

Patterns of Prophecy:

An Analysis of Joseph Smith's Revelations

An analysis of Joseph Smith's revelations, primarily found in the Doctrine and Covenants (D&C), reveals consistent patterns. Rather than being random divine decrees, the revelations often appear timed and tailored to secure money, justify controversial practices like polygamy, and solve immediate crises Joseph faced.

REVELATIONS FOR PERSONAL GAIN



Revelations Were Used to Secure Finances

Martin Harris was commanded by revelation (D&C 19) to mortgage his farm or face "eternal damnation."



Revelations Were Used to Coerce Women into Polygamy

Joseph told women an angel with a drawn sword threatened his life if he didn't practice polygamy.



Revelations Were Used to Consolidate Authority

When Hiram Page received revelations via his own seer stone, a new revelation declared only Joseph could receive them.

REVELATIONS FOR DAMAGE CONTROL



Solving the "Lost 116 Pages" Crisis

After the first manuscript was lost, a revelation forbade re-translation, introducing a new record God had prepared.



Justifying Failed Attempts by Others

When Oliver Cowdery failed to translate, a revelation (D&C 9) blamed him for not understanding the process correctly.



Retroactively Changing Scripture to Fit an Evolving Role

An early revelation stating Joseph would have "no other gift" was later altered to allow for his ongoing revelations.