

Testing a Prophet: An Analysis of Joseph Smith's Unfulfilled Prophecies

The Bible, in Deuteronomy 18, provides a test for prophets: if what they prophesy does not happen, the Lord has not spoken it. This infographic examines several major, canonized prophecies by Mormonism's founder, Joseph Smith, that failed to materialize, leaving followers to reconcile the outcomes with the divine claims.

Unfulfilled Prophecies for Zion

The New Jerusalem in Missouri



A temple was to be built in Missouri "in this generation" (D&C 84). That generation has passed, and the temple was never built.

Zion "Cannot Fall"

ZION CANNOT FALL



A revelation (D&C 97) declared Zion "cannot fall, neither be moved." Soon after, the Saints were forcibly driven from Missouri.

An "Everlasting" Economic Order



The United Order, a communal system, was established as an "everlasting order... until I come" (D&C 104). It failed quickly and is not practiced today.

Unfulfilled Timelines & Events

The Second Coming in 1891



In 1835, Joseph Smith stated that "56 years should wind up the scene," placing the Second Coming in 1891. It did not occur.

U.S. Government to be "Utterly Overthrown"



Prophesied the U.S. government would be destroyed "in a few years" if it didn't provide reparations. Nearly 180 years later, it still stands.

A Failed Treasure Hunt in Salem



A revelation (D&C 111) promised the church "much treasure... gold and silver" in Salem, MA. No treasure was ever found.