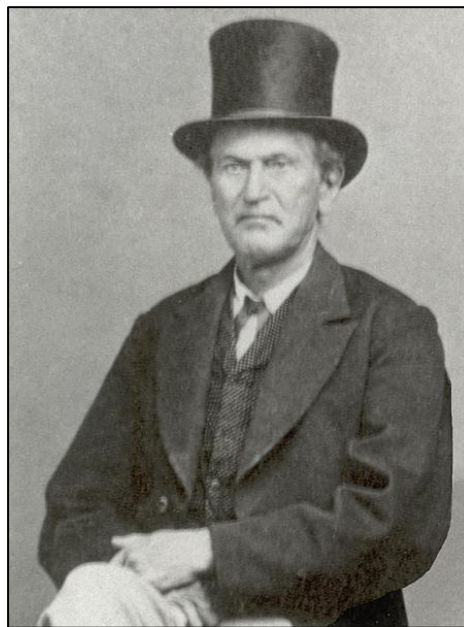


Doctrine and Covenants 12-17



Martin Harris photograph, Charles R. Savage, 1870, copy at Church History Library, original owned privately.



David Whitmer Photograph, unknown photographer, circa 1855. (Community of Christ Library-Archives,

Eight men who desired to build up the cause of Zion.

There were 16 revelations given before the Church was organized, and eight of those revelations were directed to named individuals, including Joseph Knight, Sr. All of them were close associates or family members of Joseph Smith, Jr., and each desired to know the will of the Lord regarding what they should be doing.

There were two groups; those who received revelation in Harmony, Pennsylvania, where Joseph Smith was living with his wife, Emma, and working on translating the gold plates between February and May of 1829, and the Fayette group in June of 1829.

The individuals who received **revelations in Harmony** included:

1. **Joseph Smith, Sr., Section 4**, February 1829.

He was father of the prophet, Joseph Smith, Jr., and age 58 in 1829. He was his son's first and foremost believer. Joseph, Sr., lived in Manchester, New York, 140 miles from where the revelation was given.

The records do not show if the revelation came in early or late February, but possibly Section 4 was received during a visit of Joseph Smith, Sr. to his son's home, that is the same visit mentioned in Joseph Knight, Sr.'s recollections.

Joseph Knight wrote that in January of 1829, Joseph Smith, Sr., and his son arrived at the Knight home. Father Knight told Father Smith and his son Samuel that “They had traveled[sic] far enough,” and he took Samuel and Father Smith in his sleigh over to Joseph and Emma’s home over 25 miles away in Harmony.

If Samuel and Father Smith arrived at the Knight home in late January 1829, and then were taken to Harmony, it is possible that Joseph Smith’s father was still there in early February of 1829, when he received the instructions from the Lord that “Faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work.”

2. **Martin Harris, Section 5**, verses 26-35. March 1829
Martin was age 46 in 1829. He owned a farm of 320 acres in Palmyra, New York, and had intense interest in the gold plates. He took the characters copied from the plates to Charles Anthon. Harris was an early scribe in 1828 for Joseph, and was back in Harmony to visit in 1829. In Section 5, Martin was told, contingent on repentance, that the Lord “will grant unto him a view of the things which he desires to see.” Several months later Martin became one of the Three Witnesses.
3. **Oliver Cowdery, mentioned in Sections 6 and 7, directed revelation in Section 8**
April 1829
Oliver was 22 years old, and a school teacher. He met Joseph Smith and then stayed in Harmony as a scribe for Joseph in translation work. Among other things he was told “Trifle not with these things, and do not ask for that which you ought not.” D&C 8:10
4. **Hyrum Smith, Section 11, May 1829**
Joseph Smith, Jr.’s older brother was 29 and in Harmony when this revelation was received through the Urim and Thummim. He was told “A great and marvelous work is about to come forth” and “Seek not to declare my word but seek first to obtain my word.” Hyrum in the fall of 1830 would bring his family to Colesville, New York, to live with Newel Knight and become the Branch President of the Colesville Branch.
5. **Joseph Knight, Sr., Section 12, May 1829**
Trusted friend to Joseph Smith, Joseph Knight was 56 in 1829, and was probably on one of his several trips to Harmony to see Joseph and Emma Smith and take them food and supplies that would allow Joseph to continue translation work when this revelation was given. Among other things, Joseph Knight was told “A great and marvelous work is about to come forth . . . seek to establish the cause of Zion.”

In early June of 1829, Joseph Smith, Jr., and Oliver Cowdery moved to Fayette, New York to continue translation work while living at the home of Peter Whitmer, Sr. The individuals who received **revelations in Fayette** included:

6. **David Whitmer, Section 14**, June 1829

David was 24 years old, single and a member of the large Whitmer family who embraced Joseph Smith and his work. David was told “thou art called to assist; which thing if ye do, and are faithful, ye shall be blessed both spiritually and temporally.” Later that same month David Whitmer was baptized by Joseph Smith.

7. **John Whitmer, Section 15**, June 1829

John was 27, the older brother to David Whitmer, who like his other brothers would become a witness to the Book of Mormon plates. John was told, “ And I will tell you that which no man knoweth save me and thee alone – for many times you have desired of me to know that which is of most worth to you. . . and behold I say unto you that thing which will be of most worth unto you will be to declare repentance unto this people, that you may bring souls unto me.”

8. **Peter Whitmer, Jr., Section 16**, June 1829

Peter was only 19 years-old when he was told in revelation “Hearken, my servant Peter, and listen to the words of Jesus Christ your Redeemer.” Peter would soon become one of the 8 witnesses of the Book of Mormon plates.

Patterns seen in the 8 revelations:

There are several phrases that appear in multiple revelations in this group.

The phrase, “A marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men,” as well as the phrase, “The field is white already to harvest,” is mentioned in Section 12 for Joseph Knight, but also in Sections, 4, 6, 11 and 14, to Joseph Smith, Sr., Joseph Smith, Jr., Oliver Cowdery, Hyrum Smith, and David Whitmer.

The phrase, “My word is sharper than a two-edged sword” appears in 11, 12, and 14. The phrase “I speak with sharpness and with power” is found in both Sections 15 and 16.

Clearly, among Joseph Smith Jr.’s closest friends, this was a time of anticipation of great things to come, and significant things were on the horizon, and they wanted to be a part of it.