

Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost."—1 Nephi 3:187.

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No. 3

How Much Can God Stand?

by

Harry Slocum Tordoff



Through a cyclonic disturbance in the mind of man
As the Latter Days approach,
The world not only could but can
Be destroyed as the Master's reproach.

The people of Sodom and Gomorrah's day
Thought their way of life was right;
But God above cut short their stay
And removed them from His sight.

And the prophecy was made through Scripture
That such times would again return;
And it sure doesn't make a nice picture,
Visioning this modern world burn.

But we're fast approaching the climax
When the limits "these Moderns" will pass,
For God's patience must be sorely taxed—
And these present days could be "The Last."

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Whisper of Voices out of the Dust (Ed.)	34	What Doth The Lord Require?	40
Bible Proof of the Restoration	35	A Heresy	44
Children's Hour	36	Dedication of Building	47
Meaning of 12th Chapter of Revelations	38	"What God Hath Joined Together"	48

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EDITORIAL . . .

The Whisper of Voices Out of the Dust

"Yea, behold I say unto you, that those saints who have gone before me, who have possessed this land, shall cry; yea, even from the dust will they cry unto the Lord; and as the Lord liveth, he will remember the covenant which he hath made with them. And he knoweth their prayers that they were in behalf of their brethren. And behold, their prayers were also in behalf of him that the Lord should suffer to bring these things forth. Yea, it shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches defiled, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts; yea, even in a day when leaders of churches, and teachers, in the pride of their hearts, even to the envying of them who belong to their churches;" (Book of Mormon 4:28, 29, 32, 36) Emph. mine. K.J.S.

As we contemplate the position in which we now stand as individuals and as a people we shake with fear and trembling within, lest we fall and fail to measure up to the expectations and standards of those who now sleep in the dust. We fear we are becoming useless as instruments in the hands of our Lord and Master in accomplishing and finishing the work that has been entrusted to our hands, THE RESTORATION OF THE FULLNESS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN THESE LAST DAYS.

The term used to describe the conditions of man, as to their welfare both spiritually and materially from the time of Adam to our day, in the miseries they have suffered both in persecution from without and afflictions from within, may well be summed up in the word REBELLION, REBELLION against the very basic principles that gave rise and reason to their very existence as children of God. And, as a natural result they suffered themselves many times to stumble and wander in darkness and into by and forbidden paths. The Lord withdrew the leadings of his spirit and men suffered severely as a result. Within the confines of the history of the Restoration peoples, we find this to be the case. We find in September of 1832 the Lord spoke to the church in rebuke saying, "And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation . . . and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent . . . that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, . . ." Emp. mine K.J.S.

There is little wonder in our mind the reason the Lord commanded the early elders of the church to preach REPENTANCE to this generation. Rebellions bring strife, and strife chaos, and chaos UNBELIEF. Do we need to bring forth fruit meet for our Father's kingdom? If so we need REPENTANCE from our willful ways. We need to gather together in mighty prayer, seeking divine assistance to remedy our unbelief, for which repentance will be the first fruits.

Ah yes, there comes to us at this time of year the whisper of voices from silent lips that have become dust, a mighty testimony of the lateness of the day in which we live. And from within our breast, we feel the definite urge to give vent to the swelling within our bosom and proclaim aloud to the nation and the world the nearness of his coming for the last time, upon this earth. Are we ready? Have we prepared even our own people? Many years ago we established what we refer to as a General Conference. We declared as a basis for our action, that we were commanded to meet from time to time to care for the necessary business of the church and thus augment the work of the church for the coming year. Too often we have found these meetings turned their original intent into a virtual battle ground of strifes, contentions and struggles with desires for power and mastery, often pitted against the very fundamentals of our faith itself.

Nephi speaks plainly of the day in which we live. "They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, . . . they have all gone astray, save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; Nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err, because they are taught by the precepts of men." (II Nephi 12:16-17)

Yes, the whisper of voices from the dust comes to us as mighty testimony in our study of the great stalworths of Book of Mormon times, as well as those of our own times. We have gathered much from their example of life that has been spent in the defense of the "Faith Once Delivered To The Saints." We are permitted to profit by their precepts according to Nephi, "Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man or maketh flesh his arm, or shall hearken unto the precepts of man, SAVE THEIR PRECEPTS SHALL BE GIVEN BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST." (II Nephi 12:39)

So, let us come to the conference with the determination to drive out from our midst strife, malice, envyings, and all manner of jealousies. Let us arise in the strength of our Lord and Master and remember the hour draweth nigh and is even at the door when he shall come again to claim his people here on earth.

K. J. S.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Letters from Brother T. J. Jordan in Regina, Sask., Canada indicate that through the expression of personal opinion of the undersigned the impression has been had that because of personal illness of Brother Jordan his recent missionary trip was cancelled in October of this year just past. Brother Jordan states this is not true. I, therefore wish to express by personal regret to any and all whom I may have given this impression and ask you to forgive me for this error. I have no wish to harm or hurt my good brother or impede his progress in any way. With a prayer that he may yet see fit to take his proper place in the coming conference I remain,

Your brother in Gospel Bonds,

Kenneth J. Smith

BIBLE PROOF OF THE RESTORATION

Part 4

by

Elder Paul Johnson

Christ said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 15:24)

Some say that Christ meant that the "sheep of the house of Israel", were merely spiritually lost, but I think that He was referring to those of the house of Israel who were actually lost from the sight of those in Jerusalem. Those of the family of Lehi, were certainly as worthy of a visit of the Shepherd, as those in and around Jerusalem.

"My sheep wondered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them . . . For thus saith the Lord God; behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment . . . And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God . . . and ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God." (Ezekiel 34:6, 11-16, 23-24, 31)

Ezekiel knew that Christ would visit the lost sheep of the house of Israel!

Christ said, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." (John 10:14-16)

Christ was sent to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." He told his disciples in Palestine, "Other sheep I have which are not this fold." I feel, at this point, that Christ is referring to the Indians or in other words the people mentioned in the book of Mormon. Christ promises them His personal ministry when he said, "They shall HEAR my voice."

"I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase." (Jeremiah 23:3)

After the time of the scattering of the house of Israel, Christ tells Jeremiah that there will be a restoring of the flock. New ministry with spiritual food will be restored. The sheep, shall be regathered. Again, all countries include the Americas. God restored such shepherds as mentioned in verse 4, in 1830 within the restored Church of Christ.

"(God) hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on **all the face of the earth**, and hath determined the times before appointed and the bounds of their habitation." (Acts 17:26)

Man was created to dwell upon all of the earth! This includes those of the house of Israel in America.

The story of the Tower of Babel to some is a little less than a fairy tale, and the story to others is maybe possible, but as is recorded in Genesis 11:1-9 these people feel that the Lord scattered the people "abroad upon the face of all the earth", but they maintain that this means the "known" earth at that time. They say that the Americas were not known of at this time, thus we have no right to use this scripture to present, as the beginning of the Jaredites. Now let us pause for a moment and think! Just who is telling the story and who is writing it down, and who is it about and who is reading it? Is it not God who has related the story of the creation by revelation to Moses who is writing it down? Then after the ancient history is brought up to date, (Moses' time) He, and all of his history recording followers keep an account of God's dealings with man. Now we have talked about who told the story about the tower of Babel, and who wrote it as history, and we know who it was about, if we will read it, so that brings it down to the fourth part of the question. Who is reading it? The way I read it, this scattering actually did take place, and God is revealing the story to Moses, and whether Moses knew of the Americas or not is immaterial. God knew, and He said, "The Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of **ALL THE EARTH**;" And according to the Prophet, Ether, the Lord did as is recorded in the story about the tower of Babel. And his ancestors were led to the Americas at the time of the scattering and confusion of languages. (Book of Mormon, page 714.)

"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." (Isaiah 11:10-12)

In the day that peace comes to the earth, a group of people will have already accomplished at least a partial establishment of Zion and their way of life will be like a lighthouse to those who seek after the truth. God will then gather in the scattered of the House of Israel from the four corners of the earth and the islands of the sea. I believe that some of you who are reading this, will live to see and I pray that you will be a participant in the showing this ensign to the world and be an instrument in the hands of the Almighty toward gathering in His people, unto His holy mountain.

If you know of other Bible references that supports the coming forth of the Restoration that I have not already mentioned in these four parts of this subject, I would appreciate hearing from you. My address is:

Paul Johnson
Moorhead, Iowa 51558

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR . . .

BOOK OF MORMON STORIES

by

Ora Derry

8. Building A Ship

After their long weary journey from Jerusalem, Lehi and his family rested in a beautiful land by the side of the great sea. After many days had passed, the Lord called Nephi up into the mountain and told him he was to build a ship that was to carry them across this great body of water to the promised land. This ship was to be built after the Lord's direction.

So Nephi killed animals and from their skins made bellows to blow the flames of their fires. Up to this time they had had little fire as they journeyed in the wilderness for God said he would make their meat sweet so they would not need to cook it.

Taking two stones he smote them together to make sparks to start his fire. Then fanning them with the bellows, he made the flames hot enough to moulten the ore from the rocks he had brought from the mountain where God had showed him. With the ore, he made tools with which to build the ship.

The elder brothers, Laman and Lemuel, made fun of Nephi as he went about his work. They told him he was a fool to think he could build a ship and that he wasn't wise enough to build a ship to cross this great sea. They also said that it was too big a task for him and they didn't intend to help him build it. They accused him of being a visionary man like their father and if he had not been a visionary man they would be back in Jerusalem enjoying their home and wealth with all their old friends who were good people doing what was right in keeping the law of Moses. Their father had said they were a wicked people, but they knew they were good people, and because they had listened to him and followed him, they were a long way from their old home in Jerusalem.

Then Nephi told them of their forefathers who were in bondage in Egypt, who by heeding the commands of

God, were led out of captivity. He told them that they were led through the Red Sea on dry ground and that the Egyptian soldiers who were following after them were all drowned. They were fed every day with manna that was sent down from heaven and Moses smote the rock and water came forth to quench their thirst. God led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Even with all these things that God was doing for them they hardened their hearts and turned against him.

When they did what was wrong the Lord had to correct them. One time he sent the fiery flying serpents that bit the people and he also prepared a way that they might be healed. It was a very simple thing that they had to do but many were so proud, haughty and hard-hearted that they would not even do the simple act of looking up at the brass serpent on the pole, so they were destroyed. Though they many times had sinned and disobeyed the commandment of God, when they repented and were truly sorry for their sins, he forgave them and at last brought them back into their own land.

Now after many years they have become a very wicked people and are about to be destroyed. Because our father sought to warn them of the coming destruction, they sought to take his life and you are very like the Jews for you have sought to take his life also. An angel has appeared to you and you have heard the voice of God as a still small voice and as a mighty voice of thunder, but still you remain hard to reach and hard of heart.

After Nephi finished speaking, his brothers sought to lay hands on him, but Nephi told them not to touch him for he was so filled with the Spirit of God that if they touched him they would wither as dried grass. He told them they should cease murmuring against their father and that they were to help him build the ship. God had commanded him to build a ship and if God commanded him to do anything he could do it.

It was many days before they dared touch Nephi and then the Lord told him to stretch forth his hand toward them and He would show them His power. When Nephi put out his hand, the brothers were given a good shaking. They knew that God was with Nephi in this work and they were willing to help build the ship.

Nephi went often up into the mountain to be instructed by God in this work of building the ship and when it was finished the brothers saw that it was a good ship. The workmanship was very fine, not built after the way of man but by the direction of God.

When the ship was finished, the command was given of God to take all their possessions and food for their journey, and to go down into the ship. They put forth to sea and were driven by the wind towards the promised land.

After many days Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael and their daughters and their families began to dance and sing, having a merry time and speaking with great rudeness. Forgetting God and that it was

through His power and goodness that they had come this far on their journey, they became very rude to their parents and also with Nephi. When he tried to talk and reason with them (for he feared that the Lord would be become angry with them because of their iniquity and they might be drowned in the sea), they would not listen to him. They took him and bound him with strong cords so he could not move and treated him with great rudeness.

After they had bound Nephi, the compass ceased to work and they did not know which way to steer the ship. A great storm arose and drove them back upon the waves for three days. Still they continued with their merry making and rudeness. They would not let anyone speak to Nephi. Their father pled with them and also their mother and Nephi's wife and children. They would not listen until they became afraid that they were going to lose their lives in the terrible storm that continued to rage about them. At last they began to realize that the judgments of God was upon them and that they would perish unless they repented. So they took off the cords that bound Nephi and he arose. After taking the compass in his hands it began to work again.

When he prayed to the Lord the winds ceased to blow and the terrible storm was over. The sea became calm once more. They continued on their journey and after many days they reached the promised land.

OUR GIFT

by
Edna Smith

Musing I sat and thought of the labor
That this building we're in represents
The love and unfiring devotion, too
That each laborer gave of his all.

We wanted a house to welcome our Lord
Not a mansion so great and fine
But a dwelling where He, the Master of men,
Would come and abide there in.

The house is now ready for Him
Will He be pleased with our gift?
Our humble prayer will be to that end
For we give and dedicate it so today.

May the message that flows through it
Be that which He sends to us alway,
"Take up Thy cross and follow Me"
And courage and love will be thine!

We are soldiers in His ranks below
This house our abiding place here
So when our call comes home bye and bye
We'll dwell with Him on high.

Men do not usually reject the Bible because it contradicts itself but because it contradicts them. (Faith Baldwin)

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.

THE MEANING OF THE 12TH CHAPTER OF REVELATIONS

by

Charles E. Cottrill

In the first place let us consider the church. We all know that the church is not a woman. One reason why the church became referred to as a woman was because the church is called the lamb's bride, and a bride is a female and in most cases old enough to be a woman. It is only natural that John referred to the lamb's bride as a woman. There is another reason why John used the word woman to represent the church but we will get to that later.

In the 12th chapter of Revelations, 1st verse, we find the woman mentioned as being clothed with the sun, the sun of course representing Christ, so the Scripture could read clothed of the sun, or the church clothed of the sun with authority, which makes the writer's meaning more clear. Next we find the woman standing on the moon or with the moon under her feet. The moon represented a lesser authority than the authority with which she was clothed which was of the Sun (Christ). There is no hint given which will allow us to pin this lesser authority down, but it could to the mind of the Jew, have represented the authority of the Mosaic law. It may have represented worldly authority as vested in rulers and magistrates also. It is evident and I don't believe that anyone will dispute that the crown of 12 stars represents the 12 apostles given to the church. A crown represents a ruling authority, and of course the 12 apostles were to rule the church. Verse No. 2 is more difficult to explain, so we must at least lay a limited background for it; I say limited because if I hope to have this printed I must stay within reasonable limits.

As to the background mentioned, John the Revelator was on the Isle of Patmos at the time he wrote this and being banished there by the Romans he was under Roman guards. He was allowed to send out his writing to his compatriots, but just as it would be today they were censored by the Romans. If John had written in straight out language that could be understood by the Romans he would have been put to death very quickly. In this very chapter he was referring to Rome in a way that would not have been tolerated. For this reason John resorted to abstruse wordage and metaphorical language; however his contemporaries could interpret the meaning. This is the second reason why John referred to the church as a woman.

Bible writers mixed up their writing in a way that is peculiar to us, such as going abruptly from one subject to another and then back to the original subject

again in a manner that destroyed their contextual order and made the writer's meaning in some instances much more elusive than it would have been. In this very chapter John takes abruptly off on another subject. After telling what was going to happen 500 years in the future, verses 1 through 6, he suddenly relates something that happened before the creation, verses 7 through 12, then back to his original subject, verses 13 through 17. In the last five verses mentioned he repeats some what he said in the first 6 verses.

As for instance in the time period, he first said a thousand two hundred and three score days. Later he refers to the same thing but says for a time, and times and half a time. The woman's flight is described differently in verse 6 than it is in verse 14. Further John rushes back and forth through time in verses 4-10-11 and 12.

Now it is no wonder in view of all this that John changed his wording on the same thing in the second verses for instead of saying, and she being clothed with authority, which Rome would seek to take away from her, he covered this meaning by saying "and she being with child, pained to be delivered." John did not dare to openly state that the woman (church) had an authority higher than Rome, and neither did he dare to accuse the Romans of attempting to seize her authority. Either would have meant the death penalty for him.

So John continues on by mixing past and future in the third, fourth and fifth verses in which he is saying in the same way we have described, and for the same reasons that the devil (Dragon) would stir up Rome (7 hills) to use its extended authority (ten horns) to take over the ruling authority of the church (devour the child). The woman would be overcome and thereby be delivered of her authority, (delivered of the child), the Devil standing by to eat the child was foiled by God, who caught the child (authority) up to heaven. The child was to rule the earth with a rod of iron (the truth).

I do not believe that anyone in the restoration movement will dispute the meaning of verse 6, which is that the spiritual church was to flee leaving only the earthly church for a period of 1260 years or until the restoration in 1830.

Going back to verse 4 where John refers to the tail of the Dragon (Devil) this simply refers to the war in heaven and which subject is resumed in verse 7 and continues through verse 10.

This hardly needs any interpretation except that we might add a few lines to what John mentions. Lucifer was once the morning star, **son of the morning and** was slated to come to earth to be the Messiah and save mankind. When the plan of salvation was being made Satan

or Lucifer wanted to force men to be good and just because he could not have his way he rebelled, and was cast down and a third of the host of heaven with him.

Verse 11 refers to the efficacy of the blood of Christ and the willingness of the true Christian to give his life if need be for the gospel.

Verse 12 is self explanatory.

Verse 13 ties in with verses 4, 5 and 6 and really should have been included with them since it refers to the church and the authority already explained.

Verse 14 ties in with verse 6 and repeats the same thing in different words, except that wings are mentioned as the means of conveyance to the wilderness. The wings have no special significance since they are a play on words such as the statement found in Exodus 19-4 which states that God bore Israel out of Egypt on wings, II Samuel 22-11 where it says the Lord was seen on wings of the wind, and Psalms 139-9 where the psalmist speaks of taking the wings of the morning. In reality the church did not go anywhere since the church in this sense is an intangible thing not subject to travel, and going into the wilderness simply meant going into a state of unproductiveness, to remain in this state until the restoration or for 1260 years.

The time, and times and half a time are explained as follows, since some people arrive at the 1260 years by different methods. One time represents a year or 360 degrees. Times must be at least two years since it is plural, or 720 degrees, and a half time would be one half of 360 or 180 degrees making a total of 1260 degrees.

The earth makes one complete circle of the sun in $365\frac{1}{4}$ days and a complete circle is 360 degrees. This is the solution to the riddle.

Now this is different than the arbitrary way that some explain it, and of course everyone knows that the normal year of $365\frac{1}{4}$ days works out with too many years or 1278 and I don't believe in the arbitrary method of explaining this.

Verse 15 speaks of a flood which represents the influx or flood of pagans entering the church from 360 A.D. until the completion of the apostasy 570 A.D.

I have been asked how we can pin point the time of the Apostasy, the answer to which is easy. The church was restored in 1830, so taking the 1260 years and counting backwards makes it so simple you wonder why the question is ever asked, by church members I mean. That is unless we do not believe our own restoration history.

Going back to the flood of pagans entering the church, it is also easy to see why this hastened the final and complete apostasy. They did not want to submit to some Christian rites, and they wanted to bring in many of their pagan rites with them. There was already plenty of trouble in the church without this as the mystery of iniquity was already working in Paul's time.

Verse 16 speaks of help to come, which was to come from the earth. Now earth as it is used here can refer

to a land or a country. In Genesis 12-1 God said to Abraham, get out of thine own earth and unto an earth which I will shew thee, meaning the promised land or land of Canaan. And in Genesis 2-11 we find the earth of Havilah mentioned, but earth in these cases was translated land instead earth.

Now in this verse it is translated earth as is usually the case in both the Old and the New Testaments, but earth in this sense does not mean the whole world, but a particular place or country. In this case it is referring to pagan countries on the borders of Rome. These countries were to produce reformers, and translators of the forbidden scriptures, who would be the forerunners of, and pave the way for the restoration. In this way the earth would help the church after the inhabitants of this particular earth swallowed up the flood by conquering Rome.

Verse 17 refers to the persecution of the few remaining believers, many of whom became the martyrs that we read about, which persecution extended to the reformers and translators, many of whom were burned alive, and the dead body of one was exhumed and burned because he escaped the wrath of the church while he was alive.

Now the things we have brought up in this article are not all mentioned in this chapter, even in metaphorical language, but they are implied. As for instance when John says that the church is going into wilderness, or a state of unproductiveness for 1260 years, we know by this that the period of unproductiveness will end, which implies a restoration or a new beginning, or another period of productiveness, therefore we can include the restoration within the meaning of this chapter.

The word nourished used in connection with the church implies that the church while unproductive would be kept alive and in a state of readiness to become productive again when the time came. And so on and so on.

Now that we have discussed in detail the meaning of this chapter it might be very well to make a recapitulation of the context in order to summarize it, and bring out the meaning more clearly for those who might find it still hard to comprehend. For this reason we will write it just as though it might be happening to one of us in John's time and place.

Revelation 12 Chapter. What it means in language wordage and understanding of today.

1. I was caught up in a vision wherein I saw the Church appear in the form of a woman who was clothed with the glory and authority of the Lamb, which glory and authority exceeded the glory and authority of all earthly principalities and powers, and even that of the Mosiac law, all of which are trodden under foot by the woman, who wore a crown of 12 stars representing the 12 apostles and the power and authority given them of the Lamb, and in their place at the head of the church.

2. Now the woman being pregnant with authority, was under pressure (pain) from the power of Pagan

Rome, for that old Dragon which is the Devil, through the use of his servant Pagan Rome, was boring from within until the time came when he was in control of the woman (church) to the extent that she was delivered of her authority (the Child).

3. Now the Devil who had made war in heaven, and who had drawn down to earth with him a third part of the host of heaven and whose power was being made manifest through Rome, stood ready to take over the power and authority of the church (woman) for his power within the church was now greater than that of the woman, but the authority (child) was taken from his grasp and caught up to heaven leaving him only that power and authority which God had ordained unto him.

4. Now I saw this same authority restored to earth at the end of 1260 years, from the time it was taken from the earth and eventually it ruled the world through the force of truth (Rod of Iron). Now the church became and remained unproductive (in the wilderness) but was nourished for 1260 years or until her authority was again restored to earth.

5. And Satan appeared before me, and I saw that he caused a flood of pagans to enter the church who brought many of their beliefs and customs with them to the end that the church was carried away (into apostasy) by the flood of their numbers, but the earth helped the woman, and the heathen hordes on the borders of Rome did trod her down, and did accept Christ, and their reign gave birth to reformers who paved the way for the restoration of the gospel and the return of authority and the church to the earth.

6. In the meantime Satan being wrathful against the church saw that some of her seed remained; those who were still faithful, kept the commandments of God, and had the testimony of Christ, these he set out to destroy, and many of these became martyrs of the faith.

This rendering of the 12th chapter leaves out non-essentials or the language cover of John's time and includes some of what is implied as hereinbefore explained.

*Exodus 4:21 through 27. This is one of the many examples that could be mentioned. Note verses 21 through 23 then verses 24 through 26, then note verse 27.

*Horns represent authority but a horn or horns may also represent a kingdom or kingdoms respectively.

REMINDER

Again our thoughts turn to the need of providing and preparing food for the coming Conference. The Kitchen Committee wishes to remind you that we will be happy to receive donations of food or money again this year.

We hope to see you at Conference with a desire to be about our Father's business, and with love and compassion for all of our brothers and sisters.

Irene Shaw
Minnie Smith
Hester Wentworth

WHAT DOTH THE LORD REQUIRE?

by

Apostle Robert H. Jensen

The title above asks a question. It is found in the scriptures, and yet I am often made to wonder how few there are who care today.

OF HISTORY AND THE FUTURE

The people of the world today seemingly largely come under the lament of Enos of old as he spoke of the Nephites about 450 years before Christ: ". . . there was nothing save it was exceeding harshness, preaching and prophesying of wars, and contentions and destructions, and continually reminding them of death, and the duration of eternity, and the judgments and the power of God; and all these things stirring them up continually, to keep them in the fear of the Lord. I say there was nothing short of these things, and exceeding great plainness of speech, would keep them from going down speedily to destruction."¹ Jarom saw the same thing, in that ". . . it came to pass that the prophets of the Lord did threaten the people of Nephi, according to the word of God, that if they did not keep the commandments, but should fall into transgression, they should be destroyed from off the face of the land; Wherefore, the prophets, and the priests, and the teachers did labor diligently, exhorting with all long suffering, the people to diligence; teaching the law of Moses, and the intent for which it was given; persuading them to look forward unto the Messiah, and believe in him to come, as though he already was. And after this manner did they teach them. And it came to pass, that by so doing they kept them from being destroyed upon the face of the land: For they did prick their hearts with the word, continually stirring them up unto repentance."²

Nearly 400 years following Christ we find poor old Mormon writing to his son Moroni in the grief of his soul over his people: ". . . they do not repent, and Satan stirreth them up continually to anger, one with another. Behold, I am laboring with them continually; and when I speak the word of God with sharpness, they tremble and anger against me; and when I use no sharpness, they harden their hearts against it; wherefore I fear lest the Spirit of the Lord hath ceased striving with them. For so exceedingly do they anger, that it seemeth me that they have no fear of death; and they have lost their love, one towards another; and they thirst after blood and revenge continually."³

How far are we of today from these conditions; the population of the world, of this land of America, of "Latter-Day Israel"? If we are far from it, then where is the redemption of Zion that should be a refuge for the Lord's people? In retrospect, how often do you suppose our Savior, the crucified Lord of all, has wept in these "latter days" since 1830 and cried anew over latter-day Israel, ". . . how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathered her chickens under her wings, and ye would not". **Is it possible that**

we shall also cause Him to say unto us, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate!"⁴

Have we not a greater advantage in this day and age than any of the peoples of the Lord since the dawn of history? We have the law, the testimony, and the examples of myriads of mistakes and failures and the results of the punishments therefore. We know full well that the nature of our God is love, but His children are prone to forget that His love is expressed through both mercy and justice.

"... There is a law given and a punishment affixed, and repentance granted; which repentance, mercy claimeth; otherwise, justice claimeth the creature, and executeth the law, and the law inflicteth the punishment: if not so, the works of justice would be destroyed, and God would cease to be God. But God ceaseth not to be God, and mercy claimeth the penitent, and mercy cometh because of the atonement; and the atonement bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead; and the resurrection of the dead bringeth back men into the presence of God; and thus they are restored into his presence; to be judged according to their works; according to the law and justice; for behold, justice exerciseth all his demands, and also mercy claimeth all which is her own; and thus, none but the truly penitent are saved. What, do you suppose that mercy can rob justice? I saw unto you, Nay; not one whit. If so, God would cease to be God. . . . And whosoever will not come, the same is not compelled to come; but in the last day it shall be restored unto him, according to his deeds".⁵ Remember, Oh remember, we who would be saints of the Most High— "**... The Lord can not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.**"⁶

An excuse sometimes heard for lackadaisical spiritual performance is that, "the people of olden times had prophets and shepherds to lead them and guide them, but today we have none". But, as Alma aptly said so many years ago, "... A shepherd hath called after you, and art still calling after you, but ye will not hearken unto his voice".⁷

Time after time the Lord has called to His people in instruction and admonishment, and even told them that: "And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation. And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay."⁸

And yet, the people who call themselves the children of God leave sacred truths to the arbitrament of time."⁹

Is it not possible that this self-imposed arbitrament of time intended as a "safety factor" against Satan and the hearts and designs of men can overtake the Lord's people in our time, as it did in times past when they deafened their ears to the sometimes still small voice that did not shout, but nevertheless spoke to them?

But paradoxically, at the same time there are those who rise up and speak great swelling things from the designs of their heart or from their finite human emotions, with a "lo here and a lo there" and "thus sayeth the Spirit", even though it has the ring of a tin cup. In the first case it is from evil design, in the second case it is deception through the human mind that lacks spiritual discernment; yet, how many there are who eagerly drink from that cup as though the contents were of some value, without putting it to the supreme test! "**Where there is no vision, the people perish . . .**"¹⁰

During this present year of 1968 the peoples of the Restoration will have even greater need for the directing and protecting hand of the Lord. There shall be many of the world, even in this land, who will be hungry and destitute. Violence from riots in this country's streets and highways shall rage increasingly from strife in men's hearts. Our system of social behavior called civilization which separates us from brutal savagery is ever so thin a veil that shall be severely punctured, when it seemingly becomes a matter for some to live by violence or starve in the midst of plenty.

And what of the Lord's people and the redemption of Zion amongst all such turmoil? It does not appear after one and one-third centuries that we as a body of people will voluntarily perform that which is necessary to accomplish it. I fear that Zion indeed shall be redeemed only through great tribulation, and the times are yet awaiting that painful event which must take place ere many years pass. I say "painful", because of the abundant evidence that tribulations shall be on every hand. Notwithstanding all this, the wonderful hope of the faithful for that redemption still flickers above the sins of the world as expressed in the words of the great wisdom resident in the words of that old favorite hymn, "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm."¹¹

YES. "WHAT DOTTH THE LORD THY GOD REQUIRE of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul?"¹²

To walk in all His ways is defined many times through the entire course of the scriptures; for example:

We have the Gospel Commandments of Christ in the fifth and sixth chapters of Matthew;

"... In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength . . .";¹³

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."¹⁴

“. . . He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.”¹⁵

The Lord told Israel, (“Ye have robbed me”—rj) “. . . In tithes and offerings. . . Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and **prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts**, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.”¹⁶

There is no doubt about the plan of the Lord for His people working, for we have recorded testimonies as as proof infallible; e.g., “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.”¹⁷

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them of the household of faith.”¹⁸

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature; and he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned. And whosoever shall believe in my name, doubting nothing, **unto him will I confirm all my words**, even unto the end of the earth.”¹⁹

THE DECREE.

“ZION SHALL BE REDEEMED WITH JUDGMENT . . .”²⁰

Will we be counted worthy to assist in that glorious redemption? Be ever prayerful in all things, “For behold, at that (last-rj) day shall he (Satan-rj) rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good, and others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security (with worldly goods and pleasures-rj), that they will say, all is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well; And thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away **carefully** down to hell.”²¹

Of greatest importance, we must at all costs endeavor to avoid the curse of ancient Israel, wherein Isaiah declared unto them: “For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For, behold, ye have closed your eyes; and ye have rejected the prophets, and your rulers; and the seers hath he covered because of your iniquities.”²²

THE LORD HAS SPOKEN.

“Behold I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall assemble yourselves together to agree upon my word, and by the prayer of your faith ye shall receive my law, that ye may know how to govern my church, and have all things right before me.”²³

“Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.”²⁴

“And now behold I give unto you a commandment, that when ye are assembled together ye shall note with a pen how to act, and for my church to act upon the points of my law and commandments, which I have given.”²⁵

I shall be grateful to our Lord all the days of my life, “For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”²⁶ and, “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”²⁷

“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear;” however, we must ever be diligent and sufficiently humble that we do not fall into the pit of ancient Israel, wherein the prophet declared unto them: “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”²⁸

Indeed they sowed the wind, and reaped the whirlwind.”²⁹ “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise . . .”³⁰; no, not slack concerning His promise either of blessing or punishment. And come what may in the world, God is not limited or hindered by man.

THE WAY TO THE LORD.

The will of God does not come upon any man without honest effort. Alma said in his search: “Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days, that I might know these things of myself.”³¹ The New Testament contains the divine promise, that “If any of your lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith. . .”³²

If it is truly God who answers, He will not answer one person one thing and another some other thing. All must pray continually for spiritual discernment, lest they be deceived by false spirits and the hearts of men.

In the words of Mormon, “. . . Let us labor diligently; for if we should cease to labor, we should be brought under condemnation; for we have a labor to perform whilst in this tabernacle of clay, that we may conquer the enemy of all righteousness, and rest our souls in the kingdom of God.”³³

THE IRREVOCABLE WARNING!

“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”³⁴

We may think to ourselves that as individuals we are safe and secure in our covenant with the Lord, but we have been warned about many things concerning our times. Cunning deception, ever with some new and strange doctrines or remarkable signs, is always present in an effort to lead astray those of the covenant.

"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams; **for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**"³⁵ "For there shall arise (in the last days-rj) false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."³⁶

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."³⁷

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."³⁸

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared with a hot iron;**"³⁹

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith; so do. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned; from which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."⁴⁰

"If any man teach otherwise and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strife of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings."⁴¹

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming; even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they have received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. **And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**"⁴²

When people are bound and determined to persist in their own human desires, beliefs, errors and wickedness regardless of the light that has come to them, God will help them along their sinful way, that not believing, they may not come to a knowledge of the way to eternal salvation. The Lord so declared this regarding ancient

Israel; "Therefore speak I to them in parables, because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive. For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."⁴³ They were not willing to receive the truth if it did not agree with their pre-conceived ideas and notions—they did not have a love for the truth!

Again, the invitation is to all, as God is not willing that any should be lost; but, **none are compelled to come, and those who do come and later fall away are not restricted from going.** Those who will not come to the light or stay in the light, God helps along the way of their darkness that they might be separated from the righteous and honest in heart, and not pollute His kingdom. There is yet another of the many statements regarding the action of the Lord along this line: "Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me (Ezekiel-rj), and sat before me. And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face; should I be inquired of at all by them? (Now, the idols of a man's heart can be many things: The love of riches, power and authority (office), lusts and pleasures of the flesh, **and beliefs of his own heart-rj**). Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, putteth the stumbling-block of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; **I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols.**"⁴⁴

THE CONCLUSION.

The Apostle Paul prophesied this thing to the Church: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of our own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."⁴⁵

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers (many-rj) and strange doctrines . . ."⁴⁶

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."⁴⁷

King Benjamin: "But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. And now, O man, remember, and perish not."⁴⁸

The promise of the Lord:

"AND WHOSOEVER TREASURETH UP MY WORDS, SHALL NOT BE DECEIVED."⁴⁹

Note: All exceptional capitalization and underscoring is the author's.

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A HERESY

by

Harvey E. Seibel

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, that and mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isaiah 8:19-20)

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8)

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God." (I John 4:1-2)

Today there are many false spirits gone out into the world for the purpose of deceiving even the very elect if it were possible. These false spirits take on many forms and many times are hard to distinguish whether it be of God or not. But one thing that we can be certain is that if such spirits do not speak the truth of God or confess that Christ is Lord then there is no light in them and they are not of God.

As we have noted above they come to us in many forms. We can have whatever choice of the evil we wished to be deceived in. We have spiritualism, witchcraft, mediums, soothsayers, sorcerers, wizards, magicians, false prophets and false Christs, necromancers, enchanters, divinations, charmers, observers of times, faith healers, dreamers, astrologers, stargazers, monthly prognosticators, much if not all our present ESP or extra sensory perception, various forms of clairvoyance, crystal ball gazers, use of divining rods for locating water, etc, games of divers kinds of which the ouija board is most familiar and many other little traps people fall into from time to time such as palm-reading, scalp-reading, reading of tea leaves, and unexplained movements of all devices which appear to answer questions or predict the future. These avenues of information are contrary to the orthodox manner in which God has always revealed himself to his servants. These are all the works of darkness. These are not among the gifts of God to man.

There is no such thing as personal magnetism or power of the mind over matter. Such things are accomplished by forces of the spiritual world. God reveals himself to his servants in a number of specific ways many of which are revealed to us in the scriptures. For example God does not work through any man made instruments such as a crystal ball or the ouija board, etc. However we are informed that God does have and did prepare certain means of communication. The urim and thummim, the rod of Moses, and the liahona are examples of mechanical devices whereby God revealed himself. Other means are through visions, dreams, the still small voice, angels, etc.

"For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom; and to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; and to another exceeding great faith; and to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles; and again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; and again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits; and again, to another, all kinds of tongues, and again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues." (Moroni 10:10-11)

"And now I speak unto all the ends of the earth, that if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief." (Moroni 10:18)

If God is all sufficient to our needs and is able to bless us in every way and to make himself known to us on any occasion what need we then to seek unto uncertain spirits for our guidance and welfare?

One of the great deceptions today of which people by the thousands are daily seeking unto and being deceived is the daily horoscope (Astrology). Astrology has never been condoned nor recognized by God. Closely related to this type of guidance is the practice of

planting by the moon. But we of all people should not be deceived. For Satan has great power and not only can appear as an angel of light but also has power to do many signs and wonders so that if it were possible the very elect would be deceived. Let us see what God has to say about Astrology in particular.

"Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms. And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. Therefore hear now this, thou that are given to pleasure, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments. For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. Therefore shall evil come upon them; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know. Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt not be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. LET NOW THE ASTROLOGERS, THE STARGAZERS, THE MONTHLY PROGNOSTICATORS, STAND UP, AND SAVE THEE FROM THESE THINGS THAT SHALL COME UPON THEE. BEHOLD, THEY SHALL BE AS STUBBLE; THE FIRE SHALL BURN THEM; THEY SHALL NOT DELIVER THEMSELVES FROM THE POWER OF THE FLAME: THERE SHALL NOT BE A COAL TO WARM AT, NOR FIRE TO SIT BEFORE IT." (Isaiah 47:1, 5, 7-14)

Three things are certainly evident here. God is not the author of Astrology. He is greater than Astrology. And He is not pleased with Astrology or star-gazing or monthly prognosticating and will give them over to judgment. (This is no reflection against the true science of Astronomy).

What then does God say that the sun, moon and stars are for since they are not to be used for astrological purposes? "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the the heaven to divide the day from the night; but let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God sat

them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:14-18)

There it is. They were put there not for astrological purposes (as if it were possible to predict anything from masses of elements and compounds flying around in space) but to divide the day from the night and also for signs, seasons, days and years. Well, what are those signs you might ask? "Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;" (Luke 21:10-11 and 25) "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:" (Matthew 24:29-30)

This should eliminate any possible confusion as to what those signs were to be. God never at any time authorized astrology as a source of knowledge. Further there is nothing in scripture to indicate that such a science (a false one at that) could be trusted as a reliable source of information. The whole system of astrology is based completely upon man's imagination and interpretation of what certain positions or conjunctions mean. There is no heavenly inspiration in this. So we should not put any reliance in something which is so uncertain and so lacking in heavenly truth and backing. Further what need we of astrology if we are walking with God. Choose ye this day whom thou shalt serve. There is admittedly two sources of information. The first is of God but the other is obviously nothing more than the imaginings of man or worse the deceptions of Satan to keep us from seeking unto God whom we ought.

Consider the peculiar practice of planting by the moon. What influence could such an inanimate body as the moon (which is composed of much the same material as the earth) have on growing plants? What are the main requirements for good plant growth? Well fertilized soil, sufficient water and plenty of sunlight! How that a chunk of rock and dust floating around the earth could have any influence on plant growth is totally beyond logic. God is the one that gives the increase, not some unfeeling celestial body. What difference does it make what phase the moon is in when you consider that the physical body is the same in all phases. If reflected sunlight helps plants to grow better than that can't be attributed to any peculiarity on the part of the moon outside the fact that it happens to reflect sunlight. The only real influence that we know the moon experts is its gravitational pull on the tides. The Book of Mormon explicitly tells us to pray over our flocks and crops, etc.

As to our own experiences we have never planted anything by the moon and we weren't any the worse for not having done so. There was nothing like plain old fertilizer to bring out the life in the garden. Also we never did regulate our living by observing which days were good or bad. To observe such days and times is so much superstition such as the so-called Friday, the 13th. The only day we as followers of God are commanded specially to observe is the sabbath or the Lord's day.

No astrologer no matter how good he may be acclaimed to be can compare to a true prophet of God. It has been my experience that many astrological statements are of such a general nature that it could fit just about any person.

"And the king communed with them: and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore, stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired to them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm." (Daniel 1:19-20)

"Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth than can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean." (Daniel 2:2 and 10)

"Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;" (Daniel 2:27)

That God takes such things as soothsaying, witchcraft, etc., seriously we can see in the following quotations.

"Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers." (Isaiah 2:6)

"And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers;" (Micah 5:12)

"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days, But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour." (Acts 16:16-18) This quotation shows very plainly the source of these strange powers.

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:31)

"And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after

them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." (Leviticus 20:6)

"A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them." (Leviticus 20:27) (The death penalty was administered under the law of Moses).

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord." (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)

"Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." (Exodus 22:18)

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like;" (Galatians 5:19-21)

"Therefore hearken not yet to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: For they prophesy is a lie unto you." (Jeremiah 27:9-10)

If we are not to seek after these things which are evil in God's sight what then should be our duty toward God? "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." (Matthew 6:33)

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

"Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." (Zephaniah 2:3)

Certainly we could not hope to escape His wrath if we base ourselves on such false premises as astrology or any of the other myriads of like evils instead of God. Astrology is the Devil's substitute for prayer just as reincarnation is for resurrection and evolution is for creation.

And finally we should have a little word about false prophets.

"But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)

Again, "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a

wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 13:1-3) A prophet therefore is not always a true prophet even though certain things do come to pass. Try the spirits. Do they speak according to his word? Though the sign come to pass what about the life and teachings of the so-called prophet? Do they teach against sin? divorce? smoking? Do they serve God or Satan? a snake? as one crystal ball gazer has declared? Satan can appear even as an angel of light. Let us not be deceived. Today any true prophet of God would naturally acknowledge the restoration of His gospel on the earth and warn against the sins of the world and the impending disaster. Prophets of old were very unpopular. What does that speak of the prophets (outside the church notably) today? They are very popular. The world flocks to them. Must be they don't speak the truth of God but only the lying wonders of Satan which he brings to pass.

May we be a bit slower in the future to pay heed to every fair sounding prognosticator or curious operation and a little quicker to learn the will of God as we ought.

OBITUARIES

Manley Randall

Brother Manley Randall passed away October 15, 1967 in a convalescent home in Los Angeles, California, after being sick and under doctor's care for a number of years. He was born on February 25, 1906 at West Lorne, Ontario, Canada.

Brother Randall was baptized October 8, 1933 at Shafter, California and lived true to the covenant although he was somewhat isolated from church activities. He loved the church and its people whom he had the privilege to meet.

He leaves to mourn his passing, as far as the writer knows, one brother Thomas Randall of Leamington, Ontario and one sister also of Leamington. Three brothers preceded him in death. Burial was at Olive Lawn Cemetery, La Mirada, California.

Many friends will miss his cheerful smile.

LAST WORD

When the last brave word is spoken,
And our life on earth is done,
And the glass of life is broken
And the sands have ceased to run,
When our deeds have been rewarded
Both the evil and the good,
May each have left recorded
We have done the best we could.

Elmer P. Hunter

Elmer P. Hunter was born January 30, 1885 in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri and departed this life on February 12, 1968 in Phoenix, Arizona.

He was baptized and united with the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Independence, Missouri on April 8, 1906 and was ordained a priest April 5, 1912.

He married Miss Tillie Jacobson in June, 1947. She preceded him in death in 1955. Due to his poor health, the last few years of his life was spent in Phoenix, Arizona where his sisters cared for him.

Brother Hunter loved people and was a friend to those in need by always being ready to lend a helping hand. He was a strong believer in the Restored Gospel and during his life he lived in obedience to the teachings of Jesus to the best of his knowledge. He looked forward and hoped to see the time when there would be a Zionic condition established, and had the hope that all believers of the gospel would prepare themselves for that event by complying to the teachings set forth by Jesus. He had a kindly disposition and made many friends.

He leaves to mourn his departure six sisters: Mildred and Merle Hunter, and Gertrude Jackson of Phoenix, Arizona; Ollie Printz of Kansas City, Missouri; Beulah Jackson of Yates Center, Kansas; Eva Capps of Detroit, Michigan. His brother, Ernest Hunter, preceded him in death.

The funeral service was held in the Mount Moriah Funeral Home in Kansas City with Brother William F. Anderson officiating and Brother William A. Sheldon assisting. Burial was at the Mount Moriah Cemetery.

DEDICATION OF BUILDING

The dedication service for the church building of the East Independence, Missouri Local Church of Christ, 78 Highway and Holke Road, is set for May 12, 1968. The services for that day are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- 9:00 A. M. Prayer service
- 10:00 A. M. Welcome by the Pastor
- 10:30 A. M. History of the local church given by Elder Kenneth J. Smith, Pastor at the time of organization.
- 11:00 A. M. Sermon by Apostle Archie F. Bell, missionary in charge at the time of the organization.
- 12:15 P. M. Lunch at church
- 2:30 P. M. Dedication Sermon
- 6:30 P. M. Gospel in Song
- 7:00 P. M. Looking Ahead (sermon)

All are cordially invited to attend this special event.

"WHAT . . . GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER . . ."

The marriage vows uniting William O. Richardson and Mrs. Blanche Watson, both of Fort Wayne, Indiana, were spoken on January 31, 1968, in the little Harvard Street Church of Christ, Phoenix, Arizona.

Brother Richardson formerly lived and worked in Kansas City, Missouri. Mrs. Watson, now Mrs. Richardson, has lived in Fort Wayne almost all her life. Both bride and groom had lost their former mates in death. She has three married children and he has a married son.

The marriage ceremony, performed by Elder Don McIndoo, was a short but beautiful one. Elder John Jones and his wife, Verna, stood up with the couple as they spoke their vows.

The first number chosen for twenty minutes of organ music preceding the ceremony was "The Little Brown Church", symbolic of the couple's deep religious background. Several old, well-known love ballads followed, and then, just before the five-member wedding party walked quietly from the rear of the church to the rostrum, the peaceful strains of "My Times Are In Thy Hands" served to remind the wedding participants as well as those who came to witness the ceremony, that a loving Father is ever at the helm of our earthly barks, as they sail through the sometimes-smooth, sometimes-rough waters of the Sea of Life.

Two large baskets of white gladioli and pink carnations, with orange tree foliage, decorated the rostrum of the church, and a modest bowl of white, orchid-tinted pompons, with English ivy and candles, added its beauty from atop the piano, later to serve as a center piece on the head table in the annex where a reception, following the ceremony, gave opportunity to greet and fellowship with the newlyweds. Two of the young people, Arden Ely, and Johnna Mae Jones, had artfully decorated the annex with white and yellow streamers and hanging paper wedding bells. A nicely decorated wedding cake and hot coffee were served from two gleaming silver tea sets added their festive touch to the occasion.

This personable and lovable couple from Indiana had come to Phoenix with two purposes in mind: to be married, and buy a home in the mild climate of this desert land. They accomplished both in less than one week! While in Phoenix they were guests of Don and Betty McIndoo and planned to be quietly married in the McIndoo home, but they were overruled by the church group who persuaded them to share the happy event by having a church wedding. The couple's expressions of satisfaction and gratitude gave assurance of the "rightness" of the change in plans.

The next day after their marriage the Richardsons were on their way by train to Indiana, there to take care of necessary business, pack their belongings and return to Phoenix where they will occupy their new home and

become welcome additions to the "Little Flock" in "The Valley of the Sun."

As both bride and groom have passed their spring-time of life and are now beginning a new venture in their autumn years, the following lines invaded our thoughts, and were typed and presented to the happy couple as a token of our best wishes:

To

William O. and Blanche Richardson
On Their Wedding Day
January 31, 1968

The beauty of Spring
No heart could deny—
Its lilting bird call,
Its vivid blue sky—
The bursting young buds,
To humming-birds bent—
Intoxicant wine
Of Earth's fragrant scent.

Full equal to Spring
Is Autumn's calm day—
Her crisp, brilliant hues,
Her mild, placid way.
The heart of the world
Responds to her call,
And senses the peace
She folds over all.

You'll ever recall
The mem'ry of Spring,
Alive in the joys
Ripe Autumn will bring.
You'll gladly exchange
Spring's flavorful sup,
To savor the cheer
Of Autumn's full cup!

Evalena Sills

BAPTISM

James Robert Speer was baptized Sunday afternoon, January 28, 1968 by Apostle William A. Sheldon at the East Independence, Missouri Local Church. The confirmation was given immediately after the baptism by Brother Sheldon and Elder Kenneth J. Smith.

Brother Speer is a son-in-law to Sister Lorraine Welton. We are happy to welcome him to the family of Christ.

There can be no peace when there is not God in the hearts of men. When you drive the Devil out of the human hearts the stream of life will be sweet, happy, and peaceful. (C. C. Peale, D.D.)