

Building Bridges Series III

Tentative Schedule

1. 10/17 God
2. 10/24 Jesus
3. 10/31 The Church of Jesus Christ
4. 11/7 Video: Bible vs. the Book of Mormon
5. 11/14 Reliability of Scripture
6. 11/28 Salvation, Grace & Atonement
7. 12/5 Heaven
8. 12/12 Video: The Bible vs. Joseph Smith
- 9. 12/19 Prophet, Bishop & Pastor**
10. 1/2 Faith vs. Works
11. 1/9 Video: Lost Book of Abraham
12. 1/16 The Temple - Purpose & Role

The Heart of the Series

Colossians 4:5–6 - Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. **6** Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Prophet, Bishop & Pastor

LDS Doctrine

Prophet

Our greatest safety lies in strictly following the word of the Lord given through His prophets, particularly the current President of the Church. The Lord warns that those who ignore the words of the living prophets will fall (see [D&C 1:14–16](#)). He promises great blessings to those who follow the President of the Church: “Behold, there shall be a record kept among you; and in it thou shalt be called a seer, a translator, a prophet, an apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder of the church through the will of God the Father, and the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ. . . **4** Wherefore, meaning the church, thou shalt give heed unto all his words and commandments which he shall give unto you as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me; **5** For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith. **6** For by doing these things the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name’s glory. (Doctrine & Covenants 21:1-6) (<https://www.lds.org/topics/prophets?lang=eng>)

* “We sustain the President of the Church as our prophet, seer, and revelator – the only person on the earth who receives revelation to guide the entire Church. We also sustain the counselors in the First Presidency and the members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators” (<https://www.lds.org/topics/prophets?lang=eng>).

* We can always trust the living prophets. Their teachings reflect the will of the Lord. . . (<https://www.lds.org/topics/prophets?lang=eng>).

* “I say to Israel, the Lord will never permit me or any other man who stands as President of this Church to lead you astray. It is not in the program. It is not in the mind of God. If I were to attempt that, the Lord would remove me out of my place, and so He will any other man who attempts to lead the children of men astray from the oracles of God and from their duty. (The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, p. 212-213. See also Doctrine and Covenants Official Declaration—1).(Gospel Principles, pg. 49)

* “The President of the Church is the only man on earth authorized by God to go beyond or add to the scriptures. ‘It is not to be thought that every word spoken by the General Authorities is inspired, or that they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost in everything they speak and write. Now you keep that in mind. I don’t care what his position is, if he writes something or speaks something that goes beyond anything that you can find in the standard Church works, unless that one be the prophet, seer, and revelator—please note that one exception—you may immediately say, Well, that is his own idea’ (Harold B. Lee, “The Place of the Living Prophet, Seer, and Revelator,” in Charge, p. 111.)” (Teachings of the Living Prophets, 1982, p. 18).

* “The prophet and the presidency—the living prophet and the First Presidency—follow them and be blessed; reject them and suffer” (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 334).

* “The very first [dispensation of the gospel] was in the time of Adam. Then came dispensations of Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others [see Bible Dictionary, “Dispensations”]. Each prophet had a divine commission to teach of the divinity and the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ. In each age these teachings were meant to help the people. But their disobedience resulted in apostasy... “Thus a complete restoration was required. God the Father and Jesus Christ called upon the Prophet Joseph Smith to be the prophet of this dispensation. All divine powers of previous dispensations were to be restored through him” (“The Gathering of Scattered Israel,” Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2006, 79–80; emphasis added). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-of-the-living-prophets-student-manual-2016/chapter-1?lang=eng>)

* “...we know that a man is a Prophet, when the thing which he predicts comes to pass” (Parley P. Pratt, September 7, 1856, Journal of Discourses 5:197. Ellipses mine).

Bishop

* A bishop is called by inspiration of the Lord and ordained by a stake president under the direction of the First Presidency of the Church and the Quorum of the Twelve. A ward bishopric consists of three high priests—a bishop and two counselors. The bishop is the presiding high priest and presides over all the members in his ward. In addition, he is the president of the priests quorum and, together with his counselors, is responsible to watch over and nurture the young men and young women in the ward. (<https://www.lds.org/manual/duties-and-blessings-of-the-priesthood-basic-manual-for-priesthood-holders-part-a/history-and-organization-of-the-priesthood/lesson-8-duties-of-the-bishop-and-the-branch-president?lang=eng>)

* The Temporal Responsibilities of Bishops and Branch Presidents - One important temporal responsibility that a bishop or branch president has is to administer the Church welfare program in the ward or branch. Part of this responsibility includes administering fast offerings... other temporal duties such as keeping records of all Church business and overseeing the use and security of Church buildings and facilities. They also conduct tithing settlement and receive other contributions from Church members such as funds to support missionaries. (<https://www.lds.org/manual/duties-and-blessings-of-the-priesthood-basic-manual-for-priesthood-holders-part-a/history-and-organization-of-the-priesthood/lesson-8-duties-of-the-bishop-and-the-branch-president?lang=eng>)

* The Spiritual Responsibilities of Bishops and Branch Presidents - Bishops and branch presidents are called to care for the spiritual well-being of the members of their Church units. One specific spiritual responsibility that bishops and branch presidents have is to be a common judge (see D&C 107:74). As a common judge, the bishop or branch president conducts worthiness interviews, counsels members, and administers Church discipline. In order to help them in these duties, the Lord has promised bishops and branch presidents the gift of discernment (see D&C 46:27) (<https://www.lds.org/manual/duties-and-blessings-of-the-priesthood-basic-manual-for-priesthood-holders-part-a/history-and-organization-of-the-priesthood/lesson-8-duties-of-the-bishop-and-the-branch-president?lang=eng>)

* Because the bishop or branch president is a common judge in Israel, we can confess our sins to him and he can help us repent. (<https://www.lds.org/manual/duties-and-blessings-of->

the-priesthood-basic-manual-for-priesthood-holders-part-a/history-and-organization-of-the-priesthood/lesson-8-duties-of-the-bishop-and-the-branch-president?lang=eng)

* Some additional spiritual duties of bishops and branch presidents include the following:

Preside over ward meetings.

Conduct ward business.

Coordinate the work of the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Oversee callings and releases.

Oversee the performance of ordinances and blessings.

Recommend brethren for advancement to the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Give blessings of comfort and counsel.

Interview and recommend worthy members to serve as full-time missionaries.

* Tithing Settlement Meeting

This annual conversation with your bishop is both an opportunity and a blessing...

Tithing is an important test of our personal righteousness. President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918) said: “By this principle it shall be known who is for the kingdom of God and who is against it. ... By it shall be known whether we are faithful or unfaithful.” If we are satisfied in our hearts that we have paid an honest tithing, why is it necessary to declare it to the bishop?

* Declaration of Tithing Status.

We are accountable for what we have been given by God. And we shall be judged “out of those things which [are] written in the books, according to [our] works” (Revelation 20:12; see also 3 Nephi 27:26). President James E. Faust said, “One of the great blessings the people of this Church have is to meet with the bishop once each year, settle their tithing, and report that what they had paid in contributions constitutes a tithe. It is also a great blessing for the bishops to have this experience.” At the end of the year, the bishop or branch president is asked to record on the records of the Church the tithing status of each member in his unit. It is our privilege to exercise our accountability by declaring to him our own tithing status.

Full-tithe: All donors whose tithing is "'one-tenth of all their interest annually,' which is understood to mean income."

Part-tithe: All donors who have paid tithing but the amount is less than a full tithe.

Non-tithe: Ward members who have not contributed tithing during the year and are not exempt from paying tithing.

Exempt: All donors who have no income and have not contributed to tithing funds but declare they would have paid a full tithe if they had income. Note that only members may declare themselves Exempt; the bishop may not make this declaration on their behalf.

(http://tech.lds.org/wiki/Tithing_status)

* Temple recommends - are given to members of the Church who have completed the preliminary steps of faith, repentance, baptism, and confirmation. Temple recommends are usually issued by a bishop and countersigned by a member of the stake presidency in interviews conducted in private...Worthiness requirements include being honest, keeping the commandments, such as chastity-sexual continence before marriage and fidelity within marriage - obeying the laws of tithing and the Word of Wisdom, fulfilling family responsibilities and avoiding affiliation with dissident groups. ([+63.02https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Temple_Recommend](https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Temple_Recommend))

* Some ordinances are essential to our exaltation. These ordinances are called saving ordinances. They include baptism, confirmation, ordination to the Melchizedek Priesthood (for men), the temple endowment, and the marriage sealing. With each of these ordinances, we enter into solemn covenants with the Lord. (<https://www.lds.org/topics/ordinances?lang=eng>)

“No Paid or Professional Clergy”

* "It can be said also that the officers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who labor without salaries coming out of the pockets of the members, are just as spiritually minded, have just as good judgment and wisdom in directing the temporal as well as the spiritual welfare of the people, as are any of the ministers who spend their entire time in what may be called spiritual counsel. For instance, the bishops of our wards and the presidents of our stakes and other officers give their time freely without any monetary compensation paid by members of the Church. It is equally true that the young men and women who are distributed over the face of the earth as missionaries of the Church pay their own way, or their parents do. We do not have a paid ministry, yet these brethren put in as much time in spiritual and Church duties, as do ministers of other denominations who devote their entire time, and in addition, they are under the necessity of earning their own living by their daily employment in industry. They do this because they have an abiding testimony of the divinity of the work the Church requires of them." (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers to Gospel Questions, v. 3, p. 79)

* "How much tithing do you pay? The professing Christians, apostates and others have a great deal to say about the Saints paying tithing. Now let us compare notes. The Elders of this Church travel and preach without purse or scrip, and labor at home as Bishops, Presidents, High Counselors, and Ministers, free of charge. Now take the Christians, how many of their Ministers preach without pay? Go to their meetings, in their churches, halls, schoolhouses, or any of their public gatherings, and you have a box, a plate, or a hat put under your face, and it is, 'Give me a sixpence, give me a sixpence, give me a sixpence!' Show me the Elder of this Church that does this? We preach the Gospel without purse or scrip and work for our own bread and butter. Yet the Christian world whine about our paying tithing. The Saints should pay the tenth of their income with glad and thankful hearts, and help to bring home the poor. We have supported and helped the poor to the amount of millions." (Prophet Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, v. 16, p. 44 - p.45, May 18, 1873)

* "...we have been the subject of vile scandal, simply because our religious views were different from those of the hireling clergy who occupy the pulpits of Christendom. We taught that men should preach the Gospel without pur(s)e or scrip--preach it freely; and a man who depended upon a congregation for a salary by which to obtain his black coat and fit-out, was ready to denounce preaching without purse and scrip as a heresy; why? Because it would reduce him to the necessity of going to some useful calling, instead of making merchandise of the Gospel, which God has made free." (Prophet George Albert Smith, Journal of Discourses, v. 11, p. 179, October 8, 1865)

Biblical Doctrine

Prophet

* Prophet – From Hebrew root [*naba*´ /naw·**baw**/] v. 1 to prophesy. 1a (Niphal). *1a1* to prophesy. 1a1a under influence of divine spirit. 1a1b of false prophets. 1b (Hithpael). *1b1* to prophesy. 1b1a under influence of divine spirit. 1b1b of false prophets.

* So a prophet is someone who speaks under the influence of a divine spirit, so the prophet can be a true prophet of God or a false prophet, depending on the spiritual influence.

False Prophets

Jeremiah 5:30–31 - “An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land: **31** The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?

Ezekiel 22:28 - Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ when the LORD had not spoken.

2 Chronicles 18:4–7 - Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Please inquire for the word of the LORD today.” **5** Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, four hundred men, and said to them, “Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?” So they said, “Go up, for God will deliver it into the king’s hand.” **6** But Jehoshaphat said, “Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of Him?” **7** So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “There is still one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him, because he never prophesies good concerning me, but always evil. He is Micaiah the son of Imla.” And Jehoshaphat said, “Let not the king say such things!”

Matthew 24:4-24 - And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you... Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many... For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

2 Peter 2:1 -But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

1 John 4:1 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Test of a Prophet

1. Deuteronomy 18:20–22 - But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ **21** And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’—**22** when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

1 Nephi 13:28-29 - Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God. **29** And after these plain and precious things were taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles; and after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters

which thou hast seen with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity, thou seest—because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God—because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.

Conclusion

- * Evidence proves that the prophecy of Nephi that “many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God,” did not happen.
- * Therefore, because Nephi’s prediction did not happen he fails the Biblical Test of a Prophet and is a False Prophet.

Alma 7:10 - And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.

Conclusion

- * Historically, Bethlehem is the correct place of Jesus’ birth.
- * There is no other way to look at Alma 7:10 other than a mistake.
- * The New Testament confirms Micah’s prophesy that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- * Alma’s prophecy that Jesus would be born in Jerusalem was not fulfilled.
- * Therefore Alma fails the Test of a Prophet and is a False Prophet.

Joseph Smith/Doctrine & Covenants 84:4-5 - Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation.

5 For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house.

Conclusion

- * That temple was never built. This is a failed prophecy.
- * Therefore Joseph Smith is a false prophet.

2. Deuteronomy 13:1–5 - “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, **2** and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them.’ **3** you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. **4** You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. **5** But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.

Joseph Smith – “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens...it is necessary we should understand the character and being of God and how he came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see...he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible. (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 345-346)

Bible -

1. **Isaiah 43:10** ¹⁰ “... Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.
2. **Isaiah 43:11** ¹¹ I, *even I, am* the LORD, And besides Me *there is* no savior.
3. **Isaiah 44:6** ⁶ “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; Besides Me *there is* no God.
4. **Isaiah 44:8** ⁸ Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared *it*? You *are* My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed *there is* no other Rock; I know not *one.*’ ”
5. **Isaiah 45:5** ⁵ I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other; *There is* no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me,
6. **Isaiah 45:6** ⁶ That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That *there is* none besides Me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other;
7. **Isaiah 45:14** ¹⁴ ...They will make supplication to you, *saying*, ‘Surely God *is* in you, And *there is* no other; *There is* no other God.’ ”
8. **Isaiah 45:18** ¹⁸ For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other.
9. **Isaiah 45:21** ²¹ Tell and bring forth *your case*; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the LORD? And *there is* no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; *There is* none besides Me.
10. **Isaiah 45:22** ²² “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other.
11. **Isaiah 46:9a** ⁹ Remember the former things of old, For I *am* God, and *there is* no other;
12. **Isaiah 46:9b** I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me,

Conclusion

* Joseph Smith has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage.

* Joseph Smith is therefore a False Prophet

3. Truth used to Test

Psalm 119:151 - You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth.

Psalm 119:160 - The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Proverbs 30:5 - Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

John 17:17 - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

* The Joseph Smith translation states that it restores truths that were lost or changed. The Lord inspired the Prophet Joseph Smith to restore truths to the King James Bible text that had become lost or changed since the original words were written. These restored truths clarified doctrine and improved scriptural understanding. (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/jst/introduction.html?lang=eng>)

* Joseph Smith added a prophecy of himself by inserted verses from the Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 27:6 and 27:9 into his translation of the Bible in the Book of Isaiah Chapter 29:

2 Nephi 27:6 - And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the words of a book...

JST/Inspired Version

Isaiah 29:11 - And it shall come to pass, that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the words of a book...

2 Nephi 27:9 - But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book

JST/Inspired Version

Isaiah 29:14 - But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book

* Joseph Smith rewrote John 1:1

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

JST/Inspired Version

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word, and the word was with the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God.

* Joseph Smith changed Romans 4:16

Romans 4:16 - Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace...

JST/Inspired Version

Romans 4:16 - Therefore ye are justified of faith and works, through grace,

* This is a different gospel. One of faith only. One of faith and works.

Conclusion

* Based on the historical and archeological evidence of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the 40,000+ copies of the New Testament, Joseph Smith is the one who added to and changed the original truths of the Bible and should receive the consequences the Bible describes.

Deuteronomy 4:2 - You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Proverbs 30:6 - Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Galatians 1:8 - But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Revelation 22:18–19 - For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall

take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

* Biblical/New Testament Teaching of Prophets

Acts 15:32 - Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.

Acts 13:1 - Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 21:8–9 - On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. **9** Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

Acts 21:10 – And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

1 Corinthians 12:28 - And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:29 - Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

1 Corinthians 14:29 - Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

1 Corinthians 14:32 - And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

1 Corinthians 14:37 - If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

* Purpose/Role of New Testament Prophet

Ephesians 4:11–12 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

1 Corinthians 14:3–5 - But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. **4** He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. **5** I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

* So a prophet exercising the gift given to him by the Holy Spirit will be for: 1) Equipping, 2) Edification, 3) Exhortation 4) Comfort

Pastor

* Pastor – From Greek word [*poimen* /poy·**mane**/] n m. translates as “shepherd” 15 times, “Shepherd” twice, and “pastor” once. **1** a herdsman, esp. a shepherd. **2** metaph. 2a the presiding officer, manager, director, of any assembly: so of Christ the Head of the church.

Ephesians 4:11–12 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

No Need for a Pastoral Recommend

1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

1 Corinthians 4:2-5 - Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. **3** But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. **4** For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. **5** Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Paying of Pastors

Numbers 18:21-28 - "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting... "Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: 'When you take from the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering of it to the LORD, a tenth of the tithe... Thus you shall also offer a heave offering to the LORD from all your tithes which you receive from the children of Israel, and you shall give the LORD's heave offering from it to Aaron the priest.

2 Chronicles 31:4 - Moreover he (king) commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the LORD.

Nehemiah 10:35-39 - And we made ordinances to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the LORD... to bring the tithes of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities. **38** And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse. **39** For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God.

1 Corinthians 9:9-15 - For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? **10** Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. **11** If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? **12** If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. **13** Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? **14** Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. **15** But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void.

Matthew 10:9–10 - Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, **10** nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.

2 Corinthians 11:7–8 - Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? **8** I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.

2 Corinthians 12:13 - For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong!

Paid Clergy in LDS Church

* A 2014 memo from the church's Presiding Bishopric (which handles all financial issues for the faith), noting that the "base living allowance" for all Mormon general authorities was being raised from \$116,400 to \$120,000...LDS Church spokesman Eric Hawkins declined to confirm the salary numbers Monday, while defending the payment of full-time ecclesiastical leaders. "General authorities leave their careers when they are called into full-time church service," Hawkins said in a statement. "When they do so, they focus all of their time on serving the church and are given a living allowance. The living allowance is uniform for all general authorities [including First Presidency, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, First and Second Quorums of the Seventy and Presiding Bishopric]." (By Peggy Fletcher Stack, The Salt Lake Tribune, January 26, 2017 6:43 pm)

* Missions President Handbook (2006)

While you are serving as mission president, the Church reimburses the necessary living expenses for you, your wife, and your dependent children... Living expenses include food, clothing, household supplies, family activities, dry cleaning, personal long-distance calls to family, and modest gifts (for example, Christmas, birthdays, or anniversary). In addition, the following are provided or reimbursed:

- Medical expenses
- One round trip for each unmarried child under age 26 to visit you...
- Elementary and secondary school expenses for tuition, fees, books, and materials. Reasonable expenses for extracurricular activities and for music or dance lessons may be reimbursed...
- Undergraduate tuition at an accredited college or university that offers two- or four-year degrees...

Mission home. Your mission home is either owned or leased by the Church...

The mission office pays such mission home expenses as: • Rent (if leased), utilities, telephones, and Internet connection. • Maintenance, including gardening and repair or replacement of household items. • One part-time housekeeper-cook (no more than a total of 20 hours per week).

Transportation. The Church provides one mission automobile assigned exclusively to the mission president. Although a vehicle is not permanently assigned to your wife, she may use any available mission vehicle for shopping, taking children to school, or other needs. The mission office pays the following transportation expenses: • Fuel, oil, maintenance, and repair expenses for mission-owned vehicles. • Travel expenses for you and your wife as you supervise the mission, including the costs of meals and lodging.

Insurance premiums. Medical expenses for you and your family are paid from Church funds...

Tax Issues. Because you are engaged in volunteer religious service, no employer-employee relationship exists between you and the Church. As a result, any funds reimbursed to you from the Church are not considered income for tax purposes; they are not reported to the government, and taxes are not withheld with regard to these funds.

To avoid raising unnecessary tax questions, please follow these guidelines closely: • Do not share information on funds you receive from the Church with those who help you with financial or tax matters. • Never represent in any way that you are paid for your service. • If you are required to file an income-tax report for other purposes, do not list any funds you receive from the Church, regardless of where you serve or where you hold citizenship...

Tithing and Other Offerings - You do not pay tithing on money reimbursed to you by the Church...

* Using the information from the Mission President's manual, we (*Bill McKeever & Eric Johnson*) applied what we felt were reasonable numbers on each item that a mission president's family could use as reimbursement from the LDS Church... **TOTAL BENEFITS: \$99,500** - It must be mentioned that tithing on these items are not supposed to be paid. Unlike other church members, this family can receive temple recommends without paying tithing on "income." Hence, for the value of this compensation, which we list here at almost \$100,000, the tithe amount would be at least \$10,000. So, this particular mission president—who, remember, is considered a "volunteer"—is getting compensation for at least **\$110,000**. (Authors names inserted by me.) (Mission President Handbook, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2006)