
Christian Restoration Continues

Part 3: Three Great Things Left Undone

As Narrated by Denver C. Snuffer, Jr.

The Restoration of the gospel began with Joseph Smith. But he was martyred before his dispensation fully restored Zion. Revelation foretells what the Lord will restore before His return.

There are three great things left undone:

First, faithful followers of the Lord must build a temple for the Lord to return and restore His presence. This temple is to be a tabernacle for Him located in “a holy city, that my people may gird up their loins and be looking forth for the time of my coming. For there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.”

Joseph Smith built a temple in Kirtland, Ohio, but infighting and conflicts among his people drove him out of that city by a murderous mob of former church members. He relocated and tried again to build a temple in Independence and then Far West, Missouri. But the people failed to build a temple in either place.

The last spot Joseph attempted to build the “foundation of Zion” temple was in Nauvoo, Illinois. Before that temple was completed Joseph Smith was killed, and Nauvoo’s besieged citizens driven out of Illinois.

After Joseph Smith died, there was no one left able to understand, much less complete the restoration work. The scattered factions who believed God began a restoration through Joseph Smith have been unable to preserve it. Generation after generation they have allowed the Lord’s vineyard to become “cumbered with bitter fruit.” One perverse sect practiced the abomination of adultery as a sacrament. When their leaders were imprisoned, and the government confiscated their property, they finally abandoned polygamy. This resulted in still more splinter groups that wanted to continue the

abomination of having multiple wives. The Mormon factions all failed to preserve, or even comprehend, the restoration.

The temple will be where God intends to accomplish a second great event. It will be in His temple where the Lord will confer “the fullness of the priesthood.” When Joseph Smith died, the “fullness of the priesthood” was unfulfilled and poorly understood. Because many people equate “priesthood” with authority, all the many churches that claim Joseph Smith as their founder falsely claim they hold that “fullness of the priesthood” authority.

The “fullness of the priesthood” is not merely authority. It requires knowledge of the full truth about God’s work. Revelation must restore understanding of the past, present and future. God explained to Joseph that “truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come, and whatever is more or less than these is the spirit of that wicked one who was a liar from the beginning.”

Restoring the fullness will involve “a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof.” It remains the second of three great future accomplishments that did not happen during Joseph Smith’s lifetime.

The third remaining work is a “New Jerusalem” or community devoted to living God’s commandments and welcoming His return.

Until a proper temple is built for the Lord to dwell within, the fullness of the priesthood has been restored, and a holy city is gathered, the restoration begun by Joseph remains unfinished. However, these three events were promised by God to the ancient covenant fathers, and they are certain to happen.