

### #32: "To Seal the Testimony"

Monte F. Shelley, 20 Sept 2009

Timeline of Events	
1823	Joseph's "name ... should be both good and evil spoken of among all people. (JS—H 1:33)
1838	<b>Jan.</b> Plot to kill Joseph. Joseph told his mother he had a promise that he would live at least 5 more years (lived 6.5)
1839	In Liberty Jail, the Lord told Joseph "Thy days are known, and thy years shall not be numbered less." (D&C 122:9) In Jail, Joseph told Lyman Wight that he would not live to be 40 years old (HC 7:212). He was 38.5 when murdered.
1840	<b>Sept.</b> Joseph's father said in a blessing, "'You shall even live to finish your work.' ... Joseph cried out, weeping, 'Oh! My father, shall I?' 'Yes, ... you shall live to lay out the plan of all the work which God has given you to do'"
1841	<b>Jun.</b> Thomas Sharp, editor of the <i>Warsaw Signal</i> , claimed Joseph was trying to unite church and state, and that they had too much power and autonomy in Nauvoo charter. Sharp helped form an anti-Mormon party in county.
1842	<b>May 17.</b> Mayor John C. Bennett excommunicated and left <b>Jun 6.</b> Gov. Boggs shot and wounded while in his home. <b>Su.</b> Bennett urged Boggs to accuse Joseph and Porter Rockwell of attempted assassination, gave anti-Mormon speeches, and published <i>Exposé of Joe Smith</i> . Missouri issued warrant to extradite Joseph. Mormon swing vote: Ford as governor; W. Smith beat T. Sharp.
1843	<b>Jul 12.</b> Joseph dictates D&C 132 (plural marriage) <b>Su.</b> Mormon vote: Douglas in Congress. Whigs mad, anti-Mormon meeting held in Carthage and passed resolutions threatening to drive, expel, and exterminate the Mormons. <b>Dec 25.</b> Rockwell returned from Missouri and said a close friend was conspiring to deliver Joseph to Missourians. <b>Dec 29.</b> Joseph told 40 new policemen: "I am exposed to far greater danger from traitors among ourselves than from enemies without. ... [Through] Judas the crucifixion was brought about; and <i>we have a Judas in our midst.</i> "
1844	<b>Jan 5.</b> W. Law (2 <sup>nd</sup> counselor) and Marks (stake president) expressed fear that the increased force had been organized to secretly put them away. Joseph said later: "What can be the matter with these men? Is it ... that hit pigeons always flutter ... or that Presidents Law and Marks are absolutely traitors ..., that my remarks should produce such an excitement?" (HC 6:170) <b>Jan 8.</b> Law released from First Presidency. He felt this was illegal because he was appointed by revelation (124:91). However, he said, "I cannot fellowship the abominations which I ... know are practiced by this man, consequently I am glad to be free from him. (Black) <b>Jan.</b> Joseph wrote the major candidates for President, including Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun, asking about their policy regarding the redress of wrongs for the Missouri Saints. Their answers were unsatisfactory. <b>Jan 31.</b> Joseph announced his candidacy for US President <b>Feb 7.</b> Joseph's platform published. <b>Mar 11.</b> Council of Fifty set up. It directed the campaign. <b>Mar.</b> (latter part) Joseph to Twelve: "Some important scene is near to take place. It may be that my enemies will kill me. ... If I can only succeed in placing [my keys and powers] upon your heads, then let me fall a victim to murderous hands if God will suffer it, and I can go with all pleasure and satisfaction, knowing that my work is done."

(TPC:JS 533) Joseph transferred all keys to 9 of the Twelve. Rigdon, Wight, Page, and G.A. Smith absent.

**Mar 17.** Law held 1<sup>st</sup> secret meeting. Lies told about Joseph. Some opposed polygamy, denounced Joseph as a fallen prophet, and were determined to destroy him. Two 17 year-old boys attended and reported to Joseph.

**Mar 24.** Law held 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting accusing Joseph of serious crimes. Joseph said he had been informed by two men of a conspiracy to kill him and other leaders. He gave names of Law, Foster, Higbees, and others. Before the next meeting, Joseph told the boys, "This will be your last meeting; ... Make no covenants. ... Do not take any part in their deliberations. ... They may shed your blood, but I hardly think they will because you are so young. ... If you have to die, die like men." (Cummings)

**Mar 31.** Law held 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. They said Joseph "is a fallen prophet. ... He will surely lead the whole Church to destruction if his career is not stopped. We can do nothing with him by the law, and for the sake of the Church we deem it our solemn duty to accomplish his destruction and rescue the people from this peril. We are simply combining and conspiring to save the Church." About 200 took an oath to give their life and influence to destroy Joseph. The two informers almost lost their lives for refusing to take oath. When they reported that night, Joseph said "It shall not be many months until I shall have to go."

**Apr 7.** Joseph gave King Follett discourse

**Apr 18.** Law and others excommunicated. Law had committed adultery and used unjust weighing scales. (JD 7:116) Law said "I put pistols in my pockets one night, and went to Joseph Smith's house, determined to blow his infernal brains out, but I could not get the opportunity ... then, but I am determined I will shoot him ..., and you will see blood and thunder in this place." (HC 7:227)

**Apr 28.** Law became president of a "reform" 1838 church saying Joseph was a fallen prophet, not a fraud. They hated polygamy, many Gods, and Joseph's tyranny.

**May.** Apostles leave for conferences in other states.

**May 10.** Prospectus for *Nauvoo Expositor* was distributed. Its purpose was "to use such terms and names as they deem proper, when the object is of such high importance that the end will justify the means." (Gibbons 57)

**May 12.** Joseph: "God will always protect me until my mission is fulfilled ... I never told you I was perfect—but there is no error in the revelations which I have taught."

**May 23.** Law appeared before the grand jury in Carthage and swore that Joseph was guilty of polygamy and adultery. Joseph was subsequently indicted.

**May 27.** Joseph rode to Carthage for the indictment. Law and the others intended to kill him, but didn't get to.

**May 29.** After months of accusing Mormons of many crimes, Sharp said he "would not be surprised to hear of [Joseph's] death by violent means in a short time."

**Jun 1.** Law took Missourians to Joseph's house at night to kidnap him. Attempt failed. (HC 6:438)

**Jun 7.** Conspirators publish the *Expositor* on block east of temple. It advocated repeal of the Nauvoo Charter and charged Joseph with practicing spiritual wifery, indulging in whoredoms, abusing political power, teaching the plurality of gods, and claiming power to seal men up to eternal life. Church leaders were accused of controlling politics, and Joseph was branded as a base seducer, a liar, and a murderer.

	<p><b>Jun 8.</b> Nauvoo city council discussed the <i>Expositor</i>. Joseph said “All the sorrow he ever had in his family in this city has arisen through the influence of William Law.”</p> <p><b>Jun 10.</b> City council ordered press and paper destroyed.</p> <p><b>Jun 12.</b> Sharp: “War and extermination is inevitable! Citizens ARISE, ONE and ALL!!!—Can you stand by, and suffer such INFERNAL DEVILS! To ROB men of their property and RIGHTS, without avenging them. We have no time for comment, every man will make his own. LET IT BE MADE WITH POWDER AND BALL!!!</p> <p>Higbee’s complaint led to the arrest of Joseph and seventeen others. A writ of <i>habeas corpus</i> allowed the Nauvoo court to hear the case.</p> <p><b>Jun 13.</b> The Nauvoo court released Joseph.</p> <p><b>Jun 14.</b> Joseph took his seat as judge and cleared all others. This recurrent mix of religious, executive, and judicial power again infuriated the anti-Mormons.</p> <p><b>Jun 17.</b> Hyrum wrote Brigham to call the Twelve home</p> <p><b>Jun 18.</b> Joseph declares martial law in Nauvoo and calls out the militia to protect the city from anti-Mormon mobs. All roads into town were guarded. The Legion was at full strength. The mob cut off all mail from Nauvoo.</p> <p><b>Jun 20.</b> Joseph urged Hyrum to take his family and leave for Cincinnati, which Hyrum refused to do. Joseph had said, “if I and Hyrum were ever taken again we should be massacred, or I was not a Prophet of God.” (HC 6:546)</p> <p><b>Jun 21.</b> Gov. Ford arrived in Carthage to assess situation.</p>	<p>my blood shall cry from the ground for vengeance, and it shall be said of me “He was murdered in cold blood!”</p>
<p>Tues Jun 25</p>		<p>Ford reaffirmed his pledge for their protection and an impartial trial. Joseph and others were freed on bail. However, Joseph and Hyrum were jailed for treason by a writ issued by Robert Smith, a Methodist minister, justice of the peace, and captain of the Carthage Greys militia. That evening they were committed to the Carthage Jail.</p>
<p>Wed Jun 26</p>		<p>The day was spent in the Carthage Jail. Joseph met with Ford in the morning to explain the destruction of the <i>Expositor</i>. He said that they had acted “strictly in accordance with the law.” Ford said it was a high handed measure suppressing the freedom of speech and the press.</p> <p>Ford was going to Nauvoo the next day. Joseph asked if he could go with him since he did not feel safe in Carthage. Ford agreed and pledged protection. (HC 6:581-82).</p> <p>A non-Mormon editor interviewed Joseph. “Joe Smith proved himself a prophet, for he said to me on parting, that he should not live to see another day, so fully was he impressed ... that he would be murdered, all of which proved true.” (Gibbons 37)</p> <p>During the night a shot was heard. Joseph prophesied that Dan Jones would yet fulfill a mission to Wales.</p>
<p>Thur Jun 27</p>		<p>Jones asked the guard about the shot heard during the night. He didn’t answer, but said that he could “prophesy better than Old Joe, for neither he nor his brother, nor anyone who remain with them, will see the sun set today.”</p>
<p>Sat Jun 22</p>	<p>John Taylor met with Ford, Law and other apostates. Ford said Joseph must face charges before the same judge that issued the writ for his arrest to appease the public. Taylor reported to Joseph and said “These facts show conclusively that [Ford] is under the influence of the mob spirit, and is designedly intending to place us in the hands of murderous assassins, and is conniving at our destruction, or else he is so ignorant and stupid that he does not understand the corrupt and diabolical spirits that are around him.”</p> <p>“About 9 p.m. Hyrum came out of the Mansion and ... [said] to ... Cahoon ... ‘A company of men are seeking to kill my brother Joseph, and the Lord has warned him to flee to the Rocky Mountains to save his life.’ ... In a few minutes ... Joseph came from his family. His tears were flowing fast. He held a handkerchief to his face, and followed after ... Hyrum without uttering a word.”</p>	<p>On his way to report the threat to Ford, Jones heard a militia leader say: “Our troops will be discharged this morning in obedience to orders, and for a sham, we will leave the town; but when the governor and ... troops have left for Nauvoo this afternoon, we will return and kill those men, if we have to tear down the jail.”</p> <p>Ford told Jones: “You are unnecessarily alarmed for the safety of your friends, sir, the people are not that cruel.”</p> <p>Jones said, “I demand of you protection of their lives. ... if you do not do this, I have but one more desire ... that the Almighty will preserve my life to a proper time and place, that I may testify that you have been timely warned to their danger.” (HC 6:602–603)</p>
<p>Sun Jun 23</p>	<p>About 2:00 AM Porter Rockwell took Hyrum, Joseph, and Willard Richards across the Mississippi. Rockwell returned to Nauvoo for horses. He returned with a message from Emma and others pleading for Joseph’s return because of threats against the Saints. Joseph said: “If my life is of no value to my friends it is of none to myself.”</p> <p>“Hyrum said, ‘Let us go back and give ourselves up, and see the thing out.’ After studying a few moments, Joseph said, ‘If you go back I will go with you, but we shall be butchered.’ Hyrum said, ‘No, no; let us go back and put our trust in God.’” (HC 6:549–551)</p>	<p>Before leaving for Nauvoo, Ford disbanded all the militia, except for county troops, which he took with him to Nauvoo.</p> <p>Joseph was told of a meeting to consider “the best way to stop Joseph Smith’s career, as his views on government were widely circulated and took like wildfire. They said if he did not get into the Presidential chair this election, he would be sure to the next time; and if Illinois and Missouri would join together and kill him, they would not be brought to justice for it. There were delegates ... from every state in the Union except three. Governor Ford and Captain Smith were also in the meeting.” (HC 6:605)</p>
<p>Mon Jun 24</p>	<p>Joseph and 17 others started for Carthage. As they rode by the unfinished temple, Joseph looked across the city and said: “This is the loveliest place and the best people under the heavens; little do they know the trials that await them.”</p> <p>Four miles from Carthage, Joseph 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 toward God and toward all men. If they take my life I shall die an innocent man, and</p>	<p>Wheelock gave Joseph a six-shooter and received a list of witnesses to get for the trial. Joseph said, “Our lives have already become jeopardized by revealing the wicked and bloodthirsty purposes of our enemies; and for the future we must cease to do so. All we have said about them is truth, but it is not always wise to relate all the truth. Even Jesus ... had to restrain His feelings many times for the safety of Himself and His followers. ... When still a boy He had all the intelligence necessary to enable Him to ... govern ... the Jews, and could reason with the wisest ... doctors of law and divinity, and make their theories and practice to appear like</p>

	<p>folly ...; but He was a boy only, and lacked physical strength even to defend His own person, and was subject ... to death. So it is with the Church ...; we have the revelation ... sufficient to organize a righteous government upon the earth ..., but we lack the physical strength ... to defend our principles, and we have of necessity to be afflicted, persecuted and smitten, and to bear it patiently until Jacob is of age, then he will take care of himself.” (HC 6:608)</p> <p>Ford left for Nauvoo without Joseph. Joseph prophesied that the gospel would triumph over all the earth.</p> <p>Only Joseph, Hyrum, John Taylor, and Willard Richards remained in the jail. The jailer’s son brought some water and said the guard wanted some wine. Joseph gave the guard a dollar. When a guard returned with the wine, Dr. Richards “presented a cup to Joseph, who tasted, as also Brother Taylor and the doctor, and the bottle was then given to the guard.” (HC 6:616)</p> <p>As Richards looked out the south window of the jail, he saw a 100 or more men rushing around the corner of the jail. Hyrum and Joseph grabbed their guns. John and Willard grabbed their walking sticks. The four of them sprang against the door. The mob rushed the jail, pushed aside the guards and ran up the stairs, shooting and yelling. A ball tore through the upper door panel and killed Hyrum. Joseph rushed the door and fired three shots from his revolver, wounding three men. After a brief lull, bullets again started whizzing through the room.</p> <p>Taylor was hit four times. Joseph dropped his gun, and sprang to the east window. Bullets hit Joseph both from the doorway and from outside. Joseph exclaimed, “O Lord, my God!” and fell to the ground.</p> <p>Through all of this Willard Richards was untouched. A year before, Joseph had prophesied that “the time would come that the balls would fly around him like hail, and he should see his friends fall on the right and on the left, but that there should not be a hole in his garment”(HC 6:619).</p> <p>In the confusion, some shouted, “The Mormons are coming!” It was a false alarm, but the murderers fled to the woods. (HC 6:617-618)</p> <p>Anti-Mormons evacuated women and children. They expected and hoped Mormons would attack so they could get rid of the Mormons.</p>
Fri Jun 28	<p>The bodies were brought to Nauvoo.</p> <p><i>Warsaw Signal</i> reported “that the Mormons attacked the prison;—that the guards were compelled to shoot the prisoners in defense of their own lives, and to prevent their escape;—that three of the Citizens of Hancock were shot by Joe;—the Mormons have killed Governor Ford and suite, burned Carthage, and we look for them to attack Warsaw every hour; will not the inhabitants of the surrounding Country rush to our defense before we and our wives and children will be massacred.” (Gibbons 103)</p>
	<p><b>Jun 29.</b> WW Phelps preached the funeral sermon.</p> <p><b>Aug 1.</b> WW Phelps published “Praise to the Man.” (T&amp;S)</p>
1845	<p><b>May.</b> Sharp and 4 others tried for Joseph’s murder. They said the law of God and Nature was above the law of the land. A man “commits no crime by preferring his own safety” over the law. The law was too slow or weak. They did the will of the people. They were acquitted by a non-Mormon jury and enjoyed successful careers. These five ordinary men had been “roused to levels of hatred and fear they never reached at any other time.” (Bushman, 553)</p>

- 1. Joseph Smith for President of United States**
- 337 missionaries, including the Twelve, were assigned to the 36 existing states. They were instructed to preach and present Joseph’s “views of the powers and policy of the general government and seek diligently to get up electors” (HC 6:340)
- Joseph’s platform (HC 6:197–209): “Unity is power. ... I am astounded at the silly moves of persons and parties to foment discord ... to ride into power ...; nor am I less surprised at the stretches of power or restrictions ... which ... pave the way to some favorite political scheme ... destitute of intrinsic merit.”
- His platform focused on getting back to founding principles.
  - Pay Congress “two dollars a day. ... That is more than the farmer gets, and he lives honestly. Curtail the officers ... in pay, number, and power.”
  - “Protect ... [national industries] by a judicious tariff.”
  - Maintain neutrality towards belligerent nations.
  - Protect “rights of person and property, liberty of conscience.”
  - Prison reform: “Pardon every convict.” Have criminals do public work where they “can be taught ... wisdom, and ... virtue. ... Rigor and seclusion will never do as much to reform propensities of men as reason and friendship. Murder only can claim confinement or death.” Turn prisons into “seminaries of learning.” “Banish imprisonment for debt.”
  - Slavery: The government should buy slaves from their owners using money from the reduction of Congressional wages and the sale of public lands and then set them free.
  - “Abolish ... court-martial for desertion.”
  - National bank with stock held by nation and states. Officers elected annually. Never issue more bills than capital stock in vaults. Profits for national and state revenue.
  - Give every man his constitutional freedom and the president full power to send an army to suppress mobs. The Constitution should contain a “provision that every officer ... who should refuse to extend the protection guaranteed in the Constitution should be subject to capital punishment.” (HC 6:57)
  - Let the union spread from sea to sea with consent of Indians. Grant statehood to Texas, Canada, and Mexico if they ask.
  - Campaign promises: “Whenever ... a promise is made by a candidate that is not practiced as an officer, hurl the miserable sycophant from his exaltation.”
- 2. Purposes of Joseph’s Presidential Candidacy**
- Joseph said, “The Lord has not given me a revelation concerning politics. I have not asked him for one.” (HC 5:526)
- Reasons for running: (en.fairmormon.org/Joseph\_Smith/Politics)
1. Provide Saints with a political candidate they could support.
  2. Mormons would support neither Whigs nor Democrats.
  3. Publicize their Missouri grievances.
  4. Running for President would attract attention and allow him to preach his religious and political ideals on the national stage.
- Other benefits included:
- The Twelve were safely out of reach of mob violence at the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum.
  - The Twelve strengthened members not at Nauvoo so they would follow the apostles after Joseph’s death.
  - Campaigning strengthened the Church through converts.
  - Apostate practices and teachings were corrected.
  - The preaching and campaigning managed “to remove a great deal of prejudice” against the Church.
  - The electioneers worked in their home states, and preached to family members. Some joined the Church.

### 3. Destruction of Nauvoo Expositor

On 10 June, the Nauvoo city council met. After discussing the issues, Joseph said “he would rather die tomorrow and have the thing smashed, than live and have it go on, for it was exciting the spirit of mobocracy among the people, and bringing death and destruction upon us.” The city charter gave them power to remove all nuisances. Blackstone said a libelous press could be considered a nuisance. They “declared the paper a nuisance and ordered the mayor to “cause said printing establishment and papers to be removed without delay.” (HC 6:442, 448)

The City Marshall and a posse, along with hundreds of citizens, went to the paper where the press, type, printed matter and fixtures were removed to the street and destroyed.

The publishers had previously boasted “that all they want for the word ‘go,’ to exterminate or ruin the Latter-day Saints, is for them to do ‘one’ unlawful act, and the work shall be done” (HC 6:433). “Fleeing from Nauvoo as though in mortal danger, they stopped only long enough to set fire to their own homes, hoping to vilify the citizens of Nauvoo by blaming them for this additional outrage. The police ... however, discovered the flames and extinguished them.” (Gibbons 75) The publishers fled to Carthage and swore out a warrant for Joseph’s arrest on the charge of riot.

#### Safety of Saints (en.fairmormon.org/Nauvoo\_Expositor)

One member said Joseph told him that the destruction of the press was necessary for the Saints’ safety: ‘Brother Joseph called a meeting at his own house and told us that God showed to him in an open vision in daylight ... that if he did not destroy that printing press that it would cause the blood of the Saints to flow in the streets and by this was that evil destroyed.’

When leaving Nauvoo for Carthage, Joseph told the Saints, “If I do not go [to Carthage], the result will be the destruction of this city and its inhabitants; and I cannot think of my dear brothers and sisters and their children suffering the scenes of Missouri again in Nauvoo; no, it is better for your brother, Joseph, to die for his brothers and sisters, for I am willing to die for them. My work is finished.” (CH Inst manual)

### 4. “A testament is of force after men are dead”

The testators are now dead, and their testament is in force. (135:5)

Jesus “is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death ... they ... might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a *testament* is, there must also ... be the death of the *testator*. For a *testament* is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the *testator* liveth.” (Heb 9:15–17)

### 5. Governor Ford’s role

“Ford is certainly a man who performed mighty wonders. He not only compelled two innocent men, by virtue of his office ..., to go before two different magistrates on the same charge, contrary to the Constitution and laws of the State; to surrender themselves into the custody of a mob magistrate (not the one who issued the writ); go to prison under a military guard on an illegal mittimus granted contrary to law, without any examination; put in a criminal cell without having been examined for crime; brought them out of prison contrary to law; thrust them back again under the most solemn and sacred pledges of his personal faith, and the faith of the State, for their protection; guarded them with men whom he knew to be treacherous, and to have resolved on the death of the prisoners, until they were murdered in cold blood, and then professed to be ‘thunderstruck.’” (HC 7:2)

### 6. Joseph’s Legacy

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, and 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 122:1–3)

**Warsaw Signal:** “Is it not better that the blood of two guilty wretches, whose crimes had long awaited the vengeance of Heaven, has been shed and thus by cutting off the fountain head to dry up the steam of corruption?” (Editorial, 29 June 1844)  
“Do not say. ... that your leaders are ‘persecuted on account of their religion,’ that is impossible — they have no religion — Mormonism is a scheme of political ambition, mounted on a hypocritical affection of religion; while atheism of the rankest modern growth, unquestionably is the real creed of its advocates, teachers and principal leaders.” (Sharp, July 10, 1844)

**Governor Thomas Ford:** Thus fell Joe Smith, the most successful impostor in modern times; a man who, though ignorant and coarse, had some great natural parts which fitted him for temporary success, but which were so obscured and counteracted by the inherent corruption and vices of his nature that he never could succeed in establishing a system of policy which looked to permanent success in the future. (Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Greatest Miracle in Human History,” *Ensign*, May 1994, 72)

**Parley P. Pratt:** “His work will live to endless ages, and unnumbered millions yet unborn will mention his name with honor, as a noble instrument in the hands of God, who, during his short and youthful career, laid the foundation of that kingdom spoken of by Daniel, the prophet, which should break in pieces all other kingdoms and stand forever.” (ibid.)

**John Taylor:** “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. ... 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. ... Their innocent blood ... is a witness to the truth of the everlasting gospel that all the world cannot impeach.” (D&C 135:3, 7)

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Godhead           | Three beings with bodies and human form                                              |
| 2. Priesthood        | Offices, organizations, duties, blessings                                            |
| 3. Godhood           | Children of God with eternal potential                                               |
| 4. Scriptures        | “More scriptures than any prophet” (BRM)                                             |
| 5. Plan of Salvation | Knowledge and comfort                                                                |
| 6. Temple Work       | Ordinances and eternal families                                                      |
| 7. Others            | Restoration, missionary work, Articles of Faith, Word of Wisdom, law of consecration |

### 8. Joseph Smith and Joseph of Egypt (2 Ne 3:6–15, 18)

Joseph of Egypt “said: Thus saith the Lord ...: A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly among [them]. ... I give commandment that he shall do a work ... of great worth ..., even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants. ... <sup>8</sup> I will give unto him a commandment that he shall do none other work, save the work which I shall command him. And I will make him great in mine eyes; for he shall do my work. <sup>9</sup> And he shall be great like unto Moses, ... <sup>11</sup> and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word ... to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them. ... <sup>13</sup> Out of weakness he shall be made strong. ... <sup>14</sup> They that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; ... <sup>15</sup> 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 ... shall bring my people unto salvation. ... I will make for him a spokesman.

## 9. Parallels between Joseph Smith and Jesus

What manner of men ought ye to be? ... Even as I am. (3 Ne 27:27)

1. Prophets prophesied of them before their birth.
2. Healed the sick
3. Organized church with apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers,...
4. Taught faith, repentance, baptism, Holy Ghost, endure to end.
5. Taught commandments and new doctrines.
6. Taught and practiced charity and forgiveness.
7. High Priests after the order of Melchizedek.
8. Baptized by or under the direction of John the Baptist.
9. Made many prophecies that came true.
10. Entertained ancient prophets, while apostles watched.
11. Confident they would live until mission completed.
12. Visited by Moses and Elijah.
13. Ensured their apostles had training and keys before death.
14. Persecuted for testimony of Messiah and modern revelation.
15. Hated for growing religious, political, economic influence.
16. Mobs attempted to kill them several times.
17. Mobs thought they were doing "God service" (John 16:2)
18. Prophesied own death.
19. Betrayed by a Judas (W. Law) among their inner circle.
20. Went "as a lamb to the slaughter" (Isa. 53:7; HC 6:555)
21. Submitted to the authorities without a fight.
22. Falsely accused and paraded before a mob.
23. Unfair trials based on testimony of false witnesses.
24. Executed while imprisoned for treason.
25. Authorities (Pilate / Ford) allowed mobs to have them killed.
26. Mobs expected death to end their legacy and following.
27. Church grew under leadership of their apostles.

Jesus taught apostles before death and 40 days after resurrection.

Joseph "spent the last winter of his life, some three or four months, with the Quorum of the Twelve, teaching them. It was not merely a few hours ministering to them the ordinances of the Gospel; but he spent day after day, week after week and month after month, teaching them and a few others the things of the kingdom of God." (Wilford Woodruff, JD 13:164)

## 10. What can we learn?

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 ... but have done that which was meet in mine eyes, and which I commanded them. (D&C 121:16)

The devil ... stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another. (3 Ne 11:29)

Trust no one to be your teacher nor your minister, except he be a man of God, walking in his ways and keeping his commandments. (Mosiah 23:14)

## Quotes

**Joseph.** I am like a huge, rough stone rolling down from a high mountain; and the only polishing I get is when some corner gets rubbed off by coming in contact with something else, striking with accelerated force against religious bigotry, priestcraft, lawyer-craft, doctor-craft, lying editors, suborned judges and jurors, and the authority of perjured executives, backed by mobs, blasphemers, licentious and corrupt men and women,—all hell knocking off a corner here and a corner there. Thus I will become a smooth and polished shaft in the quiver of the Almighty, who will give me dominion over all and every one of them, when their refuge of lies shall fail, and their hiding-place shall be destroyed, while these smooth- polished stones with which I come in contact become marred. (HC 5:401)

**Spencer W. Kimball:** Men do not give their lives to perpetuate falsehoods. Martyrdom dissipates all questions as to the sincerity of the martyr. Personalities do not survive the ages. They rise like a shooting star, shine brilliantly for a moment and disappear from view, but a martyr for a living cause, like the sun, shines on forever. Great characters, students, businessmen, scientists, followed the youthful prophet to his death. They were not deceived. They lost him in martyrdom but inspired with the divinity of the Cause went forward without hesitancy. Thousands gave lives they could have saved, in Missouri, Illinois, and crossing the plains, and today a great people hailed for their education, practicability, and virtue, stand to bear witness that the martyrdom of Joseph Smith, like that of the martyrs before him, is another of the infallible proofs of the divinity of the gospel of Jesus Christ, restored in its fulness through that humble prophet. (CR, April 1946, 45, 50)

**Gordon B. Hinckley:** We have those critics who ... cull out ... items which demean and belittle some of the men and women of the past who worked so hard in laying the foundation of this great cause. ... We recognize that our forebears were human. They doubtless made mistakes. ... But the mistakes were minor, when compared with the marvelous work which they accomplished. To highlight the mistakes and gloss over the greater good is to draw a caricature. Caricatures are amusing, but they are often ugly and dishonest. A man may have a blemish on his cheek and still have a face of beauty and strength, but if the blemish is emphasized unduly in relation to his other features, the portrait is lacking in integrity. (*Ensign*, Nov 1983)

**Praise to the Man** (Hymns, no. 27; *Text:* William W. Phelps)

1. Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah!  
Jesus anointed that Prophet and Seer.  
Blessed to open the last dispensation,  
Kings shall extol him, and nations revere.  
[Chorus]  
Hail to the Prophet, ascended to heaven!  
Traitors and tyrants now fight him in vain.  
Mingling with Gods, he can plan for his brethren;  
Death cannot conquer the hero again.
2. Praise to his mem'ry, he died as a martyr;  
Honored and blest be his ever great name!  
Long shall his blood, which was shed by assassins,  
Plead unto heav'n while the earth lauds his fame.
3. Great is his glory and endless his priesthood.  
Ever and ever the keys he will hold.  
Faithful and true, he will enter his kingdom,  
Crowned in the midst of the prophets of old.
4. Sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven;  
Earth must atone for the blood of that man.  
Wake up the world for the conflict of justice.  
Millions shall know "Brother Joseph" again.

