

## Chapter 5

### Discourse of the Prophet Joseph Smith

Given on February 14th, 1835

Conference of the church in Kirtland, Ohio

*This discourse comes from a conference that was called by Joseph Smith. The focus of the conference seemed to be to explain more of the Lord's purposes for Zion's camp, congratulate and bless those who served faithfully in it, and to call the first latter-day members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. A summary version of the minutes of this conference were copied into the "Record of the Twelve" by Orson Hyde in early 1835, but not until 1836 was a more complete version, which includes the discourse, copied into Minute Book 1 by Warren Cowdery. In August 1843 it was edited and copied into the Manuscript History by Willard Richards and printed in the Deseret News in December 1851.*

President [Joseph] Smith arose and stated the reason why this meeting was called. It was this. God had commanded it and it was made known to him by vision and by the Holy Spirit. He then gave a relation of some of the circumstances attending [Zion's Camp] while journeying to Zion, our trials, sufferings, etc. He said God had not designed all this for nothing, but he had it in remembrance yet. And [of] those who went to Zion with a determination to lay down their lives if necessary, it was the will of God that they should be ordained to the ministry and go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, or the coming of the Lord, which was nigh, even fifty six years, should wind up the scene.<sup>1</sup> He said many things such as the weak things, even the smallest and weakest among us shall be powerful and mighty; and great things should be accomplished by you, even from this hour. He said, you shall begin to feel the whisperings of the Spirit of God, and the works of God shall begin to break forth from this time. You shall be endowed with power from on high.

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<sup>1</sup> The correct meaning and intent of this last sentence (beginning with "or the coming of the Lord") is not clear, and has been used by critics as an example of a "false prophecy." Fifty six years from the time this was given would be around 1890-1891, close to Joseph Smith's 85th birthday. (D&C 130:14-17)