
Christian Restoration Continues

Part 2: Rejection

As Narrated by Denver C. Snuffer, Jr.

Those who believed the message God provided through Joseph Smith remained condemned for 185 years. During that time, God was still patient with them, giving them opportunity to repent and return. While Joseph lived they received a flood of revelation, teaching, commandments and restored ordinances.

But believers constantly fell into conflicts with one another and with Joseph. Close friends and church leaders betrayed Joseph and fellow believers. Internal conflicts, disobedience and rebellion caused them to be driven out of settlements in Ohio, Missouri and Illinois. After expulsion from one Missouri location, the Lord said, “Behold, I say unto you, there were jarrings, and contentions, and envyings, and strifes, and lustful and covetous desires among them; therefore, by these things they polluted their inheritances.” After polluting their inheritance, by the inspiration of God mobs drove them out.

God’s judgments may seem harsh, but they are designed to help mankind wake-up and return to God.

In January 1841, a new community of believers gathered along the Mississippi River in Illinois. There were a few years of peace for Joseph and those believers. Although they had experienced violence and opposition before, in Illinois God provided them another chance.

This proved to be the last chance given them by God to remove the condemnation, and if they failed they risked outright rejection by God.

The Lord told those believers, “But I command you, all you my saints, to build a house unto me, and I grant unto you a sufficient time to build a house unto me, and during this time your baptisms shall be acceptable unto me. But behold, at the end of this appointment, your baptisms for your dead shall not be acceptable unto me. And if you do not these things, at the end of the

appointment you shall be rejected as a church with your dead, says the Lord your God. ...if they will not hearken to my voice, nor unto the voice of these men whom I have appointed, they shall not be blessed, because they pollute my holy grounds, and my holy ordinances and charters, and my holy words which I give unto them. And it shall come to pass that if you build a house unto my name and do not do the things that I say, I will not perform the oath which I make unto you, neither fulfill the promises which you expect at my hands, says the Lord. For instead of blessings, you, by your own works, bring cursings, wrath, indignation, and judgments upon your own heads, by your follies and by all your abominations which you practice before me, says the Lord.”

They failed to meet God’s standard. They disobeyed God’s commandments. They did not build the temple required. Once again they fell into “jarrings, and contentions, and envyings, and strifes, and lustful and covetous desires” including widespread secret adultery Joseph Smith publicly condemned and fought to expose. Joseph had many people excommunicated for their secret adulteries and taking multiple wives.

Joseph Smith and his brother were killed because of conspiracies between disbelievers and apostates within the fold. This brought all the believers cursing, wrath, indignation and judgment because of the widespread disobedience. After Joseph was killed, a man who practiced adultery in secret, Brigham Young, was elected to lead.

These people were driven out of Illinois, scattered and split into competing denominational factions because some were unwilling to tolerate adultery and lying. Yet the Book of Mormon and authority to preach repentance and baptism still remained.

It would be left for some future generation to remember, repent, awake and rise up to receive the full measure of the promises given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.