

Why was a restoration necessary?



During His mortal ministry, Jesus Christ established His Church with priesthood authority. It was led by prophets and apostles who taught true doctrine and received revelation that was recorded as scripture. With the death of the apostles, priesthood authority was taken from the earth, revelation ceased, and essential doctrines were lost or corrupted. Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Church that Jesus Christ established was restored.

What effects of the Apostasy have you seen in the world? How has the Restoration of the gospel blessed your family?

Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources.

- Amos 8:11–12; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 Nephi 13:24–29; Joseph Smith—History 1:5–6 - The Church was lost through apostasy
- Isaiah 29:13–14; Acts 3:20–21 - The Apostasy and Restoration were foretold anciently
- D&C 1:17–23, 30 - Jesus Christ restored His Church through the Prophet Joseph Smith
- “Apostasy,” “Restoration of the Gospel,” *True to the Faith* - 2004, 13–14, 135–39

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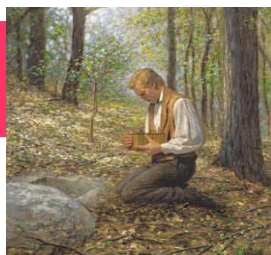
What was Joseph Smith's role in the Restoration?

After centuries of apostasy, the Lord restored His Church and the fulness of the gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith. This Restoration began with Joseph's First Vision, in which Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared. Through the Prophet Joseph, the Lord brought forth the Book of Mormon and other scriptures, restored priesthood authority, and established His Church.



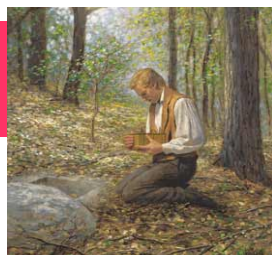
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How has your life been blessed by the truths restored through Joseph Smith?

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- D&C 35:17–18 - Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord restored the fulness of the gospel
- D&C 76:22–24 - Joseph Smith's testimony of Jesus Christ
- D&C 135:3 - Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord gave us additional scripture
- Joseph Smith—History 1:1–25 - God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith in answer to his prayer
- “The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith,” *Preach My Gospel* - 2004, 36–37
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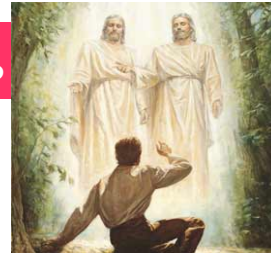
Why is the First Vision important?

In the spring of 1820, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith. This vision, which marked the beginning of the Restoration of the gospel, is the most important event since the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Joseph Smith's humble prayer led to the restoration of gospel truths, priesthood authority, and saving ordinances. "That one revelation answers all the [questions] regarding God and his divine personality. ... His interest in humanity through authority delegated to man is apparent. The future of the work is assured. These and other glorious truths are clarified by that glorious first vision" - *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay* [2003], 93.



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What is the significance of the First Vision for you?

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Why do we need the Book of Mormon?

The Book of Mormon was written for our day. It testifies of Jesus Christ, contains the fulness of His gospel, and restores truths lost through the Apostasy. Joseph Smith taught that the Book of Mormon is “the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book” - introduction to the Book of Mormon.



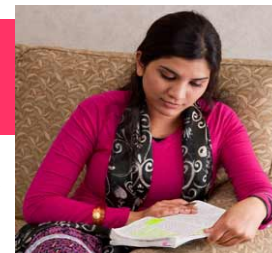
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Consider your feelings about the Book of Mormon. How has it brought you closer to Jesus Christ? How did you gain your testimony of the Book of Mormon? How has this knowledge helped you in your life?

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- 1 Nephi 13:40; 2 Nephi 3:12; Articles of Faith 1:8 - The Book of Mormon complements the Bible, restores precious truths, and confounds false doctrine
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How was the priesthood restored?



The priesthood was restored to Joseph Smith by the laying on of hands by those who held it anciently. In May 1829, John the Baptist restored the Aaronic Priesthood, and shortly thereafter, Peter, James, and John, three of the Savior's original Apostles, restored the Melchizedek Priesthood. On April 3, 1836, Moses, Elijah, and Elias restored additional priesthood keys.

How does our claim to priesthood authority make Latter-day Saints unique? How has the priesthood blessed your life?

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- Hebrews 5:4 - A man must be called of God to receive the priesthood
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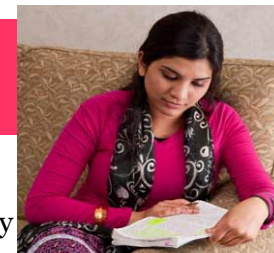
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