

The Man Who Communed with Jehovah

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Mees, kes võitnud Jehoovast

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Joseph Smith was “blessed to open the last dispensation,” and we are blessed that he did.

My purpose this day and always is to testify of Jesus Christ, that He is the Son of God, the Creator and Savior of the world, our Deliverer and Redeemer. Because “the fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ,” today I share with you my knowledge and testimony of the Savior as they have been strengthened and deepened by the life and teachings of one key apostle and prophet.

The Beginning of Wisdom

On the morning of a beautiful clear day early in the spring of 1820, 14-year-old Joseph Smith entered a grove of trees near his family’s home to pray about his sins and to ask which church to join. His sincere prayer, offered with unwavering faith, received the attention of the most powerful forces in the universe, including the Father and the Son. And the devil. Each of these had an intense interest in that prayer and in that boy.

What we now call the First Vision marked the beginning of the Restoration of all things in this last dispensation. But for Joseph, the experience was also personal and preparatory. All he wanted was forgiveness and direction. The Lord gave him both. The instruction to “join none of [the churches]” was directive. The words “Thy sins are forgiven thee” were redemptive.

For all the beautiful truths we might learn from that First Vision, perhaps Joseph’s main takeaway was simply, “I had found the testimony of James to be true—that a man who lacked

Joseph Smith „valit[i] juhtima viimaseid aegu” ja meie õnnistuseks ta seda ka tegi.

Mu eesmärk on tunnistada täna ja alati Jeesusest Kristusest, et Ta on Jumala Poeg, maailma Looja ja Päästja, meie Vabastaja ja Lunastaja. Kuna „meie usu peamised põhimõtted on apostlite ja prohvetite tunnistus Jeesuse Kristuse kohta”, jagan ma täna teiega oma teadmisi ja tunnistusi Päästjast, mida on tugevdanud ja süvendanud ühe võtmeapostli ja prohveti elu ja õpetused.

Tarkuse algus

Ühe kauni ja selge päeva hommikul 1820. aasta varakevadel astus 14-aastane Joseph Smith oma pere kodu lähedal asunud metsasallu, et palvetada oma pattude pärast ja küsida, millise kirikuga liituda. Tema kõikumatus usus öeldud siiras palve pälvis universumi vägevaimate jõudude, sealhulgas Isa ja Poja tähelepanu. Ja ka kuradi tähelepanu. Igaüks neist tundis selle palve ja selle poisi vastu tugevat huvi.

Esimene nägemus, nagu me seda nüüd nimetame, tähistas sel viimasel evangeeliumi ajajärgul kõikide asjade taastamise algust. Kuid Josephi jaoks oli see ka isiklik ja ettevalmistav kogemus. Ta soovis vaid andestust ja juhatust. Issand andis talle mõlemat. Juhis, et ta „ei liituks mitte ühegagi [kirikutest]”, oli eeskiri. Sõnad „Su patud on sulle andeks antud” oli lunastuskiri.

Kõigi nende kaunite tõdede seas, mida me võime esimesest nägemusest õppida, oli Josephi peamine tarkusetera vast lihtsalt see: „Ma olin leidnud, et Jaakobuse tunnistus on tõene – et

wisdom might ask of God, and obtain.”

As one scholar noted: “The real resonance of the First Vision today is to know that it’s the nature of God to give to those who lack wisdom. ... The God that reveals Himself to Joseph Smith in the sacred grove is a God who answers teenagers in times of trouble.”

Joseph’s experience in the grove gave him confidence to ask for forgiveness and direction for the rest of his life. His experience has also given me confidence to ask for forgiveness and direction for the rest of my life.

Regular Repentance

On September 21, 1823, Joseph earnestly prayed for forgiveness, confident that because of his experience in the grove three years earlier, heaven would respond again. And it did. The Lord sent an angel, Moroni, to instruct Joseph and inform him of an ancient record he would later translate by the gift and power of God—the Book of Mormon.

Almost 13 years after that, Joseph and Oliver Cowdery knelt in solemn, silent prayer in the newly dedicated Kirtland Temple. We do not know what they prayed for, but their prayers likely included a plea for forgiveness, for, as they arose, the Savior appeared and declared, “Behold, your sins are forgiven you; you are clean before me.”

In the months and years after this experience, Joseph and Oliver would sin again. And again. But in that moment, for that moment, in response to their plea and in preparation for the glorious restoration of priesthood keys that was about to happen, Jesus made them sinless.

Joseph’s life of regular repentance gives me confidence to “come boldly unto the throne of grace, that [I] may obtain mercy.” I have learned that Jesus Christ truly is “of a forgiving disposition.” It is neither His mission nor His nature to condemn. He came to save.

Inquiring of the Lord

As part of the promised “restitution of all things,” the Lord, through Joseph Smith, brought forth the Book of Mormon and other revelations that contain the fulness of His gospel. Vital truths were given clarity and completeness as Joseph repeatedly inquired of the Lord for direction.

see, kellel on puudu tarkusest, võib paluda seda Jumalalt ja talle antakse.”

Üks õpetlane on märkinud: „Esimesest nägemusest jääb nüüdisajal tõeliselt kõlama teadmine, et Jumala loomuses on anda neile, kellel on tarkusest puudu. ... See Jumal, kes ilmutab end pühas metsasalus Joseph Smithile, on seesama Jumal, kes vastab hädaajal teismeealistele.”

Metsasalus saadud kogemus andis Josephile kindlust andeksja kogu ülejäänud eluks juhatustpaluda. Kaminaolen saanud tema kogemusest kindlust andeks ja kogu ülejäänud eluks juhatustpaluda.

Regulaarne meeleparandus

21. septembril 1823 palvetas Joseph ja palus siiralt andeks, olles kindel, et metsasalus kolm aastat tagasi saadud kogemuse tõttu vastab taevastalle jälle. Ja taevast vastas. Issand saatis ingel Moroni Josephit õpetama ning teavitama teda muistsest ülestähendusest – Mormoni Raamatust –, mille Joseph hiljem Jumala annist ja väega tõlkis.

Peaaegu 13 aastat pärast seda põlvitasid Joseph ja Oliver Cowdery äsja pühitsetud Kirtlandi templis pühas vaiksuses palves. Me ei tea, mida nad oma palvetes palusid, kuid tõenäoliselt palusid nad ka andeks, sest kui nad püsti tõusid, ilmus Päästja ja kuulutas: „Vaata, teie patud on teile andeks antud; te olete minu ees puhtad.”

Sellele kogemusele järgnenud kuudel ja aastatel tegid Joseph ja Oliver uuesti pattu. Ja üha uuesti. Kuid tol hetkel, selle hetke jaoks, vastuseks nende palvele ja valmistudes kohemaid aset leidvaks hiilgavaks preesterluse võtmete taastamiseks, võttis Jeesus neilt nende patud.

Josephi regulaarne elukestev meeleparandus annab mulle kindlust minna „julgusega armuaujärje ette, et [ma] saaksi[n] halastust”. Olen saanud teada, et Jeesus Kristus on tõepoolest „andestava meelelaadiga”. Hukkamõist pole Ta missioon ega ka Tema loomus. Ta tuli päästma.

Issandalt nõu küsimine

Lubanud kõik „oma kohale aseta[da]”, tõi Issand Joseph Smithi kaudu esile Mormoni Raamatu ja muud Tema evangeeliumi täiust sisaldavad ilmutused. Ülitähtsad tõed said selgemaks ja täielikumaks, kui Joseph korduvalt Issandalt juhiseid küsis. Kaaluge järgmist:

Consider the following:

The Father and the Son have bodies “as tangible as man’s.”

Jesus took upon Himself not only our sins but also our sicknesses, afflictions, and infirmities.

His Atonement was so excruciating it caused Him to bleed from every pore.

We are saved by His grace “after all we can do.”

There are conditions to Christ’s mercy.

As we come unto Christ, He will not only forgive our sins, but He will also change our very nature so “that we have no more disposition to do evil.”

Christ always commands His people to build temples, where He manifests Himself unto them and endows them with power from on high.

I testify that all these things are true and necessary. They represent only a fraction of the fulness that was restored by Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith in response to Joseph’s recurring requests for direction.

Rolling on This Kingdom

In 1842, Joseph wrote of amazing things that would come to pass in this last dispensation. He declared that during our day, “the heavenly Priesthood will unite with the earthly, to bring about those great purposes; and whilst we are thus united in the one common cause, to roll forth the kingdom of God, the heavenly Priesthood are not idle spectators.”

To his friend Benjamin Johnson, Joseph said, “Benjamin, [if I die] I [would] not be far away from you, and if on the other side of the veil, I [would] still be working with you, and with a power greatly increased, to roll on this kingdom.”

On June 27, 1844, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were murdered. Joseph’s body was laid to rest, but his testimony continues to reverberate around the world and in my soul:

“I had seen a vision; I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it.”

“I never told you I was perfect; but there is no error in the revelations which I have taught.”

“The fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ, that He died, was bur-

isal ja Pojal on sama käegakatsutav keha kui inimesel.

Jeesus võttis enda peale mitte ainult meie patud, vaid ka meie haigused, kannatused ja jõuetused.

Tema lepitus oli nii piinarikas, et pani Teda igast poorist veritsema.

Pärast kõike, mida me saame teha, päästetakse meid Tema armu läbi.

Kristuse halastusel on omad tingimused.

Kui me tuleme Kristuse juurde, andestab Ta meie patud ja muudab lisaks sellele kogu meie loomust, nii „et meil ei ole enam mingit tahet teha halba”.

Kristus käsib alati oma rahval templeid ehitada, kus Ta end neile ilmutab ja neid väga kõrgest õnnistab.

Ma tunnistan, et kõik see on tõsi ja vajalik. See on vaid murdosa täiusest, mille Jeesus Kristus Joseph Smithi kaudu vastusena Josephi korduval juhatusel palumisele taastas.

Selle kuningriigi edasi veeremine

1842. aastal kirjutas Joseph sel viimasel evangeliumiajajärgul aset leidvatest hämmastavatest asjadest. Ta kuulutas, et meie päevil „ühineb taevane preesterlus maisega, et viia täide need suured eesmärgid; ja kui me oleme nii ühinenud ühe ühise aate nimel, et Jumala kuningriiki edasi veeretada, pole taevane preesterlus tegevusetu pealtvaataja”.

Oma sõbrale Benjamin Johnsonile ütles Joseph: „Benjamin, [kui ma peaksin surema,] poleks ma sinust kaugel eemal, ja ma töötaksin koos sinuga ka teiselt poolt eesriiet ning oluliselt suurenenud väega, et seda kuningriiki edasi veeretada.”

27. juunil 1844 Joseph Smith ja tema vend Hyrum mõrvati. Josephi keha pandi küll puhkama, kuid tema tunnistus kajab edasi kogu maailmas ja minu hinges:

„Ma ju nägin nägemust, ma teadsin seda ja teadsin ka, et Jumal teab seda, ning ma ei saanud ega julgenudki seda eitada.”

„Ma ei ole iial väitnud, et ma olen täiuslik; kuid ei ole ühtki eksimist ilmutustes, mida ma olen õpetanud.”

„Meie usundi põhialuseks on apostlite ja prohvetite tunnistus Jeesusest Kristusest, et Ta suri, maeti maha ja tõusis kolmandal päeval

ied, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it.”

What was said of John the Baptist might also be said of Joseph Smith: “There was a man sent from God, whose name was [Joseph]. ... He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light,” “that all men through him might believe.”

I believe. I believe and am sure that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. I testify that the living God is our loving Father. I know this because the voice of the Lord has spoken it to me, and so has the voice of His servants, the apostles and prophets, including and beginning with Joseph Smith.

I testify that Joseph Smith was and is a prophet of God, a witness and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was “blessed to open the last dispensation,” and we are blessed that he did.

The Lord commanded Oliver and all of us, “Stand by my servant Joseph, faithfully.” I testify that the Lord stands by His servant Joseph and the Restoration wrought through him.

Joseph Smith is now part of that heavenly priesthood of which he spoke. As he promised his friend, he is not far away from us, and on the other side of the veil, he is still working with us, and with a power greatly increased, to roll on this kingdom. With joy and thanksgiving, I raise my voice in “praise to the man who communed with Jehovah.” And above all, praise to Jehovah, who communed with that man! In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

taas surnuist ning läks taevasse; ja kõik muu, mis kuulub meie usundi juurde, on ainult lisand sellele tunnistusele.”

Ristija Johannese kohta öeldut võiks öelda samahästi Joseph Smithi kohta: „Oli mees, Jumala läkitatud; selle nimi oli [Joseph]. .. Tema ei olnud valgus, vaid ta tuli tunnistama valgusest.” „Et kõik usuksid tema kaudu.”

Mina usun. Ma usun ja olen kindel, et Jeesus on Kristus, elava Jumala Poeg. Ma tunnistan, et elav Jumal on meie armastav Isa. Tean seda, kuna seda on mulle öelnud Issanda hääl ja ka Tema teenijate, apostlite ja prohvetite hääl, Joseph Smith sealhulgas ja temast alustades.

Ma tunnistan, et Joseph Smith oli ja on Jumala prohvet, Issanda Jeesuse Kristuse pealtnägija ja teenija. Ta „valit[i] juhtima viimaseid aegu” ja meie õnnistuseks ta seda ka tegi.

Issand käskis Oliveri ja kõiki meid: „Seisa us-tavalt mu teenija Josephi kõrval.” Ma tunnistan, et Issand seisab oma teenija Josephi ja tema kaudu toimunud taastamise kõrval.

Joseph Smith kuulub nüüd selle taevase preesterluse sekka, millest ta rääkis. Nagu ta lubas oma sõbrale, pole ta meist kaugel eemal ja töötab koos meiega ka teiselt poolt eesriiet ning oluliselt suurenenud väega, et seda kuningriiki edasi veeretada. Ma annan täiel hääl rõõmu ja tänuga au mehele, kes võitnud Jehoovast. Ja ennekõike annan ma au Jehoovale, kes selle mehe võidis. Jeesuse Kristuse nimel, aamen.