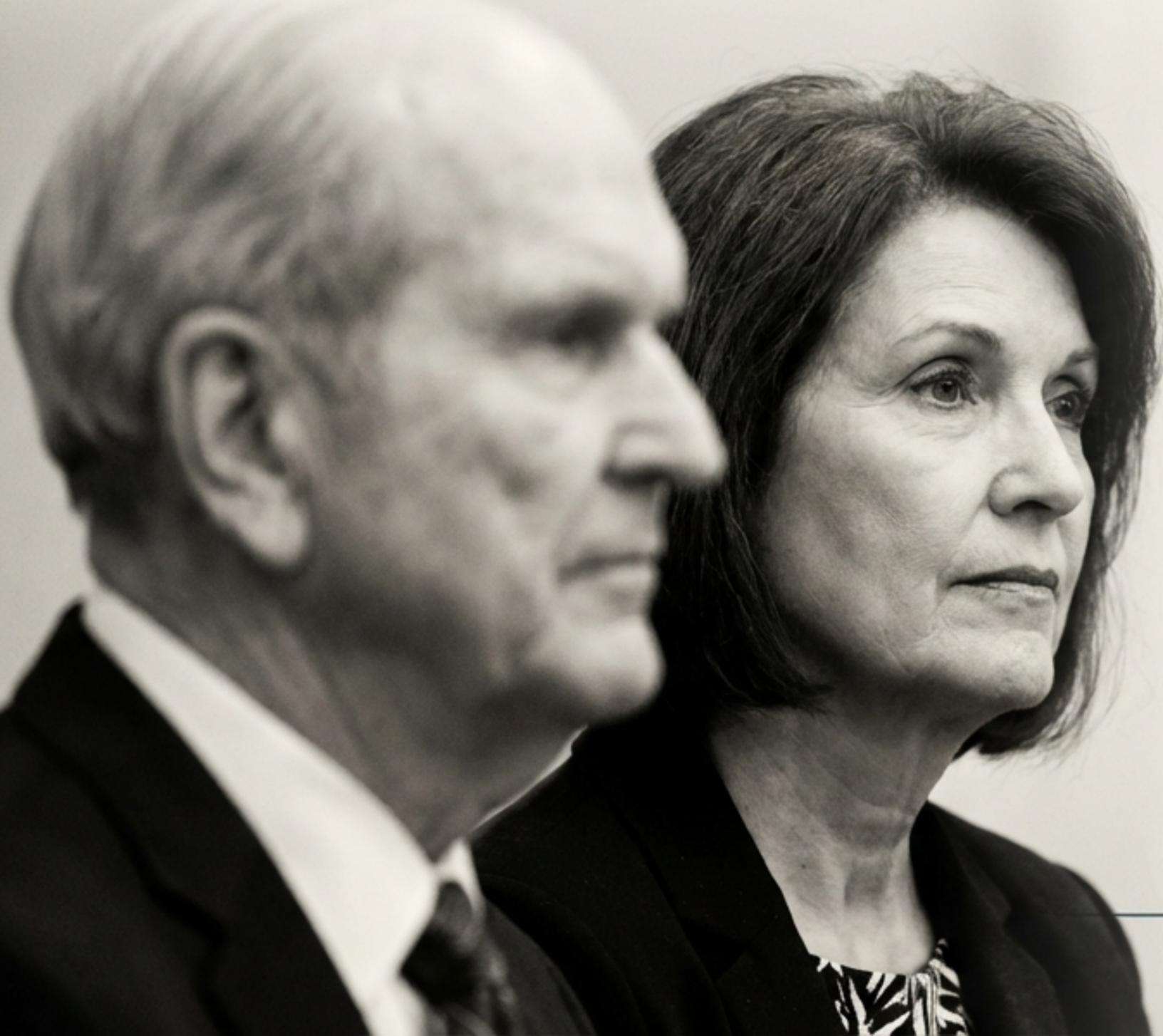


Revelation, or the Will of the Man Unleashed?



“I have seen him changing in the last 10 months... it is as though he’s been **Unleashed**. He’s free to finally do what he came to Earth to do... and also he’s free to follow through with things he’s been concerned about but could never do. Now that he’s president... he can do those things.”

Wendy Nelson, in a Church News interview shortly after Russell M. Nelson became president.

The Claim vs. The Pattern

The Claim

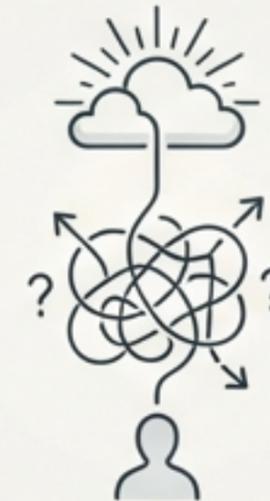
The foundational premise of the restored Church is a living prophet who receives **continuous** revelation from an unchanging God to guide His people.



The Pattern

However, the historical record of revelation after Joseph Smith reveals a **distinct pattern** of:

- Reversals of “everlasting” commandments.
- Direct contradictions between prophets.
- “Revelation” driven by external pressure.
- A consistent failure of divine discernment.



This analysis will test the claim against the historical pattern, using the words and actions of the prophets themselves.



Pattern 1: Revelations in Reverse

How can an **“Everlasting Covenant”** from an unchanging God be revoked just a few years after it is declared?

The historical record shows multiple instances where a prophet declared God’s will with absolute finality, only for a subsequent prophet to completely reverse the policy. This pattern challenges the very nature of divine law as presented by the Church. We will examine two key examples: one from the 19th century and its direct mirror in the 21st.

The 'Everlasting Covenant' of Polygamy

The 1886 Revelation

'Thus saith the Lord' to John Taylor

"You have asked me concerning the new and **Everlasting Covenant**, and I should widd have a step... How can I revoke an **Everlasting Covenant**? For I the Lord am **Everlasting** and my **Everlasting covenants** cannot be abrogated nor done away with, but they stand forever... I have not revoked this law nor will I, for it is **Everlasting**."

The 1890 Reversal

The Manifesto

Less than four years later, facing immense pressure from the U.S. government—including the seizure of temples and church assets—the practice officially ended by the next prophet.

An "everlasting" law was revoked not by divine initiative, but by external political pressure.

The 2015 LGBTQ+ Exclusion Policy and its 2019 Reversal

Jan 10, 2016 Salt Lake Tribune

Mormon gay policy is **'will of the Lord'** through his prophet, senior apostle says

"When the Lord inspired his prophet... to declare the mind of the Lord and the **will of the Lord**, each of us... felt a spiritual confirmation."

– Russell M. Nelson, 2016

Apr 4, 2019 Salt Lake Tribune

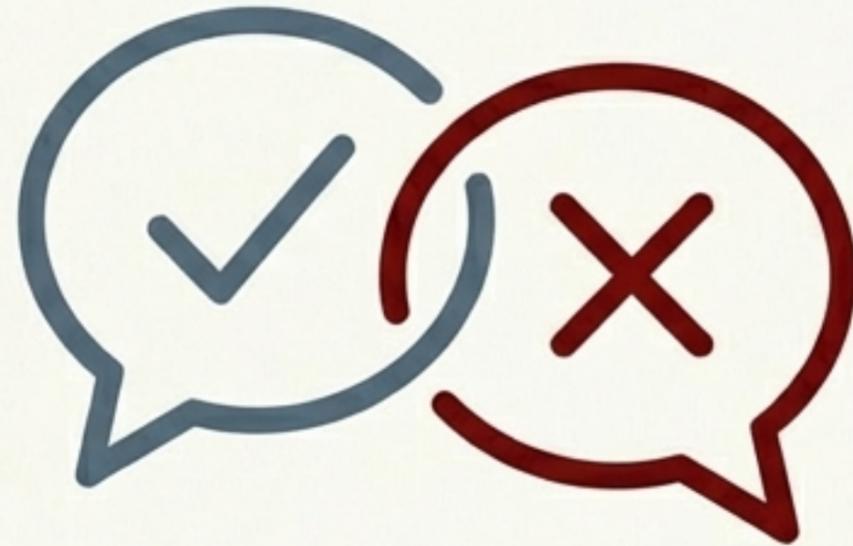
LDS Church dumps its controversial LGBTQ policy

The First Presidency stated the reversal came "after **fervent, united prayer** to understand the **will of the Lord** on these matters."

The same process of "seeking the will of the Lord" produced opposite results just 3.5 years apart.

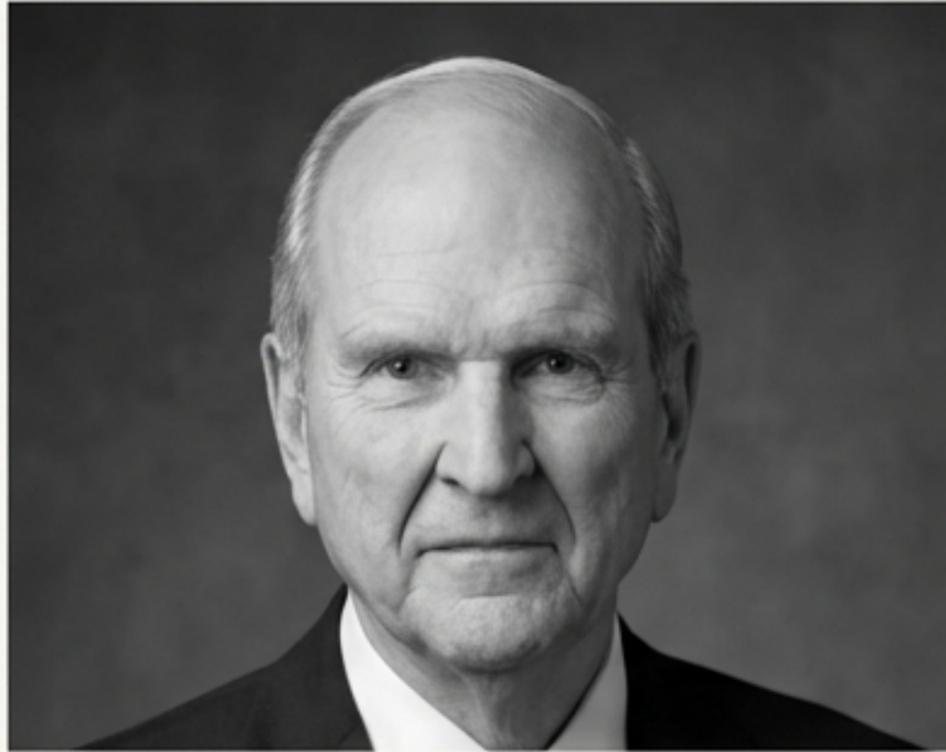
Pattern 2: Prophets in Conflict

If prophets are receiving messages from the same God,
why are the messages diametrically opposed?



A core function of a prophet is to declare what pleases or offends God. Yet, on the very identity of the Church, two modern prophets have given completely opposite instructions, with one calling the other's preferred term a "**victory for Satan.**"

A “Victory for Satan” or a Name of “Great Honor”?



“To remove the Lord’s name from The Lord’s church is a major **victory for Satan.**”

— Russell M. Nelson, 2018



“I am not ashamed of the nickname Mormon... if there is any name that is **totally Honorable** in its derivation, it is the name Mormon... Mormon can mean... more good.”

— Gordon B. Hinckley, 1990

The Church’s Actions



Between these two statements, the Church spent millions on global campaigns branding itself with a name that one prophet called honorable and the other called a tool of Satan.

Pattern 3: Revelation by Pragmatism

Is revelation a top-down directive from God, or a bottom-up solution to an earthly problem?



The church's public narrative often portrays revelation as a sacred, unsolicited message from heaven. However, a closer look at key historical events reveals that **'revelation' often arrives conveniently to solve pressing institutional problems**—problems that social progress or moral clarity failed to address.

Lifting the Priesthood Ban: A Moral Awakening or a Logistical Necessity?

The Public Narrative



“A Conduit to the Heavenly Throne”

“There was a hallowed and Sanctified atmosphere in the room... it felt as if a conduit opened between the Heavenly throne and the kneeling, pleading prophet of God...”

- Gordon B. Hinckley

The Private Reality



“The Problem in Brazil”

“Down in Brazil there is so much negro blood... We just built a temple down there... all those people with negro blood... have been raising money to build that Temple and then if we don't change then they can't even use it. So brother Kimball worried about it...”

- Apostle LeGrand Richards

**Decades of the Civil Rights movement did not prompt a revelation.
The opening of a new temple in Brazil did.**

Pattern 4: The Failure of Prophetic Discernment

The Claim

“The gift of discernment can help us... **detect hidden error and evil in others.**”
- David A. Bednar, 2006



The Reality

Despite this claimed spiritual gift, **Church leaders have been spectacularly deceived by forgers, hoaxers, and even murderers**, spending sacred tithing funds to acquire and suppress fake documents they believed were real.

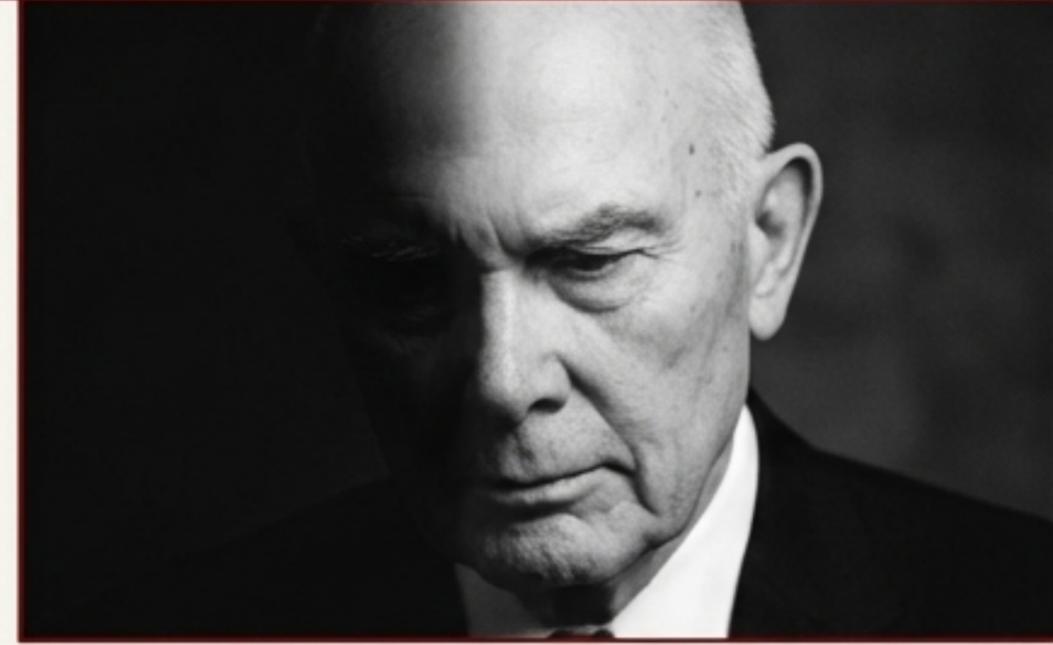
A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



Prophets, Seers, and Revelators, possessing the “**gift of discernment**,” examine **fraudulent documents** presented by Mark Hoffman—a masterful forger who would soon commit **murder** to cover his tracks. **They saw nothing.**

The Deception of Dallin H. Oaks

Just hours after committing two murders, Mark Hoffman met with Apostle Dallin H. Oaks in the Church Office Building to continue his deceptions. Oaks was unable to discern that he was meeting with a murderer.



“The Holy Ghost will protect us against being deceived. But to realize that wonderful blesful blessing, we must do the things necessary to retain tht retain that Spirit... **We must never take things into our body or do things with our bodies drive away the spirit of the Lord and leave us without our spiritual away our spiritual protection against deception.”**

“By his own definition, what was Oaks doing that drove the Spirit away?”

The Watering Down of Revelation

Joseph Smith's Era



Doctrine & Covenants

Over 130 canonized revelations in the **Doctrine & Covenants**.

Direct, **“Thus saith the Lord”** pronouncements on doctrine, policy, and personal direction.

The Modern Church



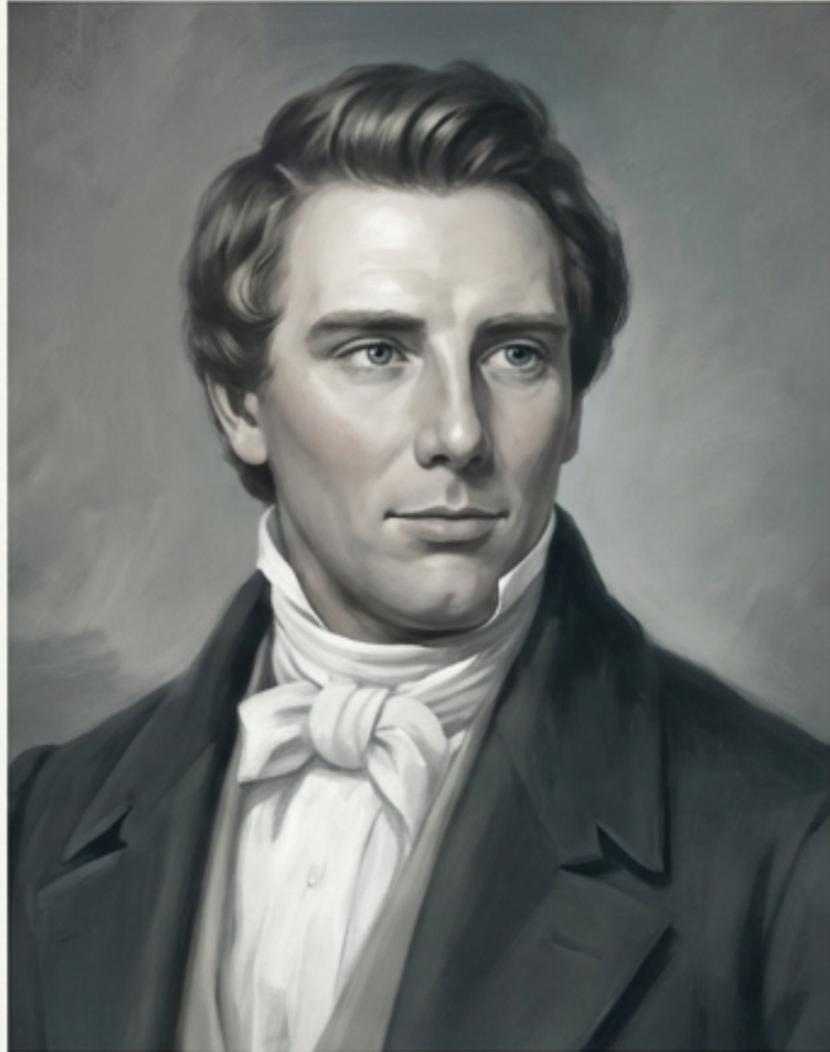
Zero canonized revelations in over 100 years.

The process is now described in much less certain terms:

“The great volume of revelation comes to today’s prophets in the less spectacular way that of **deep impressions**, but without spectacle or glamor...”

- Spencer W. Kimball, 1960

What Joseph Smith Would Say Today

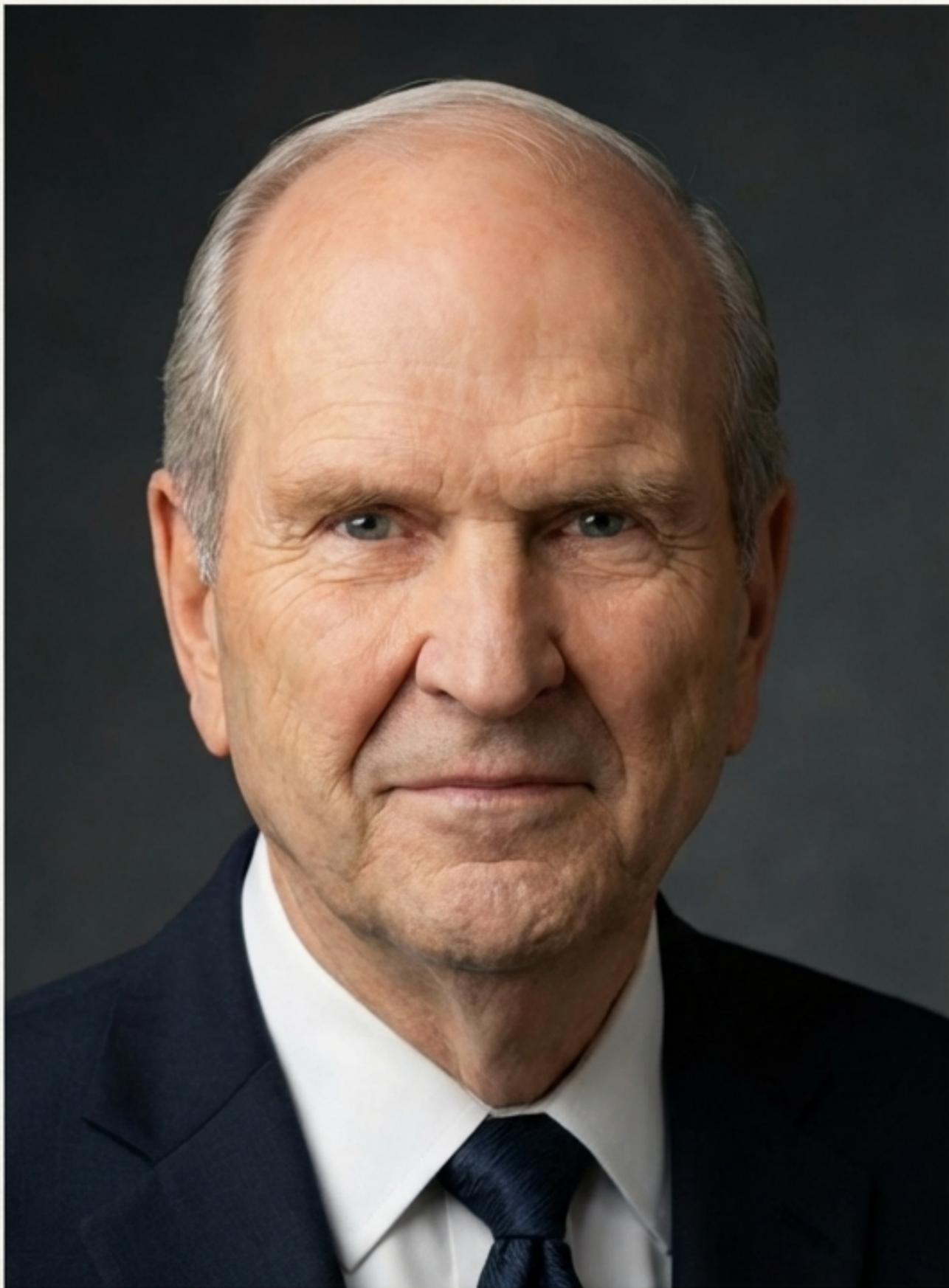


Joseph Smith mocked other Christian denominations of his day for relying on ancient scripture without seeking new revelation.

“But we ask, does it remain for a people who never had faith enough to call down **one scrap of Revelation from heaven**, and for all they have now are indebted to the faith of another people who lived hundreds and thousands of years before them, **does it remain for them to say how much God has spoken and how much he has not spoken?**”

– Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, 2:18

By his own standard, the modern church rests on his revelations, having failed to produce its own.



The Prophet, Unleashed

We began with a quote from Wendy Nelson. After reviewing the historical pattern of reversals, contradictions, and pragmatism, her words provide the clearest explanation for the nature of modern revelation.

“...it is as though he’s been **Unleashed**. He’s free to finally do what he came to Earth to do... free to follow through with things he’s been concerned about but could never do.”

The evidence suggests that revelation after Joseph Smith is less the mind of an unchanging God, and more the will of powerful men, finally unleashed.