

Section 65

Joseph's history says that section 65 came to him in early October 1831 as he was living with the Johnsons in Hiram, Ohio, and that he regarded it as a prayer.¹ An early copy of section 65 in the handwriting of William McLellin sheds more light on it. The revelation is linked to the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6 and particularly the meaning of verse 10: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."²

Section 65 teaches us to pray for the ideal government. We look for a literal, earthly fulfillment of Isaiah's declaration, "The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us" (Isaiah 33:22). This short revelation also reminds us how thoroughly biblical Joseph became as he read that sacred text by the light of the Holy Ghost. In the 6 verses of section 65 there are clear references to Isaiah, Daniel, Matthew, and the Revelation of John.

Section 65 elaborates a prophecy of Daniel, who saw "the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44). Daniel compared this kingdom to a rolling stone that would eventually fill the earth. Some of the early Saints envisioned a snowball effect, but

¹ "History, 1838–1856, volume A-1 [23 December 1805–30 August 1834]," p. 155, The Joseph Smith Papers, accessed October 5, 2020.

² See *The Journals of William E. McLellin*, 243.

Joseph clarified Daniel’s meaning. The stone, Joseph said, “is stationary like a grind stone. It revolves.” He taught that it grew as “the Elders went abroad to preach the gospel and the people became believers in the Book of Mormon and were baptized.” In this way “they were added to the little stone. Thus they gathered around it so that it grew larger and larger.” Joseph prophesied that in this way the stone—the kingdom of God—would fill the earth.³

In 1838 Judge Austin King charged Joseph Smith with treason and confined him in jail at Liberty, Missouri, for believing what he taught about Daniel’s prophecy. Parley Pratt wrote that Judge King “inquired diligently into our belief of the seventh chapter of Daniel concerning the kingdom of God, which should subdue all other kingdoms and stand forever.” The Saints testified that they believed the prophecy, and Judge King instructed his clerk, “Write that down; it is a strong point for treason.” The Saints’ attorney objected. Is the Bible treason?⁴ The next time he was charged with treason came a month after he set up “the kingdom of Daniel by the word of the Lord” and declared his intent to “revolutionize the whole world.” Joseph’s life was ended abruptly by a lynch mob shortly after that.⁵

However, the work of God’s kingdom rolled on. It will continue to do so “till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear.”⁶ That, at least, is the prayer of section 65. “May the kingdom of God go forth that the Kingdom of Heaven may come” (D&C 65:6) so that he who is entitled may reign as King of Kings (Rev 17:14).

³ Henry William Bigler (1815–1900), *Journal*, Feb. 1846–Oct. 1899, Church History Library, Salt Lake City.

⁴ Parley P. Pratt, Jr., editor, *The Autobiography of Parley Parker Pratt* 4th edition (Salt Lake City: Deseret, 1950), 211–12.

⁵ Andrew F. Ehat, “It Seems Like Heaven Began on Earth’: Joseph Smith and the Constitution of the Kingdom of God,” *BYU Studies* 20:3 (Spring 1980): 253–79.

⁶ “[History, 1838–1856, volume C-1 \[2 November 1838–31 July 1842\]](#),” p. 1285, The Joseph Smith Papers, accessed October 5, 2020.

A revelation of Joseph the Seer 300. f. 69.
on the 6th Matthew 10 Verse

Harken and lo a voice as one sent down
from ~~the~~ high who is mighty and powerful
whose going forth is unto the ends of the earth
yea whose voice is unto all men prepare
ye the way of the Lord make his paths
strait. The keys of the kingdom of God
is committed unto man on the earth
and from thence shall the Gospel roll
forth unto the ends of the earth, as
the stone which is hewn from the moun-
tain without hands shall roll forth
it hath filled the whole earth. Yea
voice crying prepare ye the way of the
Lord prepare ye the supper of the Lamb
Make ready for the coming of the bridegroom
Pray unto the Lord call upon his holy name
Make known his wonderful works among
the people. Call upon the Lord that his
kingdom may go forth upon the earth
that the inhabitants thereof may receive it
and be prepared for the days to come in that
the son of man shall come down in
Heaven clothed in the brightness of his
glory to meet the kingdom of God which
is set up on the earth. Wherefore
the kingdom of God go forth that the kingdoms
of heaven may come that thou O God
be glorified in heaven & on earth
thine enemies may be subdued
in the honor, power and glory for ever
amen Amen Amen