

#34: "Faith in Every Footstep"

Monte F. Shelley, 11 Oct 2009

Fear not... The future is as bright as your faith. (Thomas Monson)

Timeline of Events

<p>1844 Mar. Joseph transferred all keys to 9 of the Twelve. Rigdon, Wight, Page, and G.A. Smith absent. Jun 24. As he started for Carthage, Joseph stopped by the temple and said: "This is the loveliest place and the best people under the heavens; little do they know the trials that await them." Jun 27. Joseph and Hyrum murdered at Carthage. Aug 4. Sidney Rigdon told Saints the Lord showed him in a vision that he was to be the guardian of the Church. Aug 6. Most of Twelve now returned Aug 8. Brigham transfigured. He prophesied, "All that want to draw away a party from the church after them, let them do it if they can, but they will not prosper. ... The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles have the keys." Aug. James Strang presented a letter "from Joseph" appointing him as successor. Letter declared a forgery, Strang excommunicated. His anti-polygamy Mormonism eventually converted 3000–4000 including 3 apostles. Sept 8. Rigdon excommunicated and returned to Pittsburg. Started "Church of Christ" that attracted a few people.</p>	<p>about 20 alive ... [all] had quails to eat for dinner." Oct. MB: Sick men and all but 5 women sent to Pueblo. Nov 10. MB: More sick sent to Pueblo. 350 men left in MB Nov 12. Brigham's dream about "the Rocky Mountains." Winter. About 12000 Saints spread across Iowa & Missouri</p>
<p>1845 Fall. Saints prepare to go west in the spring. Oct 6. Apostle W. Smith not sustained. (HC 7:259) Nov 8. O Pratt letter urged Saints in East to save for move west. Some would go by sea led by Brannon. (HC 7:515+) Dec 10– Feb 7. 5634 endowments and 1303 sealings.</p>	<p>1847 Jan 11. Brigham related a dream he had the night before where he and Joseph "conversed freely about the best manner of organizing companies for emigration." Jan 14. D&C 136 Miller and others opposed the plan and soon left Church. Jan 29. MB: reached San Diego (2030 miles) Feb 23. Brigham's dream of Joseph. Keep the Spirit. Apr 16. Pioneer Company began trek. 143 men, 3 women, 2 children; 8 apostles. Several on Zion's Camp. Up at 5 AM, travel at 7 AM, retire at 9 PM. May 16. Odometer installed (Clayton was counting revs) May 26. Pioneer Company passes Chimney Rock. May 29. Brigham called company to repentance (CHC 3:184) Jul 16. MB: men discharged. Brigham asked unmarried to stay in California and work through winter. Jul 24. Brigham arrived in SL valley (111 days, 1050 miles) Dammed City Creek, watered hard ground, plowed, planted Jul 29. Some MB people arrived from Pueblo, CO. ~400. Aug. Old Fort built (Pioneer Park). Aug 16. Brigham & most of PC leave for Winter Quarters. They passed 1553 Saints on their way to the valley. Dec 21. Twelve encouraged emigration to Salt Lake Valley Dec 27. New First Presidency sustained in Kanesville, IO by 1000 Saints in small building (40' x 60').</p>
<p>1846 Nauvoo population estimated at 17,000. Feb 4. Saints begin leaving Nauvoo. In New York, 238 Saints left in ship <i>Brooklyn</i> for San Francisco. Feb 9–19. Snow, cold. Mississippi freezes. Saints cross. Feb 17. Four companies of 100 families formed. Feb 23. Ice chunks made crossing river impossible. Mar. At night the band played. The people danced and sang Apr 15. William Clayton wrote "All is Well" Jun 14. First pioneer company reaches Missouri river. Jun 26. Apostle John E. Page excommunicated Jul. Mormon Battalion (MB) recruited. Jul 16. Ezra T. Benson new apostle to replace W. Smith. Jul 21. MB: 541 men, 35 women, 42 children leave. Jul. Woodruff said Strang sent M. Harris to England to get converts. Taylor, Hyde, Pratt sent there with funds. Jul 31. Ship <i>Brooklyn</i> arrived in San Francisco Sept. Winter Quarters established. Sept. Battle of Nauvoo. Poor Saints evacuate. Sept 16. MB families to Pueblo, CO. Oct 9. Food supplies very low in Montrose, IO. "Several large flocks of quails flew into camp. ... The boys caught</p>	<p>2095 pioneers + MB people + others in 1847</p> <p>1848 2400 Food scarce. Crickets ate crops. Seagulls ate crickets.</p> <p>1849 Feb 12. Rich, L. Snow, E. Snow, FD. Richards apostles Sept. Brigham and leaders returned to Salt Lake Fall. Perpetual Emigration Fund established 1850 ('49) +2100 ('50) +1500 ('51) +4050 ('52) = 14,000</p> <p>1856 Sept 26–Oct 2. Three handcart companies arrived. Oct 4. Saints learn of two handcart companies in need. Oct 5. Conference. Brigham said, "get them here." Oct 7. Rescue wagons left to find handcart companies. Oct 19. Early blizzard. Nov 9. Willie Handcart company arrived. (68/404 died) Nov 30. Martin Handcart company arrived. (145/576 died) Dan Jones and 20 men wintered at Devil's Gate to guard unloaded freight. At one point they ate rawhide.</p> <p>1857–1860. Five handcart companies arrived. In all, 2,962 immigrants came with handcarts. About 250 died along the way—all but about 30 of those in the Willie and Martin companies.</p> <p>1860 Marks and others formed RLDS Church. Strang killed 1856</p> <p>1870 70,000 in Salt Lake Valley</p>

1. Brigham called camp to repentance (May 29, 1847)

May 28: Heber C. Kimball walked around the wagons and was disturbed by the levity, gambling, and profane language.

“There was at times much merriment in camp. There were musical instruments brought along and those who could play them. There was dancing, too, occasionally, notwithstanding the absence of ladies; the games of quoits, of checkers, some card-playing for amusement, scuffling, wrestling, the telling of humorous stories of doubtful propriety, loud laughter, the playing of practical jokes and the like were indulged.” On May 29, Brigham said, “I had rather risk myself among the savages with ten men that are ... men of God, than to be with this whole camp when they forget God and turn their hearts to folly and wickedness. Yes, I had rather be alone; and I am now resolved not to go any further with the camp unless you will covenant to humble yourselves before the Lord and serve him and quit your folly and wickedness. For a week past nearly the whole camp has been card-playing, and checkers and dominoes have occupied the attention of the brethren, and dancing and ‘hoeing down’--all this has been the act continually. Now, it is quite time to quit it. And there has been trials of law suits upon every nonsensical thing; and if those things are suffered to go on, it will be but a short time before you will be fighting, knocking each other down and taking life. It is high time it was stopped.” (CHC, 3:182–184)

2. Brigham’s arrival in Salt Lake Valley (24 July 1847)

Brigham and the rear company arrived at the mouth of Emigration Canyon. Wilford Woodruff wrote, “Thoughts of pleasing meditations ran ... through our minds while we contemplated that not many years that the House of GOD would stand upon the top of the mountains while the valleys would be converted into orchard, vineyard, gardens and fields by the inhabitants of Zion and the standard be unfurled for the nations to gather there to.” Brigham said he was satisfied with the appearance of the valley as a “resting place for the Saints and was amply repaid for his journey.” Later, Wilford Woodruff said that when they came out of the canyon he turned the carriage so that Brigham could see the whole valley. “While gazing upon the scene before us, he was enraptured in vision for several minutes. He had seen the valley before in vision, and upon this occasion he saw the future glory of Zion and of Israel, as they would be, planted in the valleys of these mountains. When the vision had passed, he said, ‘It is enough. This is the right place. Drive on.’” (CH Inst man)

Brigham: “The Spirit of Light rested upon me, and hovered over the valley, and I felt that there the Saints would find protection and safety. We descended and encamped at the foot of the Little Mountain.”

“After the death of Joseph Smith, ... Brigham ... sought the Lord to know what they should do, and where they should lead the people for safety, and while they were fasting and praying daily on this subject. President Young had a vision of Joseph Smith, who showed him the mountain that we now call Ensign Peak, immediately north of Salt Lake City, and there ... an ensign [flag] fell upon that peak, and Joseph said, ‘Build under the point where the colors fall and you will prosper and have peace.’ ... [When the pioneers entered this valley] President Young pointed to that peak, and said he, ‘I want to go there.’ He went up to the point and said, ‘This is Ensign Peak. Now ... go and explore where you will, and you will come back every time and say this is the best place.’” (JD 13:85-86) “This is where we will plant the soles of our feet ...and where the Lord will place his name amongst his people.” (Ensign, May 1997, 62)

3. Rocky Mountains (prophesies and planning)

In the last days ... the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains ... and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall ... say, ... let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God. (Isaiah 2:2-3)

1831 Mar. “Zion shall flourish upon the hills and rejoice upon the mountains, and shall be assembled together unto the place which I have appointed.” (D&C 49:25)

1832. Joseph blessed Paulina Phelps that she would “live to go to the Rocky Mountains.”

1834 Apr 26. Joseph: “This people will go into the Rocky Mountains; they will there build temples.”

1836. Two blessings that individuals would go to the Rockies.

1838. Report that Joseph said the Saints would go to the Rockies if the government did not stop the mobbing.

1838–1839. Two reports of Joseph wanting to send a company to explore the Rocky Mountains.

1840. In Nauvoo Joseph’s father said, “the Lord had told Joseph ... that we would stay there just 7 years and that when we left there we would go right into the midst of the Indians, in the Rocky Mountains.”

1842 Aug 6. Joseph: “I prophesied that the Saints would continue to suffer much affliction and would be driven to the Rocky Mountains, many would apostatize, others would be put to death by our persecutors or lose their lives in consequence of exposure or disease, and some of you will live to go and assist in making settlements and build cities and see the Saints become a mighty people in the midst of the Rocky Mountains.” (HC 5:85)

1843. Fremont’s writings about his 1842 expedition ... were read by Mormons as early as 1843. ... The narrative and map ... arrived in Nauvoo before the death of the Prophet” (Baugh, 64+)

1844 Feb 20. “I instructed the Twelve Apostles to send out a delegation and investigate the locations of California and Oregon, and hunt out a good location, where we can remove to after the temple is completed, and where we can build a city in a day, and have a government of our own, get up into the mountains, where the devil cannot dig us out, and live in a healthful climate, where we can live as old as we have a mind to.” (HC 6:222; TPJS 255)

1844 Apr 26. Orson Hyde sent Joseph a letter from Washington, DC. Senator Douglas would send them Fremont’s report and map. The report arrived before Joseph died.

1844 Jun 22. Hyrum said “A company of men are seeking to kill my brother Joseph, and the Lord has warned him to flee to the Rocky Mountains to save his life.” (HC 6:547)

1844 Jun 23. Joseph and others crossed river at night. At daybreak Rockwell sent back for horses so they could “start for the Great Basin in the Rocky Mountains.” They returned to Nauvoo at 5:30 PM. (HC 6:548, 552)

Joseph “came to our home and stopped in our carpenter shop and stood by the turning lathe. I went and got my map for him ‘Now’ he said, ‘I will show you the travels of this people.’ He then showed our travels through Iowa, and said, ‘Here you will make a place for the winter; and here you will travel west until you come to the valley of the Great Salt Lake! You will build cities to the North and to the South, and to the East and to the West; and you will become a great and wealthy people in that land.’”

1844 Jun 27. Joseph and Hyrum murdered at Carthage.

After the martyrdom and before leaving Nauvoo, the *Times and Seasons*, *Nauvoo Neighbor*, and *Millennial Star* carried numerous excerpts on western travel to the Rocky Mountain region.

1845 Aug 28. Brigham's letter saying that the main "settlement will probably be in the neighborhood of [the Great Salt Lake] as that is represented as a most delightful district and no settlement near there."

1845 Sept 9. The Council of 50 "resolved that a company of 1500 men be selected to go to the Great Salt Lake Valley and that a committee ... gather information." (HC 7:439)

1845 Oct 4. A committee reported on the necessary provisions for outfitting the Saints on their projected journey. (HC 7:454)

1845. Brigham and others studied John C. Fremont's maps and reports of 1842 and 1843.

1845 Dec 20. Brigham and others "heard FD Richards read *Fremont's Journal*, giving an account of his travels to California."

1845 Dec 26. "Emigration to California" discussed (HC 7:556)

1845 Dec 29. PP Pratt read Fremont's Journal to Brigham and Heber C. Kimball (HC 7:556)

1845 Dec 30. Pioneer Company of 1000 to go first "to find a proper location and put in seed early in the summer. ... The 'Upper California' was sung." (HC 7:556)

1845 Dec 31. Brigham and Heber C. Kimball "examined maps with reference to selecting a location for the Saints west of the Rocky Mountains, and reading various works written by travelers in those regions. (HC 7:558)

1846 Jul 15. Brigham suggested to Battalion members that they work in California when discharged. "He said the next Temple would be built in the Rocky Mountains."

1846 Jul 18. "After telling [the officers] that they would have no fighting to do, [Brigham] said that 'the saints would go into the Great Basin, which was the place to build temples.'"

1846 Nov 15. Brigham "related a dream he had 'concerning the Rocky Mountains' and promised that all 'should go in safety over the mountains'"

1847 Feb 23. Joseph appeared to Brigham in a dream and said, "Tell the people to be humble and faithful, and ... keep the spirit of the Lord and it will lead them right. Be careful and not turn away the small voice; it will teach you what to do and where to go. ... They can tell the Spirit of the Lord from all other spirits; it will whisper peace and joy to their souls; it will take malice, hatred, strife and all evil from their hearts; and their whole desire will be to do good, bring forth righteousness and build up the kingdom."

4. Camp Organization (14 Jan. 1847; D&C 136:1–16)

The Word and Will of the Lord concerning the Camp of Israel in their journeyings to the West: ²Let all the people ... ³be organized into companies... with captains of hundreds,... fifties, and... tens, with a president and his two counselors at their head, *under the direction of the Twelve Apostles.* ...

⁵Let each company provide themselves with all ... necessities for the journey. ... Take teams, seeds, and farming utensils, ... to prepare for putting in spring crops. ... ⁸Bear an equal proportion ... in taking the poor, the widows, the fatherless, and the families of those ... [in] the army. ... ⁹Prepare houses, and fields for raising grain, for those who are to remain behind this season. ¹⁰Let every man use all his influence and property to remove this people to the place where the Lord shall locate a stake of Zion. ¹¹And if ye do this with a pure heart, in all faithfulness, ... you shall be blessed in your flocks, ... fields, ... houses, and ... families.

5. Saints commanded to live gospel (D&C 136:17–27)

Go ... and do as I have told you, and fear not thine enemies; for they shall not have power to stop my work. ¹⁸Zion shall be redeemed in mine own due time. ¹⁹And if any man shall seek to

build up himself, and seeketh not my counsel, he shall have no power, and his folly shall be made manifest. ²⁰Seek ye; and keep all your pledges one with another; and covet not that which is thy brother's. ... ²³Cease to contend one with another; cease to speak evil one of another. ²⁴Cease drunkenness; and let your words tend to edifying one another. ²⁵... Restore that which thou hast borrowed. ... ²⁶If thou shalt find that which thy neighbor has lost, ... deliver it to him again. ²⁷Thou shalt be diligent in preserving what thou hast, that thou mayest be a wise steward.

6. Sing, dance, pray, learn wisdom (D&C 136:28–33)

²⁸If thou art **merry**, praise the Lord with singing, with music, with dancing, and with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. ²⁹If thou art **sorrowful**, call on the Lord thy God with supplication, that your souls may be **joyful**. ... ³¹My people must be tried in all things, that they may be prepared to receive the glory that I have for them ... and he that will not bear chastisement is not worthy of my kingdom. ³²Let him that is ignorant learn wisdom by humbling himself and calling upon the Lord his God, that his eyes may be opened that he may see, and his ears opened that he may hear; ... ⁴²Be diligent in keeping all my commandments, lest judgments come upon you, and your faith fail you, and your enemies triumph over you.

7. Why prophets slain (D&C 136:34–37)

³⁴Thy brethren have rejected you and your testimony, even the nation that has driven you out; ³⁵And now cometh the day of their calamity,... ³⁶For they killed the prophets, and them that were sent unto them. ... ³⁹Many have marveled because of [Joseph's] death; but it was needful that he should seal his testimony with his blood, that he might be honored and the wicked ... condemned.

8. Follow the prophet and the majority of the Twelve

Mosiah Hancock as a boy: "I said ..., '... I will be as true to young Joseph, the Prophet's son.' ... My father ... said, 'No, Mosiah, for God has shown to Brother Joseph that his son ... will be the means of drawing many people away from this Church. ... Brother Joseph gave us to understand that it was our duty to follow the Twelve. The majority of this people will be right.'"

Joseph: "The majority of this people will never go astray; and as long as you keep with the majority you are sure to enter the celestial kingdom." ... "If you will stay with the majority of the Twelve Apostles, and the records of the Church, you will never be led astray." (TPC:JS 324)

9. The Exodus of Israel and the exodus of the Saints

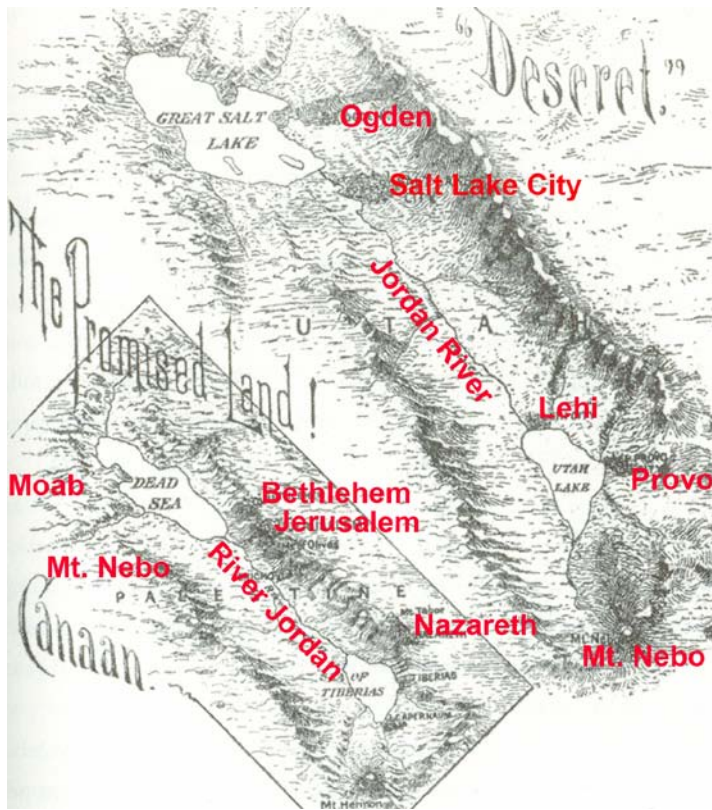
- A prophet named Joseph preceded Brigham and Moses. Both had leadership training (Zion's Camp, moving Saints to Ill.)
- Similar organization (12 apostles; 70s; 100s, 50s, 10s)
- Civil and religious law united under a prophet.
- Dissension among leaders and followers.
- Miracles:

- Walked across a river
- Quail provided to feed hungry people
- Seagulls ate crickets to save crops (manna, rock water)
- God sent plagues on enemies and preserved His people.

f. Spiritual tests and blessings

- Trials of faith in God and in His Prophet.
- Sickness, death, rebellion, apostasy
- Delivered from bondage and persecution
- Left homes and possessions. Lived in temporary housing.
- Divine protection and guidance to Promised Land.
- Temple covenants and ordinances.
- Temple built in the tops of the mountains

(Russell M. Nelson, *Ensign*, Jul 1999, 7)



10. Promised Lands: Crossroads of the East and West

Early Mormons in the 1800s saw similarities between the Utah and the Holy Land, based on maps and memories. Some visited Israel in 1841. This 1896 map shows the Great Salt Lake area and an upside-down Dead Sea region side-by-side.

- Both the Great Salt Lake (GSL) and Dead Sea (HEB Sea of Salt) have enough salt that bathers can float like a cork.
- The GSL and Dead Sea are both fed by fresh waters from "Jordan" rivers — the River Jordan from the Sea of Galilee in the Near East and the Jordan River coming out of Utah Lake.
- Both Jerusalem and Salt Lake City are situated similarly along the shores of their salty seas.
- Many believed America to be a promised land, and Mormons also thought of Utah as their promised land.
- The two regions are bordered by mountains and a desert. Mountains are symbols of revelation and uplift, while deserts represent wilderness challenges. Mount Nebo is somewhat like the Golan Heights.
- Some place names in Utah not only represent the Book of Mormon (e.g., Nephi, Manti, Bountiful) but also the Bible (e.g., Mount Nebo, Moab)
- Jerusalem and Israel have a temple square.

(Dr. Richard V. Francaviglia, *Deseret News*, 25 Sept. 2004)

George Albert Smith: I do not know of any place where people have more comforts and blessings than we do right here in this place that 103 years ago was a desert land, with only one tree growing in this valley. My grandfather came with the first company of pioneers. There were 143 men, three women, and two children. After he had been here for five or six years, one of his non Mormon friends asked him, "President Smith, why did you leave Nauvoo and all that fine country back there in New York and Missouri and come out to this God-forsaken land?" The reply of my grandfather was, "Why, we came here willingly, because we had to." (General Conference, Oct. 1950)

Quotes from M. Russell Ballard (*Ensign*, May 1997, 59, 61)

Their journeys parallel our own. There are lessons for *us* in every footstep they took—lessons of love, courage, commitment, devotion, endurance, and, most of all, faith. ...

Life isn't always easy. At some point in our journey we may feel much as the pioneers did as they crossed Iowa—up to our knees in mud, forced to bury some of our dreams along the way. We all face rocky ridges, with the wind in our face and winter coming on too soon. Sometimes it seems as though there is no end to the dust that stings our eyes and clouds our vision. Sharp edges of despair and discouragement jut out of the terrain to slow our passage. Always, there is a Devil's Gate, which will swing wide open to lure us in. Those who are wise and faithful will steer a course as far from such temptation as possible, while others—sometimes those ... nearest and dearest to us—succumb to the attraction of ease, comfort, convenience, and rest. Occasionally we reach the top of one summit in life, as the pioneers did, only to see more mountain peaks ahead, higher and more challenging than the one we have just traversed. Tapping unseen reservoirs of faith and endurance, we, as did our forebears, inch ever forward toward that day when our voices can join with those of all pioneers who have endured in faith, singing, "All is well! All is well!" ...

Although our journeys today are less demanding physically than the trek of our pioneers 150 years ago, they are no less challenging. Certainly it was hard to walk across a continent to establish a new home in a dry western desert. But who can say if that was any more difficult than is the task of living faithful, righteous lives in today's confusingly sinful world, where the trail is constantly shifting and where divine markers of right and wrong are being replaced by political expediency and diminishing morality. The road we travel today is treacherous, and the scriptures tell us it will continue to be so until the very end. But our reward will be the same as that which awaits worthy pioneers of all ages who live faithfully the teachings of ... Christ, make right choices, and give their all to build the kingdom of God. ...

We are the inheritors of a tremendous heritage. Now it is our privilege and responsibility to be part of the Restoration's continuing drama, and there are great and heroic stories of faith to be written in our day. It will require every bit of our strength, wisdom, and energy to overcome the obstacles that will confront us. But even that will not be enough. We will learn, as did our pioneer ancestors, that it is only in faith—*real* faith, whole-souled, tested and tried—that we will find safety and confidence as we walk our own perilous pathways through life."

Come, Come, Ye Saints (Text: William Clayton)

1. Come, come, ye Saints, no toil nor labor fear;
But with joy wend your way.
Though hard to you this journey may appear,
Grace shall be as your day.
'Tis better far for us to strive
Our useless cares from us to drive;
Do this, and joy your hearts will swell—
All is well! All is well!
2. Why should we mourn or think our lot is hard?
'Tis not so; all is right.
Why should we think to earn a great reward
If we now shun the fight?
Gird up your loins; fresh courage take.
Our God will never us forsake;
And soon we'll have this tale to tell—
All is well! All is well!