

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.”—I Nephi 3:187.

Volume 33

Independence, Missouri, August, 1956

No. 8

High Resolve

I'll hold my candle high, and then
Perhaps I'll see the hearts of men
Above the sordidness of life,
Beyond misunderstandings, strife.
Though many deeds that others do
Seem foolish, rash and sinful too,
Just who am I to criticize
What I perceive with my dull eyes?
I'll hold my candle high, and then
Perhaps I'll see the hearts of men.

—Author Unknown

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ZION'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

Perilous Times

As the late summer months close in upon us we are reminded of the arrival of the hurricane season. During the past few years the east coast of the United States has been visited by a number of furious hurricanes which have been considered major disasters taking great tolls in life and property. The eastern coast of Mexico has come in for its portion of destruction also.

During the past few years various sections of our country have suffered greatly from damage by floods which have caused loss of life and property. Still fresh in the minds of the people in the Kansas City area is the memory of the great flood of July, 1951, which destroyed a large section of homes and businesses and caused much suffering to other sections by curtailing the water and electrical supply. Many other parts of our fair land have more recently been affected in like manner.

There has been an increase in the frequency of tornadoes in recent years. One town in the state of Kansas recently celebrated the first anniversary of its almost total destruction by a tornado. Recently eastern Kansas and Western Missouri were visited by an unusual storm with winds up to 115 miles per hour which did considerable damage to crops, trees, and electrical and communication lines.

Perils are increasing on the highways. At the approach of each national holiday we are astonished at the prediction of the number of deaths expected on the highways. With the recent airway tragedies we are reminded of the great dangers that lurk on all sides of us.

What is the meaning of all these disasters?

We are told in the Scriptures that in the last days, perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphem-

ers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.

Surely these things should serve to sober those who profess to be followers of Christ. And yet we are reminded of the parable which Christ gave to His disciples concerning the virgins. Five were wise and had made all the necessary preparations to meet the bridegroom, but five were foolish, for they took their lamps but failed to take oil with them. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And when the cry went out that the bridegroom cometh, the foolish virgins were compelled to go buy oil but returned to find the door shut. They had waited to make their preparation too late.

We must conclude that we are now in that time spoken of as "while the bridegroom tarried," because of the increasing perils and the many other signs of the times. We also must conclude that we are slumbering and sleeping. Perhaps the saddest part of this picture is the great disappointment which came to those five foolish virgins who could not borrow oil from their companions but had to go buy from the source and returned to find that their preparation was made too late and they could not enter into the place which they had hoped to.

It is time that we examine ourselves to see if we have the oil of spirituality in our lamps in sufficient quantity that we may not be lacking in the critical hour.

—N. F. D.

OUT OF THE MAIL SACK

Ticul, Yucatan, Mexico
June, 1956

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We, of the Church of Christ in Yucatan, want to greet you again in the name of our Saviour and Master, Jesus Christ. It is with gratefulness that we make known unto you that our friend, Jesus, is still pouring His blessings upon us here in spite of our unworthiness.

From time to time He has healed the afflictions of those who have come to Him in humbleness of heart, seeking His help. He has given dreams to comfort some, and to others He has manifested His love and mindfulness. Our sufferings and struggles are worth the joy that we find in the service of the Master and it is our prayers that He will make our lives so that others may see that in Him we have found the complete happiness which the peoples of the world seek and do not find in earthly pleasures and entertainment.

It makes us very happy to have the assurance that the Lord is the "same yesterday, today and forever", that His promises are true and may we receive strength and wisdom to comply with His plan of salvation, that we may receive many more blessings than we have received so far.

When the church was restored in these days, God gave us back the privilege of enjoying the gifts that the primitive church did enjoy, and we know that it is because of our lack of faith that these gifts are not enjoyed more abundantly in our days.

Our daily prayers are that we will all seek to unite our efforts in our service to our Master that not only our little group here but also where "there are only two or three" who come together to seek Him may receive the fulfilment of those eternal promises of the Redeemer who is waiting so patiently for His dear "little ones" to come to Him, prepared to receive that which He has in store for us.

May God bless you all, from

Your Brothers and Sisters in Yucatan

NEWS FROM LOCALS

Plymouth, England

On May 31, 1956 Brother and Sister Silvanus Mason visited Plymouth, the home of Sister Farley. Sister Farley was recently baptized into the church by Elder Silvanus Mason with Elder George Allen assisting in the services. The visit was brief but was well blessed.

A preaching service and a testimony meeting were held. At the testimony meeting Sister Farley testified to the divinity of the work, and also stated that she had done the right thing.

While in Plymouth we visited her daughter, and also Brother and Sister Rees Jenkins, who were at one time members of the church.

Although we traveled 600 miles in all within three days we were richly blessed. Sister Farley made us feel very happy and treated us more than kind. We pray that God will bless and comfort her, and that she will be the means of adding many more souls to the Kingdom of God. Now that she has joined, who knows where it will end!

Silvanus Mason, Reporter

Minneapolis, Minnesota

On the first Sunday of April we were blessed with a wonderful Sacrament Service. We had a good attendance and all were brought a little closer together by sharing one another's burdens and joys in prayers and testimonies.

I was not present to take notes April 8 or 15 because of my attendance at Conference.

Brother and Sister Jordan were here the latter part of the week after April 15. He and his wife resided at the Gill farm and visited among the saints here.

On the Sunday morning of April 22, Brother Jordan spoke to us after our usual Sunday School classes. He spoke first on the necessity of our obedience. St. John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth

them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, . . ."

He then stated that Christ built a church, and went about with the use of various scriptural references to explain the way it was formed and its purposes toward the salvation of mankind. He then showed us that a man must have authority in order to represent Jesus Christ. The authority existing in the original church was restored and it is by this restored authority that we are to be baptized into the true Church of Christ.

Then we all went out to the Gill home and Brother Jordan preached in the evening. He started out with an admonition that we need to come closer to God after which he warned us of many trials in the flesh that are to come. Then he gave us various statements from Scripture as to what we must do in order to be followers of Christ. Scripture was then used to explain how we can become a member in the true Church of Christ. Brother Jordan's finishing thought was, "My Bible and yours says buried with water and they shall enter the kingdom of heaven, so go into your private room and pray for an answer as to whether the Gospel is true or not."

I speak for every one of us here in our sincere appreciation for the selfless activity for Christ that Brother and Sister Jordan have dedicated toward our welfare.

We are truly thankful that the Spirit should have revealed itself in such inspiring power to us, and those of the world that are frequently present with us.

After our young people's class, we all bade Brother and Sister Jordan "So long" and "God's speed" as they left us with many fond memories and continue to dedicate their activities for Christ in his new field.

On April 29, Brother Johnny Gill gave a talk on the business and activities at Conference.

May 6 found us very grateful to be members in Christ as we took Sacrament in remembrance of what Christ did for us.

On May 20 services began by a very good class that aroused many questions for individual study. Then our Brother John Gill spoke to us on identification of ourselves as servants of the Lord and recognition of our responsibilities in the cause of righteousness.

Brother Gould from Bemidji, Minnesota, was here and spoke on May 27. His subject was the relationship between God and man, and understanding him.

Since this is vacation season and some folks might be in, around or through twin cities we extend a welcome to all to attend the Minneapolis Church of Christ local meetings. Our location is Room 313 Y.W.C.A., 12th and Nicollet, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

John R. Gill, Reporter

Georgeville, Missouri

Our visitors for this month have been: Brother and Sister Vance Harris of Independence, and Brother R. Robertson and Sister Hart both of Puryear, Tenn.

On June 3 the usual Sacrament Service was held. My husband and I were not present as we were visiting at Independence, but I know that all who were here enjoyed their worship together as we always do.

Brother Ray Bryant spoke to us at the evening service on June 3. He expounded scripture concerning the restoration of the gospel and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. He stated the two great commandments: love the Lord your God with all your might, mind, and strength; love your neighbor as yourself. He closed by reading the admonishment found in the Book of Mormon, Moroni 10:3-7, wherein it tells us that God works by power, according to the faith of men the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Our morning speaker of June 10 was Brother Ray Bryant. He read most of the third and fourth chapters of Hebrews which tell us to be watchful lest we become hard of heart and depart from the Lord. Even Moses who was a very devout man was only allowed to look into the promised land. Brother Bryant asked the young folks to read the first three chapters of the book of Mosiah in the Book of Mormon which contains King Benjamin's sermon.

We were privileged to have a guest speaker, Brother Vance Harris, for the evening of June 10. He used, as a scripture lesson, Alma 16:201-239. It tells us to pray to God over every thing we have and do, and of the mercy of God. We are given spiritual aid according to our ability to receive it. For those who love the Lord and keep his commandments there is a place prepared or provided in eternity.

Another guest, Brother R. R. Robertson, was our speaker for both the morning and evening services of June 17. In the morning he spoke of Christ as an ambassador of peace. We should pursue peace and teach only Jesus Christ and him crucified. The Almighty is the one who gives man his understanding. We must put our trust in God.

His scripture reading of the evening was James 3:5-18 concerning the iniquity of the unbridled tongue. He also spoke of the commission given to the ministry. The gospel must go to all people. We are told how Peter was sent to Cornelius and how on the day of Pentecost all heard in their own tongue. People of all nations are commanded to repent and be baptized. In closing he read Matthew 28:16-20. Verses 19 and 20 were especially brought to our attention. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Brother Bryant spoke to us at the morning service of June 24. As a scripture lesson he read Psalm 100. We are to praise the Lord with all our strength continually for all we have received, and remember that to whom much is given, much is required. He closed his remarks by reading Mosiah 1:119-122. The natural man is an enemy of God. We must become as little children.

We also heard from Brother Bryant at our evening service of June 24. He spoke of the foundation of the

restoration. He read the testimony of the eight and of the three witnesses. We are commanded to receive the Book of Mormon and it carries with it the promise of a blessing. God is a God of miracles and he works only according to the faith of mankind.

Mary Lois Bryant, Reporter.

INDEPENDENCE DIARY

The morning service of June 17 Brother Forest Maley spoke to us about charity. He used I Corinthians 13: 1-13 as the scripture reading. In this reading it is made clear that without charity all our good deeds are as nothing, for charity is the love with which we should do all that we are able to do. In Moroni 7:45-53 we are told that we must have charity, for without it we are nothing, and it only will endure. We are to pray for this pure love of Christ. Brother Maley read many other scriptures about charity. He concluded by saying that our interest in history, etc., may help us but will not bring us salvation. Salvation can be obtained without the knowledge of these. We can help one another but we can only obtain salvation for ourselves. Charity is the vital thing.

The evening hour of June 17 was occupied by Elder Corley of the Reorganized Church. The scripture reading was taken from III Nephi, chapter 3. He reminded us that we are living in a land blessed above all others and in an age that is blessed. Our present-day conveniences should help us to further the Lord's work. This, also, is a critical age, an age that brings great fear to the hearts of many. This fear is caused by ignorance of the Lord's plan. Elder Corley spoke about and read many scripture references concerning the House of Israel and its inheritance.

We feel a great vacancy in our Sunday morning greetings, for we miss the happy smile and hardy hand-shake of Sister Holcomb. She was called home to rest June 21. We could not wish her to stay, for she had suffered long and uncomplainingly. All who knew her loved her and miss her. Our deepest sympathy and prayer are extended to those of the home, Sister Derry, Sister Orlea Premo and children.

The Sunday School hour of June 24 was spent in a program by the children of the Bible School, in which the work of the Bible School was shown, both hand-craft and the lesson work. It was quite evident that the children had spent a very worth while week.

At the conclusion of the Bible School program, Karma and Konie Wheaton, twin daughters of Brother and Sister Richard Wheaton, were baptized by their father. They were confirmed by Brothers LeRoy and Richard Wheaton. It was with tears of joy that the children and adults offered Karma and Konie their right hand in welcoming them into the sheepfold of Christ.

Brother Vance Harris was speaker at the 11 o'clock hour June 24. The things that are happening in the world are not happening by chance. God had a plan from the beginning unto the end. Man was given his free will agency. That is part of the great plan. God has told us of the great events in life before they

happen, just as He foretold the birth of Christ. God has also given a law for mankind to live by, which is found in Mark 12:30-31, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God . . . thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. . ." III Nephi 5:29-31 " . . . neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, . . . He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil. . . ."

Brother Maynard Case occupied the evening hour of June 24. Deuteronomy 5:32-33, "Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess." The Gospel is like a beautiful painting. It is complete and if anyone tries to add to or take from it, they mar it.

July 1 at 11 o'clock our sacrament service was held. Brother Nicholas Denham and Brother Kenneth Smith were in charge.

At the evening service of July 1 Brother Denver Chapman was our speaker. The scripture reading was chapter 10 of Hebrews. Brother Chapman spoke of how we excuse ourselves from doing what we know we should do. We need to be more consecrated to the Lord's work. We need to pray more, yet prayer without real intent availeth nothing. We need to be concerned about being lukewarm. We are just drifting along, not completely neglecting our duties and yet not giving our best to our Maker. We could be enjoying greater spiritual blessings if we exercised greater faith in God and had charity. If we had charity, we would become united and then we would, indeed, please God.

Brother Kenneth Smith occupied the 11 o'clock hour July 7. The scripture reading was chapter 7 of Moroni. In this reading Mormon is speaking to the members of the church. It is a sermon of Mormon's, and Brother Smith went over it carefully pointing out its importance to us, just as Mormon did to his people. We hope you will find time to read it for yourself.

Brother Leslie Case was the speaker the evening of July 7. Matt. 16:25-26, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Some say they do not believe this life is worth the effort. Some wish, or hope, or say they believe that this life is all; that there is no better life for the good or a punishment for the evil ones. Brother Case read of Lehi's dream of the rod of iron that led to the tree of life and of Nephi interpreting the dream to his brothers and begging them to take hold of the rod of iron. Rev. 2:7; 22:2 speaks of this tree of life. Is this not the same tree spoken of in Gen. 3:22; the tree of life that Adam and Eve were driven from the garden so that they could not eat of it? It is worth every ounce of our effort throughout life to come at last to partake of the tree of life.

Sister Gentry has been ill and had to spend some

time in the hospital. We understand that she is home now. We pray that she will soon be completely well and able to meet with us again. The little ones in Sunday School miss their Auntie Gent.

Congratulations to Ella and Clif Engle! They are the happy parents of a baby boy. They have named him Roger Clifton. Sister Ella is the daughter of Apostle and Sister Archie Bell. We, also, congratulate the new grandparents.

Brother and Sister Ted Ely of Grand Junction, Colo., stopped in Independence for a few days. We were happy to meet them and wish they could have stayed over Sunday.

Brother and Sister Warren Sarratt and baby were here for a week-end visit with relatives. They formerly made their home here, but are now living in Wichita, Kansas.

Irene Case, Reporter.

HERE AND THERE AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE

By way of announcement we would like to congratulate two young couples. Robert Carl came to bless the home of Carl and Nellie (Mann) Larkin of Layton, Utah on June 9. This little bundle of joy weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces. Nellie was formerly a member of the Noel, Missouri Local. Roger Clifton added his share to the happiness of Clifton and Ella (Bell) Engle of Ava, Missouri on July 4th. He weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces. We pray God's continued blessings on these two young families.

Helaman 4:16, "O Lord wilt thou hearken unto me, and cause that it may be done according to my words, and send forth rain upon the face of the earth, that she may bring forth her fruit and her grain, in the season of grain?"

In keeping with Nephi's words we hear from Loren and Mary Lois Bryant of Georgeville, Missouri (June 25). "It has been pretty warm lately and we haven't had any rain for about a week. I think it will probably get quite warm today but right now there is a nice cool breeze.

"I have a garden or rather what is left of one. Everything was looking so nice when the rabbits helped themselves. We finally got them fenced out and now the grasshoppers have taken over. They have eaten everything except a few tomato plants. Night before last Loren and I worked until 10:00 P. M. setting out 67 tomato plants, so with the Lord's blessing we may have some tomatoes, anyway.

"Grace and Virgil (Rudd) were here yesterday. Lately she has been trying to get some raspberries canned. She brought some fresh ones to us. They were really good.

"Our corn looks pretty good even though there are some grasshoppers working on it. In one of the fields we planted some sweet corn. I hope it yields well. I would like to can a little bit of corn.

"Martha (Harris) stayed with us for two weeks a while back.

"I will probably have hands here for dinner a couple of days this week as it is about wheat combining time."

And from Clifton and Ella Engle of Ava, Missouri (July 7). "It sure seems hot down here. It threatens to rain but all it does is get muggier. The garden sure needs the rain and so does the Sargo. The garden is grown up in weeds bad but that's all that's saving it from the grasshoppers.

"Don and Betty McIndoo and their children and Jim and Bonnie Sanders and their girls and Betty and Bonnie's dad and mother and sister were here a couple weeks ago. But it sure was a flying visit. They must not have stayed over half an hour. They wanted to see the church and get back home to put their babies to bed."

Going north to Bemidji, Minnesota we find, through Lovita Wentworth, they are also in need of a blessing of rain from the Lord. (June 11) "Yesterday surely was beautiful. Just as hot as today but I didn't have to work.

"Sister Winegar is back here now. She spent the winter with her children out in Montana. She spends the days up at her place and at night she goes down and stays with her daughter Lillian (Mrs. Arlo) Gould. I've been driving her down every night on my way home from work as they both live on the road or almost any way.

(June 20) "We have been having beautiful weather here. Cool cloudy, but it just won't rain. Everything is drying up and blowing away."

We pray the Lord will bless his people with rain where it is needed and as He sees fit.

The Lord is blessing His people in many ways.

In Chicago, Illinois we hear from Tom and Anna Mae Barton. (July 2) "We got a 14 cubic foot Norge refrigerator last month. Surely do like it. Don't have to defrost it either. Does it by itself.

"Elaine fell down the stairs two weeks ago when she tried to take her trike down. She fell about 8 or 10 steps I guess. I was tending to Jimmy when I heard a couple of thumps and bangs. She didn't seem to be hurt except for a big bruise on her cheek where she must have hit a step. She was crying real hard but she wouldn't let me see if she was hurt. After a while she was playing as if nothing had happened.

"Last week the weather was hot and humid and Sunday was very hot too. We had a couple of days though that were very nice.

"The steel mills here are on strike but Tommy is still working because they have to keep the coke ovens going. He gets Wednesday off but works Saturday.

"Last Sunday Tommy was coming home from church when he got the right rear fender caved in. He was almost through the intersection when a woman hit him. She said she thought he was supposed to have stopped. Neither corner had a stop sign. She was at fault."

Also from our people in Yucatan we are told of their blessings by Fernando Ojeda. (June 29). "Most everyone down here is all right. We always try to help others carry their burdens for our Christ and it's always so wonderful to have some one come to our aid when our own become so heavy. Whatever our experiences may be, sad or happy, we always try to take them courageously and we pray that they may help us draw nearer to our God.

"It is raining tonight; we were supposed to have church tonight here in Ticul, but going out in the rain wouldn't do any good to any one."

In closing we move to the South Pacific with Bill Mann (June 21). "How is everything back there by now? I don't hear much about what is going on in the States any more.

"It is really getting warm here now, I have heard talk about going back to Japan, but no action."

Before entering the Navy Bill was a member of the Noel Local. We would like to ask all of you who can to write to Bill and make his tour of duty more pleasant. His address is:

A. N. William B. Mann 467-83-74
VU - 5 Det. A.L.F.A. Navy 961
c/o F. P. O., San Francisco, California

Alice Reed and Delores Bell

SERMON

By Arthur M. Smith—December 11, 1955

Luke 2:6-16, "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away

from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made know unto us.

"And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

We hope to bring you a lesson from the Scriptures that will be of benefit to all of us.

We feel grateful to the choir for the song, "I Love to Tell the Story." Truly the sweetest and the greatest story that I know of, is the story of Christ. I am hopeful that the privilege of telling the old, old story, will be my theme in glory.

This time of year I always love to be among people. I like the songs they sing; I like the music that we hear over the air, and everywhere; and I like the spirit I find amongst people at this time of the year. Some tell us we are following the pagan practice, that the origin of Christmas comes from the pagans; but regardless of where from, I am glad for Christmas. I am glad that the Christian world celebrates this Christmas. I am glad because of this, that if it were not for the story of Christmas, if it were not for the celebration of Christmas, hundreds, thousands, yes millions of children would grow up without a knowledge of Christ. Even in our land many of our children would come up to manhood with a very vague knowledge of the birth of Christ.

There has been no birth in the history of the world that has carried with it the significance that the birth of Christ has. Wherever we celebrate Christmas, whether it is in this land, or in Europe, or in many of the countries of Asia, the songs we sing will be sung there. The children over there will hear them. When we were in Wales one of the most pleasant experiences we had, perhaps, was the coming of the little boys and the little girls to our door, singing the Christmas carols for a penny. So, I am thankful for the song, "The Old, Old Story". I did not know the choir was going to sing it, and I am sure they did not know what I was going to speak to you about. Perhaps that is a coincidence.

You know, we speak of coincidence so much, and we wonder if Christmas was a coincidence. Sometimes, as we look into the history and go back over the condition and things that have transpired we are rather inclined to think it was. Oh, I know that when I was a young man I read this Scripture and some of the things that I read in it were rather out of touch with what I considered was right. I wondered at the thought of the shepherds being out on a hill, watching their sheep in December. So I asked about it and was told, "Well the climate was different there." As I grew older, of course, I found out the climate was different, but it is far from being comfortable out on those hills around Palestine in December. So, early in my life I began to think of the words of this thought of Christmas. It does not matter to me when it began. It does not matter to me so much whether it was of pagan origin or not. The very fact that we have set aside a period of time in which to give thanks for the birth of Christ, and to bring the message and that wonderful story of the birth to the children, and bring it back into

the minds of the adults, is a blessing to all of us. To me there is a significance in this question of Christmas. We celebrate the birth of Christ.

I think it was two years ago that a professor of astronomy in the University of North Carolina, standing up before the television, gave a study of the Jewish calendar and fixed the date of the birth of Christ because of that calendar. It was interesting to me and it has been interesting to me ever since. I think of Christmas and I wonder sometimes if we understand the significance of some of the things in which we participate. For instance, once a month, the first Sunday, we go into the first Sacrament service, the Lord's Supper. Do you know on what date the Lord's Supper was instituted? This professor of astronomy, and he used astronomy to prove his point, as well as the Jewish calendar, tells us that the date of the Lord's Supper was the sixth of April, and that He was crucified, and was resurrected on the ninth of April. The sixth of April was the date of the keeping of the Passover. The Jews were celebrating the Passover and that was the time of the first Lord's Supper. That is significant as we also find significance in our Book of Commandments (which to me is of interest, a great interest in fact) as we turn to the twenty-fourth chapter. If you do not have a Book of Commandments and should happen to have a Doctrine and Covenants you will find it in the seventeenth chapter in the Doctrine and Covenants. It reads identically.

Book of Commandments 24:1, "The rise of the Church of Christ in these last days, being one thousand eight hundred and thirty years since the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the flesh."

It is a striking incident, perhaps, that just eighteen hundred years from the establishing of the Lord's supper the Lord commanded those early founders of our church to organize the church, because it was 30 years A. D. that Christ was crucified. He was thirty years old. On the 6th of April of that year they held the first Lord's Supper. Has it a significance to us? It seems to me that it has. We should think of these things when we celebrate our Christmas. When we celebrate Christmas here in December, we are paying honor, paying tribute, to the birth of that man we call Christ.

Sometimes there is a greater significance in this to us than even that which we have mentioned. Christ come into the world in that insignificant way. We are told by the traditions of that time that His mother was of low estate. There was a peculiar situation at that time. We are told by the traditions of the New Testament that the way Joseph became betrothed to Mary was a sort of lottery affair. He was much older than she was. Then after he had become betrothed to her, he discovered she was with child. Because of that Joseph had to flee with her and take her away from there. He had been told by the angel of the wonderful blessing that had been placed upon her, but the world knew it not. The Jews would have stoned her; yet through providence and by divine direction she was taken away from them, hidden away until the time had come. It seems to me that it is all in the history, so we go back in our thoughts of the birth of Christ,

(continued on page 125)

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

NOTE: We solicit articles for this department written in an affirmative manner. An affirmative article is one in which a belief, or an opinion, is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief. Contributions are to originate with the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church or the opinions of the editorial staff.

TRUTHS

By John Gill and Glenn Gill

"I know that the words of truth are hard against all uncleanness; but the righteous fear them not, for they love the truth, and are not shaken." II Nephi 6:78.

The words of truth recorded in Scriptures are the greatest spiritually inspired asset that the people of Christ's Church have. Sometimes, however, we fail to give them complete enough use. We sometimes fail to use the fulness of the gospel record and as a result fall short in our understanding; and, most important, we sometimes fail to give proper import to the clear and beautifully logical message of the Stick of Joseph (Book of Mormon).

Ezekiel 37:16-19 shows us that the stick of Joseph was to be one with the Bible (Stick of Judah). Isaiah calls the words of the Book of Mormon a manifestation of "the vision of all." We know this is the Book of Mormon of which he speaks because the episode with the learned professor (I. M. Smith's "The Book of Mormon Vindicated", page 18, or similar account) is so exactly prophesied (Isaiah 29:11).

We find in Joseph Smith's own account of the visit of Moroni, the angel messenger, that he was told by Moroni, "that the fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants;" (From the preface of the Book of Mormon, Utah Edition.)

In the Book of Commandments 15:2-3, in a revelation at Fayette, N. Y. in June, 1829, we find these words: "Behold I have manifested unto you, by my spirit in many instances, that the things which you have written are true: Wherefore you know that they are true; and if you know that they are true, behold I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written; for in them are all things written, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock."

In his vision Nephi was told (I Nephi 3:184-186), "I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; and after thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren; behold, these things shall be hid up (the Book of Mormon plates), to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb; and in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation."

Now let us stop and consider what we have discovered thus far. First, the Book of Mormon and the Bible are to be "one". Secondly, we find the Book of Mormon was to contain "the fulness of the everlasting gospel"—in other words the gospel message in the Book of Mormon would be complete and unaltered. Then we find that God told Joseph, Oliver, and David

in the June, 1829, revelation already quoted that "the things which you have written (the past tense subject of this part of the revelation) are true", and that, "in them are all things written concerning my church, my gospel and my Rock." This cannot refer to the Book of Commandments because it had not been written, nor to the Bible because these men did not write it. It must refer to the Book of Mormon the manuscript of which had just been completed and shown to the three and eight witnesses in the same month that the revelation was given.

In Nephi's vision we see that the Book of Mormon was to contain things "which shall be plain and precious . . . and in them shall be written my gospel . . . and my rock and my salvation." Nephi was told that his seed would write these things—"they shall write many things (note the plural referring to the various records contained in the Book of Mormon) which I shall minister unto them." God revealed. Nephi's seed wrote. God delivered them to us. Now it is up to us to give them proper place in our teaching.

Let us return now to this complete and precious collection of Scriptures and note what it has to say about its partner—the Stick of Judah.

In I Nephi 3:147-156 we find prophesied the story of early America—the story of Columbus and of the Colonists, and of the push westward at the expense of the Indians. Thus we know that it is the Europeans who came to America that Nephi is shown.

In verse 157 we find, "And I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them." The angel then tells Nephi (160-164), "It proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew . . . The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel; and it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets . . . They contain the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel; wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles." Obviously this book spoken of is the Bible.

Reading on (verses 165-171) we find that the Bible at the time it proceeded forth contained the "plainness of the Gospel of the Lord" as witnessed by the twelve apostles "according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God.

"Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God: and after they go forth . . . thou seest the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is the most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away; and all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord; that they might

blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book."

Here we see that the Bible has been altered to agree with the doctrines of the great and abominable church and that it has been robbed of many "plain and precious things". Verses 183-185 show us that these plain and precious things ("much of my gospel which shall be plain and precious") were to be written by the seed of Nephi and "hid up to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb", as we have quoted more fully earlier.

Since the great and abominable church has altered the Bible we should be able to cite some points at which it appears incomplete or changed in meaning when compared to the Book of Mormon in which "all things are written" and in which is "the fulness of the everlasting gospel". In this light we invite you to make the following comparisons from the Sermon on the Mount as record in these two books:

Matthew 5:6—III Nephi 5:53.

Matthew 5:17-20—III Nephi 5:66-67.

Matthew 5:23—III Nephi 5:71.

Matthew 5:25-26—III Nephi 5:75.

Matthew 5:27-28—III Nephi 5:76-78.

Illustrating more clearly how the great and abominable church has shaped the Bible to its own doctrines we find in the Douay translation II Macabees 12:43-46), "And making a gathering he sent twelve thousand drachms of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead; thinking well and religiously concerning the resurrection, . . . It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from sins." (It is provident for us that this book is not included in the King James version).

Read also Ephesians 2:4, 5 and 6 and Ephesians 4:1-15 noting in both cases how the meaning is changed by the statements that are in parenthesis (these are alike in the Douay and King James translations); then compare Alma 8:87-92 with these things. If more witnesses are wanted for this comparison see Alma 19 from verse 42 on with special attention to the verses from 81 to the end of the chapter, and see also II Nephi 6:51-56.

There are many other such comparisons that can be made but we will not enumerate further. The point we have striven to make is that the Book of Mormon gives us our surest Scriptures. Let us proceed then, to use them and lay them open to the world, and above all "fear them not" but "love the truth" and be not "shaken".

WHO ARE THE GENTILES?

Wm. F. Anderson

No doubt the answer to the above question would be, all who are not Israel are Gentiles.

When Christ came into the world, He came first to

the Jews, and at no time did He go to the Gentiles. He told His disciples to go, not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter not, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (Matt. 10:5-6). From the above we learn that Christ came not only to the Jews but to all Israel. The Jews were the first to be visited by Christ. During His life He was with the Jews. He or any of His ministry preached at no time to the Gentiles during the life of Jesus.

We have no need to enlarge on the fact that Jesus was rejected by the Jews, and they turned away from His teaching. Following the death and resurrection and ascension, we find the Gentiles began to be considered. In the last commission Jesus said, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations," etc. (Matt. 28:19.) "Go ye into all the world." (Mark 16:15).

The preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles was soon ushered in following the last commission. We find Peter had a vision as of a sheet let down from heaven, having all manner of four-footed beasts, and he was told to arise and slay and eat, which he at first refused to do saying, "Not so, Lord," as nothing common or unclean had been eaten by him. But the vision was repeated and he was told that which God cleansed was not common or unclean. When he awoke he was told that there were men to see him. These men were Gentiles and they had come to ask Peter to go with them to the home of Cornelius who was a Gentile. Peter had been prepared for the event by the vision as found in the tenth chapter of Acts. The Jews were so traditioned they thought that by entering the house of a Gentile they would be defiled. Peter having been instructed by the vision, with others, went to the home of Cornelius and found that an angel had visited there, and had directed Cornelius to send for Peter. Note that Cornelius and his household were in no way connected to Israel. They were Gentiles and in turning from the Jew to the Gentile it was not to any of the seed of Israel, or to any who had drifted over to the Gentiles. They were Gentiles. Christ said that this was the opening of the door for the Gentiles to have the Gospel preached to them.

The Jews had been told that the Gospel would be taken from them and would go to the Gentile. It took a vision to convince Peter that he should go to the home of a Gentile, and when he saw that Cornelius and his household received the Holy Ghost, he was convinced. Read his report to the rest of the Twelve in Acts 11. Christ said that the first will be last, and the last will be first. The Gospel was offered first to the Jew, and was rejected, then it went to the Gentile, and it was received, and churches were raised up all over. Paul said that the Gospel had been preached in all the world in his day.

We find Christ came to the Nephites on this land, they being a part of Israel. He told the Nephites that there were other sheep which He had to visit, and they were those of the North Country. Book of Mormon students are familiar with the story, or should be. Thus the Gospel was preached in all the world in those days.

It no doubt is needless for me to go into the story of the apostasy. Suffice it to say that the church as

set up by Christ and the apostles was overthrown, and another church took her place. Read chapters 12 and 17 of Revelation.

The prophets of the Old Testament foretold of the scattering of Israel and how they were to go over the sea. In the days of Jacob it was promised to the sons of Joseph that they would become a multitude of nations in the midst of the earth. (Gen. 28 and 29.) When Columbus came to this continent he found a people strange to him; a multitude of nations (tribes).

Let us turn to the Book of Mormon where we may get a little light on the subject. Nephi tells us that he saw that in the last days when his people had dwindled in unbelief that the Gentiles (not Israel) would come to this land and they would scatter the seed of his people. Read I Nephi 3, beginning at verse 147.

There is little doubt that Columbus was the one referred to here. Columbus was not of Israel; he was a Gentile and a Catholic. Nephi said he would be a Gentile and that there would be others of the Gentiles moved upon by the Spirit of God and they would come to this land. We do not find where Nephi ever hinted that they would be of the seed of Ephraim or any other part of Israel. It was to be Gentiles that would come to America.

"Nevertheless thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity, and have been lifted up by the power of God above all other nations upon the face of the land." Verse 176.

It was Gentiles that were to come to this land after the Nephites had dwindled in unbelief, and they were to scatter them. We would have to stretch our imagination a great deal to plant any part of Israel among the Gentiles. Oh, but some may say, "Israel was scattered among all nations, and it is spoken of Ephraim." If such is the case then those so scattered have lost their identity as a part of Israel and can no longer lay claim to being of Israel. In this country we have a mixture of all nations, and there has been an intermarrying among us, and people who came from, will we say, Germany, have lost their identity as Germans because of inter-marriage over and over. Thus the Israelites who might have been scattered among the nations are no longer Israel. It is rather a far-fetched idea for me to say that I am of Israel or any part of it.

If prophecy is to be relied upon, the gospel in the last days was to come by the way of the Gentile, and go from the Gentile to Israel. The last was to be first. The Gentile was to receive the Gospel in the Restoration, and it was to go from him to Israel when he had rejected it.

The Jews were scattered among all nations but they have at no time lost their identity. No matter in what nation they were among they were still Jews, and we find that to be true. Hitler killed and banished all the Jews he could. We have thousands of them in our land. Israel does not lose her identity. If as Christ said to the people here that he had sheep in the north country, then they have not lost their identity, and if we can rely on the Book of Mormon then they are to eventually come down and with them will be their prophets, and they are to bring their records with them.

If those who have received the gospel are Israel, then the Gentile has not had an opportunity, and the prophets of both the Bible and the Book of Mormon are not true.

Let me ask you to read from the Book of Mormon, I will not attempt to quote, but will give you citations and you look them up and read.

Jesus told the Nephites he would go to the "Lost tribes of the house of Israel," III Nephi 7:20-26; III Nephi 8:4.

Now if you will turn and read the following Scripture: I Nephi 3:176, 183; I Nephi 4:16, the gospel was to go from the Gentile to the seed of Lehi in the last days; also verse 27. II Nephi 5:30; II Nephi 7:14, 18; II Nephi 11:78 and 116; II Nephi 12: 79, 80; III Nephi 9:86, 92. The Gospel was to come from the Gentile to the seed of Lehi. This entire chapter has much concerning the Gentiles. III Nephi 10:27, 30; III Nephi 13:38, 41.

In the reading of these citations we find the Gentiles were to play a very important part in the plan of the Lord. They were to receive the gospel and were to be lifted up. They were to be blessed and in turn carry it to the seed of Lehi or Nephi. If those who have accepted the gospel are of Israel or any part of it, then the Gentile has not had an opportunity, and as we have said, the prophets were mistaken, even the Lord himself. The Lord said we are Gentiles and the Book of Mormon prophets said we were to be Gentiles.

When the Apostles of old turned to the Gentiles there was no indication that those Gentiles would be a scattering of Israel, they were Gentiles—no part of Israel—and all who were not Israel were considered Gentiles.

In the Restoration the Gospel was to come by way of the Gentile, not to Israel or any part of it, and from the Gentile it was to be carried to the children of Israel.

Let's just stay in the place the Lord intended we should, and I am sure the Lord will approve.

PREACH THE WORD

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It is very necessary that the disciples of our Lord, especially those that have come up to the land of Zion for an inheritance, and those who have been planted in their inheritance, should have the word preached unto them, that they may understand the peaceable things of the kingdom. Wisdom is profitable for the saints. Jeremiah said: The Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting King; at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation: he hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom. And it is certainly important, that all who have come up to the land of Zion, professing to be the disciples of Christ, while blessed with knowledge and wisdom from on high, should be dictated with wisdom enough to walk in obedience to all the commandments,

and observe all the statutes of their Lord, not by constraint but willingly, that their reward may be from above.

While in the world, surrounded with fashions, vanities, abominations, and evil spirits, it cannot be expected that the members of the Church of Christ, considering their opportunities to acquire knowledge having but little time or opportunity, with the elders who declare the word to them, can be free from the world; neither is it expected that they will have a knowledge of the evil spirits which are abroad in the earth, nor keep all the commandments, and have an understanding of all the statutes of the Lord, as perfectly as those who have been upon the land of Zion for years. Where much is given, much will be required. How important then, that all walk perfectly, so that, when the destroying angel goes through, he may pass over them and not slay them. Not all that say Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom.

This being the last generation of the wicked, before the Lord comes to his temple, satan will exert himself, and use all his power to overthrow or hinder the progress of Christ's kingdom. Every deception, therefore, that he is master of, will be practiced, as far as he has power, that he may deceive some, and lead them to destruction. John said in one of his epistles, supposed to have been written ninety-eight years after the birth of our Lord: Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. If false prophets, and evil spirits were then in the world, what less is to be expected now, since the world has been engrossed in wickedness, and lain in darkness for ages; the sacred Scriptures been robbed of their plainness, and man set himself up as a guide, to direct his fellow beings to happiness by his own wisdom? Is it not important, that the disciples try the spirits, and be reminded continually of the word of the Lord to His ancient disciples, when He said: Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh? For it is the pure in heart that shall see God.

After Paul had been writing to Timothy concerning things which would come to pass in the last days, he says: I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

It might be well to bear in mind, that Paul was then writing to the first bishop of the church at Ephesus, and notwithstanding he had previously written to his Ephesian brethren, reminding them of the great promises of the Lord, yet Timothy was required to watch, and labor with all diligence, that he might be blameless, as some of them would not endure, but turn from the truth. And when Paul called the elders of the church at Ephesus, unto him at Miletus, which was the last time they saw his face in the flesh, he said: Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you

overseers, to feed the flock of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

After Paul had declared to his Ephesian brethren, that those who first trusted in Christ, should be to the praise of his glory, he says: In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. This then, was the condition of one of the churches built up by the ancient apostles: some were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, and some would not endure sound doctrine; and even of the elders, Paul said, some should arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them, etc.; so that Timothy was charged to reprove, rebuke and exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine. And the Lord has said in these last days, that there will be foolish virgins among the wise until he comes. This has always been the case in the Church of Christ on earth, more or less since the beginning. . . .

To be prepared for the coming of the bridegroom, is an all important preparation; we must have oil in our vessels, and our lamps trimmed and burning. How necessary then, that we walk in humility before the Lord: this certainly is pleasing unto him, for if we walk so, he bestows His Spirit. In this condition we can search His holy commandments, and learn our duty. For unless we keep all His commandments blameless with thanksgiving, we are not prepared to meet Him. By keeping His commandments, we have the promise of his blessings; and by keeping His commandments, we are endowed with the Comforter, and by it, we can try all the spirits, and know whether they are of the Lord or not.

To have the Spirit of the Lord always in our hearts, requires a perfect walk in His statutes. A thousand things may be imagined in our minds, and for an instant supposed to be of the Lord, but to be certain, they must be compared to the word, and found to agree. The creations of the Lord, roll in their regular courses, and the stars move in their beautiful order, and will till their time is fulfilled. So likewise with his words. If it has been written and sealed up for ages; if it has been kept from the eyes of man from generation to generation, because of wickedness, when it is brought forth by his own gift and power, the same beauty will manifest itself in it, without a jar or discord, as in that which has been permitted to remain, and still more, as it is given in plainness.

Every good and perfect gift is from above: everything that enlightens, everything that invites to do good and persuades men to believe in Christ, is sent forth by his gift and power; every spirit then manifested which edifies, is of the Lord, if he from whom it is manifested obeys his ordinances.

As all were not called, nor chosen for the same office, it behooves every disciple to watch that they are not deceived. Our Lord says: To some is given by

the Holy Ghost, to know that Jesus is the Son of God, and that he was crucified for the sins of the world; to others it is given to believe on their words, that they also might have eternal life if they continue faithful. And again, to some it is given by the Holy Ghost to know the difference of administration, as it will be pleasing unto the same Lord, according as the Lord will, suiting his mercies according to the condition of the children of men. And again it is given by the Holy Ghost to some to know the diversities of operations, whether it be of God or not, so that the manifestations of the Spirit may be given to every man to profit withal.

As all have not the same gift, but to some it is given to discern all the gifts, lest some should be manifested and not be of the Lord, and thereby the church be deceived, we beseech all the disciples to search diligently the revelations, and learn the order of the kingdom of our heavenly Father. In this way we shall be preserved from evil, and delivered from seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and the commandments and precepts of men. Everything in the church of God must be conducted in order, according to the authority of the offices which he has given; for these all were given for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

In this way, while we are taught from the revelations, and guided by the Holy Spirit, we are strengthened, and grow up in all things, into him who is our head, even Christ; and when the rains descend, and the floods come, and the winds blow, we shall not be harmed neither moved. But if we deviate from his word, and hold not his sacred oracles carefully, we have not the assurance of his protection from the storm of the enemy, who is stirred up in great anger, knowing he has but a short time.

It requires much time and study to learn all the commandments of the Lord, but when we have learned them, they will profit us, for they are sure.

We may readily see by chapter 14 of Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians, that he was careful of sacred things, and preserved order. He says: Let all things be done unto edifying. Moroni, in speaking of the manner of conducting meetings among the Nephites when they were righteous, says, they were conducted by the church after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost.

In a revelation given for the instruction of the church in these last days, it reads: But notwithstanding these things which are written, it always has been given to the elders of my church from the beginning, and ever shall be, to conduct all meetings as they are directed and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Again it reads: But ye are commanded in all things to ask of God who giveth liberally, and that which the Spirit testifies unto you, even so I would that ye should do in all holiness of heart, walking uprightly before me, considering the end of your salvation, doing all things with prayer and thanksgiving, that ye may not be seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men; for some are of men, and others are of devils.

Wherefore, beware lest ye are deceived; and that ye may not be deceived, seek ye earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given; for verily I say unto you, they are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do, that all may be benefitted, that seeketh or asketh of me, that asketh and not for a sign that he may consume it upon his lusts.

There is much said about miracles, and thousands suppose if they could see one performed, they would believe. When Moses had received the message from the Lord, while feeding the flocks of his father-in-law at the mount Horeb, he returned to Egypt, and in company with Aaron, called the elders of the children of Israel together, and performed those signs in the sight of the people, which were given them of the Lord, and they believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped. But when they were performed before Pharaoh, he said: Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.

It would seem, that some among the servants of Pharaoh believed the word of the Lord by Moses, when the hail was about to come upon the Egyptians, for they caused that their cattle and their servants should flee into the houses. And also, when the locusts were to be sent into the coasts of Egypt, some of the servants of Pharaoh said: How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?

Here we have a sample how far signs and wonders, and even judgments, convince mankind, or the wicked, of the existence and power of God.

When Moses visited his brethren the children of Israel, when he was forty years old, he supposed they would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them; but they understood not; and in consequence of his avenging one who was oppressed, he was obliged to flee. But after remaining in the land of Midian forty years, the children of Israel by this time were humbled by oppression, and heavy burdens, so that, when the message from the Lord came, they were ready to believe; but Pharaoh in his pride, said: Who is the Lord? and was driven on in his wickedness and hardness of heart, until he, and his mighty host, were drowned in the Red Sea.

After the children of Israel were saved from the power of their enemies; brought forth into the desert; fed with angel's food, and with quails to their fill; the Lord going before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; after hearing the voice of the living God in the thunder from Sinai, and even Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, with seventy of the elders of Israel, went up with Moses, where they saw the God of Israel; after Moses had gone up into the mount to receive the precious oracles from his own hand, because he delayed to come down, they took their golden ear-rings, fashioned them with a graving tool, after they had made them a molten calf, and said: These be thy gods,

O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Paul, at the close of his epistle to his brethren at Rome, says: Whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our learning. Peter, in his second epistle, says that the Lord turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly. If the saints in the days of Paul, could learn by those things which were written before them, and if the Lord made ensamples of the wicked by destroying them in the days of old, would it not be wisdom for those who are favored with the oracles of God in these last days, to beware and hold them carefully?

After the children of Israel were brought to mount Sinai, the Lord said to Moses, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagle's wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.

But they despised the promised rest, and in their hearts turned back into Egypt, and rejected signs and wonders; and after forty years' travel, were permitted to enter the land of Canaan. In these last days their seed will again be brought to inherit the same land, the righteous among all nations be gathered according to the word of the Lord, and those that keep his commandments, see his face, while those who do not, perish.

Having taken sufficient from the history of the ancients, to show the dealings of the Lord with them, by all these examples we may in our day receive instruction. In fact, it only needs a careful examination of the records of olden time, to convince the unprejudiced and sincere, that great things await the inhabitants of the earth in the last days.

Much is said in our day relative to the liberal fulfillment of ancient prophecy. Some assert, that the ancient prophecies are to be literally fulfilled. Others say, that those pointing to the coming of the Messiah, were to be, and were literally fulfilled, but the remainder of the prophecies contained in the Bible, are to be Spiritually understood, and that they are not to be fulfilled literally, or are not to take place as they read, according as they were spoken by the mouth of the prophets.

We find a prophecy contained in chapter 18 of Deuteronomy, spoken by Moses, thus, I will raise them up a prophet (the children of Israel) from among their brethren, like unto thee. In the third chapter of the Acts, Peter says, this is he (Christ) of whom Moses spake. Thus we see, that the words of Moses concerning the coming of Christ, were literally fulfilled. Peter says further, that it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that prophet shall be destroyed from among the people. A part of that prophecy, so far as it related to the first coming of Christ, then, ac-

ording to the Scriptures, has been fulfilled as it was spoken; and who will say that the remainder shall not be?

Isaiah said, Behold a virgin shall conceive and bare a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel. This prophecy according to Matthew, was literally fulfilled, probably between seven and eight hundred years after it was spoken.

The word of the Lord to the Israelites, was, that they should be scattered if they rejected his word; and in chapter 17 of II Kings, we learn that they were led away captive out of their own lands. The Jews were admished from time to time, and the Lord said that they should be carried captive to Babylon, and according to the Scriptures, in the days of Zedekiah, their king, they were. He also said that they should return and rebuild Jerusalem, and after seventy years' captivity, this promise was literally fulfilled.

In five hundred and thirty years from the end of their captivity, the Saviour was born in Bethlehem of Judea, as Matthew says: For thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem in the land of Judea, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Micah, who probably delivered the above prophecy, lived in the days of Isaiah, as it will be seen by the commencement of the two books. Indeed, his comes very near the words recorded in Matthew. He says, But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be Ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

When Christ rode into Jerusalem, Matthew says all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and setting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. Zechariah, from whose prophecy the above no doubt is taken by Matthew, lived at, or near the time of the return of the Jews from Babylon, and is the only prophet in the Bible, who mentions a prophecy of this, or of a similar kind, of our Savior's entering Jerusalem riding upon a beast.

(to be continued)

SERMON

(continued from page 119)

into the ninth chapter of Isaiah. This Scripture is all familiar to us. We have heard it from our youth up. We participated, many of us, in the Christmas programs that celebrated this occasion, and today through out this nation this self-same story is being told.

Isaiah 9:2-7, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

This was to the Jews. This was spoken of in seven hundred forty-two B.C. Were they in the setting in the land of the shadow of death? Yes. Just before the destruction and the scattering to the wide world.

"That hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

"For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

"For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire."

This is something that is more than the ordinary battle. Something that goes deeper and farther than the victory on the battlefield is to happen.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders; 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 judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Now we turn back to Isaiah 7:14, and we have a little more that we think is of interest to us, at this time of year especially.

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

You know, the old Hebrew Bible does not read just that way. It says that a young woman shall conceive and bear a son. The new revised version of the Bible also gives it as a young woman, but turning back to the Scripture I read in the beginning from Luke, we find that they speak (even the revised version) of her as a virgin, but of course the Jewish Bible does not mention it.

We read these Scriptures because these are the things that were given to us before the coming of Christ. Now we turn to another Scripture which was given just a little later. That which is from Isaiah was 742 years before Christ, this one is in 710 B. C.

Micah 5:2-3, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

"Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel."

I refer to these passages simply to illustrate, or bring to our mind again, the importance of the birth of Christ, the sacredness with which we should observe our Christmas celebration. Oh, I recognize this, that on the sixth day of April that few of us that are interested in this church would have time to give due thought to

the Christmas, and so it is well that we hold it at this time of the year, because I believe this, too, is a beautiful time of the year; yet, when we think about it and think of the connection between these two things, the birth of Christ, for he said it was the day of his birth that we were organized, and the fact that the Passover was on that day, there is a connecting link between these great events of history that should be of interest to us. Just as when Jacob set up the stone upon which he laid his head, and it became the seat or foundation of the temple of Solomon, we find in the reading of this Scripture that there is a significance all the way down through our history.

The story of Christ can be told very briefly and very quickly. He was born of the virgin. He lived a short life. He was baptized and went into his ministry and in two and a half years he was crucified. Yet, that man's history, insignificant as he may have seemed, was and did have power to divide the time of the nations of the world. You may read of Alexander the Great, you may read of Napoleon, and you may read of Washington, or whoever you will, in the history of the activities of men; but we find none that has been able to divide the times of the nations. Did it ever strike you as being peculiar that from the birth of Christ there was a dividing of the time? We figure backward to Adam, and forward to the second coming of this same man. Is it significant then to us? It should be. It should be very significant to us at this time of the year as we take into consideration the celebration we are going into that he made that statement, "I shall build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

It is interesting to us when we stop to consider his life in that two and a half years and the influence that this man has wielded over the whole world. I say the whole world, because we find the fact that behind the iron curtain they are bringing pressure against Him, is indication that He has His influence there as well as on this side. You and I are granted a wonderful privilege to participate, to accomplish, if you please; to carry on, to consistently build upon that structure which was laid for us to build.

We read further concerning the Christ, because it would seem quite interesting to us what should follow after his birth. We read in the Scripture that there was a man there who was a very devout, spiritual man. Some way or another, even when I was a boy and this Scripture came to me, how Simeon, as they brought the infant into that temple, was filled with the Spirit of God. Now that he had witnessed the birth of this child whom he recognized, he was ready to go.

Sometimes I think we treat too lightly that sweet old story. We fail to appreciate the significance of it, and what it should mean to us. But it should mean everything to us. Not only did Christ divide the times of this nation and the nations of the world; but He set up the privilege that is granted to you and to me to come back into the presence of our almighty God, and to look forward into the future when He shall come again—not as a Babe, no—not as an unknown babe.

You know, sometimes I wonder because during the last twenty-five years, throughout the whole world there has been a spreading of the knowledge that you

and I are so familiar with. Through the dispersment, through the scattering of our sons over the whole globe, through the sending out of our soldiers from this country people have carried not only the story of the Christian world as we believe it, but they have carried the story of freedom. And the whole world is gradually coming into a knowledge of what you and I believe.

You know, it is difficult to go into a country speaking a different language. In our experience in Wales, we had no trouble speaking to the people at one place, but we had only to go fifty miles from there and we couldn't talk with the older people. They spoke a different dialect, but there wasn't a child in the whole island or a young man of military age but what could understand us perfectly. It is the younger generation that can understand. You can talk to them and they will hear you. I wonder, has there been something in this war, in the dispersing of our soldiers over the broad world, that has caused the American language to be distributed in all parts of the world? Is there significance to you in this? We think there is. With it we think, too, that there is an evil.

I, at least, am disturbed because from time to time we see the boys bringing back brides of foreign birth. We wonder how far we should go with this; what can be the result? We discover, after a study, that in bringing back these brides of foreign birth often that thing we are fighting so desperately against—communism is brought to us. I am not fearful of this, but I wonder, inasmuch as the Lord spoke to the children of Israel, and I believe we are of the house of Israel, that they should not partake of wives in foreign countries, or foreign nations; we wonder if there is a retaliation coming on us. Is this the thing that is going to come?

Recently I received a letter from an institution which is making an investigation and study from the different churches to gain their reaction to this. They asked me for our reaction. It brought to me the thought that we did not have that condition. We wonder. We saw some of the evil effects while we were in England. We wonder if there is a significance. We wonder if we should take action to warn our sons concerning this thing. I am bringing this to you because it has its connection with Christ and His people. We are promised that Israel shall blossom. She will blossom, bud and bear fruit and till the whole earth. Who is Israel? We are Israel. The Israel that is singing Christmas carols today. Israel is the one that is promised these wonderful blessings. Israel is the one that is finally to become the great battleax of the great Jehovah, and would the great battleax of Jehovah be anything else than that which teaches the word of God and instructs the people? He has told us definitely that unless we keep His commandments we are not of His disciples. Oh, what a privilege has been granted to us here in this place. What a golden opportunity is held out to us to participate, to assist in establishing the building of His church.

Christ said, "I shall build My church . . ." "A man that has had the ability and had the power to divide the time of nations surely had a right to say, "I shall build my church." Do you know He could have joined a church in that day? There were sixteen in existence at that time, so I am told. He could have joined any

one of those churches. Because of His wonderful understanding of the Scripture He could have become a great power in that nation. He did not use the Scripture that I have read here. No, He used the old Jewish Scripture. It had nothing of the New Testament in it. Nevertheless he could have become a power. Yet, He said, "I shall build My church . . ." We, I am sure, believe that He built that church just eighteen hundred years to the day from the time He established the Lord's Supper and told us how important it was—eighteen hundred years.

We wonder that the young men in Fayette Township, New York could establish that date, and unless one ascribes to them the right and privilege of divine direction we will find that there was no way for them to know the importance of that date; yet, it was there. As I bring this to you at this time of the year, when we celebrate the birth of Christ, the coming forth of the babe in that obscure way, coming forth in a time when the people were under the dominion and under the heel of the tyrants; and we listen as we go down through the teachings of this child that was born at that time and He tells us, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," we think of what the Jews said at the time, that they were not under bondage to any man, yet we know now that they were under the bondage of the government of Rome. They were under heavy bondage, and yet He said the truth will make us free. So we give thanks to God; thanks for the birth of Christ; thanks for the Scripture that He has given us, that down through the ages has traced the coming forth and establishing of His kingdom here on the earth. I give thanks then for the fact that some one was so diligent when I was a child that they taught me the story of Christ; that sweet old story. I am thankful that someone was so diligent that they gave their time and developed those childish exercises that we see so often on Christmas, the babe in the manger and all that, for it fixed in my mind the love of the Christ that has dominated my life. It has kept me when I would have wandered into paths of darkness and sin; has held me back and brought me back into the straight way. We give thanks for all of this to the birth of Christ and to the gift of God when He gave to us His son that we might not perish, but might have everlasting life.

OBITUARIES

Nelson Byron Tucker

Nelson Byron Tucker, son of Nelson Tucker, Sr. and Lucy Berry Tucker was born April 4, 1875, at Big Creek, Monroe County, Wisconsin. He passed away at the home of a neighbor very suddenly, Friday, June 29, 1956, at the age of 81 years, 3 months and 23 days.

On November 27, 1897, he was united in marriage to Miss Dora Belle Scafe. To this union was born 6 children, 5 girls and one son. Sister Tucker died in October, 1952.

For years the Tuckers operated a farm in what is known as Upper Big Creek in Monroe County, Wisconsin. Later they moved to a farm near Wrightsville in Jackson County north of Black River Falls. As old age crept on they left the farm and settled on a small acreage nearby, where they lived until the time of their passing.

On February 18, 1912, Brother Tucker was baptized by Elder B. C. Flint and became a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Later he, with most of his family, transferred his membership to the Church of Christ with headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri, the original group of the Restoration, and remained faithful to the day of his death.

He leaves to mourn his passing his six children, five daughters: Mrs. Beatrice Babcock, Black River Falls, Wisconsin; Mrs. Goldie Hanson, Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Doris Hutchison, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin; Mrs. Evelyn Phillips, Santa Monica, California; and Mrs. Darl Hunholz of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin; and one son, Nelson Tucker, Jr., of Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

Also surviving are his three sisters, Mrs. Lou Rogers of Wauteseke, Illinois; Mrs. Sue Hillique of Madison, Wisconsin; and Mrs. Hulda Sandee of Oostburg, Wisconsin. One brother, Joseph, and two sisters, Lydia and Adelaide, preceded him in death.

There are also nine grandchildren, four boys and five girls. One grandson was recently killed in an auto accident. There are also six great-grandchildren and a host of friends.

The funeral was held in the Colonial Funeral Home at Black River Falls, the service being conducted by Apostles B. C. Flint of Independence, Missouri, a life-long friend of the family. He was laid to rest beside his companion in Riverside Cemetery at Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

Eva Sheldon Ryerson

Eva Sheldon Ryerson, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Sheldon was born on September 28, 1876, in Carlton, Yorkshire, England and passed away at the Rest Haven Home, Independence, Missouri, on June 28, 1956.

She came to America when she was 28 years of age with her oldest brother Thomas J. Sheldon. Previous to this time, her brother was sent to America on a mission for the Methodist church. While here he joined the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was sent as an Elder back to England on a mission for the latter church. After his return to England, Sister Ryerson and her mother were converted to the restored gospel. She was baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on September 26, 1903, at Leeds, England.

After arriving in America Sister Ryerson was employed as a nurse at the Saint's Home in Lamoni, Iowa. Here she met and married Mr. George Erwin Ryerson on March 28, 1908, the ceremony being performed by her brother Elder T. J. Sheldon. After her marriage, she moved with her husband to North Platte, Nebraska and then to Minitare, Nebraska. She moved to Independence, Missouri, in 1913 where she resided until her death. Her husband, and her older son, John Erwin Ryerson, preceded her in death.

Sister Ryerson transferred her membership to the Church of Christ January 9, 1933. After her husband passed away on January 4, 1932, Sister Ryerson made her home with her son, Kenneth, until she entered the Rest Haven Home in 1951.

She is survived by one son, Kenneth W. Ryerson of 1816 Northern Boulevard, Independence, Missouri, and one daughter, Velleda Mary Fowler, Rupert, Idaho, five granddaughters and one great-granddaughter and other relatives and hosts of friends.

The funeral service was in charge of Arthur E. Stoff, an Elder in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, assisted by Nicholas F. Denham. Interment was in Mound Grove Cemetery, Independence, Missouri.

John W. Clark

John K. Clark was born March 24, 1889 at Harrisburg, Ohio, and passed on to his reward on Thursday evening, May 10, 1956, at the Mercy Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife Laure, three daughters and their families, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a host of friends.

Brother Clark was baptized into the Restoration April 7, 1935, in Columbus, Ohio, and transferred his membership into the Church of Christ December 9, 1952.

May we urge all who have material to be published in the Advocate to be sure to have it in the hands of the Editors by the 13th of the month previous to its mailing. Example: Material for the August issue should be in the hands of the Editors by July 13. This will help us to get the paper out on time.

The Editors

INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

Our quarterlies are not dated, but numbered, because they contain a regular course of study, and if the schools desire to make this study, they should order the quarterlies according to number so as to avail themselves of the entire course, so far as the study has been extended up to the present time. None of the courses are, as yet, complete.

Send ALL remittances for the Sunday School Association to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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