

# Prophets of God



THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



# Prophets of God

## Prophets Are God's Representatives on the Earth

Many people live their lives unsure of God's will. They believe that God no longer speaks to His children. But Latter-day Saints know that God has once again called a prophet and communicates to all people through that prophet.

A *prophet* is a man called by God to be His representative on earth. When a prophet speaks for God, it is as if God were speaking (see D&C 1:38, page 4). A prophet is also a special witness for Christ and testifies of the Savior's divinity and of His gospel. A prophet teaches truth and interprets the word of God. He calls the unrighteous to repentance, and he receives revelation from the Lord for our benefit. He may also warn the world of future events.



## God Calls Prophets to Lead His Children

God has called prophets to lead His children ever since the time of Adam. The experiences and miracles of these great men excite and inspire us. Moses, an Old Testament prophet, led thousands of his people out of slavery to the promised land. Nephi, a prophet in the Book of Mormon, journeyed from Jerusalem to the Americas 600 years before Christ was born and gave us many important writings. A latter-day prophet, Joseph Smith, restored the Church through God's authority and also translated the Book of Mormon.

## We Have a Living Prophet Today

We have a prophet living on the earth today. This prophet is the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has the right to receive revelation for the entire Church. He holds "the keys of the kingdom," which means that he has the authority to direct the kingdom of God on earth. No person except the chosen prophet can receive God's will for the whole membership of the Church. The Lord said, "There is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power and the keys of this priesthood are conferred" (D&C 132:7, page 267).



## We Should Sustain the Lord's Prophet

How can we sustain (support and follow) the prophet? One thing we can do is pray for him. His burdens are heavy, and he needs to be strengthened by the prayers of the Saints.

We should also study the prophet's words. We can listen to him twice a year during general conference, and we can do our best to follow his teachings. This means that we should choose to follow all of the prophet's counsel, not just a part of it—we should not discard the teachings that are unpleasant or difficult.

## We Will Be Blessed When We Follow the Prophet

The Lord promises that if we obey the prophet's counsel, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name's glory" (D&C 21:6, page 40). When we do as our prophet directs, blessings pour down from heaven.

### Additional Scriptures

- **D&C 45:10, 15, page 80** (God speaks today as in days of old)
- **D&C 68:3–5, page 126** (the Lord's servants speak the mind, will, and voice of the Lord)
- **D&C 107:65–67, 91–92, pages 219, 221** (duties of the President of the Church)

LOOK  
THEM  
UP



"[God] sent angels to converse with them, who caused men to behold of his glory.

"And they began from that time forth to call on his name; therefore God conversed with men, and made known unto them the plan of redemption, which had been prepared from the foundation of the world."

Alma 12:29–30, page 240

# Personal Experience

Just when I thought my life was getting back on track, I found myself sitting in a jail cell again. I had let down my family and friends, and I couldn't imagine that God would be able to forgive me again. I wondered if there was a "three-strike rule" and I was past forgiveness.

Then Bishop Keith B. McMullin, a member of the Presiding Bishopric of the Church, visited our jail one Sunday. After he was introduced, he looked at each of us and said that someone had prayed him there. He didn't know who it was, but he had a message for that person. I think everyone thought they were the one who prayed him there. I know I did.

He described how the Savior suffered for each of us so that we could receive forgiveness and live with Him again. He then said that there wasn't a single person in that jail who couldn't be forgiven. I knew my prayers had been answered. I knew that God would once again offer forgiveness to me.

That experience gave me a stronger testimony of how leaders of this Church receive inspiration for us, wherever we are. I watched videos of general conference while in prison, and I understood more fully how the messages of prophets are inspired and how I could use those messages in my life. I really had prayed Bishop McMullin there, but so had the rest of our group. We all needed help, and his message was true inspiration from God.

"We all needed help,  
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# RESPONSE FORM

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How do you plan to follow the teachings of living prophets in your present circumstances?

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How would you explain the importance of modern prophets to other inmates?

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Is there anything else that you have learned from this lesson that you would like to share?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Offender # \_\_\_\_\_