



Born: July 8, 1776 in Gilsum, New Hampshire just 4 days after the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence

Married Joseph Smith on January 24, 1796

They had 10 children: Alvin, Hyrum, Sophronia, Joseph, Samuel, Ephraim, William, Catherine, Don Carlos, Lucy

Died: May 8, 1855 in Nauvoo, Illinois at age 78

"I seemed to be borne away to the world of spirits, where I saw the Savior, as through a veil, which appeared to me about as thick as a spider's web, and he told me that I must return again to warn the people to prepare for death; that I must exhort them to be watchful as well as prayerful; that I must declare faithfully unto them their accountability before God, and the certainty of their being called to stand before the judgment seat of Christ; and that if I would do this, my life should be prolonged." After which she spoke much to the people upon the uncertainty of life.

Joseph Smith and His Progenitors pg.15

"I then looked to the Lord, and begged and pleaded with him to spare my life in order that I might bring up my children, and be a comfort to my husband. My mind was much agitated during the whole night. Sometimes I contemplated heaven and heavenly things; then my thoughts would turn upon those of earth - my babes and my companion.

During this night I made a solemn covenant with God, that, if he would let me live, I would endeavor to serve him according to the best of my abilities. Shortly after this, I heard a voice say to me, "Seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Let your heart be comforted; ye believe in God believe also in me." pg. 40-41

"I said in my heart that there was not then upon earth the religion which I sought. I therefore determined to examine my Bible, and taking Jesus and his disciples for my guide, to endeavor to obtain from God that which man could neither give nor take away. Notwithstanding this, I would hear all that could be said, as well as read much that was written, on the subject of religion, but the Bible I intended should be my guide to life and salvation.

This course I pursued a number of years. At length I considered it my duty to be baptized and, finding a minister who was willing to baptize me, and leave me free in regard to joining any religious denomination, I stepped forward and yielded obedience to this ordinance....pg 42-43



I Peter 5:6-7 tells us “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,.... Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

Do you believe this?

Go to the word and read all the ways God loves you and cares for you and keep reading them over and over until you believe it in your heart. Here are a few verses you might start with:

Psalms 46 talks about the last days, our days. But even though there will be tribulation, verse 1 tells us, “God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. And in verse 10, **Be still** and **know** that I am **God**.”

Be still (stop running to and fro, sit and listen, let go of your will and be calmed by His still small voice) and **know** (in the very depth of your soul) that I am **God** (the God of love, mercy, long suffering, forgiveness, redemption and so much more).

Settle this in **your** heart.

She said she had a “depressed spirit” until she went to bed that night and had a dream. She found herself standing in a meadow where she saw 2 trees standing next to a very pure and clear stream of water. Both of the trees were strong and beautiful and very tall.

“I gazed on them with wonder and admiration. ...I saw one of them was surrounded with a bright belt, that shone like burnished gold, but far more brilliantly. ...a gentle breeze passed by and this tree... bent gracefully before the wind, and waved its beautiful branches in the light air. As the wind increased, this tree assumed the most lively and animated appearance, and seemed to express in its motions, the utmost joy and happiness....”

She then turned to look at the other tree that did not have a belt of light.

“it stood erect and fixed as a pillar of marble. No matter how strong the wind blew over it, not a leaf was stirred, not a bough was bent; but obstinately stiff it stood, scorning alike the zephyr’s breath or the power of the mighty storm.”

She didn’t understand and thought in her heart, what does this mean? The interpretation she was given was that these 2 trees represented her husband, Joseph and his oldest brother, Jesse.

“the stubborn and unyielding tree was like Jesse; that the other, more pliant and flexible, was like Joseph.... that the breath of heaven which passed over them was the pure and undefiled gospel of the Son of God which gospel Jesse would always resist, but which Joseph, when he was more advanced in life would hear and receive with his whole heart, and rejoice therein; and unto him would be added intelligence, happiness, glory and everlasting life.” pg. 51-52

“I presume our family presented an aspect as singular as any that ever lived upon the face of the earth - all seated in a circle, father, mother, sons, and daughters and giving the most profound attention to a boy, eighteen years of age, who had never read the Bible through in his life: he seemed much less inclined to the perusal of books than any of the rest of our children, but far more given to meditation and deep study.



We were now confirmed in the opinion that God was about to bring to light something upon which we could stay our minds or that would give us a more perfect knowledge of the plan of salvation and the redemption of the human family. This caused us greatly to rejoice, the sweetest union of happiness pervaded our house, and tranquility reigned in our midst. pg 92

Psalms 68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily **loadeth** us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.

when I read this so many blessings come to mind
as I imagine they do with you as well

And I think of Nephi who wrote:

1 I, Nephi... having seen **many afflictions** in the course of my days -- nevertheless, having been **highly favored of the Lord in all my days**; yea, having had a **great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God**, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days;

Afflictions and blessings go hand in hand. We will experience both in this life. Have we settled it in our hearts that we will trust the Lord no matter what? Will we trust not only in the good times but also in those moments when we might even feel He has forsaken us?

Hebrews 13:5-6 ...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 **So that we may boldly say**, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Psalms 28:6 Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. 7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

2 Nephi 3:34-36 ...I know in whom I have trusted. 35 My God hath been my support; he hath led me through mine afflictions in the wilderness; and he hath preserved me upon the waters of the great deep. 36 He hath filled me with his love....

Moroni 8:18 Behold, I speak with boldness, having authority from God; and I fear not what man can do; for **perfect love casteth out all fear**; and I am filled with charity, which is everlasting love;

In **Proverbs 3:5-6** we are told:

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding**.

In all **thy ways acknowledge him**, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psalms 119:15 I will meditate upon thy precepts, and have respect unto **thy ways**.

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your **ways** my **ways**, saith the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my **ways** higher than your **ways**, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

In lecture 2 of the Endowment Series, pg. 30, Arthur Oakman shared these thoughts:

“There have been some who have thought that God is unconcerned about humanity, that He is not involved in human history. Then what do we do? We point to Calvary. We say, Yes, we know that human history is cruel; we know that it devours its children. We know that the story of mankind is fraught with terrible things. But to say that God is aloof is not true. For He himself, in the person of His Son, has entered into the course of time and has taken into His own body the sins of men, put them on a tree and made those sins shine with the love of God.

So, forever after, God says, Yes, this is true. I gave man his agency in the Garden of Eden. Because he has his agency, he has the power to say Yes or No to Me. And because he said No to Me, sorrow, sin, destruction and disease (and death) have come upon man. Yet, in spite of this, He has entered into the arena of human history and taken all that wicked men could do, taken it in His own body. Without recrimination He revealed in the midst of the sin of men, the love of God.

He continues on pg. 48 ES

We cannot escape the judgments of history. We must suffer the consequences of what other men do, even as the Lord Jesus suffered the consequences of what other men did to Him. This we cannot escape. But as He did, we can take all that men can do to us; and if we use it in the manner designed of God, it can turn to our glory. Even that which seems dark, dreary and hard to endure can - by the grace, the power, and the endowment of the Spirit - be used as the means of glorifying God.

pg. 49 ES

Do not neglect the gift of God that is within you (I Timothy 4:14). For in you there is that power by which every circumstance of life can be taken and made to serve the cause of the Kingdom. Love (charity, the true love of God) is triumphant over all.

2 Nephi 11:96 He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for **he loveth the world**, even that he layeth down his own life, that he may draw all men unto him.

Having settled this in our heart does not protect our heart from grief and sorrow. It protects it from despair and hopelessness.



Hebrews 11:35-40 ...and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain the first resurrection;

36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment; 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

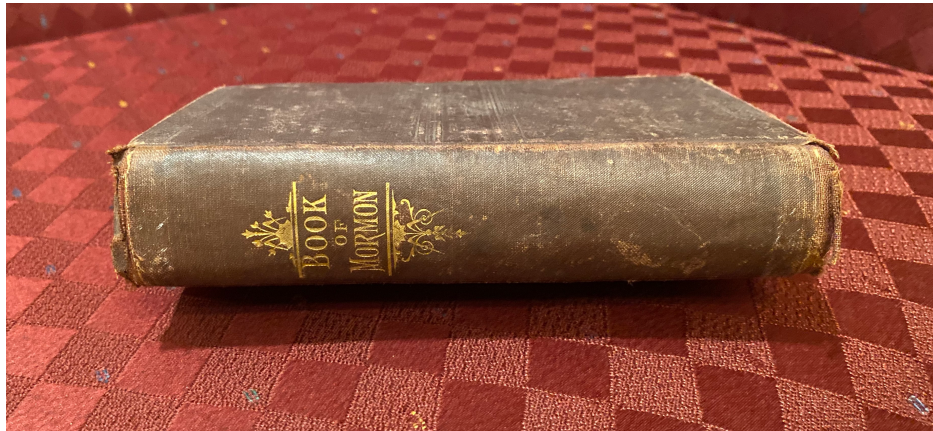
38 **Of whom the world was not worthy**; they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And **these all, having obtained a good report through faith**, received not the promises;

40 **God having provided some better things for them** through their sufferings, for without sufferings they could not be made perfect.

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, (es)tablish, strengthen, **settle** you.

After our suffering God will “restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish” us (5:10). He will fully empower us to stand firm for Him in the midst of all things. **He will settle us which helps us to become free from doubt.**



Testimony of Lucy Mack Smith

Lucy was leading a group of about 80 saints who were on a boat in Buffalo. They were trying to get to Kirtland but the ice in the harbor had stopped all movement. A man from the shore shouted, "Is the Book of Mormon true?" To which Lucy answered at the top of her voice for all to hear

"That book was brought forth by the power of God and translated by the gift of the Holy Ghost; and if I could make my voice sound as loud as the trumpet of Michael, the Archangel, I would declare the truth from land to land and from sea to sea and the echo should reach to every isle, until every member of the family of Adam should be left without excuse."

For I do testify that God has revealed himself to man again in these last days, and set his hand to gather his people upon a goodly land, and if they obey his commandments, it shall be unto them for an inheritance;

He has commenced a work which will prove a savor of life unto life, or of death unto death to every one that stands here this day - of life unto life if you will receive it, or of death unto death if you reject the counsel of God, for every man shall have the desires of his heart; if he desires the truth, he may hear and live...."

Then turning to her group she said, "Now brethren and sisters, if you will all raise your desires to heaven, that the ice may be broken up and we be set at liberty as sure as the lord lives it will be done."

At that instant a noise was heard like bursting thunder. The captain cried, every man to his post. The ice parted leaving barely a passage for the boat and so narrow that as the boat passed through the buckets on the water wheel were torn off with a crash.... We had barely passed through the avenue when the ice closed together again and everyone else was left in Buffalo, unable to follow us.

We then called a prayer meeting to give thanks to God for his mercy. The captain's mate approached Lucy and asked her to stop the saints from praying or they would all be lost, as the crew would not stay at their post, desiring to listen to the powerful prayers of the saints.

This was the depth of faith and the width of Godly influence that Lucy Mack Smith lived.

During Lucy's life, her husband, 6 of her 7 sons, 2 daughters-in-law, and at least 7 of her grandchildren died.

Ephraim	3-24-1810	Infant born 3-13 died 11 days later
Alvin	11-19-1824	Had an onset of terrible abdominal pain and was treated with Calomel considered a medical panacea but eventually realized it was doing great harm.
Alva	6-15-1828	Joseph and Emma's first child who died at birth
Thaddeus/Louisa	4-30-1831	Joseph and Emma's twins died at birth
Joseph	3-1832	Joseph and Emma's adopted twin son who was born 4-30-1831 with his sister, Julia
Jerusha		(Hyrum's 1st wife)
Joseph Sr	9-14-1840	Illness
Mary	1-25-1841	(Samuel's 1st wife)
Don Carlos	8-7-1841	Became ill around August 1 and died on the 7th of probable quick consumption (tuberculosis). He, like Alvin, was just 25 years old.
Robert Thompson	9-1-1841	Partner of Don Carlos and died of same disease Hyrum's brother-in-law
Don Carlos	9-15-1841	Joseph's youngest child, named after his uncle
Hyrum	9-28-1841	Hyrum's 2nd son, died of a fever
Hyrum	6-27-1844	Murdered by the mob while in Carthage jail was 44
Joseph	6-27-1844	Murdered by the mob while in Carthage jail was 38
Samuel	7-30-1844	Fever and pain in his side brought on from the exertion of escaping the mob when his brothers were killed. 36
Frederick	4-12-1862	Joseph and Emma's son born in 1836; illness