

October 18–24
Doctrine and Covenants 121–123
“O God, Where Art Thou?”



Overview

Persecutions while settling in Far West (1838)

Aug 6 - Election day battle at Gallatin

Sep 12 - Saints driven from DeWitt

Oct 24 - Battle of Crooked River

Oct 27 - Gov. Boggs
extermination order

Oct 30 - Haun's Mill massacre

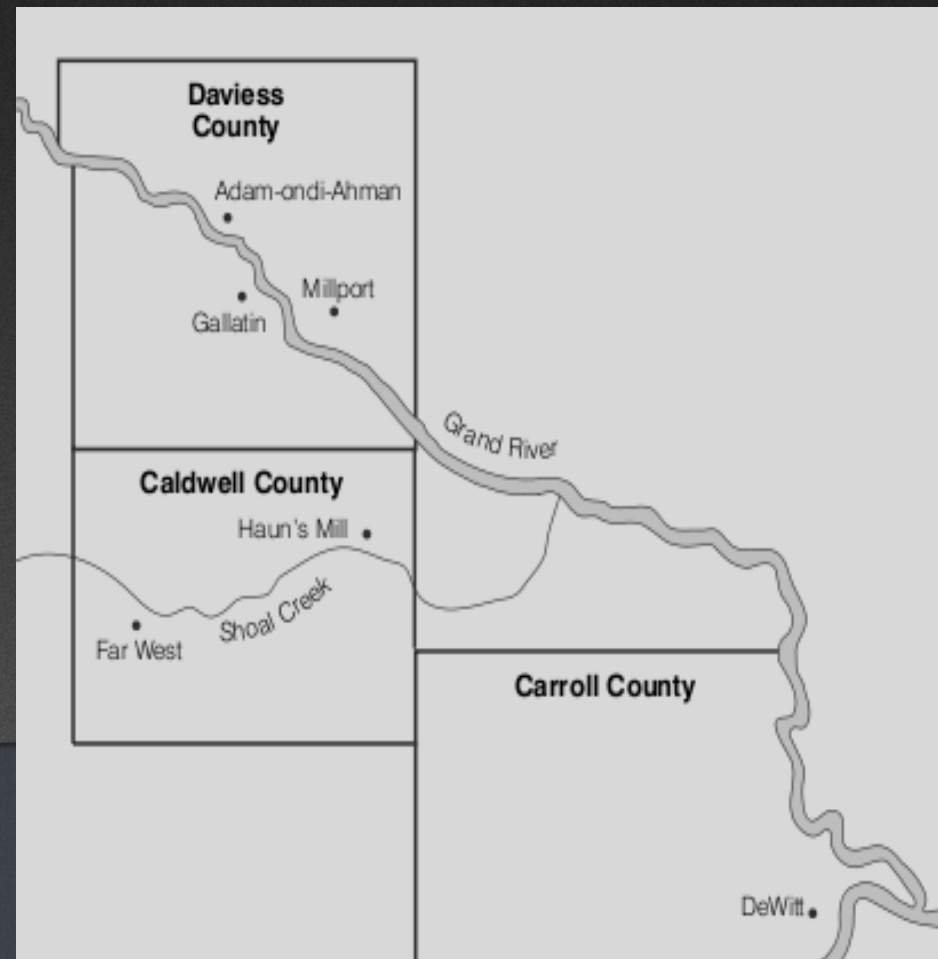
Oct 31 - Siege of Far West

J. Smith arrested

Dec 1838 to Apr 1839 -

J. Smith in Liberty Jail

Feb 1839 - Large-scale
migration from MO



Overview

In a secret and illegal court-martial held during the night, the prisoners were sentenced to be executed the next morning on the public square in Far West. When General Alexander Doniphan received the order from General Lucas, he was indignant at the brutality and injustice of the affair and replied, "It is cold-blooded murder. I will not obey your order. My brigade shall march for Liberty tomorrow morning, at 8 o'clock; and if you execute these men, I will hold you responsible before an earthly tribunal, so help me God." (Church History In The Fulness Of Time, pp 205)

Afflictions

D&C 121:1-4

What does Joseph Smith demonstrate that he knows to be true as he pleads to the Lord?

Marvin J. Ashton

“Perhaps it would be good for our souls to build the understanding that He is there, even our loving and eternal Father, and that oftentimes, delays to our urgent pleas can be best for us. Who is to say it isn't more important to know He is there than to receive immediate answers? Oftentimes I think of the conditions under which Joseph Smith pled within the confines of the horrible prison.... The Prophet seemed to be sustained by the overruling knowledge that God was there, knew him, and loved him. While answers to his pleading and prayers were delayed, God was building a stronger prophet.” (“Know He Is There,” Ensign, Feb. 1994)

Afflictions

D&C 121:7-9

What does the Lord promise Joseph Smith when it comes to his trials?

Joseph Smith

"Let us here observe, that a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation; for, from the first existence of man, the faith necessary unto the enjoyment of life and salvation never could be obtained without the sacrifice of all earthly things. It was through this sacrifice, and this only, that God has ordained that men should enjoy eternal life; and it is through the medium of the sacrifice of all earthly things that men do actually know that they are doing the things that are well pleasing in the sight of God." (Lectures on Faith 6:5)

Afflictions

D&C 122:5-8

What reason does the Lord give that we need to go through afflictions?

Spencer W. Kimball

Being human, we would expel from our lives physical pain and mental anguish and assure ourselves of continual ease and comfort, but if we were to close the doors upon sorrow and distress, we might be excluding our greatest friends and benefactors. Suffering can make saints of people as they learn patience, long-suffering, and self-mastery. (Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg. 98)

Wilford Woodruff

”In the dispensations and providences of God to man it seems that we are born to suffer pain, affliction, sorrows and trials; this is what God has decreed that the human family shall pass through; and if we make a right use of this probation, the experience it brings will eventually prove a great blessing to us, and when we receive immortality and eternal life, exaltation, kingdoms, thrones, principalities and powers with all the blessings of the fulness of the Gospel of Christ, we shall understand and comprehend why we were called to pass through a continual warfare during the few years we spent in the flesh.” (JD, 18:33)

Neal A. Maxwell

“As part of His infinite atonement, Jesus... has borne the sins, griefs, sorrows, and, declared Jacob, the pains of every man, woman, and child. Having been perfected in His empathy, Jesus thus knows how to succor us.... Nothing is beyond His redeeming reach or His encircling empathy. Therefore, we should not complain about our own life’s not being a rose garden when we remember who wore the crown of thorns!”
(CR, April 1987)

Afflictions

D&C 121:16-19

What consequences face those who “lift up the heel against mine anointed”?

Why was there then, and always will be, those who seek to tear down the gospel?

Dallin H. Oaks

The counsel against speaking evil of Church leaders is not so much for the benefit of the leaders as it is for the spiritual well-being of members who are prone to murmur and find fault. The Church leaders I know are durable people. They made their way successfully in a world of unrestrained criticism before they received their current callings. They have no personal need for protection; they seek no personal immunities from criticism-constructive or destructive. They only seek to declare what they understand to be the word of the Lord to his people. ("Criticism," Ensign, Feb. 1987)

Joseph Smith

"The enemies of this people will never get weary of their persecution against the Church, until they are overcome. I expect they will array everything against me that is in their power to control, and that we shall have a long and tremendous warfare. He that will war the true Christian warfare against the corruptions of these last days will have wicked men and angels of devils, and all the infernal powers of darkness continually arrayed against him". (TPJS, pg. 259)

Joseph F. Smith

"As a proof of this, we need only to open our eyes and see the energy and activity of the enemies of this people at the present time. When the wicked rage and the heathen imagine a vain thing relative to this people, we may set it down as a fact that the devil is not dead, and that the work of the Lord is not dead, either." (CR, April 1903)

Afflictions

D&C 121:26,33

What does the Lord promise he will give us to help us through our afflictions?

How can knowledge help us through afflictions?

Gordon B. Hinckley

“There is a promise, given under inspiration from the Almighty, set forth in these beautiful words: "God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost." (D&C 121:26.)

The humanists who criticize the Lord's work... have not heard the voice of the Spirit. They have not heard it because they have not sought after it and prepared themselves to be worthy of it. Then, supposing that knowledge comes only of reasoning and of the workings of the mind, they deny that which comes by the power of the Holy Ghost.

The things of God are understood by the Spirit of God. That Spirit is real. To those who have experienced its workings, the knowledge so gained is as real as that which is acquired through the operation of the five senses. I testify of this.” (“The Continuing Pursuit of Truth,” Ensign, Apr. 1986)

Alma 32:34-35

34 And now, behold, is your knowledge perfect? Yea, your knowledge is perfect in that thing, and your faith is dormant; and this because ye know, for ye know that the word hath swelled your souls, and ye also know that it hath sprouted up, that your understanding doth begin to be enlightened, and your mind doth begin to expand.

35 O then, is not this real? I say unto you, Yea...

Next Week:

September 20–26

Doctrine and Covenants 106–108

"To Have the Heavens Opened"

