

D&C Lesson 3

“I HAD SEEN A VISION”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, January 2001

1. After the Apostasy, God prepared the way for the restoration

A. **The Renaissance:** a rebirth of learning, particularly in literature, art, and science. Inventions such as the printing press emerged.

B. **The Reformation:** reformers such as John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, and John Calvin began to challenge the practices of existing churches that had strayed from the teachings of Christ.

C. **The Discovery of the Americas:** the United States was colonized by religious people and eventually became an independent nation. [See 1 Ne. 13:10-19]

D. **Constitutions guaranteeing freedom were established:** beginning with the inspired Constitution of the United States of America. [See D&C 101:77-80]

E. **Joseph Smith's family helped prepare him:** (1) *Arael Smith*, Joseph's paternal grandfather: "It has been borne in upon my soul that one of my descendants will promulgate a work to revolutionize the world of religious faith." [In Joseph Fielding Smith, *Essentials in Church History*, 27th ed., 1974, p. 25.]
(2) Both of Joseph's parents had profound religious experiences. *Joseph Sr.* had several dreams that gave him assurances that he would enjoy the blessings of the true gospel of Jesus Christ [see Lucy Mack Smith, *History of Joseph Smith*, 1958, pp. 47-50, 64-66]. Once when *Lucy* was critically ill as a young mother, she made a covenant with God that she would serve Him completely if He would let her live to care for her family. Soon afterward she heard a voice comfort her, and she made a remarkable recovery. [See *History of Joseph Smith*, pp. 33-35.]

F. **Adversity helped prepare him:** In 1812 [7 years old], while living in Lebanon, NH, Joseph got typhoid fever. [The typhoid epidemic took more than 3,000 lives in the New England area.] As he was recovering, a severe infection developed in the marrow of the bone of his left leg, and he suffered almost unbearable pain for three weeks. He wouldn't consent to a local doctor's advice to have his leg amputated. His parents sought advice of Dr. Nathan Smith, from nearby Dartmouth College, who said he would try to save the leg using a relatively new but extremely painful procedure to remove part of the bone. Joseph refused to be tied during the operation, and refused brandy as an anesthetic, asking only that his Father hold him during the operation. Joseph walked on crutches for four years [ages 7-11] and walked with a limp for two more years.

F. **The religious atmosphere in western New York helped prepare him:** By the end of the American Revolution, only one in twenty belonged to a church in America. In 1819 a religious revival began in Massachusetts and swept through New England. In 1820 circuit riders began preaching in Palmyra: [JS-H 1:5-10] a Presbyterian (Jesse Townsend), a Baptist, and two Methodists (one was Reverend Lane). Joseph attended some Methodist meetings in a grove of trees on Vienna Street. He heard Reverend Lane preach a sermon on James 1:5-7, which caused him to read and contemplate the passage [JS-H 1:11-13], which motivated him to go into the grove and pray [JS-H 1:14-20]. Reverend Lane was probably the first to hear of Joseph's vision, and it was he that spread the word that Joseph was a victim of the devil's revelations [JS-H 1:21-23]. [Senior MTC notes.]

2. Seven Truths We Can Learn From Joseph Smith's First Vision

- A. God the Father and Jesus Christ live.
- B. The Father and the Son are real, separate beings with glorified bodies of flesh and bones.
- C. We are created in the image of God.
- D. Satan and his power are real, but God's power is infinitely greater.
- E. God hears and answers prayers and cares for us.

F. None of the churches on earth had the fulness of Christ's power.

G. Revelation has not ceased. (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History, Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*, 1999, p. 14)

3. Joseph Smith's Parents and Siblings

Father: Joseph Smith, B. 12 Jul 1771, Topsfield, Essex, MA; D. 14 Sep 1840, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL. (age 69)

Mother: Lucy Mack, B. 8 Jul 1775, Gilsom Cheshire, NH; D. 14 May 1856, near Nauvoo, Hancock, IL. (age 81)

Married: 24 Jan 1796, Tunbridge, Orange, VT (Joseph, age 24.5; Lucy, age 20.5)

1. F Daughter Smith, B. 1797, Tunbridge, Orange, VT; D. 1797, Tunbridge, Orange, VT.
2. M Alvin Smith, B. 11 Feb 1798, Tunbridge, Orange, VT; D. 19 Nov 1823, Palmyra, Wayne, NY. (age 25)
3. M Hyrum Smith, B. 9 Feb 1800, Tunbridge, Orange, VT; D. 27 Jun 1844, Carthage, Hancock, IL. (age 44)
4. F Sophronia Smith, B. 17 May 1803, Tunbridge, Orange, VT; D. 28 Aug 1896, McDonough Co., IL. (age 93)
5. M **Joseph Smith**, B. 23 Dec 1805, Sharon, Windsor, VT; D. 27 Jun 1844, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL. (age 38.5)
6. M Samuel Harrison Smith, B. 13 Mar 1808, Tunbridge, Orange, VT; D. 1 Aug 1844, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL (age 36)
7. M Ephraim Smith, B. 13 Mar 1810, Tunbridge, Orange, VT; D. 24 Mar 1810, Royalton, Windsor, VT (age 11 days)
8. M William Smith, B. 13 Mar 1811, Royalton, Windsor, VT; D. 13 Nov 1894, Osterdock, Clayton, IA. (age 83)
9. F Catherine Smith, 28 Jul 1813, Lebanon, Grafton, NH; D. 1 Feb 1900, Fountain Green, IL. (age 87)
10. M Don Carlos Smith, B. 25 Mar 1816, Norwich, Windsor, VT; D. 7 Aug 1841, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL. (age 25)
11. F Lucy Smith, B. 18 Jul 1821, Manchester, Ontario, NY; D. 9 Dec 1882, near Colchester, McDonough, IL. (age 61)

4. Joseph Smith's Wife and Children

Wife: Emma Hale, B. 10 Jul 1804, Harmony, Susquehanna, PA; D. 30 Apr 1879, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL. (age 74.5)

Married: 18 Jan 1827, South Bainbridge, Chenango, NY. (Joseph, age 22; Emma, age 23.5)

1. M Alvin Smith, B. 15 Jun 1828, Harmony, Susquehanna, PA; D. 15 Jun 1828, Harmony, Susquehanna, PA.
2. M Thaddeus Smith, B. 30 Apr 1831, near Kirtland, Geauga, OH; D. 30 Apr 1831, near Kirtland, Geauga, OH.
3. F Louisa Smith, B. 30 Apr 1831, near Kirtland, Geauga, OH; D. 30 Apr 1831, near Kirtland, Geauga, OH.
4. M Joseph Smith, B. 6 Nov 1832, Kirtland, Geauga, OH; D. 10 Dec 1914, Independence, Jackson, MO. (age 82)
5. M Frederick Granger Williams Smith, B. 20 Jun 1836, Kirtland, Geauga, OH; D. 13 Apr 1862, Nauvoo, IL. (age 26)
6. M Alexander Hale Smith, B. 2 Jun 1838, Far West, Caldwell, MO; D. 12 Aug 1909, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL. (age 71)
7. M Don Carlos Smith, B. 13 Jun 1840, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL; D. 15 Sep 1841, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL. (age 15 mo.)
8. M Son Smith [stillborn], B. 6 Feb 1842, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL; D. 6 Feb 1842, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL.
9. M Boy Smith, B. 26 Dec 1842, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL; D. 26 Dec 1842, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL.
10. M David Hyrum Smith, B. 18 Nov. 1844, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL; D. 29 Aug 1904, Elgin, Kane, IL. (age 60)

	Age Spring 1820	Age April 6, 1830	Age June 27, 1844
Joseph Smith (Sr)	48	58	died 1840
Lucy Mack Smith	44	54	68
2 Alvin Smith	22	died 1823	--
3 Hyrum Smith	20	30	44
4 Sophronia Smith	16	26	41
5 Joseph Smith	14	24	38.5
6 Samuel Harrison Smith	12	22	36
8 William Smith	9	19	33
9 Catherine Smith	6	16	30
10 Don Carlos Smith	4	14	28
11 Lucy Smith	born 1821	8	22
Emma Hale Smith	15	25	39
4 Joseph Smith	--	--	11
5 Frederick G. W. Smith --	--	--	8
6 Alexander Smith	--	--	5
10 David Hyrum Smith	--	--	born 5 months later

5. Joseph Smith's Grandparents

Paternal Grandfather: Asael Smith B. 7 Mar 1744, Topsfield, Essex, MA; D. 31 Oct 1830, Stockholm, St. Lawrence, NY. (86)

Paternal Grandmother: Mary Duty B. 11 Oct 1743, Rowley, Essex, MA; D. 27 May 1836, Kirtland Geauga, OH. (age 92)

Maternal Grandfather: Solomon Mack B. 15 Sep 1732, Lyme, New London, CT; D. 23 Aug 1820, Gilsum, Cheshire, NH. (87)

Maternal Grandmother: Lydia Gates B. 3 Sep 1732, East Haddam, Middlesex, CT; D. 1818, Royalton, Windsor, VT. (age 86)

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