

Sr. Joseph Smith



***Patriarchal
Blessings by Joseph
Smith Sr., Dated
1834-1840***

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Patriarchal Blessings pronounced by Joseph Smith, senior, a Patriarch, and President of the high priesthood in the church of the Latter Day Saints, organized on the 6th of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and thirty, upon his children, assembled at the house of his son Joseph, on the 9th day of December, 1834, at a feast prepared for that purpose. The congregation being assembled, and presidents Smith's family arranged according to their ages, he made Some remarks, in substance as follows: My children, I am now old, and my head is white: I have seen many years, compared to those enjoyed by many: I am now in my sixty third year, and my frame is feeble because of the many trials and fateagues [fatigues] which I have endured in this life. I have not attained to the age of my fathers, neither do I now Know as I shall, but I desire, and for a long time have, to bless my children before I go hence. It is a source of grief to me that I have not been more faithful to the Lord in days which are passed than I have: I have not always set that example before my family that I ought: I have not been diligent in teaching them the commandments of the Lord, but have rather manifested a light and trifling mind: But in all this I have never denied the Lord. Notwithstanding all this my folly, which has been a cause of grief to my family, the Lord has often visited me in visions and in dreams, and has brought me, with my family, through many afflictions, and I this day thank his holy name. I look round upon you before me and I behold a lack: three seats are, as it were, empty. The Lord, in his just providence has taken from me, at an untimely birth, a son: this has been a matter of affliction;

but the Lord's ways are just. My next son, Alvin, as you all are aware, was taken from us in the vigour [vigor] of life, in the bloom of youth: My heart often mourns his loss, but I have not disposition to complain against the Lord. Another has been taken also in his infancy. I pray that my loss may be abundantly supplied, and made up in additional blessings, and that his grace may attend me, and his Holy Spirit be shed abro[a]d in my heart that I may pronounce such blessings upon your heads as will be fulfilled. After this the assembly joined in prayer, president Sidney Rigdon taking the lead. [Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:1]

Hyrum Smith

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The blessing of Hyrum Smith who was born in Tunbridge, Orange County, Vermont, February 9, 1800: Hyrum, thou art my oldest son whom the Lord has spared unto me: my eldest was taken at an untimely age, but thy next brother, whom thou didst love, around whose heart thine affections were twined, has been taken in the vigor of youth, even in the morning of his days: his seat is vacant this day, but his spirit is at rest. Wo be to the man who sought his fall, by which means he was deprived of leaving seed to rise up in his inheritance to call him blessed. I, therefore, that his name may not be forgotten, make this mention of him, in thy blessing, that it may be recorded with the same, for my posterity to look upon; and as you are now my eldest, your seed may look upon this in after years and remember the sorrows of thy father, and the sorrows of my family: God is

just, and he will reward the enemy of my son four fold [fold]. So much I have found in my heart to say, to perpetuate the memory of thy brother, who was an upright man. Behold, thou art Hyrum; the Lord has called thee by that name, and by that name he has blessed thee. Thou has borne the burthen [burden] and heat of the day; thou hast toiled hard and labored much for the good of thy father's family: thou has been a stay many times to them, and by thy diligence they have often been sustained: Thou hast loved thy father's family with a pure love, and hast greatly desired their salvation: Thou has always stood by thy father, and reached forth the helping hand to lift him up when he was in affliction; and though he has been out of the way, through wine,¹ thou has never forsaken him nor laughed him to scorn: for all these kindnesses the Lord my God will bless thee. I now ask my heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, to bless thee with the same blessings with which Jacob blessed his son Joseph; for thou art his true descendant, and thy posterity shall be numbered with the house of Ephraim, and with them thou shalt stand up to crown the tribes of Israel, when they come shouting to Zion. Thou shalt live to see thy Redeemer come in the clouds of heaven; and thou shalt lift up thy head with gladness, and hail the holy throng with uplifted hands. Thou shalt stand before kings and rulers, and bear testimony of the Lord: Thou shalt proclaim the gospel to many nations, and bring many souls to the knowledge of the truth: Thou art numbered with the horns of Joseph; for thou shalt push many people together: Thou shalt escape the hands of thine enemies, and triumph over all who oppose thy way, in truth.

Thou shalt be blessed with the good things of this earth in rich abundance: the Lord will multiply his choice blessings upon thee and thy seed after thee, and thou, with them, shall have an inheritance in Zion; and they shall possess it from generation to generation, and thy name shall never be blotted out from among the just; for the righteous shall rise up, and also thy children after thee, and say thy memory is just - that thou wert a just man, and perfect in thy day. Thy name is written in heaven, and thy salvation sealed on high, even so. Amen. [Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:1-2]

1 The words "through wine" were afterwards crossed out, presumably to lessen the thought that Joseph Smith Sr. drank liquor. The words "Salt Lake City" were written on the side of Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:20. On a copy of Hyrum Smith's blessing in Patriarchal Blessing Book 2:2, the words "and though he has been out of the way through wine" were crossed out.

Jerusha Smith

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Jerusha Smith, wife of Hyrum Smith, was born * [See the close]

Jerusha, my daughter-in-law, the Lord will reward the[e] for all thy labors and toils. Thou hast had many sorrows in consequence of the hardness of the hearts of thy father's family; and thou hast sought, by prayer, before the Lord, mercy for them: and notwithstanding they have openly rebelled against the truth, and knowingly turned from the light of heaven, yet some of them will be saved; but it will

be through great tribulation. Thou shalt be blessed with thy husband; and his joy shall be thy joy: Thy heart shall be lifted up for him while he is far off, and thou shalt be comforted. The Lord will watch over thee and thy children, and in the times of thy sorrow the angels shall minister unto thee. Thy children shall be blessed, and thy children's children to the latest generation. Thy name is recorded on high, and thou shalt rise with the just to meet the Lord in the air, even so. Amen.

* Jerusha Smith was born in Norfolk Litchfield County Connecticut, February 15, 1805.

Oliver Cowdery, Clerk and Recorder. Kirtland, Geauga County, Ohio, December 9, 1834. [Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:2]

Calvin W. Stoddard

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Calvin W. Stoddard, son-in law of Joseph Smith senior, was born in Palmyra, Ontario County, N.Y. September 7, 1801. Before laying hands upon this son-in-law, president Smith exhorted him to humble himself before the Lord, and to repent of his sins: he had been excommunicated from the Church and rebaptized, and was at this time out of the Church. Calvin, my son-in-law, thou hast conducted foolishly, and suffered the devil to toss the[e] about, and to sift thee many times. The church has been grieved with thy conduct, and thy family has been sorely afflicted because of thy wickedness. The Lord has given thee a talent, and he

will require an account of the same in eternity. Thou must repent and seek forgiveness, which if you do, and continue faithful, the Lord will yet give thee a mission, and thou mayest bring souls unto the Lord's Kingdom. I lay my hands upon thy head, to pronounce upon thee a father's blessing, because thou hast no earthly father in the church, and I say that inasmuch as thou shalt humble thyself and keep the commandments of the Lord thou shalt be blessed with a place and an inheritance among the saints, and thy seed after thee, and thy name shall not be blotted out from among men, and thou shalt be saved in the kingdom of God. Amen. [Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:2-3]

Sophronia Stoddard

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Sophrona Stoddard was born in Tunbridge, Orange County Vermont, May 16, 1803. Sophrona, my daughter, The Lord has seen fit in his providence, to afflict you with much sickness, and much sorrow, because of the conduct of thy husband; but I pronounce the blessing of thy father Jacob upon thee, and thou shalt have a name and a place in thy father's family, because of thy tears and prayers, for thou hast prevailed unto the obtaining this blessing: Thou shalt yet be comforted, for the days of thy tribulation shall have an end, and the time of thy rejoicing shall come; and thou shalt be blessed with an abundance of the good things of this life. Thou art blessed and shall be blessed, and saved in the kingdom of heaven. Amen. Oliver Cowdery, Clerk and

Recorder. Kirtland, Ohio, December 9, 1834. [Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:3]

Joseph Smith Jr.

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Joseph Smith, junior was born in Sharon, Windsor County, Vermont, December 23, 1805. Joseph, my son, I lay my hands upon thy head in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to confirm upon thee a father's blessing. The Lord thy God has called thee by name out of the heavens: Thou hast heard his voice from on high from time to time, even in thy youth. The hand of the angel of his presence has been extended toward thee by which thou hast been lifted up and sustained; yea, the Lord has delivered thee from the hands of thine enemies and thou hast been made to rejoice in his salvation: thou hast sought to know his ways, and from thy childhood thou hast meditated much upon the great things of his law. Thou hast suffered much in thy youth, and the poverty and afflictions of thy father's family have been a grief to thy soul. Thou hast desired to see them delivered from bondage, for thou hast loved them with a perfect love. Thou hast stood by thy father, and like Shem, would have covered his nakedness, rather than see him exposed to shame: when the daughters of the Gentiles laughed, thy heart has been moved with a just anger to avenge thy kindred. Thou hast been an obedient Son: the commands of thy father and the reproofs of thy mother, thou hast respected and obeyed—for all these things the Lord my God will bless thee. Thou hast been called, even in thy youth to

the great work of the Lord: to do a work in this generation which no other man would do as thyself, in all things according to the will of the Lord. A marvelous work and a wonder has the Lord wrought by thy hand, even that which shall prepare the way for the remnants of his people to come in among the Gentiles, with their fulness, as the tribes of Israel are restored. I bless thee with the blessings of thy fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and even the blessings of thy father Joseph, the son of Jacob. Behold, he looked after his posterity in the last days, when they should be scattered and driven by the Gentiles, and wept before the Lord: he sought diligently to know from whence the Son should come who should bring forth the word of the Lord, by which they might be enlightened, and brought back to the true fold, and his eyes beheld thee, my son: his heart rejoiced and his soul was satisfied, and he said. As my blessings are to extend to the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills; as my father's blessing prevailed above the blessings of his progen[i]tors, and as my branches are to run over the wall, and my seed are to inherit the choice land whereon the Zion of God shall stand in the last days, from among my seed, scattered with the Gentiles, shall a choice Seer arise whose bowels shall be as a fountain of truth, whose loins shall be girded with the girdle of righteousness, whose hands shall be lifted with acceptance before the God of Jacob to turn away his anger from his annointed, whose heart shall meditate great wisdom, whose intelligence shall circumscribe and comprehend the deep things of God, and whose mouth shall utter the law of the just: His feet shall stand upon the neck of his enemies, and he shall walk upon

the ashes of those who seek his destruction: with wine and oil shall he be sustained, and he shall feed upon the heritage of Jacob his father: the just shall desire his society, and the upright in heart shall be his companions: No weapon formed against him shall prosper, and though the wicked mar him for a little season, he shall be like one rising up in the heat of wine - he shall roar in his strength, and the Lord shall put to flight his persecutors: he shall be blessed like the fruitful olive, and his memory shall be as sweet as the choice cluster of the first ripe grapes. Like a shief [sheaf] fully ripe, gathered into the garner, so shall he stand before the Lord, having produced a hundred fold. Thus spake my father Joseph. Therefore, my son, I know for a surety that those things will be fulfilled, and I confirm upon thee all these blessings. Thou shalt like to do the work which the Lord shall command thee: thou shalt hold the Keys of this ministry, even the presidency of this church, both in time and in eternity. Thy heart shall be enlarged, and thou shalt be able to fill up the measure of thy days according to the will of the Lord. Thou shalt speak the word of the Lord and the earth shall tremble; the mountains shall move and the rivers shall turn out of their course. Thou shalt escape the edge of the sword, and put to flight the armies of the wicked. At thy word the lame shall walk, the deaf shall hear and the blind shall see. Thou shalt be gathered to Zion and in the goodly land thou shalt enjoy thine inheritance; thy children and thy children's children to the latest generation; for thy name and the names of thy posterity shall be recorded in the book of the Lord, even in the book of blessings and genealogies, for their joy and benefit forever.

And now, my son, what more shall I say? Thou art as a fruitful olive and a choice vine: thou shalt be laden with precious fruit. Thousands and tens of thousands shall come to a knowledge of the truth through thy ministry, and thou shalt rejoice with them in the Celestial Kingdom: Thou shalt stand upon the earth when it shall reel to and fro as a drunken man, and be removed out of its place: thou shalt stand when the mighty judgments go forth to the destruction of the wicked: thou shalt stand on mount Zion when the tribes of Jacob come shouting from the north, and with thy brethren, the Sons of Ephraim, crown them in the name of Jesus Christ: Thou shalt see thy Redeemer Come in the clouds of heaven, and with the just receive the hallowed throng with shouts of hallalujahs, praise the Lord. Amen [Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:3-4]

Emma Smith

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Emma Smith, wife of Joseph Smith, jr was born in Harmony, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, July 10, 1804. Emma, my daughter-in-law, thou art blessed of the Lord, for thy faithfulness and truth: thou shalt be blessed with thy husband and rejoice in the glory which shall come upon him: Thy soul has been afflicted because of the wickedness of men in seeking the destruction of thy companion, and thy whole soul has been drawn out in prayer for his deliverance: rejoice, for the Lord thy God has heard thy sup[p]lication. Thou hast grieved for the hardness of the hearts of thy father's house, and thou hast longed for

their salvation. The Lord will have respect to thy cries, and by his judgments he will cause some of them to see their folly and repent of their sins; but it will be by affliction that they will be saved. Thou shalt see many days; yea, the Lord will spare thee till thou are satisfied, for thou shalt see thy Redeemer. Thy heart shall rejoice in the great work of the Lord, and no one shall take thy rejoicing from thee. Thou shalt ever remember the great condescension of thy God in permitting thee to accompany my son when the angel delivered the record of the Nephites to his care. Thou hast seen much sorrow because the Lord has taken from thee three of thy children: in this thou art not to be blamed, for he knows thy pure desires to raise up a family, that the name of my son might be blessed. And now, behold, I say unto thee, that thus says the Lord, if thou will believe, thou shalt yet be blessed in this thing and thou shalt bring forth other children, to the joy and satisfaction of thy soul, and to the rejoicing of thy friends. Thou shalt be blessed with understanding, and have power to instruct thy sex. Teach thy family righteousness, and thy little ones the way of life, and the holy angels shall watch over thee: and thou shalt be saved in the kingdom of God; even so. Amen. Oliver Cowdery, Clerk and Recorder. Kirtland, December 9, 1834. [Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:4-5]

Samuel Harrison Smith

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Samuel H. Smith was born in Tunbridge, Orange County, Vermont, March 13, 1808. Samuel, my son, thou art loved of

the Lord: thy faithfulness and truth have come up before him with acceptance, and thy name is recorded on high. Thou hast been faithful in all thy days, and ministered comfort to thy father's family. Thy soul has been moved for their good and when the oppressor has come in to take sway, a just indignation has filled thy bosom. Thou hast labored much and toiled hard, and thou hast had a pure desire for the good of thy kindred.—This was just, and thou shalt have thy reward, for it shall be recorded in the book of the blessed, and the just shall rise up and call thee a perfect man. Thou art blessed of the Lord, for thou shalt hear his voice saying, Samuel, Samuel. Thou shalt be equal with thy brethren, and thine inheritance shall be like unto theirs: even the blessings of thy fathers shall rest upon thee, and the fut [fruit] of the land shall be given for thy sustenance. Thy seed shall be blessed, and thy seed's seed, after thee, till the last generation, upon a land flowing with milk huney [honey]. Thou shalt do good in thy day: the testimony which thou hast borne and shall bear, shall be received by thousands, and thou shalt magnify thy calling and do honor to the holy priesthood. The nations of the earth shall hear thy voise [voice], and the great ones of the Gentles shall tremble in thy presence, because of the mighty power of God which shall attend thee. Thou shalt speak the word, and all things Shall be at thy command: though the tempest rage; though the thunders roar, and though the deep heave itself like mountains, to the clouds, at thy word, in the name of the Lord, they shall be calmed, thou shalt escape, while thy enemies are swallowed up and go down to the pit. Nothing shall harm thee, my son, though the unrighteous

seek to devour, and the workers of iniquity gather themselves for thy destruction, the angel of the Lord will deliver thee, and in his hands thou shalt be borne off safely, that thou be not destroyed. Thou shalt hold communion with the heavenly hosts: thy voice shall ascend up on high, and thy supplication shall have place in the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Thou shalt stand when the overflowing scourge shall pass over – when the destroying angel goes forth. Thou shalt see the heavens open: in visions and in dreams thy mind be matured, and thou shalt stand up in the congregation of the saints and teach them the law of the Lord. Thy soul shall be satisfied with good things, and for a reward of thy righteousness thou shalt stand up in Zion to join thy brethren in crowning the tribes of Israel. Thou shalt be like the fruitful vine, filled with the choice grape, and thou shalt see thy Redeemer come in the clouds of heaven with all the heavenly and holy throng. In the name of Jesus Christ, I seal these blessings upon thee and thy seed after thee; even so. Amen. [Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:5]

Mary Smith

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Mary Smith, wife of Samuel H. Smith, was born in Bedford, Hillsborough County New Hampshire, December 20, 1808. Mary, my daughter-in-law, thou hast been united with my family, and thy heart has believed the testimony of my son, and thou hast been faithful and diligent in keeping the commandments; thou hast left thy father's house, and thy near relatives for the gospel's sake. For this thou are

blessed and shall be blessed. Thou hast sought to know whether thy friends would yet be saved, for thou dost greatly desire the spiritual good of thy kindred: for this thou art blessed, and the Lord will hear thy prayers in their behalf, and they will yet come into thy Kingdom. Thou shalt be blessed with my son, and thy soul shall be satisfied with blessings. When he is afar off, upon the mission of the Lord thou shalt be comforted: thy heart shall be lifted up for him, and the Lord will hear thy prayers. Thou shalt be blessed with many children, and in the absence of thy husband thou shalt teach them the commandments of the Lord, and they shall grow up in righteousness before him. Thou shalt be satisfied with life; for thou shalt live to see thy children grow up to manhood. They shall be a comfort and a strength to thee, and their seed shall rise up and call thee blessed. Thou art sealed up unto eternal life. Amen. Oliver Cowdery, Clerk and Recorder. Kirtland, Ohio, December 9th, 1834. [Patriarchal Blessing Book 1:5]

William Smith

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William Smith was born in Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont, March 13, 1811. William, my son, I lay my hands upon thy head, in the name of Jesus Christ, and confirm upon thee a father's blessing, for thee and thy children after thee, and even thy children's children, down to the end of time; for thou art the fruit of my loins, and I am a descendant of Joseph: therefore, I pronounce the blessings of my fathers upon thee, and thou shalt be numbered in the