



Jesus and the Restoration

THE FIRST VISION. “THE GLORY OF THE SON, ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER.” JEHOVAH AND THE KIRTLAND TEMPLE. PROPHETIC TESTIMONIES.

Joseph Smith—History 1:1–20; D&C 76; 110; Testimony of the Living Christ.

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (hymn no. 202)

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;

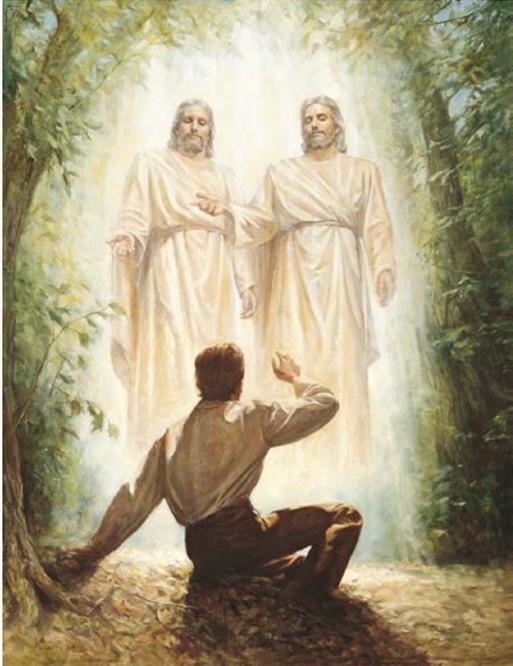
(Chorus)

Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

2. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest;

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Son of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;

“Joseph Smith’s First Prayer” (hymn no. 26)



1. Oh, how lovely was the morning!
Radiant beamed the sun above.
Bees were humming, sweet birds singing,
Music ringing thru the grove,
When within the shady woodland
Joseph sought the God of love,
When within the shady woodland
Joseph sought the God of love.

2. Humbly kneeling, sweet appealing—
‘Twas the boy’s first uttered prayer—
When the pow’rs of sin assailing
Filled his soul with deep despair;
But undaunted, still he trusted
In his Heav’nly Father’s care;
But undaunted, still he trusted
In his Heav’nly Father’s care.

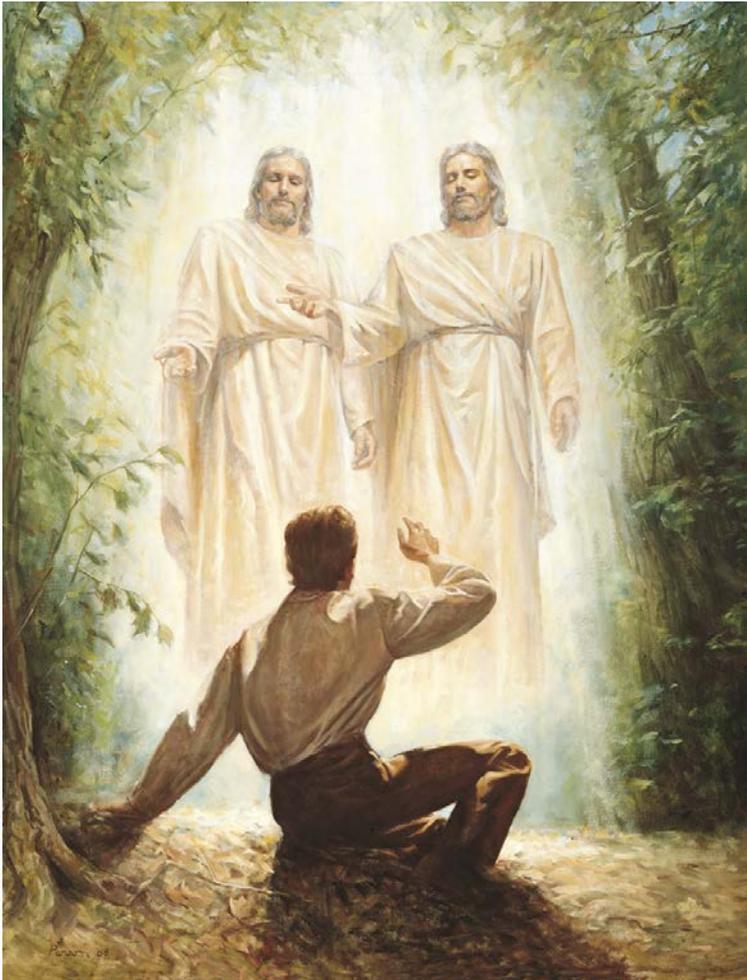
3. Suddenly a light descended,
Brighter far than noonday sun,
And a shining, glorious pillar
O’er him fell, around him shone,
While appeared two heav’nly beings,
God the Father and the Son,
While appeared two heav’nly beings,
God the Father and the Son.

4. “Joseph, this is my Beloved;
Hear him!” Oh, how sweet the word!
Joseph’s humble prayer was answered,
And he listened to the Lord.
Oh, what rapture filled his bosom,
For he saw the living God;
Oh, what rapture filled his bosom,
For he saw the living God.

Final Exam

Saturday, April 10, 5:45–7:45 (but you may take 3 hours), *in class*

The First Vision



- Accounts: 1832 (personal), 1835 (which church was right), **1838 (canonical account)**, 1842 (concise for outsiders), second-hand accounts
 - See <https://www.lds.org/topics/first-vision-accounts?lang=eng>
- “When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—***This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!***” (Joseph Smith—History 1:17)
- “In 1820, in that incomparable vision, the Father and the Son appeared to the boy Joseph. **They spoke to him with words that were audible, and he spoke to Them. They could see. They could speak. They could hear. They were personal. They were of substance.** They were not imaginary beings. They were beings tabernacled in flesh. And out of that experience has come our unique and true understanding of the nature of Deity.” (Hinckley, “The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain,” *Ensign* [Nov 2007]: 84)

Elder Christofferson on the First Vision 5:46

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2011-04-26-special-witness-elder-christofferson?category=prophets-and-apostles/special-witnesses&lang=eng>

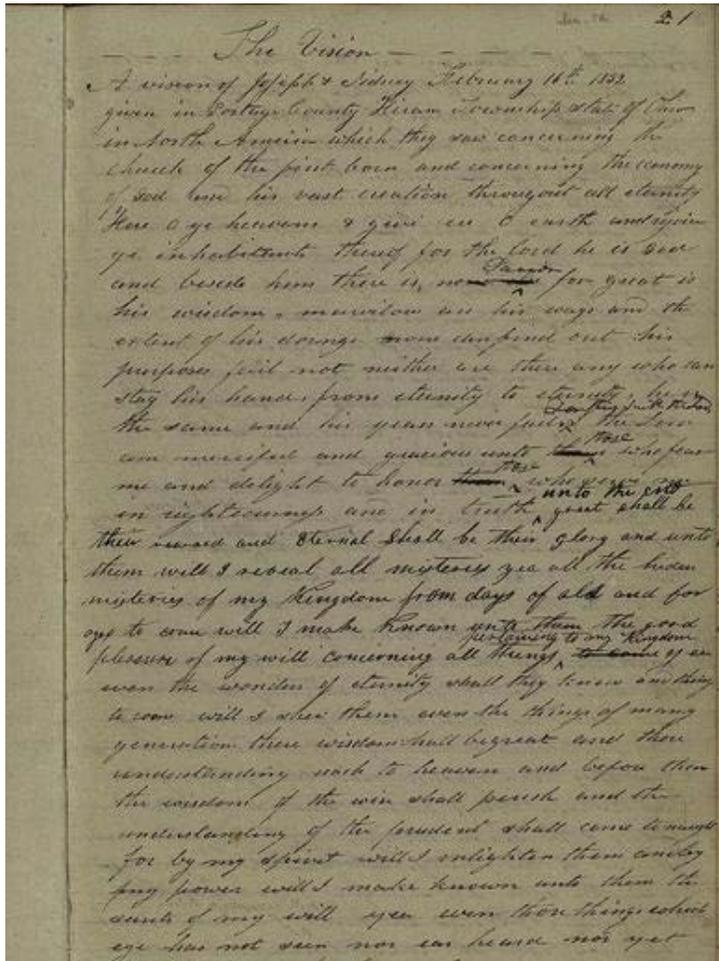
“In this magnificent vision, the Father and the Son commissioned Joseph Smith as the instrument by whom they would reestablish the ancient Church and gospel of Jesus Christ upon the Earth. As a manifestation of the love of God, the significance of this event cannot be overstated. The centuries-long night of spiritual darkness had ended. God again spoke to man. Divine priesthood authority to act in the name of God would follow. The blessings of the Savior’s infinite atonement would be accessible, not only to mankind on earth but even to the spirits of the dead as they await the Resurrection.

“As a youth I came to this hallowed place one summer night alone. I sought a divine confirmation of the truth of what Joseph said had happened here. Though I prayed earnestly for what seemed a long time, no answer came to me, and I left keenly disappointed. Some weeks later, though, as I sat at home reading and pondering the words of the Book of Mormon, the Holy Ghost filled my soul and gave me the answer I had been seeking. By this spiritual communication, not limited to words, indeed more powerful than words, I was given to know that the Father and the Son had in fact appeared to Joseph Smith here, and that his witness and the witness of all the holy scriptures concerning Jesus Christ are true.

“Since then, that spiritual witness has been reconfirmed to me many times in various places and circumstances. ***I found that it was not necessary for me to be here in this sacred grove to receive that testimony through the Holy Spirit, just as it is not necessary for you to come here or any other special place to receive the same spiritual confirmation.*** Your Heavenly Father knows you and the hopes and desires of your heart wherever you are. As with me, He’ll speak to you in His own time and way. And if you’re sincere and willing to act on his answers, he will reveal to you what you desire to know.” —Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“The Vision”

(In 1832 following a reading of John 5:29)



- “... his Only Begotten Son, who was in the bosom of the Father, even from the beginning” (D&C 76:13)
- “And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: **That he lives!** For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—**That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God.**” (D&C 76:22–24)
- Teachings on degrees of glory and the celestial, terrestrial, and telestial kingdoms (D&C 76:50–112)

Jehovah and the Kirtland Temple



- “We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit, before us; and under his feet was a paved work of pure gold, in color like amber. His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying: ***I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father.*** Behold, your sins are forgiven you; you are clean before me; therefore, lift up your heads and rejoice.” (D&C 110:2–5)
 - Compare in particular with Revelation 1:13–18
 - ***Both in “temple” contexts!***

Del Parson, “Christ Appears to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland Temple”

President Packer on the Kirtland Pentecost 3:09

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2011-04-16-special-witness-president-packer?category=prophets-and-apostles/special-witnesses&lang=eng>

“In this room, on April the third in 1836, there was fulfilled a prophecy which had been given more than 2,000 years before. The closing words of the Old Testament given by the prophet Malachy prophesy that, behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

“And when the angel Moroni appeared to the prophet Joseph Smith, he quoted many scriptures. Among them this one was separated out and appears as the second section of the doctrine and covenants. Then on that day in 1836, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, in this room, had knelt in solemn and silent prayer. *And after rising from prayer, he said, the veil was taken from our minds and the eyes of our understanding were opened and we saw the Lord standing up on the breastwork of the pulpit.*

“. . . Now in our day, the marvelous work is moving forward, the family history work, the temple work in which families are being united for all eternity. And in a world that’s degrading itself with the dissolution of families, this work goes forward across the world. It is a supernal work. It is a work designed of the Lord and introduced by Himself as he came to this spot and introduced the prophet Elijah, who gave the keys of this work.

“I bear testimony that Jesus is the **Christ. This is a supernal work, the mind of man could not have conceived it. It is true. Jesus is the Christ, He lives. He directs and leads this Church.** To this I bear solemn testimony, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.” —President Boyd K. Packer, formerly President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Elder Hales on the Example of Christ ^{2:49}

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2011-04-22-special-witness-elder-hales?category=prophets-and-apostles/special-witnesses&lang=eng#p3s:24440&p3e:160040>

“I have a great love for the scriptures. I love reading about the mortal life of Jesus Christ. There is so much in his life that can lift, inspire and strengthen us in our times of need. To me one of the most sacred chapters in all the scriptures is John chapter 17. The entire chapter is an intercessory prayer offered by Jesus Christ to His Father. He says, in effect, if only the world could know you as I know you. He tells his father that He has done everything He’s been asked to do.

“Sometimes we forget how remarkably obedient the Savior was. Everything that he did, everything that he said was out of obedience to his father. His seeking out and caring for the poor. The calling of His disciples. His teaching both in the land of Palestine and in the Americas. All these things were done because His father had commanded Him to do them. He had no personal agenda. *He said, I do nothing of Myself but as my Father hath taught Me. What a perfect example of obedience.*

“In the choices we make in life, we need to know the Savior. His simple admonition, come follow me, could transform human existence if we would let it. He has the power to make our burdens light if we will turn to Him. As an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, I have the opportunity to bear testimony as a sacred witness of the Savior. My greatest desire is that my testimony might penetrate the hearts of those who hear it.

“I know that Jesus Christ lives. I know that He guides and directs His Church by revelation through His prophet in this very day and time. **If we will have faith in our Savior, He will see us through our trials and tribulations, and we will be able to endure to the end and return to His presence after this mortal probation. He lives and knows and loves each one of us. He so much wants to bless us if we will come unto Him.** In this I bear humble testimony and witness in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.” —Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Elder Holland in Gethsemane 2:38

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2011-04-23-special-witness-elder-holland?category=prophets-and-apostles/special-witnesses&lang=eng#d>

“Few places on earth are as sacred and important as this small grove of olive trees here on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. It was here in the garden of Gethsemane on that last night in mortality that Jesus left his apostles and descended alone into the depth of agony that would be his atoning sacrifice for the sins of all mankind.

“Moving slowly, kneeling, falling forward on his face, he cried, Abba, Father. All things are possible under Thee. Take away this cup from me. Nevertheless not what I will but what thou wilt.

“To the thoughtful follower of Christ, it is a matter of surpassing wonder that the voluntary and merciful sacrifice of a single being could satisfy the infinite and eternal demands of justice, atone for every human misdeed, bear every mortal infirmity, feel every personal heartache, sorrow and loss. But I testify that is exactly what Christ did for every one of us. ***I bear solemn witness that the atonement of Jesus Christ is the compassionate foundation and central fact in God's eternal plan for our salvation and our happiness.***

“Is it any wonder that we walk quietly and reverently here? Is it any wonder that we make sacred covenants because of the love was demonstrated here? Is it any wonder that Christ, the greatest of all, partook of the bitter cup and did not shrink here, that we might not suffer if we would repent and come unto him. **I declare my wonder and awe, my adoration and apostolic witness of him.** In his redeeming name, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.” —Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

President Hinckley on the Risen Lord 3:04



<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2013-10-1210-he-is-not-here-for-he-is-risen?lang=eng> (high res)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq1iHDGyljc> (fuller version)

“These are the most reassuring words in all of human history. Death universal and final had now been conquered. ‘Death where is thy sting? Oh grace, where is thy victory?’ To Mary the Risen Lord first appeared. He spoke to her and she replied. He was real, he was alive, he whose body had been laid in death. Small wonder that when Thomas later saw him with his wounded hands and side, he exclaimed in wonder, ‘My Lord and my God!’”

“The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the great crowning event of his life and mission. It was the capstone of the Atonement. The sacrifice of his life for all mankind was not complete without his coming forth from the grave with the certainty of the resurrection for all who have walked the earth. Of all the victories in the chronicles of humanity, none is so great, none so universal in its effects, none so everlasting in its consequences as the victory of the crucified Lord who came forth from the tomb that first Easter morning.

“Those who were witnesses of that event, all who saw and heard and spoke with the Risen Lord testified of the reality of this greatest of all miracles. His followers through the centuries lived and died in proclamation of the truth of this supernal act. **To all of these we add our testimony that he who died on Calvary’s cross arose again in wondrous splendor as the Son of God, the Master of life and death.**” —President Gordon B. Hinckley, fifteenth President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Living Christ

The Testimony of the Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

- The Firstborn of the Father, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh, the Redeemer of the world
 - The Jehovah of the Old Testament
 - The Messiah of the New
- Creator of the earth
- He “went about doing good”
- Suffered, died, and rose again
- Appeared to the boy Joseph Smith
- He shall return to the earth and judge the world

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

James A. Linde
Thomas M. Morgan
James H. Lane

January 1, 2000

THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE

Boyd K. Packer
L. Tom Perry
Donna Hanks
Neal A. Maxwell
Russell M. Nelson
Dallin H. Oaks

M. Russell Ballard
Joseph A. Wittman
Richard G. Scott
Robert D. Hales
Jeff R. Holland
Henry A. Eyring

President Hinckley on the Living Christ Document ^{1:28}

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2000-01-0018-gordon-b-hinckley?category=special-witnesses&lang=eng&clang=ase>



“How I love my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His stern commission and his divine love motivate all of us in this work. I love my brethren. To a man they are loyal. Without hesitation they respond to every call. They are true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“It is he, Jesus Christ, who stands at the head of this Church which bears his sacred name. He is watching over it, he is guiding it. Standing at the right hand of his Father he directs this work.

“Unitedly as his apostles, authorized and commissioned to do so, we bear our witness that *he lives and that he will come again to claim his kingdom and rule as King of kings and Lord of lords. Of this we are certain and bear apostolic testimony in his holy name, even the name of Jesus Christ, amen.*”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

- **The good news of the salvation Jesus has made possible and offered to us**
 - Salvation from sin
 - Salvation from death
 - Healing, strength, and future exaltation
- **The Plan of Salvation**
 - Provides us a mortal experience, the means to overcome the fall, and the prospect of future glory—eternal life or being like our Heavenly Parents
- **Made possible through obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel**
 - Faith
 - Repentance
 - Saving, strengthening, and exalting ordinances—all “conduits of grace”—together with the making and keeping of covenants that make us more like Jesus