
Christian Restoration Continues

Part 1: Condemnation

As Narrated by Denver C. Snuffer, Jr.

God prepared the world for half a millennium before He called Joseph Smith to formally begin a restoration.

God sent an angel to give Joseph an assignment when he was still a youth, “he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me and that his name was Nephi, that God had a work for me to do, and that my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people.”

Joseph received two promises about the work he would perform. The first was that he would have both good and bad spoken of him among all nations.

Later he was given the priesthood authority by another angel. This authority allowed him to preach repentance and baptism. The second promise was that this priesthood authority to preach repentance and perform baptism “shall never be taken again from the earth until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.”

Eventually the Lord offered many other conditional opportunities to mankind through Joseph Smith, but those required the people to rise up to live God’s commandments. God explained, “I, the Lord, am bound when you do what I say, but when you do not what I say you have no promise.”

By 1830, the Book of Mormon was in print and several revelations from God had provided instructions and commandments for believers to follow.

God expected more from those who were converted by His message to Joseph Smith. The first edition of the Book of Mormon contained numerous scribal errors. The original was hand-copied and the printer used that duplicate copy. But that copy had an average of 1 ½ copy errors per page. Although Joseph Smith attempted to correct these printing mistakes in subsequent editions, he

never finished that work. Book of Mormon transmission errors remain in the text today.

Less than two years after the Book of Mormon was printed, in September 1832, the believers were condemned for their carelessness in respecting God's revelations. God expected careful, respectful fidelity, and believers were careless and inattentive. As a result, the believers were condemned and warned, "your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief have brought the whole church under condemnation. And this condemnation rests upon the children of Zion, even all, and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon, and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom. Otherwise, there remains a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion,"

After the Book of Mormon was published, Joseph Smith taught and led believers for 14 more years. He accomplished many remarkable things, but was never able to inspire his followers to repent and remove the Lord's condemnation.

The restoration is to fully restore the great promises given by God to the fathers, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. But those blessings require people to live up to God's teachings and commandments. It is not enough to call upon God as our Lord and Savior. He requires us to live up to His commandments. As Christ warned His followers: "And why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

A lone prophet-restorer cannot do what is required. No individual has built a City of Zion.

Joseph Smith began the restoration, but it lapsed into condemnation within two years after it began. God expected more than people were willing to do.

The foundation provided by Joseph, including the Book of Mormon and authority to preach repentance and baptize, have remained. But breathing life back into the restoration requires a new generation willing to follow God. People who will awaken to their awful state, and arise by repenting and following God faithfully.