

# IMPROVEMENT ERA.

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JOSEPH SMITH,

THE PROPHET OF THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULNESS  
OF TIMES,

Son of Joseph Smith and Lucy Mack Smith, born in Sharon, Windsor county, Vermont, December 23, 1805, received his first vision, in which he saw the Father and the Son, in the spring of 1820; obtained the plates of the Book of Mormon, under the direction of the angel Moroni, September 22, 1827; was ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood by John the Baptist, May 15, 1829, and soon thereafter, to the Melchizedek Priesthood, by the ancient apostles, Peter, James and John; published the Book of Mormon, which he had previously translated from the plates by the means of Urim and Thummim, and the power and inspiration of God, early in 1830; organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by revelation of God, April 6, 1830; established the British Mission in 1837, founded Nauvoo in 1839, and gathered thousands of the Saints; preached the Gospel; received at various times, from 1823 to 1844, the revelations of the Lord for the building up of the Church, which are found in the Doctrine and Covenants, and, at last, having laid the secure foundations of God's "marvelous work and a wonder," sealed the testimony of his mission and labors by his blood, in Carthage jail, June 27, 1844, where he and his brother Hyrum, the patriarch, were brutally murdered by a mob.

Previous to his assassination he said: "I am going like a lamb to the slaughter; but I am calm as a summer's morning; I have a conscience void of offense towards God, and towards all men. I shall die innocent, and it shall yet be said of me—he was murdered in cold blood."

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."—James 1: 5.