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1831

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1831

January 2, 1831

Fayette, New York

Visions and Revelations—During the third conference of the Church, which was held at the Peter Whitmer Sr. home, Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 38, a revelation calling the Saints to gather in Ohio. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:140–43; D&C 38

January 5, 1831

Fayette, New York

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 39, a revelation calling James Covill to be baptized and labor in Zion. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:143–44; D&C 39

About January 6, 1831

Fayette, New York

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 40, an additional revelation concerning James Covill, who had broken his covenant with the Lord. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:145; D&C 40

About January 15, 1831

Fayette, New York

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith reportedly saw in vision the face of Newel K. Whitney, who would later receive Joseph and his wife, Emma, in Kirtland, Ohio. ♦ Baugh, *Opening the Heavens*, 311; *History of the Church*, 1:146 n.

About February 1, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Personal Life—Joseph Smith and his wife, Emma, arrived in Kirtland, Ohio (from New York) and were kindly received into the house of Newel K. Whitney. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:145–46; Staker, *BYU Studies* 42.1: 100

Jan. 1, 1831

William Lloyd Garrison published the first issue of *The Liberator*, an abolitionist newspaper.

1831

The electro-magnetic current generator was developed by Michael Faraday.



Newel K. Whitney store in Kirtland, Ohio.

February 4, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 41, a revelation calling Edward Partridge to be the first bishop of the Church. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:146–47; D&C 41

February 9, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 42, a revelation containing the law of the Lord to his Church, including the law of consecration and stewardship of property. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:148–54; D&C 42

About February 14, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—In response to a visit by a woman who claimed to receive commandments, laws, and other curious matters, Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 43, a revelation about the Lord's pattern of revelation. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:154; D&C 43

About February 25, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 44, a revelation about the duties of elders. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:154–56; D&C 44

1831

The reaper was invented by Cyrus McCormick.

March 3, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Writings—Joseph Smith wrote a letter to his brother Hyrum, living in Colesville, New York, asking that he come to Kirtland and bring Joseph Smith Sr. from Fayette, New York. ♦ *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 255–62

March 7, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 45, a lengthy revelation concerning the salvation of mankind and the calamities of the last days. He also completed his translation work on the book of Genesis through chapter 24. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:158–63; D&C 45; Faulring, Jackson, Matthews, eds., *Joseph Smith's New Translation of the Bible*, 57

About March 8, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Writings—Joseph Smith began his translation work on the Gospel of Matthew. ♦ D&C 45:60–61; Matthews, *BYU Studies* 11.4: 408

March 8, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 46, a revelation concerning the gifts of the Spirit, and Doctrine and Covenants 47, a revelation calling John Whitmer to be the Church historian and recorder. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:163–66; D&C 46, 47

About March 16, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 48, a revelation for the Saints gathering in Kirtland about purchasing land. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:166–67; D&C 48

About March 19, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 49, a revelation concerning the teachings of Ann Lee and the Shakers. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:167–69; D&C 49; Flake, *BYU Studies* 20.1: 94–99

April 7, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Writings—Joseph Smith translated Matthew 9:1–11 in his work on the New Testament. ♦ Faulring, Jackson, Matthews, eds., *Joseph Smith's New Translation of the Bible*, 65

Mar. 10, 1831

French Foreign Legion, an elite unit of the French Army, was founded.

Mar. 12, 1831

Clement Studebaker, American automobile pioneer, was born.

April 30, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Personal Life—Joseph Smith’s wife Emma gave birth to twins, a son and daughter, who lived only three hours. They were later identified in family records as Thadeus and Louisa. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:260

About May 1, 1831

Thompson, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 51, a revelation concerning the responsibilities of Bishop Edward Partridge. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:173–74; D&C 51; Partridge, *BYU Studies* 42.1

About May 9, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Personal Life—Joseph and Emma Smith adopted the twin children of John Murdock, whose wife, Julia, had died during childbirth. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:260

May 10, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith baptized Luke S. Johnson. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:260; “History of Luke Johnson by Himself,” *Millennial Star* 26:835

About May 30, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 50, a revelation in response to Elder Parley P. Pratt’s descriptions of strange spiritual manifestations that were sweeping through the Church. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:170; D&C 50; *Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt*, 48

June 3, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith saw God and Jesus Christ at a conference of elders where the first high priests were ordained. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:175–77; *Diary of Levi W. Hancock*, 1883

June 7, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 52, a revelation organizing pairs of elders to proselyte en route to the next Church conference to be held in Missouri. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:177–79; D&C 52

1831

Xavier University was founded as “The Athenaeum” in Cincinnati, Ohio.

1831

Victor Hugo published *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

About June 8, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 53, a revelation to Algernon Sidney Gilbert, telling him of his calling to be an agent of the Church and to travel with the Prophet and Sidney Rigdon. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:179–80; D&C 53

About June 12, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 54, a revelation directed to Newel Knight concerning difficulties in the branch at Thompson, Ohio. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:180–81; D&C 54

About June 16, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 55, a revelation calling William W. Phelps to preach the gospel and to assist in making books of instruction for the children of the Church. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:185–86; D&C 55

About June 18, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 56, a revelation concerning Thomas B. Marsh and Ezra Thayre. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:186–88; D&C 56

June 19, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—After receiving the commandment by heavenly vision to travel to western Missouri, Joseph Smith started on his first journey to Independence, Missouri, with Sidney Rigdon and others, arriving on July 14. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:188; Baugh, *Opening the Heavens*, 311

About July 14, 1831

Independence, Missouri

Travels—Joseph Smith and his party arrived in Independence from Kirtland, Ohio, after being shown in vision where the temple at Independence and the city of Zion would be located. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:188–89, 2:254

July 20, 1831

Independence, Missouri

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 57, a revelation concerning the building up of Zion in Independence, Missouri. ♦ D&C 57

July 4, 1831

Former U.S. President James Monroe died.



Temple lot in Independence, Missouri.

August 1, 1831

Jackson County, Missouri

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 58, a revelation concerning the Saints in their new place of gathering. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:191–95; D&C 58

1831

Robert Brown, Scottish botanist, identified and named the cell nucleus.

August 2, 1831

Kaw Township, Missouri

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith assisted the Colesville Branch in laying the first log of the first house in the establishment of Zion in Missouri. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:196

August 3, 1831

Independence, Missouri

Ecclesiastical Duties—Joseph Smith dedicated the first temple site in this dispensation just west of Independence. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:199

1831

The first horse-drawn buses appeared in New York.

August 4, 1831

Kaw Township, Missouri

Ecclesiastical Duties—At the home of Joshua Lewis, Joseph Smith attended and conducted the first conference of the Church in Missouri. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:199

August 7, 1831

Kaw Township, Missouri

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith attended the funeral of Sister Polly Knight, the first Church member to pass away in Missouri, and received Doctrine and Covenants 59, a revelation about Sabbath observance. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:199–200; D&C 59

August 8, 1831

Independence, Missouri

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 60, a revelation concerning the elders called to serve missions to the East. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:201–2; D&C 60

August 9, 1831

Independence, Missouri

Travels—Joseph Smith and ten other elders left in canoes on the Missouri River for Kirtland, Ohio. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:202

August 12, 1831

McIlwaine's Bend, Missouri River

Visions and Revelations—After Brother William W. Phelps saw the destroyer riding on the face of the river in an open vision by daylight, Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 61, a revelation concerning Satan's power over the waters. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:203–5; D&C 61

August 13, 1831

Chariton, Missouri

Visions and Revelations—On the banks of the Missouri River, Joseph Smith had a chance meeting with several elders who were on their way to the land of Zion, and he received Doctrine and Covenants 62, a revelation concerning their journey. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:205–6; D&C 62

August 27, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Travels—Joseph Smith and his company arrived in Kirtland from Independence, Missouri. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:206

About August 30, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—In response to the anxiety of the Saints, Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 63, a revelation concerning the gathering of the Saints and the purchase of land. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:206–11; D&C 63

September 11, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 64, a revelation containing the Lord's law of forgiveness and the promise "he that is tithed shall not be burned." ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:211–14; D&C 64

Aug. 21, 1831

Nat Turner began a slave rebellion in Virginia.



The John Johnson home in Hiram, Ohio.

September 12, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Personal Life—Joseph Smith moved with his family to Hiram, Ohio, to live with John and Alice Johnson. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:215

September 26, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Writings—Joseph Smith completed Matthew 26:1–23 in his work on the inspired translation of the Bible. ♦ Faulring, Jackson, Matthews, eds., *Joseph Smith's New Translation of the Bible*, 305–6

October 2, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Ecclesiastical Duties—Sidney Rigdon baptized Orson Hyde. Joseph Smith confirmed Orson and ordained him an elder in the Church that same day. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:219–20; *Times and Seasons* 5:481

About October 4, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 65, a revelation on the Lord's Prayer, in which the Lord confirmed that the keys of the kingdom of God were established upon the earth so that the kingdom of heaven may come. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:218; D&C 65; Welch and Packer, *BYU Studies* 33.2: 330–36

1831

William Goodell, American missionary, traveled to Constantinople and there established a mission for the local Armenians. He later translated the Bible into Armeno-Turkish.

October 11, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Ecclesiastical Duties—At a conference at John Johnson’s farm, Joseph Smith taught the brethren about the “ancient manner of instructing meetings.” ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:219

October 26, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Ecclesiastical Duties—En route from Orange to Hiram, Ohio, Joseph Smith healed William McLellin’s ankle. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:220–22; Shipps and Welch, eds., *Journals of William E. McLellin, 1831–1836*, 45

October 29, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith attended a follow-up to the conference held on October 11 and received Doctrine and Covenants 66, a revelation giving conditional blessings to William E. McLellin and calling Samuel H. Smith to preach the gospel. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:219–21; D&C 66; Shipps and Welch, eds., *Journals of William E. McLellin, 1831–1836*, 45–46

November 1, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—At a special conference of the Church, Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants I, a revelation that later became the Lord’s preface to the Doctrine and Covenants. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:221–24; D&C I

About November 2, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 67, a revelation containing the Lord’s testimony of the truth of the Book of Commandments. This later became known as the Doctrine and Covenants. William E. McLellin tried to write a revelation but was unable to do so. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:224–26; D&C 67

November 3, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 133, a revelation concerning the Lord’s preparations for the Second Coming, which is sometimes called the appendix of the Doctrine and Covenants. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:229–34; D&C 133

About November 3, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 68, a revelation concerning the true nature of revelation,

1831

Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, was founded.

1831

The new London Bridge opened.

the powers of the Aaronic Priesthood, and the responsibilities of parents to their children. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:226–29; D&C 68

Nov. 7, 1831

Brazil forbade the slave trade.

November 9, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Writings—Joseph Smith spent much of his time reviewing and arranging the commandments and revelations in preparation for Oliver Cowdery to take them to the printing press in Independence, Missouri. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:229, 235

About November 10, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 69, a revelation appointing John Whitmer to accompany Oliver Cowdery to Missouri for the printing of the compiled commandments and revelations. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:234–35; D&C 69

Nov. 11, 1831

Slave rebel Nat Turner died.

November 12, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 70, a revelation in which the Lord appointed stewards to have the revelations published as the Book of Commandments. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:235–37; D&C 70

Nov. 14, 1831

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, German philosopher, died.

November 16, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Writings—After Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer left for Missouri with the compiled revelations and commandments, Joseph Smith resumed his inspired translation of the scriptures with Sidney Rigdon as his scribe. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:238

December 1, 1831

Hiram, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 71, a revelation in which the Lord promised to confound the enemies of Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon as they proclaimed the gospel. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:238–39; D&C 71

December 3, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Travels—Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon traveled from Hiram to Kirtland, Ohio, in order to follow the instructions in Doctrine and Covenants 71, a revelation about their duty to proclaim the gospel. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:239

December 4, 1831

Kirtland, Ohio

Visions and Revelations—Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 72, a revelation for Church members in Kirtland who desired to know their duty. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:239–41; D&C 72

About December 9, 1831

Northern, Ohio

Travels—Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon preached in various towns as they traveled through northern Ohio. ♦ *History of the Church*, 1:241