



“The Smith Family and the Kirtland Temple cannot be separated.” **Karl Anderson**

Father Smith the Patriarch “I Desire to Bless My Children”

Julie Maddox

When our grandfather Joseph Smith Sr. said, “I desire...to bless my children,” he meant that he wanted to bless his children like Adam blessed his posterity. His desire to bless others included not just his children, and not only the saints in his day, but his children’s children and his “seed’s seed.” He meant us—today.

Joseph Smith Jr. ordained his father, who was the oldest living descendant of Joseph of Egypt and rightful heir,* to the office of patriarch on December 18, 1833 in the printing office in the John Johnson Inn in Kirtland, Ohio. Oliver Cowdery recorded the blessing and said with reverence, “the visions of the Almighty were open to [Joseph’s] view.”

The Prophet said,

“Blessed of the Lord is my father for he shall stand in the midst of his posterity ... and shall be numbered among those who hold the right of patriarchal priesthood, even the keys of that ministry, for he shall assemble together his posterity like unto Adam; and the assembly which he [Adam] called shall be an example for my father.”

The first blessings recorded in the official Patriarchal blessing book are those to his family almost a year later, on December 9, 1834.

Father Smith expressed remorse over personal weakness and said, “notwithstanding,...the Lord has often visited me in visions and in dreams.” He opened his heart to the Lord, asking that “his Holy Spirit be shed abroad in my heart, that I might pronounce such blessings upon your heads, as will be fulfilled.”

Then, like the great Patriarch Adam, he blessed each child and spouse, giving tender and specific counsel and prophecy, and pronounced “the blessings of thy fathers” upon them and “their children’s children, down to the end of time.”

Thus began Father Smith’s life’s calling, and it was spent blessing the lives of the expanding church as nearly every member was blessed.

*See 2 Nephi 3

...Patriarch p.3

2024 Scholarship Winners



Dallin Badal
1st Place

Smith Family Vignettes
(Musical Arrangement)



Alex Eyring
2nd Place

Video Narration Tribute



Katie Wallace
3rd Place

Music—Parent’s Love

SMITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS



Alvin Smith

My son Alvin, as you are all aware, was taken from us in the vigor of life, in the bloom of youth: my heart often mourns his loss, but I have no disposition to complain against the Lord.



Hyrum Smith

Thou hast loved thy father's family with a pure love, and has greatly desired their salvation. Thou hast always stood by thy father and reached forth the helping hand...I now ask my Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ to bless thee with the same blessing with which Jacob blessed his son Joseph.

(Excerpt from blessing given to both Hyrum and Jerusha)



Sophronia
Smith

Thou shalt yet be comforted for the days of thy tribulation shall have an end, and thou shalt be blessed with an abundance of the good things of this life; and the time of thy rejoicing shall come: Thou art blessed and shall be blessed, and saved in the kingdom of heaven.



Joseph
Smith Jr.

The Lord thy God has called thee by name out of the heavens. Thou hast heard his voice from on high from time to time, even in thy youth...

Thou shalt hold the keys of this ministry, even the presidency of this church, both in time and in eternity. ...Thy name and the names of thy posterity shall be recorded in the book of the Lord, even in the book of blessings and genealogies, for their joy and benefit forever.

(Excerpt from blessing given to both Joseph and Emma)



Samuel Smith

Thou hast labored much and toiled hard, and thou hast had a pure desire for the good of thy kindred—This was just, and thou shalt have thy reward, for it shall be recorded in the book of the blessed, and the just shall rise up and call thee a perfect man...Thou shalt be equal with thy brethren, and thine inheritance shall be like theirs.



William Smith

For thou art the fruit of my loins and I am a descendant of Joseph...The Lord thy God will make thee like a very fruitful garden, whose plants grow by the side of pure waters...Thou shalt be blessed with many children...Thou shalt have an inheritance in Zion, and thy children after thee.



Katharine
Smith

My daughter, thy care and thy anxiety for thy parents from thy youth are not forgotten: They are fresh in my mind...Thou shalt see many days of joy and consolation, for the days of prosperity shall come. Thou shalt have an inheritance with my family in the land of Zion, and thy seed after thee shall remain to the end because of thy diligence and faithfulness before the Lord.



Don Carlos
Smith

Thou hast been faithful, and shall be blessed with all the blessings of thy father's family, for thou hast been diligent to learn the truth, and hast kept the commandments as far as they have been taught thee, from thy childhood. Thou shalt be made mighty in word and in deed in thy day and generation.



Lucy Smith

Thou has been a comfort to my heart and I have besought the Lord for blessings for thee in much prayer and fasting, for thou art a child, even a youth, surrounded with the follies and vanities of the Gentiles; therefore thou needest those to watch over thee who are experienced and wise...Thou shalt have the desires of thy heart in righteousness.



Joseph Smith Sr.

So shall it be with my father: he shall be called a prince over his posterity; holding the keys of the patriarchal priesthood over the kingdom of God on earth,...the blessings of Joseph by the hand of his progenitor, shall come upon the head of my father and his seed after him, to the uttermost. [Blessing by Joseph Smith Jr. 18 Dec. 1833]



Lucy Mack Smith

And blessed also is my mother, for she is a mother in Israel, and shall be a partaker with my father in all his patriarchal blessings...her soul is ever filled with benevolence and philanthropy; and notwithstanding her age, she shall yet receive strength and be comforted in the midst of her house: and thus saith the Lord, she shall have eternal life. [Blessing by Joseph Smith Jr. 18 Dec. 1833]

*Patriarchal Blessing excerpts from 9 Dec. 1834

*Smith Family pictures by William Whitaker used with permission.

2024 Smith Family Review

To see pictures of Joseph Brickey’s painting of Joseph Smith Jr. and other highlights, click on the following pdf link or visit josephsmithsr.org

https://josephsmithsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2024_August1_Meet_Greet.pdf

...Patriarch continued

George A. Smith said Father Smith gave blessings “upon the heads of thousands.”

Joseph Sr. began to hold patriarchal blessing meetings with families and groups of saints, who affectionately called him Father Smith. Meetings began with a prayer and hymn. They were first held in homes, and then, as the Kirtland temple was completed, often in the temple. Oliver Huntington wrote that Father Smith would teach gospel principles, recount their personal experiences related to the rise of the church, and then bless the members. The meeting took most of the day. With varying success, members and scribes recorded blessings.

After the Kirtland Temple dedication, in June, 1836, Father Smith and his youngest brother, “Uncle John,” traveled over 2,400 miles, visiting saints in eastern states and blessing several hundred.

The Prophet Joseph had seen that Adam, before his death was “bowed down with age,” and gathered his righteous posterity into the valley of Adam-Oni-Ahman and blessed them, and the Lord had appeared.

Hours before he died, in September 1840, Father Smith likewise called his children around him to his bedside to receive his last blessing. Joseph Sr. remarked that Lucy was a singular woman, and thanked her for raising and comforting their family.

Hyrum asked, “if you are taken away, will you not intercede for us at the throne of grace?” To Joseph Jr., his father confirmed, “You shall even live to finish your work.” Emotionally grateful, Joseph wept with relief. Their father sealed blessings upon each. Within a few minutes, he folded his hands and passed on.

Like Adam, who blessed his children in preparation to enter the presence of the Lord, so Father Smith sought to bless his fellow saints, his children, and us, his children’s children “to the end of time.”

As we remember his warmth, love of family, his testimony of the Book of Mormon, and diligence to the end of his life, are we not also blessed by our grandfather and of the Lord?

*A special thanks to Mark L. McConkie and Karl R. Anderson for their historical and family research.

Karl Anderson: Kirtland Visionary

Matthew D. Maddox

Rebuilding Kirtland, Ohio has been Karl Anderson's life's work. Decades of effort have helped restore the importance of that city in the minds and hearts of those who descend from its rich spiritual heritage.

Three years after being driven from Kirtland, the Lord told Joseph he had "a scourge prepared" for Kirtland.* Karl believes that scourge "also affected the minds of the Latter-day Saints" who seemed to forget the city's importance.

In 1979, the only recognizable Latter-day Saint structure from the 1830s was the temple, lovingly cared for by Community of Christ. Other sites of revelation had been lost. That year, LDS Apostle Ezra Taft Benson spoke at a church groundbreaking. Prepared with Karl's research and "with prophetic authority" he said, "the scourge...is being lifted today."

Karl felt many other sites should stand with the temple as living witnesses of the Lord who had revealed himself over and over again in that city. Many sacred locations—including the Whitney Store, the Johnson Inn and John Johnson farm—were waiting to be found and rebuilt or restored.

Importantly, his work helped rebuild friendship and trust within the community and between families of Joseph Smith Senior's descendants.

Twenty-five years after Elder Benson's visit, the first Historic Kirtland buildings were dedicated. Today at least eight other sites join the historic temple. The "cloak of obscurity" is falling from the city. Its glorious past is taught and celebrated to more people today than ever before. [Read the full article and watch video clips at JosephSmithSr.org.]

*(Doctrine and Covenants 124:83)



Karl and Joyce
Anderson



Flora and Elder Benson,
Karl Anderson
Kirtland 1979

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FAMILY ASSOCIATION

A stylized, handwritten-style logo of the word "Smith" in a dark blue or black color, set against a white background within a rectangular border.