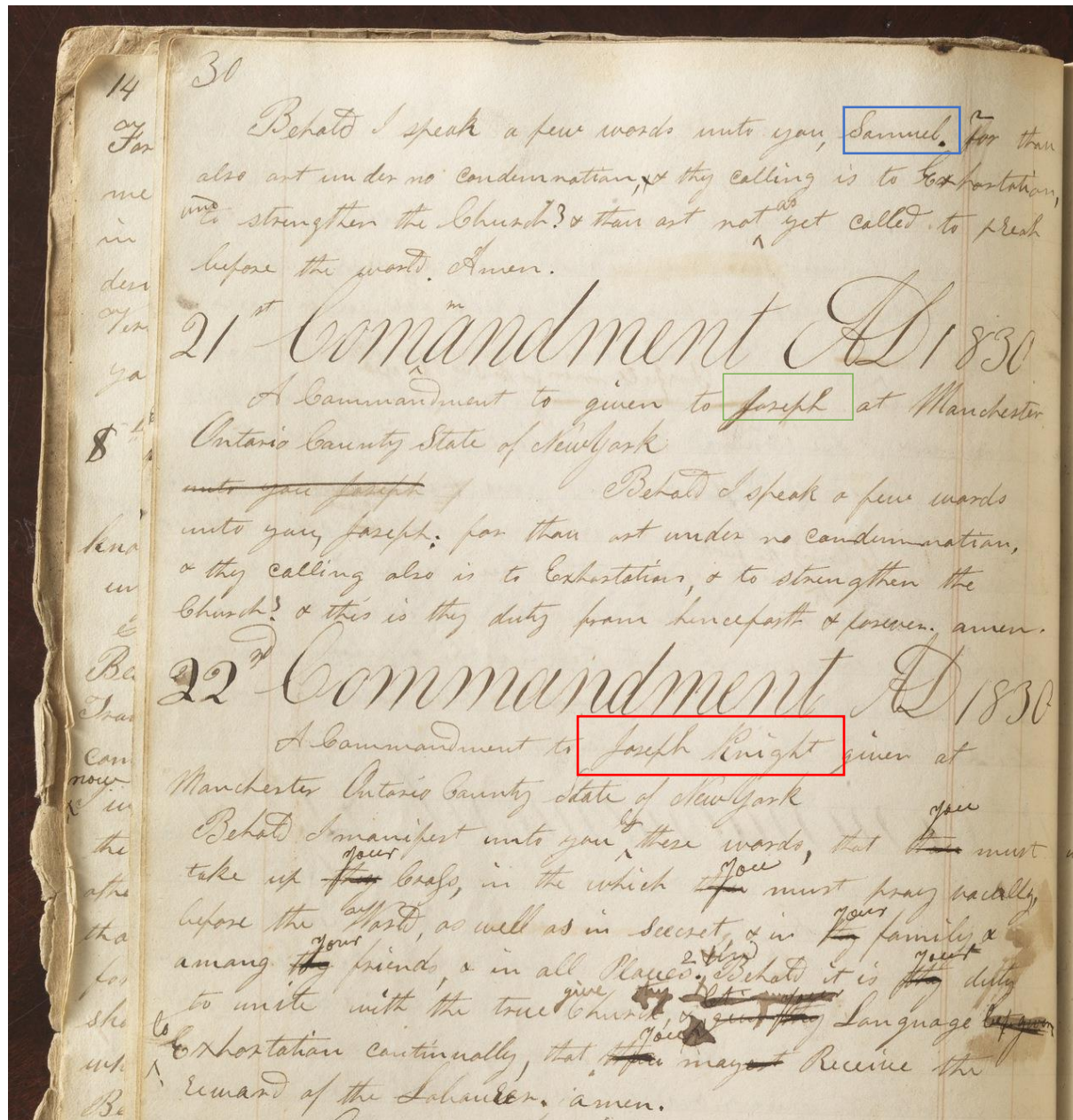


## Doctrine and Covenants Section 23

Shortly after the organization of the church, perhaps even later that same day, five men gathered at the Smith home in Manchester. They were Oliver Cowdery, Hyrum Smith, Samuel Smith, Joseph Smith, Sr., and Joseph Knight, Sr., and all of them had an earnest desire to know of the Lord's plan for them and their respective duties.

In the handwritten manuscript, written by a scribe to Joseph Smith, to Joseph Smith, this revelation was given the title of Commandment 22.



This was not something new. Four of those five men in Manchester in the previous year had a personal revelation given them. In fact, in the first half of 1829 eight men were mentioned by name with instructions that were directly for them in the revelations.

When this revelation came to the five men in Manchester in early April, each man was addressed in a separate "commandment," numbers 18-22 in the handwritten book. In a later edition of the printed Doctrine and Covenants they were merged into one section, Section 23, which has just seven verses.

Joseph Knight was told to take up his cross and pray vocally, before the world, in secret, as well as among family and friends. It appears that praying vocally was not a common practice in the Knight family. A short time later, Joseph Smith was in Colesville at the Knight home and held several meetings that were well attended. Joseph Smith, Jr. invited Newel Knight to pray at a meeting among friends and family and he declined and found himself wrestling with the devil.

Diane Mangum October 2024