

4. 2 Peter 1:19.
5. 2 Peter 1:16-18.
6. Matthew 17:1-9.

7. Because there is no source yet found to document the following words, apparently the Church historians, taking the words "rough stone rolling down hill" as a clue that the Prophet was making a self-characterization, expanded this to read,

I am like a huge, rough stone rolling down from a high mountain; and the only polishing I get is when some corner gets rubbed off by coming in contact with something else, striking with accelerated force against religious bigotry, priest-craft, lawyer-craft, doctor-craft, lying editors, suborned judges and jurors, and the authority of perjured executives, backed by mobs, blasphemers, licentious and corrupt men and women—all hell knocking off a corner here and a corner there. Thus I will become a smooth and polished shaft in the quiver of the Almighty, who will give me dominion over all and every one of them, when their refuge of lies shall fail, and their hiding place shall be destroyed, while these smooth-polished stones with which I come in contact become marred.

Apparently the Church historians recalled that Joseph Smith on this or some other occasion made such an autobiographical statement. For whatever reason, they felt justified in inserting this long statement in order to round out the discourse prior to publication. It is obvious though that it would have been impossible for them to recover his exact words more than a decade after the discourse was delivered. The next two notes also deal with considerable expansion of the original text of his discourse. However, in these two cases what was involved was the fleshing out of what were then apparently well known anecdotes and not original concepts by the Prophet.

8. The anecdote of "Columbus and the eggs" referred to in the text, was fleshed out by the Church historians as follows:

I break the ground; I lead the way like Columbus when he was invited to a banquet where he was assigned the most honorable place at the table, and served with the ceremonials which were observed towards sovereigns. A shallow courtier present, who was meanly jealous of him, abruptly asked him whether he thought that in case he had not discovered the Indies, there were not other men in Spain who would have been capable of the enterprise? Columbus made no reply, but took an egg and invited the company to make it stand on end. They all attempted it, but in vain; whereupon he struck it upon the table so as to break one end, and left it standing on the broken part, illustrating that when he had once shown the way to the new world nothing was easier than to follow it.

See the previous note.

9. The expansions of the original texts (referred to in the previous two notes) deal with the theme of reluctance—the reluctance of others to accept Joseph Smith's teachings. Had the Church historians provided an expansion of "Ladder and rainbow" in the same general theme as given in the previous two notes, it probably would not have been a bad guess. For in his 11 June 1843 discourse, Joseph Smith apparently referred to this anecdote again. However, again the original text does not convey the complete thought, though its context is within the same general theme. Specifically, the text (as we have it) says, "I would make you think I was climbing a ladder when I was climbing a rainbow."

10. Comparison made between 2 Peter 1:1, 5-7 and 2 Peter 1:10.

11. 2 Peter 1:2, 3.

12. Another allusion to the concept of the eternity of the marriage covenant. See note 30, this discourse, and 16 July 1843 (2), notes 7 and 10.

13. Acts 1:25.

14. 1 Corinthians 15:41-42.

15. 1 Kings 2:1-11 (cf. Hebrews 11:5); D&C 110:13.

16. Matthew 7:23.

17. 2 Peter 1:16.

18. 2 Peter 1:19.

19. D&C 124:41.

20. 2 Peter 1:1-9.

21. 2 Peter 1:10-11.

22. Psalm 110:1.

23. 2 Corinthians 12:1-4; D&C 76:5-10, 114-18.

24. See note 30, this discourse.

25. 2 Peter 1:10-11.

26. 2 Peter 1:16-19.

27. Comparison between 2 Peter 1:17 and 2 Peter 1:19. This definition of making one's calling and election sure, the definition given in the 27 June 1839 discourse, and the material at note 31 of this discourse are the clearest and most precise explanations of this important spiritual experience.

28. Confirmation of D&C 132:26-27.

29. Abraham 3:26-28.

more all we There are two Keys, one key knowledge. the other make you Calling & election sure, for if you do these things you shall never fall for so an entrance shall be administered unto you abundently into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.<sup>25</sup> We made known unto you the power & coming of our Lord & S. J. Christ were Eye witnesses of his Majesty when he received from God the Father honor & glory when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. this voice which came from heaven we heard when we were with him in the holy Mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy whereunto give heed until the day Star arise in your hearts<sup>26</sup> ~~this is~~ It is one thing to receive knowledge by the voice of God, (this is my beloved Son &c.) & another to Know that you yourself will be saved, to have a positive promise of your own Salvation is making your Calling and Election sure. viz the voice of Jesus saying my beloved thou shalt have eternal life.<sup>27</sup> Brethren never cease struggling until you get this evidence. ¶ Take heed both before and after obtaining this more sure word of Prophecy.<sup>28</sup>

### Franklin D. Richards "Scriptural Items"

Joseph said may 21st Sabbath Salvation is for a man to be saved from all his enemies The 1st chap of 2d Peter is hints of things which are nowhere written. There are things which pertain to the Glory of God & heirship of God with Christ which are not ~~where~~ written in the Bible spirits of the eternal world are diverse from each other as here in their dispositions Aspiring Ambitious &c As man is liable to enemies there as well as here it is necessary for him to be placed beyond their power in order to be saved. This is done by our taking bodies (keeping our first estate)<sup>29</sup> and having the Power of the Resurrection pass upon us whereby we are enabled to gain the ascendancy over the disembodied spirits

The mortification of satan consists in his not being permitted to take a body. He sometimes gets possession of a body but when the proven authorities turn him out of Doors he finds it was not his but a stolen one

Our covenants<sup>30</sup> here are of no force one with another except made in view view of eternity.

### James Burgess Notebook

First Chapter second Epistle of Peter. The first four verses are the preface to the whole subject. There are three grand Keys to unlock the whole subject. First what is the knowledge of God, Second what is it to make our calling and election sure. Third and last is how to make our calling and election sure. Ans, it is to obtain a promise from God for myself that I shall have Eternal life. that is the more sure word of prophycy.<sup>31</sup> Peter was writeing to those of like precious faith with them the Apostles First to be sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise that is the testimony of Jesus Second how is he to get that Holy Spirit; Ans except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God; second except a man be born of water and the spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.<sup>32</sup> Ques. What is it for a man to obtain salvation Ans, It is to triumph over every foe or ascend far above all enemies for the last enimey to conqor is death and untill that is done you have not obtained salvation J. Smith Prophet. Nauvoo.

### Wilford Woodruff Journal

A large Congregation of Saint assembled at the temple & was addressed by President Joseph Smith upon the same subject that he spoke upon at Lima on the 14th<sup>33</sup> in which was interesting in the hiest degree.

### Levi Richards Diary

A.M. attended Meeting at the Temple P. Joseph Smith preached from 1 Chap. 2d Peter "we have a more sure word of prophesy &C" spoke about two hours.

### 11 June 1843 (Sunday Morning). Temple Stand.<sup>1</sup> Joseph Smith Diary, by Willard Richards

10 A. M. at the Temple Stand. Hymn by the Quire. Read 23 Matthew. P. P. Pratt Prayed. Singing.—

Matt. 23. 37. Subject presented me since I come in this house.— I a rough stone, the sound of the hammer & chisel was never heard

# *The Words of Joseph Smith*

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The contemporary accounts of the  
Nauvoo discourses of the Prophet Joseph

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Compiled and edited by  
Andrew F. Ehat and Lyndon W. Cook

With a Foreword by  
Truman G. Madsen

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