

# Section 30

---

Section 28 resolved the tension Joseph felt between him and Oliver Cowdery and the Whitmers. The second quarterly conference of the young Church of Christ, held in September 1830 at the Whitmer home in Fayette, New York, culminated when “the Holy Ghost came upon us, and filled us with joy unspeakable; and peace, and faith, and hope, and charity abounded in our midst.” In that setting, Joseph received revelations for Whitmer brothers David, Peter Jr., and John.

David, the Lord said, had misplaced his devotion and his faith. Rather than loving God with all his mind, he became preoccupied with the things of the earth. Here the Lord is probably not accusing David of being worldly. The Lord uses the word *world*, as in D&C 1:16, when he wants to describe the fallen earth, to suggest evil, or what we might call *worldliness*. The revelations use the word *earth* positively. The world is bad; the earth is good. What, then, is the problem? David's priorities. He is a farmer. It is harvest time. He is preoccupied with dirt and crops instead of their “Maker.” David is looking down rather than up. His earthly cares have led him to neglect his commission to harvest souls (D&C 14: 17; 18).

Peter remembered that “the word of the Lord came unto me by the Prophet Joseph Smith . . . saying Peter thou shalt go with Brother Oliver to the Lamanites.”<sup>1</sup> Peter covenanted to obey the command, and he did, traveling nearly 1,000 miles, trudging

---

<sup>1</sup> Peter Whitmer Jr., Journal, Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, UT.

much of it through snow. As with so many missionaries, they did not succeed as they hoped. Baptist missionaries and government agents opposed their efforts, and they eventually returned east without converting any Native Americans. Taking the Book of Mormon to that remnant of Israel would have to wait. Meanwhile, the missionaries had great success with another intended audience of the Book of Mormon. “Strange as it may appear,” a northern Ohio newspaper reported,

it is an unquestionable fact, that this singular sect have, within three or four weeks, made many proselytes in this county. The number of believers in the faith, in three or four of the northern townships, is said to exceed one hundred—among whom are many intelligent and respectable individuals.<sup>2</sup>

The Lord calls John Whitmer to proclaim the gospel like a trumpeter. Using the home of the friendly Philip Burroughs as a headquarters, John is to labor for Zion with his whole soul, preaching the gospel without fear, for the Lord is with him. Early missionaries had success preaching the gospel at the Burroughs home in Seneca Falls, New York.<sup>3</sup> John apparently did so for about six months, from this September 1830 calling until his March 1831 calling to keep a history and transcribe for Joseph (see section 47).

---

<sup>2</sup> *Western Courier* (Ravenna, Ohio), May 26, 1831. Levi Jackman wrote that “something like one hundred persons joined the Church from that place [Kirtland], with many other branches of the Church organized in adjoining towns and counties. See Jackman, *Autobiography*, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

<sup>3</sup> Scot Facer Procter and Maurine Jensen Procter, editors, *Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt, Revised and Enhanced Edition* (Salt Lake City: Deseret, 2000), 39. Samuel Smith, *Journal*, April 24, 1832, Church History Library, Salt Lake City. Lee Yost to Deidrich Willers, May 18, 1897, cited in Larry C. Porter, “A study of the origins of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the states of New York and Pennsylvania, 1816–1831,” (PhD dissertation, Brigham Young University, 1971), 109.