

On August 8, 1831, Joseph Smith and several elders prepared to leave Independence, Missouri, and return to Ohio. The Lord instructed the elders to preach the gospel as they traveled—instruction that is now recorded in Doctrine and Covenants 60. On the third day of their journey the company experienced danger on the Missouri River. The next two days, August 12 and 13, the Prophet Joseph Smith received two revelations from the Lord. Those revelations are now recorded in Doctrine and Covenants 61 and 62. They include words of instruction, warning, comfort, and encouragement.

SECTION 60

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, August 8, 1831. On this occasion the elders who had traveled to Jackson County and participated in the dedication of the land and the temple site desired to know what they were to do.

1–9, The elders are to preach the gospel in the congregations of the wicked; 10-14, They should not idle away their time, nor bury their talents; 15–17, They may wash their feet as a testimony against those who reject the gospel.

BEHOLD, thus saith the Lord unto the elders of his church, who are to return speedily to the land from whence they came: Behold, it pleaseth me, that you have come up hither;

2 But with some I am not well pleased, for they will not open their ^amouths, but they hide the ^btalent which I have given unto them, because of the 'fear of man. Wo unto such, for mine danger is kindled against them.

3 And it shall come to pass, if they are not more faithful unto me, it shall be ataken away, even that which they have.

4 For I, the Lord, arule in the heavens above, and among the barmies of the earth; and in the day when I shall make up my 'jewels, all men shall know what it is that bespeaketh the power of God.

5 But, verily, I will speak unto you concerning your journey unto the land from whence you came. Let there be a craft made, or bought, as a seemeth you good, it mattereth

not unto me, and take your journey speedily for the place which is called St. Louis.

6 And from thence let my servants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, take their journey for Cincinnati;

7 And in this place let them lift up their voice and declare my word with loud voices, without wrath or ^adoubting, lifting up holy hands upon them. For I am able to make you bholy, and your sins are forgiven you.

8 And let the residue take their journey from St. Louis, atwo by two, and preach the word, not in haste, among the congregations of the wicked, until they return to the churches from whence they came.

9 And all this for the good of the ^achurches; for this intent have I sent them.

10 And let my servant ^aEdward Partridge impart of the bmoney which I have given him, a portion unto mine elders who are commanded to return;

11 And he that is able, let him return it by the way of the agent; and he that is not, of him it is not required.

12 And now I speak of the residue who are to come unto this land.

13 Behold, they have been sent to preach my gospel among the

congregations of the wicked; wherefore, I give unto them a commandment, thus: Thou shalt not aidle away thy time, neither shalt thou bury thy btalent that it may not be known.

14 And after thou hast come up unto the land of Zion, and hast proclaimed my word, thou shalt speedily return, proclaiming my word among the congregations of the wicked, not in ^ahaste, neither in bwrath nor with cstrife.

15 And shake off the ^adust of thy

feet against those who receive thee not, not in their presence, lest thou ^bprovoke them, but in secret; and ^cwash thy feet, as a testimony against them in the day of judgment.

16 Behold, this is sufficient for you, and the will of him who hath sent you.

17 And by the mouth of my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., it shall be made known concerning Sidney Rigdon and Oliver Cowdery. The residue hereafter. Even so. Amen.

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1-12, The Lord has decreed many destructions upon the waters; 13-22, The waters were cursed by John, and the destroyer rides upon their face; 23–29, Some have power to command the waters; 30–35, Elders are to journey two by two and preach the gospel; 36–39, They are to prepare for the coming of the Son of Man.

BEHOLD, and hearken unto the voice of him who has all apower, who is from everlasting to everlasting, even ^bAlpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

2 Behold, verily thus saith the Lord unto you, O ye elders of my church, who are assembled upon this spot, whose sins are now forgiven you, for I, the Lord, aforgive sins, and

am bmerciful unto those who confess their sins with humble hearts;

3 But verily I say unto you, that it is not needful for this whole company of mine elders to be moving swiftly upon the waters, whilst the inhabitants on either side are perishing in unbelief.

4 Nevertheless, I suffered it that ye might bear record; behold, there are many dangers upon the waters, and more especially hereafter;

5 For I, the Lord, have decreed in mine anger many destructions upon the waters; yea, and especially upon these waters.

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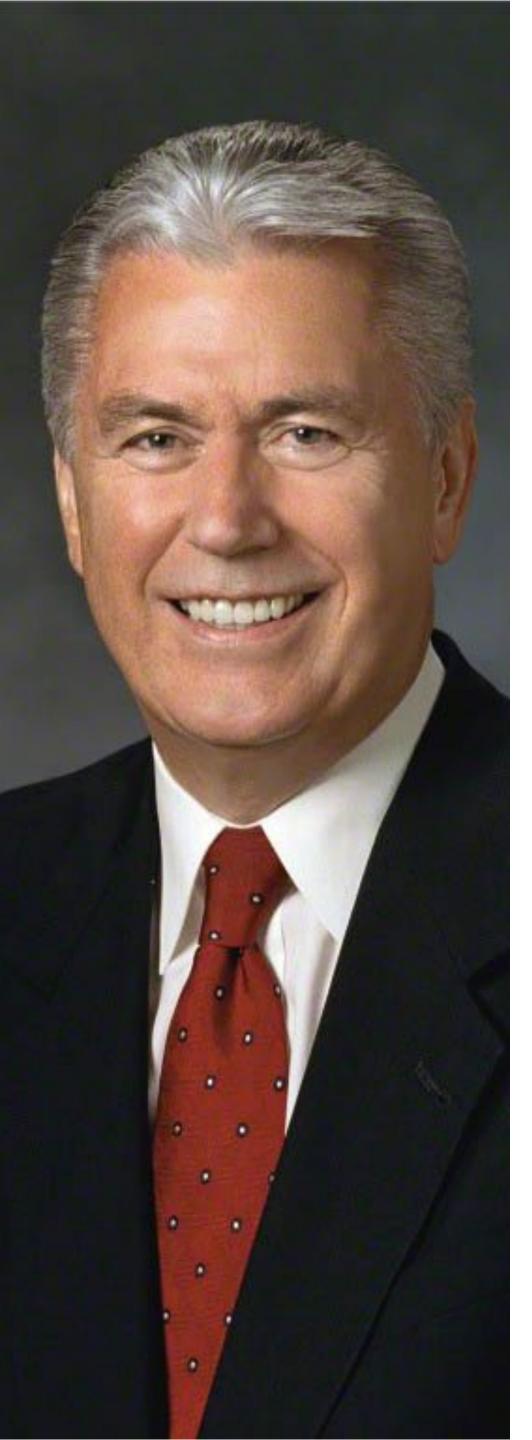
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"My dear young friends, perhaps the Lord's encouragement to 'open [your] mouths' [D&C 60:2] might today include 'use your hands' to blog and text message the gospel to all the world! But please remember, all at the right time and at the right place.

"... With the blessings of modern technology, we can express gratitude and joy about God's great plan for His children in a way that can be heard not only around our workplace but around the world. Sometimes a single phrase of testimony can set events in motion that affect someone's life for eternity.

"The most effective way to preach the gospel is through example. If we live according to our beliefs, people will notice. If the countenance of Jesus Christ shines in our lives, if we are joyful and at peace with the world, people will want to know why. One of the greatest sermons ever pronounced on missionary work is this simple thought attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi: 'Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words' [in William Fay and Linda Evans Shepherd, Share Jesus without Fear (1999), 22]"

(President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Waiting on the Road to Damascus," Apr 2011 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2011, 76–77).

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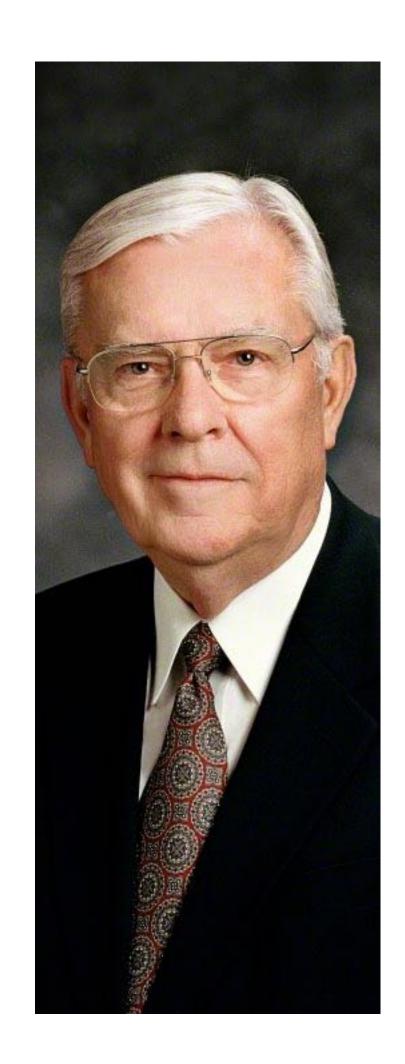
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"One of the ways Satan lessens your effectiveness and weakens your spiritual strength is by encouraging you to spend large blocks of your time doing things that matter very little. I speak of such things as sitting for hours on end watching television or videos, playing video games night in and night out, surfing the Internet, or devoting huge blocks of time to sports, games, or other recreational activities.

"Don't misunderstand me. ... Games, sports, recreational activities, and even television can be relaxing and rejuvenating, especially in times when you are under stress or heavily scheduled. You need activities that help you to unwind and rest your minds. ...

"But I speak of letting things get out of balance. ...

"One devastating effect of idling away our time is that it deflects us from focusing on the things that matter most. Too many people are willing to sit back and let life just happen to them. It takes time to develop the attributes that will help you to be a well-balanced person. ...

"... So focus the best that you can on those things in life that will lead you back to the presence of God—keeping all things in their proper balance"

(Elder M. Russell Ballard, "Be Strong in the Lord," Ensign, July 2004, 13–14).

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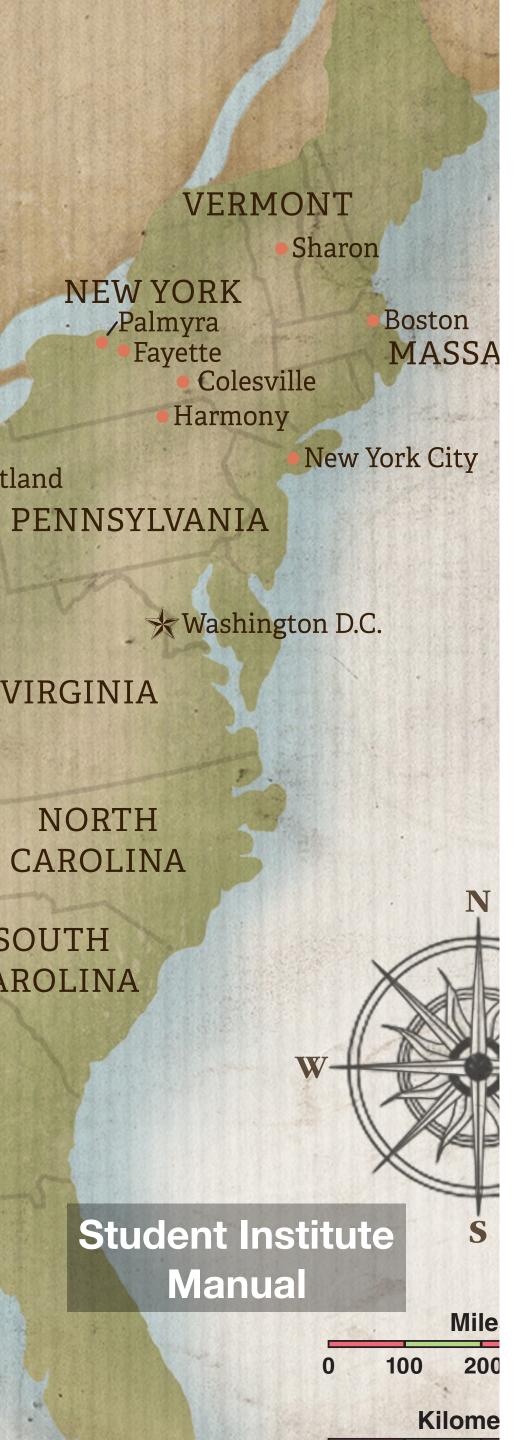
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On August 9, 1831, the Prophet Joseph Smith and 10 elders departed Independence, Missouri, in canoes heading down the Missouri River for St. Louis. The river was difficult to navigate due to the many fallen trees submerged in the river. During the first few days of traveling, there was some conflict that arose in the group, and feelings of discord were present for a time. On the third day of the journey, a submerged tree nearly capsized the canoe that Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon were in. At the Prophet's urging, the group camped on the banks of the Missouri River at a place called McIlwaine's Bend. After leaving the river to make camp, William W. Phelps saw in broad daylight "the Destroyer, in his most horrible power, ride upon the face of the waters" (Manuscript History of the Church, vol. A-1, page 142, josephsmithpapers.org). That evening the group discussed their difficulties, resolved their contentious feelings, and forgave one another. The next morning the Prophet received the revelation recorded in Doctrine and Covenants 61.

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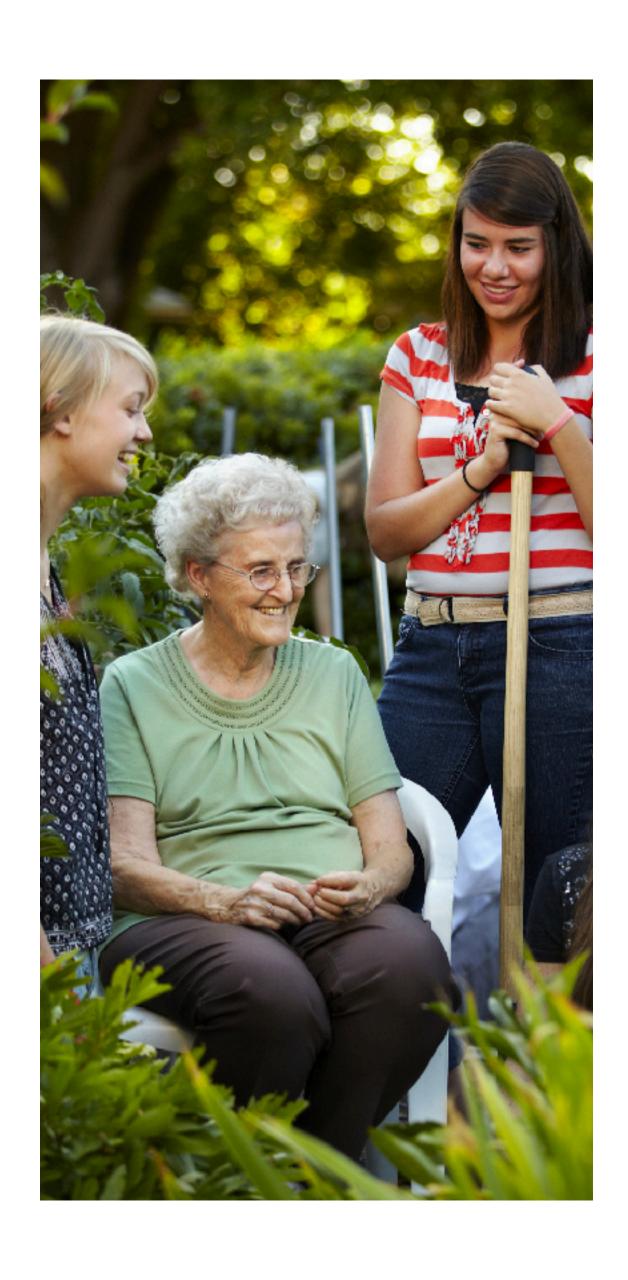
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7 Wherefore, it is expedient that



"How many times has your heart been touched as you have witnessed the need of another? How often have you intended to be the one to help? And yet how often has day-to-day living interfered and you've left it for others to help, feeling that 'oh, surely someone will take care of that need.'

"We become so caught up in the busyness of our lives. Were we to step back, however, and take a good look at what we're doing, we may find that we have immersed ourselves in the 'thick of thin things.' In other words, too often we spend most of our time taking care of the things which do not really matter much at all in the grand scheme of things, neglecting those more important causes"

(President Thomas S. Monson, "What Have I Done for Someone Today?" Oct 2009 GC, Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2009, 85).

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At the time of this revelation, the dangers of the Missouri River included accidents due to difficulties in navigating the waters and contracting cholera, a disease most commonly spread by contaminated water.

-Institute Manual

13 a D&C 42:42. D&C 82:18. c TG Wash.

my servant Sidney Gilbert and my servant ^aWilliam W. Phelps be in haste upon their errand and mission.

8 Nevertheless, I would not suffer that ye should part until you were ^achastened for all your sins, that you might be one, that you might not perish in ^bwickedness;

9 But now, verily I say, it benooveth me that ye should part. Wherefore let my servants Sidney Gilbert and William W. Phelps take their former company, and let them take their journey in haste that they may fill their mission, and through faith they shall overcome;

10 And inasmuch as they are ^afaithful they shall be preserved, and I, the Lord, will be ^bwith them.

11 And let the residue take that which is needful for clothing.

12 Let my servant Sidney Gilbert take that which is not needful with him, as you shall agree.

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19 I, the Lord, have decreed, and the destroyer rideth upon the face thereof, and I revoke not the decree.

20 I, the Lord, was ^aangry with you yesterday, but today mine anger is turned away.

21 Wherefore, let those concerning whom I have spoken, that should take their journey in haste—again I say unto you, let them take their journey in haste.

22 And it mattereth not unto me, after a little, if it so be that they fill their mission, whether they go by water or by land; let this be as it is made known unto them ^aaccording to their judgments hereafter.

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13 And now, behold, for your ^agood I gave unto you a ^bcommandment concerning these things; and I, the Lord, will reason with you as with men in days of old.

14 Behold, I, the Lord, in the beginning blessed the ^awaters; but in the last days, by the mouth of my servant John, I ^bcursed the waters.

15 Wherefore, the days will come that no flesh shall be safe upon the waters.

16 And it shall be said in days to come that none is able to go up to the land of Zion upon the waters, but he that is upright in heart.

17 And, as I, the Lord, in the beginning acursed the land, even so in the last days have I blessed it, in its time, for the use of my saints, that they may partake the fatness thereof.

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23 And now, concerning my servants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, let them come not again upon the waters, save it be upon the canal, while journeying unto their homes; or in other words they shall not come upon the waters to journey, save upon the canal.

24 Behold, I, the Lord, have appointed a way for the journeying of my saints; and behold, this is the way—that after they leave the canal they shall journey by land, inasmuch as they are commanded to journey and go up unto the land of Zion;

25 And they shall do ^alike unto the children of Israel, ^bpitching their tents by the way.

26 And, behold, this commandment you shall give unto all your brethren.

27 Nevertheless, unto whom is given apower to command the

waters, unto him it is given by the Spirit to know all his ways;

28 Wherefore, let him do as the Spirit of the living God commandeth him, whether upon the land or upon the waters, as it remaineth with me to do hereafter.

29 And unto you is given the course for the saints, or the way for the saints of the camp of the Lord, to journey.

30 And again, verily I say unto you, my servants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, shall not open their mouths in the ^acongregations of the wicked until they arrive at Cincinnati;

31 And in that place they shall lift up their voices unto God against that people, yea, unto him whose anger is ^akindled against their wickedness, a people who are well-nigh ^bripened for destruction.

32 And from thence let them journey for the congregations of their brethren, for their labors even now are wanted more abundantly among them than among the congregations of the wicked.

33 And now, concerning the residue, let them journey and ^adeclare

the word among the congregations of the wicked, inasmuch as it is given;

34 And inasmuch as they do this they shall ^arid their garments, and they shall be spotless before me.

35 And let them journey together, or atwo by two, as seemeth them good, only let my servant Reynolds Cahoon, and my servant Samuel H. Smith, with whom I am well pleased, be not separated until they return to their homes, and this for a wise purpose in me.

36 And now, verily I say unto you, and what I say unto one I say unto all, be of good ^acheer, ^blittle children; for I am in your ^cmidst, and I have not ^dforsaken you;

37 And inasmuch as you have humbled yourselves before me, the blessings of the ^akingdom are yours.

38 Gird up your loins and be awatchful and be sober, looking forth for the coming of the Son of Man, for he cometh in an hour you think not.

39 Pray always that you enter not into attemptation, that you may abide the day of his coming, whether in life or in death. Even so. Amen.

SECTION 62

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, on the bank of the Missouri River at Chariton, Missouri, August 13, 1831. On this day the Prophet and his group, who were on their way from Independence to Kirtland, met several elders who were on their way to the land of Zion, and, after joyful salutations, received this revelation.

1-3, Testimonies are recorded in heaven; 4-9, The elders are to travel and preach according to judgment and as directed by the Spirit.

BEHOLD, and hearken, O ye elders of my church, saith the Lord your God, even Jesus Christ, your ^aadvocate, who knoweth the weakness of

31 a TG Provoking.

39*a* TG Temptation.

one I say unto all, that you shall waters, unto him it is given by the my forewarn your brethren concern-Spirit to know all his ways; in ing these waters, that they come 28 Wherefore, let him do as the ion. ffer not in journeying upon them, lest Spirit of the living God commandeth him, whether upon the land or their faith fail and they are caught ere hat upon the waters, as it remaineth in snares; 19 I, the Lord, have decreed, and ght with me to do hereafter. the destroyer rideth upon the face 29 And unto you is given the course thereof and I revoke not the decree eth for the saints, or the way for the saints of the camp of the Lord, to 20 I, the Lord, was ^aangry with you ore yesterday, but today mine anger is and journey. ner turned away. 30 And again, verily I say unto you, my servants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph neir 21 w nerefore, let those concerning fill whom I have spoken, that should Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, take their journey in haste—again shall not open their mouths in the iith I say unto you, let them take their ^acongregations of the wicked until iththey arrive at Cincinnati; journey in haste. d I, 22 And it mattereth not unto me, 31 And in that place they shall lift after a little, if it so be that they fill up their voices unto God against hat their mission, whether they go by that people, yea, unto him whose water or by land; let this be as it is anger is akindled against their wickmade known unto them according edness, a people who are well-nigh pert to their judgments hereafter. ^bripened for destruction. ith 32 And from thence let them jour-23 And now, concerning my servants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith, ney for the congregations of their ood Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, let them brethren, for their labors even now ent are wanted more abundantly among the come not again upon the waters, save it be upon the canal, while ith them than among the congregations journeying unto their homes; or of the wicked. bein other words they shall not come 33 And now, concerning the residue, let them journey and adeclare upon the waters to journey, save t in

112

113

6 61:8–27

the word among the congregations of

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 61:28–62:1

the wicked, inasmuch as it is given; 34 And inasmuch as they do this they shall ^arid their garments, and they shall be spotless before me. 35 And let them journey together

35 And let them journey together, or atwo by two, as seemeth them good, only let my servant Reynolds Cahoon, and my servant Samuel H. Smith, with whom I am well pleased, be not separated until they return to their homes, and this for a wise purpose in me.

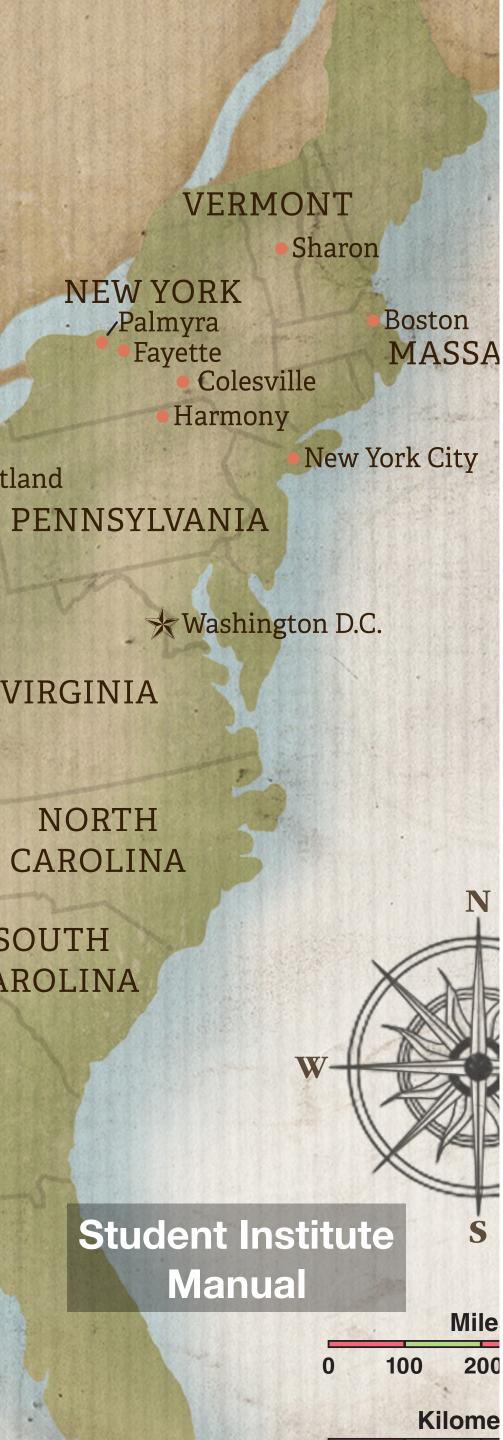
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39 Pray always that you enter not into atemptation, that you may abide the day of his coming, whether in life or in death. Even so. Amen.

61:8-27 112 DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 61:28–62:1 113 one I say unto all, that you shall waters, unto him it is given by the the word among the congregations of my forewarn your brethren concern-Spirit to know all his ways; the wicked, inasmuch as it is given; in ing these waters, that they come 28 Wherefore, let him do as the 34 And inasmuch as they do this ion. ffer they shall arid their garments, and not in journeying upon them, lest Spirit of the living God commandthey shall be spotless before me. their faith fail and they are caught eth him, whether upon the land or ere hat upon the waters, as it remaineth 35 And let them journey together, in snares; 19 I, the Lord, have decreed, and ght with me to do hereafter. or atwo by two, as seemeth them good, only let my servant Reynolds 29 And unto you is given the course the destroyer rideth upon the face eth thereof, and I revoke not the decree. for the saints, or the way for the Cahoon, and my servant Samuel H. ore 20 I, the Lord, was ^aangry with you Smith, with whom I am well pleased, saints of the camp of the Lord, to yesterday, but today mine anger is be not separated until they return and journey. ner turned away. 30 And again, verily I say unto you, to their homes, and this for a wise 21 Wherefore, let those concerning my servants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph ieir purpose in me. fill whom I have spoken, that should Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, 36 And now, verily I say unto you, and what I say unto one I say unto take their journey in haste—again iith shall not open their mouths in the I say unto you, let them take their all, be of good acheer, blittle chil-^acongregations of the wicked until iththey arrive at Cincinnati; dren; for I am in your ^cmidst, and journey in haste. d I, 22 And it mattereth not unto me, 31 And in that place they shall lift I have not ^d forsaken you; after a little, if it so be that they fill up their voices unto God against 37 And inasmuch as you have hat their mission, whether they go by that people, yea, unto him whose humbled yourselves before me, the blessings of the akingdom are vours water or by land; let this be as it is anger is akindled against their wickmade known unto them according edness, a people who are well-nigh 38 Gird up your loins and be pert to their judgments hereafter. ^bripened for destruction. ^awatchful and be sober, looking ith 23 And now, concerning my ser-32 And from thence let them jourforth for the coming of the Son of vants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith, ney for the congregations of their Man, for he cometh in an hour you ood Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, let them think not. brethren, for their labors even now ent the come not again upon the waters, are wanted more abundantly among 39 Pray always that you enter not save it be upon the canal, while ith them than among the congregations into atemptation, that you may abide the day of his coming, whether in journeying unto their homes; or of the wicked. bein other words they shall not come 33 And now, concerning the resilife or in death. Even so. Amen. upon the waters to journey, save due, let them journey and adeclare t in



On August 13, 1831, the Prophet Joseph Smith and the elders traveling with him to Kirtland, Ohio, met Hyrum Smith, John Murdock, Harvey Whitlock, and David Whitmer at Chariton, Missouri. These elders had not yet reached Independence, Missouri, partly because they had been preaching the gospel along the way and partly because John Murdock's illness delayed travel. Joseph Smith later recounted that "after the joyful salutations with which brethren meet each other" he received the revelation recorded in Doctrine and Covenants 62 (in Manuscript History of the Church, vol. A-1, page 145, josephsmithpapers.org).

de not separated until they return to their homes, and this for a wise purpose in me.

30 And again, verily I say unto you, my servants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, shall not open their mouths in the ^acongregations of the wicked until they arrive at Cincinnati;

31 And in that place they shall lift up their voices unto God against that people, yea, unto him whose anger is akindled against their wickedness, a people who are well-nigh ^bripened for destruction.

32 And from thence let them journey for the congregations of their brethren, for their labors even now are wanted more abundantly among them than among the congregations of the wicked.

33 And now, concerning the residue, let them journey and adeclare

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SECTION 62

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1-3, Testimonies are recorded in heaven; 4–9, The elders are to travel and preach according to judgment and as directed by the Spirit.

Behold, and hearken, O ye elders of my church, saith the Lord your God, even Jesus Christ, your ^aadvocate, who knoweth the weakness of

30*a* Micah 6:10 (10–15); D&C 62:5; 68:1. 31 a TG Provoking. b Alma 37:31; Hel. 13:14; D&C 101:11. 33 a TG Preaching. 34a 2 Ne. 9:44;

35*a* Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1; D&C 52:10; 62:5. TG Missionary Work. 36a TG Cheerful. b John 13:33. c Matt. 18:20; 28:20 (19–20).

37a D&C 50:35; 62:9. 38a TG Watch. 39*a* TG Temptation. **62** 1*a* D&C 45:3. TG Jesus Christ, Advocate; Jesus Christ, Relationships

man and how to bsuccor them who are ctempted.

2 And verily mine eyes are upon those who have not as yet gone up unto the land of Zion; wherefore your mission is not yet full.

3 Nevertheless, ye are ^ablessed, for the btestimony which ye have borne is ^crecorded in heaven for the angels to look upon; and they rejoice over you, and your ^dsins are forgiven you.

4 And now continue your journey. Assemble yourselves upon the land of aZion; and hold a meeting and rejoice together, and offer a bsacrament unto the Most High.

5 And then you may return to bear record, yea, even altogether, or atwo by two, as seemeth you good, it mattereth not unto me; only be faithful, and bdeclare glad tidings unto the

inhabitants of the earth, or among the ^ccongregations of the wicked.

6 Behold, I, the Lord, have brought you together that the promise might be fulfilled, that the faithful among you should be preserved and rejoice together in the land of Missouri. I, the Lord, apromise the faithful and cannot blie.

7 I, the Lord, am willing, if any among you adesire to ride upon horses, or upon mules, or in chariots, he shall receive this blessing, if he receive it from the hand of the Lord, with a bthankful heart in all things.

8 These things remain with you to do according to judgment and the directions of the Spirit.

9 Behold, the akingdom is yours. And behold, and lo, I am bwith the faithful always. Even so. Amen.

SECTION 63

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Kirtland, Ohio, August 30, 1831. The Prophet, Sidney Rigdon, and Oliver Cowdery had arrived in Kirtland on August 27 from their visit to Missouri. Joseph Smith's history describes this revelation: "In these infant days of the Church, there was a great anxiety to obtain the word of the Lord upon every subject that in any way concerned our salvation; and as the land of Zion was now the most important temporal object in view, I enquired of the Lord for further information upon the gathering of the Saints, and the purchase of the land, and other matters."

SECTION 60

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, August 8, 1831. On this occasion the elders who had traveled to Jackson County and participated in the dedication of the land and the temple site desired to know what they were to do.

1–9, The elders are to preach the gospel in the congregations of the wicked; 10–14, They should not idle away their time, nor bury their talents; 15–17, They may wash their feet as a testimony against those who reject the gospel.

BEHOLD, thus saith the Lord unto the elders of his church, who are to return speedily to the land from whence they came: Behold, it pleaseth me, that you have come up hither;

2 But with some I am not well pleased, for they will not open their amouths, but they hide the btalent which I have given unto them, because of the fear of man. Wo unto such, for mine anger is kindled against them.

3 And it shall come to pass, if they are not more faithful unto me, it shall be ataken away, even that which they have.

4 For I, the Lord, ^arule in the heavens above, and among the ^barmies of the earth; and in the day when I shall make up my ^cjewels, all men shall know what it is that bespeaketh the power of God.

5 But, verily, I will speak unto you concerning your journey unto the land from whence you came. Let there be a craft made, or bought, as a seemeth you good, it mattereth

not unto me, and take your journey speedily for the place which is called St. Louis.

6 And from thence let my servants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, take their journey for Cincinnati;

7 And in this place let them lift up their voice and declare my word with loud voices, without wrath or adoubting, lifting up holy hands upon them. For I am able to make you bholy, and your sins are forgiven you.

8 And let the residue take their journey from St. Louis, atwo by two, and preach the word, not in haste, among the congregations of the wicked, until they return to the churches from whence they came.

9 And all this for the good of the ^achurches; for this intent have I sent them.

10 And let my servant ^aEdward Partridge impart of the ^bmoney which I have given him, a portion unto mine elders who are commanded to return;

11 And he that is able, let him return it by the way of the agent; and he that is not, of him it is not required.

12 And now I speak of the residue who are to come unto this land.

13 Behold, they have been sent to preach my gospel among the

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my servant Sidney Gilbert and my servant ^aWilliam W. Phelps be in haste upon their errand and mission.

8 Nevertheless, I would not suffer that ye should part until you were achastened for all your sins, that you might be one, that you might not perish in bwickedness;

9 But now, verily I say, it behooveth me that ye should part. Wherefore let my servants Sidney Gilbert and William W. Phelps take their former company, and let them take their journey in haste that they may fill their mission, and through faith they shall overcome;

10 And inasmuch as they are ^afaithful they shall be preserved, and I, the Lord, will be bwith them.

11 And let the residue take that which is needful for clothing.

12 Let my servant Sidney Gilbert take that which is not needful with him, as you shall agree.

13 And now, behold, for your ^agood I gave unto you a bcommandment concerning these things; and I, the Lord, will reason with you as with men in days of old.

one I say unto all, that you shall forewarn your brethren concerning these waters, that they come not in journeying upon them, lest their faith fail and they are caught in snares;

19 I, the Lord, have decreed, and the destroyer rideth upon the face thereof, and I revoke not the decree.

20 I, the Lord, was ^aangry with you yesterday, but today mine anger is turned away.

21 Wherefore, let those concerning whom I have spoken, that should take their journey in haste—again I say unto you, let them take their journey in haste.

22 And it mattereth not unto me, after a little, if it so be that they fill their mission, whether they go by water or by land; let this be as it is made known unto them according to their judgments hereafter.

23 And now, concerning my servants, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, let them come not again upon the waters, save it be upon the canal, while journeying unto their homes; or 14 Behold. I, the Lord, in the be- I in other words they shall not come

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DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 62:2–9

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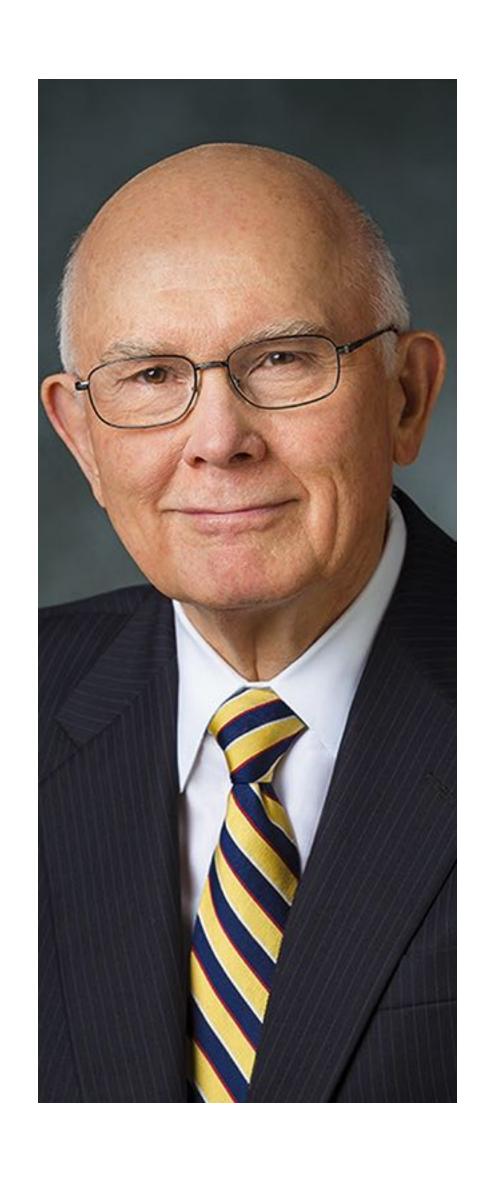
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"A desire to be led by the Lord is a strength, but it needs to be accompanied by an understanding that our Heavenly Father leaves many decisions for our personal choices. Personal decision making is one of the sources of the growth we are meant to experience in mortality. ...

"We should study things out in our minds, using the reasoning powers our Creator has placed within us. Then we should pray for guidance and act upon it if we receive it. If we do not receive guidance, we should act upon our best judgment"

(Elder Dallin H. Oaks, "Our Strengths Can Become Our Downfall," Ensign, Oct. 1994, 13–14).