

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.

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No. 12

Someday

—☆—

There's a loving letter, I mean to send,
There's a visit, I mean to pay
There's a careless habit, I hope to mend,
When I get time, someday.

There's a dusty Bible, I mean to read,
There's an hour, I'll keep to pray,
And, I'll turn each dream to a golden deed,
When I get time, someday.

I'll carry flowers to the sick and sad,
I'll seek for those, who stray.
You may trace my steps by hearts made glad,
When I get time, someday.

So we've thought, and so we've said,
Yet, how sad to relate,
That busy with less important things,
We've waited until, too late.

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 Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri.
 Phone: TEmple 3-3995

EDITOR

Kenneth J. Smith, 209 South Crysler, Independence, Missouri 64050

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Harvey E. Seibel, 1914 South Osage, Independence, Missouri 64050
 Roland L. Sarratt, 4305 South Main, Independence, Missouri 64050

BUSINESS MANAGER OF ZION'S ADVOCATE: C. LeRoy
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EDITORIAL

THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR FAITH

"And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:17-18)

This is one of the most positive statements in the New Testament concerning the intention of Jesus "Building His Church". It has been a point of discussion as to interpretation in some cases, especially with some of our friends of the so-called Christian world. This is also true in some cases with individuals of the Restoration beliefs, especially those who in late years have sought to minimize the work of Joseph Smith and the early elders of the church.

But, if we are honest, open minded individuals, which basically most of us are, it will be difficult to deny the plain facts of the language itself. The church Jesus spoke of was not the church of the New Testament era. It couldn't have been, if the language is correct. It reads, "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH", future tense. The New Testament church was already a fact. It was already in operation with "the Kingdom of God at hand" established and in the process of saving souls of men, through the preaching and teachings of the King himself and his servants. Some of the popular faiths of the day attempt to interpret the word as meaning that the **rock** spoken of, that Jesus was going to build his church on, was the man, Peter. But again we resort to a common understanding of the language and find the word **but** is a "conjunction expressing a condition." (Webster's dictionary) Refer to the thought in the preceeding verse, "for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, **BUT** my Father which is in heaven." In plain words, Jesus was promising to build his church upon the solid rock of REVELATION DIRECT FROM THE THRONE OF GOD HIMSELF. From the rock of revelation there can be no variation of re-determination, when man becomes converted to the fullness of His Gospel.

If we must consider the question of whether Peter was indeed the rock spoken of, we would pose this simple question. What is the meaning of rock in the strictest sense of the term? Webster tells us, it is "firm or immovable defense". Does the record reveal the man Peter as thus? Let's allow the scripture to answer. "Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad." (Matthew 26:31) "Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended." (Matthew 26:33) The man Peter was still professing stability, and immovability. But, we find the Master knew Peter; knew his entire makeup and character; knew his weaknesses; and yes, even his sins.

Peter again asserts his complete allegiance. "Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. . . ." (Matthew 26:35) But alas, Peter was a man, a good man. He had attained a degree of righteousness in some respects, but he was a man and still retained some weaknesses. Perhaps he failed to measure up in his heart to complete perfection. Perhaps he was dazzled with the damsel. She asked him the simple question if he was not a follower of Jesus of Galilee. Jesus had told him that before the morning broke or the "cock crew" he would deny his allegiance three times. This, then, was the first time, for he denied any knowledge of the matter the damsel asked about. This then could not have been the immovability in the foundation of the church promised by Jesus in the 16th chapter. But, still another maiden approaches and makes the direct statement ". . . This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth." (Matthew 26:71) "And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew." (Matthew 26:72-74) We are told that Peter wept bitterly for he knew in his own heart his mistakes, weaknesses and perhaps his secret sins. He remembered the words of the Master just a few hours earlier. So we believe this could not have been the rock Christ promised to build his church on.

Those that would believe, in spite of all evidence, that the church Jesus spoke of was of the New Testament era as well as the church of Latter Days, should consider the import of all statements of the Master. "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." (Matthew 11:12) The words of Jesus himself indicate the impending violence "prevailing against" the church of the New Testament era. We must keep in mind the wonderful promise, and promise it was. ". . . upon this rock **I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**" (Matthew 16:18)

The Apostle Paul came upon the scene of action. He also saw the approach of apostasy and the eventual overthrow of the church, not from the outside, but from the dwindling of faith and virtue from within the body of the church. He goes into detail as to what was to become of the church and who would become responsible. (Acts 20:28-30) Still, a little further on we find further evidence of the drifting of the New Testament church toward apostasy. "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all

that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." (II Thessalonians 2:1-4) We pose the question, is it possible, by any stretch of human conception, to accept the building of the church that Christ had brought about as the answer to the promise, ". . . **I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it**"? (Matthew 16:18)

Our evidence further indicates the "Prevailing" did take place in the symbolic form of the great red dragon spoken of in Revelations 12:1-6. The church is symbolized in all her glory as ". . . a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." (Revelation 12:1) There can be no mistake in the significance of the symbolic woman. It is the Church of Christ set up by Jesus himself during the New Testament period. The Apostle Paul clearly indicates this in his letters to the Corinthians and Ephesians. See II Corinthians 11:12 and Ephesians 5:23, also John 3:29 and Matthew 23:1-3.

The crown upon her head is symbolic of the leadership the Lord gave to the church in the calling of the twelve Apostles, the crown itself symbolic of rule. The moon under her feet signifying the superseding of the Mosaic law which was no longer necessary after Christ, because of the fullness of the Gospel. The law of types and shadows was a school master law, until Christ came.

"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns upon his heads . . . and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." (Revelation 12:3-4) In prophetic language dragons signify nations. Rome, according to ancient history, was the one universal nation, idolatrous, steeped in the workings of Satan, avowed enemy of the saints in persecutions heaped upon them, that stood ready and desirous to obtain control of the priesthood of the church and thereby, control of the saints of the most High.

Thus we see the final scene of complete apostasy laid before us in symbolic language, "And she brought forth a manchild, who was to rule all nations, with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." (Revelations 12:5-6) The earth entered into the dark night of the dark ages to remain there 1260 years. The Church of Christ set up by Christ himself in the New Testament era had suffered violence and the violent had taken it by force. But His promises are sure, and His purposes are without end. The long period of darkness is broken by the promise he gave so long ago to Apostle Peter, ". . . flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven". (Matthew 16:17) The symbolic final setting of his purposes and the building of that church promised to Peter so long ago is, "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 has made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." (Revelation 14:6-7)

Yes, the Cornerstone of Our Faith is the Rock of Revelation, the life blood of the entire Restoration story. Without it, we cannot exist as a people. Without recognizing it as individuals, our honesty with ourselves is doubtful. We would do well to heed the warnings of the Gospel according to Matthew 24:21-27 concerning our day, a day of Extremes from within and without. "To rightly divide the word of God aright" is to find the plane, the central point from all extremes. (All Emph. Mine)

K. J. S.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

"For behold, God knoweth all things, being from everlasting to everlasting, behold he sent angels to minister unto the children of men, to make manifest concerning the coming of Christ; and in Christ there should come every good thing. And God also declared unto the prophets by his own mouth, that Christ should come. And behold, there were divers ways that he did manifest things unto the children of men, which were good; and all things which are good, cometh of Christ, otherwise men were fallen, and there could no good thing come unto them. Wherefore, by the ministering of angels, and by every word which proceedeth forth out of the mouth of God, men began to exercise faith in Christ; and thus by faith, they did lay hold upon every good thing; and thus it was until the coming of Christ. And after that he came, men also were saved by faith in his name; and by faith, they become the sons of God." (Moroni 7:21-24)

"For it came to pass after I had desired to know the things that my father had seen, and believing that the Lord was able to make them known unto me, as I sat pondering in my heart I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord, yea, into an exceeding high mountain, which I never had seen before, and upon which I never had before set my foot.

"And the Spirit said unto me, Behold, what desirest thou?

"And I said, I desire to behold the things which my father saw.

"And the Spirit said unto me, Believest thou that thy father saw the tree of which he hath spoken?

"And I said, Yea, thou knowest that I believe all the words of my father.

"And when I had spoken these words, the Spirit cried with a loud voice, saying, Hosanna to the Lord, the most high God; for he is God over all the earth, yea, even above all. And blessed art thou, Nephi, because thou believest in the Son of the most high God;

wherefore, thou shalt behold the things which thou hast desired. And behold, this thing shall be given unto thee for a sign, that after thou hast beheld the tree which bore the fruit which thy father tasted, thou shalt also behold a man descending out of heaven; and him shall ye witness; and after ye have witnessed him, ye shall bear record that it is the Son of God.

"And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me, Look! and I looked and beheld a tree; and it was like unto the tree which my father had seen; and the beauty thereof was far beyond, yea, exceeding of all beauty; and the whiteness thereof did exceed the whiteness of the driven snow.

"And it came to pass after I had seen the tree, I said unto the Spirit, I behold thou hast shewn unto me the tree which is precious above all.

"And he said unto me, What desireth thou?

"And I said unto him, To know the interpretation thereof: for I spake unto him as a man speaketh; for I beheld that he was in the form of a man; yet, nevertheless, I knew that it was the Spirit of the Lord: and he spake unto me as a man speaketh with another.

"And it came to pass that he said unto me, Look! and I looked as if to look upon him, and I saw him not; for he had gone from before my presence. And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth: and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white.

"And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me, Nephi, what beholdest thou?

"And I said unto him, A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.

"And he said unto me, Knowest thou the condescension of God?

"And I said unto him, I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless I do not know the meaning of all things.

"And he said unto me, Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh.

"And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit; and after she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time, the angel spake unto me, saying, Look! And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.

"And the angel said unto me, Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father! Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw?

"And I answered him, saying, Yea, it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore it is the most desirable above all things.

"And he spake unto me, saying, Yea, and the most joyous to the soul." (I Nephi 3:37-65)

"And now it came to pass that Samuel, the Lamanite, did prophesy a great many more things which can not

be written. And behold, he said unto them, Behold, I give unto you a sign: for five years more cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe on his name. And behold, this will I give unto you for a sign at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh, there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day; therefore there shall be one day and a night, and a day, as if it were one day, and there were no night; and this shall be unto you for a sign; for ye shall know of the rising of the sun, and also of its setting; therefore they shall know of a surety that there shall be two days and a night; nevertheless the night shall not be darkened; and it shall be the night before he is born. And behold there shall be a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you. And behold this is not all, there shall be many signs and wonders in heaven. And it shall come to pass that ye shall all be amazed, and wonder, insomuch that ye shall fall to the earth. And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall believe on the Son of God, the same shall have everlasting life." (Helaman 5:54-62)

"And it came to pass that in the commencement of the ninety and second year, behold the prophecies of the prophets began to be fulfilled more fully; for there began to be greater signs and greater miracles wrought among the people. But there were some who began to say that the time was past for the words to be fulfilled, which were spoken by Samuel, the Lamanite. And they began to rejoice over their brethren, saying, Behold, the time is past, and the words of Samuel are not fulfilled; therefore, your joy and your faith concerning this thing hath been vain.

"And it came to pass that they did make a great uproar throughout the land; and the people who believed, began to be very sorrowful, lest by any means those things which had been spoken, might not come to pass. But behold, they did watch steadfastly for the day, and that night, and that day, which should be as one day, as if there were no night, that they might know that their faith had not been vain.

"Now it came to pass that there was a day set apart by the unbelievers, that all those who believed in those traditions should be put to death, except the sign should come to pass which had been given by Samuel the prophet. Now it came to pass that when Nephi, the son of Nephi, saw this wickedness of his people, his heart was exceeding sorrowful. And it came to pass that he went out and bowed himself down upon the earth, and cried mightily to his God, in behalf of this people; yea, those who were about to be destroyed because of their faith in the tradition of their fathers. And it came to pass that he cried mightily unto the Lord, all that day; and behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him, saying, Lift up your head and be of good cheer, for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the

world, to shew unto the world that I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets. Behold, I come unto my own, to fulfill all things which I have made known unto the children of men, from the foundation of the world, and to do the will, both of the Father, and of the Son of the Father, because of me, and of the Son, because of my flesh. And behold the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given.

"And it came to pass that the words which came unto Nephi were fulfilled, according as they had been spoken: for behold at the going down of the sun, there was no darkness; and the people began to be astonished, because there was no darkness when the night came. And there were many who had not believed the words of the prophets, fell to the earth, and became as if they were dead, for they knew that the great plan of destruction which they had laid for those who believed in the words of the prophets, had been frustrated, for the sign which had been given was already at hand; and they began to know that the Son of God must shortly appear; yea, in fine, all the people upon the whole earth, from the west to the east, both in the land north and in the land south, were so exceedingly astonished, that they fell to the earth; for they knew that the prophets had testified of these things for many years, and that the sign which had been given, was already at hand; and they began to fear because of their iniquity and their unbelief.

"And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was midday. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they knew that it was the day that the Lord should be born, because of the sign which had been given. And it had come to pass, yea, all things, every whit, according to the words of the prophets. And it came to pass also, that a new star did appear, according to the word." (III Nephi 1:4-24)

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

"Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: and knew her not till she had brought forth

her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus." (Matthew 1:18-25)

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there was in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." (Luke 2:1-20)

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

"Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

"And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt; and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

"When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: and was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son." (Matthew 2:1-15)

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6, 7)

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain: O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! (Isaiah 40:9)

For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. (Isaiah 51:3, 11)

FROM YUCATAN

When we do not feel the suffering, the sorrow, and the hunger of all mankind we have not truly comprehended the Gospel of Christ, of which Paul said that he was not ashamed, "for it is the power of God unto salvation". Nephi, in sending out words to convey truth to men said, "Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men". (II Nephi 13:29)

The words of Paul have sailed as ships down through the ages carrying their precious cargo of truth into the hearts of men. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit". (I Corinthians 12:12, 13)

Yes, having been baptized by one Spirit into one body, he then declares in verse 27, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular". Becoming members in particular, we then have certain obligations toward our brothers, and in particular those who are less fortunate than we. Listen well to these great words of Jacob as found in the Book of Mormon. "Think of your brethren, like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all, and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you. But before you seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them, for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick, and afflicted." (Jacob 2:22-24)

Do you feel that you are poor? Walk with me for a few moments. We are in a street of a small town some where in the land of the Maya's. The houses we see are but sticks and mud. They are small. Many of the kitchens in your homes are as large or more so than many of these houses. We see no windows and only two doors in each dwelling, a door on either side. They are only one room houses. There are small brush lean-tos near many of the houses. These are kitchens. There is a small fire on the earth floor of each kitchen circled by a ring of stones. This is a stove. The lady of the house is sitting by the fire on a low stool or a piece of small log, and we hear the pat pat of her hands as she forms little thin disks of corn, from corn masa. Masa is a paste-like dough made from corn after the hull of the kernel has been removed. These tortillas are the principle food for her family which usually consists of, parents, children, and in many cases, grandparents or others who because of age or illness must be dependent.

The corn supply is short. Due to three bad years they have been unable to produce enough corn. This year the "Hurricane Buelah" in many places destroyed the entire corn crop.

As we continue down the street we are met by friendly people. Many are in rags. One will never know the service that is in a garment until he sees the patched garments of these people. Now we are at the gate of members of the church. We have known this family for twelve years. Some of the children are now grown. Here we find a sad condition, one of which is common in this country. One young man has been sick for over four months. The entire abdomen is hard to the touch. He suffers much pain and runs a fever each day. His body has wasted away, the sparkle of the eye is gone and there is look of hopelessness in his face. The local doctors have admitted they do not know what his illness is. There are specialists in Merida, but there is no money to pay their prices.

We could continue down the street, but it would be like playing a broken record. We would see the same poverty and sickness in most every home.

The following is a quote from a letter from Yucatan to the Secretary of the Apostles.

"The members and friends of the Church desire that when you receive this humble letter it will transmit to you their memory of the love you were able to disburse among us, Evangelists brothers in Christ, and inform you of what happened here on the passing of the hurricane Buelah this past month. It destroyed our homes, uprooted our limited crops and killed our little domestic animals, leaving us in complete misery. We are trying to dry the sisal, our only sustaining product, for without it we shall remain economically without resources. Thinking of our families, there is nothing we can do but trust to the will of Christ. The members and friends of our beloved Church come to you begging that you may help us on this occasion in which we remain abandoned."

Words are but ships that carry and convey ideas and understanding from one person to another. They are the means whereby we describe conditions, people, and things, as we are able to see and comprehend them. At the moment I find them to be insufficient to convey or to express the condition of human need and suffering that prevails in some areas of this land. Yet, words are all that I have at my command, so I have sent them out to you as ships that bear as cargo, a cry out of a wilderness of human suffering. May these ships find harbor in your minds and hearts and as you comprehend the full impact of that cry may your hearts be mellowed toward all men and may the impress of the Holy Spirit touch you each with that Divine desire that will prompt that Spirit that is within you, to impart of your substance to those who stand in need.

Money should be sent to the Bishopric ear-marked as relief for Yucatan. A committee composed of members of the Church in this land will be responsible for the buying and dispensing of food and the paying of medical bills. Do not send packages.

Your brother in Christ,

E. Leon Yates

WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT?

by

Don W. Housknecht

An incident of a few years back has been refreshed to my memory and I would like to tell it here. It has to do with little candy shop, in Fargo, North Dakota, and a little lad named Ito, in far away Japan.

After World War II it was necessary to leave troops in Japan to maintain the peace. At Christmas time our boys could often be found gathered in groups here and there, and singing Christmas carols with all their might and always on the day before and on Christmas day they could be seen going about acting as Santa Claus and often dressed as such. They had great fun in holding parties for the children and passing out toys and candy. It was at one of these parties that a little lad named Ito was heard to ask the question,—“Whose birthday is it? The man with the whiskers?” and someone told him that they were celebrating the Savior's birthday. But the little fellow was quite confused, for, from what he could see, SANTA WAS THE MAIN ATTRACTION.

Now, we ask the question again. Whose birthday is it? Is there anything in the millions of dollars worth of advertising that would tell us? Look into the store windows and see the lavish displays therein, see the elaborate things that decorate the windows, lights and spangles, fir trees fairly bristling with tinsel and bells and glistening imitation snow. And you see Santas everywhere, some of them begging alms and others setting in stores telling falsehoods to innocent children. Do these tell the story of the Man whose birthday we celebrate?

Where in all the lavish displays do you see the picture of Him who has given us this day to celebrate? You have but to go down to any of the main streets of your city or town and look about you and peer into the windows, from one end of the street to the other, but can you see the supposed likeness pictured there of the One who once lay in an humble stall, to whom came men from afar to pay Him homage? Can you see anything that indicates that it is for Him that we are buying gifts (or are we?)

What manner of gifts are we laying at His feet? Is it not ridiculous to commemorate a person's birthday by buying gifts, and then GIVE THE GIFTS TO SOMEONE ELSE, whose birthday is likely a long way off?

No, there is no space available for the picture of Him whose birth we commemorate, but rather is the space occupied by that which is offered for sale. Commercializing on the name of Christ, lining their pockets with gold and silver, making themselves rich of this world's goods, (and we contribute to the delinquency) rather than bestow gifts upon Him who holds out to mankind the greatest gift of all Eternal Life!

But a few years ago, in Fargo, North Dakota, there was a little old man that eked out a living from his candy store. He used to trust the kiddies and let them have candy when they didn't have any pennies.

Other stores much larger in size and volume of business wouldn't trust the the kiddies who didn't have their pennies with them, and their windows held a lavish display of gifts and do-dads and spangles, dolls, toys and trains, but there was nothing to mention the Birth of the fair Prince of Peace. All these other stores were busy with their great volume of business but nothing to show what it was all about, but the little candy-store window was barren of great display, barren except for a lone picture with a candle burning on either side of it, not the picture of the babe in the manger, but the face of a Man who looked dejected and saddened, and somehow it just didn't harmonize with the gay atmosphere of festivity on the outside.

A few shoppers would stop and look into this window which was so different in contrast to that of others around it. It was a cold and bitter winter, very typical of the Dakota's, but some of the shoppers that had stopped to look at this humble display would stand so long that the bitter cold would eventually make them pass on, but the face that they beheld in the window of little candy-store, should long remain in their memory. Truly, the little Japanese lad might ask in bewilderment, “Whose birthday is it?”

If a like sum of money that we spend each Christmas for gifts were turned in for offerings to the Lord, and then on Christmas day, gather ourselves together and give homage to Him whose birthday it is, and join our voices in songs that tell of Him, as the songs of the Angels,—“Joy to the world the Lord is come, for lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever encircling years, shall come the time foretold, when the new heaven and earth shall own, the Prince of Peace, their King, and the whole world send back the song, which now the angels sing. Hail! the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail! the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings. Quiet! He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die; Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.”

What a glorious feeling it must have been on the day so long ago, to have heard the voice of heaven saying, “Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people. And then to hear the Angels in chorus sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all men.”

Need we ask? Whose birthday it is we now commemorate!

A LIFE LESSON

by

Mrs. Ella Casey

If you will live aright
Every day and night,
God will take care of you
Your entire life through

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.

ZION AND THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD

By

William A. Sheldon

Part One

Among the outstanding beliefs of the Restoration Movement, including the Church of Christ, are: the gathering of the saints of God and of the whole house, or nation of Israel; the establishment of a latter day city and land of Zion; and the building of a holy temple of the Lord.

Unbelievers, without, and of later years, from within, have assailed the two latter beliefs, especially as being concoctions of Joseph Smith, Jr. and others of his associates. His whole prophetic mission has been called into question by reason of considerable evidence of his manifest humanity.

I do not propose to excuse his mistakes, or those of others. But, having said this, neither do I intend to shrug off as inconsequential, or lambast as the machinations of the devil or of man, everything coming through him as the purported word of God.

More could be said along this line, but we defer at this time. Any reference to latter day revelations shall be by way of corroboration of Bible and Book of Mormon scripture on these important subjects.

We hear it said that they are unimportant; that we are to "preach nothing but repentance to this generation". I will answer that there is no gospel principle or precept but what must, in its analysis, incorporate the principle of repentance either directly or by implication. Again: **how dare** any to say that the revelations of God, either anciently or in our time, may be considered with impunity; for do we not read:

"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." (I Peter 1:21)

And further:

"And all scripture given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (II Timothy 3:16, Inspired Version)

Now to proceed with the subject at hand.

What is Zion? Or, more accurately, what has it been, and what will be it be? For it is not a present reality.

Of foremost importance: it is the **dwelling place of God on earth!** Secondly, it is also the dwelling place of His people, who have conditioned themselves in righteousness to live with Christ!

"The Lord shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of His people, and

the strength of the children of Israel.

"So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain . . ." (Joel 3:16, 17)

"For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem . . ." (Isaiah 30:19)

Here we find that Zion will be at "Jerusalem", but there is much evidence to support the belief that there will be two commanding centers from which shall go forth the servants of the Lord to all nations to preach the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and this with great power from God! Both of these places may be called Zion, but for the sake of distinction, one is referred to as Zion or Mount Zion, and the other simply as Jerusalem; not as Jerusalem is presently, or for that matter, ever has been, but Jerusalem, cleansed and sanctified (that is, her people); fitted for the presence of God.

"And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

"When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

"And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defense.

"And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and rain." (Isaiah 4:3-6)

Other points will be referred to from here, later, but right now, by way of further evidence concerning a dual Zion, Isaiah 2:2, 3 says:

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

"And many people shall go and 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: for **out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.**" (all emphasis in these texts is mine, W.A.S.)

The principles of faith and repentance, coupled with obedience toward God, are designed to bring men to God, and hence, **to Zion.** But, the scriptures herein quoted, and many others, will show the unbelief and wickedness extant in **our time**, which is in the last days, making it necessary for God not only to purge Zion and Jerusalem, but also the whole earth!

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws,

changed the ordinances, broken the everlasting covenant.

"Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left." (Isaiah 24:5, 6)

In verse 21, we find it is the Lord who will "punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity"; nor will He be required to rely on man's use of atomic energy, for at that time, all shall know it is the Lord Himself who is doing it!

"Zion shall be redeemed (rescued from sin, W.A.S.) with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

"And the destruction of the transgressors and the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed." (Isaiah 1:27, 28)

A great deal more could be said relative to the judgments of God, even now in the process of fulfillment, but that is secondary to this discussion, though of great moment.

Now, let us go to the Book of Mormon to find out where the city of Zion shall be, and to further distinguish from Jerusalem.

Moroni quotes the ancient Jaredite prophet, Ether, and after stating that **this land** (of the Americas) was to be a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord", he says:

"... That it was the place of the new Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord." (Ether 6:3)

This, of course, refers to the same "new Jerusalem" of Revelation 21:2, which comes **after** that 1000 year reign of Christ upon the earth; and after this earth and the heavens have passed away, there will be new heavens and a new earth (see verse one).

But Ether spoke also of **another** "new Jerusalem" on this land and of the old Jerusalem from whence should come Lehi and his family, the progenitors of the Nephite and Lamanite races.

Concerning old Jerusalem, he said:

"Wherefore it could not be a New Jerusalem, for it had been in time of old, but **it should be built up again** (now in process, W.A.S.) **and become a holy city of the Lord: and it should be built up unto the house of Israel;**

"And that a new Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, (the children of Ephraim and Manasseh, who were the sons of Joseph, W.A.S.)."

"... And it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord..." (Ether 6:8)

We are told further in the words of Christ, concerning the Gentiles of that day, that if they would repent they would come in unto the covenant and be numbered with those of the remnant of Jacob (or of Joseph's sons), and should assist them.

"And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem;

"And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land in unto the New Jerusalem.

"And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst (this is Jesus Christ, W.A.S.), and then shall the work of the Father commence at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people (the children of Lehi, W.A.S.) (III Nephi 10:1-4)

True, the Book of Mormon refers to Zion as the "New Jerusalem", upon this land, but **it is God's dwelling place, or the place of His government upon the earth.** Hence, it is synonymous to the latter day Zion of Isaiah 2:1-3; Micah 4:1, 2; and the Zion with its travail and ultimate triumph so repeatedly and fully detailed in both the Bible and Book of Mormon. It would take a volume to do it justice.

Now, why should it be thought a strange thing, and held in contempt, that the Lord had the establishment of this Zion in mind in very inception of His work in the latter days? Would this not really be a fundamental objective of the Church of Christ, called to be the kingdom of God in these latter days: to prepare a people to live with Christ, even here upon the earth?

Much has been said regarding the Church of Christ of ancient times as symbolized by the beautiful woman in Revelation 12; of the early apostasy, portrayed there by her flight "into the wilderness"; and having her offspring, a "man child", caught up unto God. It has been thought that this manchild represented only the authority of the priesthood, taken away because of transgression within the church. But notice that it is the **offspring** of the woman, or church, and that she travailed in birth "and pained to be delivered". Since when is priesthood authority the offspring of the church? Neither is it Christ, if that be conjectured.

Priesthood authority was restored in preparation for the establishment of the kingdom of God. The nucleus of the kingdom has come forth, but its fullness, including the endowment, has not yet occurred.

I submit that the man-child is the product of the **spiritual union** between God and the Church. The Church since 1830 has been, and is, in travail to bring forth the fullness of the **kingdom of God**, which indeed, will "rule all nations with a rod of iron", which is the pure word of God, by the power of God! Compare Revelation 12 of the Inspired Translation.

I further submit that after the travail (yet to come more fully) of this latter day Church of Christ, together with the travail of latter day Israel (the remnants of Jacob among the nations), that the kingdom of God (synonymous with Zion, with respect to the people of God!) shall come to its fullness of fruition, and then shall the city of Zion be built, to which the Christ shall come.

Now, if this be God's purpose, why can we not believe that He would reveal to Joseph Smith certain aspects of the beginning of Zion's establishment as well as of her glorious consummation?

Is it because we have seen his weakness?

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

"And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are:

"That no flesh should glory in his presence." (I Corinthians 1:27-29)

Latter day revelation concerning Zion; the purpose of her creation; her cleansing and ultimate triumph in the gathering and preservation of the saints, will be discussed in part two.

THE GOSPEL RESTORED

by

William F. Anderson

Taken from Zion's Advocate, July, 1937

The power and authority to represent Christ and administer the ordinances of the gospel, having been taken away from the earth (see Revelation 12:5), the woman (church) fled into the wilderness (obscurity) where she was fed for 1260 days (years). (Revelations 12:6)

The authority having been taken away "caught up unto God", it became necessary, when God saw fit to restore the gospel to men again, that the right, or authority to represent Jesus Christ be committed unto men again. When the church should return from the wilderness, it would again have to be clothed with the sun, and have a crown of twelve stars upon her head. God having taken the "man child" (authority) away, He alone, could restore it, and in searching the scriptures we find that the Lord contemplated this very thing.

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

In all ages, when the Lord was about to do something affecting the children of men, whether it was blessing or destruction, he first made known his purpose through his prophets, a prophet being his mouthpiece to speak unto men.

All the ancient prophets foretold the coming of Christ as a babe, told what he would do, told of his death on the cross for the sins of men, and told that he would be raised from the dead. Yet, when he came, his people refused to accept him or believe his teachings, as was evidenced when they crucified him. They did as the prophets said they would do.

Christ and his apostles foretold of the time when men would reject the gospel message they taught, and that therefore authority to represent Christ would be lost to the world until God should see fit to restore it. (See tract on Apostacy, by Wm. F. Anderson)

Jesus warned men to beware of false prophets. (Matthew 7:16) He did not say there would be no more true prophets. There could not be false prophets unless there were true prophets. It is impossible to counterfeit something that does not exist, so if there were no true prophets there could be not false ones.

Turning to Malachi 3:1, the prophet foretells an event that was to happen preceeding the second coming of Christ: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple." A messenger was to come and a way was to be prepared for the sudden second coming of the Lord. He did not come suddenly nineteen hundred years ago. He came into the world as all men do; was born, reared, mingled and worked with and among men, until he was about thirty years of age, before he made himself known as the Son of God. Let us look at the next four verses in this connection and we find some things that were to be done to the sons of Levi, and to Judah, which did not happen when Christ was here upon earth nineteen hundred years ago. Therefore this prophecy of Malachi must refer to some time other than the first coming. The prophecy is plain, and comes to us as instruction for our time. Are we going to be as the people were at the first appearance of Christ, or are we going to be alert to the times in which we are living?

Daniel tells us that in the last days God would set up a kingdom which should never be destroyed, and which would finally subdue all other kingdoms. Turn to Daniel, 2nd chapter. It would be well to read the entire chapter. We will not take the space to quote, but will notice some points in the chapter. First, let us look at verses 25, and 28 and verses 31, 35. Verse 28 shows the time of the latter days. Following, we have a description of an image. Also, we are told that a stone would be cut out of a mountain without hands, and the stone would smite the image on the feet and break them in pieces. Then the image would be destroyed, or broken into pieces.

In verses 37 to 45, we have the interpretation of the dream as given by Daniel, prophet or spokesman for the Lord. The image represented the various kingdoms that were to have place on the earth. Had we the space, we might follow the history of the world from the days of Daniel until our day, and locate each kingdom in turn, up until the time when the image stood erect and complete at which time the Lord has set up a kingdom—"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Read also verse 45. If we can find a period in history when these kingdoms had place on the earth we may know when this prophecy was to be fulfilled, and when God would set up His kingdom.

Let us take a look at history and see if we can determine the period when these kingdoms were all reigning

at the same time. First, let us note that the kingdoms were world powers, and each in turn ruled the earth, or that portion of it that was known at that time. We must first, however, find the image, at the time when it stood complete, each kingdom in its place.

"These words prove to us that when the kingdom of Christ shall be established on earth, there will be found a representative of each of the four empires existing, each in its proper place, and it is remarkable that we are now, at this moment, getting into the very position which the prophecy demands before it can be fulfilled. We have had for many ages three of these four empires represented upon the earth—Persia represented the second; Turkey (as the possessor of Chaldea), representing the first; and Rome, under the sovereignty of the Pope, representing the fourth. But there not, for many ages, a representative of the third, or Grecian empire, but the prophecy requires four empires before the time of the end. And so it has actually occurred, for about the year 1830, the Greek Empire reappeared upon the scene, and was established by the great powers of Europe, as a separate and distinct government under Utho, of Bavaria, so that nothing now remains but the establishment of the fifth empire, the eternal kingdom of God, not in heaven, but upon the earth." (The Last Vials, pp. 5, 6, May, 1847, quoted in "Marvelous Work and a Wonder", p. 141)

"In the raising of Greece to a distinct kingdom in our day, we may now see in Turkey, Persia, Greece and the European kingdoms, all these empires in existence." (Practical Guide to the Prophecies, ninth edition, page 184, Reverend Edward Bickersteth, 1852 in "Marvelous Work and a Wonder," p. 141)

The toe kingdoms were Austria, England, France, Naples, Netherlands, Portugal, Sardinia, Spain, Wurtemberg, Bavaria. Thus we find the image was complete, and we could look for the Kingdom of God among men. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom." (Daniel 2:44)

"And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall ensemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." (Isaiah 11:12)

A servant was sent at supper time. (Luke 14:16, 17) "And about the eleventh hour he went out." (Matthew 20:6) The gospel was to be preached as a witness—then the end would come. (Matthew 24:14) In the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord was to be established. (Micah 4:1, 2; Isaiah 2: 1, 3)

"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." (Revelation 14:6) Isaiah 29: 14, 17, shows that a marvelous work and wonder was to come forth. Just following the advent of that marvelous work, Lebanon (Palestine) was to be turned into a fruitful field. In 1852 the former and the latter rains did return to Palestine, and that land became a fruitful field, and since that time the way has opened and

the Jews have and are returning and building up the waste places, and Jerusalem has become a city without walls. See Zechariah 2: 1,5.

The reformers looked for the time when the Gospel would be restored. "Luther perceived that the ancient and primitive church must on the one hand, be restored in opposition to the papacy by which it long has been oppressed." (D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation, Vol. 3, 80)

"The times which we have reason to believe are at hand (if they have not already begun) are what many men have termed 'the latter day glory' ; . . . And yet the wise men of the world, the men of eminence, the men of learning and renown, cannot imagine what we mean by talking of any extraordinary work of God. They cannot discern the signs of these times. They can see no signs at all of God's arising to maintain his own cause, and set up his kingdom over the earth." (John Wesley's sermon, 71)

Roger Williams says: "In the poor small span of my life I desired to have been a diligent and constant observer, and have been myself many ways engaged in city, in country, in court, in schools, in universities, in churches, in Old and New England, and yet cannot, in the holy presence of God, bring in the results of a satisfying discovery that either the begetting ministry of the apostles or messengers to the nations, or the feeding or nourishing ministry of pastors and teachers, according to the first institution of the Lord Jesus, is yet restored and extant . . . the apostasy of Antichrist hath so far corrupted all that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy till Christ shall send forth new apostles and plant churches anew." (Struggles and Triumphs of Religious Liberty pp. 238, 239)

"Once he to the Baptist came
And virtue's paths restored;
Pointed sinners to the way;
Fore-runner of the Lord,

Sent again from Paradise,
Elijah shall the tidings bring;
Jesus comes; ye saints, arise,
And meet your heavenly king.

Previous to that dreadful day
Which shall thy foes consume.
Jesus prepare the way;
Let the last prophet come.

Almighty God of love,
Set up the attracting sign,
And summons whom thou dost approve
For messengers divine.

From favored Abram's seed,
The new apostles choose,
In isles and continents spread
The soul reviving news."

—Charles Wesley, in Wesleyan Hymns

In the year 1820 a young lad was attending a revival and became convinced of the need of living a Christian life. But because of the struggle between the churches as to which was right, his mind became confused, and he was at a loss which to join. He read in James 1:5: "If any lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." The lad was impressed with what he read, and decided to put it to the test. He repaired to a secluded spot on his father's farm to pray. He claims that while thus engaged in prayer that he saw a heavenly vision in which it was revealed to him that the various creeds (teachings) of the churches were wrong, and that God was about to restore the gospel with authority to represent Christ among men, and if he would be faithful, he would be used as an instrument to bring this about. From time to time, following the first vision, he received visits from heavenly messengers, who gave to him instruction as to how to proceed in the establishing of the Church of Christ in harmony with teachings of Christ. God was about to set up his kingdom; the time of the kings spoken of above was here, and in his own way God proceeded to bring about the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel 2:44. In 1829 and 1830, this kingdom had its beginning. In April, 1830, the Church of Christ was organized according to the laws of the land. Thus the little stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and in the due time of the Lord all nations will acknowledge it, and the kingdom of God will become supreme.

Dear readers, we are living in the last days, when the prophecies to which we have called your attention were to be fulfilled. It is a matter of vital importance to you, and we ask that you will study the things we have presented without prejudice. God does things in His way and He has told us beforehand, how He would proceed to reestablish His kingdom in the last days. No prophet has ever been universally accepted in his time. The Christ was rejected of men. We should not expect that the Lord's means would be any more popular in our time. As John Wesley expressed it, "the learned and the eminent" are smug in their own philosophies, and do not like to have their theories upset. The masses listen to the counsel of men, rather than God. And so the restoration of the fullness of the gospel and the setting up of the kingdom of God in these last days has not met with popular acclaim, but it is to your eternal welfare to know the truth for yourself, and we invite you to make a careful study of the evidence we have presented. Other literature on this vital subject of the plan of salvation is put out by the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), and may be had by writing to Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

PRAYER

Helen K. Schimpf

When we hear the message
From the pulpit, let us seek
To keep those words within our hearts—
For at least a week!

BIBLE SCRIPTURE THAT PROVES THE RESTORATION

Part 2

by

Elder Paul Johnson

"Thus saith the Lord God; A great eagle with great wings, long-winged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar: He cropped off the top of his young twigs, and carried it into a land of traffick; he set it in a city of merchants." (Ezekiel 17:3-4)

According to II Kings 24:8-16 Jehoiachin at the age of 18 began to reign in Jerusalem and he had only been in power three months when Nebuchadnezzar (King of Babylon) started war against him. The war lasted eight years, Nebuchadnezzar being victorious. And as Ezekiel 17:3-4 tells us, Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin to Babylon.

"There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers; and, behold, this vine did bend her roots toward him, and shot forth her branches toward him, that he might water it by the furrows of her plantation. It was planted in a good soil by great waters, that it might bring forth branches, and that it might bear fruit, that it might be a goodly vine. Say thou, Thus saith the Lord God; Shall it prosper? shall he not pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof, that it wither? it shall wither in all the leaves of her spring, even without great power or many people to pluck it up by the roots thereof. Yea, behold, being planted, shall it prosper? Shall it not utterly wither, when the east winds toucheth it? it shall wither in the furrows where it grew." (Ezekiel 17:7-10)

This second eagle comes again and takes of this same cedar, or of those in Jerusalem, more people and carries them away into Babylon. Let us go back to II Kings 24:17 and see what took place in Jerusalem after the first eagle took the people to Babylon!

King Nebuchadnezzar made his uncle the King in charge of Jerusalem and he changed his name which was Mattaniah to Zedekiah. Zedekiah had in his kingdom the very poor, the weak, the old, the vine-dressers and the husbandmen. Apparently King Nebuchadnezzar had no place for these people in his armies. Zedekiah was 21 years old when he began his reign. Now according to the Book of Mormon (I Nephi 1:3) it was in this first year of the reign of Zedekiah that Lehi was sent out as a prophet. This was around the year 600 B.C. Zedekiah apparently didn't agree with Nebuchadnezzar, thus he made a plea to Egypt for horses and many people, to help him in his rebellion against King Nebuchadnezzar. Ezekiel 17:15-16 tells us that Zedekiah rebelled and God says, "As I live, surely in the place where the king dwelleth that made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant he brake, even with him in the midst of Babylon he shall die."

Like the scripture says . . . Shall he prosper? No! We read in II Kings 25:7 that Zedekiah was captured, was forced to watch his sons killed before him, then

was blinded and bound and taken to Babylon. This took place in the 11th year of the reign of Zedekiah and a quick look at the Book of Mormon (Omni 1:24-26) tells us that the people referred to as the people of Zarahemla, left Jerusalem at this time, to come to the Americas. This brings us to the next part of Chapter 17 of the book of Ezekiel.

"Thus saith the Lord God; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent: In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it." (Ezekiel 17:22)

According to the history as recorded in the Book of Mormon (I Nephi) on this continent was the Height of Israel. These people were the cream of the crop so as to speak, that were led by God out of the oncoming destruction of Jerusalem. A similar thing took place with the eight who were protected by God under the leadership of Noah. According to some in the restoration, Mulek (Mosiah 11:78) was a son of Zedekiah. Now we read that Zedekiah's sons were killed (II Kings 25:7) so why must we assume that this Mulek or any of the others who were led, by God, out of Jerusalem in that 11th year of the reign of King Zedekiah, was a son of Zedekiah? Zedekiah was cast out of God's presence because he did not do that which was right in His sight. Ezekiel tells us that this leader of the people who were to flee Jerusalem was to be the best, yet possibly very young. Let's read it for ourselves, again this time in full.

"Thus saith the Lord God; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar; and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a **tender one**, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent: In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it: and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell. And all the trees of the field shall know that I the Lord have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the Lord have spoken and **have done it.**" (Ezekiel 17:22-24)

This "tender one" is the one in question! He is the most choice of the highest branch of the good cedar. Or in other words, the young man is the most humble, righteous, willing servant of God that was left in Jerusalem. This is not hard to imagine because remember the warriors, smiths, craftsmen, etc. were taken to Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar didn't want the poor, the very young, the old and the peace-loving family men. It seems to me that this type of people could be more apt to turn out a young man to fit these qualities than a wicked King such as Zedekiah. This "tender one" was led from Jerusalem to the "height of Israel". There he was to grow unto the Lord. As further confirmation of this the Lord tells us quite plainly that this was not a thing of the future, for he says, "I the Lord have spoken and Have Done It."

"And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward: For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion; the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this." (Isaiah 37:31-32)

Here again we find Isaiah telling of a people, just a remnant, who escaped from Jerusalem, and who will take up a new residence.

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from hence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessing of the breasts, and of the womb. The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren." (Genesis 49:22-26) Once more Joseph's people are referred to as a tree or some sort of vegetation that can be planted and either wither or grow. In this instance it is a fruitful bough that is planted near a well. As all normal vines, it seeks water, so the branches run over the wall of the well. This was the writers way of saying that these people had gone over to the other side of the earth. "Separate from his brethren," it said. Separated to where? To the land of the everlasting hills. This was the prophet's way of saying the Americas. Where else, but the Americas, do you find a constant chain of mountains that extend from one end of the hemisphere to the other.

MANIFESTATION GIVEN TO THE 1967 SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

Given as council to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) assembled and abroad in Solemn Assembly, Tuesday, August 1, 1967, through Apostle D. W. Housknecht.

Hear and let my Word burden your hearts, O! My People, for my heart is made tender by the sincerity of your fasting and prayers, saith the Spirit of your Heavenly Father.

Thou doest seek to know my will concerning the times before you and that your minds may be opened to understanding of my Gospel, but it is no small thing that thou hast not let thy hearts be tender towards they whom are thy companions in the Brotherhood of your Master. For if thou hast doubt of thy brothers sincerity and think that his understanding giveth strange interpretations of the principles of my Gospel, thou doest burden your hearts without charity, for thou doest all lack in some measure of understanding fully, the principles of my Gospel.

Therefore as thou doest now make thyself humble before me in fasting and prayer, thou must nevertheless increase thy devotions in a more meek and submissive manner as thou hast not hitherto done. Unlatch thy purse-strings and give attendance to thy tithes and offerings that my promises of blessing upon you be not withheld.

Continue in much fasting from the ways of the world and give succor to my chosen servants who strive for the cause of Zion, by upholding them before me and I will fill them with knowledge of my will concerning you, my people.

Then shall thy feet stand in green fields while all else withereth in famine, and no hurt shall come upon you for thou shalt stand under the canopy of my mercy and know that my hand doth guide you. Be faithful to thy vows that thou madest at thy birth into My Kingdom and remember my commandments to obey, saith the Spirit of the living God. Amen.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

East Independence, Missouri

Greetings from the East Independence Local:

Summer has gone and winter is upon us. We here are striving to be about our Father's business. Our ministers are admonishing us to so live that we can partake of the blessings that are for the faithful.

Although it is a little late to report our Sunday School officers, the following are doing a good job and desire to be mentioned:

Brother Randy Sheldon, Superintendent
 Brother Frank Fann, Assistant Superintendent
 Sister Belinda Stone, Secretary
 Brother Kenneth Smith, Treasurer
 Sister Melissa Nast, Pianist
 Brother Roland Sarratt, Librarian.

Teachers:

Brother Harvey Seibel, Adult Class
 Brother Frank Fann, Junior Class
 Sister Ruth Randall, Intermediate
 Sister Gladys Nast, Primary
 Sister Jewel Beem, Cradle Roll

Sister Ora Derry is still confined to her home and stands in need of our prayers. It will be a happy day to have her with us once again. We miss her.

Sister Aldridge, now of Arkansas, is enjoying her new home by keeping busy, working her garden and enjoying her neighbors.

Brother and Sister Robert Oldham announced the birth of Kimberly Sue on October 24, 1967. The little bundle of joy weighed 7 lbs. 8 ozs. Mrs. Oldham is the former Jennifer Nast. The proud grandparents are in North Carolina now to see the new granddaughter.

We are happy to have Brother Kenneth Smith home from the missionary field. He and Brother Jordan have been traveling together.

Brother Rex and Sister Marie Weaver, formerly of California, are making their home in Independence. So nice to have them with us.

Sunday evening, October 29, Brother Don W. Housnecht was our speaker. Very nice having him with us once more. He stressed the importance of faith and love for one another without pretense. He and Brother Sheldon are now on their way to California, stopping off at different places to visit our members. May the Good Lord go with them.

Your sister in the great family of Christ,

Adair McCubbin.

OBITUARY

Herbert Theodore Wittenburg, son of the late William and Lillie Nieman Wittenburg, was born March 3, 1900, in Manley, Iowa. He departed this life September 29, 1967, in Gravette, Arkansas, following a lengthy hospitalization.

Mr. Wittenburg was married to Maxine Hays in May, 1944, the couple moved to the Maysville, Arkansas community to begin general farming and dairying operation that continued for twenty-one years when Mr. Wittenburg retired and purchased a home on South Fourth Avenue, in Gravette.

In addition to the wife, Maxine, survivors include a son, Glen, his wife, Marjorie, and three daughters, Norma Johnson, and Glenda Kay and Carla Jo Wittenburg, all of Emmet, Idaho; a foster-sister, Mrs. Nellie Wittenburg Kaniels, Wisdom, Montana; a sister, Mrs. Marjory Martin, Tulsa, Oklahoma; two brothers, Harold H. and Dalton L. Wittenburg of Alamo, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Mr. Wittenburg was a life-long member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. His life exemplified the basic Christian virtues without any attempt at show or self-commendation.

The funeral was held at the Payett Funeral Home, October 2, 1967, at 2:30 p. m. with Elder James M. Case in charge assisted by Tom Haley. Burial was at Hill Crest Cemetery, Gravette, Arkansas.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

We are shocked with the late news of Brother William Sheldon's sudden illness in Oklahoma City. He has undergone surgery and is in very serious condition. We solicit for him the prayers of the saints and readers of the Advocate.

The Editors

A LITTLE CHILD

by

Janice F. Hansen

Up the spiraled steps he came,
This little child of God,
Up the marbled walks of fame,
Where the ancient prophets trod.

Up to the realms of glory high,
Right to the golden gate;
Pass the greatest host of heaven,
Came this child of fate.

Into the mansion of His God,
Right to His very throne;
Down at the Master's feet he lay,
This little child alone.

And the angels said, "Why is he here,
At Thy feet why has he laid?"
And the Father said, "Forbid him not,
Of such is my kingdom made."

TRAVELING ON MY KNEES IN 1967

by

Sandra Goodwin

Last night I took a journey
To a land far 'cross the seas;
I didn't go by boat or plane
I traveled on my knees.

I saw so many people there
In deepest depths of sin,
And Jesus told me I should go
That there were souls to win.

But I said, "Jesus, I can't go
And work with such as these."
He answered quickly, "Yes you can
By traveling on your knees."

He said, "You pray; I'll meet the need
You call and I will hear;
Be concerned about lost souls
Of those both far and near."

And so I tried it, knelt in prayer
Gave up some hours of ease;
I felt the Lord right by my side
While traveling on my knees.

As I prayed on and saw souls saved
And twisted bodies healed,
And saw God's workers' strength renewed
While laboring on the field.

I said, "Yes, Lord I have a job,
My desire Thy will to please;
I can go and heed Thy call
By traveling on my knees."

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