

“A Life Lived in Crescendo”

Selected Punctuation Marks
of Joseph Smith's Final Years

A Virtual Fireside Series



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A “Come, Follow Me” YouTube Virtual Fireside Series

Sponsored by the Interpreter Foundation, Book of Mormon Central, FAIR, and Meridian Magazine

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*[Joseph Smith] lived his life in crescendo, it grew in intensity and volume as he approached its close. Higher and still higher the inspiration of God directed his thoughts; bolder were his conceptions, and clearer his expositions of them. So far was he from being a “fallen prophet” in the closing months of his career, as apostates charged, that he grew stronger with each passing day; more impressive in weight of personal character, and charm of manner; for he preserved amid all the conflicts and trials through which he passed—until the shadows of impending death began to fall upon him in Carthage prison—the natural sweetness of his nature, and the intellectual playfulness characteristic of him from boyhood—so do not fallen prophets (Elder B. H. Roberts, Introduction to Joseph Smith, Jr. *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 6:xli-xlii).*

In support of the 2021 “Come Follow Me” curriculum, this virtual fireside series seeks to enrich individual and family scripture study through a series of livestream YouTube presentations by faithful scholars on selected capstones of Joseph Smith’s final years. An initial presentation on the events of Joseph Smith’s martyrdom on June 27 (the anniversary of Joseph Smith’s martyrdom) will commemorate that event. Later, from October 17 through November 28, weekly firesides will describe events and doctrines relating to Joseph Smith’s glorious, final teachings—including the restoration of the fulness of temple ordinances and blessings, his courage in the face of continued attempts on his life, the preparation of the Quorum of the Twelve for his departure, boldly countering the aspirants for leadership of the Church, the successful gathering of the main body of the Saints under the direction of Brigham Young, and sealing his prophetic life and testimony with his blood. Time will be set aside for viewer questions following each presentation.

Presentations are scheduled for Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM Mountain Time. Online links for viewing the events will be available a few weeks prior to each presentation.

Each presentation will be introduced by Richard E. Turley, Jr. Before his retirement, Rick served as assistant Church historian and later as managing director of the Church’s Public Affairs Department.

June 27 (anniversary of Joseph Smith’s martyrdom)

R. Jean Addams: *True to the End: The Culmination of the Earthly Ministry of the Prophet Joseph Smith in His Martyrdom at Carthage*

October 17 (see *Come, Follow Me* Lesson on Doctrine and Covenants 124; October 25–31)

Jeffrey M. Bradshaw: *Freemasonry and the Origins of Latter-day Saint Temple Ordinances*

October 24 (See *Come, Follow Me* Lesson on Doctrine and Covenants 129–132; November 8–14)

Brian C. Hales: *Doctrine and Covenants 132: A Series of Questions and Discussions*

October 31 (See *Come, Follow Me* Lesson on Doctrine and Covenants 129–132; November 8–14)

Ronald K. Esplin: “*All the Measures of Joseph*” – *Keys and Continuity in the Succession of 1844*

November 7 (See *Come, Follow Me* Lesson on Doctrine and Covenants 129–132; November 8–14)

Barbara Morgan Gardner. *Joseph Smith’s Teachings and Practices Relating to Eternal Marriage and the Eternal Family*

November 14 (See *Come Follow Lesson* on Doctrine and Covenants 135–136; November 22–28)

Jeffrey M. Bradshaw. “*There’s the Boy I Can Trust*”: *Dennison Lott Harris’ First-Person Account of the Conspiracy of Nauvoo and Events Surrounding Joseph Smith’s “Last Charge” to the Twelve Apostles*

November 21 (See *Come Follow Lesson* on Doctrine and Covenants 135–136; November 22–28)

Joseph I. Bentley and John W. Welch: *Road to Martyrdom: Legal Aspects of Joseph Smith’s Last Days*

November 28 (See *Come, Follow Me*, Doctrine and Covenants 135–136; November 22–28)

R. Jean Addams: *Aftermath of the Martyrdom: The Aspirants to the Mantle of Joseph Smith and the Leadership of Brigham Young in the Months Following the Martyrdom*