

The **Apostasy**
and **Restoration**
of the CHURCH
of Jesus Christ



JESUS CHRIST ORGANIZED his CHURCH after he was baptized and started his MINISTRY:

Matt 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.

Then he suffered him.

16And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

PRIESTHOOD WAS GIVEN to ACT IN THE NAME OF THE LORD:

Priesthood holders are admonished in 1 Tim 4:14 “neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of hands of the presbytery.”



Ephesians 2: 19

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;**

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we **all** come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

EVANGELISTS or
PATRIARCHS

PASTORS or
BISHOPS

Apostles

PROPHETS

JESUS CHRIST -Cornerstone

4: 11 And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**;



JESUS CALLED OTHERS AND GAVE THEM PRIESTHOOD KEYS TO ACT IN HIS NAME

Luke 10:1 “After these things the lord appointed other **seventy** also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come

THE SEVENTY RETURNED AND REPORTED:

Luke 10:17 “And the **seventy** returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.”

Acts 14:23 “and when they had **ORDAINED** them **ELDERS** in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the lord, on whom they believed.”

1 Timothy 3:1 “This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a **bishop**, he desireth a good work.”

SEVENTIES, ELDERS, BISHOPS, APOSTLES, PRIESTS, TEACHERS & DEACONS in the CHURCH ORGANIZED BY JESUS CHRIST



**JESUS CALLED HIS APOSTLES,
SEVENTIES, TEACHERS, BISHOPS,
PRIESTS and MISSIONARIES**



Matthew 10:

1And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, **he gave them power (priesthood)** against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

2Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, **Simon**, who is called **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother; **James** the son of Zebedee, and **John** his brother;

3**Philip**, and **Bartholomew**; **Thomas**, and **Matthew** the publican; **James** the son of Alphæus, and Lebbæus, whose surname was **Thaddæus**;

4**Simon** the Canaanite, and **Judas** Iscariot...

5These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying...

6 (Go) to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7And as ye

go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.



**WHEN THE
MINISTRY WAS
OVER JESUS
CHRIST WAS
CRUCIFIED**

**BUT HE WAS
RESURRECTED and
FURTHER TAUGHT HIS
APOSTLES and additional
Apostles were CHOSEN**



REPLACEMENT OF DEAD APOSTLES

In the early years after the resurrection of Jesus, the apostles added members to their number as vacancies required.

The first item of apostolic business after Jesus' ascension was the selection of one to take the place of Judas (**Acts 1:21-26**). This action establishes the principle, which is confirmed by the practice today of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, that apostolic succession was to be continued and that the ancient apostles intended to replace members of the Twelve each time one died.

In addition to **Matthias**, three others we are aware of became apostles after Jesus' ascension: **James** (**Acts 12:17; Gal. 1:19**), **Barnabas** (**Acts 14:14**), and **Paul** (**Acts 14:14**). These three were called early in the Church's History —before A.D. 50.

Near the middle of the first century, the calling of apostles came to an end and the apostleship died out. As far as we know, by the 90s only John remained. When he left his public ministry around A.D. 100, **apostleship ceased, and the keys of the kingdom were taken.** (Kent P. Jackson From Apostasy to Restoration)

Orson Pratt writes as follows: "The great apostasy of the Christian Church commenced in the first century; while there were yet inspired apostles and prophets in their midst.

This apostasy had become so general that Paul declares to Timothy, 'that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me;' and again he says, 'at my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me;' he further says that 'there are many unruly, and vain talkers, deceivers, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.' IN SHORT THEY WERE APOSTATE MEMBERS.

Talmadge The Great Apostasy

THE FOES CAME FROM WITHIN:

PAUL TO THE GALATIANS: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." And then, to emphasize the sin of those who thus sought to "pervert the gospel of Christ," he continued: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Gal

BIBLICAL REFERENCES-APOSTASY

2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4 3For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**; but **after their own lusts** shall they heap to themselves teachers, having **itching ears**; 4**And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

2 PETER 2:1-3 "1But there were **false prophets also among the people**, even as there shall be **false teachers** among you, who privily shall bring in **damnable heresies**, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves **swift destruction**. 2And **many shall follow their pernicious ways**; ...3And through covetousness shall they with feigned words **make merchandise of you**: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and **their damnation slumbereth not.**"

Jude 1:4, 17-19 There had been warnings long ago about people infiltrating and perverting the faith: "**certain men crept in unawares**" (1:4). The apostles warned of "**mockers**" in the "**last time**" (1:17-18). *Revelation 13:1-9*. Satan's beast will blaspheme "against God" and his work (13:6). He will "make war with the saints" and **will "overcome them"** (13:7). **He will have power over "all that dwell upon the earth"** (13:8).

Christ and the apostles anticipated the Apostasy

MATHEW 24:5, **9-11** "Many" false Christ's "shall deceive many" (24:5). "Then shall many be offended" (24:10). The word *offended* is used to translate the Greek *skandala-zo*, which means to "trip." In a religious context such as this, it means to "give up one's faith": "many will turn away from the faith" (NIV), or "many will fall from their faith" (REB). **5** And "many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (24:11).

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-3 In "the latter times," that is, the final days of the Early Church, "**some shall depart from the faith,**" following "**seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils**" (4:1).

2 THESSALONIANS 2 :1-3, 5:

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

PAUL Also had the same take on the Church in his time...

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For **I know this**, that **after my departing shall grievous wolves** enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves **shall men arise**, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:28-31).

THERE WAS MUCH OPPOSITION FROM EXTERNAL FORCES:

□ JUDAISTIC OPPOSITION OF THE CHRISTIANS

words of the Savior: "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you because they have not known the Father, nor me." John 16:2

□ ROMAN OPPOSITION of JEWS IN GENERAL

There was a HOLOCAUST of the JEWS by the Romans in 70 AD and again in 94 AD the persecution began again specifically against the JEWS.

□ ROMAN OPPOSITION FOR 312 YEARS OF CHRISTIANS

Persecution of the Church by Roman authority may be said to have begun in the reign of Nero 64 AD and to have continued to the close of Diocletian's reign 305 AD

They (the Christians) dared to ridicule the absurdities of the pagan superstition, and they were ardent and assiduous in gaining proselytes to the truth.

Elder James E. Talmage taught: (The Great Apostasy 54-55): **PERSECUTION**

(On the Issue of Persecution) Opposition is not always destructive; on the contrary it may contribute to growth. . . . Undoubtedly the persistent persecution to which the early Church was subjected caused many of its adherents to renounce the faith they had professed and to return to their former allegiances, whether Judaistic or pagan. **Church membership was thus diminished. Let it be repeated that apostasy from the Church is insignificant as compared with apostasy of the Church as an institution.**

Hugh Nibley spoke similarly: "The apostasy described in the New Testament is **not desertion of the cause, but perversion of it**, a process by which **'the righteous are removed, and none perceives it.'** The Christian masses do not realize what is happening to them; (Nibley, Mormonism and Early Christianity 172)

Durant made this astute observation with regards to the fall of the Roman Empire: "**A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself within.**" (Durant and Durant, Caesar and Christ 665)

Original Twelve picked by Jesus and possible DEATH SCENARIOS:

Peter, crucified upside-down in Rome c. AD 64.

James, son of Zebedee was beheaded in AD 44, first of the Twelve to die

John, son of Zebedee, no biblical record of death. Mormons believe that John was immortalized and he will live to see the Second Coming of Christ.

Andrew, Peter's brother, was crucified upon a diagonal or X-shaped cross.

Philip was crucified in AD 54.

Bartholomew (also known as Nathaniel) was flayed alive (skinned) and then beheaded; some sources locate his death at Derbend on the Caspian Sea.^[21]

Matthew killed by an axe in AD 60.

Thomas was killed by a spear in Mylapore, Madras, India in AD 72.

James, son of Alphaeus, beaten to death with a club after being crucified & stoned.

Jude was crucified.

Simon the Zealot was crucified in AD 74.

Judas Iscariot, according to Matthew, hanged himself after betraying Jesus. In Acts, he is described as falling in a field and bursting open. Apologists explain this apparent discrepancy by presuming that he decayed on the tree resulting in a bloating with gas and a weakening of the skin. Then when he was let down from the tree he burst open upon impact.

Replacement for Judas Iscariot picked by the surviving eleven:

Matthias, Judas' replacement, was stoned and beheaded.

We really do not know what happened to most of the Apostles but we do know that eventually they died and were not replaced as a quorum with priesthood authority

THE CHURCH LOST IT'S FOUNDATION OF PROPHETS AND APOSTLES

WITHOUT APOSTLES & PROPHETS THERE WAS NO ONE with AUTHORITY TO
CONTINUE TO CALL AND ORDAIN THE OTHER OFFICERS IN THE PRIESTHOOD

Teachers

EVANGELISTS or
PATRIARCHS

PASTORS or
BISHOPS

Apostles

PROPHETS

JESUS CHRIST -Cornerstone

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS LOST TO THE WORLD
FOR A TIME AS PREDICTED BY THE PROPHETS...

The Apostle John in REVELATIONS says "**we know that it is the last hour**"

What the Apostle in effect did mean is simply this:

The end of the Church with inspired Apostles, prophets, and teachers leading, guiding, and directing the faithful is at hand. The time predicted by Christ and his Apostles respecting an apostasy and overthrow of the Church is upon us. Sperry

I am frank to conclude that a careful study of John's words to the seven churches (in the Book of Revelations) gives the impression that whereas some faithful souls remained in the branches of the Christian Church toward the end of the first century, **the overall state of the Church was desperate. It was indeed the "last hour."**
Sidney Sperry

WHAT IS THE POINT???

The withdrawal of apostolic power did not take place by accident. Had it been God's will, he would have chosen others to hold the keys and to continue the succession of the Twelve.

But it appears that the **rejection of true doctrine and authority was so widespread the Church could not continue.**



What about the Religions that came after the Apostasy?

Segovia Spain
At Night

The **Catholic Church** was no more responsible for the Apostasy than were the Baptists, the Presbyterians, or any other of today's churches; like all other Christians since the first century A.D., **they were the inheritors of it.** The Apostasy had been underway for more than two centuries before what we call the Catholic Church came into existence. *The Apostolic Fathers*, vol. 1 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1949). Also See Stephen E. Robinson, "Early Christianity"

WHAT CAME AFTER THE GREAT APOSTASY?





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There is no convenient point in history to locate the beginning of what we now call the Roman Catholic Church, which evolved over the centuries after the departure of the apostles. **The reign of Constantine (A.D. 312-37) is perhaps the best period in which to start**, because many of the church's distinguishing features were formalized during the fourth century after Christ. The "Roman" and the "Catholic" character of the church developed over the course of later centuries. Kent Jackson "From Apostasy to Restoration"

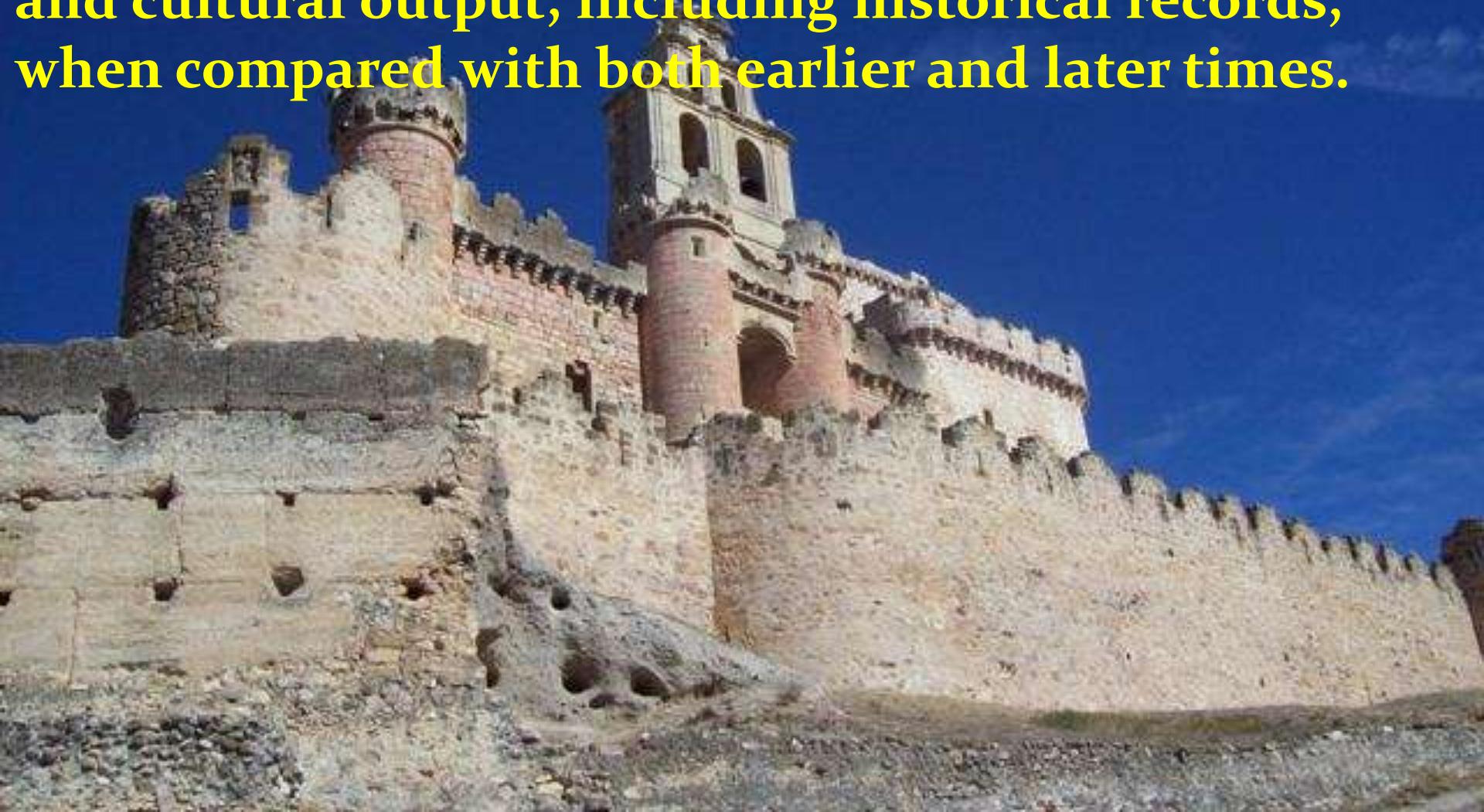
In February 313, Constantine met with Licinius in Milan where they developed the Edict of Milan. The edict stated that Christians should be allowed to follow the faith of their choosing. ^[wikipedia]



Constantine the Great at Hagia Sophia in Istanbul Turkey, C 1000 AD

In 325 he summoned the **Council of Nicaea** effectively the first Ecumenical Council where the nature of the godhead was debated and voted upon. Wikipedia “He chose the bishop ..Eusebius of Nicomedia,... **as his baptizer.** In postponing his baptism, he followed one custom at the time which postponed baptism until old age or death. It was thought Constantine put off baptism as long as he did so as to be absolved from as much of his sin as possible. Constantine died on the last day of the fifty-day festival of Pentecost directly following Easter, on **22 May 337.**” Wikipedia

The term "**Dark Ages**" was originally intended to denote the entire period between the **fall of Rome (6th Century)** and the **Renaissance (13th Century)**; The events of the period often seem "**dark**" to us only because of the **scarcity of artistic and cultural output, including historical records, when compared with both earlier and later times.**



THE REFORMERS COME ON THE SCENE

Brigham Young emphasized that good men before the restoration had "the spirit of revelation" and stated that **John Wesley** was as good a man "as ever walked on this earth" (*JD* 7:5; 6:170; 11:126).

President Young held that all churches and religions have "more or less truth" (*JD* 7:283), and he admonished the Saints to seek and accept truths wherever they might be found. In conference talks, General Authorities, including President Spencer W. Kimball and President Thomas S. Monson, have quoted or praised such luminaries as Billy Graham and Mother Teresa



IT IS MEANT TO
BE A
RESTORATION
OF ALL TRUTHS



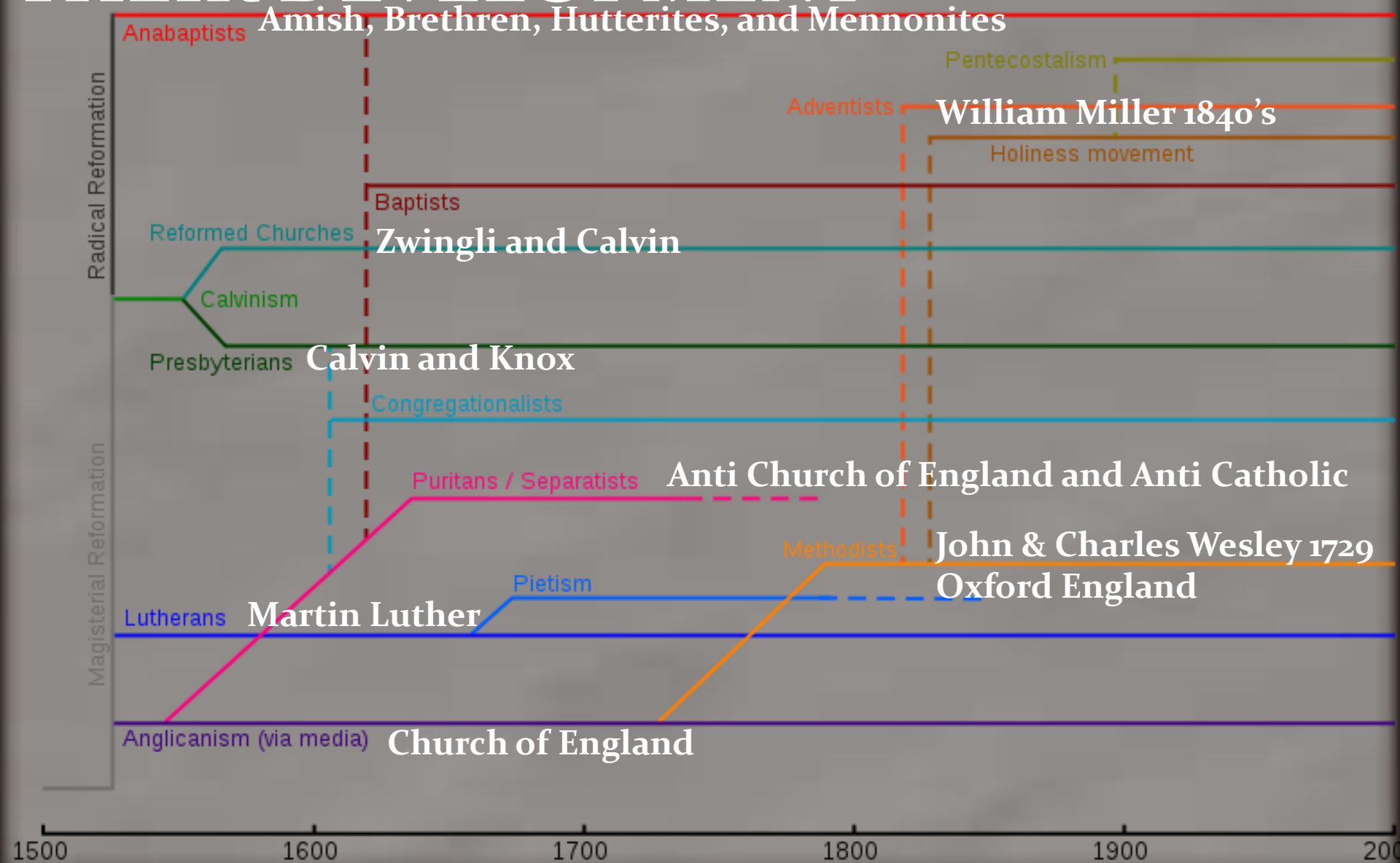
MARTIN LUTHER of Germany, November 1483 – 18 February 1546.

He strongly disputed the claim that freedom from God's punishment of sin could be purchased with money. Luther taught that salvation is not earned by good deeds but received only as a free gift of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ as redeemer from sin.

His **translation of the Bible into the language of the people** (instead of Latin) made it more accessible, causing a tremendous impact on the church and on German culture, and influenced the translation into English of the King James Bible. His **hymns** influenced the development of singing in churches. His marriage to Katharina von Bora set a model for the practice of clerical marriage, allowing Protestant priests to **marry**.

The reformers soon disagreed among themselves and divided their movement according to doctrinal differences—first between **Luther and Zwingli**, later between **Luther and John Calvin**—consequently resulting in the establishment of different and rival Protestant Churches (denominations), such as the **Lutheran**, the **Reformed**, the **Puritans**, and the **Presbyterian**. Elsewhere, the religious reformation causes, processes, and effects were different; **Anglicanism** arose in England with the English Reformation, and most Protestant denominations derive from the Germanic denominations. The reformers also accelerated the development of the Counter-Reformation by the **Catholic Church**. [Wikipedia](#)

THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES and THEIR DEVELOPMENT



John the Revelator foresaw the RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL IN THE LATTER DAYS after an APOSTASY as he declares:



THIS REFERS TO THE ANGEL MORONI BRINGING THE Book of Mormon & GOSPEL PREACHED IN OUR DAY

"And **I saw another angel fly** in the midst of heaven, **having the everlasting gospel** to preach unto 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." Revelations 14:6.7



I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. 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!*

My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)—and which I should join.

FROM THE HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH

I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: **“they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.”** He again forbade me to join with any of them; and many other things did he say unto me, which I cannot write at this time.



From the HISTORY
OF JOSEPH SMITH

The messenger who visited us on this occasion and **conferred this Priesthood upon us**, said that his name was **John**, the same that is called **John the Baptist** in the New Testament, and that he acted under the direction of Peter, James and John, who held the keys of the Priesthood of Melchizedek, which Priesthood, he said, would in due time be conferred on us, and that I should be called the first Elder of the Church, and he (Oliver Cowdery) the second. It was on the fifteenth day of May, 1829, that we were ordained under the hand of this messenger, and baptized.

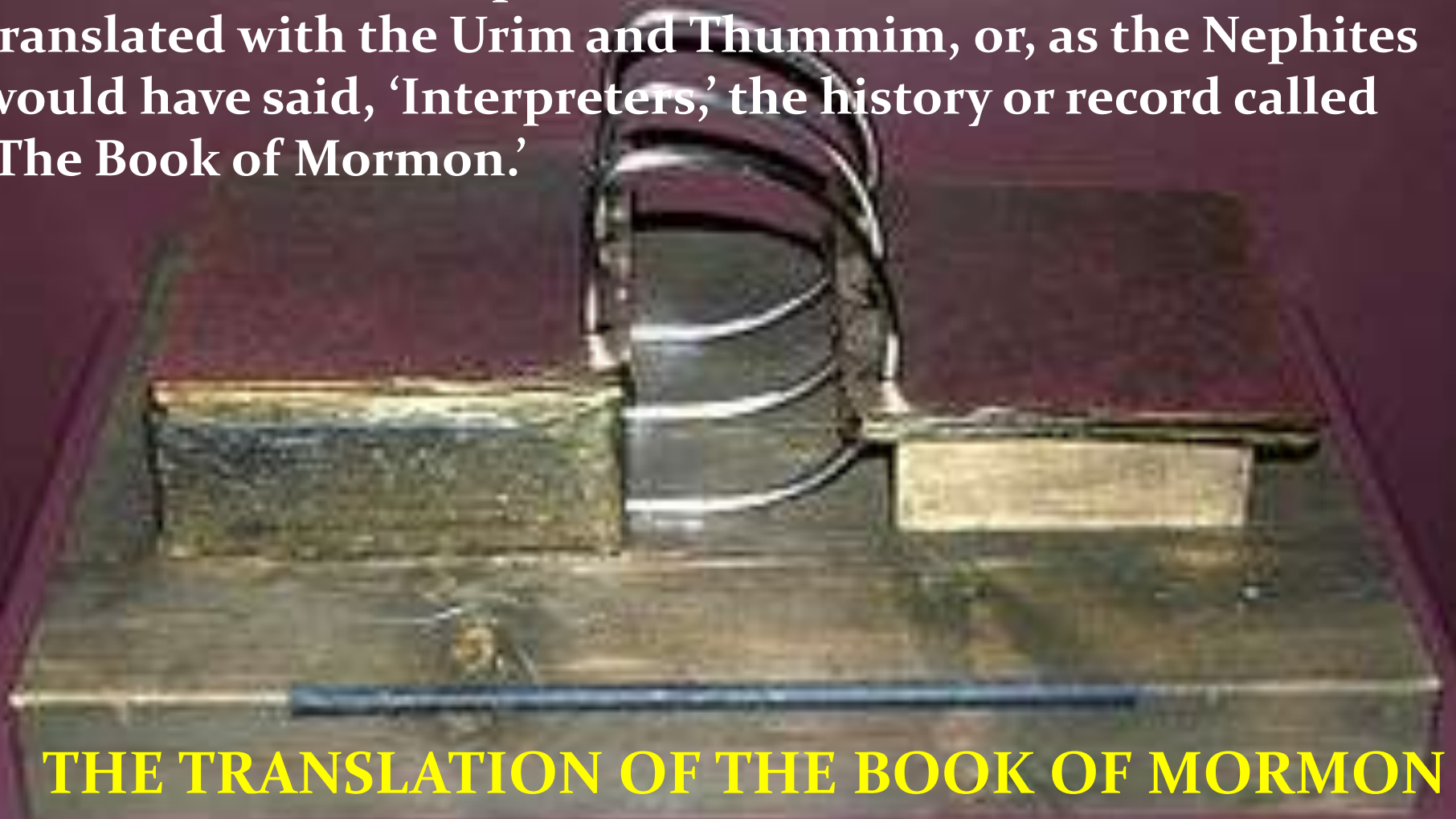
Joseph and Oliver were Baptized



THEY RECEIVED THE
PRIESTHOOD OF PETER, JAMES
and JOHN to ORGANIZE and
DIRECT THE CHURCH



Oliver Cowdery describes these events thus: “These were days never to be forgotten—to sit under the sound of a voice dictated by the inspiration of heaven, awakened the utmost gratitude of this bosom! Day after day I continued, uninterrupted, to write from his mouth, as he translated with the Urim and Thummim, or, as the Nephites would have said, ‘Interpreters,’ the history or record called ‘The Book of Mormon.’”



THE TRANSLATION OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth.



AMOS

3:7 Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

THE OTHER THINGS TAUGHT BY THE TRUE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST ARE:

- 1 We believe in **God**, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, **Jesus Christ**, and in the **Holy Ghost**.
2. We believe that men will be **punished for their own sins**, and not for Adam's transgression.
3. We believe that through the **Atonement of Christ**, all mankind may be saved, by **obedience** to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.
4. We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, **Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ**; second, **Repentance**; third, **Baptism** by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the **Holy Ghost**.
5. We believe that a **man must be called of God**, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the

7 We believe in the **gift** of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.

8 We believe the **Bible** to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the **Book of Mormon** to be the word of God.

9 We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that **He will yet reveal** many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

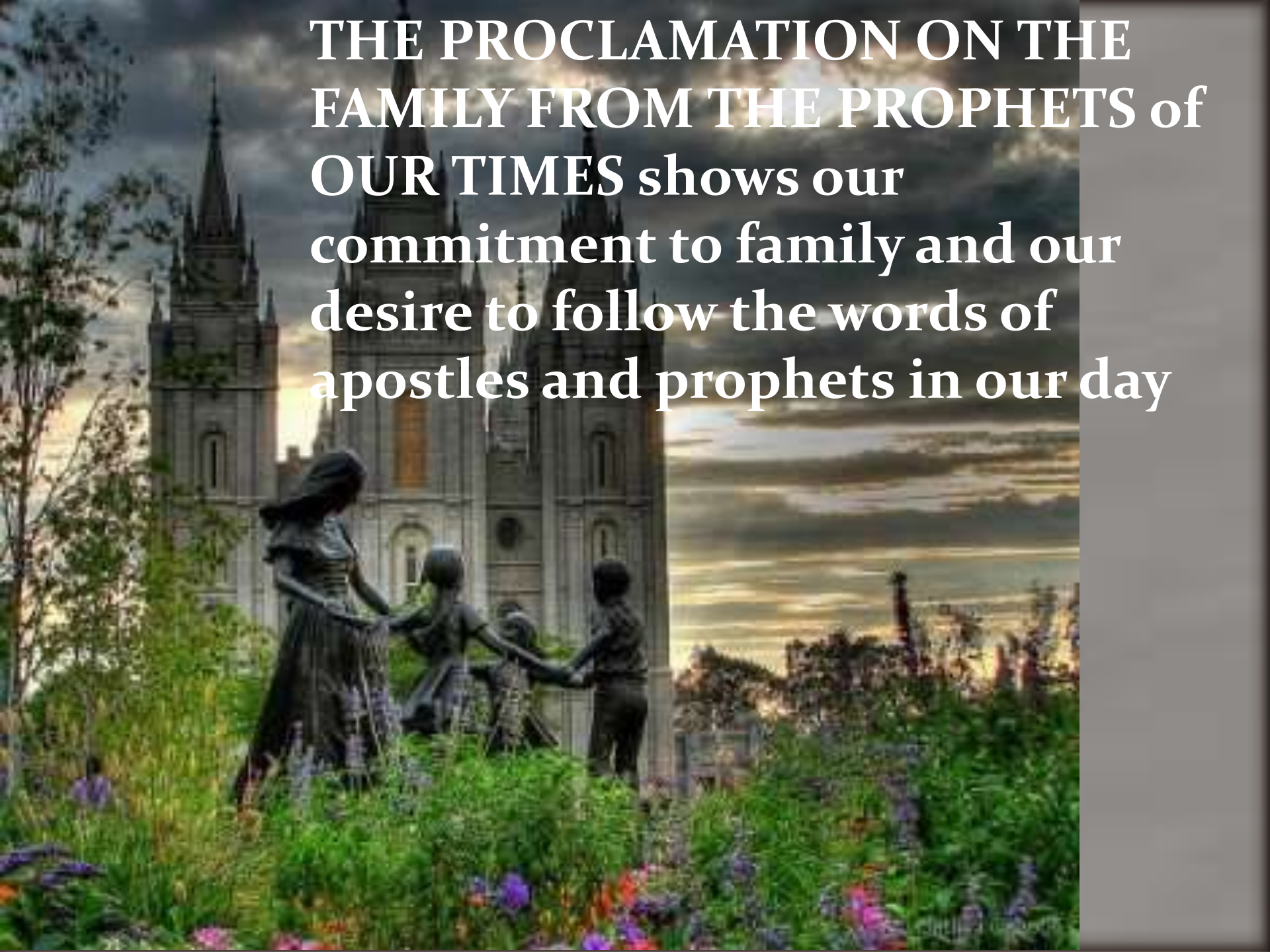
10 We believe in the literal **gathering of Israel** and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.

11 We claim the **privilege of worshiping Almighty God** according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

12 We believe in **being subject** to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in **obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law**.

13 We believe in being **honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous**, and in **doing good to all men**; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things

**THE PROCLAMATION ON THE
FAMILY FROM THE PROPHETS of
OUR TIMES shows our
commitment to family and our
desire to follow the words of
apostles and prophets in our day**



The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and



THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST HAS BEEN RESTORED TO THE EARTH WITH PROPHETS and APOSTLES WHO GUIDE US IN THESE DAYS OF TURMOIL AND TROUBLE. “WE THANK THEE OH GOD FOR A PROPHET”

The **12 APOSTLES**, the **PROPHET** and the members of the true **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST** today **FOLLOW** the same words that **JESUS** gave to his **12 APOSTLES**:




As found in the
NEW
TESTAMENT, Matth

19 ¶ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, **I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST
HAS BEEN RESTORED TO THE
EARTH IN THESE DAYS WITH
LIVING APOSTLES AND PROPHETS







**This is not the end, this
is just the beginning**

MORMON MESSAGES

He Lives