

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

Independence, Mo., June 15, 1922

Number Two

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church of Christ was established in the last days by the will and commandment of God on the Sixth day of April, Eighteen hundred and Thirty, through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, for the purpose of establishing and preparing a place called Zion, the New Jerusalem, where all those who would keep the commandments of God would find a place of refuge from the many calamities that were coming upon the earth in consequence of the wickedness of the children of men.

In the winter of 1833-34 the saints were driven from the land of Missouri because of their disobedience to the commandments of God, for he said,

"verily I say unto you, concerning your brethren who have been afflicted, and persecuted, and cast out from the land of their inheritance, I, the Lord, have suffered the affliction to come upon them, wherewith they have been afflicted in consequence of their transgressions; yet I will own them, and they shall be mine in that day when I shall come to make up my jewels.

Therefore, they must needs be chastened, and tried, even as Abraham, who was commanded to offer up his only son; for all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me, cannot be sanctified.

Behold I say unto you, there were jarrings, and contentions, and envyings, and strifes, and lustfull and covetous desires among them; therefore by these things they polluted their inheritances.—D. & C. 98:1, 3.

Because of the existance of this state of affairs the saints were driven from the Land of Zion, but the promise was made that those who remained and were pure in heart should return, and build up the waste places (98:4) of Zion. So it was with this promise before them that a small band of saints gathered from various places to the vicinity of Bloomington, Ill., after the death of Joseph Smith, and formed themselves into what was known as the Crow Creek branch of the Church of Christ, and steadfastly refused to go west under the leadership of Brigham Young. The first meeting at this place was held in the winter of 1853 at the home of Granville Hedrick, with three elders present, many conferences were held from that time till 1864, when the saints were commanded to come to the state of Missouri and begin to redeem the Land of Zion.

On April 24, 1864, the Lord revealed to Granville Hedrick that the way would be opened up in 1867 for the saints to return to the Land of Zion, which instruction was in part as follows:

"And inasmuch as my church and people have been driven and scattered, therefore take council of me, your Lord and director, who says unto you: Prepare yourselves and be ready against the appointed time which I have set and prepared for you, that you may return in the year A. D. 1867, which time the Lord, by your prayers and faithfulness in all things, will open and prepare a way before you that you may begin to gather at that time." (Truth-teller, page 4.) In harmony with this revelation we find this interesting history under the heading, "A Proclamation," written and printed in the Truth-teller for June, 1868, at Independence, Mo.

"There is now a community of members of the primitive organization of the Church of Christ (of Latter Day Saints) who have maintained a faithful adherence to the fullness of the everlasting Gospel of Christ, in living and walking in all righteousness according to the faith and doctrine of the Church of Christ from the beginning down to the present time, who have now commenced to gather back to Jackson and its surrounding counties, in the State of Missouri, in fulfillment of the revelation concerning the gathering of the saints. A considerable number of families emigrated to this section of the country last year (1867) and many more are preparing to emigrate this year. The attention of all the pure in heart are now called to this important subject."

These saints under the direction of Granville Hedrick were serious in their efforts to serve God, and build up the waste places of Zion. They did not let time go to waste, but by much sacrifice gathered up their monies and started to purchase the land again, as they were instructed by the Lord. On November 8, 1869, a warranty deed was issued to the Church of Christ, and filed and recorded November 12, 1869, for lots 16, 20, 21 to Woodson-Maxwell addition to Independence, Mo., and on November 5, 1877, another warranty deed was issued to the Church of Christ for lots 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, in Woodson-Maxwell addition to Independence, Mo., which was filed and recorded November 6, 1877. On July 17, 1906, the triangular piece of ground on electric, just

north of church building, was deeded by the city to the Church of Christ, which comprises the tract of land that was dedicated by Joseph Smith and others on August 13, 1831, as the site of the Temple. It is of interest to note that the deeds for this property show that we paid \$1,175.00 for this property, which had ought to set at rest the minds of many Latter Day Saints as to how we came into possession of the same.

There has been from various sources letters of inquiry as to whether any other factions of Latter Day Saints have any claim upon this property, and we want to say that they positively have not. God has seen fit to make the Church of Christ whose headquarters is on the Temple Lot at Independence, Mo., the custodians of the same, and we hope to be faithful to our trust, for we are looking forward to the day when the gathering of the saints shall begin at this place, and a temple shall be reared to God as he has commanded it should be; therefore we call upon all saints to do their part and help us in the carrying out of the obligation resting upon us.

ZION SHALL NOT BE MOVED OUT OF HER PLACE

(Continued from last issue)

Indeed we can look around us and see that what John saw while he was upon the Isle of Patmos is rapidly coming to pass, wherein he said, "I saw another angel, come down from heaven having great power, and the earth was lightened with his glory.

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great, is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.**

For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.—Rev. 18: 1, 5.

The world has never before known of a condition where wickedness, lust, murder, thievery, fiendishness and anarchy have been so world wide in its scope, and yet we find that there are many in Zion who are at ease, and saying that all's well in Zion, but woe unto such, for their sins shall be made known upon the house tops for God has so decreed. So "stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest to your souls." Jer. 6:16. Let us hearken to the voice of God, and lay aside the pride of our eyes, the lusts of the flesh, and all the works of iniquity, for the

Almighty God hath said:

"Hearken, **O ye people of my church**, saith the Lord your God, and hear the word of the Lord concerning you; the Lord who shall suddenly come to his temple; the Lord who shall come down upon the world with a curse to judgment; yea upon all the nations that forget God, **and upon all the ungodly among you.** For he shall make bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of their God.

Wherefore prepare ye, prepare ye. O my people; sanctify yourselves; gather ye together, oh ye people of my church, upon the land of Zion, all you that have not been commanded to tarry. **Go ye out from Babylon.** Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord, call your solemn assemblies, speak often one to another. And let every man call upon the name of the Lord; yea, verily, I say unto you again, the time has come when the voice of the Lord is unto you. Go ye out of Babylon; gather ye out from among the nations, from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations which are afar off, unto the islands of the sea; send forth unto foreign lands; call upon all nations, firstly upon the Gentiles, and then upon the Jews. And behold, and lo this shall be their cry, and the voice of the Lord unto all people: **Go ye forth unto the land of Zion**, that the borders of my people may be enlarged, and that her stakes may be strengthened, and that Zion may go forth unto the regions round about; yea, let the cry go forth among all people. Awake and arise, and go forth to meet the Bridegroom. Behold and lo, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him. Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord."—D. and Cov. 108:1.

Remember too, that regardless of the fact that some have gone to other places and attempted to establish Zion, yet God's promises are sure, and will be fulfilled in the way that he has said, for he knew the end from the beginning and before the world was, declared it, therefore he has said that Zion would not be moved out of her place, and this should cause every honest person to rejoice, and put forth a renewed effort to build up the Kingdom of God on the earth.

"Therefore let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion, for all flesh is in mine hands, be still, and know that I am God. **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, and, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed, neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed, for the work of the gathering of my saints, until the day cometh when there is found no more room for them." D. and C. 98:4.

Awake, oh, my people, sayeth Jesus your Lord,
And hear from my spirit that life giving word,
That points out your duty, and shows you the way
To build up my Zion while yet it is day.

For the time has now come for you to occupy,
And build up that city that's revealed from on
high,
For soon will my wrath on the wicked have full
sway,
And the righteous be gathered in this latter-
day.

—Oh, waken my people, and build up that
city, that beautiful city of Zion.
Where Christ with the righteous forever shall
reign.—Selected.

THE NEW JERUSALEM

"And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusa-
lem, come down from God out of heaven, pre-
pared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven say-
ing, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will dwell with them, and they shall be
his people, and God himself shall be with them,
and be their God."—Rev. 21:2, 3.

Ever since the restoration of the Gospel in
these last days through the instrumentality of
Joseph Smith, the idea of establishing a new
Jerusalem, or Zion, upon this land, has been held
out to the world as a place of refuge, and a place
of gathering of God's people. Wherever this gos-
pel has been preached the idea advanced has
been to warn the people that they must flee from
Babylon and gather to Zion that they may escape
the wrath and indignation of the Lord that is to
be poured out upon the wicked. So for that rea-
son we believe that it is necessary that we should
state our position as to where and under what
conditions this great work will be accomplished.

In the first place we wish to call attention
to the position taken by us in the last issue of
the Advocate; namely, that Zion should not be
moved out of her place, and that there will be
no other place appointed than that which was
appointed by the Lord until there remains no
more room here for the saints to gather. If God
is unchangeable, as we believe that he is, then
he will not vary in the least from that which he
decrees; men may do this but God does not, so
we are willing to accept him at his word and
look forward to the time when all things shall
be fulfilled even according to that which has
been said by the voice of God.

It is time that all Latter Day Saints, regard-
less with which division they may be affiliated,
should have their attention drawn to the word of
the Lord concerning Zion and the gathering of
the saints, for as we look around us and see what
failures have been made by those professing to
being led by the Spirit of the Lord we should real-
ize that there must be a cause for the condition.
Since the restoration first took place there has

been various so-called revelations purporting to
come from God that authorized the abandonment
of Independence, Mo., as the place of gathering,
and substituting in its place, Far West, Nanvoo,
Beaver Island, Salt Lake City, and more recently
we are being told in a purported revelation that
"the center of Zion should be located at Indian-
apolis, Ind., and it is wisdom that this should be
the center of action. Therefore be no more de-
ceived by the many misguided directors of the
past, but seek to work for the fullness of my law,
so that peace and comfort may come to my peo-
ple." The Old Paths, Vol. 1, No. 4, page 1, for
May, 1922. But God has said that Zion should
not be moved out of her place; he has pointed
out the place, he purposed what should be ac-
complished there, so why should man, who is as
the worm in the dust, council God and seek by
his wisdom to show him something better? Let
us hear what the God of Israel says, in unmis-
takeable terms that have resounded down through
the years that we might have wisdom even in this
seeming darkest hour before the dawn to guide
our wandering footsteps into the right way.

"Hearken O ye elders of my church, saith the
Lord your God, who have assembled yourselves
together, according to my commandments, in this,
the land of Missouri, which is the land which I
have consecrated for the gathering of my saints,
and the place for the city of Zion. And thus saith
the Lord your God, if ye will receive wisdom here
is wisdom. Behold, the place which is now called
Independence is the center place, and the spot for
the Temple is lying westward upon a lot which is
not far from the courthouse. D. & C. 57:1 and
again,

"The word of the Lord concerning his
church, established in the last days for the re-
stitution of his people, as he has spoken by the
mouths of his prophets, and for the gathering of
his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall
be the city of New Jerusalem, which city shall
be built, beginning at the Temple Lot, which is
appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the west-
ern boundaries of the State of Missouri, and de-
ducted by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jr., and
others with whom the Lord was well pleased.
D. & C. 83:1.

"And behold, there is none other place ap-
pointed than that which I have appointed, neither
shall there be any other place appointed than
that which I have appointed for the work of the
gathering of my saints, until the day cometh when
there is found no more room for them," etc. D.
& C. 98:4.

From these concise statements taken from the
revelations of God to his people in these last days,
there should be no room for doubt in the minds of
any believer in the restored gospel as to where
Zion should be established for the gathering of
the saints. Therefore if we must draw a line as
to which of the many places above referred to as
the one authorized of God, then let us take what
was given in the beginning, for He has said that

(Continued Next Issue)

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

Published under direction of the General Church Authorities at Independence, Mo.

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

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Subscription is 50c per year in advance. Foreign countries 75c.

A. O. FRISBEY, Business Manager

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.

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 li-

brary 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In regard to the reprint of the Evening and Morning Star, we wish to say that we thank our subscribers for their ready response to our offer for the books.

Owing to the fact that we will have to reprint the first half of Vol. 1, No. 1 of this paper, it will be at least about two weeks before we can begin to mail them out, and we will mail them to you in the order in which we received your subscriptions for the same.

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

The Choral Society of the Church meets each Sunday evening at 7:00 on the Temple lot, under the able direction of Bro. T. J. Sheldon. There are a number of members who are developing into good singers, as well as learning to sing many of the songs, old and new, that are peculiar to the Latter Day work. All that are interested locally in this kind of service are invited to attend.

We wish to announce the marriage of Margaret Bates and Carl Cogan, who is the son of Brother and Sister J. A. Cogan. We wish them a happy married life.

Let us hear from you, brothers and sisters, who are scattered abroad, for we are interested in your welfare and hope to make the Advocate a means of communication with you.