

**JOSEPH SMITH'S MISSION—NECESSITY FOR SUCH A  
MISSION—EVIDENCES OF APOSTASY—RESTORATION OF  
THE GOSPEL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF  
GOD—HATRED AND PERSECUTION ACCORDED TO  
JOSEPH SMITH, AN EVIDENCE OF HIS DIVINE  
CALLING—FURTHER PROOF OF INSPIRATION.**

LECTURE BY ELDER B. H. ROBERTS, OF CENTERVILLE, DELIVERED UNDER THE  
AUSPICES OF THE MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, IN THE FOURTEENTH WARD  
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, SALT LAKE CITY, MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 28TH, 1884.

REPORTED BY JAMES D. STIRLING.

At the request of the Presidency of Davis Stake of Zion, I have delivered two lectures in each of the Wards of that county. Being a young man, I have addressed myself to the young people, with a view to strengthen their faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which has been revealed anew to the earth in this age of the world. And in considering the subject before us tonight—"Joseph Smith's Mission"—I desire to show to my young brethren and sisters that our fathers have not been following cunningly devised fables, but that they have, and so have we, good and sufficient reasons for believing in the mission of Joseph Smith as a divine one.

In considering the subject of our lecture, the question naturally arises; What was Joseph Smith's mission? It was the mission of Joseph Smith, under God's direction, to establish the Church of Christ and the Kingdom of God upon the earth; and to the accomplishment of this work he devoted the whole energy of his life, and was faithful unto death.

But this statement of what his mission was, gives birth to another

question: "Is there any necessity for such a work as is ascribed to Joseph Smith being performed?" The Christian world believe that when Christ was upon the earth in the flesh, that he then established his Church and Kingdom, and that it has continued among men from that time until the present. And although many changes have taken place in regard to principles and doctrines, and divisions and subdivisions have distracted the religious world—yet they claim that those things which are *essential* to the existence of Christ's Church and Kingdom have remained among men. This is their theory. We have a theory which is opposite to theirs.

The first revelation that Joseph Smith received from the Lord, was that men were teaching for doctrine the commandments and precepts of men, and that He [the Lord] did not acknowledge their institutions as His Church or Kingdom, and told Joseph to join none of them.

Here then you see, we have two propositions presented to us; if one is true the other must be false;