

Proclamation to the Rulers of the World

Doctrine and Covenants 124:1-21

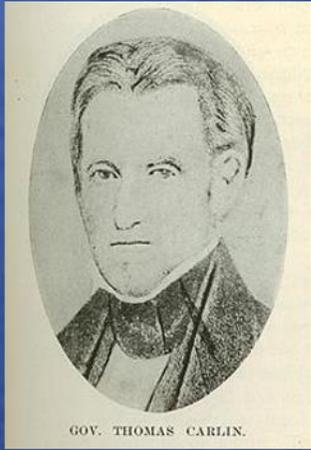


***"To all the Kings of the World;
To the President of the United States of America;
To the Governors of the several States;
And to the Rulers and People of all Nations:"***

Messages of the First Presidency, (1:263-64.) Found in Nov. 1975 Ensign



Background

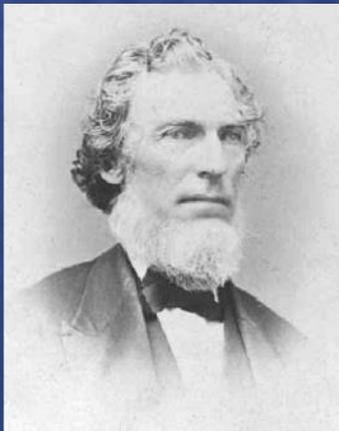


GOV. THOMAS CARLIN.
Governor Thomas Carlin 1838-1842

“Most of the Saints expelled from the State of Missouri during the winter 1838–9, found their way into Illinois and Iowa.

A majority of them went to Quincy, Ill., about 200 miles from Far West, and there they were kindly and hospitably received.

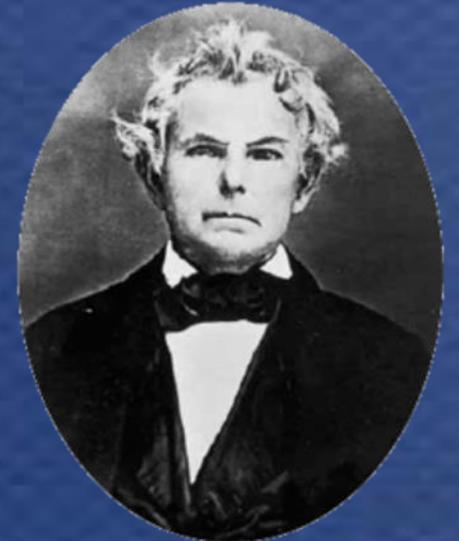
Governor Carlin of Illinois, legislators, and private citizens vied with each other in proffering assistance and sympathy.”



Daniel Hanmer Wells
Baptized 1846

“Among the prominent citizens who, at this time, extended a helping hand to the Saints were Daniel H. Wells, a native of Trenton, New York, and Dr. Isaac Galland.

Daniel H. Wells was the owner of a tract of land, which he divided into lots and which the exiles were offered, practically on their own terms. Dr. Galland, also, sold his land at a reasonable price and on the most favorable terms.



*Dr. Isaac Galland
Baptized July 3, 1839
Left Church around 1842

Settling in Commerce, Illinois



“The Prophet arrived at Quincy on the 22nd of April, 1839, and two days after, a Council was convened and resolutions were passed directing some of the Saints to go to [Iowa], and some to settle on Dr. Galland’s land, near Commerce, Ill.

This location soon became the central gathering place, and its name was changed to Nauvoo. In the year 1841, when this Revelation was given, this beautiful city had about 3,000 inhabitants.”



Nauvoo Legion:

“A charter had been granted by the Illinois Legislature, by which Nauvoo was given a liberal municipal government, with authority to form a militia and erect a university.”



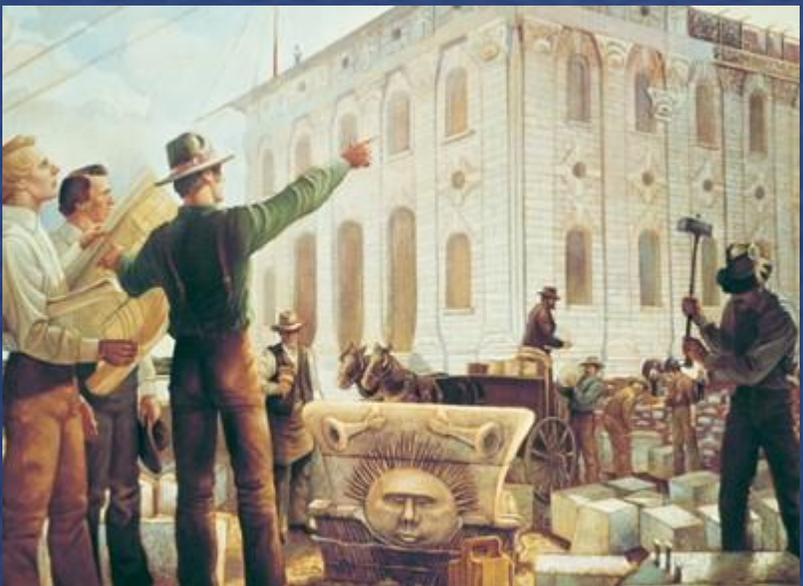
The Gathering



“A Temple was about to be built.

The scattered Saints were gathering, and the settlements in Illinois were growing rapidly. The mission in Great Britain was highly successful. Such were the general conditions when this Revelation was given.

The Church had a moment’s rest. There was calm before the next storm.”



January 19, 1841
The Saints had been in
Nauvoo nearly two years

Canonized

Canonized scripture is a collection of divine revelations given by the Lord to His prophets for the edification of mankind.

Canon-- describe the process by which scripture is canonized.

“A word of Greek origin, originally meaning ‘a rod for testing straightness,’ now used to denote the authoritative collection of the sacred books used by the true believers in Christ”



In the Church, *canon* refers to the authoritative collection of sacred books of scripture, known as the standard works, formally adopted and accepted by the Church and considered binding upon members in matters of faith and doctrine.

The official canonized scriptures of the Church today consist of the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price. Jesus and the writers of the New Testament regarded the books of the Old Testament as scripture

“All that we teach in this Church ought to be couched in the scriptures. It ought to be found in the scriptures.

We ought to choose our texts from the scriptures.



If we want to measure truth, we should measure it by the four standard works, regardless of who writes it.

If it is not in the standard works, we may well assume that it is speculation, man’s own personal opinion; and if it contradicts what is in the scriptures, it is not true. This is the standard by which we measure all truth.”

Elder Harold B. Lee



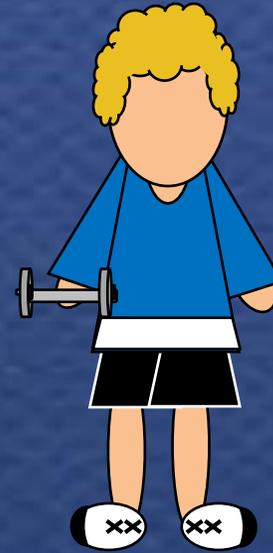
Doctrine and Covenants 124 is the first revelation Joseph Smith received in Nauvoo that would be canonized

Strong VS Weak



Why would the Lord call the weak to do His work?

The weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh
D&C 1:19



The Lord shows forth His wisdom through the weak things of the earth

This Stake--Nauvoo

A Cornerstone of Zion

“In the early history of the Church a city-stake, was laid out first and then the people came to live in it.

Nauvoo was such a city-stake.

A plan for the city was created and then the people purchased lots and commenced to build up Zion, or the city.

Nauvoo is or was “a cornerstone of Zion”

“Let the people build good houses, plant good vineyards and orchards, make good roads, build beautiful cities in which may be found magnificent edifices for the convenience of the public...” Brigham Young—as the Saints colonized the west



*The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.
Psalms 118:22*



“The Saints were to build up cities that, as stake of Zion, reflected the glory of God.”

Proclamation to the Rulers of the World

The fulfillment of this directive from the Lord did not come until 1845.

“To the rulers and peoples of all nations, we solemnly declare again that the God of heaven has established his latter-day kingdom upon the earth in fulfillment of prophecies. Holy angels have again communed with men on the earth. God has again revealed himself from heaven and restored to the earth his holy priesthood with power to administer in all the sacred ordinances necessary for the exaltation of his children.”



“The nations of the earth continue in their sinful and unrighteous ways...Nations cannot endure in sin. They will be broken up, but the kingdom of God will endure forever.



“Therefore, as humble servants of the Lord, we call upon the leaders of nations to humble themselves before God, to seek his inspiration and guidance. We call upon rulers and people alike to repent of their evil ways. Turn unto the Lord, seek his forgiveness, and unite yourselves in humility with his kingdom...”

In Meekness



The Greek rendition--*meek* in the New Testament-- "gentle and humble."

"How crucial it is to be teachable!

Our humility and teachability are premiere determinants of our progress and our happiness...Agency is essential to perfectibility, and meekness is essential to the wise use of agency—and to our recovery when we have misused our agency."



"Meekness is one of those attributes acquired only by experience, some of it painful, for it is developed "according to the flesh."

"It is not an attribute achieved overnight, nor is it certified to in only one exam—but, rather, "in process of time."

"The meek go on fewer ego trips, but they have far greater adventures. Ego trips, those "travel now and pay later" indulgences, are always detours."



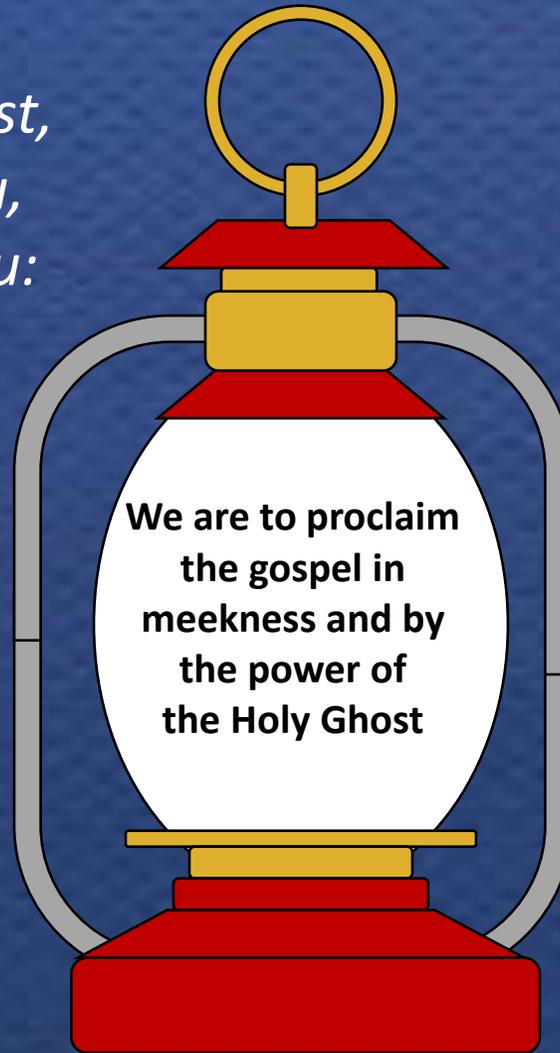
"Not only are the meek less easily offended, but they are less likely to give offense to others."

"Because they make fewer demands of life, the meek are less easily disappointed. They are less concerned with their entitlements than with their assignments."



By the Power of the Holy Ghost

Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: 2 Corinthians 10:1



Those Who Hear the Gospel Message

I will visit and soften their hearts, many of them for your good, that ye may find grace in their eyes, that they may come to the light of truth, and the Gentiles to the exaltation or lifting up of Zion.



...softening the hearts of their enemies that they should not declare wars against them...

Helaman 12:2

...the Lord did soften the hearts of the Lamanites.
Mosiah 23:29



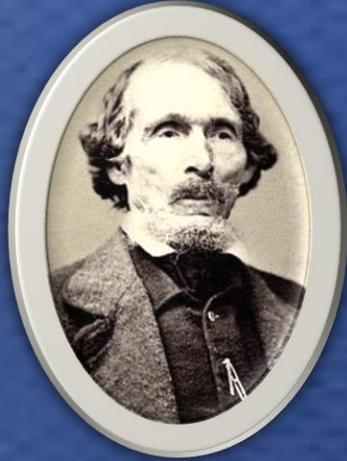
And it came to pass that the Lord did soften the heart of Ishmael, and also his household

1 Nephi 7:5,

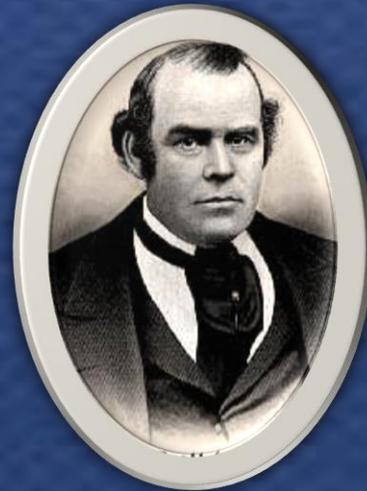




16 Page Pamphlet

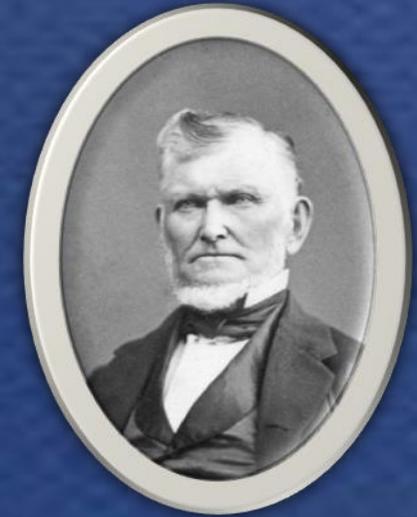
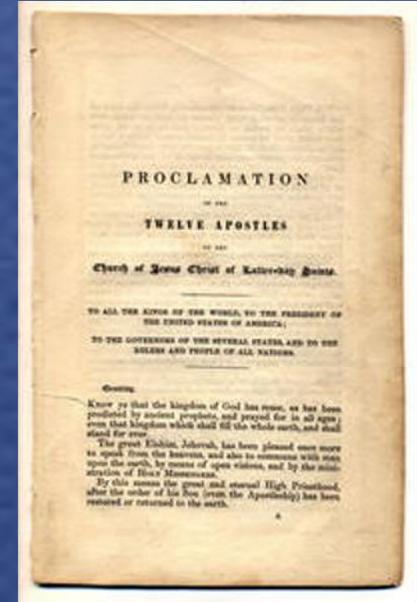


William W. Phelps reported that he did write a 22 page manuscript under the direction of the Prophet Joseph Smith in the spring of 1844, but that he stopped after the martyrdom.



A 16 page pamphlet was written in behalf of the Twelve Apostles by Parley P. Pratt and published in 1845 by Wilford Woodruff in Liverpool, England, entitled “Proclamation of the twelve to the Kings of the World,” which ultimately fulfilled the Lord’s command in this revelation.

HC



*See A Message to the World—
President Ezra Taft Benson*

Robert Blashel Thompson

He was born on October 1, 1811, at Great Driffield, Yorkshire, England. Son of Thomas Thompson and Mary Barker

He was a Methodist preacher before immigrating to Canada in 1834

He joined the Church in May 1836 through the missionary work of Parley P. Pratt and journeyed to Kirtland in 1837. He was ordained an elder by John Taylor

He married Mercy Rachel Fielding in Kirtland on June 4, 1837

He served a mission in Canada and Missouri, then fought at the Battle of Crooked River, then moved with the other Saints to Illinois

He was a scribe for the Prophet Joseph Smith and served as a general clerk for the Church, colonel in the Nauvoo Legion, city treasurer, and regent of the University of Nauvoo

On September 15, 1840, Thompson delivered the funeral oration at the funeral of Joseph Smith, Sr.

He was appointed to assist in the preparation of the proclamation to the leaders of the nations (D&C 124:12)

He assisted Don Carlos Smith as associate editor of the *Times and Seasons*

He was suddenly overcome with a serious illness (the same that had taken the life of Don Carlos Smith, possible tuberculosis) and passed away on August 27, 1841, at the age of 29.

He wrote the words to Hymn #330 "See, The Mighty Angel Flying"



John Cook Bennett

He was born on August 4, 1804, at Fairhaven, Massachusetts to John Bennett and Abigail Cook

He was a medical practitioner (of questionable credentials and values, as it turned out)

He was married to Sarah Rider

He met Joseph Smith in 1840 and was welcomed into the Nauvoo community

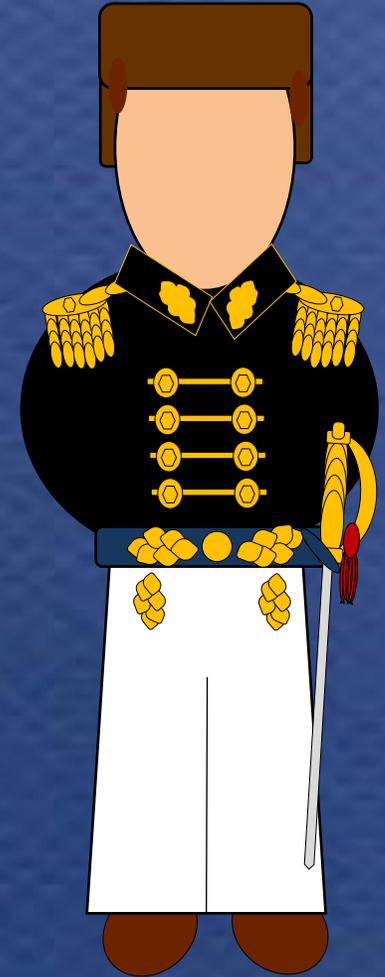
He was elected mayor of Nauvoo and became major-general of the Nauvoo Legion and chancellor of the University of Nauvoo

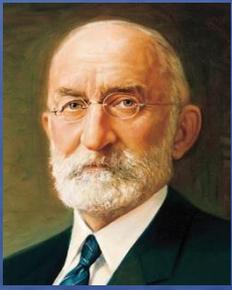
He was called in a revelation to help send the proclamation to the world, but he did not receive it with a willing heart

He developed a reputation of fraud and adultery and resigned as mayor and then cut off from the Church on May 11, 1842

In June of 1842 he left Nauvoo and launched a campaign of public denunciation against the Church in many cities through-out the country

He never returned to the faith and he died a pauper in Polk City, Iowa on August 5, 1867





Devoted Men

“No mortal man who ever lived in this Church desired more to do good than did Hyrum Smith, the patriarch. I have it from the lips of my own sainted mother, that of all the men she was acquainted with in her girlhood days in Nauvoo, she admired Hyrum Smith most for his absolute integrity and devotion to God, and his loyalty to the prophet of God.”

President Heber J. Grant



“Respecting John C. Bennett: I was well acquainted with him. At one time he was a good man, but fell into adultery, and was cut off from the Church for his iniquity.”

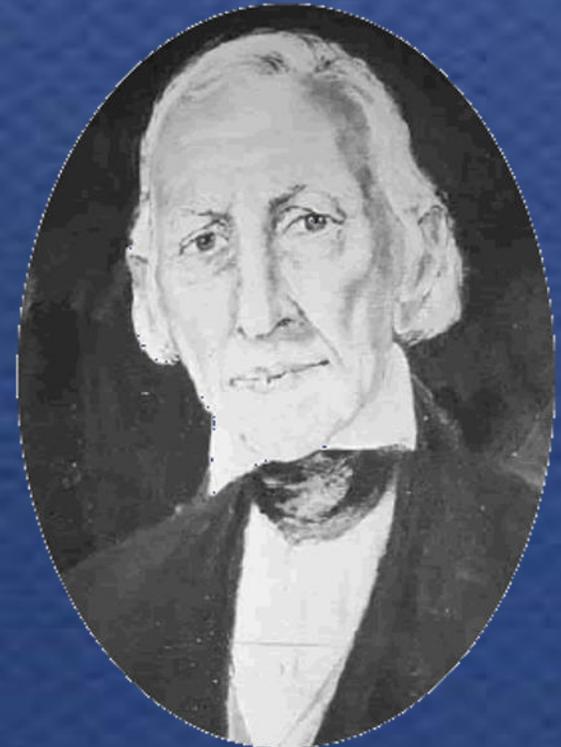
John Taylor

At the time of the revelation he was a good man. But he was overcome by the adversary and made the slave of his carnal desires. The Lord knew him and warned him. ‘His reward shall not fail *if* he receive counsel.’ ‘He shall be great ... *if* he do this,’ etc. Bennett did not heed these warning ‘ifs’ from Him who knew what was in his heart.”

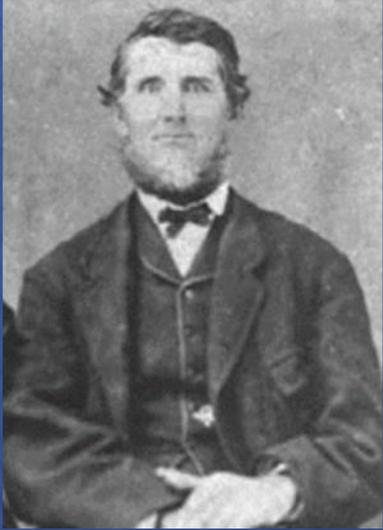
Smith and Sjodahl

Those Who Recently Passed

The Lord declared that three faithful men who had recently died (David W. Patten, Edward Partridge, and Joseph Smith Sr., the Prophet's father) had been received into the presence of the Lord.

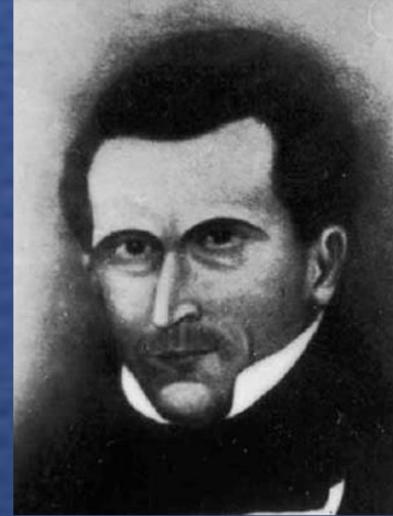


Those Who Were Close to Joseph Smith



Lyman Wight

*But they that wait
upon the LORD shall renew their
strength; they shall mount up with
wings as eagles; they shall run, and
not be weary; and they shall walk,
and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31*



George Miller

He was the first
bishop to serve
over a **Ward**

However, both of these men had difficulties with the authority of the church after the martyrdom of Joseph Smith and apostatized to other religious sects.

In Nauvoo the Church was divided into 4 political division called wards. On March 1 1841 Newel K. Whitney, George Miller, Isaac Higbee, and Vinson Knight were assigned to preside over these areas.

McConkie and Ostler D&C 124:46

George Miller

He was born on November 25, 1794, in Orange County, Virginia. Son of John Miller and Margaret Pfeiffer

He heard the Prophet Joseph Smith preach, became converted, and was baptized on August 10, 1839

He was a carpenter by trade and in the revelation given to him he was called to assist in the construction of the Nauvoo House (D&C 124:22-23, 62)

His wives were Mary Fry, Elizabeth Bouton, and Sophia Wallace

He was called as second bishop on January 19, 1841

He served a mission to Mississippi and Alabama with Peter Haws, as a companion, in 1843, and campaigned in Kentucky for Joseph Smith in 1844

He was an officer in the Nauvoo Legion and a regent of the University of Nauvoo

His association with Joseph Smith was very close, however, he later had differences with Brigham Young over administrative issues associated with the exodus and resigned from the Church in March 1847

He sought affiliation with Lyman Wight and other apostates and later tried his fortune with the Strangites in Michigan.

He died in Marengo, Illinois while in route to California in 1856



The Lord does not withhold present blessings because of future sinful behavior.

He blessed King David as long as he was faithful and did not withhold opportunity, although he had foreknowledge of David's future transgressions with Bathsheba.



As long as one obeys, the blessings come.

With the perspective of history one may be tempted to ask why the Lord chose men who would eventually falter to be leaders in the Church, but one should remember that at the time of their calling they were faithful and true.

Student Manual



Judas



Integrity of Heart

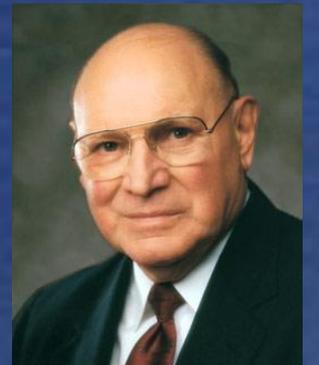


“To me, integrity means always doing what is right and good, regardless of the immediate consequences.

It means being righteous from the very depth of our soul, not only in our actions but, more importantly, in our thoughts and in our hearts.

Personal integrity implies such trustworthiness and incorruptibility that we are incapable of being false to a trust or covenant.”

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin



Sources:

Videos:

Sharing Your Beliefs (2:02)

Helping Others Understand the Truth (0:43)

Stand Up Boldly (1:37)



Hyrum M. Smith and Janne M. Sjodahl *Doctrine and Covenants Commentary* pg. 768-69, 770-771

Lesson 1: What Is Scripture? *Scripture Study-The Power of the Word Teacher Manual*, (2001), 1–2

Bible Dictionary, “canon,” 630–31

Elder Harold B. Lee (“Using the Scriptures in Our Church Assignments,” *Improvement Era*, Jan. 1969, 13).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Craig J. Ostler *Revelations of the Restoration* pg. 966

Brigham Young (Journal of Discourses, 10:3-4).

1975 President Ezra Taft Benson, President of the Quorum of the Twelve, reaffirmed the message of the proclamation for the world

Elder Neal A. Maxwell *Meekness—A Dimension of True Discipleship* March 1983 Ensign

History of the Church 7:558

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President Ezra Taft Benson *A Message to the World* October 1975 Gen. Conf.

Doctrine and Covenants Who’s Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg. 6-7, 160

President Heber J. Grant (In Conference Report, Oct. 1920, p. 84.)

John Taylor (*History of the Church*, Vol. V., p. 81).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Craig J. Ostler *Revelations of the Restoration* pg. 968-69

Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual Religion 324-325 Section 124

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin (“Personal Integrity,” *Ensign*, May 1990, 30).

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Thomas Carlin,
Democratic ---
1838–1842 [wife:
Rebecca Huitt
Carlin]

Thomas Carlin, the founder of Carrollton Illinois, county seat Greene, was born near Shelbyville, Kentucky in 1786. In 1803 the family moved to Missouri where his father died. Thomas Carlin served as a ranger during the War of 1812. In 1814 he owned a ferry crossing the Mississippi near the present site of Edwardsville Junction with his brother James and William Carlin 1814 .

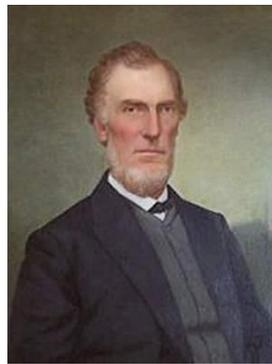
While living there he married Miss Rebecca Huitt, (sister of John Wilkinson Huitt) in 1818.

He was first sheriff of the county his commission dated April 14, 1821.

He served as state senator in fourth and fifth general assemblies (1824 - 1828)

In the Black Hawk war he commanded a spy battalion.

He was elected the sixth governor of Illinois in 1838 serving until 1842. when he returned to Carrollton, He was elected to the legislature in 1849



Daniel Hanmer Wells:

Although not a member of the Latter-Day Saints, Wells was considered by opponents of the church to be a "Jack Mormon", a term originally applied to non-members who were friendly to or defended the Latter Day Saints. In Nauvoo, he served on the city council and as a judge.

Mobs invaded Nauvoo after the assassination of church founder Joseph Smith; Wells defended the city and fought as a Lieutenant General of the Nauvoo Legion, and also provided shelter for evacuees. Wells was not baptized into the LDS Church until August 9, 1846. He emigrated to the Salt Lake Valley with the Mormon pioneers in 1848.

Well respected for his integrity and loyal service, he was elected Attorney General of State of Deseret in 1849. When Jedediah M. Grant died in 1856, Wells was ordained an apostle of the LDS Church and set apart as Second Counselor to Brigham Young in the First Presidency of the church. Although serving as an apostle, Wells was never sustained as a member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Upon Young's death in 1877, Wells was sustained as a Counselor to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, a position he held until his death.

On behalf of Brigham Young, Wells dedicated the St. George Temple on April 6, 1877. From 1888 to 1891, he was the first president of the Manti Utah Temple.

From 1848 until 1863, Wells was superintendent of public works for the LDS Church and presided over the continuing construction of the Salt Lake Temple (completed 1893) and the Salt Lake Tabernacle (completed 1867). When Wells was no longer in the position, the operation of the church's public works program was placed under the supervision of the Presiding Bishopric.

In 1866, Wells was elected mayor of Salt Lake City as a member of the newly formed People's Party; he was re-elected in both 1872 and 1874. In 1871, he was arrested by U.S. marshals on charges related to polygamy. Wells served twice as president of the European Mission of the LDS Church, first in 1864–65 and again in 1884–87.

Daniel Hanmer Wells was born October 27, 1814 in Trenton, New York to Daniel Wells and his wife Catherine Chapin. Wells married Eliza Rebecca Robison in 1837 and with her had one son, Albert Emory Wells. His wife refused to accompany Wells to Utah in 1848 and later divorced him. Between 1849 and 1852, Wells married six additional wives: Louisa Free, with whom he had eight children; Martha Givens Harris, with whom he had seven children; Lydia Ann Alley, with whom he had six children; Susan Hannah Alley, with whom he had four children; Hannah Corilla Free, with whom he had eight children; and Emmeline Belos Woodward, with whom he had three children. Louisa Free, Hannah Free, and Emmeline Woodward were all previously married and divorced or widowed. Each had one or more children whom Wells adopted and reared as his own.

In 1852, Wells married his seventh wife, future Relief Society General President Emmeline B. Wells. She bore him three daughters.

Wells died in Salt Lake City at the age of 76, March 24, 1891, and was buried at Salt Lake City Cemetery. Wells' son by his wife Martha G. Harris, Heber Manning Wells, was the first governor of the state of Utah, serving from 1896 to 1905.

Wikipedia

Isaac Galland (May 15, 1791 – September 27, 1858) was a merchant, postmaster, land speculator, and doctor. He is best known for selling large tracts of land around Commerce, Illinois to Mormon founder Joseph Smith and his church in 1839. Galland was born in Somerset, Pennsylvania to Matthew Galland and Hannah Fenno during their move from Norfolk, Virginia to the Western frontier.

He married first Nancy Harris, 22 March 1811, in Madison County, Ohio. Five years later in 1816, he married his second wife Margaret Knight, and moved to Washington County, Indiana. He relocated several times, living in Owen County, Indiana by 1820 and Edgar County, Illinois shortly thereafter. He moved to Horselick Grove (later Hancock County), Illinois in 1824.

Galland left both women behind when he traveled down the Ohio River to Indiana Territory. He studied and practiced medicine among settlers, which is why he is referred to as 'Doctor' Galland. He learnt "several American Indian languages and gained the trust of the Indians, among whom he would live and trade for much of his life". He married for the third time, Hannah Kinney, on 5 October 1826. In 1827 they moved to a remote site on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River at Yellow Banks, the site of present-day Oquawka, Illinois where he established a trading post.

In 1832, before the beginning of the Black Hawk War, Galland moved himself and his children back across the river to Fort Edwards at present day Warsaw, Illinois. Galland served as a colonel during the war, and at age 41, married for a fourth and last time on 25 April 1833, Elizabeth Wilcox. She was the sister of the commanding officer at Fort Edwards. Galland ran for Illinois state representative in 1834, but lost. He bought land across the river in Illinois and "laid out the town of Commerce.

In the winter of 1838/1839, Galland moved from Fort Edwards to Commerce (later Nauvoo). He lived with his family "in a large, two-story house" and while there, self-published five issues of a periodical named 'Chronicles of the North American Savage'. He sold the town and 19,000 acres of land in the Half-Breed Tract of Iowa to Joseph Smith, leader of the Latter Day Saints after their expulsion from Missouri. On July 3, 1839 Galland was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and ordained an elder. He served as Smith's secretary for over a year. Within that capacity he transcribed Smith's "'revelations' ... and he came to the conclusion that the prophet's claim to supernatural powers was a fraud." In 1840, he published "Galland's Iowa Emigrant" to promote immigration to the Iowa Territory.

Around 1842 Galland withdrew from the Mormon church and moved west across the river a second time. From 1842 to 1853 he resided in Keokuk, Iowa Territory. In 1851, at age 60, Galland ran for the Iowa state legislature, but again lost. His land transactions were scrutinized, and he decided to leave "until his legal difficulties were resolved"

In 1853, he moved to Sacramento, California, eventually settling in Petaluma, California, only to return three years later in 1856 to Fort Madison. He died there at the age of 67 years on 27 September 1858.-

-Wikipedia



Nauvoo Legion:

The Illinois legislative act of December 1840 that incorporated the city of Nauvoo also authorized creation of a military body or militia that came to be known as the Nauvoo Legion. Perhaps influenced by genuine disgust with the way the Latter-day Saints had been treated in Missouri, the Illinois legislature acted liberally. Under the Nauvoo charter, Latter-day Saints could manage their own affairs, provided they did not violate the state or federal constitutions. The organization of a militia unit was customary in settlements with sufficient population, a practice as old as the Republic. Nauvoo residents were particularly anxious to have their own military protection after having been victims of mob violence and having suffered expulsion from Missouri (see Haun's Mill Massacre; Missouri Conflict). By 1840, they realized that they could not always rely on federal or state authorities for protection from such violence. The Nauvoo Court Martial, consisting of the legion's commissioned officers, was given extensive authority. Among other things, it could "make, ordain, establish, and execute all such laws and ordinances as may be considered necessary for the benefit, government, and regulation of said Legion; provided [that] said Court Martial shall pass no law or act, repugnant to, or inconsistent with, the Constitution of the United States, or of this State [Illinois]" (HC 4:244). As part of the state militia, the Nauvoo Legion was at the disposal of the governor of Illinois "for the public defense, and the execution of the laws of the State or of the United States." Significantly, it was also at the disposal of the mayor of Nauvoo for "executing the laws and ordinances of the city corporation" (HC 4:244).

The city council ordinance that created the Nauvoo Legion authorized the rank of lieutenant general for its commanding officer, an extraordinary authorization, since no other militia officer in the United States held rank above that of major general. The court martial elected Joseph Smith, commander of the legion.

The parades and other activities of the legion—which included mock battles—attracted visitors from near and far. Indeed, the legion became so popular that many non-Mormons joined the ranks. At its peak, it is said to have numbered 5,000 men, the largest such body in Illinois. But there were problems. According to historian B. H. Roberts:

[The Nauvoo Legion] excited the jealousy and envy of the rest of the militia in surrounding counties, and all the laudable efforts of the legion to become an efficient body with a view of assisting in the execution of the state and national laws, if occasion should require, were construed by their enemies to mean a preparation for rebellion.... Hence that which was to be a bulwark to the city, and a protection to the saints, was transformed by their enemies into an occasion of offense, and an excuse for distrusting them [CHC 2:59-60].

Joseph Smith mobilized the Nauvoo Legion to defend the city and declared martial law in June 1844 as tensions mounted between the Latter-day Saints, dissenters, and hostile neighbors. Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were among those arrested by another Illinois militia and placed in Carthage Jail, where they were killed by members of yet another militia (see Martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith). Six months later, the Illinois legislature revoked the Nauvoo Charter. At that point, the Nauvoo Legion ceased to exist as a state militia, although as an unofficial body it continued to provide some protection to the beleaguered Latter-day Saints.

During the exodus westward later, some former members of the Nauvoo Legion served in the Mormon Battalion. This 500-man body, authorized by the U.S. government in 1846 as part of the campaign against Mexico, marched from Council Bluffs to San Diego.

The name Nauvoo Legion was revived in Utah and applied to the organized militia of the state of Deseret and later of Utah Territory. This legion was called upon in 1849 to subdue marauding Indians, and its members served in the so-called Walker War of 1853-1854, named after Wakara, a Ute chieftain. With the approach of the Utah expedition in 1857-1858, the Utah militia harassed and burned U.S. Army supply trains and prepared, if necessary, to prevent the entry of U.S. troops into Salt Lake City. In 1862, during the American Civil War, two units of the Nauvoo Legion protected overland mail and telegraph lines. Later, with a force of some 2,500 men, it fought against Indians in Utah's Black Hawk War (1865-1868).

http://www.lightplanet.com/mormons/history/1831-1844/nauvoo_legion_eom.htm



Robert Taylor Burton—
one of the principle
officers of the Nauvoo
Legion, a member of the
Nauvoo Brass Band and
the Nauvoo Choir

Changes in Scriptures:

Elder Boyd K. Packer, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, explained:

“Of course there have been changes and corrections. Anyone who has done even limited research knows that. When properly reviewed, such corrections become a testimony for, not against, the truth of the books.

“The Prophet Joseph Smith was an unschooled farm boy. To read some of his early letters in the original shows him to be somewhat unpolished in spelling and grammar and in expression.

“That the revelations came through him in any form of literary refinement is nothing short of a miracle. That some perfecting should continue strengthens my respect for them.

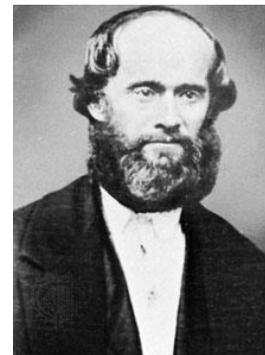
“Now, I add with emphasis that such changes have been basically minor refinements in grammar, expression, punctuation, clarification. Nothing fundamental has been altered” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1974, 137; or *Ensign*, May 1974, 94).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie, who was a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, taught:

“From the days of the first dispensation it has been the practice of the Lord’s people to make selections from the scriptural utterances of those who are appointed to lead the Church and to publish these selections as formal and official scripture. All should be accepted and believed by all who call themselves Saints. But the revelations, visions, prophecies, and narrations selected and published for official use are thereby made binding upon the people in a particular and special sense. They become part of the standard works of the Church. They become the standards, the measuring rods, by which doctrine and procedure are determined” (“A New Commandment: Save Thyself and Thy Kindred,” *Ensign*, Aug. 1976, 7).

James Jesse Strang (March 21, 1813 – July 9, 1856) was an American religious leader, politician and self-proclaimed monarch who founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Strangite) a faction of the Latter Day Saint movemet. A major contender for leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints during the 1844 succession crisis, Strang vied with Brigham Young and Sidney Rigdon for control of the main body of Latter Day Saints in Nauvoo, Illinois before his rejection by that group led him to start his own sect. While serving as Prophet, Seer and Revelator of his church—which he claimed to be the sole legitimate continuation of the Church of Christ founded by Joseph Smith, Jr. in 1830—Strang reigned for six years as the crowned "king" of an ecclesiastical monarchy that he established on Beaver Island in the US state of Michigan. Building an organization that eventually rivaled Young's in Utah, Strang gained nearly 12,000 adherents prior to his murder in 1856, which brought down his kingdom and all but extinguished his sect.

(Strangite)



Ezra Taft Benson: Humbly and gratefully I stand before you today and seek the influence of the Holy Spirit to give witness to my message.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, after restoring his gospel in our day and establishing his Church, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, revealed through his Prophet, Joseph Smith, the following:

“Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say: Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.

“For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape.

“And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days.” (D&C 1:1–2, 4.)

Today I shall speak doctrine, by way of warning and of testimony, and shall do so as one holding the holy apostleship, whose responsibility it is to proclaim the Lord’s message in all the world and to all people. Each of my brethren of the Council of the Twelve has the same responsibility I have to declare these things to the world and to bear record of them before all men.

Toward the end of his mortal ministry, the Lord commanded the Prophet Joseph Smith as follows:

“Make a solemn proclamation of my gospel ... to all the kings of the world, to the four corners thereof ... and to all nations of the earth.” (D&C 124:2–3.) He was to invite them to come to the light of truth, and use their means to build up the kingdom of God on earth.

In the spirit of this divine direction, on the sixth day of April 1845, and shortly after the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum had mingled their blood with that of the other martyrs of true religion, the Council of the Twelve made such a proclamation. They address it:

“To all the Kings of the World;

To the President of the United States of America;

To the Governors of the several States;

And to the Rulers and People of all Nations:”

In it they said:

“Know ye:

“That the kingdom of God has come: as has been predicted by ancient prophets, and prayed for in all ages; even that kingdom which shall fill the whole earth, and shall stand for ever.

“The great Elohim ... has been pleased once more to speak from the heavens: and also to commune with man upon the earth, by means of open visions, and by the ministration of Holy Messengers.

“By this means the great and eternal High Priesthood, after the Order of His Son, even the Apostleship, has been restored; or, returned to the earth.

“This High Priesthood, or Apostleship, holds the keys of the kingdom of God, and power to bind on earth that which shall be bound in heaven; and to loose on earth that which shall be loosed in heaven. And, in fine, to do, and to administer in all things pertaining to the ordinances, organization, government and direction of the kingdom of God.

“Being established in these last days for the restoration of all things spoken by the prophets since the world began; and in order to prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man.

“And we now bear witness that his coming is near at hand; and not many years hence, the nations and their kings shall see him coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

“In order to meet this great event there must needs be a preparation.

“Therefore we send unto you with authority from on high, and command you all to repent and humble yourselves as little children, before the majesty of the Holy One; and come unto Jesus [Christ] with a broken heart and a contrite spirit; and be baptized in his name, for the remission of sins (that is, be buried in the water in the likeness of his burial and rise again to newness of life, in the likeness of his resurrection), and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, through the laying on of the hands of the Apostles and elders, of this great and last dispensation of mercy to man.

“This Spirit shall bear witness to you, of the truth of our testimony; and shall enlighten your minds, and be in you as the spirit of prophecy and revelation. It shall bring things past to your understanding and remembrance; and shall show you things to come.

“By the light of this Spirit, received through the ministration of the ordinances—by the power and authority of the Holy Apostleship and Priesthood, you will be enabled to understand, and to be the children of light; and thus be prepared to escape all the things that are coming on the earth, and so stand before the Son of Man.

“We testify that the foregoing doctrine is the doctrine or gospel of Jesus Christ, in its fulness; and that it is the only true, everlasting, and unchangeable gospel; and the only plan revealed on earth whereby man can be saved.” (*Messages of the First Presidency*, 1:252–54.)

It seems fitting and proper to me that we should reaffirm the great truths pronounced in this declaration and that we should proclaim them anew to the world.

To the rulers and peoples of all nations, we solemnly declare again that the God of heaven has established his latter-day kingdom upon the earth in fulfillment of prophecies. Holy angels have again communed with men on the earth. God has again revealed himself from heaven and restored to the earth his holy priesthood with power to administer in all the sacred ordinances necessary for the exaltation of his children. His church has been reestablished among men with all the spiritual gifts enjoyed anciently. All this is done in preparation for Christ’s second coming. The great and dreadful day of the Lord is near at hand. In preparation for this great event and as a means of escaping the impending judgments, inspired messengers have gone, and are now going, forth to the nations of the earth carrying this testimony and warning. The nations of the earth continue in their sinful and unrighteous ways. Much of the unbounded knowledge with which men have been blessed has been used to destroy mankind instead of to bless the children of men as the Lord intended. Two great world wars, with fruitless efforts at lasting peace, are solemn evidence that peace has been taken from the earth because of the wickedness of the people. Nations cannot endure in sin. They will be broken up but the kingdom of God will endure forever.

Therefore, as humble servants of the Lord, we call upon the leaders of nations to humble themselves before God, to seek his inspiration and guidance. We call upon rulers and people alike to repent of their evil ways. Turn unto the Lord, seek his forgiveness, and unite yourselves in humility with his kingdom. There is no other way. If you will do this, your sins will be blotted out, peace will come and remain, and you will become a part of the kingdom of God in preparation for Christ’s second coming. But if you refuse to repent or to accept the testimony of his inspired messengers and unite yourselves with God’s kingdom, then the terrible judgments and calamities promised the wicked will be yours.

The Lord in his mercy has provided a way of escape. The voice of warning is to all people by the mouths of his servants. If this voice is not heeded, the angels of destruction will increasingly go forth, and the chastening hand of Almighty God will be felt upon the nations, as decreed, until a full end thereof will be the result. Wars, devastation, and untold suffering will be your lot except you turn unto the Lord in humble repentance. Destruction, even more terrible and far-reaching than attended the last great war, will come with certainty unless rulers and people alike repent and cease their evil and godless ways. God will not be mocked. He will not permit the sins of sexual immorality, secret murderous combinations, the killing of the unborn, and disregard for all his holy commandments and the messages of his servants to go unheeded without grievous punishments for such wickedness. The nations of the world cannot endure in sin. The way of escape is clear. The immutable laws of God remain steadfastly in the heavens above. When men and nations refuse to abide by them, the penalty must follow. They will be wasted away. Sin demands punishment.

When the voice of warning goes forth it is always attended by testimony. In the great declaration issued by the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ in 1845, this is the testimony which was borne, and we who are the apostles today renew it as our witness:

“We say, then, in life or in death, in bonds or free, that the great God has spoken in this age.—*And we know it.*

“He has given us the Holy Priesthood and Apostleship, and the keys of the kingdom of God, to bring about the restoration of all things as promised by the holy prophets of old.—*And we know it.*

“He has revealed the origin and the Records of the aboriginal tribes of America, and their future destiny.—*And we know it.*

“He has revealed the fulness of the gospel, with its gifts, blessings, and ordinances.—*And we know it.*

“He has commanded *us* to bear witness of it, first to the Gentiles, and then to the remnants of Israel and the Jews.—*And we know it.*

“He has also said that, if they do not repent, and come to the knowledge of the truth, ... and also put away all murder, lying, pride, priestcraft, whoredom, and secret abomination, they shall soon perish from the earth, and be cast down to hell.—*And we know it.*

“He has said, that when ... the gospel in all its fulness [is] preached to all nations for a witness and testimony, He will come, and all Saints with him, to reign on the earth one thousand years.—*And we know it.*

“He has said that he will not come in his glory and destroy the wicked, till these warnings were given and these preparations were made for his reception.—*And we know it.*

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but not one jot or tittle of his revealed word shall fail to be fulfilled.

“Therefore, again we say to all people, Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for remission of sins; and you shall receive the Holy Spirit, and shall know the truth, and be numbered with the house of Israel.” (*Messages of the First Presidency*, 1:263–64.) Found in Nov. 1975 Ensign