

# 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."—1 Nephi 3:187.

Volume 39

Independence, Missouri, February, 1962

No. 2

## *There's Ne'er A Day So Dreary*

No. 238, Saints Hymnal



There's ne'er a day so dreary,  
But God can make it bright;  
And to the soul that trusts him,  
He giveth pure delight;  
There's ne'er a path so hidden,  
But God will show the way,  
If we will seek his guidance,  
And patiently will pray.

There's ne'er a cross so heavy,  
But Jesus' hands are there,  
Out-stretched in sweet compassion,  
Our burden still to bear;  
There's ne'er a life so darkened,  
So hopeless, so unblest,  
But may be filled with gladness,  
In Jesus' peace may rest.

There's ne'er a heart so broken  
But Jesus Christ can heal;  
The heart once pierced on Calvary  
Doth for his people feel.  
He'll e'er fulfill his promise,  
His word can never fail;  
God is our help in trouble,  
Our strength when foes assail.

### CONTENTS

Editorial .....	Page 18	Original Articles:	
Local News .....	Page 19	The Time of the End .....	Page 22
From Yucatan		In Whom Do You Trust?.....	Page 27
Comes My Testimony .....	Page 20	In the Beginning God .....	Page 28
Obituary .....	Page 31, 32		
Notice .....	Page 32		

## ZION'S ADVOCATE

Official Publication of the Church of Christ

Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri

EDITOR: William A. Sheldon, 1011 South Cottage, Independence, Missouri.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: James A. Hedrick, 103 North 22nd Street, Blue Springs, Missouri.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BOARD OF PUBLICATION Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

Second class postage paid at Independence, Missouri.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year, \$1.50 In bundles of twelve or more, for missionary purposes, \$1.00. Canadian and all foreign rates, \$1.75.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings, and subscriptions for the Advocate to: The Church of Christ, (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri

### EDITORIAL

It is said that "to be forewarned is to be forearmed."

We are often caused to wonder at how little heed has been given to warnings which have come through prophets of old and of latter-days. Unheeded, too, are the signs of the second coming of Christ, and of the end of the world, which is the physical destruction of the wicked.

The worldly-wise are saying, in exact fulfillment of the Apostle Peter's prophetic statement:

"... Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (II Peter 3:4.)

Nor is the church exempt from such contemptuous unbelief, as witness the prophecy of our Lord:

"But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, my Lord delayeth his coming;

"And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

"The Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

"And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 24:48-51.)

Whether we consider the worldly scoffer or the evil servant, it is evident that their attitude is plainly contrary to what their knowledge should produce. Both have a knowledge that Christ **will come**, but have neither a godly nor mortal fear of the coming **DAY OF THE LORD**.

Let this thought be clear: when that day comes, all men **will** be filled either with godly fear, which loves the commandments of God and cleaves to the good and true, or with a mortal fear through transgression and contempt of the divine institution of God in these latter days. Upon these last shall come terrible plagues, and finally, actual destruction unless they repent. And yet, many, many will not do so. Refer to Revelation, chapters 8 and 9.

We think of the world as full of sin, ripening in iniquity, and only abiding until the long-suffering of God shall have ended and He cleans the earth with fire. But, somehow, we are loth to realize that "judgment must begin at the house of God." (I Peter 4:17.)

What is the reason for these things, and what is it that has polluted the "sanctuary," the Church of Christ restored? Answers to this will vary widely, and a great number of circumstances might reasonably be pointed out as having a critical bearing upon the dilemma which has overtaken the latter-day work.

However warranted may be the criticism of persons and their actions of earlier days (and too long and loud has been the criticism centering about Joseph Smith, primarily), we must realize that we are living now, not then. We will stand or fall on the merits, or demerits, of our own individual lives.

Just how valid is our claim of being THE Church of Christ, or in other words, a bonifide restoration of the primitive Church of Christ? Answer: only as valid as was the prophetic and divinely appointed mission of Joseph Smith. If he was not a prophet, seer and revelator sent of God; and if he did not effect, by the unction of the Holy Spirit, a valid organization of THE Church of Christ; and if we are not a valid remnant of that organization by reason of spiritual continuity as well as physical; if these things are not true, then must we confess that God has failed thus far to begin "a marvelous work and a wonder", and there is no authority to represent Him in the earth, today.

But, these things **are** true. It is also true that there has been, **is now**, and always will be human failures to hinder the work of God until the Lord takes personal command.

He, of course, is not pleased with our manifest humanity, and the world must learn obedience through repentance, and for the most part, repentance through suffering. But against none is His wrath to be poured upon so much as upon they who transgress knowingly; upon they who reject the fullness of the Gospel. For this reason is the earth "defiled" and the "sanctuary" in need of cleansing.

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

"Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left." (Isa. 24:5-6. Read the whole chapter; also III Nephi 7:34-41.)

World churches, too, have come under the divine censure.

"They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray, save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ;

"Nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err, because they are taught by the precepts of men." (II Nephi 12:16-17.)

In general, this language and preceding verses apply to the popular churches of today, but "the humble followers of Christ" can only apply to those in the Restoration, or more specifically, the Church of Christ, who err "in many instances" "because they are taught by the precepts of men".

Some have rejected Joseph Smith in all but his translation of the Book of Mormon.

Some have rejected almost, if not all, of the latter day revelations through him, yet stoutly proclaim the Book of Mormon as the Word of God. How strange to believe that the spirit of revelation produced that record in these latter days, yet doubt the continuation of the prophetic gift in the one God so used! If it is acknowledged that the gift was manifest even later, when was it reclaimed? Do we dare fix the date?

We believe in the same church organization as effected by Christ, yet some in the Church say there are no apostles today—just disciples!

Some believe that apostles have been "set" in the Church, but, in effect, would deny them a primary function of setting the Church in order.

Some claim to believe in the "fullness of the Gospel", but deny the preached word, which, being accompanied by the demonstrated power of the Holy Ghost in our forefathers of these latter days, showed forth in very fact the beginning of the "marvelous work and a wonder".

These are some of the things, in the world and in the Church, which will necessitate a cleansing action by God.

It behooves us, then, to keep the commandments of God, to exercise ourselves in faith, love and righteousness; to give self wholly to the Master; to give, not demand; to believe, not doubt; to accept, **not reject**.

We will thus be spared, and not only so, but bountifully blessed in the Day of the Lord.

William A. Sheldon

### *Local News*

#### **Grand Junction, Colo.**

I am glad to report that the Grand Junction Church of Christ Local is still endeavoring to forward the Lord's work. We hold our Sunday and Wednesday services regularly; our women meet once a month.

In July we held our annual Church and Sunday School elections. For Church, Marvin Ely was elected our pastor, and Dave Hinkle, assistant. Enid Bell was elected secretary and treasurer. Ted Ely was elected our Sunday School superintendent and Vieve Shaw, secretary, treasurer and pianist. Enid Bell is chorister. Our new teachers elected were Jim Shaw, adult class, Marvin Ely, Juniors, Margie Ely, intermediate, and Charlotte Hinkle, primary.

We are glad that the Church building we have so long desired, is near completion. Last summer we got as far along on the building as putting the roof on and the windows in. Then with the peach harvest coming on and other things which had to be done, the men folks had to quit on the church for a while. Last year, we did not have a good peach harvest. After the returns came in, I, for one, was fearful that we would not be able to finish our church for some time because of all the expense yet involved to complete it. But, seemingly, our men folks felt differently, as they had the courage, faith and determination to go ahead in spite of all our difficulties. So, at present, we are waiting to hook up the furnace to the gas. Then, when the heat is turned on, it should not be long until we are in our new church.

During the past year, we were happy to have had with us Apostles E. Leon Yates, William Anderson, Archie Bell and Tom Barton. Sister Frances Yates and Sister Martha Bell accompanied their husbands. We enjoyed very much having these wonderful people with us that we might visit with them and listen to the splendid, inspiring sermons which they preached for us while here. I almost envy you people at Independence who can call upon one of the Apostles most any time to speak to you.

Other visitors during the past summer were Brother Don McIndoo and family, and Brother Tommy Barton and family. Also Brother Marvin Carroll came down from Hayden, Colo., several times. It is always a pleasure having them with us and wish it were so they could come more often.

We also enjoyed listening to Don and Tommie's good sermons. In mentioning the many fine sermons we have heard from our visiting ministers, we do not wish to forget the many good sermons of inspiration and admonition spoken to us by our local ministers. We feel very fortunate to have so many of our men folks in the ministry.

When the Tommie Barton's were here last summer, they had their baby daughter blessed. There is always something beautiful about blessing a little child. Last fall, we were made sad to hear that Tommie and Anna May's two youngest children have a very serious heart ailment. Let us remember them in our prayers.

It seems we in this local have had our share of sorrow and trouble during the past year. Our greatest sorrows were to learn of the death of Sister Laura Barton and the accidental death of June Larsen, daughter of Sister Alice and Lowell Larsen. Our young sister June was the granddaughter of our own Brother Harvey Bell. All those who sorrow have our sympathy and prayers that God will be near them to comfort and bless them through this great trial.

May God especially bless and direct His people of the church and may He remember all the earnest in heart everywhere, is our prayer.

Sybil Ely, Reporter

## From Yucatan Comes My Testimony

By Elder E. Leon Yates

We are now in Yucatan and have been here for better than six weeks. Knowing that there are many of our people in the States who are deeply interested in the experiences of our people here as they try to live under the new-found gospel of Christ, I will try to bring to you some of the experiences. I hope they will gladden your hearts and strengthen your faith.

I shall take you back to an experience that took place here two years ago. Before I relate this experience let me tell you of certain feelings I had as a boy. All through the years of my childhood I had the feeling or the awareness of another individual or being present with me at all times, even though at no time was I ever able to see him. I learned to know and to trust this being and felt a personal assurance that this power had such love and concern for my welfare that it guarded and protected me in times of danger.

Never at any time did it occur to me that this could possibly be an illusion of the mind, nor does such a thought enter my mind even at this time when I have reached the age of over half a century. I am as sure now as I was then, that indeed through the great power of God, he can and will send that spirit to guard and care for little children.

I can think of no better name for that spirit that I came to know, than, "Guardian Angel." I quote from Matt. 18:10. "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven **their angels** do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

Now back to the experience that took place here in Yucatan two years ago. At one of our prayer services a little Indian woman brought her new-born baby to have it blessed. Let me quote from the Book of Mormon, III Nephi 8:12-13, "And it came to pass that he commanded that their little children should be brought. So they brought their little children and sat them down upon the ground round about him, and Jesus stood in the midst; and the multitude gave way till they had all been brought unto him."

We will quote also verses 23-26, "And when he had said these words, he wept, and the multitude bear record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them. And when he had done this he wept again, and he spake unto the multitude, and saith unto them, Behold your little ones. And as they looked to behold, they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were, in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about; and they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them, and the multitude did see and hear, and bear record; and they know that their record

is true, for all of them did see and hear, every man for himself."

Here we find that after Christ blessed those little ones, angels did minister unto them. This was the very purpose for which the blessing was given to them. When we blessed the little Indian baby, we prayed for that same thing; that God would in his mercy and love once again through the name of the Master of men, send an angel, a spirit, a power to protect the little one from the dangers that are on every side.

At the time this baby was blessed it was less than one month old. In the next day or so, the mother and father took the little one and traveled by cart and mule 50 miles back into the jungle. The nights were cold and the parents did not have enough clothing to keep themselves or the baby warm. Soon the little one became very sick. In a couple of weeks they made the 50 mile trip back, under similar conditions, except now the baby was dangerously sick.

When they reached the town of Ticul, the mother came and asked if Fernando and myself would come and administer to the babe. When I saw the baby I was aware that nothing but the power of God could save it. The local doctor had told them there was nothing he could do for it. The child could hardly breathe, due to congested lungs.

After administration, it began to breath easy and soon went to sleep; but at four o'clock the next morning there came a knock on my door. The mother was back; the baby was worse and she wanted us to come again and administer. Frances and I went right over. As I looked at the baby my heart was struck with fear. I did administer and afterward we took it to Merida to the hospital. We arrived at the hospital in the early morning hours and found many mothers with sick children waiting to see the doctor. When they saw this child and realized its condition, their hearts went out in sympathy to the little mother. They gave way willingly and wanted her to be the first one to see the doctor.

The doctor said it was bronchial pneumonia, and must have attention immediately; but he did not have the necessary medicine. I asked if the medicine was available. He said it could be purchased in the center of town. I had it back in 20 minutes. When I saw the way the baby was handled I repented of having brought it into the hospital. It was strapped down in bed with no clothes, on a plastic sheet. The morning was cold; the windows were open and a cold breeze blew across the room.

We were reluctant to leave for it seemed sure that the little one must go, and someone should be there to console that little mother. She, however, was brave and told us to go. We returned to Ticul and told our people there of the need for prayers in behalf of the baby. We continued on down to Chunhuhu according to a previous appointment. That night there was a prayer service held here as well as in Ticul. Many prayers were offered in behalf of the little one. We

returned home the next day and were happy to hear that the baby had much improved.

In a few days we had the privilege of bringing the child home, well and strong. When we went to get it, the nurse asked the mother if the child had been baptized. The mother explained to her that we do not believe in baptism for children. She told her that baptism was for the remission of sins and that little children could not commit sin, therefore, did not need baptism. The nurse said, "Well, I don't know anything about that, but this much I do know, this child had a guardian angel watching over it, or it could not have possibly lived."

Remember, the child had been blessed by those having authority to do so, and it had been blessed not only through the hands of men, but by the power of the spirit and through the Holy name of the Master of men.

This is my testimony, that through the blessing of little children, angels do minister unto them. This I believe. Not only must I rely upon my experience as a boy, when there came to me such a definite assurance of that ever-present power (guardian angel), but from the Book of Mormon we have a testimony from 2,500 souls that these things are true. "And they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them, and the multitude did see and hear, and bear record; and they know that their record is true, for they all of them did see and hear, every man for himself; and they were in number about two thousand and five hundred souls." (III Nephi 8:26-27).

I count it a privilege and an honor to add my testimony to that of those whose bodies have long since returned to the dust, and while I cannot say as they, that I have seen these things with the eye, yet I do say, I have seen them through the eye of faith, until there has come to me such a positive assurance of their truthfulness, I cannot possibly doubt.

Leaving my testimony I take you now with me through other experiences that I hope will bring you joy and increase your faith. Last week, Frances and I, in company with Elder Cayetano, went over to the town of Dzan to attend a prayer service. As we walked into that church I felt a wonderful spirit present. That spirit seemed to increase as the service continued. I bore my testimony in the Spanish tongue. Of course my Spanish is very bad and it had to be interpreted in the Maya tongue by Bro. Miguel Suk. In this way I was able to tell them of the spirit I had felt and that I was sure that the spirit of Christ was near at that very moment.

Immediately after my testimony, our loved Bro. Sabino gave the following testimony. He said that just a short time before the service, he was resting in his little house next to the church. He had been thinking on things divine as he dropped off to sleep. Christ appeared to him in a dream and gave him instruction.

When I gave my testimony I did not know this, but

it certainly strengthens my belief in that wonderful gift that has been promised to many (the discerning of spirits). I believe that the Spirit of Christ did appear to our brother, and I believe I discerned that same spirit as I walked into that little church. How else can we explain that wonderful knowledge that came to me, that the Spirit of Christ was so very near? My faith is sufficient that I do not seek signs from God to enlarge my belief in him, but when these demonstrations of his mighty power come to me, I offer the gratefulness of my heart to him in prayer. Willingly and gratefully I testify of his mighty power in these things. From the Book of Commandments we read these words, "And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments."

The next service we held in that little church, I spoke to them again in my faltering Spanish. I told them of an unchangeable God and of his power to reveal himself in many ways to the children of men. I told them that at this present time, God was reaching out through the spirit of revelation, appearing to many in dreams and visions and by the visitation of angels, also speaking through the still small voice that speaks to the souls of men.

Immediately after the preaching service, we held a prayer service. Many beautiful prayers and testimonies were offered, but there was one testimony in particular that I wish to tell to you. A brother, who is not as yet a member of the church, testified, with great emotion, of an experience that he had recently.

He said that a man, or an evil spirit in the form of a man, appeared to him in a dream and told him that the church and the people who called themselves The Church of Christ, were of the Devil and that he should have no fellowship with them. Then there appeared another being. This personage told him that this people did have the Gospel and it was the same Gospel that was brought to earth by him who was hung on the cross. This personage, or angel, told him further that he should affiliate himself with them.

He did not pay any attention to this dream, but in a night or two he had the same dream. Again he refused to heed the instruction to him. The dream came again the third time. This time he felt that he must obey, for he felt that it was indeed a revelation from God to him. He said that soon he wished to be baptized. Let me quote from the Book of Mormon.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased, because Christ hath ascended into heaven, and hath set down on the right hand of God, to claim of the Father his rights of mercy which he hath upon the children of men; for he hath answered the ends of the law, and he claimeth all those who have faith in him; and they who have faith in him, will cleave unto every good thing; wherefore he advocateth the cause of the children of men; and he dwelleth eternally in the

## 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 THE OPINION OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH OR THE OPINIONS OF THE EDITORIAL STAFF.

### *The Time Of The End*

By Elder Archie F. Bell

The "Time Of The End" has been a subject used in the written word, in the pulpit and in conversation for a good many years, among the believers in the Restoration Movement. There have been differences in beliefs as to what it means. Some think of it as a war, such as the "Battle of Armageddon," the "Third World War" or the "War To End Wars," etc. Others think of it as meaning the "End of the World". Some think of it as meaning a period of time or the last dispensation of time before the Millennium. Our thought is not to try to disprove any of these beliefs but to set forth what we believe the expression, time of the end, means.

We will try to show what is meant by The Abomination of Desolation, the 2,300 Days and the Redemption of Zion; and their bearing on the time of the end. We will try to show the meaning of the Gentile Times and its fulfillment, also what dispensation of time is to follow the Gentile times. We will try to show some of the work that is to be accomplished during the time of the end.

We believe the time is at hand when everyone should be giving these matters serious consideration, because they are events which will effect everyone living at the time of the end. If the proper preparation is made, a person can look forward with anticipation. If no preparation is made, a person will look forward with fear and dread. Our Master spoke of it in this way, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and looking after those things which are coming on the earth; . . ." This shows that there will be a knowledge had by several, or perhaps a great many, of these things and many of them will not be prepared for the time that is to come.

We believe that a person must have knowledge of an event that is to come before he can make the proper and full preparation for it. We hope this effort will give enough knowledge to many to cause them to seek for more in order that they may be properly prepared for the time that is to come soon.

#### Part 1

#### SIGNS FORETELLING

There have been wars and rumors of wars since a few centuries after the flood, but not year in and year out like there have been since the time of the First World War. Matthew records the words of Christ

concerning this as follows: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."

When Christ said, see to it that ye be not troubled, He meant for us to gain what knowledge we could and also prepare for what is to follow. We are living today in the time of the Lord's preparation. We read in Nahum 2:3-4, ". . . The chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, . . . The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings."

A chariot is a conveyance that would carry people from place to place. Being with torches is the power of Jet propulsion. The prophet had a knowledge of the raging in the streets of our automobile of today. An example of this is the freeways in the cities especially when people are going to and from work. A strange thing is, there are not nearly as many accidents on the freeway as there are on the highways in proportion to the vehicles traveling on them. Nahum foretold this when he said they would justle one against another in the broad ways (highways). An evidence of this is seen in the automobile graveyards seen along the highways in various parts of the country. All these things were to take place in the time of the Lord's preparation, when He would be considering in his dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, Isaiah 18:4.

The "all these things", recorded by Matthew, did not pertain to wars and rumors of wars only but to pestilences in divers places and earthquakes in divers places. The time when first the nations and the kingdoms of the world fought and other nations and kingdoms fought against them, was at the time of the First World War which had its beginning in 1914. This along with famines (drouths), and pestilences (insects and diseases of livestock and plant life), was to be "The beginning of sorrows".

Christ indicated that when these things take place, "The end is not yet". He also said, Matthew 24:36, concerning the end of the world, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." This would indicate that when He said the end is not yet, He meant the time of the end, because He went on to tell them of the things which would transpire that Daniel spoke of as nearing the time of the end.

We notice the words of Daniel 11:27, "For yet the end shall be at the time appointed", showing that there is a period called the time of the end which shall be an appointed time. In the 35th verse, we find the wording a little plainer: ". . . Even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed." This brings us the understanding that the time of the end is a dispensation of time for certain things to be accomplished. The word, End, would give us the belief that it would be the last dispensation of time before the Millennium is ushered in.

One of our greatest sources of information on the time of the end is Daniel. He, no doubt, was a great student and inquired of the Lord for the understanding on many things. There were times that the Lord either withheld the understanding from him or did not permit him to record it. In Daniel 12:4, he was told to, ". . . Shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end."

The word, To, is used primarily to express direction of approach. The words of the Book were not to be understood until man had come to the approach of the time of the end. We will try to illustrate this definition: We may travel down the highway with the intention of going to a person's farm. When we get there, we find an approach which we must turn onto to get into the farm. And so it is with the days of sorrows; they are the approach to the time of the end.

There is another sign mentioned in this 4th verse of Daniel, we just referred to. It indicates an unsettled condition among mankind: "Many shall run to and fro . . ." This is an expression with a double meaning.

The history of the world shows us that for centuries, up until the forepart of the twentieth, mankind traveled primarily west. This was brought about to a great extent, by the migration of man. Even though this country is composed of people of all races and nationalities, very few of them migrated here from across the Pacific Ocean; most of them came here across the Atlantic Ocean. They started settling in the eastern part of the United States and filled the country to the western ocean. They were going one direction; shall we say, To?

Since the forepart of the twentieth century there has been few places left to be homesteaded. Since that time, fine highways have been built. They have been built, east and west, north and south. If a person would watch a highway and count the travelers, it is doubtful if there would be any difference over a period of a year in the count of those going one way over those going the other. They are going to and fro.

We mentioned the unsettled condition of the people. It used to be that the primary purpose a couple had in mind, when they married, was to settle down and build a house to establish their home in. There are thousands today, who live in mobile homes. Very seldom do they settle in one place but rather they run to and fro.

There was another sign written in this 4th verse of Daniel: ". . . And knowledge shall be increased." It is true that knowledge started to increase slowly about 1830, but since the close of the First World War, it has gained such momentum that today there can scarcely be a comprehensive knowledge, instead it requires specialists in nearly all fields.

Let us examine a few of the signs Christ gave indicating His coming was near at hand. There are two periods of time indicated in the signs told of in Matthew and Luke. It is necessary sometimes to place other references with them to determine which period He is referring to. He told us to understand, when we read about the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet. We believe there is quite a difference of opinion concerning this thing.

A person might think it refers to the time when the Jews were driven out of their land after the days of Christ. But Matthew and Mark tie it in with the coming of Christ. For instance, just before the mention of the Abomination of Desolation in Matthew 24:15, it states in the 14th verse, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." This would indicate that Christ was referring to the last days when this would be fulfilled. We intend to take this up more fully later on. Let it suffice to say for now, we must be on the alert to recognize and understand this abomination which will be in our midst.

We were to notice another sign, Luke 21:26. There will be something to cause the powers of heaven to be shaken. There was power given to the Disciples of Christ, Matthew 10:1, over unclean spirits and to heal the sick. It is more fully listed in the 8th verse of the same chapter, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give."

The same power has been given to the Elders of the Church of Christ in our time. Another gift is the Holy Ghost; then with that gift were the gifts of the Spirit. One of the gifts of the Spirit is the gift of Faith.

If a person's faith is to be strong, it must be exercised. If it is never used until some emergency arises, it may be so weak that it won't reach the Heavenly Portals. Or a person may not even know how to use it. In either case he may feel that he is so far gone that there is no use trying to carry on in the Faith.

An Elder may spend so much of his time and thought in matters pertaining to the world, that when he is called on for some service or to perform one of the ordinances, he may be at a loss to know what to do. His faith may be so weak that he feels he is a failure in the service of the Lord.

When the Lord gives a gift to mankind, He also gives power to put it into effect. If a man places that gift on the shelf, so to speak, the power of it will become weak as far as that person is concerned. When

the God-given power in a person becomes weak, it becomes shaken. Then their critic will say, "Where is their great power, where is their God?"

The Spirit of God is given to the children of men that their love might be purified. When it is purified it becomes charity, for we read, Book of Mormon 768:52, "Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them."

We are told that before the coming of Christ, Matthew 24:12, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." How many can remember some of the lubricating oil used in the fore part of the twentieth century? When it was warm the oil flowed freely, but when it got cold, the wax in the oil caused it to thicken to the extent, in some cases, that it was of no use. If a motor was used with oil in this condition, there was a good chance it would be ruined. This oil had waxed cold. If a person's love has waxed cold it is a condition where they can be of very little use if any to the Lord.

This waxing cold of the love of many is brought about because iniquity is to abound. The meaning of Iniquity is: Gross injustice; wickedness; hatefulness. The meaning of Abound is: To be in great quantity.

A person does not usually recognize the faults found in his own life. It is easier to see them in others. Let each one examine himself and see if there is any shadow of reasonable doubt in his mind:

1. Do we find ourselves drawn into groups or clans?

2. Do we avoid meeting with others of the same Faith, either in their homes or at their religious services, just because there is a difference of opinion or interpretation on some passage of the Scriptures?

3. Are we quick to condemn another or to accuse him before we have heard all the story?

4. Is it easy to repeat a story of another's fault before we have proved it to be either true or false; and this because we think that this person is apt to do or say such a thing?

5. Do we try to justify contention just because it lends strength to our side of the question?

6. Do we find it easy to stay away from church services?

Oh! There may be more questions we could ask ourselves on this point. But let us consider briefly the questions we have.

1. The household of God is supposed to include all those who are His children. We must exercise care that we do not find ourselves sitting on the seat of judgment, barring others from the household of Faith. If we do this, our world will become smaller and smaller instead of larger and larger.

2. There have been differences of opinion on points of doctrine throughout the history of Christianity and

we can expect them in our day, but they need not bar us from another's threshold nor meeting with him in his religious services occasionally. To meet with him, could be imparting to him spiritually according to his needs and wants, Book of Mormon 261:64.

3. It is very seldom we get to hear both sides of a story. If we did, many times we would not know which way to decide.

4. It is best not to repeat a story of another's fault. Many times it is seasoned with some person's imagination or fabrication.

5. Let us use the words of Christ on this one. Book of Mormon 634:29-30, "And there shall be no disputations among you, as there hath hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of My doctrine, as there hath hitherto been; for verily, verily I say unto you, He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another." A Dispute is: To contend in argument; to debate.

6. The expression is often heard, "I can worship God just as well at home as I can in church." Forty years ago the evening church service was considered the choice of the two. Today there may be 10% to 15% as many attend in the evening as there are in the morning. Do those who stay at home hold a service with God, or do they just stay home? Another thing, how have some of those chosen to speak in the evening qualified themselves before God? Do they preach or do they read passages from the Bible and Book of Mormon and fail to expound them?

When Christ was telling of the signs which would precede His coming, Matthew 24:37, He made this statement: "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." We will notice, He said days. Not just the time of the flood but rather the important happenings during the lifetime of Noah. Let us examine some of these happenings.

There is a word that, perhaps, is not used enough today, Evil. It is a word which has a strong meaning. It means: Morally corrupt; producing or threatening sorrow, distress or calamity. These conditions we see around us nearly everywhere as we go in the world and they are getting worse as the days go by. Before the flood in the time of Noah, we find an account, Genesis 6:5, that surely describes our day: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." One of the evils of our time is revenge. Many times a person feels that he has been done an injustice and rather than let God handle the punishment, he will take revenge into his own hands. The Scriptures give us the law on this in Romans 12:19, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

And because of the conditions which obtain in the world, many who know the ways of the Lord are en-



ticed away from Him. When they take so much time following after the pleasures of the world, they find so little time left to seek after their God. The desire to follow after righteousness gets weaker and weaker until finally the world takes all their time. The Spirit of God, it seems, ceases to strive with them and they must some day reap the reward of their folly. In the book of Genesis 6:3, we find that condition, for God said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." This will also apply to nations, causing them distress and perplexity and in some cases destruction.

Many are talking today, some are writing and others are giving lectures on the same subject: another world war or the destruction of much of mankind. Some apparently, are trying to scare people into becoming members of their church, by telling them of the calamities which are coming on the earth. There is a danger that if a person is scared into a church, he may not do God much good. The religion that Christ instituted on the earth has facts to back it. A religion which is not backed with scriptural facts is superstition. We understand from the Scriptures that the God we worship is a jealous God. If He is a jealous God, He intends that we not only should worship Him but we must love Him as well. If we show there is to be a destructive war and do not show that God has a plan for the defense of His people, then how will we convince them that God is always the same? He planned a defense in the days of Noah. Shouldn't He be able to do the same today?

It is true that the Scriptures tell us there will be a war that will destroy many people. It was also foretold in the day of Noah that there would be a great destruction of the people, Genesis 6:7. There was also going to be a great destruction of animal and fowl life as well.

We read Genesis 6:11, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." Isaiah had a knowledge of similar conditions in our time for we read Isaiah 24:5, "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." A close look at the reading before and after the above quotation will show that it refers to our time.

In the day of Noah the earth was corrupt. In our day it is to be defiled. Defilement would bring on corruption if nothing is done to correct it.

All a person would need to do is to contact farmers in the various parts of the country, or maybe the world, if he wishes to prove this thing. That person would find out that 50 years ago, or before the First World War, about all the farmer had to worry about was the weather; now there are diseases of a good many different sorts which have to be fought and preventative methods used against, in poultry, livestock, grain and fruit. Besides there are insects of different kinds that cause immeasurable damage and loss. Nearly everything which grows from the earth is sub-

ject to defilement. Isaiah gives us where the blame is to be placed for this defilement, the inhabitants.

**First:** They have transgressed the law. When we think of the law of God, we think of the law of righteousness. When a person breaks the law of God, the word, Transgression, is usually used. When a person breaks the law of the land, the word, Violation, is usually used. The word, Transgressed, is used in the quotation we are considering and this being the case, it is the law of God which has been broken. And it has been broken by the inhabitants of the earth.

**Second:** They have changed the ordinance. If we are not careful, we will quote that, Ordinances, instead of, Ordinance, as it is written. There is a difference. Christ placed ordinances in His church for the administration of the Gospel; such as Baptism, Laying on of Hands, Serving the Sacrament, etc. When used with the word, The, the word, Ordinance, means a prescribed way of doing things. In this case it refers to the Church of Christ and in particular, the method, place and function He has designed for all that He has set in the Church.

Let us use as an example, I Corinthians 12:28, "And God hath set some in the the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

Let us notice that it reads, God set. The word, Set, means: To put in a fixed state. Next we notice that He set, first Apostles, secondarily Prophets. Secondarily means, next below the first in importance. This means that Christ placed the work of most importance on the apostles in His church. That being the case, if we change that and place Prophets first, or Bishops first, or use a name not found in the Scriptures and place it as having the most important work, we are changing the ordinance and cannot be held blameless for so doing.

**Third:** They have broken the everlasting covenant. The everlasting covenant is the one made in this life that will hold valid in the life that is to come. It is the covenant that permits us to enter the Kingdom of God. Christ explained it to Nicodemus this way: John 3:5, "... Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." The birth of the water and of the Spirit is the everlasting covenant we make with God.

Paul explained how this covenant is broken. Hebrews 6:4-6; "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted of the good word of God, and powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

Surely, God would not permit a defilement of the earth if there were only a few who had committed

these three transgressions; neither does the quotation indicate that to be the case. It says the inhabitants of the earth are the ones who have committed these transgressions and surely that would mean many.

Back in the day of Noah, when God's indignation had become full, He told Noah, Genesis 6:12-14, "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and thou shalt pitch it within and without with pitch."

We will notice here that God was not going to destroy those whom He could contact; those who had so ordered their lives that they were close to Him. But the rest He was going to permit to be destroyed; not only man but animal life as well. A close study of this chapter in Genesis will show that God gave specific instructions on how the ark was to be built, and what was to go into it when it was completed. Some may say that nothing like that could happen in our time.

God is unchangeable. If He could and would protect or deliver His people in the day of Noah, He can and will do the same in our time. We read Daniel 12:1 when this time of great trouble shall come on the earth, ". . . Thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

The Book spoken of here is the Book of Life, Revelation 3:5, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life. . ." The Scriptures tell of a place where a condition will be that is favorable to the Lord. There the ones, who have been washed clean, will be commanded to go.

It is written in Joel 2:32, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."

We will have more to say on this subject later on in this writing.

When Christ spoke of the signs which would precede His coming, He said, Luke 21:25, ". . . And upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring." The Gentile nations of today run into one perplexing problem after another. They certainly are perplexed to try to find an answer. It seems they just about get one thing quiet when another pops up at another place.

To be perplexed is to be bewildered; to be bewildered is to be confused. In the day of Noah there was confusion of all the people because their language was confounded. Today the Gentile nations are confounded because, as a prophet of old wrote, Isaiah 29:14, ". . . For the wisdom of their wise men shall

perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

The sea and the waves have certainly been roaring the last few years with all the hurricanes that have been in the Pacific.

We will notice one more circumstance that existed in the day of Noah. Man determined to get into heaven by his own means, for they said, Genesis 11:4, ". . . Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven. . ." We may say to ourselves that they could not have done it so why consider it? We will have to admit that they made an all-out effort to try to accomplish that purpose. Today we have the same thing tried in a different way. There is an all-out effort on the part of two of the world's most powerful nations to get a man to the moon.

Where is the moon located? Genesis 1:16-17, "And God made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth". 8th verse, "And God called the firmament Heaven. . ." We may call it outer space but we must admit, the thoughts of men are the same today as they were in the day of Noah.

The tower of Babel was being constructed about 100 years after the flood. Genesis 9:28, "And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years." So the incident of the tower of Babel was in the days of Noah.

Now let us examine briefly, what right man has to think he can have dominion over the moon or any of the stars? Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." This shows that man has dominion only over the earth and the things which were created upon it, and space as far up as it is related to the earth. When he gets up so far, there is a boundary line which separates the conditions of the earth from the condition of the firmament. Beyond this boundary line, man has termed outer space.

Now let us read Psalms 115:16, "The heavens, even the heavens, are the **Lord's**: but the earth hath he given to the children of men." It doesn't look like we should be wasting so much on this outer space project. We can look about us and see the miserable condition that man has gotten this earth into. This earth was to be not only for man's habitation but it is God's footstool as well. Good sound reason would tell us that God would never permit unwise men to gain dominion over something He has reserved unto Himself.

We have tried to show most of the major signs which would show that the coming of Christ and the time of the end are near at hand. We hope the reader will consider seriously and not condemn before he has taken time to prove or disprove.

## *In Whom Do You Trust?*

By Elder Paul G. Mercer

In these troubled times one (who is trusting the arm of flesh) might be alarmed and filled with fear. But why are things so? "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isa. 1:18.) "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." (Isa. 59:1.)

Why then these troublesome times? Study the following verses of the 59th chapter of Isaiah: "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace." (verses 2-8).

The Psalmist David cries, "O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing?" (Psalms 4:2.) "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no not one." (Psalms 14:1-3.)

What a sad picture after God had been so loving and merciful to the children of men. Let us look back through His blessed truths and see how he dealt with His people in times past.

Ex. 23:20-27: God promises Israel He will send an angel to guide and keep them in the way to the place that He hath prepared; that He would bless them with plenty and no sickness would be upon their bodies if they obeyed the voice of the angel and did not bow down to serve the Gods of the wicked nations into which they were going.

In II Kings 19:34-35, we again find His protecting hand over His people that were putting their trust in

Him and serving Him by keeping His commandments—185,000 of the enemy slain and not one soul of Israel lost.

In I Chronicles 5:18-21, and II Chronicles 20:13-24, we find the people believing in prophets and calling upon God and putting their trust in Him and not one soul was lost. In Daniel we read of the three Hebrew children being cast into the fiery furnace and Daniel being cast into the lion's den and their miraculous preservation because they served and worshipped the only true and living God.

God's holy prophet (Jer. 7:1-11) speaks unto those who had profaned God's laws and commandments, saying, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings." He further commands them to trust not in lying words and to turn from all ungodliness or they would be cast out.

Let us turn to the God-given wisdom of Solomon: "My son, forget not my laws; but let thine heart keep my commandments: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the LORD, and depart from evil." (Proverbs 3:1-7.)

Can't we see the handwriting on the wall as Belshazzar saw it? "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Have our eyes been blinded by our transgression or have we wilfully closed them?

The Psalmist David instructs us, "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." (Psalms 24:1-5.)

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (Jude 1:14-15.)

The Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ said there would be mockers in the last time who would walk after their own ungodly lusts. These are they who separate themselves sensual, having not the spirit.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, can't we see why we are divided, separated, have contentions and strife? It is because we have drifted too far from the shore.

Our hearts are filled but not with charity—the pure love of Christ.

"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, and holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." (I Peter 2:1-5.)

My prayer to God through Jesus Christ our Lord is that we may all be one in Christ's name—unity in both word and spirit.

If we have fear in these troubled times, let it not be of him who is able to kill the body; but rather fear him who is able to kill and cast both soul and body into hell. FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.

## In The Beginning God

By Elder Clarence L. Wheaton

### Part Five

#### THE HOLY GHOST WAS WITH GOD IN THE BEGINNING AND HAD PERSONALITY

Having established the relationship existing between the Eternal Father, Almighty God, and His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as two persons in the Trinity, we will now seek to establish the third person of the Godhead, whom we believe to be the Holy Ghost. In Part Three, we touched briefly upon the part the Holy Ghost, or Spirit of God, played in the Creation by a reference to the Pentateuch and Haftorahs on Genesis. As we continue our search for truth on the subject of the Godhead, we are made to realize the important role of the Spirit of God, or the Holy Ghost, in the creation of the earth and its life. Dr. Maurice, whom we quoted in a previous chapter relative to the proper interpretation of the name Elohim, also gives us the following from the Hebrew concerning the Spirit of God:

"As the Father and the Son are so expressly pointed out in the first verse of Genesis 1:1, so is the third person in the blessed Trinity, not less decisively revealed to us in Genesis 1:2, 'And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters': 'brooded upon' the water, incubated, as a hen broods over her eggs. Thus the Spirit exerted upon this occasion an effectual energy agitating abyss, and infused into it a powerful vital force." (Dr. Maurice, a Hebrew Scholar, quoted in "What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God," page 26).

So the third person, the Holy Ghost, is also indicated in the history of the Creation as having moved upon the face of the waters—brooded over or incubated as a hen broods over her eggs. To this interpretation, Dr. J. H. Hertz, chief Rabbi of London (1929), agrees in

his editing of the Pentateuch and Haftorahs relative to this clause, "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the deep," as follows:

"Moved or 'hovered': the Hebrew word occurs again only in Deuteronomy 32, where it is descriptive of the eagle hovering over the young to care for them and protect them. The Spirit of God quickens it and transforms it into material for a living world. The Jerusalem Targum translates this verse, 'And the earth was vacancy and desolation, solitary of the sons of men and void of every animal, and darkness was upon the face of the abyss, and the Spirit of Mercies from before the Lord breathed upon the face of the waters.'" (Ibid Genesis—Bereshith, page 4).

It will be noted that Dr. Hertz here gives the spirit of God personality, by the use of the title **Spirit of Mercies**, from before the Lord. This is as it should be, for many instances in the scripture, both in the Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon, definitely ascribe such personality to the Holy Spirit. Christ, himself, imputed personality to the Spirit or Holy Ghost, when He said:

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the **Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." (John 16:7).

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;" (John 14:16).

"But the **Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26).

". . . and because of meekness, and lowliness of heart, cometh the visitation of the **Holy Ghost, which Comforter** filleth with hope and perfect love," etc. (Moroni 8:29).

In these instances we find that the Spirit of God, which moved upon the waters in Genesis 1:2, is here called the Holy Ghost and the Comforter, and is given individual personality with proper names and the masculine gender. Thus, Christ, **a God, an equal with God**, was able to send the Comforter—a being capable of being sent or dispatched as an agent, who was a distinct entity from himself and the Father, one having ability to move, to be sent, to dwell, to teach, and to invite and to persuade mankind in numerous activities, who had form or body by which He could be seen. The argument that the Spirit is an attribute of God does not hold true, for an attribute does not have these qualifications as personality or being has, and the Book of Mormon of every edition tells us so. Turning to the account of Nephi we read:

"And the Holy Ghost giveth authority that I should speak . . . and the Spirit **said** unto me . . . the Spirit cried with a loud voice . . . For I **spake** unto him as a man **speaketh**; for I beheld that **he was in the form of a man**; yet, nevertheless, I knew that it was the Spirit of the Lord; and **he spake unto me as a man speaketh** with another." (I Nephi 3:36-50; Palmyra Edition, page 24).

From this we learn that the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God, was a being of intelligence having power and ability to give or convey authority to another, to be vocal, and with an audible voice express His thoughts as one man speaking to another. He also had form or

a body which gave him personality and by which He was distinguished from other beings. To these evidences we add, "and behold the Holy Spirit of God **did come down from heaven,**" etc. (Hel. 2:111), thus displaying his power to move from place to place.

Another attribute of the Spirit of God, as revealed in the Scripture, is His ability to exert physical force or power by which he could remove objects or persons from one place to another. Here are a few instances of such capability:

"And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that **the Spirit of the Lord shall carry thee whither I know not;** and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me;" (I Kings 18:12).

"And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy Master: **lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley.**" etc. (II Kings 2:16).

"**Then the Spirit took me up,** and I heard behind me a voice. . . . So **the spirit lifted me up, and took me away,**" etc. (Ezek. 3:12-14).

"**Then was Jesus led up of the spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." (Matt. 4:1).

Then also we have the account in the Acts of the Apostles, 8th Chap., concerning Philip and the eunuch:

"And when they were come up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more:** . . . But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea." (Acts 8:39-40).

They were on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza in the desert. A few miles before you reach Gaza is the Wadi el Hesy, very likely the place where the baptism occurred for streams of water are rare in the desert. And the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip and took him to Azotus, which is the modern city of Ashod, fifteen or twenty miles north of Gaza. The Wadi el Hesy lies north, halfway between Gaza and Ashkelon, which is still called Ashkelon. Azotus or Ashod is still further north and Caesarea is about 65 miles north of Ashkelon. The physical ability of the Spirit of the Lord to carry, life up, lead, etc., is thus clearly indicated as one of his attributes, which powers are only exercised by a being or entity having form and substance to do so.

We would not consider this analysis complete if we failed to take into account the fact that the Holy Spirit of God manifests itself in another form than that of a man. Because of the peculiar work which was assigned to him, he had the power to transform or transfigure himself and manifest himself in other forms, i.e., in the form of a dove, the form of cloven tongues of fire:

"And the Holy Ghost descended in a **bodily shape like a dove** upon him (Christ), **and a voice came from heaven,** which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22).

Here we have the exact parallel of three in one, a composite unit: Christ in the attitude of prayer on earth (verse 21); the Holy Spirit in a bodily shape—like a dove—upon him, visible to those around him; and the

audible voice of the third person, God the Father, from heaven. Thus we find the Spirit had personality; it had bodily shape and could descend and ascend from God. This fact was affirmed by Matthew and John:

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him." (Matt. 3:16).

"And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." (John 1:32-33).

This was the promise made of the Father to Israel, as spoken by Isaiah:

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: **"and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,** the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;" etc. (Isa. 11:1-2).

From these scriptures we learn that the Holy Spirit can take other than human form. On the day of Pentecost we see the Spirit of the Lord manifest in still another form:

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them **cloven tongues like as of fire,** and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4).

Sufficient should now have been given to show that the Spirit of God, or the Holy Ghost, has the power to manifest himself in various forms, i.e., as a man, in the bodily form of a dove, as a cloven tongue of fire; and having the power to hover, incubavit (incubate), and impart life to inanimate substance, and use physical energy to transport, carry or lift objects or persons.

Let us now consider the personality of the Holy Ghost. There are those who hold that the Spirit of God is not a person, that he is only an entity; yet an entity, regardless of what form it might take, is something which has a real existence or being. It differs from the "spirit of man" (Job 32:8, Eccl. 3:21), which is the soul, in that it is an agent of the Lord which goes and comes at His command to perform various works, either to individuals, groups of people, nations or things. He, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God, all being synonymous names applying to this third member of the Godhead. The very fact that the Scriptures, both in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, give Him a personal name designated by the capitalization of it imputes to Him personality. And if He has personality, He is a being of intelligence, capable of reasoning, decision and action in his own right. We will now give some evidence of these facts.

Job said, "**The spirit of God hath made me**" (Job 33:4), showing that it has power to create or form human bodies.

Isaiah said, "And now the Lord GOD, and **his Spirit hath sent me**" (Isa. 48:16), thus having the power to **send** or commission, which is more forcefully brought out in the Acts of the Apostles, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. . . . So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost**, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus." (Acts 13:2-4), and, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, **over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,**" etc. (Acts 20:28).

He also has the authority to direct the servants of God where to minister; "**Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot**" (Acts 8:29), and, "While Peter thought on the vision, **the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them,** doubting nothing; **for I have sent them.**" (Acts 10:19-20).

He has the power to restrain: "Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,** after they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia; **but the Spirit suffered them not.**" (Acts 16:6-7).

He has power to move upon men to prophesy: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**" (II Peter 1:21).

He strives with sinners: "And the LORD said, **My spirit shall not always strive with man,**" (Gen. 6:3).

He has feeling or emotion: "But they rebelled, **and vexed his Holy Spirit:**" etc., (Isa. 63:10).

He can be tempted: "Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to **tempt the Spirit of the Lord?**" (Acts 5:9).

He can be lied to: "But Peter said, Ananias, **why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost,** and to keep back part of the price of the land?" (Acts 5:3). He is a true and faithful witness, (I Cor. 12).

Many more scriptures could be cited to show that the Holy Spirit has a distinct personality and individuality, separate from God and Christ, but that would become too tedious. However there is one more point in this regard, a very important one, which we should not pass over. The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed against, or spoken against derisively, or irreverently, or impiously, just the same as God or His Christ can be. And in doing so the penalty is very serious:

"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but **the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.** And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: **but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.**" (Matt. 12:31-32. See also Acts 7:51).

This unforgiveable sin is also treated on in the Book of Mormon:

"For behold, if ye deny the Holy Ghost when it once has had place in you, and ye know that ye deny it; behold, this is a sin which is unpardonable;" (Alma 19:8).

Under these circumstances, who can conscientiously deny the existence of the Holy Spirit of God, as being a distinct personality in the Godhead, as one of the Trinity who has been with the Father and the Son from the beginning of creation? For the servants of God in all ages have testified of him and of his office work as an administrative agent, or witness for God, therefore, we should beware, lest in denying him his place as an associate and companion of God and His Christ, that we do not commit an act of blasphemy which shall not be forgiven in this world or in the world to come.

Therefore, we wish to summarize briefly by affirming that we believe we have produced ample evidence from the scripture to justify the belief of this Church of Christ in the Fatherhood of God, the Sonship of Jesus Christ, the Witness of the Holy Spirit, as the Triune God or God head, who have been associated together from the foundation of the world as on God, Elohim, E Alom, the very God of heaven and earth.

So let us all unite in singing their praise and defending their cause among men, and so preach the true relationship between them as we have been commissioned by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:

"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 always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:19-20).

"Know ye that ye must come to the knowledge of your fathers, and repent of all your sins and iniquities, and believe in Jesus Christ, that he is the Son of God, and that he was slain by the Jews, and by the power of the Father he hath risen again, whereby he hath gained the victory over the grave; and also in him is the sting of death swallowed up. And he bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead, whereby man must be raised to stand before his judgment seat. And he hath brought to pass the redemption of the world, whereby he that is found guiltless before him at the judgment day, hath it given unto him to dwell in the presence of God in his kingdom, to sing ceaseless praises with the choirs above, unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, which are one God, in a state of happiness which hath no end." (Mormon 3:27-29).

"And now behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end." (II Nephi 13:32).

For when we, as the ministry of God in the Restoration, go forth among men and call them to repentance and to baptism, we do so by this commission:

"Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." (III Nephi 5:25).

So let it be, lest we make a mockery of God, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, **for they are one God,** worlds without end, being one composite unity or unit of righteousness and grace, watching over the universe and the children of men.

## FROM YUCATAN COMES MY TESTIMONY

(Continued from Page 21)

heavens? and because he hath done this, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men. For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, shewing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind, in every form of godliness. And the office of their ministry is, to call men unto repentance, and to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the Father which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him; and by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men." (Moroni 7:27-34).

Now beginning at the 38th verse we read, "Or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? Or has he withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? Or will he, so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved? Behold I say unto you, Nay, for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men." (Verses 38-41). When we hear such testimonies as we have related to you and then read such scriptures as we have quoted, we are made to rejoice in our comprehension of the great power of God to reveal himself to the children of men. We know that principalities and powers are working through men to destroy the church on earth, in all the world, but we know also that men, or devils, cannot thwart the eternal purposes of God. What can man or devils do to destroy the work of a God who has the power to reveal himself and his will to the children of men, and who has said that his word would not return unto him, void?

Let us again hear the words of Christ as he spoke to Peter. Matt. 16:15-18, "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

So we testify to you, that we know that that same power that revealed the Christ unto Peter is still active upon the face of the earth and shall remain active as long as there is one man left to be saved.

We hope our experiences among this loved people will bring to many a renewed hope and faith in the mighty power of God. We have experienced many

things also, which we consider to be great trials, yet we feel that we have always received the necessary wisdom and strength to endure all that has been required at our hands. We thank all those who have remembered us in their prayers and ask a continuation of those prayers.

Another Christmas is at hand and in the warm glow of memory we recall all the happy Christmases of the past, but we do not live in the past or for the past, but we live in the glorious present and look to the future with much hope. We know that our Christmas will be pleasant here with these lovable people, for they are our brothers and sisters in the great family of the gospel of Christ.

We look forward to many more experiences in the future as the wheel of time turns around and carries us to new places and new friends. We look forward also to those moments when the wheels of time will carry us back to old familiar places and into the arms of those loved ones who shall forever live in the love of our hearts.

While we are looking back over the years and counting our blessings we wish also to offer our thanks to God for the hardships that have been ours, and for His divine power that has given us from time to time, the fortitude to endure for His name's sake. So as we pray, we do not ask to be relieved of all trials, but only that we be given wisdom, humility, love, understanding, and that we may be blessed with even greater trials, that we may grow in stature before Him.

---

## OBITUARY

### Effie Maloney

Mrs. Effie Maloney, 86, of 1518 N. W. 44, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, died Dec. 16, 1961 at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oklahoma City.

Born Aug. 27, 1875, in Emporia, Kansas, Miss Effie Jeakins came to Oklahoma in her late teens as a school teacher. In January, 1896, she was baptized by R. M. Maloney, a missionary in the Church of Christ, whom she married that same year.

They settled in Dewey County and were close neighbors to the late James E. and Vida Yates.

She was a life member of the W.C.T.U., and a member of the American War Mothers.

She is survived by three sons, Richard, of Oklahoma City, Steven and Morris, both of Silver Springs, Md.; four daughters, Mrs. Edda Thatcher, San Bernardino, Calif., Mrs. Alta McDivitt, Mrs. Vida Dansdill, and Mrs. Ardyce Spivey, all of Oklahoma City.

Those in charge of the services on Dec. 18, 1961, were Bro. C. H. Wilson, pastor of the Church of Christ and Rev. Clyde J. Wheeler, pastor of the Crown Heights Christian Church of Oklahoma City. Interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Oklahoma City.

**OBITUARY**

**August H. Brockman**

Brother August H. Brockman, oldest son of Otto and Adelia Brockman, was born May 10, 1885, at Little Falls, Wisconsin, and passed from this life December 17, 1961, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Viola Petrie, in Portage, Wisconsin, at the age of 76 years, 7 months and 7 days. Brother Brockman had spent the most of his life in the vicinity of Sparta, Wisconsin.

Bro. Brockman was unfortunate in marriage, so has lived alone for many years. He was preceded in death, by his beloved parents, Otto Brockman, who died February 24, 1913, and his mother, Mrs. Adelia Brockman, who died February 17, 1948, also an infant son who died at birth, a sister, Mrs. Julia Jerome, and two brothers, Otto and Samuel.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Viola Petrie, of Portage, Wisconsin, and Mrs. Estella Fox, of St. Johns, Michigan; one son, Elder Isaac Brockman, of Sparta, Wisc.; four brothers, Isaac, Elmer, Owen, and Lewis, all of Sparta; two sisters, Mrs. Gladys Marquette, and Mrs. Goldie Schmidt, both of Sparta.

Bro. Brockman was baptized June 6, 1913, by Elder B. C. Flint, then a missionary of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Later, in about 1927 or 1928, after Elder Flint became a general missionary for the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, Brother Brockman transferred to that body, in company with his aged mother, and his sister, Gladys Marquette, and remained faithful in that association for the remainder of his life, and died in the faith of the great restored gospel of these latter days.

He was laid to rest beside his parents in the Sand Creek Cemetery, about twelve miles northwest of Sparta. Funeral was conducted by Elder Glenn Gill, of the Church of Christ. Sister Margret Gill sang.

**NOTICE**

At the coming Ministers' Conference to convene on April 6, 1962, the following proposal will be offered:

Rescind the current Rules of Jurisprudence adopted by a referendum bill of 1941, and substitute therefore the proposed set of rules to be offered by the undersigned.

Attention is invited to the fact that a similar notice was given on Page 19 of the February, 1961, edition of the Zion's Advocate by another member for consideration at the 1961 Ministers' Conference. The proposal was not considered during that Conference due to a lack of time. This proposal is offered at this time in order that it might be considered in conjunction with the previous proposal, and perhaps, with the best thinking of a number of minds, develop the most simple and proper procedure possible.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Jensen

Mrs. Henry Jensen  
288 Denton  
Council Bluffs, Iowa

**CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS**

Send all orders to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

	Price Each
Book of Commandments—Paper Cover.....	\$1.00
Book of Commandments—Leatherette .....	\$1.25
Outline Church History .....	\$2.00
Book of Mormon—Missionary Edition .....	\$1.25
Also Available at .....	5 for \$5.00
Book of Mormon—Cloth Binding .....	\$2.50
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed.....	\$1.00

There are a few Books of Mormon available in Morocco leather binding. Please write for price.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

**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.

In compliance with the action taken at the 1960 General Sunday School Association General Assembly, all publications printed by the Association will be sent free of charge. Send ALL orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot); Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

	Price Each
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus.....	N/C
Sunday School Record Book .....	N/C
Records of the Bible.....	N/C
Records of the Book of Mormon.....	N/C
History and Religion—Chart .....	1.50