

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

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Number Eight

JESUS IS CALLING FOR YOU

"Come unto me all ye that labor, and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls.

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Math. 11:28-30.)

Hearken, oh ye inhabitants of the earth to this gentle plea of Jesus for behold He stands at the door and knocks, and whosoever will hear His voice and open the door, He will come in and sup with them. He is the great physician of the world. He well knows the heavy burdens under which you are struggling. He knows the heartaches, the sorrows and cares that comes to those who are struggling to put on the sins of the flesh and come out of the world.

Therefore with so great an understanding, having compassion upon those that seek Him. He has a remedy by which every thing that afflicts the souls of men can be removed. Also the power to give you strength by which you can resist the temptation to follow the council of men who are lovers of their own selves, covetous, boast-ers, proud, blasphemers, and despisers of those that are good; who would do everything in their power to destroy your hope of salvation. For we are living in the last days when the scriptures say that men's hearts will fail them for fear of things coming upon the earth. (Luke 21:26.) For it has been decreed that in these last days that perilous times would come (2 Timothy 3:1-7) upon the earth and that we would hear of wars and rumors of wars, famine, pestilences, earthquakes (Math. 24:3-14) but that these were only the beginning of sorrows," for the day of the Lord shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up, and he shall be brought low.

"And upon all the cedars of Lebanon that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan.

"And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up.

"And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall.

"and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.

"And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

"And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

"And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth." (Isa. 2:12-19.)

"Therefore be ye not mockers lest your bands be made strong, for I have heard from the Lord God of Host, a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.

"Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech." (Isa. 28:22-23) for God has provided a way whereby you can escape his wrath that will be poured out upon the earth in these last days, because of the wickedness of men, "for the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39) that will hearken to the council of God and obey the "Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth. To the Jew first, and also the Greek." (Rom. 1:16.)

Therefore all ye that have hardened your hearts against the truth, and all of you who because of carelessness and neglect have not accepted this gospel of the kingdom that shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations, (Math. 24:14.) "Repent ye, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19.) Take upon you the name of Christ, "for there is none other name given among men, wherby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.)

Has he not said "come unto me all ye that labor?" yes more than that he says that you can not be saved in the kingdom of God except ye are born of the water and the spirit. (John 3:3-6) So do not put off the day of acceptance, for today is the day of salvation, now is the accepted time; for every man that is ashamed to confess Jesus Christ before men shall be denied by Him before our Heavenly Father. (Math. 10:32-33. Luke 12:8-10.)

man should have only one wife and concubines none.

Further the elders of the Church of Christ never became entangled with "Spiritual Wifism" or its kindred heresies, but held out against these innovations and gathered together members of the old church, who were of like faith, who associated themselves with the Crow Creek branch and other branches of the Saints in Woodford County, Illinois.

In the year 1867, these elders with many of the members of the church moved to Independence, Mo., and began to purchase the Temple Lots in harmony with the instruction the Lord had given them through prophecy. Events transpiring since that time have proven the truth of the prophecy.

The following references from the Bible, Book of Mormon and revelations given to the church as found in the Book of Commandments and elsewhere, will show our reason for teaching against the doctrine of polygamy.

"For this reason shall a man leave father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh." Math. 19:5, Gen. 22:25. These quotations say wife not wives. While it is true that David and Solomon had many wives and concubines, yet this was an abomination unto God.

"For behold thus saith the Lord, this people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures; for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things written concerning David and Solomon, his son.

"Behold David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.

"Wherefore thus saith the Lord, I have led this people forth out from the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph.

"Wherefore, I, the Lord, will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old.

"Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken unto the word of the Lord, for there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none; for I, the Lord God, delighteth in the chastity of women." Book of Jacob 2:22,36 in the Book of Mormon. And again,

"I say unto you that who so forbiddeth to marry is not ordained of God, for marriage is ordained of God unto man.

"Wherefore it is lawful that he should have one wife, and they twain shall be one flesh, and all this that the earth might answer the end of its creation, and that it might be filled with the measure of man according to his creation before the world was made." Book of Commandments 52:16-17.

COME UNTO ME ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST TO YOUR SOULS

(Continued from last issue)

That we may be able to understand what the government of Christ's Kingdom may be like, it is now necessary for us to search the scripture, for he says "they are they that testify of me." Isaiah tells us that he who would be the king in this wonderful kingdom would be born of God and would rule because of this fact. He says,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and justice from henceforth even for ever." This shows us that Christ would be born of the House of David, who was of the tribe of Juda, also that he would be called the Mighty God. Take this in connection with other passages of scripture and we find that Christ and God are the same. For God declared that besides Him there is no Savior (Isa. 43:11) and in another place he was to be called Emmanuel (Isa. 7:14) which being interpreted means "God with us," (Math. 1:23.) Thus we have it that while in the broad sense God is the Creator and supreme ruler of the world that He manifested himself as the Savior of the world in the person of Jesus Christ. Of His coming the Book of Mormon says "For behold did not Moses prophecy unto them concerning the coming of the Messiah, and that God should redeem his people, yea, and even all the prophets who have ever prophesied ever since the world began?

"Have they not spoken more or less concerning these things?

"Have they not said that God himself should come down among the children of men, and take upon himself the form of man, and go forth in mighty power upon the face of the earth?" Mosiah 8:11-13. Thus we see that God himself would establish his government among the children of men and that it should be based upon justice and judgement, and that there would be no end of it upon the earth. When John came preaching the gospel in the wilderness he taught the people to repent and be baptized for the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand, (Math. 3:1,) But the people did not accept the teachings of Christ and subscribe themselves to his form of government and as a consequence the Kingdom of Heaven was not established at that time, notwithstanding the fact that he chose his officers, provide rules by which they could become citizens

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ISSUED IN THE INTEREST OF
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NOTICE

Zion's Advocate will go to press each issue in time to be put in the mail by the 1st 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.

etc., for he said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killed the prophets, and stoned them that are sent unto you, how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings and ye would not." Luke 13:34. And again when he drew near the city on another occasion "he wept over it,

"Saying, if thou hadst known, even thou, at least in thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace, but now they are hid from thine eyes.

"For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee and compass thee, around and keep thee in on every side.

"And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee, and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." Luke 19:41-44.

Thus we see that the children of Israel because of the blindness of their hearts were not ready to receive the kingdom of heaven that Christ came to establish among them. But Daniel the prophet says that this kingdom will be established. After telling of the setting up of world powers by men, and the coming forth of the Roman Empire, that consisted of ten kingdoms, part iron and part of miry clay, which finally gained power over all the world, not only a civil, but ecclesiastical power as well, he says, "And in the day of these kings, (Those who are dominated over by Rome.) Shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Dan. 2:44.)

Now in as much as the Church of Christ is the visible Kingdom of God upon the earth, then it is well that we see what the government thereof shall consist of. It has been established that God in the person of Jesus Christ would be the King or ruler. Let us now see who the other of-

ficers will be. This information is found in Corinthians, 12:24." For God hath set in the church, (or his kingdom on earth,) first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers." (Eph. 4:11,) evangelists, pastors, (Luke 10:1-2,) seventies, (Luke 10:1) bishops, (1 Tim. 3:1-2,) elders, (Titus 1:5) deacons, (Jas. 5:14.)

LOCAL ITEMS

The Branch and Sunday School of the Church of Christ, gave a Christmas dinner.

The Choral Society assisted with a Christmas program given under the auspices of the Sunday School.

Brother Floyd Denham and family have moved back to the land of Zion and have located at Fairland Highlands. Glad to have them back again.

There will be a series of articles to follow in the future issues of the Advocate, that will show what the functions of these officers are, as well as many of the principles by which the Kingdom of God on the earth shall be governed.

Elder C. L. Wheaton has started a Mission at Fairmount Highlands. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Miller, at whose home the meetings are being held were baptized into the Church on November 26, at Independence, Mo. Also have a Sunday School organized there with average attendance of about 18. The officers are, Bro. Floyd Denham, Supt.; Mrs. Madeline Miller, assistant Supt.; Mrs. Velma Belt, sec. and treas. Mrs. Rita Wisemore, teacher of Junior class and Elder C. L. Wheaton, teacher of Senior class.

It will be of interest to our readers to know that since the last issue of the Advocate the Board of Publication has made provision for Mrs. T. J. Sheldon to be added to our Editorial staff as Associate Editor. We believe that this change will be to the betterment of our paper as will be shown by future articles to be printed in the Advocate. He has promised us an article for the next issue on the organic law of the church, which every Latter Day Saint should read, for it deals with one of the fundamental differences between the Church of Christ and other factions of the Latter Day work.

Beginning with this issue of the Advocate we will send it out by the first of the month instead of the fifteenth, as we have previously done. So please excuse the long time intervening between the two last issues.--Editor.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

We have been requested to give a brief history of the church which we do as follows:

After the death of Joseph the Seer, among those who remained true to the gospel as established in 1830, was a little band of saints in Bloomington, Illinois, some of whom had united with the church in the year it was organized. They met together in prayer and fasting from time to time, and continued their local organization until they were directed in 1863 to come to the land of Zion. The following, a reprint from the Searchlight for March 2nd, 1896, will be appreciated by those who desire to know concerning the authority of the Church of Christ.

David Judy, joined the church in 1831; Jedidiah Owen, who joined about the same time. Owen and Judy having been elders in the church since about 1832, and were both among the Latter Day Saints driven from Missouri at the time of the expulsion; Zebulon Adams, who had been a high priest since about 1833; Dennis Burns, had been a member of the church for thirty years; John E. Page had been an active worker in the church for about twenty-five years; C. E. Reynolds had been in the church twenty-eight years Granville Hedrick, who had been at that time an elder in the church twenty-four years; G. W. Gifford, had been in the church about three years; Jas. Bradley, J. W. Frazee, about four years; Wm. Eaton about twenty years, his wife about seven years; John Hedrick and wife had been in the church about eight years, Ann M. Hess had been in the church for over twenty years; Nancy Bradley had been a member for about twenty-seven years, and God had so blessed her that seven of her children were members of the kingdom at that time. There was one high priest and one of the quorum of the twelve and four elders that I can call to mind now. There were a great many more members than those who held the priesthood, yes, there was Brother A. C. Halde- man, who was an elder also.

So you can see we trace our authority in a straight line back to 1830 platform through the hands of High Priests, and Elders, and did not form any new organization nor re-organization, but simply united the scattering members of the old Church into a working organization and pledged ourselves to continue to stand upon the platform of 1830, and we have endeavored not to waver from that position and you today see in us a portion of the old original Church, clinging to the pure principles and discarding all ungodly impositions and doctrines that have been introduced among Latter Day Saints.

After the Church was got in running order the blessings of God were manifest among the Church in a marked degree.

Meetings were held and a paper was started in which to lay our claims before the world. Granville Hedrick was chosen to preside over the Church and God so blessed him that he on several occasions revealed His will unto him. In 1864, the Lord told the Church through Granville Hedrick that the way would be opened up whereby the Latter Day Saints might come back to Jackson county, and said that the year 1867 was the time to start.

At the time of the giving of this revelation the civil war had not yet closed, and Jackson county was peopled by citizens who were rabidly antagonistic, not only to Mormons, but to Eastern people in general, and it seemed like courting certain death for a Mormon to dare to come back to their former possessions, but the little band of the Church was not to be daunted. They fully believed that the Lord could and would open up the way for their return, although at that time it seemed impossible.

And they remembered that God had said in former commandments that Zion should not be moved out of her place, tho' her children were scattered, and also that a Temple was to be reared "on a spot lying westward from the Court House."

Accordingly, when 1867 rolled around it found members of the Church on their way to the land of Missouri. Sure enough, the word of the Lord had been verified. The way was opened up, not only for the return of the scattered children of Zion! but happy thought! Not only might they dwell upon this land, but before long the Temple Lot had been redeemed from the hands of the world and was bought and paid for by our members and once more was in the hands of the Church. Thus were the first steps taken by any part of the Church for the redemption of Zion, according to the plan God provided in Sec. 98 i. e., BY PURCHASE.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST VS. POLYGAMY

The question was recently asked the editor of this paper if "the priesthood of the Church of Christ was ever besmirched with the stain of Polygamy." While we do not wish to enter into controversy with any faction of the Latter Day work, we feel that it is only right to answer this question as best we can; having always before us the desire to lift high the standard of righteousness, and morality where ever it is our privilege to do so.

We are glad that we can answer this question in the negative, for we have not only at all times fought the doctrine as being unrighteous and wicked from a moral stand point, but for the reason that all revelations given to the church, with the Bible and Book of Mormon, teach us that a