

Prophecies of Joseph Smith

by David McWilliams

Was Joseph Smith (1805–1844), founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), a prophet of God as he claimed? Read this brief sampling of Joseph Smith's prophecies and decide for yourself.

Date	Prophecy	Outcome
1830, Sept.	In a revelation, God decrees that the elect shall be gathered into one place “against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked.”	The one place to which Mormons were to gather changed as the Saints were driven from one location to another. Mormons remain a scattered people.
1831, July 20	Missouri is named as the land consecrated for the gathering of the Saints, the place for the City of Zion and the building of a temple. It will be purchased by the saints “for an everlasting inheritance.”	The “City of Zion,” including its temple, was never built up.
1834, Aug. 16	Smith said the Spirit of the Lord told him that the Saints should be ready to move into Jackson County, Missouri, on September 11, 1836, “the appointed time for the redemption of Zion.”	The Latter-day Saints fled Missouri in 1839.
1835, Feb. 14	“[T]he coming of the Lord, which is nigh—even fifty-six years should wind up the scene.”	1835 + 56 years = 1890/91. Jesus did not return.
1843, May 18	“I prophecy in the name of the Lord God of Israel, unless the United States redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints in the state of Missouri and punish the crimes committed by her officers that in a few years the government will be utterly overthrown and wasted, and there will not be so much as a potsherd left for their wickedness.”	The U.S. government did not redress any of the wrongs committed against the Mormons in Missouri. Nevertheless, it has not been “overthrown and wasted.”
1844, Feb. 6	Smith prophesied “that 5 years would not roll round before the company would all be able to live without cooking.”	Mormons are still cooking their food.
1844, Apr.–May	Joseph Smith prophesies that his unborn child will be called David, and will be “church president and king over Israel.”	Smith’s son, David, was never “church president and king over Israel.” He died in 1904, at the age of 60, having spent the last 27 years of his life in an insane asylum.

After reading just a few of the prophecies of Joseph Smith, one has to wonder if those who still follow him today have ever read the words of Moses in Deuteronomy 18:21–22, ***“And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ -- when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”***

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). Without a doubt, Joseph Smith was a false prophet.

NOTE: The list of Joseph Smith’s prophecies was taken from the book *One Nation Under Gods: A History of the Mormon Church* by Richard Abanes.