie said quote something's wrong. Something's terribly wrong!

Elder McConkie said "maybe in our efforts as a church to ensure that everyone knows we are christian, we have gone too far. A while back we changed our missionary discussions to make our first discussion a message about christ. It seemed at the time a good thing to do, given that Jesus is the head of the church. But what was the result? A decrease in convert baptisms and a decrease in the number of copies of the Book of Mormon placed my full-time missionaries from 1 million per year to 500,000. We are not teaching the restoration as we ought to."

Elder McConkie said quote we will never achieve the quantity and quality of converts that President Kimball and the Lord have envisioned as long as we continue to stress the similarities between us and those of other faiths. It is only when we stress the differences that we are able to make our

distinctive contribution in the world and thus make our influence felt"

D&C 5:10 and 20:11-17 and 31:3-4 and 49:1-4 say we must be true to the restoration.

We are under condemnation because of our neglect of the Book of Mormon and Latter-Day revelation says D&C 84:54-61.

Bruce R. McConkie: Hoffman Forgeries Didn't Match Voice of Joseph Smith

The following is adapted from the Bruce R McConkie biography, 'The Story of Bruce R McConkie' by Joseph Fielding McConkie, 2003

When the Mark Hoffman forgery documents came out, Elder McConkie rejected them on theological grounds, knowing that those documents could not represent the voice of Joseph Smith. He also noted that there was a lack of language indicating the conferral of keys and that the man to whom all of the keys of the Kingdom had been restored could not forget to bequeath them to his successor. McConkie did not know anything about Hoffman but he did know Joseph Smith, and those documents did not represent Joseph Smith.

We too can reject many false doctrines by being grounded in the teachings of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

Joseph's Teachings Consistent? Evolved?

Yes

Did Joseph smith's theology evolve over his lifetime, meaning we should give more weight to his later teachings than his earlier teachings?

Comments :

I do not believe they evolved, only that he was allowed to share more over time, or that the bad record keeping makes him seem to be inventive and not consistent

....

As with all of us, we learn line upon line; He received the preparatory priesthood and later the Higher. He used Urim & Thummim for early revelation, but as his faith grew, he no longer needed the stones. He Received additional knowledge and connection (to heaven) with each new set of keys he received; Aaronic, Melchizedek, Keys received in Kirtland Temple (Priesthood of Elijah) and so forth.

However, being directed by The Lord's Spirit through the entire process, I would not agree to giving more weight to his later teachings. I consider all his teachings, "The Word of God.'

.....

I think he grew in knowledge and his theology developed to be far more expansive as he received further light and knowledge, line upon line.

D&C 121:26 God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost, that has not been revealed since the world was until now;

27 Which our forefathers have awaited with anxious expectation to be revealed in the last times, which their minds were pointed to by the angels, as held in reserve for the fulness of their glory;

28 A time to come in the which nothing shall be withheld, whether there be one God or many gods, they shall be manifest.

29 All thrones and dominions, principalities and powers, shall be revealed and set forth upon all who have endured valiantly for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

No doubt that he grew in knowledge and understanding. Shortly after the Book of Mormon was finished, he was commanded to translate the Bible with the Urim and Thummim. After translating the first part of Genesis, he was commanded to translate the New Testament first. This is where most of his questions came that prompted a large part of the revelations that we have in the D&C. The greatness

and vastness of Joseph's contributions to the restoration came simply because he took his questions to the Lord in faith and received answers. What a great lesson for all of us!

Joseph Smith Prophecy Not Coming to Pass?

What of the Deuteronomy verse saying if a prophet says something and it doesn't come to pass he is a false prophet, and Joseph Smith speaking something that didn't happen?

a few notes from an interview LDS teacher Alma Allred had with a Presbyterian pastor.

<https://youtu.be/eSJlshDivfU>

What of the Deuteronomy verse saying if a prophet says something and it doesn't come to pass he is a false prophet, and Joseph Smith speaking something that didn't happen?

Isaiah told Hezekiah he was going to die.

Jonah told Nineveh they were going to be destroyed.

Jeremiah told Jehoiachin he would have no children to sit on the throne of Israel.

All these statements made in the name of the Lord did not come to pass.

God qualifies in the book of Jeremiah that what prophets say is contingent on how the people respond to it. Jeremiah 18:7-10 reads, “7 At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; 8 If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. 9 And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; 10 If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.”

Note: People who argue about this usually disregard the plethora of prophecies of Joseph Smith which DID routinely come to pass.

The prophecy of Joseph Smith about the Lord's return happening earlier COULD have happened if the righteous were righteous enough. It was a very likely condition, but it has been forestalled due primarily to the wickedness of the people, and the failure of the saints to build Zion in Holiness.

If the Lord tells a people he is going to build a city, and the people don't get on board, he won't.

Note: Unfortunately, this is what happened with our modern attempt to build Zion in Missouri. D&C 105 addresses this matter, explaining that the failure of the saints would result in their not being able to redeem Zion for a season. Here in these first verses of section 105 (1-14) the Lord explains this:

“1 Verily I say unto you who have assembled yourselves together that you may learn my will concerning the redemption of mine afflicted people— 2 Behold, I say unto you, were it not for the transgressions of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been redeemed even now. 3 But behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I required at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh saints, to the poor and afflicted among them; 4 And are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom; 5 And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself. 6 And my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer. 7 I speak not concerning those who are appointed to lead my people, who are the first elders of my church, for they are not all under this condemnation; 8 But I speak concerning my churches abroad—there are many who will say: Where is their God? Behold, he will deliver them in time of trouble, otherwise we will not go up unto Zion, and will keep our moneys. 9 Therefore, in consequence of the transgressions of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion— 10 That they themselves may be prepared, and that my people may be taught more perfectly, and have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands. 11 And this cannot be brought to pass until mine elders are endowed with power from on high. 12 For behold, I have prepared a great endowment and blessing to be poured out upon them, inasmuch as they are faithful and continue in humility before me. 13 Therefore it is

expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season, for the redemption of Zion. 14 For behold, I do not require at their hands to fight the battles of Zion; for, as I said in a former commandment, even so will I fulfil—I will fight your battles.”

In these next verses (15-32), the Lord gives instructions to the saints about how they might try again:

“15 Behold, the destroyer I have sent forth to destroy and lay waste mine enemies; and not many years hence they shall not be left to pollute mine heritage, and to blaspheme my name upon the lands which I have consecrated for the gathering together of my saints. 16 Behold, I have commanded my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., to say unto the strength of my house, even my warriors, my young men, and middle-aged, to gather together for the redemption of my people, and throw down the towers of mine enemies, and scatter their watchmen; 17 But the strength of mine house have not hearkened unto my words. 18 But inasmuch as there are those who have hearkened unto my words, I have prepared a blessing and an endowment for them, if they continue faithful. 19 I have heard their prayers, and will accept their offering; and it is expedient in me that they should be brought thus far for a trial of their faith. 20 And now, verily I say unto you, a commandment I give unto you, that as many as have come up hither, that can stay in the region round about, let them stay; 21 And those that cannot stay, who have families in the east, let them tarry for a little season, inasmuch as my servant Joseph shall appoint unto

them; 22 For I will counsel him concerning this matter, and all things whatsoever he shall appoint unto them shall be fulfilled. 23 And let all my people who dwell in the regions round about be very faithful, and prayerful, and humble before me, and reveal not the things which I have revealed unto them, until it is wisdom in me that they should be revealed. 24 Talk not of judgments, neither boast of faith nor of mighty works, but carefully gather together, as much in one region as can be, consistently with the feelings of the people; 25 And behold, I will give unto you favor and grace in their eyes, that you may rest in peace and safety, while you are saying unto the people: Execute judgment and justice for us according to law, and redress us of our wrongs. 26 Now, behold, I say unto you, my friends, in this way you may find favor in the eyes of the people, until the army of Israel becomes very great. 27 And I will soften the hearts of the people, as I did the heart of Pharaoh, from time to time, until my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and mine elders, whom I have appointed, shall have time to gather up the strength of my house, 28 And to have sent wise men, to fulfil that which I have commanded concerning the purchasing of all the lands in Jackson county that can be purchased, and in the adjoining counties round about. 29 For it is my will that these lands should be purchased; and after they are purchased that my saints should possess them according to the laws of consecration which I have given. 30 And after these lands are purchased, I will hold the armies of Israel guiltless in taking possession of their own lands, which they have previously purchased with their moneys, and of throwing down the towers of mine enemies that may be upon them, and scattering their watchmen, and avenging me of mine enemies unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me. 31 But first let my army become very

great, and let it be sanctified before me, that it may become fair as the sun, and clear as the moon, and that her banners may be terrible unto all nations; 32 That the kingdoms of this world may be constrained to acknowledge that the kingdom of Zion is in very deed the kingdom of our God and his Christ; therefore, let us become subject unto her laws.”

The remaining verses in section 105 (33-41) give more instructions.

JOSEPH’S TEACHINGS ON REVELATION

Bad Guys Fear & Tremble: Now there are
Two of Them! (Meme)



In the Star Wars story, the bad guy is afraid of the Jedi Knights. One boards his ship, and he learns there's actually two. He says, "this is getting out of hand! Now there are two of them!" In Joseph Smith's vision, we learned that God is two beings! One in purpose, yet a real father-son relationship, representing and perfectly satisfying both justice and mercy.

The first vision to Joseph Smith revealed volumes about the nature and identity of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

We are forever indebted to Joseph Smith for delivering this knowledge!

(Painting in the meme by Del Parson)

Why Bruce R. McConkie's Messiah Series is Doctrinally Superior to Talmage's "Jesus the Christ" Book: Focusing on Restoration Doctrines

The following is adapted from the Bruce R McConkie biography, 'The Story of Bruce R McConkie' by Joseph Fielding McConkie, 2003

McConkie's Messiah book series was written 64 years after James E Talmage's Jesus the Christ, and McConkie's books drew more heavily upon the Joseph Smith translation and D&C 138 which was received after Talmage's work.

McConkie's book "A New Witness for the Articles of Faith" took a different approach from Talmage's work 8 decades earlier. Talmage tried to give credibility to Joseph Smith and Mormonism by showing that its doctrines were based on the bible. But Elder McConkie sought to explain them in the light of modern revelation. He felt that the best evidence that God has spoken in our day is found in what God has said today.

Bruce said no one can discover the meaning of Romans (etc.) until they've read the Book of Mormon and Latter-Day Revelation to interpret the New Testament. Bruce read the Old Testament as if Mormon or Moroni had translated it.

What Bruce R. McConkie Would Add to the Canon (More Josph Smith Teachings)

The following is adapted from the Bruce R McConkie biography, 'The Story of Bruce R McConkie' by Joseph Fielding McConkie, 2003

McConkie had his own list of scripture including the Wentworth letter of Joseph Smith and the lectures on faith (which were published with the D&C until 1921) and the First Presidency exposition on the Origin of Man 1912 and the Doctrinal Disposition of the First Presidency on the Father and the Son 1916 and the King Follet Discourse of

Joseph Smith. To him these documents could very properly have been added to our present canon.

He said there are two seals on the Bible, the first is a seal of ignorance, the second a seal of intellectuality. Joseph Smith and the revelations of the restoration removed those seals.

He defended the lectures on faith and said of the fifth lecture "in my judgment, it is the most comprehensive, intelligent, inspired utterance that now exist in the English language - that exists in one place defining comment interpreting, expounding, announcing, and testifying what kind of being God is. It was written by the power of the Holy Ghost, by the spirit of inspiration. It is, in effect, eternal scripture; it is true."

McConkie pointed out that the great doctrinal labor of the last hundred years has been to grow up into the revelations received by the prophet Joseph Smith. The heavens are not sealed but they are opened most readily to those who have faithfully built the house of their gospel understanding on the foundation that the Prophet Joseph laid.

Bruce R. McConkie Pushes to get the Joseph Smith Translation in Our Scriptures

The following is adapted from the Bruce R McConkie biography, 'The Story of Bruce R McConkie' by Joseph Fielding McConkie, 2003

Some in scholarly circles in the church have viewed the Joseph Smith translation with skepticism because it is not always in harmony with the ancient manuscripts. The prophet did not use manuscripts in making his translation, he simply used the King James version of the Bible and the gift and power of God, it was a translation by the spirit of revelation. We have to choose between the spirit of revelation as Joseph Smith had, and loyalty to ancient manuscripts, all of which are to some degree at variance with each other. For McConkie it was an easy choice to go with the Joseph Smith translation, that such presents the reader a greater Christ than any other translation of the Bible.

He said negative attitudes and feelings about the Joseph Smith translation are part of the devil's program to keep the word of truth from people and that these revealed changes made by Joseph Smith are as true as anything in the Book of Mormon or doctrine and covenants. He said we can't pick and choose which Revelations we will believe in use.

Bruce helped the Joseph Smith Translation get into the LDS KJV bible, which the previous generation didn't have access to.

Note: 30% of the JST is in our bible, the rest can be found in the original Inspired Version of the bible which can be purchased here:

<https://store.truthseekersfoundation.com/product/inspired-bible/>

The Joseph Smith Translation (of the
Bible): Precious Truths Restored by W.
Jeffrey Marsh – Lecture Notes &
Commentary

This is a lecture based on his book. This lecture can be found in the BYU Media Library on CD.

The book of scripture titled The Pearl of Great Price is the Joseph Smith Translation of Genesis

Moses 1:40-41 refers to the JST, that God would raise up a seer like Moses who would restore the words of God that had been lost.

“The Joseph Smith Translation, or Inspired Version, is a thousand times over the best Bible now existing on earth. It contains all that the King James Version does, plus pages of additions and corrections and an occasional deletion. It was made by the spirit of revelation, and the changes and additions are the equivalent of the revealed word in the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants.” (Elder Bruce

R. McConkie, “The Bible: A Sealed Book” see <https://www.lds.org/manual/teaching-seminary-preservice-readings-religion-370-471-and-475/the-bible-a-sealed-book?lang=eng>)

“For historical and other reasons there have been, among some members of the Church in times past, some prejudice and misunderstanding of the place of the Joseph Smith Translation. I hope this has now all vanished away.” (Elder Bruce R. McConkie, “The Bible: A Sealed Book” see <https://www.lds.org/manual/teaching-seminary-preservice-readings-religion-370-471-and-475/the-bible-a-sealed-book?lang=eng>)

McConkie says that negative feelings about the JST are the devil’s way to keep the truth from coming forward. All these revelations are important. The Inspired version of the bible is inspired. This is crowning work of the restoration.

Elder Dallin H Oaks says there should be no doubt about the JST version of the bible, that we should notice and honor it whenever it is present.

Joseph Smith said that he has the oldest book in his heart- the Holy Ghost.

Joseph Smith said that much instruction was given in the beginning that we do not now possess.

D&C 7 is scripture from John the Revelator which was formerly lost

If we are faithful we have been promised more writings from Enoch, John the Baptist, etc.

Joseph Smith's sections of the Book of Enoch that he revealed had several words that were proper names that were not in any known text of Enoch. Then after his death, several texts were found with those very words which scholars now embrace. We see that Joseph Smith was revealing ancient texts.

Oct. 1975 Ensign Hugh Nibley writes of the Joseph Smith version of the book of Enoch.

See 1952 Our Lord of the Gospels book by President Clark
See Why the King James Version book by President Clark

77 of the 138 sections of the D&C were received while

Joseph was translating the bible or dealing with that, as well as the Joseph Smith Matthew text.

Joseph changes of the bible 1300 verses from the Old Testament and 2100 verses from the New Testament. 1100 of these verses the LDS have, which is about 1/3, including most doctrinal of those.

Joseph would hold the bible in front of him and read it, then dictate changes to it to scribes. Those manuscripts didn't make it to the west.

Joseph wanted to publish the JST but was killed first. Jesus commanded him to publish it in the D&C.

The RSV and the NIV which both come from an old source from the Egyptians, but Arius in Alexandria Egypt edited them to fit what he wanted. Arianism, the ways of Arius, emphasizes the humanity of Christ, denies the divinity of Christ. He taught that Jesus is not the same substance as the Father, and that Christ was created out of nothing.

In the RSV, the word doctrine is changed into teachings.

In the RSV when Jesus testifies in first person of himself being the son of God, that is always deleted.

In the RSV, they removed the word ordain whenever speaking of the Priesthood, replacing it with appointed or a word like that. This makes it look like a political position;

In the RSV When it says Jesus is the only begotten son of God, it takes out the word begotten, making it seem like he is the only child of God and that no one else is a child of God.

In the RSV, every reference to the first estate was eliminated

In the RSV the word miracle was eliminated

Most Christians today use the RSV and the NIV today since it is easy to read. The RSV and NIV are like this.; these are but a few examples. This is why so many Christians are losing faith in Jesus Christ in the world today.

“Our Bible” by J Reuben Clark a talk on this; see also his book “Our Lord of the Gospels”; see also his book “Why the King James Version”. He points out the critical doctrinal differences between the

JST Moses reads of the God head and adversary in chi 1. In the bible the word Satan doesn't appear until the book of Chronicles. The word Lucifer doesn't appear until the book of Isaiah. The word devil doesn't show up in the Old Testament at all. Satan wants us to believe that he is a myth.

JST Moses 1, we see the Godhead. We see love from both the Father and the Son.

JST Moses 1, There are 6 times where God calls Moses, "My Son". In Egyptian Moses means son of blank. He didn't know whose he was until he met God.

JST has teachings of a pre-mortal council, which is nowhere in the bible.

JST has teachings of how Jesus was chosen as redeemer of all before he was born,

JST shows that Jesus created millions of earths including this earth,

JST shows that the gospel of Jesus Christ was taught to Adam and Eve in its fullness,

JST shows that Jesus Christ is the Jehovah of the Old Testament,

JST shows that Adam and Eve had children and grandchildren before they even had Cain and Able, that throws out the idea that there were pre-Adam people that Cain married, but that he rather married one of his nieces or another one of the children of Adam and Eve.

JST shows that sacred records were kept by Adam and Eve, that they know how to write etc.

JST shows that the gospel continued through many dispensations, that the early patriarchs were not merely righteous, they were taught the gospel of Jesus Christ. They speak in the JST about the first ordinances of the gospel like baptism.

JST speaks of Enoch and his city. No bibles speak of how Enoch had a city, what happened to him in that city, or when he will return. JST speaks of Enoch converting an entire group of people who were transported before the flood. We also learn that Melchizedek after the flood did the same thing.

JST speaks of how Noah didn't just save his family, but that he was called for 120 years to preach faith repentance baptism and the conferral of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands before the flood came to try and get the people to be saved!

JST teaches how Noah and his wife had grandchildren before the flood came, and that they had to close the doors on their own families.

Noah is Gabriel, he watched the earth be destroyed at the flood, he gets to go to Marry to announce the Savior of the world.

Gen 17:21 Abraham sees he will have a son, in the bible it says the laughed at the news, the JST says that they rejoiced at the news.

Exo. 4 Moses is called to free Israel. KJV says God will harden Pharaohs hart, but JST says that Pharaoh will harden his own heart, & that God would bless Moses.

Exo. 6 says no one has known God by his name Jehovah, showing that prophets didn't even know his name. The JST

reads “was not my name Jehovah known to all my prophets?” It’s a rhetorical question showing that it was known! This is how God showed Moses that he is the same God that appeared to Abraham and all the prophets before him.

Exo. 32 says God repented; in the JST all times where it says that, it’s changed to “the people repented”. God has no need for repentance. It shows he is perfected and doesn’t play with our lives.

Matt. 4, says the spirit took the Savior into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil; in the JST it says that he was taken into the wilderness to commune with his Father for 40 days, and only after that experience the devil came to tempt him.

John 2 Jesus turns water to wine; Jesus’ mother asks Jesus for help. Jesus says, “woman what have I to do with thee?” But in the JST it says “woman, what wilt thou have me do for thee? For the hour of my ministry is not yet come.”

Exo. 34 Moses in Mt. Sinai to get the law to bring to the people, that he smashed those tablets then went and got more. BUT in the JST, it says how the first set he smashed when he saw the wicked people were DIFFERENT than the tablets he returned with! The first set had the higher law with the

Melchizedek Priesthood with temple blessings and sealings, but then he smashed that and went and got a lesser law from God, the Aaronic, preparatory Priesthood. The people weren't ready for the whole law, so they had to live 'The Law of Moses', not the fullness which other prophets had, and which Jesus Christ restored when he came. D&C 84 is all about this. It says that Moses was not at fault, nor the Lord upset with him, but the Lord withdrew Moses since the people were not worthy of him or someone else.

In John 4, it says Jesus did, then says Jesus didn't baptize anyone. The JST shows that Jesus baptized more people than John the Baptist did, but that once he had set up his Apostles, he left most of that to them for them to learn such.

In 1 Cor. 7 Paul's council speaks against marriage; but in the JST it shows that this is at a missionary conference where he is advising the missionaries to merely remain unmarried until they are done with their missions.

Matt. 7:21 sermon on the mount Savior says that in the day of judgement many plea to enter but that he would say "I never knew you." We know this is not right for He came to know us all especially in the Atonement. In the JST, he says, "ye never knew me"

Concerning the woman taken in adultery, they brought her to Jesus and accused her. Jesus tells her to go sin no more. The JST adds “and the woman glorified God from that hour and believed on his name.” This restores more information.

Jesus is who gave the law to Moses.

Here are some of my additional notes on the subject, not by Marsh:

For a small look at this, as this is a complex subject, Joseph Smith was translating from the English King James Version; the word translation here thus is not in the traditional sense. He was not looking at any ancient documents. For one thing, no one claims to have the documents which the Apostles of the time of Jesus themselves wrote. Also, we say that the earliest documents, even those have been manipulated. Hence Joseph Smith has things in his inspired version of the bible which are not in the oldest Greek etc. manuscripts which we have. Joseph Smith was a prophet, and he was receiving revelation. He didn't need any manuscripts to do that. He was clarifying the text, and adding in doctrines which had been removed by evil men.

Books to read on the subject are –A Plainer Translation: Joseph Smith’s Translation Of The Bible, A History & Commentary by Robert J. Matthews; BYU Hebrew Dr. Donald Parry says this is the best work on the JST; Elder Bruce R McConkie says Matthews is the top JST authority in the Church.

Concerning the JST, BYU religion Dr. Kelly Ogden says the source to go to if someone is seriously interested in the subject is possibly Scott Faulring’s and Kent Jackson’s big volume, Joseph Smith’s Translation of the Bible, especially the Introduction. The electronic library edition is available at the following link (20\$):

http://www.byubookstore.com/ePOS?store=439&item_number=3997082&form=shared3%2fgm%2fdetail%2html&design=439

Also, Elder Oaks said about revelation,
“If we harden our hearts, reject continuing revelation, and limit our learning to what we can obtain by study and reason on the precise language of the present canon of scriptures, our understanding will be limited to what Alma called “the lesser portion of the word” (Alma 12:11).....

What makes us different from most other Christians in the way we read and use the Bible and other scriptures is our belief in continuing revelation. For us, the scriptures are not the ultimate source of knowledge, but what precedes the ultimate source. The ultimate knowledge comes by revelation....

Just as continuing revelation enlarges and illuminates the scriptures, so also a study of the scriptures enables men and women to receive revelations. Elder Bruce R. McConkie said, “I sometimes think that one of the best-kept secrets of the kingdom is that the scriptures open the door to the receipt of revelation” (Doctrines of the Restoration, ed. Mark L. McConkie, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1989, p. 243). This happens because scripture reading puts us in tune with the Spirit of the Lord.”

(“Scripture Reading and Revelation” by Elder Oaks, Jan. 1995 Ensign <https://www.lds.org/ensign/1995/01/scripture-reading-and-revelation?lang=eng>)

Joseph Smith: Don't Accuse the Brethren

On November 7, 1841, the Prophet Joseph Smith counseled the Saints:

“Do Not Accuse the Brethren”

He continued:

“I charged the Saints not to follow the example of the adversary in accusing the brethren, and said, “If you do not accuse each other, God will not accuse you. If you have no accuser you will enter heaven, and if you will follow the revelations and instructions which God gives you through me, I will take you into heaven as my back load. If you will not accuse me, I will not accuse you. If you will throw a cloak of charity over my sins, I will over yours—for charity covereth a multitude of sins.”

Joseph Smith On 2 Keys to Avoid Apostacy: Stay With The Majority Of The Saints & With The Records Of The Church

When Oliver Cowdery came back to the Church he noted that if he had stayed in the "mainstream" of the church he would not have strayed.

It's as easy as looking at the two elements Joseph pointed out: 1) Where is the majority of the saints? 2) Who has the records of the Church?

If they Nephites had simply followed the record keepers they would have been in the right place from Nephi to Moroni.

Joseph Smith Restores the Anthropomorphic God: Highlighting an Alma Allred Debate

https://youtu.be/70ZGG_V3Ik0

Here are a few notes on the subject of anthropomorphic God from a debate by Alma Allred:

No one in mortality can have a completely correct perspective of God.

Typical trinitarians cannot obtain eternal life as they do not understand the nature of God.

Joseph Smith taught we should take the Bible literally but when God was walking in the garden of Eden he really was that God has a body.

God confronted Joshua with a sword in his hand God

actually has a hand.

In Revelation chapter 9 and Angel stops someone from worshipping him because he is not God but we see that Joshua falls down on his face to worship the man who is the captain of the Lord's host who is in fact God and if that messenger was not God he would have stopped Joshua from worshipping him.

The person tells Joshua to remove his shoes as he's on Holy ground just like God told Moses.

A retiring professor of Hebrew James L. Kugel wrote a book called *The God of old* where he demonstrates that the ancient prophets worshiped a corporal God. He said it was in the Middle ages that the change of perspective of Judaism took place to say that God does not have a body. The Jews became embarrassed that their God was not like the Christian God so they got rid of references to an anthropomorphic God.

They essentially ended up with the same God as the Nicene Christian.

He said God is invisible because he has no body and this is an invention of philosophers and theologians. He points out that many of the original Scriptures speak of God himself with the body appearing but that a lot of these accounts were changed to make it look like they were Angels appearing not God. Jacob wrestles with a man and the commentators call him an angel but Jacob calls the place *p e n i a l* meaning the face of God. He says I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved. It was believed that when God made Adam in his own image he made Adam about the same size and shape as himself.

They traded the modern God for the living God.

In the Bible we read that people were cursed for worshiping something that did not see or hear or walk.

Another passage says that cursed people would worship a God that cannot see eat or smell.

Therefore they believed in a God that heard smelled walked etc.

You don't have to be a Mormon to believe in the anthropomorphic God all you have to do is take the Bible literally. The only thing that promotes god without a body is Christian philosophies.

If God has emotions he must exist in time because his emotions can change and if he exists in time he must also exist in space.

Joseph Smith believed what the ancients believed about the anthropomorphic God.

Joseph Smith Warning Against False Spirits

Joseph Smith warned, “Nothing is a greater injury to the children of men than to be under the influence of a false spirit, when they think they have the Spirit of God.”

Joseph Smith: God’s Kingdom is Conducted Based on Current Circumstances

“This is the principle on which the government of heaven is conducted by revelation adapted to the circumstances in which the children of the kingdom are placed.” (TPJS (p. 85?))

Joseph Smith: Do Not Betray Heaven

Joseph Smith said “O ye Twelve and all saints, profit by this important Key- that in all your trials troubles &, temptations, afflictions, bonds imprisonment & death See to it that you do not betray heaven, that you do not betray Jesus Christ, that you do not betray your Brethren, & that you do not betray the revelations of God whether in the bible, Book of Mormon, or

Doctrine & Covenants or any of the word of God. Yea in all your kicking, & floundering see to it that you do not this thing lest innocent blood be found in your skirts & you go down to hell.” (Recorded by Wilford Woodruff in the Joseph Smith Papers p87, 2 July 1839) p213

Truth from Prayer, Not Books: Joseph Smith Quote

Joseph Smith taught “the only way to obtain truth and wisdom is not to ask from books, but to go to God in prayer, and obtain divine teaching.” (JS Hist)

Milk v Meat: An Example with Joseph Smith & The Revelations

After Joseph Smith taught William Law polygamy, Law retorted “there is a revelation [in the Doctrine and Covenants] just the contrary of this,” to which Joseph replied, “that was given when the church was in its infancy, then it was all right to feed the people on milk, but now it is necessary to give them strong meat.”

This demonstrates that we should have an open mind when the revelations of God come which may appear to contradict past teachings.

Joseph Smith: Seek the Mysteries

"I advise all to go on to perfection and search deeper and deeper into the mysteries of Godliness" (The Words of Joseph Smith, pg. 366)

A more complete reference of the above:

"The Savior has the words of eternal life. Nothing else can profit us. There is no salvation in believing an evil report against our neighbor. I advise all to go on to perfection, and search deeper and deeper into the mysteries of Godliness. A man can do nothing for himself unless God direct him in the right way; and the priesthood is for that purpose." [History of the Church Volume:6 Chapter:17 Paragraph:11]

"It has always been my province to dig up hidden mysteries, new things for my hearers-" (The Words of Joseph Smith, pg. 366)

"One of the grand fundamental principles of 'Mormonism' is to receive truth, let it come from whence it may" (TPJS, pg. 313)

"But there has been a great difficulty in getting anything into the heads of this generation. It has been like splitting hemlock knots with a corn-dodger for a wedge, and a pumpkin for a beetle. Even the Saints are slow to understand. I have tried for a number of years to get the minds of the Saints prepared to receive the things of God; but we frequently see some of them, after suffering all they have for the work of God, **will fly to pieces like glass as soon as anything comes that is contrary to their traditions:** they cannot stand the fire at all.

How many will be able to abide a celestial law, and go through and receive their exaltation, I am unable to say, as many are called, but few are chosen." [History of the Church Volume:6 Chapter:8 Paragraph:33-34 & The Words of Joseph Smith, pg. 319]

"If a man gets the fullness of God he has to get [it] in the same way that Jesus obtain[ed] it & that was by keeping all the ordinances of the house of the Lord. Men will say I will never forsake you but will stand by you at all times but the moment you teach them some of the mysteries of God that are retained in the heavens and are to be revealed to the children of men when they are prepared, They will be the first to stone you & put you to death" (The Words of Joseph Smith, pg. 213)

"The great thing for us to know is to comprehend what God did institute before the foundation of the World. Who knows it? ... Had I inspiration, revelation, and lungs to communicate what my soul has contemplated in times past, there is not a soul in this congregation but would go to their homes and shut their mouths in everlasting silence on religion till they had learned something. Why be so certain that you comprehend the things of God, when all things with you are so uncertain. You are welcome to all the knowledge and intelligence I can impart to you." (HC 5: 530, 531)

"This principle ought (in its proper place) to be taught, for God hath not revealed anything to Joseph, but what He will make known unto the Twelve, and even the least Saint may know all things as fast as he is able to bear them, for the day must come when no man need say to his neighbor, Know ye the Lord; for all shall know Him (who remain) from the least to the greatest. How is this to be done? It is to be done by this sealing power, and the other Comforter spoken of, which will

be manifest by revelation.” [History of the Church Volume:3 Chapter:25 Paragraph:45]

"God hath not revealed anything to Joseph [calling himself by name], but what He will make known unto the Twelve, and even the least Saint may know all things as fast as he is able to bear them," (HC 3:380)

“This principle ought (in its proper place) to be taught, for God hath not revealed anything to Joseph, but what He will make known unto the Twelve, and even the least Saint may know all things as fast as he is able to bear them, for the day must come when no man need say to his neighbor, Know ye the Lord; for all shall know Him (who remain) from the least to the greatest. How is this to be done? It is to be done by this sealing power, and the other Comforter spoken of, which will be manifest by revelation. [History of the Church Volume:3 Chapter:25 Paragraph:45]

"God hath not revealed anything to Joseph [calling himself by name], but what He will make known unto the Twelve, and even the least Saint may know all things as fast as he is able to bear them," (HC 3:380)

"If a man gets the fullness of God he has to get [it] in the same way that Jesus obtain[ed] it & that was by keeping all the ordinances of the house of the Lord. Men will say I will never forsake you but will stand by you at all times but the moment you teach them some of the mysteries of God that are retained in the heavens and are to be revealed to the children of men when they are prepared, They will be the first to stone you & put you to death" (The Words of Joseph Smith, pg. 213)

Scriptural Support for Seeking the Mysteries

Are the revelations of Joseph Smith Jr. "mysteries"? They are to most of the "Saints" that say "we stick to the scriptures" even when the scriptures say:

And therefore, he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; and he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full. (Alma 12:10)

"... for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have." (2 Nephi 28:30)

"... and I am left to mourn because of the unbelief, and the wickedness, and the ignorance, and the stiffneckedness of men; for they will not search knowledge, nor understand great knowledge, when it is given unto them in plainness, even as plain as word can be." (2 Nephi 32:7)

"Therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive; if you will knock it shall be opened unto you. Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. Seek not for riches but for wisdom; and, behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich.

Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich." (D&C 11:5-7)

"Ask that you may know the mysteries of God, and that you may translate and receive knowledge from all those ancient records which have been hid up, that are sacred; and according to your faith shall it be done unto you." (D&C 8:11)

"If thou shalt ask, thou shalt receive revelation upon revelation, knowledge upon knowledge, that thou mayest know the mysteries and peaceable things-that which bringeth joy, that which bringeth life eternal." (D&C 42:61)

"Come unto me, O ye Gentiles, and I will show unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief. Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you, from the foundation of the world; and it hath not come unto you, because of unbelief. Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness, and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you -yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers, O house of Israel. And then shall my revelations which I have caused to be written by my servant John be unfolded in the eyes of all the people." (Ether 4:13-16)

And Modern Prophets repeat this message, such as this statement from David O. McKay: "Somebody has said,

'Show me a perfectly contented man and I will show you a useless one.' So there must be some other element with contentment, some other virtue. What is it? Progress. Contentment and progress contribute to peace. If we are no better tomorrow than we are today, we are not very useful... so we want to experience two things: contentment and progress--progress intellectually, progress physically, but above all, progress spiritually; and the cognizance that we grow contributes to peace. You cannot remain stationary.” (David O. McKay, Pathways to Happiness, pg. 292)

Joseph Smith on Being Careful about Sharing Spiritual Experiences, & the Paradox about How Much YOU Can Know

Prior to teaching the endowment, Joseph Smith warned the Saints:

“Let us be faithful and silent, brethren, and if God gives you a manifestation, keep it to yourselves.”

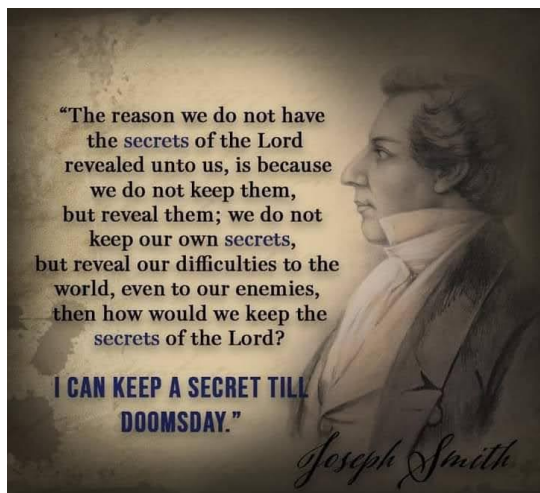
(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, edited by Joseph Fielding Smith (Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book, 1938), 91.)

Of this remark, Elder Dallin H. Oaks wrote:

“By and large, Latter-day Saints observe this direction. They do not speak publicly of their most sacred experiences. They seldom mention miracles in bearing their testimonies, and they rarely preach from the pulpit about signs that the gospel is true. They usually affirm their testimony of the truthfulness

of the restored gospel by asserting the conclusion, not by giving details on how it was obtained.” Dallin H. Oaks, *The Lord’s Way* (Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book Co., 1991), 96

Joseph also said he can keep a secret till doomsday, and that God wouldn’t reveal everything to someone who would tell everyone about it.



(Graphic Credit: Stryder Smith.)

Brigham Young once lamented that if he had sinned, it was in that he revealed too much to the saints. Surely we must be on our guard to be bold, yet not overbearing. Signs do follow faith, but we must follow the guidance of God as to what can and should be said in which settings.

One the one hand, we have Elder Renlund saying all that is in the Gospel Topics Essay is all he knows about Mother in Heaven. On the other hand, we have Elder Bednar saying that if all we know about doctrine is what other people have told

us, our testimony is built on sand. Perhaps Elder Renlund was saying all the official material endorsed by the church is found in that essay. Either way, I will say that each person can and should pray about things, get answers to those prayers, etc.

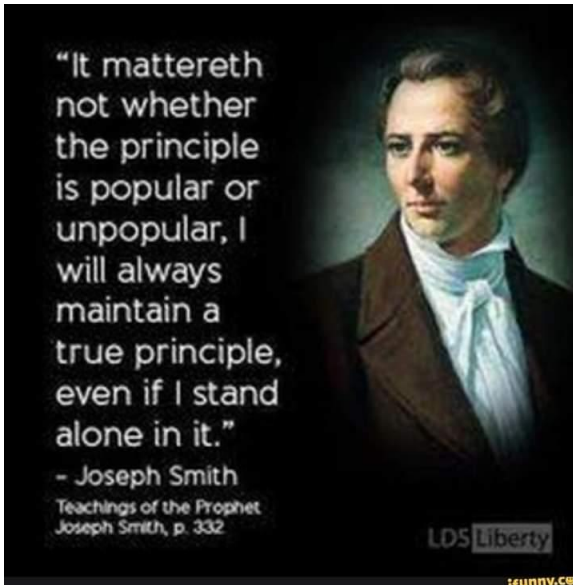
Part of this is how much we are allowed to say. Alma says only teach that which the spirit says the people can handle. Brigham Young spoke of how the people will get as good of translations and scriptures as they are prepared to receive.

I remember a devotional with Elder Cook on plural marriage. He was asked by the church historian he was presenting with, ‘we don’t need plural marriage for the celestial kingdom, isn’t that right?’ He responded, that’s right, and there’s a lot about this that we don’t know.’ It was humorous to me, it seemed like a way to appease the situation and move on to another question, which is likely just what the people needed.

Elder Oaks recently gave a talk saying he was often asked about marriages in the next life, and his answer was, he doesn’t know, God will sort that out.

I remember James Stoddard’s last testimony, he spoke of how he was praying and had information revealed to him about Joseph Smith, and was told if he taught that publicly, he would be damned. One certainly wonders what he was taught! Some things are too sacred to openly speak of, or perhaps to speak of at all.

Joseph Smith: Standing For Principle Even if Alone



Joseph Believes in the Original Bible

"I believe the Bible as it read when it came from the pen of the original writers." (Joseph Smith, Jr., Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, selected by Joseph Fielding Smith, (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1976), 327.) This is the same thing that the drafters of the Chicago Statement of

Biblical Inerrancy would state more than a century later. (see http://en.fairmormon.org/Mormonism_and_the_Bible/Insufficient)

Examples of “Lost Scripture”

Book of the Wars of the Lord

Numbers 21:14

Book of Jasher

Joshua 10:13, 2 Samuel 1:18

Book of the Acts of Solomon

1 Kings 11:41

Book of Samuel the Seer

1 Chronicles 29:29

Book of Gad the Seer

1 Chronicles 29:29

Book of Nathan the Prophet

1 Chronicles 29:29, 2 Chronicles 9:29

Prophecy of Ahijah

2 Chronicles 9:29

Visions of Iddo the Seer

2 Chronicles 9:29, 2 Chronicles 12:15, 2 Chronicles 13:22

Book of Shemaiah

2 Chronicles 12:15

Book of Jehu

2 Chronicles 20:34

Sayings of the Seers

2 Chronicles 33:19

Lament for Josiah

2 Chronicles 35:25

Paul's epistle to Corinthians before our "1 Corinthians"

1 Corinthians 5:9

Paul's possible earlier Ephesians epistle

Ephesians 3:3

Paul's epistle to Church at Laodicea

Colossians 4:16

1 Enoch 1:19 and The Assumption of Moses

Jude 1:14-15

1 Enoch

"It influenced Matthew, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, Hebrews, 1 John, Jude (which quotes it directly) and Revelation (with numerous points of contact)...in molding New Testament doctrines concerning the nature of the Messiah, the Son of Man, the messianic kingdom, demonology, the future, resurrection, the final judgment, the whole eschatological theater, and symbolism."

(see

http://en.fairmormon.org/Mormonism_and_the_Bible/Lost_scripture)

Joseph Smith: The Spirit of Revelation, Flow of Intelligence

The Prophet Joseph Smith explained: "A person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation; for instance, when you feel pure intelligence flowing into you, it

may give you sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon; ... those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God, will come to pass; and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation, until you become perfect in Christ Jesus.” (Boyd K Packer, The Spirit Beareth Record, Apr. 1971, Conf. Report; <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1971/04/the-spirit-beareth-record?lang=eng>)

Joseph Smith: All Can Learn What Joseph Knew, as Fast as we can Bear it

“This principle ought in its proper place to be taught, for God hath not revealed anything to Joseph, but what He will make known unto the Twelve, and even the least Saint may know all things as fast as he is able to bear them...” -Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith: Look to the Presidency

"Look to the Presidency and receive instruction." (President Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, selected by Joseph Fielding Smith [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1938], page 161)

10 Largely Forgotten, but Timeless
Principles, in Sustaining Leaders By the
Joseph Smith Foundation Team – Full
Text – On the Preeminence of the
Teachings of Joseph Smith for this
Dispensation

See JosephSmithFoundation.org



see josephsmithfoundation.org
Full text shared with permission.
[James F. Stoddard III](#)
[L. Hannah Stoddard](#)

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that there is no error in the revelations that he received as they were revealed. Therefore, in our day, when it seems that nearly every man or woman

has a different understanding of good leadership and how leaders should be sustained, we believe it is imperative to look back to the revelations to clarify these sensitive but unavoidable questions and opinions. Here are some of the questions that float around the Internet:

- Should we follow the counsel of church leaders if we believe their counsel may be in error?
- When do church leaders speak for God, and how can you know?
- How should I sustain my ecclesiastical leaders if I believe they are in error?
- Is it possible for church leaders to make serious mistakes?
- Should we treat the teachings of church leaders differently according to their position and station?
- Are the teachings and directions of the President of the Church infallible?
- Can a President of the Church fall and become wicked? Should he ever be removed from office?

The following are ten timeless principles that answer many of the current questions brooding in the minds of many members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We believe that the Lord has answered these questions with unmistakable clarity in the revelations and teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

1. Any person who blindly follows his or her leaders is not capable of acquiring the Celestial Kingdom.

The Prophet Joseph Smith was very concerned, in Nauvoo, that some members of the Church were blindly following

church leaders including his own words rather than learning to think for themselves.

President Joseph Smith read the 14th Chapter of Ezekiel—said the Lord had declared by the prophet that the people should each one stand for himself, and depend on no man or men in that state of corruption of the Jewish Church—that righteous persons could only deliver their own souls—applied it to the present state of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints—said if the people departed from the Lord they must fall—that they were depending on the prophet, hence were darkened in their minds, in consequence of neglecting the duties devolving upon themselves . . .

Joseph Smith, History, 1838–1856, volume C-1 Addenda, p. [71-72](#), The Joseph Smith Papers.

The Prophet Joseph Smith also taught that true, inspired leaders teach correct principles and let the people govern themselves.

Some years ago, in Nauvoo, a gentleman in my hearing, a member of the Legislature, asked Joseph Smith how it was that he was enabled to govern so many people, and to preserve such perfect order; remarking at the same time that it was impossible for them to do it anywhere else. Mr. Smith remarked that it was very easy to do that. “How?” responded the gentleman; “to us it is very difficult.” Mr. Smith replied, “I teach them correct principles, and they govern themselves.”

John Taylor, “[The Organization of the Church](#),” The Latter-day Saints Millennial Star, vol. 13, no. 22, November 15, 1851, 339.

President Brigham Young taught that no man is capable of entering the Celestial Kingdom who follows his leaders blindly.

Who has influence over any one of you, to cause you to miss salvation in the celestial kingdom of God? I will answer these questions for myself. If brother Brigham and I shall take a wrong track, and be shut out of the kingdom of heaven, no person will be to blame but brother Brigham and I. I am the only being in heaven, earth, or hell, that can be blamed.

This will equally apply to every Latter-day Saint. Salvation is an individual operation. I am the only person that can possibly save myself. When salvation is sent to me, I can reject or receive it. In receiving it, I yield implicit obedience and submission to its great Author throughout my life, and to those whom He shall appoint to instruct me; in rejecting it, I follow the dictates of my own will in preference to the will of my Creator. There are those among this people who are influenced, controlled, and biased in their thoughts, actions, and feelings by some other individual or family, on whom they place their dependence for spiritual and temporal instruction, and for salvation in the end. These persons do not depend upon themselves for salvation, but upon another of their poor, weak, fellow mortals. "I do not depend upon any inherent goodness of my own," say they, "to introduce me into the kingdom of glory, but I depend upon you, brother Joseph, upon you, brother Brigham, upon you, brother Heber, or upon you, brother James; I believe your judgment is superior to mine, and consequently I let you judge for me; your spirit is better than mine, therefore you can do good for me; I will submit myself wholly to you, and place in you all my confidence for life and salvation; where you go I will go, and where you tarry there I will stay; expecting that you will introduce me through the gates into the heavenly Jerusalem.

I wish to notice this. We read in the Bible, that there is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars. In the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, these glories are called telestial, terrestrial, and celestial, which is the highest. These are worlds, different departments, or

mansions, in our Father's house. Now those men, or those women, who know no more about the power of God, and the influences of the Holy Spirit, than to be led entirely by another person, suspending their own understanding, and pinning their faith upon another's sleeve, will never be capable of entering into the celestial glory, to be crowned as they anticipate; they will never be capable of becoming Gods. They cannot rule themselves, to say nothing of ruling others, but they must be dictated to in every trifle, like a child. They cannot control themselves in the least, but James, Peter, or somebody else must control them. They never can become Gods, nor be crowned as rulers with glory, immortality, and eternal lives. They never can hold scepters of glory, majesty, and power in the celestial kingdom. Who will? Those who are valiant and inspired with the true independence of heaven, who will go forth boldly in the service of their God, leaving others to do as they please, determined to do right, though all mankind besides should take the opposite course. Will this apply to any of you? Your own hearts can answer.

Do you know what is right and just, as well as I do? In some things you do, and in some things you may not know as well; but I will explain what I mean, in the following words—I will do all the good I can, and all I know how to do, and I will shun every evil that I know to be an evil. You can all do that much. I will apply my heart to wisdom, and ask the Lord to impart it to me; and if I know but little, I will improve upon it, that tomorrow I may have more, and thus grow from day to day, in the knowledge of the truth, as Jesus Christ grew in stature and knowledge from a babe to manhood; and if I am not now capable of judging for myself, perhaps I shall be in another year. We are organized to progress in the scale of intelligence, and the least Saint by adhering strictly to the order of God, may attain to a full and complete salvation through the grace of God, by his own faithfulness.

Brigham Young, “[The Privileges and Blessings of the Gospel](#),” in [Journal of Discourses](#), vol. 1 (London: Latter-

day Saints Book Depot, 1854), 312. Discourse given on February 20, 1853.

President Joseph F. Smith echoed the Prophet Joseph and Brigham Young on blind obedience:

Concerning the question of blind obedience. Not a man in this Church, since the Prophet Joseph Smith down to the present day, has ever asked any man to do as he was told blindly. No Prophet of God, no Apostle, no President of a Stake, no Bishop, who has had the spirit of his office and calling resting upon him, has ever asked a soul to do anything that they might not know was right and the proper thing to do. We do not ask you to do anything that you may not know it is your duty to do, or that you may not know will be a blessing for you to do.

If we give you counsel, we do not ask you to obey that counsel without you know that it is right to do so. But how shall we know that it is right? By getting the Spirit of God in our hearts, by which our minds may be opened and enlightened, that we may know the doctrine for ourselves, and be able to divide truth from error, light from darkness and good from evil.

*Joseph F. Smith, “[Blind Obedience and Tithing](#),” *The Latter-day Saints Millennial Star*, vol. 55, no. 5, January 30, 1893, 79-80.*

2. No leader is infallible and therefore should not be followed blindly

We have often read or heard repeated Christ’s instruction to the Twelve: “If thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for

thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell.” Have you ever wondered what the Lord was teaching in these verses? What specifically was the Son of God, while dwelling in mortality, trying to convey? We have participated in many Gospel Doctrine lessons where well-meaning members shared speculation and possible interpretations.



In truth, the clear meaning of the passage was lost because of corruption until the Prophet Joseph Smith was inspired to restore a certain portion. Turning to the Joseph Smith Translation of Mark, Chapter 9, we discover an inspired commentary that differs from the traditional King James version.

Therefore, if thy hand offend thee, cut it off; or if thy brother offend thee and confess not and forsake not, he shall be cut off. It is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands, to go into hell.

For it is better for thee to enter into life without thy brother, than for thee and thy brother to be cast into hell; into the fire that never shall be quenched, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

[Mark 9:40-41, JST](#)

So far, nothing too controversial here! If a neighbor, co-member, or friend falls away or abandons the truth, we must not endanger our own salvation by allowing ourselves to be

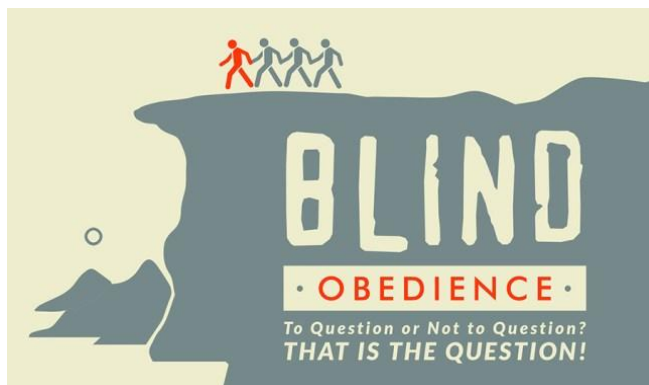
led by them. We should exercise caution and prudence to ensure that we are not deceived. It would be better to “cut them off” than to become corrupted. This is not a revolutionary concept; we have heard this often. However, there is more to consider, such as, what is the context of these verses? The Savior continues by warning against transgression by individuals in positions of authority—leaders we do not generally suspect.

And again, if thy foot offend thee, cut it off; for he that is thy standard, by whom thou walkest, if he become a transgressor, he shall be cut off.

It is better for thee, to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell; into the fire that never shall be quenched.
[Mark 9:42-43, JST](#)

It is in this scripture that Mark Chapter 9 becomes a bit more controversial. We are warned that if the one who is “thy standard . . . become a transgressor, he shall be cut off.” Who might be this religious “standard”? Whose “walk” do you follow? Who is it that generally shows forth the religious path?

In the context of scripture, our “walk” is synonymous with our obedience to the commandments (Mosiah 4:15, D&C 25:2, 95:12, 2 John 1:6) and our righteous participation in the ordinances (D&C 136:4). When speaking of men “by whom thou walkest,” the Son of God issued an unambiguous warning against appointed exemplars and teachers who are liable to fall. Is it possible that a religious leader for whom we feel admiration and confidence “become a transgressor”? Realizing how easily we can be deceived if we are not protectively on guard, the Savior cautions us not to follow such transgressors “into hell.”



You

may also be interested in the article retelling the story of the Mountain Meadows Massacre & freedom fighter Helmuth Hubener, [“If Thine Eye Offend Thee” \(Part 1 – Blind Obedience? – To Question or Not to Question? That is the Question!\)](#) “The Lord in JST Mark 9 was clear, ‘Therefore, let every man stand or fall, by himself, and not for another; or not trusting another.’ (JST Mark 9:44) These principles are crucial for our day and time. The victims of the Mountain Meadows Massacre cry from the ground, ‘Let every man stand or fall, by himself, and not for another!’ The story of Helmuth Hubener pleads ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’ The implications of truly understanding this fundamental doctrine may alter our eternal destinies as individuals and as a people.” ([Read more](#))

3. Sustaining church leaders when they stumble or are in error

Because no leader is infallible, following any man or group of men (or women) blindly is unwise and may even be dangerous. How does one sustain a leader who is out of the way or in error? The first step is to avoid inappropriate

behaviour, such as backbiting, evil speaking, or being critical. Instead, we should be respectful, beseeching heaven in mighty prayer on behalf of the person or group.

The young David who would later become King, and at that time was a man after the Lord's own heart, provides an ideal example. Picking up the story in 1 Samuel, Chapter 24, King Saul, a man who had initially been chosen by God, and who was at this time still "the Lord's anointed," had become a wicked man. He was actively and provocatively seeking the young David's life. Saul had been pursuing David, but had paused to camp in a cave. The story continues:

Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

And he came to the sheepecotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.

And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the Lord said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.

And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.

So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the bLord's anointed.

Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

[1 Samuel 24:2-12](#)

Sustaining leaders when they are acting inappropriately requires prayer, inspiration and great wisdom.

4. All church leaders are accountable to the members, including the President

The Prophet Joseph Smith stands as the greatest prototype of a righteous leader, excepting the Son of God. Throughout his life, the Prophet abhorred priestcraft and the dangerous practice of leader worship.

On April 6, 1843, at a special conference organized in commemoration of the anniversary of the organization of the Church, the Prophet declared:

It is my object to ascertain the [standing] of the first presidency. (as I have been instructed) I present myself for trial, I shall next present my councillors for trial. . . .

Are you satisfied with the first presedincy [*sic*], so far as I am concerned, or will you choose another? If I have done any thing [*sic*] to injure my character in the sight of men & angels—or men & women. come forward [and] tell of it. & if not ever after hold your peace.

Joseph Smith, Journal, December 1842–June 1844; Book 2, 10 March 1843–14 July 1843, [p. 50-51](#), The Joseph Smith Papers.

The Prophet Joseph Smith was not afraid to acknowledge shortcomings and mistakes in ecclesiastical leadership, humbly announcing before the assembly of Saints,

If I have done any thing [*sic*] to injure my character in the sight of men & angels—or men & women, come forward [and] tell of it.

Joseph Smith, Journal, December 1842–June 1844; Book 2, 10 March 1843–14 July 1843, [p. 50-51](#), The Joseph Smith Papers.

Joseph Smith, the prophet of the Restoration and head of the present dispensation—President of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and a man who has the distinction of being the greatest man ever to live, excepting the Son, had a better right than any man to frown on criticism. However, even he did not consider himself above the law.

“Joseph returned his thanks — to the assembly. & said he would serve them according to the best of his ability.”

After requesting the Latter-day Saints to present any



complaints or concerns, Brigham Young “arose & nominated Joseph Smith to continue as the President of the Church.” President Young demonstrated an unyielding loyalty to Joseph Smith, a theme he continued to exhibit throughout his life, even until his last breath.

Orson Hyde seconded President Young’s motion and then it was put to a vote. For the first time in the history of the Church, the vote was unanimous!

Such a show of hands was never seen before in the church.

Joseph retur[ne]d his thanks—to the assembly. & said he would serve them according to the best of his ability.

Joseph Smith, Journal, December 1842–June 1844; Book 2, 10 March 1843–14 July 1843, [p. 55](#), The Joseph Smith Papers.

Sidney Rigdon (First Counselor) was then presented “for trial” and sustained.

William Law (Second Counselor) was then presented “for trial” and sustained.

Patriarch Hyrum Smith was then presented and the congregation voted in favor of Hyrum retaining his office.

At the conclusion of these actions, the Prophet Joseph Smith duly proclaimed,

I do not know any thing agai[n]st the twelve, if I did I would pres[e]nt them for trial.

Joseph Smith, Journal, December 1842–June 1844; Book 2, 10 March 1843–14 July 1843, [p. 55](#), The Joseph Smith Papers.

The Prophet Joseph understood that he and his fellow leaders were not “above the law.” To Joseph Smith, ‘defending the Church’ did not mean defending his first counselor, his second counselor, or even himself as President.

Defending the Church meant defending the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and pointing the Latter-day Saints to the Father and the Son. It was in this that the Prophet begged his people to place their trust.



Defending the Church meant defending the Gospel of Jesus Christ and pointing the Latter-day Saints to the Father and the Son.

If the members knew of anything he had done wrong, he asked them to “come forward [and] tell of it” that he might rectify the issue. Joseph Smith understood that holding leaders accountable would not threaten the Church, for the foundation he built was founded on God, and not man.

**JOSEPH SMITH BUILT HIS FOUNDATION ON GOD,
NOT MAN.**

The Lord has made it unmistakably clear in the revelations that any leader, high or low, can fail in his station. The Lord has even made provision to try leaders, including presidents of the Church.

And inasmuch as a President of the High Priesthood shall transgress, he shall be had in remembrance before the common council of the church, who shall be assisted by twelve counselors of the High Priesthood;

And their decision upon his head shall be an end of controversy concerning him.

Thus, none shall be exempted from the justice and the laws of God, that all things may be done in order and in solemnity before him, according to truth and righteousness.

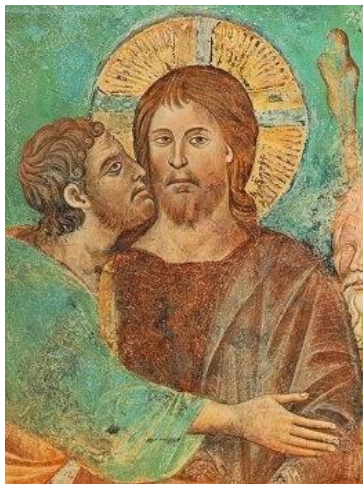
[D&C 107:82-84](#)

Why did the Lord call Judas Iscariot as one of his Twelve Apostles?

Too often, many members imagine that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints operates by some form of “magic,” and that somehow, every leader is perfect, every calling inspired, and every man fulfills his duty. In this imaginary scenario, no agency is exercised and no freedom of choice is allowed. In contrast, the evidence from of history testifies that many are called, but many do not live up to their calling.

Would the Lord truly call a man who, in the end, failed his calling?

Why did the Lord call Judas Iscariot as one of his Twelve Apostles? Was the Son of God deceived by Judas’ true character? Or was He instead reinforcing: “Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm . . .”? [\(2 Nephi 28:31\)](#) The Lord knew at the time of the calling that Judas was a devil, or would become so. [\(John 6:70\)](#)



Some of our leaders are placed there to lead us and others of our leaders are placed there to test us.

5. Church leaders do not hold stewardship in the family, only in the Church as a whole

It is inappropriate and can even be detrimental, sometimes dangerous, for church leaders in any position, including the President of the Church, to dictate to a family those decisions that rest in the stewardship and authority of the father and mother. Just as a father should not presume to dictate to the President of the Church general church business, likewise, no church leader should attempt to dictate decisions that should be made in the family. Unfortunately, this is becoming more common because principles of stewardship have been forgotten.

President Joseph F. Smith taught that family decisions should remain with the family while church-wide decisions are appropriately made by general church leadership. Likewise, stake decisions are made by stake leadership, and ward decisions are made by ward leadership.

In the home the presiding authority is always vested in the father, and in all home affairs and family matters there is no other authority paramount. To illustrate this principle, a single incident will perhaps suffice. It sometimes happens that the elders are called in to administer to the members of a family. Among these elders there may be presidents of stakes, apostles, or even members of the first presidency of the Church. It is not proper under these circumstances for the father to stand back and expect the elders to direct the administration of this important ordinance. The father is there. It is his right and it is his duty to preside. He should select the one who is to administer the oil, and the one who is to be mouth in prayer, and he should not feel that because there are present presiding authorities in the Church that he is

therefore divested of his rights to direct the administration of that blessing of the gospel in his home. (If the father be absent, the mother should request the presiding authority present to take charge.) The father presides at the table, at prayer, and gives general directions relating to his family life whoever may be present.”

Joseph F. Smith, Gospel Doctrine (Deseret Book Company, 1968), 287.

President Joseph F. Smith also insisted that family leadership (including the Celestial principles of patriarchal order) represent eternal and unchanging principles of the Gospel. These principles have been maintained throughout all other dispensations.

There is no higher authority in matters relating to the family organization, and especially when that organization is presided over by one holding the higher Priesthood, than that of the father. The authority is time honored, and among the people of God in all dispensations it has been highly respected and often emphasized by the teachings of the prophets who were inspired of God. The patriarchal order is of divine origin and will continue throughout time and eternity. There is, then, a particular reason why men, women and children should understand this order and this authority in the households of the people of God, and seek to make it what God intended it to be, a qualification and preparation for the highest exaltation of his children. In the home the presiding authority is always vested in the father, and in all home affairs and family matters there is no other authority paramount.”

Joseph F. Smith, Gospel Doctrine (Deseret Book Company, 1968), 2.

6. ALL church leaders and members are imperfect and NO ONE speaks for God unless moved upon by the Holy Ghost

It is easy to point fingers or to complain regarding the actions of this member or that leader, but one cannot hide behind the skirts of other individuals. Each of us individually bears the burden of discerning truth from error. President J. Reuben Clark Jr. emphasized the responsibility this places on the shoulders of every member, when he taught on how to properly judge:

When are the writings and sermons of church leaders entitled to the claim of being scripture?

I assume the scripture behind this question is the declaration of the Lord in a revelation given through Joseph . . .

And whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation.

The very words of the revelation recognize that the Brethren may speak when they are not “moved upon by the Holy Ghost,” yet only when they do so speak, as so “moved upon,” is what they say Scripture. No exceptions are given to this rule or principle. It is universal in its application.

The question is, how shall we know when the things they have spoken were said as they were “moved upon by the Holy Ghost?”

I have given some thought to this question, and the answer thereto so far as I can determine, is: We can tell when the speakers are “moved upon by the Holy Ghost” only when we, ourselves, are “moved upon by the Holy Ghost.”

In a way, this completely shifts the responsibility from them to us to determine when they so speak.

J. Reuben Clark, “[When Are the Writings and Sermons of Church Leaders Entitled to the Claim of Being Scripture?](#)” Deseret News, July 31, 1954, sec. Church News, 11.

In a revelation given to the Prophet Joseph Smith on September 11, 1831, the Lord charged every member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with the duty to judge and to purge iniquity from the Church:

Behold, I, the Lord, have made my church in these last days like unto a judge sitting on a hill, or in a high place, to judge the nations.

For it shall come to pass that the inhabitants of Zion shall judge all things pertaining to Zion.

And liars and hypocrites shall be proved by them . . .
[Doctrine and Covenants 64:37-39](#)

Each of us must evaluate, and from time to time re-evaluate, what we are doing personally to help build the Kingdom of God, in the manner the Lord desires.

7. This dispensation is to receive the word of God ONLY through Joseph Smith

On the day the Church was organized, the Lord gave a revelation to stand as the charter of the Church, commanding the members and leaders—both present and future—to “give heed unto all his [Joseph Smith’s] words and commandments which he shall give unto you,” promising that if the counsel was followed, “the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name’s glory.”

The institution Joseph Smith restored, using the keys and authority given to him by God, was both true and living. While no leader or member of the Church is perfect or inerrant, to the degree the teachings and revelations of Joseph Smith are followed, we have the divine promise that we will continue to experience success in our efforts.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained that while we have successive presidents of the Church and other apostles, the Prophet Joseph Smith’s words stand preeminent, and that we should regard every other leader as a mere echo of Joseph Smith.

Every dispensation head is a revealer of Christ for his day . . . and every other prophet or apostle who comes is a reflection and an echo and an exponent of the dispensation head. All such come to echo to the world and to expound and unfold what God has revealed through the man who was appointed to give his eternal word to the world for that era. Such is the dispensation concept.

Bruce R. McConkie, “[This Generation Shall Have My Word through You](#),” General Conference (June 1980).

Elder McConkie also taught that the great revelations and important doctrines intended for this dispensation have come through the Prophet, Joseph Smith, and that there will be no

great revelations extending beyond the foundation laid by the Prophet Joseph.

There are added revelations we could receive, and I hope will receive as we manage to get in tune with the Spirit. But the great reservoir of revelation for our dispensation—meaning the things that we need to know to govern our conduct in order to gain an eternal life—these things have already been given. And there will not be great added reservoirs of substantive revelation that will come before the Second Coming because of the wickedness of the world. Some of that wickedness spills over and prevails among the Latter-day Saints.

Ibid.

In section 5 of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord explained that His word for our day will only come through Joseph Smith.

“This generation shall have my word through you” (D&C 5:10). Joseph Smith has given the word, and we echo the message . . .

Ibid.



8. There is a difference between power and authority in the Priesthood

Handbook 2: Administering the Church

Another important key is the difference between Priesthood power and authority.

For example, note the instruction given in the official handbook of the Church that brethren are to perform ordinances and pronounce blessings “by the authority of the priesthood.” Notice that there is no mention of “by the power of the priesthood.”

A leader may hold a certain position—he may be given authority—but whether or not he executes that duty with power depends on one thing: personal righteousness. This is true for fathers, bishops, stake presidents, members of the seventy, the Quorum of the Twelve, and even the presidents of the Church. It is the duty of all priesthood bearers to live worthy of their calling but the sad truth is that many do not.

The oft-repeated verses from section 121 of the Doctrine and Covenants remind us:

Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?

Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn this one lesson—

That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

[D&C 121:34–36](#)

Is the Son of God warning that many leaders are “called” to positions of leadership, but few live worthy of these callings?

9. Church leaders are only to promote their own teachings or doctrine through persuasion

The worst possible kind of force for which a man or woman can be found guilty is the attempt to induce or require blind obedience or mind control under the color of ecclesiastical authority.

The revelation contained in section 121 of the the Doctrine and Covenants explains this concept:

No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned;

By kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile—

[*Doctrine and Covenants 121:40-41*](#)

There is, perhaps, nothing more Hitler-esque or unrighteous than to forcefully require another individual to turn off his or her brain, and to submit blindly to authority, expecting the individual to do what he or she is told, rather than to think for themselves. Any individual guilty of teaching or requiring the blind obedience of another individual will stand accountable before God, according to His revelations.

Doctrine and Covenants section 134 also echoes the words of the Lord in section 121 by affirming that, “We believe that no government [and especially no church government] can exist in peace, except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the free exercise of conscience . . .”

10. In this dispensation, we have not been commanded to follow any man except the Prophet Joseph Smith.

As we have mentioned above, on the day the Church was organized, the Lord gave a revelation He intended to have stand as the charter for the Church, commanding the members and leaders—both present and future—to “give heed unto all his [Joseph Smith’s] words and commandments which he shall give unto you . . .” Despite many others’ claims, the revelation is clear that this commandment applies to no leader other than Joseph Smith. Furthermore, there is no place in revelation where the members of the Church are commanded to follow the teachings of any other man, including any other president of the Church.

President Joseph Fielding Smith taught this principle on many occasions including the following:

It makes no difference what is written or what anyone has said, if what has been said is in conflict with what the Lord has revealed, we can set it aside. My words, and the teaching of any other member of the Church, high or low, if they do not square with the revelations, we need not accept them. Let us have this matter clear. We have accepted the four standard works as the measuring yardsticks, or balances, by which we measure every man’s doctrine.

You cannot accept the books written by the authorities of the Church as standards in doctrine, only in so far as they accord with the revealed word in the standard works.

If Joseph Fielding Smith writes something which is out of harmony with the revelations, then every member of the Church is duty bound to reject it. If he writes that which is in

perfect harmony with the revealed word of the Lord, then it should be accepted.

Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 3 (Salt Lake City, Utah: Bookcraft, 1956), 203-204.

On the Doctrinal Validity of Joseph Smith Papers, Journal of Discourses, “Saints” Histories, Private Journals, Etc.

Brigham Young taught that his sermons and those of his brethren were to be taken as scripture, just as much as those in the standard works. This of course is true when it holds true to the doctrines established in the standard works. Living oracles are indeed more important than written scripture, as relying only on written scripture from the past has often resulted in apostacy from truth and light.

Here is the quote:

“I know just as well what to teach this people and just what to say to them and what to do in order to bring them into the celestial kingdom . . . I have never yet preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call Scripture. Let me have the privilege of correcting a sermon, and it is as good Scripture as they deserve. The people have the oracles of God continually. I say now, when they [his discourses] are copied and approved by me they are as good Scripture as is couched in this Bible . . .” (Journal of Discourses, vol. 13, p. 264; see also p. 95).

It could be said of the **Journal of Discourses** like we say of the bible: it is true as far as it is translated (recorded) correctly. JD by and large is scripture, but some have said the scribes who recorded those sermons were sometimes in error. The church said that they see the JD as having error. Brigham Young did say that his sermons were to be taken as scripture if he could review the recording of them. Some were taken in short hand and later expanded, some were better note takers than others. All of this said, I find the JD to be extremely valuable and to be held in high esteem. Antis hold up some things from JD to poke at the church, and we are aware that there is a possibility of error.

JSP: Joseph Smith papers are edited by biased liberal academics who sometimes leave out important topics. They also include many bad sources. Just because someone says something is from JSP doesn't mean its correct.

Saints: This history often has dots (...) between things. What was between those dots? It is often things which the liberal church historians don't want said. Some things taught by Joseph Smith simply don't match with the current narrative, such as the condemnation of evolutionary theory, the place of Book of Mormon geography being in the modern day USA, the doctrine of plural marriage being the celestial standard, etc. Despite the Lord calling the American Indians the Lamanites at least 3 times in the D&C, the Saints book stubbornly refuses to ever call them that, or to acknowledge the scriptural view on such.

Private Journals: It is common knowledge that Joseph Smith didn't get to teach everything he wanted in public. A review of journals shows his private teachings to many which expound upon his public teachings in significant detail and give the reader a much better view. Hyrum Andrus is one who has had an advantage of a more careful study of these journals.

The scripture says we ought to wear out our lives in searching for truth, surely this search takes us beyond the standard works. We cannot claim ignorance of these resources in our age of ease of access to these materials, and

our wealth (dishwashers, laundry machines, indoor plumbing, running water, electricity, automobiles) which enable us to be the generation who has greater doctrinal understanding than any past generation. Are we living up to this duty? Of course not. Few to none do. The way to life is narrow indeed!

God has a Body – George A. Smith Quote

“The God that Moses saw wrote with his finger upon the tables of stone. (See Ex., ch. 31, v. 18.) The God that Jacob saw walked with him. Jacob was, no doubt, an expert wrestler, and in the habit of throwing anybody that came along (See Genesis, chap. 32). He was wandering about one night, and met a stranger, with whom he wrestled all night; and when he found he could not throw him, he said, You are something more than a man, or I could throw you. But I will not let thee go, except thou bless me; for thou art more than mortal, or I could throw thee. And Jacob said, I will call the name of the place Peniel, for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. The God with whom Jacob wrestled had some body and some parts. I need not go to investigate this subject, only to say that the God worshipped by the sectarian world is not the being that wrestled with Jacob.

"We also learn from the old book that the Lord created man in his own image and in his express likeness. Man possesses body and parts: the result is, he is a being in the express image of the Father. The Father of the God that the

sectarians worship is not the being who created man. But this imaginary deity, or myth of nothing at all, whose center is said to be everywhere, and whose circumference is nowhere (I have heard it described in that language), which is worshipped by the sectarian world, can simply be expressed by using the words of the Methodist discipline and the creeds generally, and with the addition of two or three other words, without body, parts, or passions; then add principles or power. What is the result of worshipping such a being? It is a most indescribable religious confusion — a confusion that our language is inadequate to express.” — George A. Smith (Journal of Discourses vol. 9 <6 April 1861> page 16)

What do you Know about the Prophet?

In this booklet we highlight Truman G. Madsen, Hyrum Andrus, and many prophets who taught of the lofty mission and noble life of the prophet Joseph Smith. We also highlight presentations of the Joseph Smith Foundation on Joseph's mission.

We look at various teachings of Joseph Smith on the nature of truth and how to find it, including invitations to seek and find the mysteries of God as he did.

We look at some who seek to remove Joseph off of his pedestal, and show that no such demotion is necessary.

We look at the prophetic life and death of Joseph, and ancient prophecies of his life, such as the Messiah Ben Joseph prophecy.

Where is Joseph Smith in the Bible? I was asked on my mission, and we look at this and other elementary doctrines of the role of Joseph as well. We celebrate the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible and treasure several clarifying teachings of the prophet to help us find God.

While we do not worship Joseph Smith, we revere him as a prophet priest and king, and as the revealer of Christ. As attested in modern revelation, Joseph has done more for mankind than any other, second to Jesus the Christ.

We identify Joseph as the Lord's mouthpiece for this dispensation, who gave us the corpus of revelations to guide us for hundreds of years.

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