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Like a Fiery Meteor: The Life of Joseph F. Smith by Stephen C. Taysom

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Like a Fiery Meteor: The Life of Joseph F. Smith by Stephen C. Taysom dives into the extraordinary life of Joseph F. Smith, the sixth president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Taysom expertly navigates the complexities of Smith’s life, offering readers a comprehensive and insightful biography of this important Church leader.

Taysom takes readers through Smith’s early years, marked by hardship and resilience as he faced the challenges of being orphaned at a young age and having the numerous responsibilities thrust upon him. Taysom looks at Smith’s experiences as a missionary, shedding light on pivotal moments that shaped his beliefs and convictions. Smith’s time in the First Presidency—as a counselor and as its leader—is also examined. This third period may be of particular interest to many readers of Latter-day Saint history, as President Smith presided over the Church—and played a vital role—during a time of profound social change and doctrinal codification.

This biography goes beyond the public persona and generally known anecdotes, offering readers a look into Smith’s struggles, familial relationships, spiritual experiences, and associations with fellow Church leaders and followers.

The title, Like a Fiery Meteor, aptly encapsulates the dynamic and impactful nature of Smith’s life, suggesting a trajectory that left an indelible mark on the history of the Church. This biography is a testament to Taysom’s careful research and engaging storytelling. He has written a page-turning portrait of a leader whose influence continues to be felt today. This book not only provides a window into the past but also prompts reflection on the lasting impact Joseph F. Smith has had on the Church and its ongoing narrative, providing a rich tapestry of history, spirituality, and enduring influence.

—Matthew B. Christensen