

We did not
come this far
to only come
this far.

Discipleship as a Covenant Journey

Journey

The process of moving from one place or condition toward another.

Indicates development over time

A journey has direction, but it unfolds step by step. It emphasizes process rather than arrival.

Discipleship

Discipleship is the process of becoming and living as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

A disciple does not merely agree with the Teacher. A disciple follows Him, much like an apprentice who seeks to learn and become as capable as the Master.

Conversion begins something

Christianity can be framed as though conversion were the destination:

I believe. I was baptized. I completed the ordinance.
Therefore, I have arrived.

But conversion is only the beginning: the gate we enter to become His disciples.

A covenant journey

A covenant journey gives discipleship both a path and a relationship.

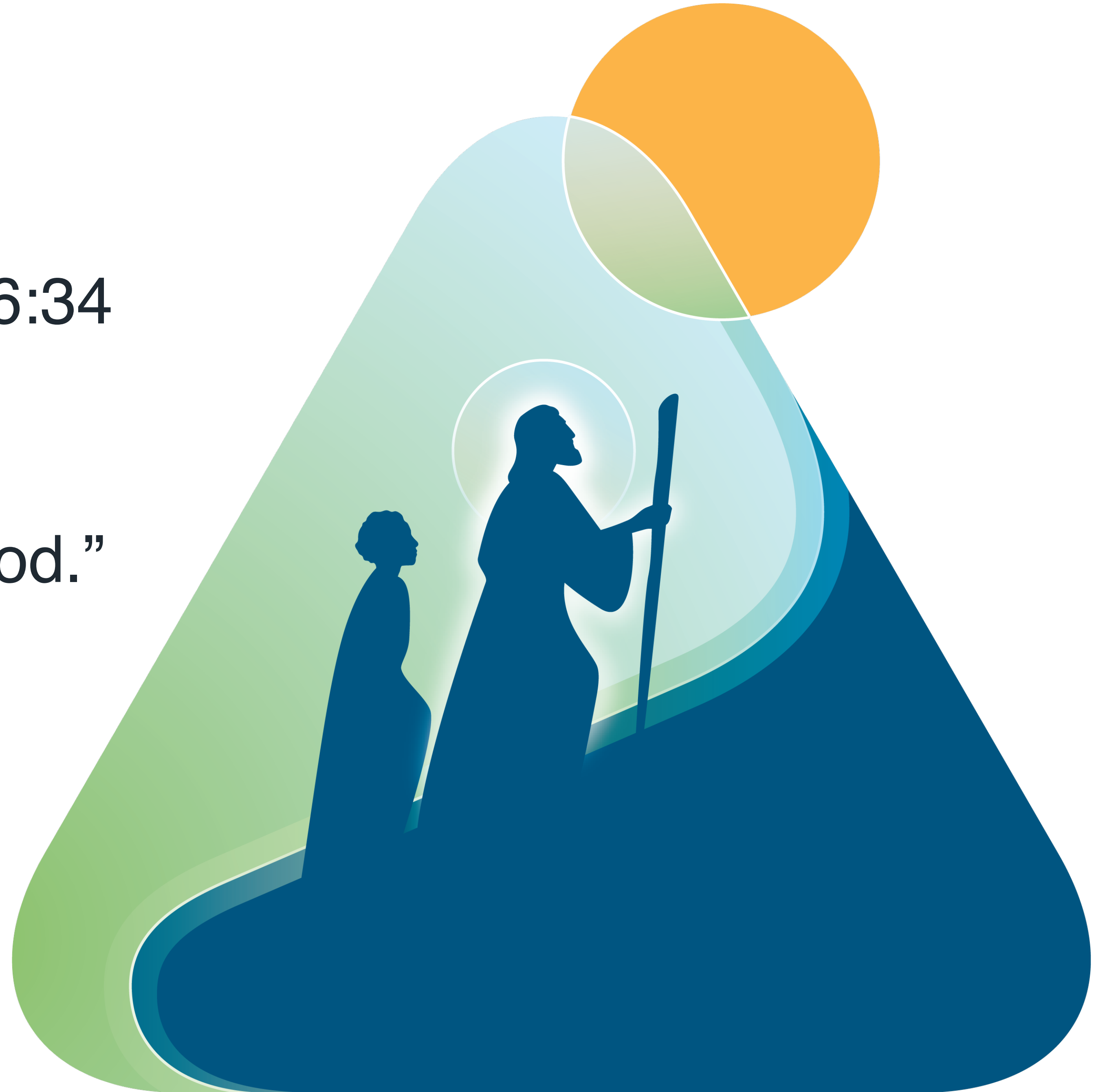
Covenants bind us to Jesus Christ.

The journey is what happens as we live the covenants we have made.

Walk with Me

“Walk with me.” — Moses 6:34

“And Enoch walked with God.”
— Moses 6:39



THE JOURNEY

The Journey - an analogy



The path of discipleship

“The path of discipleship often resembles climbing a mountain.

Jesus Christ and His restored gospel constitute that safe path that leads us to the true summit.”



Elder Eduardo F. Ortega

God's word keeps us on His path

“Thy word is a lamp unto
my feet, and a light unto
my path.”

Psalm 119:105



Jacob's journey

“Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”



Genesis 28:15

A relationship with Jesus Christ

Each of us needs the personal journey of knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior and Redeemer. Healing does not always remove the difficulty. Sometimes Christ heals by giving us strength.

President Parke



A relationship with Jesus Christ

We belong in the Lord's Church because we belong to Him. The gospel is about relationships, not merely requirements. Have more faith in the Savior than doubt in yourself. Rely wholly upon Him who is mighty to save.



President Parke

Covenants bind us to Him

“The covenants God offers to His children do more than guide us. They bind us to Him, and, bound to Him, we can overcome all things.”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson



Covenants bind us to Him

“Lifelong discipleship is an essential aspect of the doctrine of Christ. ... For Christ’s Atonement to have its full, transformative effect in us requires that we continue in this covenant path—the path of discipleship—to the end of our mortal lives.”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson



The doctrine of the temple

“The doctrine of the temple is the majestic doctrine of Christ in its fullness. A fullness of faith in Jesus Christ. A fullness of repentance. A fullness of the love of the Savior in our lives.”

FC Temple President Baker



Journeys of becoming

“Come as you are,’
a loving Father says
to each of us, but He
adds, ‘Don’t plan to
stay as you are.’

Jeffrey R. Holland



Journeys of becoming

“What should we be tomorrow that is different, more effective, and more efficient than we were yesterday? ...

Failure to act can be disastrous.”

—Verlander



What are your journeys of becoming?

How has your relationship with Jesus Christ changed during the journey?

How have you learned to recognize Him, trust Him, and rely upon Him?

Where can you now see that God was leading you?

Who are you becoming as you walk with Him?

It's Better on this End

“Our minds being now enlightened, we began to have the scriptures laid open to our understandings, and the true meaning and intention of their more mysterious passages revealed unto us in a manner which we never could attain to previously, nor ever before had thought of.”

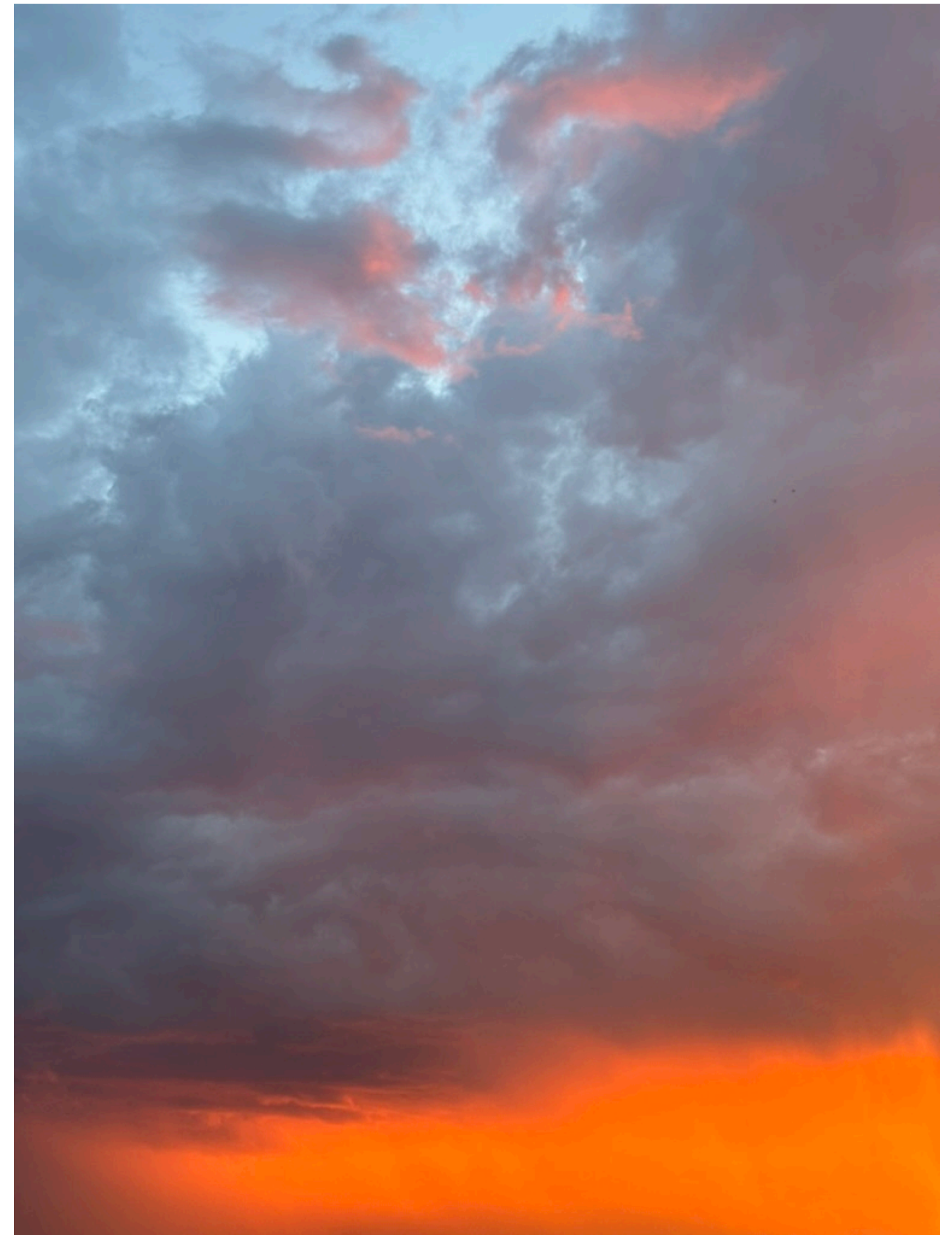
Joseph Smith—History 1:74



The destination

“When he shall appear,
we shall be like him; for
we shall see him as he
is.”

1 John 3:2



CLOSING

Through the journey

“The escape will almost never be out of the trial; it will usually be through it.”

Henry B Eyring



Through the journey

And in the
process

He will
change us.



References

Moses 6:34, 39; 7:18

Genesis 28:10–22

Psalms 119, especially verse 105

Joseph Smith—History 1:74

1 John 3:2

Moroni 7:48

Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Best Is Yet to Be”

Jeffrey R. Holland, “Songs Sung and Unsung”

Eduardo F. Ortega, “Christ—Author and Finisher of Our Faith”

Russell M. Nelson, “Living by Scriptural Guidance”

D. Todd Christofferson, “Why the Covenant Path”

D. Todd Christofferson, “Lifelong Disciples of Jesus Christ”

Henry B. Eyring, To Draw Closer to God

Henry B. Eyring, “Tested, Proved, and Polished”

Come, Follow Me lesson for August 31–September 6

President Parke, adult session of stake conference, September 12, 2026, paraphrased

President Baker, stake conference

Verlander, The Practice of Professional Consulting (2012), xvi