

# 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. 44

Independence, Missouri, October, 1967

No. 10

## *My God Is Not Dead!*

by

Ruth Mitchell



How could they say my God is dead,  
When by His hand I'm gently led?  
He listens daily as I pray,  
And points me to a better way.

He hears the frailest voice that cries.  
And gently wipes the tear-dimmed eyes.  
To those in need, He lends an ear,  
And in providing casts out fear.

If we in sickness on Him cry,  
I'm sure His child He'll not deny.  
To those in sin who seek His face,  
He sweetly saves them by His grace.

Who then can say, "My God Is Dead"?  
Such foolish words so lightly said.  
He lives! He lives forever more,  
For us to worship and adore.

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# Zion's Advocate

Official Publication of the Church of Christ  
 Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri.  
 Phone: Temple 3-3995

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 Wheaton, Box 472, Independence, Missouri, 64051. Subscriptions and  
 changes of address.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Temple  
 Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 64051.

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, Conse-  
 crations, Tithes, Offerings, and Subscriptions for the Advocate to:  
 Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051.

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Editorial . . .

## FEED MY SHEEP

One of the greatest and simplest charges ever given to the disciples of Christ was given as they were fishing at the sea of Tiberias. “. . . And that night they caught nothing.” (John 21:3) But when morning came they found Jesus, whom they did not know, standing on the shore. He asked them for meat and they answered they had none. So, he told them to cast their net on the right side of the ship and they would find fish. They took his advice and found they were unable to draw in their catch because of the great abundance. And then to their great surprise, they discovered that it was the Master of Men, even Jesus, who was risen from the grave. And in their confusion, they jumped into the sea and dragged the fish ashore where they found a fire of coals with fish and bread laid out before them. Jesus invited them to come and dine with him, and they brought fish from their great catch and were fed on the physical necessities of life.

After they were satisfied with food, the Lord spoke to them and unto Peter, “. . . Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. **He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.** He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, **lovest thou me?** And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus said unto him, **Feed My Sheep.**” (John 21:15-17)

The peoples of the Restoration are not unlike the disciples of old. For lo these many years we have fished the sea of mankind as “fishers of men”, forgetting many times the instructions of the method of casting in the Gospel net as we seek to perform the work of the Master in these last days. As we look around us in the earth, we find those with great array of pomp and splendor enticing the children of men with their lo here and lo there; feeding mankind a partial meal from the scriptures of a spiritual food, unable as it were, to completely satisfy the crying needs of salvation. Because of this simple fact, they are unable to open the door into the Kingdom of our Lord. For verily the words of the Master again come to us as he spoke to the Pharisees, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, **but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.**” (John 10:1)

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. **But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.**” (John 10:11-12) The massive program of “prestige” created by the manipulations through publicity of mankind are

brought to bear to entice men into the circle of understanding of the scriptures, but alas, they are unable to complete the understanding, not being able to open the door into the kingdom. And they therefore, **not as a shepherd but as a hireling, desert the sheep with the statement, "Go to the Church of your choice."** And the wolf catches the sheep of mankind and in their complacency, scatters them back into the world of sin and corruption, feeling that they have attained the "saving grace" of the mourner's bench of the Evangelist of the day. And the good that may have been accomplished is lost because, "The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep." "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am know of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10. 14, 15) (Emph. mine K.J.S.)

But what of the sheepfold of the Kingdom of Latter days? Are we indeed "Feeding the Sheep"? Recently, while traveling in the southern part of the state, I received a report from a member of the sheepfold of the little Church of Christ. It seems that this individual heard a member of the high council of the church speak over the radio in the state of Tennessee one, if not the finest, messages on the Book of Mormon in late years. We are caused to wonder why we hear little or none of this type of message from our own pulpits and local churches by this individual and others who are able to feed the flock upon spiritual meat. It brought to mind another experience we enjoyed while attending a similar meeting in the southland. We were told that certain individual people of the sectarian world were going to attend our meetings. So, a particular member of the high council who has since gone to his reward, was asked to speak. Because of his ability as an Evangelist to the world he gave one of the best and most interesting sermons I had ever heard in defense of the faith. I asked him why, after the service, we were not privileged to be able to hear more of the Fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, such as he had delivered that day.

What has become the lot of the people of the Restoration? The years have come and gone; opposition to the Latter Day Message has lessened; persecution from the outside has practically stopped to a great degree; and some have gone on to their reward taking with them their experience and ability to fully "defend the faith once delivered to the saints." Our young are coming up, well grounded in the "Traditions of men", but are they able to defend the "faith of the fathers"? Jesus asked Simon Peter, ". . . lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, FEED MY LAMBS." (John 21:15) A crying need against the sheepfold of the little Church of Christ is nourishment of spiritual meat.

Might we not raise the great standard together and say unto those around us of the great Restoration movement, this not the time for controversy among ourselves, or with other divergent branches of the Restoration, but

a time for an increase of faith in God, seeking him constantly in prayer, and being filled with love for all mankind. Listen not to estranging doctrine upon the earth, whether they come from within or without. Remember no matter how high, or how big a man may become, he is not too big to fall. Neither is he bigger than the Kingdom of God restored in these Last Days. Therefore, come let us reason together and enjoy the manifold blessing of the great God of Heaven and cast in our spiritual nets on the right side of the boat and reap the reward that is so big we will not be able to contain it, like unto the disciples of old. Drive out the malices, strifes, and jealousies that are now working daily toward our destruction with the intent and purpose of frustrating the work in which we are now engaged. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood, For I know this that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:28-30) (Emph. mine K.J.S.)

K.J.S.

## CLOSE TO THEE

by

Mary Langham

As He calmed the troubled waters  
Of the Sea of Galilee,  
Thus He calms my troubled spirit,  
Whispers peace to me.

When the clouds of fear oppress me,  
Light I cannot see.  
Then I hear His voice so gentle:  
"Fear not! I am close to thee.

"Though the storms of life assail thee,  
Thou need have no fear.  
Child of mine, I died to save thee.  
Remember I am near. "

Frail, weak, sometimes doubting,  
Fearful I may be;  
All fear quickly passes  
When He whispers hope to me.

Oh what would I do without Him,  
My Savior and my Friend?  
He who knows my every weakness  
Will be with me to the end.

Why my footsteps sometimes falter,  
He will not let me fall.  
Always He is close beside me.  
He can hear my slightest call.

## 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. Even though some articles may in some cases be interpreted as controversial in nature, we believe that such articles if written in an affirmative manner in which a belief or an opinion is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief, said articles should be presented to the readers.

### WHEN I COME AGAIN SHALL I FIND FAITH IN THE EARTH?

by

Harvey E. Seibel

Today is the day of the doubting Thomas. We hear on every side the whisperings and pronouncements of Satan saying that God is dead, his work is a myth, that Jesus was a great teacher and not the God of the whole earth, that the Bible is a book of parables not to be taken literally and that all things can be explained through the natural processes of nature and evolution.

These are they that are blind, who love pleasure more than they love God, who, in order to save their own consciences, have invented substitutes for the truth of God, evolution instead of creation, reincarnation instead of resurrection, astrology instead of faith in God, etc. And as if this is not sufficient, they try to enlist others to their vile course, thinking to derive comfort in numbers not knowing that in the day of judgment they shall stand alone to answer for their sins.

I have heard it said by those who think they are knowledgeable that there is no evidence for God—no proof that he exists. They will tell you, "that is what the scientists today are telling us and they should know". They are blind followers of blind teachers. True science does not contradict true religion and God was the greatest scientist that ever lived. No scientific utterance or facts stated in the scriptures has ever been successfully shown to be an error. And we who are in the faith of Christ should use the same criterion for scientific utterances of today as we do for revelations coming through various individuals. If they conflict with the word of God as contained in the scriptures, then we must reject them whether they be reported revelations from God or unfounded conclusions of false scientists.

Everything about us bears witness to the Creator. The Bible says, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth his handiwork." (Psalms 19:1) The Book of Mormon says, "And if there is no God, we are not, neither the earth, for there could have been no creation of things, neither to act nor to be acted upon; wherefore, all things must have vanished away." (II Nephi 1:93) Do we believe these things? The very fact of our existence proves that God is. "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; . . ." (Acts 17:28)

The whole universe is slowly running down and cooling off. Eventually it will come to a complete standstill with all energy expended. The first question that comes to mind is, how did it get started in the first place? The only logical answer to this question is that it must have been set in motion by some power of infinite proportions or an inexhaustible source of power. Any finite

power would have run down of itself long ago in the eternity of time past. This power must of necessity be God. There is no other alternative. To say that the universe started itself, is to say it has intelligence of itself and unlimited power. But inanimate matter is not capable of such self direction as we well know. There is too much evidence of design and intelligence in back of the universe to say that insensible matter could have in any way brought order into being instead of chaos.

Law and order is the rule and not chaos. Consider next the marvel of the earth and the life upon it, and how it is the right distance from the sun to sustain life being neither too hot nor too cold. For further modification of the temperature extremes God placed an atmosphere about us and large bodies of water to temper the climes. How did it come to be that we have an atmosphere of life sustaining oxygen instead of some poisonous gas as on some planets? Evolutionists say this happened through the laws of chance. Again, neither plants nor animals can live without the other. Animals give off carbon dioxide which is in turn utilized by plants. Plants give off oxygen enabling the animals to live and so the cycle of life is completed. All nature then is in perfect balance and harmony. This is well demonstrated when man does something to upset the balance. Evolutionists say life chanced to form in the warm waters of the primeval sea of millions of years ago. That somehow a small bit of organic matter, a fragment of protoplasm was formed from certain chemical elements that were mixing around in the seas during the time of great electrical and volcanic activity. Life, by some mystery, entered into this bit of protoplasm and it became a living cell. One celled plants and animals are very complicated organisms. They consist of the cell wall, the cellular fluid in which all the life processes go on, a number of internal parts, each performing a separate function, and finally the nucleus which contains the inheritance factors as well as the command center of the cell. After this wonderful miracle was performed in the warm waters of the ocean, from whence came the life? It is astonishing how these people can escape the conclusion of a creator and master planner behind this amazing creation. Yet the Bible says that God created all animals including man and so where is there room left for evolution? Additionally, evidence for a creator can be cited from many little marvels as found in many plant and animals. For example, the seeds in a sunflower are arranged in a logarithmic spiral. What about instinct in birds, insects, and fish in being able to find their way across hundreds of thousands of miles of territory without getting lost. Then there are those organisms, plant and animal, that depend upon other organisms (though not of a parasitic nature) in order to complete their life cycles. And finally we might mention the art of camouflage of both land and sea animals

to hide them from danger. There are hundreds of examples like these we could mention, all of which bear testimony to the ingenuity of the Creator.

Evolution says man has been on the earth millions of years. The Scriptures say man has been on the earth nearly 6,000 years. Which do we believe? Or do we try to straddle the fence and accept both? What authority are we going to abide by, God's or man's? True science bears witness to the existence of God and does not at any time contradict his word. From Geology and its related field Paleontology, we find evidences for the flood in the overwhelming quantities of fossils and frozen animals of bygone ages which tell of a world wide destruction of life on an unprecedented scale. In addition, there are hundreds of strata all over the earth which have been laid down through the action of water on a magnitude beyond imagination. From Biology, we may add that the very complexities of life are such that any evolutionary process is ruled out. Plant life is impossible (and ultimately animal life) without chlorophyll. The process of photosynthesis is so complex that we can't help but attribute it to the design and intelligence of God. One factor which is basic to almost all life is the DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) molecule which is the command molecule of life and governs all processes of metabolism and inheritance. This is the molecule that fulfills the Genesis account of "after its kind." The DNA molecule makes an exact copy of itself and passes this copy on to the new offspring. It then issues the commands and instructions necessary for producing another adult after the manner of the parent before it. The DNA molecule cannot issue commands contrary to the program that was originally instilled within it by the Creator. Thus a dog can never become a cat, nor one species into another. And so the law of "After its Kind" is confirmed.

Archaeology and History have both given strong testimony to the existence of God and have amply proven the scriptures to be true. In the excavations of Babylon was found the record of the marvelous event of the sun moving backward 10 degrees on the sundial. This so disturbed the Babylonian king that he sent an emissary to Jerusalem to King Hezekiah to inquire of the matter. In this country excavations have given ample proof to God's hand in the affairs of men, vindicating his word as contained in the Book of Mormon. Egyptian and Hebrew cultures are unmistakably imprinted upon the many ruins found in Central and South America. Egyptians and Mayan hieroglyphs have been compared and found in many cases to be remarkably similar and even identical. Words used in both the Mayan and Polynesian languages as well as the Hebrew also show remarkable similarity. Some words not only have the same spelling and pronunciation, but also the same meaning.

And finally we should not overlook traditions. These are, many times, nothing less than distorted history altered through the ages in the retelling from generation to generation. We have world wide flood traditions, creation traditions, traditions of the end of the world by

fire, tower of Babel traditions and many others. In this country we have the added traditions of the appearance of a bearded white God who came to the inhabitants of this country many years ago.

These are just a few evidences for God and the truthfulness of his word. When people say there is no proof for God they speak without knowledge and know nothing of what they say.

In conclusion, two or three side notes might be worth mentioning. The founders of evolution, Darwin, Spencer and Huxley all rejected God prior to their acceptance of false theory. It was not a matter of first accepting evolution, then rejecting God and His word. The theory of evolution just filled the void that was left after they turned away from their Creator.

Another point that should be mentioned at this time is that Geologists date or compute the ages of rock strata from the age of fossils found in the strata being dated. Yet Paleontologists turn right around and date fossils from the age of the strata in which they are found. What an illogical merry-go-round this is. Neither one then really knows how old either the rocks or the fossils are.

And finally the argument that the flood was only a local affair can be answered quite simply. Why take animals aboard since not all animal life would have been destroyed? More important why build an ark in the first place? Noah had 120 years—plenty of time in which to remove to safer climes. Only a world wide deluge would justify the building of such an immense ark, one which was meant to house seed of all animals which we see about us today.

Let us no longer be deceived by the vain babblings of false scientists. We should never put the science of men above the word of God but in conjunction with God's word insofar as it agrees with it. We of the Church have a tremendous responsibility in teaching our children these truths in our homes and to counteract the teachings of a false science that is so blandly taught as fact in the school room.

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## A FATHER'S PRAYER

by  
Remelda Nielsen Gibson

Bless me with wisdom to recognize truth;  
Bless me with knowledge to benefit youth.  
Bless me with courage to uphold the right;  
Bless me with forethought to treasure Thy light.

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## UNENDING PATH

by  
Ellen Martin

God has a path for each of us—  
A road that shines with glory.  
And we may walk that path unending,  
Where death doesn't end the story.

## O JERUSALEM

by

Howard Leighton-Floyd

### The Times of the Gentiles Fulfilled

It has been said, prophecy is history foretold and history is prophecy fulfilled. Many of the holy prophets have prophesied events concerning Israel, and Judah, and Jerusalem.

The greatest prophet of all, Jesus Christ, the Holy One of Israel has also spoken. On one occasion the people were admiring the beauty of the temple, it is recorded in Luke 21:5, "And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, (Jesus said) As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." This prophecy was literally fulfilled when the Roman legions under Titus in 70A.D. laid siege on Jerusalem. The city was taken, the temple destroyed and the ground literally plowed to recover the gold, "goodly stones," etc. The Jews hardened their hearts against their Messiah, Savior and King and the prophetic words of Christ were fulfilled.

"And when ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh."

"Then let them which are in Judea flee into the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto."

"For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

"But woe unto them that are with child, and that give suck, in those days; for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people."

"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and **Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**" (Luke 21:20-24)

The Apostle Paul in writing to the Romans tried to explain to them just how long Israel was going to be blind. He summed the matter up thus, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.**"

"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, **There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer**, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

"For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." (Romans 11:25-27) We still have to look to the near future for the fulfillment of the words spoken in these last two verses but their fulfillment is as sure as the deliverance of Jerusalem has been.

June 7, 1967

A momentous event transpired on that day. The beloved Holy City, the old city of Jerusalem within the walls was liberated from the armies of Jordan and went

under the control of Israel. We all read and heard of these events, millions felt it must be important, yet the vast majority of humanity seemed to give little heed to the dramatic fulfillment of the prophetic words of Jesus. Oh, how I wish all could understand and rejoice with the faithful. The prophetic words of Jesus Christ have come to pass, after 19 centuries. I feel sure most of the people of the great restoration movement will rejoice.

The events in the history of the followers of Jesus Christ is a history filled with tears and sorrow, yet for the elect ever bright in their knowledge of the promises of the God of Israel. Now at last in our day a milestone has been reached, a new and different phase of the latter day dispensation has been entered. Think upon this thought, Jesus in his His great foreknowledge gave his followers and the world a sign. It was a sign given so all would understand the day in which the times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled. Some may ask what is the times of the Gentiles? The times of the Gentiles started with the rejection of Jesus Christ by His own people "the Jews". If you will, it started with the conversion of Cornelius the first Gentile convert. When the Jews rejected the gospel it was taken in its purity to the Gentiles, chief of whom was Rome. Down through all the past nineteen centuries Gentiles who would not harden their hearts have been touched by the power of the Holy Ghost and like Cornelius of old they have been saved by the grace of God and obedience to His gospel.

Read the eleventh chapter of Romans; Paul therein explains all about this very thing. "I say then, have they (the Jews) stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their (the Jews) full salvation might come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them (the Jews) to jealousy." (Romans 11:11)

As you read the eleventh chapter of Romans you will detect at times a strong admonition to the Gentiles. "For if God spared not the natural branches (Israel) take heed lest He also spare not thee." (the Gentiles) "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye (Gentiles) should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.** (Romans 11:21, 25) Not all Israel was to be blinded, "blindness in part" we thank God that the blindness was only going to last until a certain time, "UNTIL" the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

In speaking of the times of the Gentiles, the Book of Mormon records it thus, "And the angel of the Lord said unto me, Thou hast beheld that the book (Bible) proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceedeth forth from the mouth of a Jew it (the Bible) contained the plainness of the Gospel of the Lord, of whom the twelve Apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God: Wherefore, these things **go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles**, according to the truth which is in God: And after they go forth by the hand of the



twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, (from Jerusalem to Rome) thou seest the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches." WHY? "For behold, they (the abominable church) have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; And also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away." (I Nephi 3:165-169)

In speaking about conditions among the Gentiles during the times of the Gentiles the Book of Mormon has this to say, "And the Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, **that they have built up many churches.** Nevertheless they put down the power of miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves, their own wisdom, and their own learning, that they may get gain, and grind upon the face of the poor; and there are many churches built up which cause envyings, and strifes, and malice." (II Nephi 11:90-92)

The history of the many churches of our time fulfill these prophetic words, it has been so during the times of the Gentiles, even unto this day. The Book of Mormon goes on to say, "But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land, and those who shall come upon other lands; yea, even upon all the lands of the earth; behold, they will be drunken with iniquity, and all manner of abominations;" (II Nephi 11:116) Here we are given a vivid description of our days, many churches, both Gentile and Jews drunken with iniquity. But when the Gentile times ends, then what? The Book of Mormon says, "And when **that day shall come**, they (the Gentile nations) shall be visited of the Lord of hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with great noise, and with storm and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire." (II Nephi 11:117)

In another place the Record speaks to the Gentiles thus, "and it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them (the Gentiles) **at that day**; and except they repent, it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, **yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles.** And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O House of Israel." (III Nephi 9:56, 57) When the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled God states He is going to establish His people of the House of Israel. This does not apply only to the Jews but it applies equally to the seed of Joseph of whom the Indians of the Americas are a part of Joseph's descendants. We now expect to soon see the days when God will touch them by a greater portion of the Holy Spirit and He will lead them into all truth.

Speaking of the Lamanites, the Indians of the Americas, their prophets are recorded as speaking thus of them in this dispensation of time. "And **at that day** shall the remnant of our seed (the Indians) know that they are of the House of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord;

"And then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of

the gospel of their Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by him;

"Wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer, and **the very points of His doctrine**, that they may know how to come unto Him and be saved.

"And then at that day, will they not rejoice and give praise unto their everlasting God, their rock and their salvation?

"Yea, **at that day**, will they not receive the strength and nourishment from the true vine?

"Yea, will they not **come unto the true fold of God?**

"Behold, I say unto you, Yea; they shall be remembered again among the House of Israel;" (I Nephi 4:17-23)

On the night of September 21, 1823 an angel visited a young man by the name of Joseph Smith and among other things Joseph said, "He also quoted the second chapter of Joel from the twenty-eighth to the last verse. He also said this was not fulfilled but was soon to be. He also stated **the fullness of the Gentiles was soon to come in.**" A few years later in March of 1831 God again spoke to latter day Israel about Jerusalem and also about the condition of the world when the times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled, or come in. Please consider these words for they are being fulfilled now, in our day.

"And this I have told you concerning Jerusalem, and when that day shall come, shall a remnant be scattered among all nations, but they shall be gathered again; but they shall remain until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

"And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth.

"And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound; and when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fullness of my gospel; but they receive it not, for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men; and in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

"And there shall be men standing in that generation, that shall not pass, until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land." We are witnessing the times of the Gentiles come in now, therefore, we cry unto the people of this nation to repent and obey the fullness of the gospel; and let us each one put on the full armor of the gospel of Christ, and become a prepared people, and rededicated servants of the Master. There is a little more of this revelation I want to bring to your attention in closing, it would give the true disciple of Christ considerable hope in these trying days.

"But my disciples shall **stand in holy places**, and **shall not be moved**; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die.

"And there shall be earthquakes, also, in diverse places, and many desolations, yet men will harden their

hearts against me; and they take up the sword one against another, and they will kill one another.

"And now, when I the Lord had spoken these words unto my disciples, they were troubled; and I said unto them **be not troubled**, for when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that **the promises which have been made unto you, shall be fulfilled.**" (B. of C. 48:25-31 pages 84 and 85)

Let the saints of God and the covenant people take renewed courage, and close ranks. Here is just one promise, "There shall come of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." (Romans 11:26)

"And there shall rise up one mighty among them, who shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith, To work mighty wonders, and do that thing that is great in the sight of God, (what is the great thing that servant of God is to do?) **unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren.**" (II Nephi 2:46, 47)

These last words of promise were spoken long ago unto Joseph the son of Lehi who was a descendant of Joseph of Egypt, and whereas it is recorded that this instrument in the hands of God will bring to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, the promise is not only to the Lamanites but in speaking of the Deliverer that is to come out of Zion the Bible declares, "And so all Israel shall be saved." (Romans 11:26) And this promise too is on condition of repentance and obedience to the fullness of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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## FROM HERE — TO ETERNITY

by

Priest Floyd L. Radar, Jr.

The Bible is filled with stories that could be applied to men and women in this dispensation of time to bring out that more abundant life that Jesus Christ spoke of so often. But here the problem of interpretation confronts us and we bog down trying to determine just how the events of biblical times might be adapted to conform with our mode of living. Thus, I've selected a portion of the life of Abraham for us to look it. No doubt some of you have already looked at this event in the same manner I am bringing it to you, while others may disagree with me. Whatever category you fall into, I feel it is a healthy condition. Those who think along the same lines that I am presenting, might look upon this as an added testimony; and those who disagree are at least availing their minds to a comparison of ideas and thus permitting the Spirit of God to function within them.

Because sin and iniquity had become so dominant in the hearts of the inhabitants of earth, God sent a great flood that sin might be washed away. All were destroyed except Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives and two of each kind of fowl and beast that dwelt upon the earth. You all know the story of the flood.

But in the ninth generation after the flood, there was a man named Terah. He was the father of **Abraham**, whom God looked upon with favor. This is recorded in the 12th chapter of Genesis, verses 1 and 2. (YOU read the Scripture)

In choosing Abraham to make him a great nation, the Lord selected a man whose lineal heritage descended from Adam through the line of Shem. At last the time had come to raise up a great people to occupy a central place among the nations—to be custodians of the divine word and to be the teachers of true religion in a darkened world. God made many great and wonderful promises to Abraham. One of these was, ". . . in these shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Genesis 12:3) Such blessings could only come through Christ, who came of Abraham's lineage.

In order to work out his purposes with Abraham and his people, God led him and the souls he had got in Haran, to the land of Canaan, a land rich with promise and opportunity. Now let us look at the manner that this came about. The Lord said unto Abraham, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." (Genesis 12:1) For emphasis and clarity, let's say this same scripture in our modern tongue. God told Abraham, "Leave your home and country behind you—leave your friends and relatives behind you—yes, go and leave the old man behind." Well, what was wrong with the country in which Abraham lived? What was wrong with his friends and relatives? What was wrong with the old man? Why leave all these behind? Was it just to see if Abraham would obey the will of God? Or, was there another reason? The answer can be found in the 24th chapter of Joshua, Verses 1-2. (YOU read the Scripture).

Here we find that Terah and others, after the flood worshipped other Gods. Remember that God sent the flood to wash away the sin and evil that had corrupted the earth. Remember too, that Satan never let up—that he continued to tempt and entice man and soon after the great deluge, sin was again flourishing in the hearts of men. Thus, when the Lord said to leave the "old man" behind, He saw the need for a change in environment. In so setting apart Abraham and his people, He was not recognizing them as favorites of heaven, but was providing the means whereby they might become a medium of blessing to all men.

When a farmer has a bushel of apples, some good and some bad, he has two choices. He can remove the good apples from the basket and set them apart; or, he can discard the spoiled apples. His choice depends largely upon which would be the quickest, the easiest and the most profitable as far as saving apples. If the basket has mostly rotten apples in it, he no doubt would choose to pick out the good ones, but if there are only a few bad ones in the basket, he no doubt would choose to throw out the bad ones.

Of all the stories I have read and heard of the experiences in the life of Jesus Christ there is only one



that strikes me as presenting the Son of God in anger. He is usually shown as a man who had compassion for the sinner; who shouldered the burden of the troubled; who blessed the unfortunate. He is known as the "Man of sorrows," the Prince of Peace. But the 2nd chapter of St. John, vs. 13-16 present a somewhat different picture. (YOU read the Scripture).

Jesus did NOT go to these people in meekness and humility and say, "Aw, come on now fellows. Please take your business outside the temple." No! The Bible says He made a scourge of small cords (a whip) and He LASHED OUT at them and SCATTERED the changer's coins and OVERTHREW the tables, and DROVE THEM FROM THE TEMPLE. This is the one instance in the life of Christ wherein I find the Prince of Peace taking the offensive and using force to drive home His ideas. As He hung on the cross, He looked toward the heavens and cried out, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." These people had caused Him much physical pain and agony. Those in the temple, the merchants and money changers, had not hurt Him physically. No doubt He had never seen them before. In this, I feel that Jesus saw the need of changing the environment that God might have the proper setting to spiritually bless those who seek Him in the Holy places.

One Sunday afternoon I was driving along the highway listening to the radio in my car. I don't recall what program I had tuned in nor the name of the speaker, but he was a minister of the Christian faith. In his sermon he quoted statistics (and the sources from which he had obtained his material) which left no lasting impression on my mind; but one thing stayed with me. He said that 78% of all radio and TV broadcasting time in the United States is sponsored by the tobacco industry and distilleries. This can only mean one thing: these two industries control 78% of all the home entertainment that comes to you through these two mediums. And who will deny that these are the largest sources of home entertainment that we have?

Not long ago, an era unfolded on the American public that held the keys to one of the most diabolical plots to control man's mind that we have yet had to face in the history of mankind. It was a fairly new "gimmick"—but a tried and tested formula called, "The Hidden Sell." It was loosed upon the public in theaters across the country. Some promoters consider it a possibility for our TV sets. It operates quite simply but we have little armor to protect ourselves from its influence, for it attacks the sub-conscious mind. This is how it works. In the movies, a command or suggestion is flashed upon the screen for just a fraction of a second. Just one frame out of a series on film offers this suggestion to us. Because it is so swift the eye does not record it in the course of the plot of the movie, but the vulnerable sub-conscious picks it up instantly and starts relaying that message to the brain. For instance, the suggestion: "I'm thirsty" flashes on the screen. The eye doesn't see it, but the brain picks it up sub-consciously. The message is repeated several times

in the course of the program. The result is, a large percentage of the viewing audience gets up and goes to the lobby for a drink of water or a coke from the coke machine. The command, "Eat popcorn" is another instance of proof by trial. After several flashes at different intervals, again, unseen by the eye, the increased percentage of popcorn sales proved the tremendous power of "The Hidden Sell."

Can you imagine the potential power this device holds and what could be accomplished if used by controlling advertisers on television?

Look at the advertisements that appear in the newspapers and magazines in YOUR home. Study the methods that are used to attract the individual. Never was a pack of cigarettes sold by telling a consumer that this particular brand of cigarettes had been laboratory-tested and proven to cause less lung cancer than its competitive brand.

No distillery ever sold a bottle of beer by stating that Joe Doaks had been drinking "El Drunko Supreme" just before he climbed into his auto and ran over a child on a bicycle! The true picture of the results of using these products would not be good sales publicity. Therefore, the smart advertiser comes up with detracting scenes and slogans. Bathing beauties gracefully poised with a cigarette in one hand and a beer bottle in the other, singing catchy little ditties like, "Wherever a man is found you'll find El Drunko Supreme," and "This cigarette tastes good like a cigarette should."

Quite some time ago when the Saturday Evening Post changed a long-standing policy of not accepting liquor advertisements, the directors of the magazine were approached by religious organizations requesting that they reconsider their action. The controlling powers of the Post issued the statement that, "times have changed" and liquor should be accepted as a part of our mode of living.

I'm not saying you'll never get to heaven if you smoke a cigarette or take an occasional drink. There are worse vices. I don't advocate that you throw away your TV set because most programs are sponsored by the distilleries and tobacco industry. Satan is well aware of the fact that he can't reach you by giving you a clear analysis of the fruits of laboring for him, and so, he, like the smart advertiser—comes up with some detracting scenes.

Many of the programs we enjoy on TV have no evil connected with them other than the fact that they promote the popularity of the tools of Satan. I once heard Apostle Oakman of the RLDS Church state that he enjoys watching "Gunsmoke." So do I and I'm sure many of you do too. Yet as I sit and write to you today, I'm even more conscious of my need for a change in environment if I'm to enjoy that more abundant life that Christ spoke of. I, like many of you, need to get away and leave the "old man" behind. I too, need to wage war on the money-changers.

The success of a conflict depends largely upon the ground upon which it is fought. If the devil can cause the Christian to look the other way, he has the upper hand. But let that same Christian refuse to meet the tempter apart from his relationship with God and the devil will be a defeated foe. The Father is watching over His children with an eye that never sleeps. But the individual must exercise a positive faith before the victory can be won. While it is true that we belong to God, it is also necessary that we assert this fact in the face of the enemy. Faith does NOT mean to sit back and believe in a passive way.

Quite often we refuse to expose our beliefs in the presence of friends for fear of offending them. Perhaps we might lose a friend, and so we sit quietly back and ignore an opportunity we have to tell others of our faith, our beliefs, and our doctrine. We must recognize our responsibility to maintain a Christian environment, both for ourselves and those we come in contact with.

Our homes don't have enough Christian environment. What we need is a little less TV and a little more Bible reading in family groups. So you think TV has much more to offer? Well, what do you look for in your programs? Excitement? Wars? Romance? Travel? Stories of faith, life, happiness? The Bible has all of these and surely this type of experience would bring the family closer together. If we ever needed to bring the family closer together, it is now. Some of the most prominent families in our society can trace their ancestry back 800 years, but couldn't tell you where their children were last night.

We should understand that while the Church and the Kingdom have some areas in common, they are not entirely synonymous. From a national viewpoint, all the army of Ancient Israel belonged to God the day Goliath challenged them, but there was only one who had the assurance in his soul that God would be with him. David dared to assert his position as a child of the Lord and went out against the giant in the name of the God of Israel. The church needs more Davids who know where they stand in relation to God and who will dare to count upon that standing when the enemy draws near. Do NOT flinch before the foe. God has not called us to be slaves. Take your rightful place as a redeemed son of God. Thank Him for the assurance He has placed in your heart and you will cry out with the Psalmist of old: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)

There's an old saying, "Faint heart ne'er won fair lady," and it is certainly true that we never influence people for Christ unless we know whereon we stand ourselves. There are too many uncertainties in the world today. But, men follow leaders. It has always been so. A few with a commanding personality and a conviction that they are right have gone ahead and the rest of the world has followed. How often a few words from a leader who was sure of himself, have served to rally the faint-hearted and inspire them on to great

achievements. The Church today needs the rallying call of men and women who are sold on God, who know whereon they stand and who are not afraid to go ahead for God.

A great challenge lies before us: a two-fold challenge. The first is a world that is waiting for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Millions still have never heard of the "restoration" and so, evangelizing the world is yet before us.

The second is the challenge of eternity. I'm assured that the heavenly reward is greater, far richer and more vast than anything our minds or spirits have dared to imagine, making it worth everything to go on with God. These two challenges are bigger than anything else the world has ever faced. What are we going to do about them?

My thoughts today are not designed to give the answers, but they do present the starting point. They should stimulate our thinking—the initial step toward the fulfillment and realization of all that is involved in these two great visions—these which encompass both time and eternity. Within your choice lies your destiny and the beginning of eternity.

## "COUNTING THE COST"

by  
Nellie Walberg

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying 'this man began to build, and was not able to finish.'" (Luke 14:28-30)

In this parable Christ sets forth the idea that each of us who may desire to be a true follower of His, should do some sober thinking as we lay the foundation of our spiritual tower; that in the beginning, we each need to examine the materials and the means with which we are going to build, that we might be able to finish the structure. He brings in the thought that if we succeeded in completing the foundation only that observers would mock and question the wisdom of each of the builders; and may I add—they might question the validity of the blue-print and even the author of the plan.

In Ephesians 2:20 we are told that we are fellow citizens with the Saints and of the Household of God, after we have laid the foundation of Apostles and Prophets, and after we have acknowledged Christ as the Chief Cornerstone. In the 21st and 22nd verses we read "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Here again we have the idea that the household of God or Church of Christ is to be "builded" and "fitly framed". The purpose of this spiritual structure is that it might serve as a "habitation of God through the spirit," or as Jeremiah puts it, "I have set thee for a

tower and a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their ways." (Jeremiah 6:27) A tower of strength, of faith and hope.

In Hebrews, Chapter 6 and the first verse we are counselled to not remain content with just laying the foundation or basic principles of the doctrine of Christ, but to go on "unto perfection" to a higher realm of obedience. It is into this area of Spiritual heights that the Lord is calling the people of His Church today. It is above the righteousness of the law, above the level of the commonly accepted terms of Christianity today. Christ set forth the standard for this type of higher spirituality in His "Sermon on the Mount" in Jerusalem. He repeated these same teachings with little variation to the disciples among the Nephite Nation. These teachings go far beyond the initiatory stage of the gospel and are for those who are willing to "count the cost" and develop within themselves with God's help, the Spiritual resources to finish the tower; to erect the Spiritual fellowship of believers to be known in the last days as the "Church of the Lamb of God."

Consider the following verses from the Sermon on the Mount:

"For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:20)

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you; that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven . . . For if you love them which love you, what reward have you? do not even the publicans do the same?" And the next verse should arouse in us some serious thinking; "And if you salute your brethren only, what do you more than the others? do not even the publicans so?" (Matthew 5:44, 46, 47) Here Jesus sets forth two levels of Spiritual development; one level which is found all around us today, comfortable Christian status; the other a level of development which requires self-sacrifice and a going of the "second mile". One is the wide gate and the broad way; the other is the straight gate and the narrow way and Christ goes on to say that "few will find it". We find in the 7th Chapter of Matthew that these sayings were "doctrine" and that who-so-ever heareth them and doeth them would be likened unto a wise man who built his house upon a rock. This spiritual house or tower is to be built upon the proper foundation of Apostles and Prophets with Jesus Christ and His teachings as the Cornerstone of the structure.

What did Jesus mean by "counting the cost"? I submit the following in this regard:

1. A willingness to be obedient to that degree of light that has been given us, regardless of the opinions of others, whether they be our own loved ones or our enemies. Jesus counselled that "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy

of me." (Matthew 10:37) Then he promised in Mark 10:29-30. "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospels, but he shall receive an hundred-fold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

2. A total committment of ourselves; our time, talents and finances of that which is not needed above our average living requirements. Here we need the deepest of Christian discernment to determine in the light of the needs of the Church, just what is really needed and what is in the realm of luxuries, non-essentials, foolishness, and time consuming frivolities. This kind of committment may cancel that coveted color T.V. we saw in the window. It may cause us to pass up that 30 year mortgage for our "dream home" and settle for one which might not put us into material bondage. But remember Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." (Matthew 6:19, 20) In other words, obedience and spiritual resources. Here again Jesus sets forth a choice between two alternatives and he went on to say that no man can serve two masters. Either we serve self and our own selfish interests or we serve God and His interest, and we know that in the final analysis God's interests are for our own happiness and well-being. Christ said, to seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these other necessary things that we actually need would be provided. In obeying this principle we will find, too, that there is an increasing lack of desire for those things we do not need. A famous writer once stated, "I am rich according to the fewness of my wants." When asked what, in his opinion, constituted happiness, Thereau answered "simplify, simplify". Perhaps our lives become too cluttered with things; too busy with mere busyness and too noisy to hear the voice of God.

3. We need to become aware of the conditions of the world, of this Nation and of our Church. A critic of Modern Spiritual legarthy voiced it this way: "Some people abroad the ship don't care that the ship is sinking. Some keep on playing bridge and sipping martini's in the lounge. Some are boarding life boats, hoping to shake up those in the lounge who don't know that anything is wrong; and then there are those who want to stay on the ship and try and patch up the holes." "Counting the Cost" involves being fully aware of problems before us and honestly seek solutions as we build our tower.

4. Then there is the cost of developing fruits of the Spirit in our human relationship with one another. In Galatians 5:14-15 we are counselled:

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." The world is watching and listening. We can learn the ability to empathize, to understand, to agree or disagree pleasantly. We can

hold our own views without trying to force another to hold the same. We can develop the spirit of unity in the bonds of peace. In building our tower in unity we must first possess the "spirit of unity". If we are patient and charitable, God can call us gently into the higher realm of light and truth; but He cannot and will not lead us if we are not humble and full of love. In the tower of love there is freedom, because the ones within that tower will not use their freedom to destroy the freedom of others. Some day the Scripture found in Isaiah 52:8 will be fulfilled: "Thy watchman shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion." This is the promise to those who are patient and count the cost, proceeding to build the tower with the tools of holiness.

5. Another "Cost" of building the tower, the spiritual Church of Christ—is that we are required to "publish peace".

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth." (Isaiah 52:7) With a message such as this within its pages, think how effective a missionary tool our Zion's Advocate could be! May it always bring good tidings, publish peace, bring good, and publish salvation. May each of us do the same. It is possible to win an argument and lose a friend. It is likewise possible for a people to press for a point of view at the cost of unity and later awaken to the loneliness of their victory. Let us "Count the Cost" and publish peace. The tower of the Church of Christ can be builded into the area of truth and love until others will say "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." (Isaiah 2:3) We will then have proven we were "able to finish", that we loved God enough to be obedient of our own free will, that we not only built a foundation but that we had sufficient to finish the tower.

To summarize then: the cost of fulfilling our destiny as a people means nothing less than total commitment to the task of building a tower: a people cleansed and redeemed, a "habitation of God through the Spirit."

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it." (Luke 14:28)

May God help each of us to count the cost and submit to the spiritual disciplines necessary in our individual lives so that we indeed may help build a tower of righteousness. From this tower shall flow the love of God transcending all earth-binding inclinations. To this tower shall come our Redeemer. These are the possibilities for our day. God doesn't change, but we can. We can count the cost, we can arise in the strength of the Lord, and say like the people of Nehemiah's day, "Let us arise and build".

## BIBLE SCRIPTURE THAT PROVES THE RESTORATION

by

Elder Paul Johnson

"For the Lord shall rise up . . . that He may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act." (Isaiah 28:21) In the sight of man in the years around 1830, was not the restoring of the True Church of Christ, back to earth a strange work, and a strange act? But let us not talk about things of the past. Those in 1830 are gone, and there are many who live today who think this work is strange, foolish, yes, and even unscriptural. For these people I will endeavor to point out through the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible (King James) certain things pertaining to the Restoration.

ISAIAH 29:4, . . . "And thou shall be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust." Here is something that is to speak to us from the ground. Truly the Book of Mormon is a history of a people who have gone back to the dust, and yet their words still speak to us through the Book of Mormon. Did not the Book of Mormon plates come from the earth? I would imagine that those in the 1830's experienced the same thing that many are experiencing today. And that is the lessons and the teachings found in the Book of Mormon do have a familiar spirit about them. Those who are familiar with the Bible and the ways of the Almighty can recognize the same way of doing things, the Celestial order of the teachings and the principles, and the universal, pure, just way of dealing with man. These things cause one to notice a familiar spirit about the book. Familiar? More than that! A fulfillment of Biblical Scripture.

ISAIAH 29:11, 12 . . . "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee; and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee; and he saith, I am not learned."

A sealed book is to come forth. The Book of Mormon fulfills this prophesy in that it was a sealed book, insomuch that it was impossible to read until the Lord provided the means of interpretation through the Urim and Thummim, (Exodus 28:30, Leviticus 8:8, Deuteronomy 33:8, Ezra 2:63, Nehemiah 7:65) Most everyone will exclaim that Joseph Smith was an unlearned man, yet through the "gift and power of God" he was able to do this world. RLDS Church History, vol. 1, pg. 19 tells of the situation of the learned man, (Professor Anthon) who in his very own words fulfilled verse 11 of Isaiah, chapter 29.

ISAIAH 29:17, . . . "Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?"

The time of bringing forth the "Book" described in verses 10-14 is to be just before the restoration of Israel and making Lebanon a "fruitful field." "Is it not a very little while?" asks Isaiah from the coming forth of the book—"and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and esteemed as a forest?" It was "a little while".

The Book of Mormon was published in 1830 and Israel became a nation, restored to sovereignty in 1948.

ISAIAH 29:18, . . . And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness."

Truly the blind (to truth) and the deaf (to truth) shall see and hear, and rejoice, if they believe in the restoration. But on the other hand let us not forget what it says in II Nephi 6:65-66 about those who willfully will not hear nor see the truth.

PSALMS 85:10-13, . . . "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the Lord shall give which is good; and our land shall yield her increase. Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps."

In the mouth of another witness, the words of Isaiah are backed up. David the Psalmist, prophesies, "Truth shall spring out of the earth and righteousness shall look down from heaven." Think back on the experience of Joseph Smith, when he went to Hill Cummorah and took the plates out of the earth!

EZEKIEL 37:15-21, . . . "The word of the Lord came again unto me saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take the one stick, and write upon it, for Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: and join them one to another into one stick and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land."

The history of Judah (the Bible) and the history of Joseph (the Book of Mormon) are the two sticks or scrolls that is spoken of prophetically here. They are to be written separately and then later on, they are to be joined and their teaching will be as if there was just one writing because they will teach the same things about God's dealings with man, they will both teach that Jesus is the Christ, and that He died and rose from the

grave, and that He is not partial to one group of people, but that He brings salvation to all His creation.

IF YOU KNOW OF MORE BIBLE SCRIPTURE THAT PROVES THE RESTORATION PLEASE SEND THEM TO: PAUL JOHNSON, BOX 35, MOORHEAD, IOWA 51558.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR . . .

## BOOK OF MORMON STORIES

by

Ora Derry

### 4. Many Prophets Are Sent To Warn Them

Many people died during the great famine. Among them were King Heth and all his household except Shez, who began to build up the kingdom again. Now Shez was a good man and he remembered how the Lord had brought his forefathers across the sea to this promised land and how, since coming here, he had blessed them when they kept his commandments. He also knew how through disobedience, God had brought great destruction upon all the people, so he tried to build up a righteous people.

During King Shez's reign, the people grew and prospered and covered the face of the whole land, building many great cities throughout the land. When he was an old man, King Shez was given a son whose name was Riplakish. Riplakish became ruler after the death of his father.

Now Riplakish was not a good man; he had many wives and concubines and he put heavy taxes upon the people to get money to build a beautiful throne for himself and to build large and spacious buildings throughout the land. He built many prisons where he cast the people if they refused to pay the taxes he placed upon them or if they could not pay them. While they were in prison, they had to work for their support, doing much of the fine workmanship of gold and silver and fine woodwork that was used in the beautiful buildings. For forty-two years the people bore the afflictions of their King and then they rebelled against him, killing him and driving out his descendants from the land.

Many years later, Morianton, a descendant of Riplakish, gathered a group of outcasts together and after many years of war, he gained control of the whole land and at once eased the burdens that had been placed upon the people. This act pleased the people very much and they anointed him their king. Now Morianton made them a good and just king, but he was a wicked man because of his many whoredoms, and in that thing he did not please the Lord. During his reign many great cities were built; the people became very wealthy having much gold and silver, great stores of grain, many flocks and herds. When King Morianton was very old, Kim was born and he reigned in his father's place. He was not a good king and one of his brothers rebelled against him taking him captive where he remained all the rest of his life. Levi, Kim's son, lived in captivity for forty-two years, then went against the king and won the kingdom for himself. After he gained the kingdom, he

did that which was right in the sight of the Lord and the people prospered. After Levi lived a long life, his son Coram was anointed king in his place. He, too, was a good king as was his son, Kish, and also Kish's son, Lib.

Now it was during the reign of King Lib that the poisonous serpents were killed that had hedged up the way so the people, during the great famine, could not go down into the southland to hunt for food. They built a great city by the narrow neck of land, and reserved the land southward for a place to hunt game.

The people were industrious people, buying and selling with one another, doing all manner of fine work, making silk and fine linen and all kinds of cloth. They worked in all kinds of metal, gold, silver, iron, brass and copper. They made all kinds of tools to till the earth with which to plow, to sow, to hoe, to reap and to thresh. They also made tools to use when they worked the animals. They made weapons of war and all kinds of things of exceeding curious workmanship. They were a people that was blessed and prospered by the Lord, and they were living upon a choice land, the best land in all the world.

Lib's son, Hearthom, reigned over the people for twenty-four years when the kingdom was taken away from him and he served in captivity all the rest of his life. Also his son, Heth, and Heth's son Aaron, and Aaron's son Amnigaddah, and also Amnigaddah's son, Coriantum, all served in captivity all of their days. But Coriantum's son, Com, drew away half of the kingdom over which he ruled for forty-two years then he went to battle against King Amgid and won control over the rest of the kingdom.

A great deal of time was spent in fighting the robbers who infested the whole land, who by adopting the old secret orders of the ancient people, sought to overthrow the kingdom. Prophets came again into the land telling of the great destruction that was coming upon the people if they continued in their sinful ways. But the prophets were rejected by the people and they fled to King Com for protection and the Lord blessed the King because he tried to keep his commandments.

After Com's death, His son, Shiblom, became the king and one of his brothers rebelled against him and this started another great war throughout all the land. Shiblom's brother had all the prophets, who had prophesied of destruction coming upon the people, to be put to death. For they had prophesied that greater destruction than they had ever had before was coming upon them, so great would be that destruction that their bones would become as great heaps of earth upon the face of the land. But they would not listen and went on in their wicked ways. So wars and contention increased throughout all the land. They had pestilence and many famines in the land as the prophets had told them that greater destruction than they had ever seen before was coming to pass.

Shiblom was killed and Seth was taken into captivity for the rest of his life. His son Ahah obtained the kingdom and ruled over it all his days, which were few

but wicked and bloody. Ethem, a descendant of Ahah obtained the throne and all his ways were wicked ways. It was during his reign that prophets came again into the land warning the people of the utter destruction that was coming if they did not listen and repent, but they hardened their hearts and would not listen.

At the death of Ethem, Moron became king and he too was a wicked man. A rebellion arose in the land because of the secret combinations which were used to get power. And then a mighty man full of iniquity, arose and came against King Moron in battle and won the half of the kingdom away from him which he ruled for many years, until Moron went against him in battle and won his kingdom back again. But only for a few years when another mighty man, a descendant of Jared, won the kingdom away from Moron. He passed the remainder of his days in captivity, as did his son Coriantor.

Coriantor's son, Ether, was born in captivity. He was the last great prophet of the Jaredites. He was the man who wrote of the closing scenes of this great people who lived upon the promised land. The people were warned and rewarned and warned again to repent or they would be destroyed and another people would be given this choice land, but they would not listen.

Are we like them today? Are we heeding the same warnings? We too live on this choice land and that same promise is made to us today, that was made thousands of years ago to the Jaredites: You must serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ or you will be destroyed.

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## LETTER TO BUSINESS MANAGER

C. LeRoy Wheaton  
Box 472  
Independence, Missouri 64051  
Dear Beloved Ones:  
Greetings:

I take this time to write to you. I am feeling much better now as I have received much strength. Before I was confined to bed, I trembled most of the time. I took my nourishment through a straw. I am now on a regular diet and strong enough to use the typewriter. I am doing much reading and writing and I have remembered my Covenant I made over sixty years ago at the little Church on the Temple Lot. I know that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the same now as it was in the beginning.

God is a God of truth and does not lie, and He can not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; we must keep all of His commandments.

God is no respecter of persons. He said other sheep He had which were not of this fold; He was going to them, that where He was they may be also.

I will now bring this to a close.

Your Brother in Christ,

Elmer P. Hunter



## MICHIGAN STATE REUNION

The Michigan State Reunion of 1967 opened the morning of June 17th with about twenty present, to take part in this opening prayer service at ten o'clock. Elder Max Lee and Elder Arthur Smith were in charge. Before the prayer and testimony service was over, six or seven more had arrived to swell the number to twenty-seven. We enjoyed a good spirit throughout and while we wished that more were here, we realized that some had to work and others were on the road.

The pot-luck dinner at twelve saw more here and as usual there was plenty to eat and it afforded a time for greetings and social exchanges so enjoyable at all our Reunions.

At one-thirty with the tables cleared away and all satisfied with food for the body, we entered the first preaching service. With Elder Max Lee assisting, Elder George Brantner selected a text from the Gospel of John and fed our hearts and souls with a good sound sermon. Our people have known him for many years to be capable and earnest in his endeavor to speak the Word of God, and he did not disappoint us. His message was timely and good food for us.

At two-thirty our missionary, Apostle William A. Sheldon led us in an hour of singing our favorite hymns. Of course he had plenty of help from young and old in picking out the songs. Singing is a very important part of our worship services, and we need to cultivate this among our people. An informal discussion came up about the availability of suitable hymn books as many of our groups are finding their song books wearing out. We hope that interest in this problem has been stirred up enough so that an answer to our needs will be found. Elder Harold Pollack agreed to be an unofficial one man committee to find out if something can be started by the General Church toward a hymn book for our use.

Our annual business meeting was held at three-thirty with the Committee in charge. Reports were read and approved and a new committeeman was named for next year. Our problem of a place to hold our Reunions was again discussed and the committee was again directed to continue the search for property to be purchased that would be adequate to our needs.

By four o'clock we were ready to break for the evening meal that was assembled from the bounties of good things that had been provided by our members.

It had been a pleasant day of congenial worship together and continued into the evening. At seven we once more assembled at the table of the Lord and were fed by the words of our Priest Bud Hanes who, by his interesting style of delivery, warmed our hearts and fed our souls from the Word of God. We are thankful that God has heard the prayers of the Saints on his behalf and has spared him through his serious illness for his testimony is strong for the Lord's work.

After the closing song and the closing prayer for the day, we each found a place to stay for the night in the homes of the Saints in the area.

Sunday morning we once more assembled at nine o'clock, enjoyed an hour of song service and get acquainted meeting in charge of Elder Lavern Lussendon. His talent and lively spirit called out the best in us as he led us in songs. He called on each of us to stand up and tell our names and where we lived. This was an interesting way to acquaint ourselves with one another as there was a steady flow of new arrivals throughout the day.

A good sacrament service with prayer and testimony followed in charge of Elders Henry Van Duine and Lavern Lussenden, assisted in the serving by Priests Conley Addington and Alan Scott. This service lasted until noon and the time was well spent with most all taking part and one hundred or more present by this time. Some were administered to and one sister gave the priesthood an admonition to greater efforts to be diligent in the work of the Lord. Time was limited by the preparation for dinner which required the space and chairs in the hall so we had to close the meeting reluctantly.

The committee with the able assistance and hard work of Sister Ila Hanes and Sister Elaine Lee and many others had a baked ham dinner ready to serve at twelve-thirty, and again we gave thanks to our Lord for His many blessings that our people enjoy because of His love for us.

Another song service at one-forty-five gave us a chance to clean up and put our hall back in order for further meetings. Brother Lavern Lussenden again gave his talent in service by leading this service. An informal discussion was carried out to make plans for the Campout Meeting at Glen Lake on July 15th and 16th.

By two-thirty we were ready again for the last service of the Reunion. Elder Harold Pollack was in charge. A special song by Brother and Sister Lussenden beautifully done and thoroughly enjoyed by all, set the spirit for the afternoon message from our missionary, Apostle William A. Sheldon. Certainly we were blessed this whole day and nourished by the Word of God that so many of us who are scattered sorely need. Our Brother did us much good by his words of timely council and admonition. We only hope that as a people we can rise to do the work assigned to us.

Our numbers now were fast thinning out as many had to leave for their homes many miles away. The evening lunch of left-overs was spread and those of us who were left did our best to help clean up the hall and prepared to part company with our friends for another year. We hope that you readers will have shared with us some of the pleasures by having been here with us or at least have a desire to come to Michigan next year. We meet on the third Saturday and Sunday of June for our Reunion. God bless His people and may we have done that which is pleasing to Him in all our efforts this past year.

Michigan State Reunion Committee

## MISSOURI REUNION REPORT

The closing days of the month of July mark an outstanding event. It is the time when our brothers and sisters gather from all sections of the state for a reunion. The joy experienced by the reuniting of all these loved ones is a delightful thing to see and share. This year our pleasure was enhanced by the attendance of friends from Oklahoma, Tennessee, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Arizona and Canada. We were happy to share in their devotion and enthusiasm for the advancement of the Lord's work.

Our mornings were devoted to worship in prayer, testimony and song. The sincerity, humbleness and the deep concern for the needs of others expressed in the prayers was an invitation for the attendance of the Holy Spirit. The wonderful testimonies of our people brought added strength and faith to each of us. There were some participating in these services who, though not members, share with us a love of the restored gospel. Their contributions were welcomed. Sunday morning's service included the serving of the Sacrament. These hours were made memorable by the influence of the Holy Spirit.

In the two days of our meeting together we heard sermons by Brethren LeRoy Wheaton, Don McIndoo, Joseph Kidd and Joseph Yates. There was a thread of continuity running throughout all these sermons. The common thought was that we are living in the last days when prophecies are being fulfilled constantly. Daily we are faced with threats of lawlessness, rioting and immorality. The urgency of our need to be spiritually fortified to meet these conditions was impressed upon us. There is no longer time for us to delay in our mission of building up the Kingdom of God here on earth lest we lose forever our opportunity to be a part of this work and the task be given to others who shall be raised up.

Those of us attending the reunion were made welcome in the homes of our people in and near Independence. Enjoyable meals were served in the church dining hall. Friendships deepened as we shared this wonderful hospitality. Special activities were planned for the young people between services. Brother and Sister Leslie Case provided dormitory accommodations for any of the young people who cared to stay there.

Evening sermons were preceeded by song services. Many lovely special musical numbers were presented throughout the reunion, including selections by the Independence Orchestra.

We thank our Heavenly Father for having permitted us to spend this time of pleasant worship together. We also thank all those who traveled long distances to share their enthusiasm with us. And finally we wish to express our appreciation to all whose efforts made our stay in Independence such a heart-warming experience.

May God bless you all until we meet again.

Louise McIndoo

## From the Editorial Staff

The editorial staff of Zion's Advocate requests that material submitted be typewritten (the original copy) and double spaced. This is required by the printer and your co-operation will expedite our work. Any material received that needs re-typing is subject to be delayed in printing.

The Advocate material received will be divided into departments and respective headings. Please send articles, copies of taped sermons, missionary reports, General Church notices, General Church reports and miscellaneous items to Kenneth J. Smith, Editor, 209 South Chrysler, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Send letters, Local Church reports, special reports, committee reports, Sunday School reports and notices, and United Workers reports and notices to Harvey E. Seibel, Associate Editor, 1914 South Osage, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Send Young Peoples Christian League reports and notices, poems, and notices of baptisms, blessings, births, marriages, and obituaries to Roland L. Sarratt, Associate Editor, 4305 South Main, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Your observance of this arrangement will be appreciated.

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## IDLE WORDS

by

Edna Powers

While walking one morning  
I heard an idle word.  
It seemed so small and harmless  
I repeated what I heard.

I told it to a brother  
Who told it to another  
Who said he knew it was true  
And passed it right along.

The word was quite forgotten  
'Til bowed in evening prayer,  
Then like a mighty giant  
That little word was there.

It had robbed a brother of his faith,  
Caused a soul to sin,  
Made an erring sister  
Much more hard to win.

O Father in Thy wisdom,  
Whether we are old or young,  
Put a check rein and a bridle  
On a gossip-spreading tongue.

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And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. (Isaiah 59:20)