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The Prophecy of Zechariah Concerning Joseph Smith

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Abstract: This article quotes an excerpt from Edward Stevenson's book, *Reminiscences of Joseph the Prophet*, to show that Zechariah prophesied of Joseph Smith.

so short a time, and in so pointed and direct a way. The meeting closed, prayer being offered by Elder Edward H. Anderson.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

THE PROPHECY OF ZECHARIAH CONCERNING JOSEPH SMITH.

Does Zechariah 2: 1-5 refer to the Prophet Joseph Smith?—
Osborne Widtsoe and M. W. Davis.

In reply to this question, the reader is referred to "Reminiscences of Joseph the Prophet," by Edward Stevenson, published by the author and for sale by Cannon & Sons, pages 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23, in which a very plausible explanation is made concerning the reference that this passage of Scripture has to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Elder Stevenson says: "In 1834, I first listened to this Prophet of God, who related this vision [of the plates] he had been favored with. The honesty and power of his expression carried conviction with it." He then proceeds to prove that the delivery of the golden plates to Joseph Smith was to take place in the latter days, and quotes Zechariah, second chapter, which says:

And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him.

And said unto him, run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein.

"In order to discover further the mind of God's inspired prophet, we will turn to his eighth chapter, which reads as follows:

Again the word of the Lord of hosts came to me saying,
Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great
jealousy. * * * * *

Thus saith the Lord, I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth.

Thus saith the Lord of hosts, there shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age.

And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.

* * * Behold I will save my people from the east country and from the west country;

And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

“Soon after the message of the angel to the young man Joseph, he, in obedience to God’s command, organized The Church. In due time there were twelve apostles, and he appointed two of those apostles on a mission to Jerusalem. Upon Mount Olivet, one of the apostles,—Orson Hyde,—offered a dedicatory prayer unto God, the Eternal Father.

“In that prayer he supplicated God to remember his promises made to Father Abraham concerning this dry and barren land, and Abraham’s seed which should inhabit this thirsty country, and who had wandered as strangers in a strange land. The land had become barren because of the sins of those who, in their ignorance, crucified God’s Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. He further pleaded:

And as Jesus, thy Son, in his sorrowful and trying hours, cried, “Lord, forgive them, they know not what they do!” so do thou, O God, have mercy on them and let the promises of the prophets come up in remembrance before thee. Be pleased, O Father, to send the rains on these parched lands; and may the dews fall upon the hills and valleys, that the land may again teem with plenty, and the cities be built up unto the Lord our God.

“This is the substance of the supplication of the Apostle who dedicated the land of Palestine. Since then the way is being prepared with a railroad from the Mediterranean Sea to Jerusalem; and lo! the time has come for God’s mercy, as foretold by Isaiah, fortieth chapter:

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she has received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

“Joel, another of God’s ancient prophets, prophesying of future events, in his second chapter, says:

Fear not, O land; be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain; the former rain and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. * * * And ye shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you, and my people shall never be ashamed.

“Realizing that the words of the prophets Isaiah and Joel will have a literal fulfillment, we can readily conceive of the way being thus pre-

pared for the support of the hosts that are soon to fill the streets of Jerusalem; for without the early and the latter rains, this land, for so many generations barren, could not be redeemed. Indeed, the words of those who crucified the Savior, or who consented to his death, are brought forcibly to the minds of Christians: 'His blood be upon us and our children.'—*Matt. 27: 25*.

"Because of their wicked desires, desolation has rested upon this land which once flowed with milk and honey. But, thank God! a pardoning time is being ushered in. The angel spoken of by Zechariah has come with the glad tidings.

"John, the Revelator, also, was permitted to behold an angel who had a message to deliver. Who can truthfully say the angel he saw is not the very one Zechariah said should speak to the young man!

And I saw an angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel (the Book of Mormon says it contains the everlasting Gospel) to preach to them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people; saying with a loud voice, fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water.—*Revelation 14: 6, 7*.

"In Zechariah, second chapter, eighth verse it says:

Sing and rejoice, O daughters of Zion: for lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord. And many nations shall be joined to the Lord that day.

"What day? The day in which the angel was to speak to the *young* (not old) man. In Zion there are now over twenty nationalities who are joined in the Lord.

"Zechariah, in the same chapter says:

And the Lord shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land and shall choose Jerusalem again. Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord; for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

"These things are soon to take place, when the Jews will be gathered. 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion: shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold thy king cometh unto thee.'—*Zec. 9: 9*.

"He will come this second time, when: 'They shall look upon me whom they have pierced.'—*Zec. 12: 10*.

"Again this prophet says in chapter 15: 6: 'And one shall say unto him, what are these wounds in thy hands?' Then he shall answer, 'those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'

"'In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.'—*Zec. 12: 1*.

“The same book, fourteenth chapter, says: ‘His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives.’

“It appears sufficiently plain that God has set his hand again the second time to gather not only the Jews, but the House of Israel. In Isaiah, eleventh chapter, it is clearly stated that there is to be an ensign to the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek. And the next verse says that in that day the Lord will set his hand again the second time to gather his people: ‘And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.’—*Isaiah* 11, 12.

“We learn more perfectly in the tenth verse that the Gentiles as well as the Jews are remembered.

“Isaiah, second chapter, says: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains.’

“Following on we find that two places are distinctly spoken of: Zion, from whence the law of God is to go forth; and the word of the Lord from *Jerusalem*. And as Jesus came to his own (the Jews) first, and to the Gentiles last, so now the first shall be last and the last shall be first. And in our day Joseph Smith has been directed by the Lord to gather the people to Zion, as so vividly portrayed by the prophet who saw the angel who should run and speak to the young man.”

THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE CHURCH.

Please answer question eight, in lesson nine of the Manual; “Give the origin of the official name of the Church,” and explain whether this question has reference to the organization on April 6, 1830, or to the naming on May 3, 1834.—*A. M. Neeley, Jr., Riverdale, Idaho.*

Prior to 1834, The Church was called The Church of Jesus Christ, but at the conference on the date last named the words, “of Latter-day Saints” were added, on motion of Sidney Rigdon, in order to distinguish it from the former day Church. Later, as we find in Section 115 of the Doctrine and Covenants, paragraph 3, a revelation was received confirming the name, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Undoubtedly some question had arisen as to what the real name of The Church was according to the commands of God, and to answer that discussion, the Prophet probably inquired of the Lord and received the reply given in the section referred to. Hence, we would think the question has reference to both the original organization, and to the naming