

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)


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Joseph Smith tested as a prophet: the Lord's return

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 God teaches us to test or “*prove the spirits, whether they are of God*” and tells us why: “... *because many false prophets are gone out into the world*” (I John 4:1). God’s Word also gives us the criterion for determining if one, who declares prophecies, is a true prophet from God or is a false prophet. “*And if thou say in thy heart, ‘How shall we know the word which Jehovah hath not spoken?’ when a prophet speaketh in the name of Jehovah, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which Jehovah hath not spoken: the prophet hath spoken presumptuously, thou shalt not be afraid of him*” (Deuteronomy 18:21-22).

Let us apply the Divine standard to the prophecies of Joseph Smith, Jr. who is the founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and whose members are called Mormons.

Joseph Smith declared prophecies concerning the imminent return of the Lord to reign upon the earth for a thousand years. Prior to a conference on September 26, 1830, Joseph Smith declared, “*Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Redeemer, the Great I Am, whose arm of mercy*

hath atoned for your sins...” . Then he proceeds to make the following prophecy in the name of our Lord: “*...For the hour is nigh and the day soon at hand when the earth is ripe; and all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble; and I will burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that wickedness shall not be upon the earth; For the hour is nigh, and that which is spoken by mine apostles must be fulfilled; for as they spoke so shall it come to pass; For I will reveal myself from heaven with power and great glory, with all the hosts thereof, and dwell in righteousness with men on earth a thousand years and the wicked shall not stand* (Doctrine and Covenants 29:1,9-11).

Joseph Smith speaks as the voice of Christ and tells us twice that “the hour is nigh” for the Lord to “reveal” Himself and “burn up” the wicked and dwell personally with righteous men who are left. The days of being “well nigh” to September 1830 have gone by along time ago, and after 171 years these events prophesied by Joseph Smith have not come to pass. Therefore, we know that this is the thing which Jehovah hath not spoken. Joseph has spoken presumptuously, and is therefore not a

prophet of God.

Under the date of February 14, 1835, and recorded in The Church of Latter-Day Saints own History, Joseph Smith called a meeting because, “*...God had commanded it; and was made known to him by a vision and by the Holy Spirit...it was the will of God that those who went to Zion, with a determination to lay down their lives, if necessary, should be ordained to the ministry, and go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, for the coming of the Lord which was nigh—even 56 years should wind up the scene*” (History of the Church, Vol. 2, p. 182).

If this prophecy were truly from God, then Christ’s second advent should have taken place by February 14, 1891. This obviously did not occur. By God’s criterion of testing the prophets, then Joseph Smith’s claim that he had received this vision by the Holy Spirit and God is false, “and the prophet hath spoken presumptuously”.

Dear Mormon friends, your faith is based upon the teachings of a man who by God’s standard is a false prophet.