

ZION'S ADVOCATE

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost." 1st Nephi 3:124

Volume One

May 15, 1922

Number One

ZION'S ADVOCATE

The Church of Christ at Independence, Mo., takes great pleasure at this time in issuing Zion's Advocate, for we believe that the time is at hand when all Latter Day Saints should have their minds turned toward the great work of Zion's Redemption. There is great responsibilities resting upon all that have taken upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ in these last days, for God is unchangable, he is the same yesterday, today and forever, therefore it behooves those placed in charge of the work here upon the earth to let their light shine as a beacon, to light the way for those that are grouping in this dark world of doubt and uncertainty.

For that reason we have decided to publish the Advocate, and place before the world the belief and doctrine of the Church of Christ relative to the gathering of the children of Israel and the redemption of Zion. The standard bearers of this latter day work have great responsibility attached to their work; in order that they may succeed in their work, they must be strong and courageous, for their place is not only at the battle front, but to hold their standards high so that those who follow may continue to have courage to press on to the victory. Not only that, but when their standards trail in the dust then will the enemy take renewed courage, and have greater power to overcome those that follow.

The Church of Christ has taken the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the revelations given in these last days for their guide, and it will be upon this basis that the publishers of the Advocate will seek to establish the principles and means by which the restored Gospel will be effective in breaking down the cunning plans of the devil and his agents that have retarded the work of the gathering.

The Lord has said, "Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered, they that remain and are pure in heart shall return and come to their inheritances; they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to build up the waste places of Zion. And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled." D. & Cov. 98:4., therefore we wish to affirm that the Church of Christ stands upon that position, and are looking forward to the fulfillment of all

things that the Lord has promised in connection with it.

If you are interested in the building up of "the waste places of Zion" and the gathering of "the pure in heart," then we hope that our efforts in advocating the principles by which this work will be done, will not be in vain, but will cause a burning desire in your hearts to help us build up the Kingdom of God on the earth. For this work is not dependent upon any one man, but each and every person that has taken upon him the name of Christ has pledged himself to do all that is in his power to help establish righteousness in the earth, so we are safe in taking up the work of advocating the cause of Zion to all men that are seeking for that city whose maker is God. If this appeals to you as one of the means by which good can be accomplished in this direction, then let your friends and neighbors know it, let them read your Advocate; send their names to us that we may be able to send them a paper too.

We have decided to print the Advocate at this time because of the fact that many saints from all factions of the Latter Day work are writing to us that they may receive an understanding of the ideals of the Church of Christ in regard to the perplexing problems that are confronting the world today. For they realize that perilous times are at hand, and that as yet no place of safety has been prepared. These inquiries are not confined to any certain locality, but have come from almost every state in the Union, Australia, England, Germany, and Canada. Therefore, we feel that through the Advocate these inquiries could more effectively be answered than through private correspondence.

Not only that, but often the questions are of such importance that the answers would be of general interest to all Latter Day Saints, also, it would give the members of the Church of Christ a more regular way of being in touch with the church here at Independence, Mo.

To them we would say, take new hope, be a missionary in your locality, spread the cause of Christ among all people that you come in contact with, and we will do all that is in our power to help you in your efforts.

OUR POLICY

The Board of Publication has decided that their policy shall be to publish and advocate the cause of Zion without courting favor nor fearing condemnation, for the Lord has said that he that puts his trust in the arm of flesh shall perish.

It is not our purpose to enter into controversy with other divisions of the Latter Day work, but will state our position without reflection upon any others, for we feel that as the representatives of God in this part of his vineyard that it should be our policy to put our efforts forth in work that will be conducive to the final unity of all Latter Day Saints instead of a further division.

The columns of the Advocate shall be devoted to such matter as will be missionary in character, for we believe that the time has come when the believers in this Latter Day work should let their voices be heard in this dark world of uncertainty, for we have the light, God has revealed it, and if our knowledge was put into practical use it would revolutionize the social, economic, and political life of the world in a very short time and bring about a condition where the coming generation would have a more wholesome and righteous environment to live in. Therefore it is for the obtaining of these results that we are taking upon us the great responsibility of advocating the cause of Zion that all the world may know that there are those who are preparing for the time, when Christ will come to his temple and sit as a refiner and purifier of gold and silver.

So while our efforts may seem to some to be rather humble, and our language may not always be couched in the best rhetorical phrases, yet we can say that our object and purpose is to see Zion redeemed and God and Christ glorified upon the earth.

ZION SHALL NOT BE MOVED OUT OF HER PLACE

"Verily, I say unto you, that I, the Lord, will contend with Zion and plead with her strong ones, and chasten her, until she repents and is clean before me, for she shall not be moved out of her place. I the Lord, have spoken it. Amen."—D. and Cov. 87:8.

Thus we find that the Lord has lifted up his voice to the children of Zion. Not only to them but to all the inhabitants of the earth, for Zion shall be redeemed and her children gathered together. Great and mighty is the Lord, for he is the same yesterday, today and forever. That which he decrees, he hath power to fulfill; therefore, let the hearts of all the saints, regardless with what division they may be affiliated, be comforted, for the great day of the Lord is near at hand, when he shall stand up to defend his cause among the children of men. Though latter day Israel has wandered in the wilderness for many years, yet the tokens already appear that herald the dawn of the great day when they shall enter the promised land.

But as these momentous questions come before us we find that they almost overwhelm us

with their magnitude. Many things have yet to be done before we can realize the blessings that God has promised to those who shall be worthy of a place in Zion.

You will notice in the above quotation that God has said that he would "contend with Zion, and plead with her strong ones, and chasten her until she repents and is clean before" him. So if we look at the conditions that exist in Zion at this time it is evidence that she has not repented, and become clean before him, or else it would be "a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the most high God," and "the glory of the Lord would be there, and the terror of the Lord also would be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it would be called Zion."—D. and Cov. 45:13.

Let us take a retrospective view of conditions as they exist in Zion at this time. Here we have several of the divisions of the Latter Day Saints represented. What are they doing in regard to the redemption of Zion? What are "the strong ones" with whom God is pleading, doing to make this a place of refuge and safety for "the saints of the most high God?" As we consider the powers that are in control of the city and county government of this place, what do we find? Graft, vice, wickedness and pollution. What are "the strong ones" doing to rectify this condition? Are they standing up in the power and dignity of the manhood that God has placed upon them and contending for those things that God wants them to? Are the saints that live here living lives that are above the average life of those in the community? If not; why not?

As we go from one place to the other where saints congregate, do we find them any different than their brothers and sisters of the world? We find the same wild scramble to keep up with the styles and fashions of the world as those who do not know Jesus. We find many of the younger generation partaking of the evils of the present pleasure mad world that their fellows in the world are doing, yet we say that we are saints, that we shall redeem Zion. But isn't it the reasonable thing to say, "that with our lips we draw nigh unto him, but with our hearts we are far from him."

Under these conditions can the seed of the Gospel thrive? Can it bring forth fruit meet for our Father's Kingdom? Verily! Verily! it can not be done, for it is said that you can not gather figs from thistles, and that sweet water does not flow from a bitter fountain; therefore, we say unto you, that the time has come that ye should repent and turn your hearts toward God and against the wickedness of this world. Has not the God of Israel decreed it? Has he not said of Zion that he would "chasten her, until she repents and is clean before me?"

These matters are not brought before you for consideration with the idea that we take the stand of being "more holy than thou," for these conditions exist among all factions of the church and have not been picked out as the faults of any one. Neither is it to be understood that we take

the position that there are no others that see these things too, but God has laid this commandment upon all the elders of the church in Zion that they should see that the laws are kept. Therefore it is not only the duty of the priesthood to teach the way of holiness, but to walk therein themselves, that others seeing their good works, might be constrained to go and do likewise. And it may be considered that it is for those things that God is pleading today.

Zion is not only a place where certain things will exist but it is a condition with a radiating influence that will make all those who come within its presence feel that they are in an environment of righteousness; therefore how necessary it is for us to have within our hearts, and as a fundamental part of our being that kind of a character, that kind of a spirit; that degree of purity and righteousness, that will reflect the glory of God.

All these things and many others are necessary for us to consider when we begin to make preparation for the redemption of Zion, for except we are able to see things from the same angle that Jesus saw them, then we do not have the mind within us which was in Him. And it is no wonder then God is pleading with "the strong ones," those who are in charge of his work, to stand up and be righteous men. Men whom the silver or gold of Babylon can not buy; men whom the tongue of the flatterer can not turn aside after the glory of the world; men who will not stoop to petty trickery, that they might aggrandize themselves in the sight of others, to the detriment of the souls that are looking to them for comfort, and cheer in this great world of sham and hypocrisy. And it is well to say now, that until such men shall arise and stand up in the defense of righteous Zion shall continue to be "chastened, until she repents and is clean before the Lord."

The Lord hath said, "I, the Lord, am angry with the wicked; I am holding my spirit from the inhabitants of the earth; I have sworn in my wrath and decreed wars upon the face of the earth, and the wicked shall slay the wicked, and fear shall come upon every man, and the saints shall hardly escape; nevertheless, I, the Lord, am with them, and will come down in heaven from the presence of my Father, and consume the wicked with unquenchable fire. And behold this is not yet, but by and by; wherefore, seeing that, I, the Lord, hath decreed all these things upon the face of the earth, I willeth that my saints should be assembled upon the land of Zion, and that every man should take righteousness in his hands, and faithfulness upon his loins, and lift a warning voice unto the inhabitants of the earth, and declare both by word and by flight that desolation shall come upon the wicked."—D. and Cov. 63:9.

True it is that the anger of the Lord is being poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth in these last days, for we see wars and rumors of wars among all nations, we have famine and pestilence in divers places, and because of iniquity the love of men waxes cold. These things should

be a warning to those who are able to discern the signs of the times; for those who are in darkness and refuse to make use of their opportunity to have oil in their lamps shall be overtaken as a thief in the night, and shall not have place at the marriage feast. We only have to casually observe the events of the day in order to see the many perplexing things that are confronting the world today; thievery and outlawery that the officers of the law are hardly able to suppress, the great array of capital and labor against each other in the coal mines, on the railroads, and throughout the industrial world warns us that the day is at hand when every man who will not take up his sword against his neighbor must flee to

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EPITOME OF FAITH
Church of Christ in Zion.

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgressions.
3. We believe that through the atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the law and ordinances of the Gospel.
4. We believe the ordinance and principles of the Gospel are: Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance; Baptism by immersion for remission of sins; Laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost.
5. We believe that a man must be called of God by revelation and ordained by the laying on of hands by those in authority in order to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.
6. We believe in the same organization as existed in the days of the Primitive Church, namely: Apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.
7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, visions, revelation, healing of the sick by anointing with oil and imposition of hands as directed by the Apostle James, interpretation of tongues.
8. We believe in King James version of the Holy Bible to be the Word of God so far as it is correctly translated. We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God.
9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that He now does reveal, and that He may reveal in the future many great and important things.
10. We believe in a literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the ten lost tribes. We believe that the City of Zion will be built at Independence, Mo., and that the Saints of God will gather there. That Christ will reign personally upon the earth and that the earth will be restored to its paradisiacal glory.
11. We claim the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of our conscience and are willing to accord to every other man the same privilege.
12. We believe in being subject unto the powers that be and respecting and upholding the laws of our lands.

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ISSUED IN THE INTEREST OF
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Organized April 6, 1830, by Jos. Smith)

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NOTICE

Zion's Advocate will go to press each issue in time to be put in the mail by the 15th of the month. All letters and articles for publication must be in the hands of the editor not later than the 1st of month preceding the above date, or they will not be printed, if accepted, until following issue. This is necessary that the Board of Publication may have time to pass upon and prepare the copy for the printers.

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Zion for safety, and also the crumbling of the social order of life by which the morals and spiritual side of life is being subverted by the present craze of society to out-dress, out-paint and out-do everyone else, from which we see immorality increasing, free love, laxity in enforcement of the divorce laws and many other things warn us that the day is not far distant when God shall pour out his wrath upon the wicked. Not only is the world verging onto chaos in these things alone, but look on the other hand to the trend of the minds of the people to spiritualism, fanaticism and many other heresies that will eventually lead into utter disregard for the ideals set in the world by the sacrifice of the lowly Nazarene upon Calvaries' brow. No wonder that he was made to ask if he would find faith on the earth when he came again. Is there any place upon the earth today that has been sanctified and made ready for his coming? If not, why not? Are you doing your part; have you let your light shine, or are you hiding it under a mantle for fear that some one may point the finger of scorn at you and say that you are a peculiar person? If so, then you stand a poor chance of helping redeem Zion.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of Christ in Zion meets in regular services each Sunday. Sunday School from 9:30 to 10:45 a. m. Preaching from 11:00 a. m. to 12 m. Sacrament Service first Sunday of each month at 11:00 a. m. Choral Society meets Sunday evening at 7:00 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 8:00 p. m. All are welcome, and cordially invited to attend these services.

Elder Andrew Himes is Presiding Elder of Branch, and Elder A. O. Frisbey, Sunday School Superintendent.

LOCAL ITEMS

(By Gertrude Himes)

Brother and Sister J. A. Cogan announce the

birth of their son, James, May 1, 1922. Both mother and son are doing nicely.

Sister Barbara Malone, 506 Jackson Avenue, Kansas City, Mo., fell and broke her arm last week, and is confined to her bed. She has our sympathy and prayers that she may have a rapid recovery. Let all the saints pray for her for the fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much.

NOTICE

A Rare Publication for Sale.

We have on hand at our publishing house at Independence, Mo., a limited number of reprints of "The Evening and the Morning Star," that was originally printed at Independence, Mo., from June, 1832, to July, 1833, under the direction of the Church of Christ, by W. W. Phelps & Co., but was discontinued at that time because of the fact that the press was destroyed by a mob and the equipment scattered in the streets.

We will be able to supply them to you at the rate of one dollar twenty-five cents, postage prepaid, for entire 14 numbers, bound with marble board cover, or if you wish better binding, will put it on for the extra cost to us. It is worth what we ask, and once you are possessor of it you will never regret purchasing it, for it contains many items of church interest that you can get in no other way.

It may be of interest to you to know that it contains many of the revelations as they were originally given and printed in the Book of Commandments, in 1833, also many articles of importance in connection with the early history of the Church of Christ. We refer to the church as being the Church of Christ because that was the name it went by until about 1834, when it was changed to the Church of Latter Day Saints, and still later to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

This reprint that we have is not to be confused with the Kirtland reprint, that was printed in connection with the Messenger and Advocate by F. G. Williams, but was printed from photographic copies taken from the originals of which there are two or three copies still in existence, but unobtainable. We have these photographs still in our possession and are willing to let anyone who wishes, to examine them for their own benefit.

To those who have made a study of the early church history, this matter should make a strong appeal, for we believe that it should be in the library of every person who is making a collection of Early Church Publications.

SPECIAL OFFER

For a limited time we are going to give free of charge a complete set of these reprints to every person that will send us ten paid subscriptions for one year for Zion's Advocate.

So if you wish to be the possessor of one of these valuable church publications it is to your interest to take advantage of this offer at once. They will go fast when our brethren finds that they are being offered for sale at the cheap price we have placed upon them; besides the number offered in this way will be limited.