

Joseph Smith Jr.

Joseph Smith Jr. was born on December 23, 1805, in Sheron, Vermont. Living in Palmyra New York, at 14 years old, he began to question which church he should join. Joseph felt that he should not join any of the churches on the earth at this time, and was told in a vision that the true church of Jesus Christ was to be restored through him. From that day forth, Joseph worked in the service of God to bring about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, also known as the LDS Church. Working toward this goal was not easy because of the persecution Joseph received for his beliefs.

As Joseph shared his experiences with others, many persecuted him and showed a great deal of prejudice towards him and his followers because of their religion. As Joseph continued to share his message, he encountered persecution wherever he traveled. From Ohio to Missouri and to Illinois, Joseph's followers, the Mormons, were continually forced out of their homes and cities by mobs. They endured much hatred and violence in each of their establishments. After being beaten, tarred and feathered, and imprisoned, Joseph could only envision a time when he could enjoy his religious freedom. On June 27, 1844, Joseph Smith was killed by an angry mob in Carthage, Illinois.

During the thirty-nine years of his life, Joseph restored the LDS Church, translated scripture, built cities, was a candidate in the Presidential Election, and served as mayor of Nauvoo, Illinois. Through his many endeavors and trials he helped the LDS Church become what it is today. Because of Joseph's persistence, millions today are able to enjoy the religious freedom he sought throughout his life.