

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.

Vol. 43

Independence, Missouri, October, 1966

No. 10

Patience

Patience is the guardian of the faith, the preserver of peace, the cherisher of love, the teacher of humility.

Patience produces unity in the church, loyalty in the State, harmony in the home and society.

Patience governs the flesh, strengthens the spirit, sweetens the temper, stifles anger, extinguishes envy, subdues pride, bridles the tongue, restrains the hand, tramples upon temptations, endures persecution and consummates martyrdom.

Patience comforts the poor, moderates the rich, makes us humble in prosperity, cheerful in adversity.

Patience teaches us to forgive those who have injured us and to be first to ask forgiveness of those whom we have injured.

The throne of patience is the humble and contrite heart.

The kingdom of patience is the kingdom of peace.

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Zion's Advocate

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EDITOR

Archie F. Bell, 802 South McCoy, Independence, Missouri 64050

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

James A. Hedrick, 103 North 22nd, Blue Springs, Missouri 64015
Roland Sarratt, 4305 South Main, Independence, Missouri 64050

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Editorial . . .

FRUIT

Do we ever ask ourselves the question, "What fruit
are you bearing today?" This is the season of the
year that we commonly call the harvest season. We
speak and sing of the harvest moon shining down upon
the corn fields and upon the fruit trees filled with their
ripened fruit. There used to be harvest festivals where
the people brought of their best of the fruits and
corn. There would be feasting and enjoyment in gen-
eral. It was clean entertainment and didn't have to be
bought.

The fruit and corn used to be binned for use in
the winter time. Not only was there what we term,
field corn but there was pop corn as well. The fruit
that was binned was the apple. Most people had their
corn, pop corn and apples. Many of them had cane
and in the fall of the year, they would take this cane
to the mill and have molasses made of it.

This was back in the days when children went to
school to study and came home to do chores and rest
in the evenings. Many a winter evening was spent
popping corn or making molasses candy or eating apples
and in some cases the pop corn, candy and apples were
enjoyed the same evening. People in those days,
enjoyed living and enjoyed the common things of life.
Pleasure in which we take part, is deeper and more
enjoyable than the entertainment we purchase.

Corn is a grain that can be used as a food for most
creatures. The Indians have long used corn for their
food and according to the records we read, they were
an extra strong race of humans.

Fruit seems to have been created for man alone.
It is not raised for the food of fowl or beast. Some
wild animals eat wild fruit in season but we never
think of fruit as a food for anything other than man.
It is a naturally delicious food for man and under
normal conditions, it gives man exquisite pleasure when
he partakes of it.

This may be the reason the works of righteousness
are referred to as fruits. If the works of righteous-
ness are fruits, then mankind as an individual must be
a sprig of a tree; a tree in the Master's vineyard or
orchard. Let us examine this a little closer. We ask
ourselves the question, "What are the fruits that we
may recognize them." Paul gave a list of them. The
ones he listed are love, joy, peace, longsuffering,
gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.
He called them fruits of the Spirit. This indicates
that these fruits can be gained only through the Spirit
of God.

Zenos in his prophecy, spoke of the individual na-
tions, people or tribes as being trees in the Lord's
vineyard. He spoke of how the fruit of the Lord's vine-
yard had become partly natural (good) and partly
wild (evil). It was necessary to clear out the wild

branches and preserve the natural. It was to be a careful process in order that natural fruit might grow.

Let us notice some of the wording: Behold, only this once will I prune my vineyard. This is the last time that I shall nourish my vineyard. We want to notice that not only was the Lord going to instruct His servants to prune His vineyard, but He also is going to instruct them how to nourish it, for we read in another place, And the Lord of the vineyard labored also with them.

When a tree is nourished, the ground must be loosened up around it (dug about it) and fertilized (dunged it). The fertilizer should be worked into the ground. Fertilizer is plant food and is required by a tree as well as by grains if it is to grow and produce good fruit.

Let us notice some of the account by Zenos: The trees had become again the natural fruit. And they became like unto one body; and the fruit were equal.

We ask ourselves, "When will this be?" Let us read again from the writings of Zenos: The last time, that the servants of the Lord shall go forth in His power, to nourish and prune His vineyard.

We may ask the question, "What may we interpret as being the individual person if the tree is the nation, people or tribe?" We will notice on a fruit tree there appears little twigs or sprigs. The blossom or flower makes its appearance on this sprig. This flower develops into the fruit. Both add beauty to the tree in their season.

And so it is with the individuals. When an infant, they add beauty to the family, the locality or the nation. When they are developing in their growth, if they retain their clean full life, there is also beauty. When they have grown into clean, honorable adults there still is beauty; beauty for the kingdom of God. The individual sprigs are what bear the fruit on the tree. It is well expressed in Revelation: And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Now let us notice what the Lord plans on concerning the fruit of His vineyard: For behold, for a long time will I lay up the fruit of my vineyard unto mine own self, against the season, which speedily cometh.

Tame fruit is naturally delicious and gives exquisite pleasure when partaken of. Consider what the fruits of the Spirit are and how much pleasure they will give the Lord. Is it any wonder that He will store them up in the Lamb's Book of Life?

May the time soon come when we can sing with the following thought:

Come ye thankful people come,
 Raise the song of harvest home!
 All is safely gathered in,
 Ere the winter storms begin:
 God our maker doth provide;
 He our wants hath well supplied:
 To His house of worship, come,
 Raise the song of harvest home!

A. F. B.

WEDDINGS

NAST - OLDHAM

The marriage of Sr. Jennifer Lynn Nast, daughter of Bro. and Sr. William A. Nast, to Robert Walter Oldham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Oldham of Adrian, Mo., took place at the Church of Christ, East Independence Local, Independence, Missouri, at 7:30 p.m., August 18, 1966.

Music was furnished by Roland Sarratt, pianist, and James Gordon, soloist, brother of the groom.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Bro. William Nast. The ceremony was performed by Elder Nicholas Denham.

Sr. Marilyn Jensen was maid of honor and the best man was Lynn Nichols. Ushers were Bro. Frank Fann and Larry Smith, cousin of the groom.

Serving at the reception were Mrs. Julie Gordon, sister-in-law to the groom, Sr. Melissa Nast and Sr. Carol Fann, sisters of the bride.

Sr. Belinda Nast, sister of the bride, had charge of the guest book.

The young couple will be making their home in North Carolina, where the groom is stationed with the Marine Corps.

SMITH - WILSON

Sr. Elaine Smith, daughter of Sr. Jessie Sarratt, was married to Mr. Robert Wilson at 2:00 p.m., September 4, 1966. The ceremony was performed by the bride's brother, Roland Sarratt, in his home in the presence of some of the immediate family.

A reception was held at the home of Douglas Smith, the bride's eldest son.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are making their home at 11407 Felton Ave., Sugar Creek, Missouri.

Independence, Mo.
 September 20, 1966

Apostle Archie F. Bell, Editor
 Zion's Advocate
 Independence, Mo.

Dear Brother Bell:

The following is the result of the tabulation of the recent vote on the 1966 Referendum Bills.

Bill No. I	Yes	252
	No	53
Bill No. II	Yes	284
	No	16

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas F. Denham, Chairman
 Roland L. Sarratt
 Frank Fann, Jr.

LOCAL NEWS

East Independence

Greetings from the East Independence Local.

Our best wishes go to Bob and Jennifer Oldham who were married at our local church, August 18, 1966.

On the evening of August 25th, a hamburger fry was held at our home for the local church. Special guests were the Young People's Christian League of the Temple Lot Local. A nice time was had by all. Happy birthday was sung to Sr. Frieda Flint. We are so happy to welcome her back. Anyone needing a hamburger fryer, just call on Sr. June Sarratt. She is well qualified after Thursday night.

Our local has purchased twenty pews to complete our auditorium. They really enhance the beauty of our chapel. Also the building has been painted white on the outside. So all in all a little progress is being made materially.

Spiritually, we are being fed, but time will tell how much we are digesting.

Sr. Gladys Nast and Sr. Metta Anderson are still in need of our prayers.

We are happy to have in our church family Bro. Calvin and Sr. Joyce Randall and their two little children, Joyce Ann and Calvin Keith.

May we all strive to walk closer to God so that we may partake of the wonderful gifts in His storehouse.

Adair McCubbin

Temple Lot Local News

Independence, Missouri

Greetings again to all readers! After a summer of schooling and fun, my husband and I are again in Peculiar. School is in full swing here, as it is everywhere.

Church activities slowed up in preparation for the elections of all the local groups. Sr. Margret Gill was elected chairman of the Mother's Club. They have a full program planned for the year ahead. Bro. Leroy Wheaton was elected the Young People's Christian League leader.

The new Sunday School superintendent is Bro. Marvin Case. On Sunday, August 28, eleven children were promoted to different classes.

Newly elected officers of the local church are: pastor, Bro. Leslie Case; secretary, Bro. Warren Johnson; treasurer, Bro. Virgil Rudd; reporter, Sr. Katey Moyer; organist, Sr. Becky Maley; chorister, Sr. Kay Matthews.

With the new programs lined up and new officers to take over, each group is settled down to a winter routine.

My thanks to Katey Moyer for her reporting in my absence.

Sr. Margret Gill
Out-going Reporter

Salem, Oregon

Dear Readers of the Advocate:

We here at Salem, Oregon, thought you might like a report of the progress of the Lord's work in this part of the vineyard.

The tape recorder with taped sermons from Bro. Bell's last series has been taken into various homes. We feel this is a wonderful way to bring ministry to the isolated, the shut-in, and also to spark an interest in the Gospel. Many times lively discussions were had after playing these sermons, which left us something to think on and talk about.

We have been mailing the Advocate to friends. Several of them have expressed a desire to keep receiving it. There seems to be a hungering in the souls of many for plain simple gospel lessons and sermons. The kind which would speak to the heart as well as the intellect. We, as a people, can meet this need by sending in testimonies of God's goodness to us, missionary reports and experiences.

It seems the desire of many in the different divisions of the Restoration is to have "the old gospel back, sustained by the ancient order of things," as John Wesley at one time expressed it. He said it was the desire of his day. May we all do what we can to meet this challenge!

Bro. and Sr. Leon Yates arrived in Salem August 9th to begin their ministry among us. We had looked forward to their coming. They showed slides of Yucatan and related their experiences among the Mayan members of the Church there. This was especially interesting to many of us attending the services. We also enjoyed very much, hearing the tape recording of the native choir in Yucatan.

The series of meetings consisted mostly of sermons which pointed out the need of a changeless gospel. Bro. Yates stressed the fact that "Whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it."

The truth was brought to our attention through the use of many references and many illustrations. This was accompanied with the mellowing sweet influence of God's Holy Spirit confirming the word to all present. Our hearts melted under the great desire we all felt to repent and "Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein."

Several non-members and many of the Reorganization were in regular attendance along with our own members here in Salem.

The prayer meetings were times when all present took part in both prayer and testimony. It was so good to share our true feelings and desires. We rejoiced together and we shed tears of joy together; all in the joy of the Gospel. Several expressed themselves as never having before experienced such fellowship and spirit. They felt it was food for their souls. There were two Sacrament services and three administrations to the sick.

A short time after beginning one of his sermons, Bro. Yates became ill and finally had to excuse himself and go outside. We all knelt down immediately and prayed for his recovery, that the meeting be not canceled. He soon returned and finished his sermon. This proved to be a blessing to all.

Sr. Hartford of Seattle, Washington, desired to come to attend the meetings at Salem but thought it impossible to get away. While she was walking along a voice seemed to speak telling her to go to Salem. She telephoned us telling of the experience and said she was coming. She attended the services that weekend and the following one as well. She was in attendance when Bro. Yates closed the series of meetings on the Labor Day weekend.

There were many leadings of the Spirit during the time of these meetings; one we will tell of: One of us went to Bro. Yates just before one of the services, not knowing what his subject was, to ask him if it would be all right for the song "Break Thou The Bread Of Life," to be sung. Bro. Yates had built his subject around that particular theme and had his references marked in his Bible.

Another time, Bro. Yates was trying to find a certain section of the revelations which had been changed and unknowingly, one of those present handed Sr. Yates a paper showing the changes underlined.

The meetings were held in the little extra house on the property of Bro. and Sr. Walberg. A dresser was used as a pulpit and was very acceptable. We had no music except the melody in our hearts and many times they were full. The surroundings helped to make us humble; it was our Spiritual home for a time through the fellowship we experienced in the joy of witnessing for the Master; and in our eating together and visiting in the good old-fashioned way. This is something that challenges the grandeur of the cathedrals.

Bro. and Sr. Yates have performed a ministry here that we feel may lead into other areas. We believe the Spirit will move upon the honest in heart to search, to think, and to pray for the answers they need. We believe that friends and loved ones will pray that they all will be united under the one banner of the Master. It is the greatest happiness on earth for loved ones to be thus united.

The experiences under the influence of the Spirit of God such as we have felt in our midst here, is worth leaving all for the cause of our Master. This truly is a gospel of freedom, of love, of sacrifice, and of Divine knowledge that the world cannot give.

Several non-members have expressed a desire to continue our get-togethers in class meetings occasionally. We three members here at Salem would like to go ahead with this as God leads and directs. If it is His will, we shall try some kind of class on a regular basis.

We have taken all sermons down on tape to add to our stock of Bro. Bell's sermons. We hope these can help tide us over the months ahead when we have no ministry here.

We wish that someday some family might desire to locate in Salem where there is very good employment opportunities. We could then have a nucleus around which to build and to invite others to come meet with us. We understand the words of the Master when He said the field was ripe to harvest but the laborers are few. The world is taking more than its share of the harvest while we too many times stand idly by not giving heed to our duty.

It is with joy we testify to you of our assurance in this gospel; of our desire that it be accepted by others who we so dearly love that we together might be the great family of Christ here in Salem.

Bro. and Sr. Yates left here for other labors in the Master's vineyard, Labor Day, September 5th. There were indeed tears among us as we said good-bye. But there was a joy deep within us because we have been laborers together with God in the witnessing for His Son. Our prayers are for our brother and sister as they go on their way. We pray for all of God's children.

We ask for your prayers in our behalf that we may always have this desire we now feel to witness for our Lord. We feel a great need to remain humble and have the desire to help others in their search for truth. We need to read of your missionary efforts. We need to read your testimonies. These both will help to strengthen us in our convictions.

Your Reporters in Salem, Oregon

OBITUARY

Martha Hartley

Services for Sister Martha Hartley, 87, who passed away September 5, at the local hospital, were held Saturday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Moon Chapel in Sandpoint, Idaho, with Elder Venice A. Verhei officiating.

Sr. Hartley was born in 1879 in Sibley, Missouri, and married James Hartley March 25, 1896 in Independence, Missouri. They moved to Sagle, Idaho, in 1932 from Kansas and have lived in Sandpoint for the past 15 years. They recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Sr. Hartley is survived by her husband, James, at the home in Sandpoint; four sons, Frank and Warren of Sandpoint, Idaho; Ray of Phoenix, Arizona; and Paul of Johnson City, Kansas; a daughter, Mrs. Pearl Lake of Phoenix, Arizona; 17 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren.

FRIENDSHIP

Friendship is a fragile thing—
Beginning weak and faint;
But, finding common heart-throb,
It knoweth no restraint;
It draws from within the human soul
Like the flowers from the sod—
Hidden virtue, love, and promise,
Precious, living gifts of God.

*Children's Hour...***Families Who Moved for God****4. LOT**

First off, I might just as well tell you that nothing went right when Lot and his family moved. We wouldn't have liked to go with them unless we had to. It was their own fault. They didn't obey God very well so there was no reason they should expect things to go right.

To begin with, it wasn't their faith that made God spare them. It was Lot's Uncle Abraham's faith. Lot was a righteous man; but not as righteous as he could have been. God promised Abraham that if there were ten righteous people in the town of Sodom that He wouldn't destroy it. But there were only 4: Lot and his wife and two of his girls.

The first Lot knew about it was when he saw two angels walking up the road toward the gate of the city where he sat. He met them and invited them to spend the night at his house. Can you imagine having angels visit in your home and eating supper with you? Lot was righteous enough that they came with him to his home and they all had supper together.

After they had eaten the angels asked Lot if there were any of his family there in Sodom that he would like to warn because the Lord had sent them to destroy the city. Lot wanted to tell his married daughters and his sons-in-law, so he went out into the city and warned each of them that God was going to destroy the city. But they didn't think he really meant what he said so none of them paid any attention. They just laughed at him and went back to bed.

When morning came Lot and his wife and daughters hadn't gone yet, either. The angels tried to hurry him, but still he put off leaving. Finally the angels took Lot and his wife and each of their girls by the hand and led them outside the city. So you can see that since they were so slow to obey God's warning they didn't get to take anything with them except what each one could grab up and carry in one hand as the angels hurried them away.

But Lot still hadn't learned his lesson. The angels told him to run to the mountain and not to look back. Even then Lot had to argue. "Something might get me in the mountain. Let me just run to that little city out there on the plain." Here they were! The Lord was saving his life but he still didn't have faith enough to obey Him!

Lot didn't trust the Lord as Jared's brother had, so there was no joy and no singing on his trip. The sun was up by the time Lot got to the little city. His wife was running behind him and she looked back, like she'd been told not to do, and she became a pillar of salt. So there were only three of them—Lot and his two girls—who came running into the little city that day

when God destroyed the wicked city where they had lived.

The Bible doesn't tell us of any altar or any thanksgiving prayers after Lot's family finished their move so early that morning. And it doesn't tell us of any promises, either, like God made to Noah and to Jared's brother, and to Abraham. Really, if a man didn't believe Him, there wouldn't be much use in God making him any promises, would there? Lot was even afraid to stay in the little city where the angel had let him go. He went and lived in a cave up in the mountain.

The Path of Life

by

Dorothy Burgin

Here on earth with trials and troubles
Joy or sorrow what ere the pace
If we are living now for Jesus
This is first a dressing place.

Some are dressed for high society
Some in silk and fancy lace
God will judge us by our living
And the way we win the race.

As we stop and look around us
People going to and fro
Where they go it makes us wonder
Just what are they searching for.

Yes, the Bible plainly tells us
It's fulfilling every day
Some are blind, they cannot see it
And they stumble by the way.

Some have started down the straight way
Giving thanks to God on high
Then one day the devil tempts them
And they cannot pass him by.

It's so easy to be sidetracked
Down that wide and crooked road
Soon we tire and get so weary
Underneath a heavy load.

You will find the Savior waiting
As our earthly father waits
He will guide you on that straight way
Leading to the Pearly Gates.

Conversation In Ink...

Darleen Smith: "I saw something exquisite this morning while returning from mailing letters. There were seven, large, dew-sparkled cobwebs in and over the rose bed. Then I was looking at the huge purple aster clumps along the back of the garden. Suddenly I noticed one clump all misty and sparkly. I was looking at it through a jewelled cobweb—lovely—a true impressionistic painting? Life!"

Estella Smith: "It seems awfully hot here but Verl says that it is 120° on the seacoast there and hotter in the jungle. Ick. He also says that after almost a year he has moved out of tents and dugouts into real barracks. Now, he says, they can tell all the newcomers about how rough they had it before."

Darleen: "Verl had a short leave rest, and went to Thailand. He said it was really as fascinating as what he had read about it. Got to sleep on a bed, mind you, with white sheets on it!!!"

Alice Ice: "I don't realize I'm discouraged but I find to my surprise that I've sort of sidetracked thinking about the finer points of church."

Betty Martin: "I'm so glad for all the wonderful articles in our church paper. No one knows what it has meant to me since we've been so far away from our church people. For ten long years we were isolated and it's terribly difficult at times. We always need each other. We are so grateful for the efforts of ____" (She mentions the name of a missionary couple. Rather than narrow it down, may we use her words to express our appreciation to all those in such efforts? Nellie Walberg: "I'm sure all Christ's apostles were different for the reason of helping different kinds of people and different types of church problems. It should be so accepted today." Excuse us, Betty?)

Betty: "We are so grateful for the efforts of - - - - in coming to us the first Sunday of every month. Life has taken on new meaning since we have this great help to look forward to and live for. It seemed before as if we were on a treadmill and every week the same and we were growing farther away from the Master and his teachings. It makes us sure that all the prayers and tears we've offered in the past ten years were not in vain but all things work out if we can be patient."

Donna Gamble: "I felt real fortunate for being able to visit with - - - while they were here, and then last fall here they came to visit me on my own. I know that lonesome feeling, and I was about as lonesome as can be when they pulled in my driveway. They spent several afternoons and evenings here, and Walkers and Sr. Burgin came too. I so enjoyed those evening meetings and would like so much to be able to join in them all the time. I can only pray that some day I will be able to share these times of visiting and fellowship with all of them again."

Betty: "We have dear and lovely friends here in the Reorganized Church who have welcomed us as their own, though they must know by now they have no

hope of claiming us. They have been wonderful—giving us love and understanding and welcoming us to worship with them when we have none of our own priesthood with us. What a glorious day when we can all come together in the unity of the faith and be one with all the wonderful people in different groups."

Darleen: "The 'communion of saints' I had always accepted as applying to prayer meetings, verbal conversations, etc. Now I realize it means a much deeper quality within one, when so much is being told without the use of tongue. Awareness—the essence of things, or people, of situations. To know so many things which are never said. Really, is it so surprising when we think of radio waves, television picture waves, etc.? What should be so unbelievable about spiritual reception of unsaid things?"

I heard it mentioned that it seemed like they were more emotional in Book of Mormon times than we are taught to be in this day and age. But it seems to me that emotional isn't the word. I've been wondering if they didn't have a heightened "awareness." Maybe they had a greater realization of values than we do. We live a divided life now. We may not have our religion strictly set aside for Sunday, but there are other things that come first a great deal of the time. That isn't what I mean by their greater awareness, but that might be part of it. What I really mean is, like different people seeing the same picture—say "Vende," that picture of an Iowa farm sale. It's just any farm sale, but it spoke so well of the depression that it won some prize. Some people wouldn't see anything in it—they can see the same picture in real life any year. Others would vaguely like it because it reminded them of something that happened when they were kids. Others would see it as a pretty picture, or a nice composition, for others it might match their family-room furniture. For others the despair and sadness of the picture would be so much that they couldn't stand to see it every day. It's more than that we see things differently—there must be a right way to see things. And when we are enough in tune with that way it must be a physical as well as a spiritual reaction. Our spirits don't seem to be fully grown or fully awake.

Margret Gill: "In some things we either need to be re-taught faith or works—what is it? 'Faith without works is dead.' So often we want something from God, and though we receive a blessing we may not get what we ask for. Is this because we don't work, or because we have forgotten our true faith and substituted a take-for-granted faith?"

Betty: "Last Sunday night the scripture used for the sermon was one of my most treasured. Jeremiah 29:13, 'And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.' What a wonderful promise God has given us in those words, and what a great part is ours—to search with all our heart.' It is one of the most uplifting of all scriptures to me for we know God will do His part—we must do ours to find Him."

Ella Engle

Family Worship and Study

By Nellie Walberg

October 16, 1966

Proving the Prophets

"Beloved, believe not every spirit; but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (I John 4:1)

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isaiah 8:20).

"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of the prophets, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 13:1-3)

"And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord had not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits . . ." (Matthew 7:15, 16)

QUESTIONS:

1. How may we try the spirits and know the thoughts and intents of a prophet? (Hebrews 4:12)
2. What is the standard for testing prophesy? (Isaiah 8:20; Book of Commandments 15:3).
3. According to Deuteronomy 13:1-3, is fulfillment of prophecy alone a safe guide to determine its truth?
4. Is non-fulfillment of prophecy a sure evidence that the prophet had spoken presumptuously? (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)
5. What might a false prophet be encouraged by the people to prophesy? (Isaiah 30:9-10)
6. What will true prophets bring to the people, and with what result? (Jeremiah 23:22)

THOUGHT TO CONSIDER:

Both true and false prophets in the last days.

The Spirit of God within us will bear witness to the truth spoken by another. (John 16:7-14)

This witness of the Holy Spirit will join the written word to confirm truth. (Isaiah 8:20; John 14:21)

The greatest need in our lives: the Holy Spirit is only given on condition of obedience and righteousness.

October 23, 1966:

Prophetic Ministry In Christ's Church

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7)

"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers . . ." (Acts 13:1)

"And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch." (Acts 11:27)

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets. . . ." (I Corinthians 12:28)

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles, and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. . . ." (Ephesians 2:19-20)

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors, and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

". . . the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Revelation 19:10)

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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 1:19-21)

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:7-8)

QUESTIONS:

1. If the Lord is at work in the world today, by what means will he teach his people? (John 14:26)
2. National and international leaders are at a loss to find answers to the world's problems. What principle is revealed in John 14:29?
3. God set in the church, prophets (I Corinthians 12:28). What might be areas of prophetic ministry needed in these latter days? (Consider news via radio, television and press.)
4. Christ is the same forever; the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Revelation 19:10). If the church possesses the testimony of Jesus what will be the result of prophetic ministry?

THOUGHT: Is America rejecting prophetic warnings?

October 30, 1966:

Gospel Restored Through Prophetic Ministry

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water." (Revelation 14:6, 7)

"All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye." (Isaiah 18:3)

"And, behold, the angel, that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him, and said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein." (Zechariah 2:3-4)

"And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed . . . therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder . . . and in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book . . ." (Isaiah 29:11, 14, 18)

"And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it, For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." (Habakuk 2:2, 3)

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. An angel to come with the "everlasting gospel" calling all mankind back to true worship.
2. An "ensign" or trumpet call to be lifted up on a high plateau (spiritual heights).
3. An angel to be sent to a "young man" giving him a message concerning Jerusalem being rebuilt.
4. "A marvelous work and a wonder" to be done by God in regard to a book to come forth just before Lebanon (Jerusalem) is inhabited; the blind would see and those that erred in spirit should come to understanding and rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.
5. A vision or revelation would come, written down on tables or "tablets", reserved for an appointed time and "at the end" it shall speak.

Joseph Smith testified until his death that an angel came to him September 21, 1823, and he later was given the revelation and knowledge of the plates containing the message of the Book of Mormon. It is part of the marvelous work connected with the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ in these latter days.

Joseph Smith was only 17 years old at that time and unlearned as to deeper meanings of scripture or to archeological evidence which later supported the record of the Book of Mormon.

The gospel in its purity and its fulness is needed in this world to testify of the divinity of Christ and the way to the kingdom.

A Prophet was raised up by God in America and the prophetic spirit leads his church onward to a glorious culmination under God's direction.

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto His servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7)

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (I Thessalonians 5:21). "Truth, though crushed to earth, shall rise again."

November 6, 1966:

Wells of Understanding— The Water of Life

"But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?" (Job 28:12)

"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." (Job 28:28)

"But there is a spirit in man; and the inspiration of the Almighty given them understanding." (Job 32:8)

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels." (Proverbs 1:5)

"Understanding is a well spring of life unto him that hath it. . . ." (Proverbs 16:22)

QUESTIONS:

1. What type of practices might cause our spiritual wells to run dry? (II Peter 2:10-19)
2. If we find ourselves becoming wells without water as written in II Peter 2:17, to whom should we appeal? (Revelation 21:6)
3. From whom do we receive "living water that never runs dry"? (John 4:10-15)
4. Is there necessity of thirst? (Matthew 5:6)
5. What is a temptation recorded in II Nephi 6:58-60 which might keep us from acquiring spiritual truths?
6. On what conditions may an educated person be a great asset to the kingdom? (II Nephi 6:61)
7. What is basic to the acquisition of spiritual understanding? (Matthew 7:7, 8)

LESSON PURPOSE:

To appreciate the priceless gift of "understanding" which is available to all through the Holy Spirit.

To recognize the truth that spiritual things must be spiritually discerned. (II Corinthians 2:14)

To appreciate that understanding comes from the wellsprings of Christ's great love for us, and that the promise extends to the final state of the redeemed as written in Revelation 22:1.

OUR TASK:

Through "understanding" forsake the ways of man and of death and cleave to the commandments of God.

November 13, 1966:

A Saving Knowledge

"And it came to pass that after Aaron had expounded these things unto him, the king said, What shall I do, that I may have this eternal life of which thou hast spoken? Yea, what shall I do that I may be born of God, having this wicked spirit rooted out of my breast, and receive his Spirit, that I may be filled with joy, that I may not be cast off at the last day? Behold, said he, I will give up all that I possess; yea, I will forsake my kingdom, that I may receive this great joy.

"But Aaron said unto him, If thou desirest this thing, if thou wilt bow down before God, yea, if thou wilt repent of all thy sins, and will bow down before God, and call on His name in faith, believing that ye shall receive then shalt thou receive the hope which thou desirest." (Alma 13:48-51)

"And I will tell you of the wrestle which I had before God, before I received a remission of my sins; behold I went to hunt beasts in the forest; and the words which I had often heard my father speak, concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints, sunk deep in my heart, and my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication, for mine own soul; and all the day long did I cry unto him yea, and when the night came, I did still raise my voice high, that it reached the heavens. And there came a voice to me saying, Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed. And I, Enos, knew that God could not lie; wherefore my guilt was swept away." (Enos 1:3-8)

"And it came to pass that as I was thus racked with torment, while I was harrowed up by the memory of my many sins, behold, I remembered also to have heard my father prophesy unto the people, concerning the coming of one Jesus Christ, a Son of God, to atone for the sins of the world. Now as my mind caught hold upon this thought, I cried within my heart, Oh, Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me, who art in the gall of bitterness, and art encircled about by the everlasting chains of death. And now behold, when I thought this, I could remember my pains no more; yea I was harrowed up by the memory of my sins no more. And O, what joy, and what marvelous light I did behold . . . my limbs did receive their strength again, and I stood upon my feet, and did manifest unto the people that I had been born of God." (Alma 17:15-21)

QUESTIONS:

1. What can you find as important steps in the process of conversation of King Lamoni, Enos and Alma? (Alma 13:47-53; Enos 1:1, 6; Alma 17:1, 21)
2. What testimony did Alma relate to his son in Alma 18:9, 11?
3. After conversion what was the immediate desire of these three men? (Enos 1:12; Alma 13:64; Alma 17:22)
4. What did the Lord admonish Peter to do when he became truly converted? (Luke 22:32)
5. What is instrumental in the conversion of our

souls as written in Psalms 19:7, 14?

6. What is Alma's challenge to us as written in Alma 3:46?

LESSON PURPOSE:

- To point out the need for true repentance.
- To remember that conversion is a continuing process.
- To realize that a saving knowledge brings concern for others.

November 20, 1966:

The Wrong Kind of Thanks

False Prayer of the Zoramites:

" . . . Holy, holy, God; we believe that thou art God, and we believe that thou art holy, and that thou wast a spirit, and that thou art a spirit, and that thou wilt be a spirit for ever. Holy God, we believe that thou hast separated us from our brethren; and we do not believe in the tradition of our brethren; which was handed down to them by the childishness of their fathers; but we believe that hast elected us to be thy holy children; and also that thou hast made it known unto us that there shall be no Christ; but thou art the same, yesterday, today and forever; and thou hast elected us, that we shall be saved, whilst all around us are elected to be cast by thy wrath down to hell; for the which holiness, Oh, God, we thank thee; and we also thank thee, that thou hast elected us, that we may not be led away after the foolish traditions of our brethren, which doth bind them down to a belief of Christ, which doth lead their hearts to wander far from thee, our God. And again we thank thee, Oh God, that we are a chosen and a holy people. (Alma 16:90-94)

False Prayer of the Pharisee:

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterous, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." Luke 18:10-13)

QUESTIONS:

1. How many times did the Zoramites repeat in their prayer that they, and they alone, were God's elect? (Alma 16:90, 94)
2. Note the place of prayer in verse 89.
3. Note the manner of praying in verses 96 thru 99.
4. What is the counsel of Jesus in Matthew 6:7?
5. What did Jesus say of the Pharisee's and publican's prayer in Luke 18:14?
6. What was Alma's counsel concerning prayer in Alma 18:15, 16?

LESSON PURPOSE:

- To learn to thank God for the right things in the right spirit.
- To encourage humility in our discipleship.

Here and There...

Glenn and I were privileged to attend a youth wake-up camp at Bemidji, Minnesota, this summer. After getting home some of the attenders wrote expressing themselves on the camp.

Lovita Seibel wrote, "I sure did enjoy being at the camp. I was helped a lot."

Sandra Gould wrote, "I certainly hope everyone got as much out of it as I did. It meant a lot to me, not only spiritually but socially, I guess you would call it. You see, before I had never really been with a large group of young people in the church, so it was quite a treat."

Harvey and Irene Seibel wrote they really enjoyed the Young People's Wake-Up Camp. "It is just the thing which the young people need and hope that with this spark of interest which has shown itself, many more of the young people might be drawn in and thus find themselves identified with a cause they can work for."

Harold and Donna Gill knew of it but were unable to attend. Donna wrote, "My first report was from Lovita and I got goose bumps imagining how wonderful it was. Just like you do when you hear a pretty song. I can just imagine the spirit that was there."

Donna continued: "The weekend of the thirteenth and fourteenth (August) we went up to Elder Hubert Yates' Ranch and had a marvelous campout as the whole Phoenix local went. I shall never stop marveling at God's ways and creation. A couple weeks before the campout, young Hubert Yates was ordained a teacher. He preached his first sermon out under the peaceful evergreens of his Dad's ranch during our campout. It was an excellent sermon from God. No one would have guessed it to be Hubert's first."

I received many comments of reunions, also.

Cheryl Brockman wrote, "I sure had fun during the (Wisconsin) reunion with all the kids . . . Bro. Sheldon and Bro. Housknecht left Sunday after dinner. (A week after the close of the reunion.) The house is really empty now."

Bonnie Hesse wrote, "I really got a wonderful blessing from the (Wisconsin) reunion. Next year I hope I will get to go to more of the services."

"I wish you could have been at the Missouri Reunion," wrote Ella Engle. "Two sermons I particularly liked . . . I think you would have gotten a lot out of them."

Harvey and Irene wrote, "We had a good (Missouri) reunion and enjoyed the spirit that was there. Also special conference convened. I was disappointed in one respect with the Special Minister's Conference in that the church as a whole wasn't invited—only the ministry in the main, although we attended. It should be by the voice of the people, and if we had we might have received more. But in another respect I was not disappointed. On the contrary, I was happy to see all concerned meet together as they did laying aside all doctrinal contentions and submitting themselves to the

will of God whether or not it might have gone against their beliefs or not. It was a sincere desire to know the Lord's will."

The Seibels continue: "We really had a lot of people here for the Reunion from all over. It was good to see the Scott's from Michigan . . . Also we were glad to renew our acquaintances again with Cliff and Ella (Engle), the Houston, Missouri, group, and many others. Also Dad and Mom (Seibel) and Joe and Alice (Carney) were here. Last Sunday (August 7) we ate over at Lovita's (Seibel) and invited Bro. Jordan to eat with us. We talked and visited all afternoon and it was certainly a good visit. We enjoyed ourselves together very much."

Donna Gill wrote that her brother, Victor Housknecht, gave them a tour of his ship in San Diego, then they visited with relatives in the area. "Vic is here in Phoenix this weekend." (August 27-28).

Sandra Gould wrote that her Mother's sister, Lola Riley, from Columbia Falls, Montana, visited them this summer. "My Mother's other sister, Doris Jensen, her husband and family, are planning to be up the last week in August. So we'll be having a little company. Sr. Smith was out here Tuesday (August 16) and spent the day with us. She's been here for about two weeks now."

From the letters I would say everyone had many good visits. The spiritual strength they gained should carry them through the winter. Then it is hoped that better experiences can be had next year.

Margret Gill, correspondent

ON FILE

If an unkind word appears,
File the thing away.
If some novelty in jeers,
File the thing away.
If some clever little bit
Of a sharp and pointed wit,
Carrying a sting with it—
File the thing away.
If some bit of gossip come,
File the thing away.
Scandalously spicy crumb,
File the thing away.
If suspicion comes to you
That your neighbor isn't true
Let me tell you what to do—
File the thing away.
Do this for a little while,
Then go out and burn the file.
—John Hendrick Bangs

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Original Articles are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the church or the opinions of the editorial staff. We solicit articles written in an affirmative manner in which a belief or an opinion is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief.

The Angel's Message

By Archie F. Bell

At the Temple Lot Local May 15, 1966

We are pleased to be with you this morning. We have hope that our meeting together here will not be in vain, but that each one of us might be able to gain a little bit at least. What we are trying to bring to you this morning is not something new but is something that we have heard expressions on all of our life.

To begin with, it didn't mean so much to me but in the past 20 years or a little more, this expression has meant quite a bit to me, and perhaps it has to you as well. And that expression is: The Angel's Message. We want to touch on that this morning and see if maybe, there isn't something there even deeper than we have thought of, because we usually refer to it as the message of these latter days. But we want to see if the angel message didn't even go farther back than the restoration of the Gospel.

For a text we want to refer to Revelation 14:6. This is the writing of John who says: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

There are four different, what we might call, divisions there that this gospel is to go to. First we find it was to go to nations. Now when we speak of nations, we do not speak of the citizens of that nation, but rather we speak of the leaders of the nation. We find in the study of our scripture that the time is going to come (and I believe it is not far distant) when this gospel actually will go to leaders of the nations and they will be amazed. The rest of it I believe we can understand where it says kindred and tongue and people. But perhaps we have overlooked that first one; and to me it is a very important one.

What we are trying to bring to our attention this morning is the fact that we must have something to begin with. There must be a foundation to all things if they are going to stand. We read so many times in the scripture, of the foundation of the world. We read of the foundation of the earth. We read of the foundation of the people.

We are going to use that foundation from the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and the first verse where it says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Now the substance of things is something we want to consider. Substance is what you have in mind. It doesn't have to mean that it is something that is tangible so far as material is concerned but it has to be a subject that you have in mind. Supposing that you were praying that you might be helped in some affliction that you had. That subject is the substance of your thought. And when it comes to you there is a

hope for it then we can see where faith comes into the picture. The foundation even of faith is hope.

To give as an example, let us go back to the foundation of the world; in the days of Adam. The story is that Adam and Eve were put out of the Garden of Eden because they had transgressed against the commandment that the Lord had given them. They were out of that garden for quite a while. The earth had begun to populate from them until there were quite a number on the face of the earth. Do you know that up to a certain period of time (we are going to touch on that a little bit) they did not even have hope. They knew that death had been pronounced upon them but they did not have hope of after the grave. Even though there was a plan laid by the Lord Himself from the very foundation of the world that they were going to come forth out of the grave, they did not know about it. And due to the fact they didn't know about it, they did not have hope. So we see that hope is the very foundation of this entire plan of Salvation.

There must be some knowledge to bring about that hope, because they did not have knowledge and for that reason didn't have hope.

Before we go into that part of it we want to go to Matthew 13:11. Now we might think that in our day "Well, we have embraced this gospel of Christ" and Adam might have thought, "I have met the Lord face to face so all is well". But it is in our day, we are going to refer to in particular. In the days when Christ was here on earth, He spoke to the people in parables; and the disciples asked Him why He did. He explained it to them that it was necessary for them to do some (shall we say) digging of their own. If they were going to understand these things, they were going to need to seek the source of this parable. This they would have to do if they would understand it.

Then he turned to his disciples and made this expression: "He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given."

He is speaking to a people here who have embraced this gospel that He had brought to them. He said, due to the fact that they had embraced that gospel, it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

Do we think it would be automatic? If that would be something that would be automatic, then the fact that He gave some instructions of how to obtain this knowledge would be of no use whatsoever. But He said something like this! ask and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you; seek and ye shall find.

Now these are the things they would have to do even after this gift had been given to them. They would have to go through this law that the Lord Himself had laid down; asking, knocking and seeking, before the mysteries would be opened up unto them.

There is no doubt that some sitting under the sound of my voice this morning have had experience along that line. They know that they have read things in the scripture, and had come to a knowledge of them but

had not come to the understanding. It was necessary then to go before the throne of God in order to get that understanding so they might be able to properly apply that instruction in their lives.

Let us notice just a little bit on that subject. We spoke of knowledge and understanding. We perhaps get that mixed up sometimes. To receive knowledge is to acquire a fact. To understand it is to be able to grasp the meaning of a fact. To expound is to open up the meaning of a fact.

We will go back to our thought we had a little while ago, that Adam and Eve, when they were released from the Garden of Eden, were without hope, because they didn't have a knowledge of the plan of salvation which the Lord had brought into being. We want you to notice in particular how this plan came to the children of men. You will find it on page 347 of the Book of Mormon, Alma 9: beginning with verse 47. Alma had been explaining to the people that the Lord had made a plan of salvation. And through this plan of salvation, everyone who went into the grave would come out of it again. But the Lord had not made this known to the children of men. Here is what Alma said:

"And after God had appointed that these things should come unto man, behold, then he saw that it was expedient that man should know concerning the things whereof he had appointed unto them;" Now in other words, he is going to bring knowledge to them. "Therefore he sent angels to converse with them, who caused men to behold his glory." There wasn't a feeling come over Adam or something like that, this is what we are going to have for a doctrine or some such a thing. But the Lord saw fit that the time had come and He sent angels directly from His throne of grace that they might bring this gospel to the children of men. If we want to trace this back, we can find that Adam was 235 years of age when this took place. It says "And they began from that time forth to call on his name." If we refer to Genesis, we will find when they began to call on His name, it was when Adam was 235 years of age.

"Therefore God conversed with men, and made known unto them the plan of redemption, which had been prepared from the foundation of the world;" Now we don't want to get away from the thought we brought you a little while ago: The first thing He did was send angels. And these angels caused men to behold the glory of God. After they were close enough to God to behold His glory, then it said, God Himself conversed with them.

"And this he made known unto them according to their faith." You see now we have brought the hope in and now faith comes into being, "and repentance and their holy works." We ask ourselves the question, "What is meant by holy works?" No doubt you have asked yourself that question when you have read that passage of scripture. What is the difference between ordinary working in the church and holy works? Holy works are the works that you do that you have been given a commandment from God and inspired by the

Spirit from on high to do it. That has to be in such a way that there is just no doubting it; there is no chance of doubt in the least. That Spirit of God is there in full measure. It would have to be there in full measure in order for it to be holy works.

There is a question that has often come into our minds, and we want to touch on it right here just a very little bit. You will find it in Hebrews 1:13, 14. We have spoken of the angels bringing the knowledge of this plan of salvation to the children of men. We want to see what an angel is. How many times have you been asked that question by your children, or even by some adults. What is an angel? We will take the words of Paul:

"But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I have made thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

Now we read here a little while ago about ministering to the children of men when the Lord saw fit that the time had come for that mission to take place. What is the meaning of the word minister? We often hear the expression that somebody ministered or they were ministering. What is meant by it? It is to supply something that is needed. When you minister to a person, you supply something that is needed by that person.

When the angels appeared to the children of men back in the days of Adam (yes, we will say the days of Adam, he was still on earth), they supplied them something that was needed. Paul said they are ministering spirits, and that is their duty; that is the work they are set apart to do. They are to supply something to the children of men, that is needed.

Angels are used of the Lord more than to only bringing something outstanding; like the plan of salvation or the restoration of the gospel. If they are going to be ministering spirits and are supposed to supply something that is needed to a person or persons, we perhaps can find something more in the Scriptures concerning it.

We want to notice what they did back in the days of Nephi prior to the days of Christ; just a few years before Christ came among them.

There was a man came among them. We are going to call our attention to him at this time. His name was Nephi. He was quite a righteous man. We will start with verse 56 on page 622 (Chapter 3 of the III Book of Nephi).

"And it came to pass that Nephi, having been visited by angels, and also by the voice of the Lord, therefore having seen angels, and being eye witness, and having had power given unto him that he might know concerning the ministry of Christ, and also being eye witness to their quick return from righteousness unto their wickedness and abominations; Therefore, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, and the blindness of their minds, went forth among them in that same year, and began to testify boldly repentance and remission of sins through faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. And he

did minister many things unto them;" Gave them something that they stood in need of "and all of them can not be written, and a part of them would not suffice: therefore they are not written in this book. And Nephi did minister with power and with great authority."

He naturally would need to have power and great authority, because of what we are going to read in the next verse:

"And it came to pass that they were angry with him," Now these are the people that are angry with him. Notice why they were angry with him. "even because he had greater power than they, for it were not possible that they could disbelieve his words."

That is a lot of power. When it is impossible to not believe a person's words: that is great power.

In fact, that is great ministry too, because this people who did not believe his words were those who needed them the most.

They, no doubt, were jealous of him because of this great power which he had and because of this they were angry with him. And jealousy brings about anger.

"For so great was his faith on the Lord Jesus Christ, that angels did minister unto him daily." Now if that would happen to someone today perhaps we would go to questioning what was wrong. If that person wrote down what this angel was telling him, perhaps there would be some doubts going through our minds. But we would have to exercise the same faith as that man did who the angel had visited with, in order that we might know for sure that angels were visiting him.

I misquoted here: it said "ministered." There is a difference between ministering and visiting. The angels ministered unto him daily. They gave him something he stood in need of.

Let us quickly go through the scriptural history and notice the angel messages. They all pertain unto the same subject. Let us go back to Luke 1:19-20. It had been prophesied by the prophets of old that there was going to be a forerunner for Christ. He was to be the voice of one crying in the wilderness, etc.

An angel (yes, an angel) came to Zacharias when he was in the Temple and the angel told Zacharias that he and his wife were going to be the parents of this forerunner of Christ in their old age. They were quite advanced in years at that time.

Even with the angel appearing unto him, an angel who had come from the throne of God, an angel who said his name was Gabriel, Zacharias had a few doubts. He asked the angel how he would know this. There was a question in his mind of the truthfulness of what the angel had told him. And because of that, the sign that was given to him was a punishment along with the sign. He was told that he would not be able to speak until the child was born.

That no doubt, would be quite an obstacle because he was a man who had quite an important work to do in the Temple. It was necessary from that time on, for him to write to the different ones the things he wanted to bring to their attention. We won't go into the full particulars at this time, but the fact is, because he

doubted, he was given a punishment along with a sign.

We will now, go into the same chapter in Luke just a little farther along where it tells of the same angel appearing to a virgin by the name of Mary. He told her that she was going to become the mother of the Lord Jesus. She was going to be given the outstanding gift, I would say, that has ever been given to any woman in the history of mankind. But she didn't question the message. She just put herself at the disposal of the Lord, and said whatever His will was, she would obey it.

Notice again; it was an angel and this angel had a name. Both of the incidents we have been telling you of, it was the same angel, Gabriel. I believe that Daniel in some of his writings, mentions that same angel.

We are now going to notice a little farther on in Luke 2:8-14. This is a reference we use quite often about Christmas time. The shepherds were out on the pasture, we will say. We usually say on a hill because it is customary to bed the sheep down on hills. While they were out there at night, an angel appeared.

I wonder how many have noticed that at first there was only one angel that appeared? He told them not to fear. He said, "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 Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

It was after this angel had given his message that a multitude of angels joined him and then is when the chorus began; then is when the angels began singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." But notice, at first only one angel appeared. He, it was, who brought the message; an angel's message.

We are going to refer to that one which we quote so much in the Restoration: Revelation 14:6-7. It almost sounds like it fits right in sequence this morning. It begins with: "I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Now let us see what he said:

"Saying with a loud voice, fear God, and give glory to him." This was something that was important in that day. In that day, most of the glory was given to a saint that had departed, or Mary, the mother of Jesus, or someone else. But as far as giving the glory to God; He had been left out of the picture for over 1,200 years. They had pushed the Lord to one side and had been praying to the mother Mary or to some saint who had departed. The angel said, "Fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come."

I wonder if we agree on what that judgment is? We may have mentioned it to you before. We may mention it a bit this morning. Judgment does not necessarily mean punishment. When someone with superior authority determines that something is going to take place at a certain time, and he uses his power to see that it is brought about in that way, he judges it shall take place. We believe that the judgment of the

Lord the angel is speaking of, is the time the Lord is going to open up, shall we say, the windows of heaven, and pour out upon the children of men those things we term inventions today, but in reality are the things the Lord created in the very beginning. He has waited until the time was right, expedient as we sometimes say, to bring these into being.

You perhaps remember one time in the past here, we spoke to you about what we had read, that in 1830 the man in charge of the patent office of the United States made the proposition that it be closed because he said, we had gotten to the peak of inventions. There wouldn't be any need anymore for an exclusive patent office. There have been more inventions in a year's time in past few years than there had been for centuries before 1830.

We have so many inventions or discoveries today that in place of having a comprehensive knowledge, it is necessary that we have specialists. We have a good example of this in the medical line. It is necessary to have specialists in the various fields of that subject.

Personally, I don't understand a great many of the inventions that have come into being in the past few years. The various powers; energies; those things that go along with electronics. It takes someone who has specialized in the knowledge of a certain thing to get the understanding before it is useful to man. The hour of the Lord's judgment had come. And everything He has given to the children of men has been for their good. But you know, anything that is for good can be used for evil as well? Man in the past generation at least, has chosen to use most of his outstanding inventions for evil or destruction.

We are supposed to be like Christ: In the world but not of it. We are not supposed to be trying to think of those things that would destroy our fellowmen, but rather think of the things that would be for his up-building.

There was another thing that was to come along with the angel's message we are speaking of here, and that was the plan to worship God. Did you ever notice that in there? "And worship him that made heavens, and earth, and the sea, and fountains of waters." That angel had quite a message didn't he? He was to come in these latter days; and he did come. That message has been given; the plan of salvation has been restored to the children of men.

Now in that plan of worshipping God; that plan of salvation, we find an example of how it was going to operate in Matthew 10:7. It was a commission that the Lord gave to His apostles when He chose them. He had told them to go and he said, "As ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand." When He chose His seventy a little later on, He gave them a similar commission. When this gospel came into being in these latter days that same commission was given: Go preach saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand. It might have been different words that were used, but they meant the same thing.

We want to know a little bit of something about

what that kind of a gospel would be like; how it would be handled. We want to call your attention to Romans 10:13-15.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

A preacher is one who takes the gospel of Christ and expounds it. He opens up the meaning of it. And that doesn't mean because a man is ordained to a certain office that he necessarily is a preacher. I notice that Paul in his writings to one of the groups of people back there, said he was an apostle and a preacher. One was a work that he had to do for the church. The other was a work he had to do for the people. He was an apostle and a preacher. In other words he could perform the duty he was supposed to do in the church and he also could take this gospel to the people and open up the meaning of it. We can see in his writings that is what he did. He wasn't under the classification of those who the Lord spoke of: Many are called but few are chosen. When the Lord calls a person and He calls him to be a saint, he is supposed to put forth every effort to try to qualify to be a saint. And if He calls a man to carry His gospel, that man should set forth every effort he can into qualifying himself that he might be able to open up the meaning of this gospel of Jesus Christ. That should be the primary thought in his mind.

Let us see what that gospel is going to be like. "And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" When it speaks of being sent, we can't think of anybody that could be sent of man, to do the work of God. If God has work to be done, He is the one who is going to do that sending and that person who is sent will know it.

Then it says: "As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace." You know, a person cannot preach the gospel of peace, if he is antagonistic himself. I was at a place a few years ago and one of our pastors had me meet with a man of another denomination. That man was very antagonistic. The fact of it is he had schooled himself to try to find fault with every other denomination on the face of the earth. That isn't what the Lord send His servants out to do. They are supposed to take a gospel of peace. And they must have peace within their heart, or they absolutely cannot take a gospel of peace to the people.

"And bring glad tidings of good things!" Now we are a church that believes that the Lord is going to tell us every once in a while, of some of the things He has in mind. And when we bring that to the people (I don't mean just bring what are in these books, but those things which come from the throne of God to the children of men) we are bringing them good tidings of good.

When Christ was getting ready to leave His disciples, He gave them something to think about, and it is something we should be thinking about as well. It is in John 14:27. It goes right along with the message that the servants of the Lord are supposed to be taking. It says,

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." And we are quite sure that the Lord is not the type of person that was looking for trouble. He was the type of person that was wanting to bring a peaceful, shall we say, feeling; a peaceful operation into the hearts of the minds of everyone who heard him.

"Not as the world giveth, give I unto you." We want to call your attention to a comparison. There are two outstanding nations on the face of the earth today. One is the nation in which you and I live. The other one is in northern Asia, we will put it that way. As far as the world is concerned, they are at peace with one another. There is a treaty of peace between them. And at the same time they are building up munitions of war, looking forward to the time when they will have to fight each other.

Christ said that was not the way He was going to give His peace to the children of men. They are not supposed to be building up something to fight one another, but rather they are supposed to be building up something that will be a barricade against evil.

We don't want to think that the visiting of angels stopped with the message that was given through Christ back in His day or through the angel in these latter days. I want to call your attention to one that spoken of in the Scriptures. It is in Acts 8:26-30. It tells there of Philip. He had just gotten through with some mission work he had been doing. An angel came to him and told him to arise and go down to such and such a place. The angel didn't accompany him when Philip left. Philip followed the instructions of the angel and went down to the place he was directed to go. When he arrived there he noticed a chariot going down the road and the man who owned it was sitting in it reading from the Scriptures. The Spirit spoke to Philip and told him to go up and attach himself to that chariot. He ran up and got close to the chariot and heard the man reading. He then asked the man, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" That is quite a salutation, isn't it? And the man said, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" He invited Philip to come up into the chariot.

The man asked a few questions, and Philip gave the answers, he preached to him the gospel of Christ. Before they departed company, Philip baptized that man. This all started by a message coming from an angel. You go to such and such a place. Remember the angels appeared, ministered, I better put it right; they ministered to Nephi daily. He stood in need and evidently the Lord saw fit to send the angels to him.

When we get ourselves in such a condition that we can do these things that the Lord has given us to do and let them be the primary thought in our mind, then the time will come as it was when Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 1:5. "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance."

We often hear the expression, especially when we are among those of what we might term the sectarian world, "We have the Scripture here and that is sufficient. We can read that and it will tell us all things." Do you know

we have Christian churches by the hundred today and they all use the Scripture? There is something lacking then isn't there?

Let us see what Christ did about it. Now remember He had been among them for seven years. They, you would think, understand by that time the full story concerning Him. But you know after His death, they drifted away. Some of them said, I am going fishing. Others said, I will go with you. They didn't understand.

We find in Luke 24:27, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Even after He had been with them, had died and was resurrected, it was necessary that He open up the Scriptures to them that they might understand.

We will go to Luke 24:45, "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures." Now can you see what is wrong, the reason there are so many Christian churches of today? The Scriptures have not been opened up to them. They do not understand it. They place the interpretation of man upon it.

We have been before you here this morning a little better than 45 minutes. Now suppose we had been speaking to you in a tongue or language that not one of you understood. What good would you get out of it? Paul said he would rather speak five words of understanding than 10,000 in an unknown tongue.

Five words! There have been times when less than five words carried quite a message. The fact of it is there was a time when three words carried an outstanding message. And it is another angel visit, or I should say angel ministry.

It was on the first day of the week quite early in the morning. Several of the women who were quite close to Jesus, came to his tomb. When they arrived at the tomb, the stone was rolled away and an angel was there. There is one thing he said to them, "He is risen". There were three words of understanding, and those words have been echoing back and forth down through Christianity from that day to this. "He Is Risen."

Later on, two angels were there. When the disciples came to the tomb, two angels were there. They asked the disciples why they were seeking the living among the dead. Then they said the same thing that the first angel had said, "He Is Risen."

We know that He is Risen and will live forever. We don't want to get away from the very fact that from the beginning clear down to our time, the Lord has been sending messages from His throne of grace down to the children of men; messages by angels.

I think it is a wonderful thing when we can speak of this restored gospel as being an angel's message. The gospel has been an angel's message from the days of Adam right on down until now.

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed." (John 6:27)