

# 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.

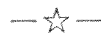
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Independence, Missouri, April, 1968

No. 4

## The Dawn

by  
Janice Hansen



Christ walked along the paths of old,  
As ancient prophets had foretold;  
Some there were who crowned Him king,  
While praises to His name did sing.

A message to the world He brought,  
Eternal life for man He taught;  
To serve the Father was His goal,  
To win Him every living soul.

But in a darkened hour of shame,  
One of His own to Jesus came;  
BETRAYAL: And Jesus wept within,  
The world was full of wicked men.

Along the way a cross did wait.  
There men whose hearts were stirred to hate,  
Crucified the Begotten Son,  
As Jesus said, God's will be done.

The world was darkened, without light,  
His followers wept throughout the night;  
Then angels from the realms on high,  
Sang, Christ is not dead, but reigneth nigh.

Behold, the mansions here for you,  
God reaches out in welcome, too.  
Arise, rejoice, the night is gone,  
Through Christ each soul shall see The Dawn.

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# Zion's Advocate

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## EDITORIAL . . .

### HUMAN RELATIONS

The decision, made in the great creation to allow the souls of men the opportunity of returning into the presence of Almighty God through the exercise of that heavenly gift, man's free will agency, became the basis of the giant eternal struggle for supremacy between good and evil. This struggle has persisted through the ages and will continue even down until the great final judgment; when, we are told the Devil and his angels are to be cast out from the presence of God and His Son Jesus Christ. Those that have prevailed in the exercise of the agency and have chosen good of their own free will, thus elevating themselves above the probationary state, will be received back into the presence of the Creator.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new . . ." (Revelation 21:1-5)

The very basic principles in the make-up of most men, as to the struggle between good and evil, was evidenced early in the record of Adam's family in the social exchange between two brothers, Cain and Abel. We are told in the story that Cain being a tiller of the soil, brought forth an offering of the first fruit of the ground to the Lord; and, that his brother Abel, a keeper of sheep, brought forth the firstlings of his flock and the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering. (See Genesis 4th chapter)

Envyings and strife enter into the picture of the history of mankind at an early stage. In the mental conception of envying came jealousy and greed until strife attained the quality of brutal murder, lying, and deception as Cain answered the Lord when he asked, "Where is thy brother?" "I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" Creation continued to struggle down through the vistages of time to our own day, locked in the eternal battle between the forces of good and evil. A study of civilizations, their rise and fall, indelibly place within our understanding the basic reason for their successes and their failures. When mankind has recognized, worshipped, and striven to follow after the commandments of God, he has been blessed and prospered. When he has listened to the whisperings of the Devil or has become enamoured with the size and beauty of the arm of flesh, he has failed and oft-times brought upon himself destruction, through the wrath of a just God. This was the case of Cain, who was very crestfallen to the point

that he was envious of his brother. Envy became jealously; and jealously became strife; and strife ended in the brutal murder of his brother. The same basic principles followed the family of creation down through the ages. In the experiences of the Book of Mormon peoples, we find the rise and fall of man in exercising his right of franchise, free agency, the choice between good and evil. The struggle goes on. As man listened to the words of the Master of men and endeavored to follow after his counsels, he prospered and was blessed in his association with others. But, when he denied the brotherhood of mankind and became envious, envy became jealousy, jealousy became strife, and strife, in the case of nations, became war. Lifted up in the pride of our own hearts, we have forgotten God; and, when this nation has forgotten God it stands in dire danger of being swept off. The Book of Mormon tells us plainly that the nation that occupies this land must worship the God of the land or face this grieving judgment. "And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God." (Book of Ether page 717; verses 31-32) "And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written." (Book of Ether, page 717, verses 34-35).

As we watch and look at the conditions on the earth around us, and as HUMAN RELATIONS continue to worsen, we are caused to wonder, even as the prophet Isaiah wondered or expressed himself, "Watchmen what of the night?" (Isaiah 21:11). Perhaps we live in that period spoken of just prior to the midnight cry. "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept." (Matthew 25:5) Will we awaken in time to determine if there is sufficient oil in our lamps, that we may be ready when the bridegroom comes? Perhaps it would be well if we were to take the advice of the prophet Jeremiah "Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, . . . for the Lord hath devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon. (Jeremiah 51:12)

As we come to the end of another conference year, we would bid the readers of these pages adieu and pray they will remember to, "Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord; look unto the

rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all the 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.

"Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation; for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near; my salvation has gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

"Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings." (Isaiah 51:1-7)

Ye verily, let us no longer sleep nor be lulled to sleep by every wind of false doctrine that has risen among us and that may still arise. Let us return to the old paths and seek to keep our paths straight in righteousness, seeking ever to improve HUMAN RELATIONS with those around us, let us prepare our people to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes again for the last hour.

K. J. S.

## SERIES OF MEETINGS

Apostle Archie F. Bell, missionary in charge of the state of Missouri and Northwestern states, held a series of gospel meetings at the Temple Lot Local beginning with the Sunday morning service, January 21, continuing each evening at 7:00 p. m. in a ten meeting series and concluding with the two services Sunday, January 28.

The services were well attended by both the East Independence and Temple Lot Locals and their visitors; good fellowship was shared by all those present.

Apostle Bell's subjects were opportune and very interesting and included such subjects as: Beginning of the Gospel, Joseph via Manasseh, Joseph via Ephraim, Lord's First Coming, Building the Church of Christ, Church of Christ, Kingdom of God, The Comforter, Awake, and Lord's Preparation.

Those attending were encouraged to bring notebooks and take references for future study at home. These references are available for anyone who may be interested.

Reported by Velma J. Wheaton

## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

### EAST INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Greetings from the East Independence Local:

It is conference time again. Gives one a warm feeling, knowing once again the saints will be gathered. We need the association with our brothers and sisters to gain strength from each other so we can stand in these last days.

Sunday, February 18th, Brother William Sheldon preached at the 11 a. m. service. He admonished us to be ready, waiting and watching. It was a very forceful sermon. How marvelous it was that the Lord allowed our brother to return and carry on his work. We are thankful for all the prayers offered in his behalf. It just shows how the Lord will work with a concerned people.

May 12, 1968 has been designated as the date to officially dedicate our church to the Lord. We invite all to come.

We are happy to welcome Brother Bob and Sister Jennifer Oldham and daughter Kimberly Sue home from a tour in the marines. Brother and Sister Rex Weaver, their son Vernon and his wife Gloria and son Scot from California are making their home in Independence and are meeting with us.

Sister Ora Derry is still confined at home. We still ask an interest in your prayers for her and Sister Beatrice Babcock, who is in a nursing home in Independence.

Adair McCubbin

### COLLINS, MISSOURI

In January we elected officers as follows:

Pastor, E. J. McIndoo; Secretary, Louise McIndoo; Treasurer, Blanch Martin; Chorister, Larry Shaw; Pianist, Margie Routh; Reporter, Irene Shaw.

Sunday School Superintendent, Everett Martin.

Teachers: Adult, Joe Yates; Junior, Louise McIndoo; Beginners, Floralice Yates; Pianist, Leora Martin.

Louise and Ed McIndoo arrived home January 19, after having spent nearly two months with loved ones and friends in Phoenix, Arizona. Their report of the activities of the ministry there makes us realize how much the rest of us need to study and be about our Father's business.

On the last Sunday of each month we have dinner together at the church and sometimes have round table discussions or other services in the afternoon. The last two Sundays our young people have practiced for the Easter program.

We were most happy the first week in March when Frances and Leon Yates arrived home from Ticul, Yucatan, Mexico, where they have ministered to the needs of the saints there for the last six months. They were so busy they had little time to rest. They came home encouraged with the work there.

Our missionaries encounter hardships and trials, but we know God directs and protects them. We are living in a time of violence and sorrow in so much of the world. It is our hope as members of Christ's Church to be of service to our Master by bringing lost sheep into the fold and help lighten the burdens of the oppressed.

May God bless each one of you and always give you the desire and strength to do His will.

Irene Shaw, Reporter

## OBITUARY

Brother John Cooper of Regina formerly of Lumsden, Sask. departed this life March 2nd, 1968 at the age of 93. He was born April 6th, 1874 in Stafford, England and married the late Ann Allen on December 26, 1900. He was baptized by an Elder in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, October 15, 1894 in Stafford, England and later transferred his membership to the Church of Christ with Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri. He came to Canada in 1906 and settled in Lumsden, on a farm.

Brother Cooper is survived by one daughter, Mrs. M. Leaker, (Miriam) of Regina, three sons, John of Regina, Sidney of Lumsden, Joseph of Trossacks, Sask., twelve grandchildren, one brother, Steve, of Senlac, Sask. and a host of friends.

Brother Cooper was preceded in death by his wife, Ann, on December 14, 1965 and a daughter, Ethel, in 1912. In preparing this obituary I wish to add my testimony. I first met him in 1910 and we became close friends, mostly because of his noble character and his good will towards all, always ready to help in case of need, and loyal to his brothers and sisters in the Gospel of Christ. He was true to his God in every respect. He not only obeyed the Gospel of Christ but lived it from day to day as long as life lasted and I am sure he now rests in the Paradise of God to await the morning of the first Resurrection. He died as he had lived and has left behind him a monument and a heritage worthy of a grand old man. He was buried from the Bremner Funeral Home of Regina and laid to rest in the cemetery at Lumsden, Sask. The service was conducted by T. J. Jordan of Regina, assisted by Bishop R. N. Jordan of Viceroy.

To all our wonderful friends in the Church of Christ  
Greetings:

I wish to take this belated moment to thank you all from my heart for the kind and loving expressions of comfort and concern that we received when my father passed away. There are no words adequate to tell you what it means to have you all as our brothers and sisters.

May God bless each of you in all your needs.

With Loving Thanks,

Mrs. Jack Martin  
Midwest City, Okla.

## MOTHER'S CLUB REPORT

The Mother's Club has had some very interesting meetings the past few months.

In October, 1967, we met at the Church with Sr. Mary Johnson acting hostess. Our roll call was "My most effective disciplinary measure." Our lesson was given by Sr. Margaret Gill on the discipline of children. The main point was that discipline is used not to punish, but to correct errors and should be for the child's development and learning.

Our November meeting was also held at the church. Sr. Irene Case was hostess. Sr. Irene Maley gave the devotional; a verse and poem on thanking God. Roll call was answered with favorite expressions of children. The program time was devoted to making favors for the Music Club Christmas party.

The Children's Music Club went Christmas caroling at several individuals' homes and two nursing homes, leaving boxed cookies as a gift. They then returned to the church for their regular practice and party.

Sr. Margret Gill was hostess for the Christmas party at her home in Peculiar, Missouri, December 21. The light snowfall added its beauty to the season.

On January 11, we met at the home of Sr. Helen Roberts. New Year's Resolutions were given for the roll call. Our program consisted of impromptu speeches pertaining to important phases of family understanding.

Sr. Ruth McCallon was hostess for an Artex Embroidery Paint Party at her home February 8. This satisfied interests about Artex, and netted some income from orders taken.

We find our monthly gatherings interesting. The informal atmosphere and pot-luck dinners add to a pleasant social time, also. We only hope our activities will aid to make better citizens of us and our families in the church and our communities.

Sr. Margret Gill, Reporter

## WEDDING WHEATON - AUGUSTINE

On November 25, 1967, at the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot, Karma Ann Wheaton became the bride of David Michael Augustine. Her father officiated in a simple double ring ceremony before an altar with an open Bible.

Miss Wheaton is the daughter of Elder and Mrs. Richard A. Wheaton, of Independence, Missouri and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Augustine of Phoenix, Arizona.

Attending the bride as matron of honor was her twin sister, Mrs. Konie Caviness. Brad Wheaton, brother of the bride, attended Mr. Augustine as best man.

After a short honeymoon trip, Mr. and Mrs. Augustine are making their home in Phoenix, Arizona.

The many friends and relatives of the young couple wish them many years of happiness together and may God bless them both.

## YUCATAN AID

With deep gratitude we take this opportunity to give a report of the aid to Yucatan which has been so generously given. Soon after our request for help, we began to receive money for aid. We received some money, with the privilege of spending it in the work here as we saw fit. In as much as there has been a need for other than food, medicine, doctors, etc., we did spend a little for other things which will be reflected in the following report.

Total money received personally .....	\$987.34	
Money Expended:		
Corn .....	\$774.04	
Transportation and handling		
cost of corn .....	23.00	
To families for food other than corn .....	38.48	
Medicine and X-ray .....	32.40	
Church reunion at Christmas,		
(two days) food, treats for children		
transportation, etc., .....	30.69	
Sunday School and Church Material .....	24.57	
Chairs for Ticul, and		
Uyalceh Groups .....	24.56	
		\$947.74
	\$947.74	\$947.74
We have on hand at present .....		\$ 39.60

The above report reflects only the receipts and expenditures of the money which came directly into our hands from individuals and locals, but we must go back a little to get a complete picture. Before the call went out to the people, the need for aid came to the attention of the Apostles. They asked the Bishopric to send \$150.00, which they sent immediately and we began the dispensing of the same in the following manner:

Corn .....	\$103.30
Direct to families for food other than corn .....	18.70
Medicine and X-ray .....	24.00
Transportation of the sick to Merida .....	4.00
	\$150.00

The major emergency we are dealing with is the inability of many to supply themselves with corn, which is their basic food. The emergency will continue until their next crop, July or August. The Bishopric have at the present a little over \$1,000.00 as aid for Yucatan, which can be called upon as need demands.

As of this date, seventeen thousand pounds of corn has been bought and distributed. We were also able to leave enough money there to buy a little over four thousand pounds more.

This money has been included in the above figure of \$774.04.

May God bless each one for their kindness and generosity,

E. L. Yates

## 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.

### BEHOLD THE DAY OF THE LORD AND ZION OUR HOPE OF DELIVERANCE

by

Harvey E. Seibel

"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. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:2-4)

This is a marvelous promise and one in which we, who believe in the promises of the Lord, are greatly looking forward to the time of their fulfillment. However, before that great and glorious dawning, it appears the world must first pass through great tribulation, wars and darkness. This study therefore will be devoted to a perusal of some of the prophetic words of God in the hope that we might get some idea of what is yet in store for the saints as well as for the rest of the world. This study, of course, will in no wise establish finality on any prophetic utterance as far as interpretation is concerned, only to inspire us to further study.

In the following quotations we shall be introduced to a subject of great importance, one which is referred to many times throughout Bible and Book of Mormon scriptures. First, let us refresh our minds with the words found in the book of Ether, for of this land are they more particularly spoken. "And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God and it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto

done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written." (Ether 1:31-35)

It would be well for us to retain these words in our hearts especially in view of the things which must shortly come upon the earth. The Lord has said that he doeth nothing save he revealeth it to his servants the prophets. And certainly the closing events of the world's history would not be without prophetic witness.

"Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD OF HOSTS shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up: and he shall be brought low: And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth." (Isaiah 2:10-12, 19-21)

And again, "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: FOR THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH IS COME; and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelations 6:12-17)

Both of these quotations are obviously referring to the same event. In each case it is a day of wrath and in each case the wicked are attempting to hide from God's presence, by going into the holes of the rocks and caves or dens of the earth. In the latter we see that the great day of the wrath of God was to be ushered in with signs in the sun, moon and stars, etc. This

thought is clarified further in Joel 2:31, "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, BEFORE THE GREAT AND THE TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD COME."

In Ezekiel 30 we find the following, "Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! For the day is near, even the DAY OF THE LORD is near, A CLOUDY DAY; IT SHALL BE THE TIME OF THE HEATHEN." (Ezekiel 30:1-2) And in Isaiah we find these words recorded, "For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. AND ALL THE HOST OF HEAVEN SHALL BE DISSOLVED, AND THE HEAVENS SHALL BE ROLLED TOGETHER AS A SCROLL; and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. FOR IT IS THE DAY OF THE LORD'S VENGEANCE, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion." (Isaiah 34:2-5, 8)

Two additional factors enter the picture at this point. It is a year of recompences for the controversy of Zion and it shall be in the time of the heathen. And contrary to what some may have thought, the day of the Lord is to be a dark and woeful day and one not to be desired as we can see from the following: "WOE UNTO YOU THAT DESIRE THE DAY OF THE LORD! to what end is it for you? THE DAY OF THE LORD IS DARKNESS, AND NOT LIGHT. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him: or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the Day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?" (Amos 5:18-20)

In Luke 21:24 we are given an additional line of thought which when put with the statement above may give us a clue as to the period of time that is to be given over to the heathen. "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and JERUSALEM SHALL BE TRODDEN DOWN OF THE GENTILES, UNTIL THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES BE FULFILLED." (Luke 21:24)

We have just witnessed a remarkable liberation of Jerusalem from Arab control by the Jewish nation of Israel this past summer. However, we should not overlook a fact which occurred just 50 years ago which may have been the beginning of the fulfillment of that prophecy as well as signaling the peak of Gentile times and the ushering in of the time of the heathen. Two very important events occurred in that year. The first was the liberation of Palestine from the Turkish power by the English (Ephraim?) and the second was the rise to power of the communist regime in Russia. Is it not conceivable then that the year 1917 was the

beginning of the ascendancy of the heathen on the one hand while on the other hand Gentile times had reached a peak and began a decline? It is very reasonable that the recent war in the middle east marked the complete fulfillment of Gentile times and that we are now living fully during the time of the heathen. No wonder Christ asked if he would find faith in the earth in the last day. Communistic and socialistic influences have become so strong that today the churches are denying both God and his word. Statements such as the bible is a myth, God is dead, or Christ did not rise from the dead are coming today not from unbelievers as such, but from church leaders. Surely we are living in the time of the heathen. The world must even now be ripening for the things which were prophesied to happen during their rule.

"Alas for the day! for THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God? The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered. How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate. O Lord, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field. The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness. Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for THE DAY OF THE LORD COMETH, FOR IT IS NIGH AT HAND; A DAY OF DARKNESS AND OF GLOOMINESS, A DAY OF CLOUDS AND OF THICK DARKNESS, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And

the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS GREAT AND VERY TERRIBLE; AND WHO CAN ABIDE IT?" (Joel 1:15-20, 2:1-11)

The description given here is one of a great and fearful army unleashing overwhelming destruction. Indeed it seems like a very graphic description of the type of war that would result from nuclear weapons. The conditions described above appear, from the reading, to be those conditions prevailing at the time when the Day of the Lord is at hand; in other words the great tribulation. These conditions merge then with those of the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord would seem to be a continuation of the tribulation. But, more on this later. The origin of this great army just mentioned is indicated in Joel 2:20, "But I will remove far off from you the **northern** army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things."

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehosaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord also 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: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more." (Joel 3:9-17)

From the context of this quotation it is quite apparent that both Zion and Jerusalem will be established. And that the Lord himself will be in Zion.

If such frightful destructions are to be poured out upon the earth, what hope can the righteous have in those troublesome times? Though the answer to this question is apparent from what we have just read let us read a little further. "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. BUT

UNTO YOU THAT FEAR MY NAME SHALL THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ARISE WITH HEALING IN HIS WINGS; AND YE SHALL GO FORTH, AND GROW UP AS CALVES OF THE STALL. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts. BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." (Malachi 4:1-3, 5, 6) And again, "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call." (Joel 2:30-32)

Mount Zion and Jerusalem are both stated to be places of deliverance. Therefore Zion must needs be brought about before that day comes. Jerusalem is now established though not in perfection.

"And again, verily I say unto you, that the Son of man cometh not in the form of a woman, neither of a man traveling on the earth: Wherefore be not deceived, but continue in steadfastness, looking forth for the heavens to be shaken; And the earth to tremble, and to reel to and fro as a drunken man; and for the valleys to be exalted; and for the mountains to be made low; and for the rough places to become smooth: And all this when the angel shall sound his trumpet. But BEFORE THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME, JACOB SHALL FLOURISH IN THE WILDERNESS; AND THE LAMANITES SHALL BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE: ZION SHALL FLOURISH UPON THE HILLS, AND REJOICE UPON THE MOUNTAINS, AND SHALL BE ASSEMBLED TOGETHER UNTO THE PLACE WHICH I HAVE APPOINTED." (Book of Commandments 52:21-26)

How important it is then for us to be ready. In fact that day of wrath is so terrible we can't afford to procrastinate even for a moment. The question then may arise as to when Zion will be established? Could we postulate during the great tribulation spoken of in Matthew 24? But isn't the great tribulation and the Day of the Lord one and the same? Let's consider the quotation in Matthew 24:21-22, 29-31, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. 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: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Remember that the sun, moon and stars are to be darkened, etc., before the great day of the Lord come. But in the above quotation the sun, moon and stars are to display these signs immediately after the tribulation of those days. This would seem to place a distinction between the two events, or periods. Be that as it may, it is apparent that these two events have a rather close connection. Also it is possible that the signs in the sun, moon and stars merely marks the dividing line between the two events. The coming of the Lord ushers in the Day of the Lord. Thus the time is cut short, the elect are gathered from the four winds of heaven causing a separation of the righteous and the wicked, and the sacrifice of the wicked is made ready. The earth will then be fully ready for the wrath of God seeing that the elect of God or the righteous have all been removed from among the wicked. Thus there shall be two in the field, one shall be taken and the other left, etc. It would appear then that the saints will have no part in this wrath. But where will the saints be taken during this time of wrath? To Zion and Jerusalem where there will be deliverance as the Lord has said. The millennial reign of Christ begins at the conclusion of the great sacrifice of God.

Concerning the great tribulation, there is a sign given us in the book of Ezekiel regarding its possible commencement. "After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste; but it is brought forth out the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Thus saith the Lord God; IT SHALL ALSO COME TO PASS, THAT AT THE SAME TIME SHALL THINGS COME INTO THY MIND, AND THOU SHALT THINK AN EVIL THOUGHT: AND THOU SHALT SAY, I WILL GO UP TO THE LAND OF UNWALLED VILLAGES; I WILL GO TO THEM THAT ARE AT REST, THAT DWELL SAFELY, ALL OF THEM DWELLING WITHOUT WALLS, AND HAVING NEITHER BARS NOR GATES, To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding

upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; IT SHALL BE IN THE LATTER DAYS, AND I WILL BRING THEE AGAINST MY LAND, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes. Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord God; THIS IS THE DAY WHEREOF I HAVE SPOKEN. And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years. And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land." (Ezekiel 38:8-12, 14-16 and 39:1, 2, 8, 9, 12)

We are informed here that Gog (Russia) will come against the nation of Israel. And that while in the act of doing this, she will think an evil thought and come against a wealthy land, etc., which describes America perfectly. Therefore when we see these things coming about we may expect that our time is also short. Two quotations found in Isaiah seem to identify Russia with Assyria. "Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory; and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks: And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel." (Isaiah 8:7-8) To comment briefly, a parallel with the Gog prophecy appears here, that is Gog was to come against Israel first then against the wealthy nation. The Assyrian is predicted to come against Judah then overflow and go over (the ocean?), reach even to the neck (the isthmus?) and the stretching out of his wings fill the breadth of Christ's land (the Americas?). In Isaiah the 10th chapter we are given some very interesting prophetic announcements. "O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand in mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few. Wherefore it shall come to pass, that WHEN THE LORD HATH PERFORMED HIS WHOLE WORK ON MOUNT ZION AND ON JERUSALEM, I WILL BRING THE FRUIT OF THE STOUT HEART OF THE KING OF ASSYRIA, AND THE GLORY OF HIS HIGH LOOKS. And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour

his thorns and his briars in one day; and shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standard bearer fainteth. **AND THE REST OF THE TREES OF HIS FOREST SHALL BE FEW, THAT A CHILD MAY WRITE THEM.** And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction." (Isaiah 10:5-7, 12, 17-20, 24, 25)

One sixth of Gog was to remain while the trees of the forest of Assyria were to be few that a child may write them. The following quotations will introduce us more fully to a subject which we have only briefly mentioned heretofore, that is, the great sacrifice of God.

"I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the Lord. I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumbling blocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the Lord. Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God: **FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND: FOR THE LORD HATH PREPARED A SACRIFICE, HE HATH BID HIS GUESTS.** And it shall come to pass in **THE DAY OF THE LORD'S SACRIFICE**, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel. The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. **THAT DAY IS A DAY OF WRATH, A DAY OF TROUBLE AND DISTRESS, A DAY OF WASTENESS AND DESOLATION, A DAY OF DARKNESS AND GLOOMINESS, A DAY OF CLOUDS AND THICK DARKNESS, A DAY OF THE TRUMPET AND ALARM AGAINST THE FENCED CITIES, AND AGAINST THE HIGH TOWERS.** And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." (Zephaniah 1:2-3, 7, 8, 14-18)

As we have already seen the great tribulation precedes the coming of Christ while the coming of Christ ushers in the Day of the Lord. Also with his coming the elect of the whole earth are to be gathered unto him leaving the world in a fully ripe condition for the wrath of God to be poured out upon the wicked. This appears then to be the great sacrifice

that God will make, after which, will follow the thousand years reign of Christ. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **FOR WHERSOEVER THE CARCASE IS, THERE WILL THE EAGLES BE GATHERED TOGETHER.**" (Matthew 24: 27-28). And again, "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh." (Revelation 19:17-21)

Following this great feast Satan is taken and bound in the bottomless pit for a thousand years. One further reference regarding the sacrifice should suffice. "And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, **ASSEMBLE YOURSELVES, AND COME; GATHER YOURSELVES ON EVERY SIDE TO MY SACRIFICE THAT I DO SACRIFICE FOR YOU, EVEN A GREAT SACRIFICE UPON THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL, THAT YE MAY EAT FLESH, AND DRINK BLOOD.** Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. Thus **YE SHALL BE FILLED AT MY TABLE WITH HORSES AND CHARIOTS, WITH MIGHTY MEN, AND WITH ALL MEN OF WAR, SAITH THE LORD GOD.**" (Ezekiel 39:17-20)

Continuing with our study on the day of the Lord we read. "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirit of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, **TO GATHER THEM TO THE BATTLE OF THAT GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.**" (Revelation 16:12-14, 16)

"Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. BEHOLD, THE DAY OF THE LORD COMETH, CRUEL BOTH WITH WRATH AND FIERCE ANGER, TO LAY THE LAND DESOLATE: AND HE SHALL DESTROY THE SINNERS THEREOF OUT OF IT. FOR THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND THE COSTELLATIONS THEREOF SHALL NOT GIVE THEIR LIGHT: THE SUN SHALL BE DARKENED IN HIS GOING FORTH, AND THE MOON SHALL NOT CAUSE HER LIGHT TO SHINE. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger." (Isaiah 13: 6-13)

These quotations confirm what we have already studied. God repeatedly warned of the awfulness of that day and considered it of sufficient import to have warned of it time and time again. It is therefore a subject which deserves serious study. How close then might we be to this great day? The following quotation along with the current events in the middle east should at least make us wonder if we are not indeed closer to that day than perhaps we had thought.

"Behold, THE DAY OF THE LORD COMETH, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. FOR I WILL GATHER ALL NATIONS AGAINST JERUSALEM TO BATTLE; And the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. AND HIS FEET SHALL STAND IN THAT DAY UPON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, WHICH IS BEFORE JERUSALEM ON THE EAST, AND THE MOUNT OF OLIVES SHALL CLEAVE IN THE MIDST THEREOF TOWARD THE EAST AND TOWARD THE WEST, AND THERE SHALL BE A VERY GREAT VALLEY; AND HALF OF THE MOUNTAIN SHALL REMOVE TOWARD THE NORTH, AND HALF OF IT TOWARD THE SOUTH. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night; but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from

Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one." (Zechariah 14:1-9)

What a marvelous prophecy this is to us who believe. Certainly and especially within the last few months we have been witnessing the gathering and preparation of the nations for that great battle to be fought in Palestine just prior to the coming of Jesus to his people in Jerusalem. And when ye see these things come to pass lift up your heads for your salvation draweth nigh.

The new testament prophets also gave us witness of that great day. "For yourselves know perfectly that THE DAY OF THE LORD SO COMETH AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet the hope of salvation. FOR GOD HATH NOT APPOINTED US TO WRATH, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thessalonians 5:2-6, 8, 9) And again, "BUT THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT; IN THE WHICH THE HEAVENS SHALL PASS AWAY WITH A GREAT NOISE, AND THE ELEMENTS SHALL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT, THE EARTH ALSO AND THE WORKS THAT ARE THEREIN SHALL BE BURNED UP. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the Day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (II Peter 3:10-13)

Let us read two further quotations in reference to the one just quoted above.

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." (Daniel 12:1-2)

According to our understanding more time is involved here than it would seem at first glance. For example we know from the book of Revelations that the righteous will come forth a thousand years before the wicked come forth, and that it is not until after

the end of the millennial reign that the new heavens and new earth are brought into being.

"And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts: Wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father, that they shall be gathered into one place, upon the face of the land, to prepare their hearts, and be prepared in all things, against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked: For the hour is nigh, and the day soon at hand, when the earth is ripe: And all the proud, and they that do wickedly, shall be as stubble, and I will burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that wickedness shall not be upon the earth: For the hour is nigh, and that which was spoken by mine apostles must be fulfilled; for as they spoke so shall it come to pass; For I will reveal myself from heaven with power and great glory, with all the hosts thereof, and dwell in righteousness with men on earth a thousand years, and the wicked shall not stand. And again, verily, verily I say unto you, and it hath gone forth in a firm decree, by the will of the Father, that mine apostles, the twelve which were with me in my ministry at Jerusalem, shall stand at my right hand at the day of my coming in a pillar of fire, being clothed with robes of righteousness, with crowns upon their heads, in glory even as I am, to judge the whole house of Israel, even as many as have loved me and kept my commandments, and none else; For a trump shall sound both long and loud, even as upon Mount Sinai, and all the earth shake quake, and they shall come forth; Yea, even the dead which died in me, to receive a crown of righteousness, and to be clothed upon, even as I am, to be with me, that we may be one. But behold, I say unto you, that before this great day shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall be turned into blood, and the stars fall from heaven: And there shall be greater signs in heaven above, and in the earth beneath; and there shall be weeping and wailing among the hosts of men; And there shall be a great hailstorm sent forth to destroy the crops of the earth: And it shall come to pass, because of the wickedness of the world, that I will take vengeance upon the wicked, for they will not repent: For the cup of mine indignation is full; for behold, my blood shall not cleanse them if they hear me not. Wherefore I the Lord God will send forth flies upon the face of the earth, which shall take hold of the inhabitants thereof and shall eat their flesh, and shall cause maggots to come in upon them, and their tongues shall be stayed that they shall not utter against me, and their flesh shall fall from their bones, and their eyes from their sockets: And it shall come to pass, that the beasts of the forest, and the fowls of the air, shall devour them up: And that great and abominable church, which is the whore of all the earth, shall be cast down by devouring fire, according as it was spoken by the mouth of Ezekiel the prophet, which spoke of these things, which have not come to pass, but surely must, as I live, for abominations shall not reign. And again, verily, verily I say unto you, that when the thousand years are ended, and men again begin to deny their God,

then will I spare the earth for a little season; And the end shall come, and the heaven and the earth shall be consumed, and pass away, and there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; For all old things shall pass away, and all things shall become new, even the heaven and the earth, and all the fullness thereof, both men and beasts; The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea, and not one hair, neither mote shall be lost, for it is the workmanship of mine hand. But behold, verily I say unto you, before the earth shall pass away, Michael mine archangel, shall sound his trump, and then shall all the dead awake, for their graves shall be opened, and they shall come forth; yea, even all; And the righteousness shall be gathered on my right hand unto eternal life;" (Book of Commandments 29:8-30) Read also Jacob 3:148-153.

This quotation should clear up any confusion there might have been regarding the sequence of events and time involved.

We learned earlier that deliverance would be in Zion and Jerusalem. We read "Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD'S ANGER COME UPON YOU, 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 2:2-3) And again, "The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. WHO AMONG US SHALL DWELL WITH THE DEVOURING FIRE? WHO AMONG US SHALL DWELL WITH THE EVERLASTING BURNINGS? HE THAT WALKETH RIGHTEOUSLY AND SPEAKETH UPRIGHTLY; HE THAT DESPISETH THE GAIN OF OPPRESSIONS, THAT SHAKETH HIS HANDS FROM HOLDING OF BRIBES, THAT STOPPETH HIS EARS FROM HEARING OF BLOOD, AND SHUTTETH HIS EYES FROM SEEING EVIL; HE SHALL DWELL ON HIGH: this place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: . . . And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." (Isaiah 33:14-17, 24) And finally, "Behold now it is called today, and verily it is a day of sacrifice, and a day for the TITHING OF MY PEOPLE; FOR HE THAT IS TITHED SHALL NOT BE BURNED: for after today cometh the burning: For verily I say, tomorrow all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble: and I will burn them up, for I am the Lord of hosts; and I will not spare any that remaineth in Babylon. (Book of Commandments 65:30, 31, 33, 34)

Can we not see that it is indeed worth our while to serve God and this by yielding to him in all things? Only by doing so can we hope to have his promises fulfilled unto us, both as to a spiritual and a temporal salvation. But Zion is also instructed of God to hide herself until that day is overpast. "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation

be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain." (Isaiah 26:20-21)

And finally the judgment of all who fight against Zion, "But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land, and those who shall be upon others lands; yea, even upon all the lands of the earth; behold, they will be drunken with iniquity, and all manner of abominations; And when that day shall come, they shall be visited of the Lord of hosts, with thunder and with earthquakes, and with a great noise, and with storm and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire; And all the nations that fight against Zion, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision; Yea, it shall be unto them even as unto a hungry man, which dreameth, and behold he eateth, but he awaketh and his soul is empty; Or like unto a thirsty man which dreameth, and behold he drinketh, but he awaketh, and behold he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: Yea, even so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against mount Zion." (II Nephi 11:116-121)

Then in Isaiah we read "Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness. And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed." (Isaiah 1:27-28) "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shall be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people. Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work is before him. And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken." (Isaiah 62:1-4, 10-12)

What wonderful promises are in store for the people of God. Zion is not without hope and as is quite evident from the foregoing quotations, Zion is also to be established in power before that great day of wrath is upon us. Therefore we will find deliverance in that day and the saints will be gathered together into one in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem.

"And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the na-

tions of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; And they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory. And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth." (I Nephi 3:229-232) And, "Wherefore, he shall execute judgment in righteousness; And the righteous need not fear, for they are those who shall not be confounded. But it is the kingdom of the devil which shall be built up among the children of men, which kingdom is established among them which are in the flesh: For the time speedily shall come, that all churches which are built up to get gain, and all those who are built up to get power over the flesh, and those who are built up to become popular in the eyes of the world, and those who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity; Yea, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil, are they who need fear, and tremble and quake; They are those who must be brought low in the dust; They are those who must be consumed as stubble: And this is according to the words of the prophet. And the time cometh speedily, that the righteous must be led up as calves of the stall, and the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory. And he gathered his children from the four quarters of the earth; and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; And there shall be one fold and one shepherd: And he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture. And because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power; Wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years." (I Nephi 7:47-61)

The world in general considers Zion to be in Jerusalem or to be a part of Jerusalem. However, we of the restoration believe that the glorious Zion spoken of in prophecy is to have its location within the borders of America. Also the Book of Mormon tells us that the New Jerusalem is to be built in this land. And latter day revelation pinpoints the center place of Zion as being in the land of Missouri. However there is an interesting prophecy in Isaiah concerning Zion that we should consider. "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 the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him." (Isaiah 40:9, 10) Could this be the prophesied removal of Zion to the high mountain, America? Consider also the following: "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of the Samaria, WHICH ARE NAMED CHIEF OF THE NATIONS, TO WHOM THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL CAME!"

(Amos 6:1) Do we today trust in America, the chief of the nations to whom the house of Israel came? These are thoughts well worth considering. Though Zion was told to get up to the high mountain, nothing is said about Jerusalem being displaced. Jerusalem therefore must remain, It is Zion which is taken up into the high mountain.

We are now fully entered into the second phase of our study which will encompass the Zion of God and the Temple of the Lord. The story of Zion is one of great beauty.

"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion. For thus saith the Lord, Ye have sold yourselves for naught; and ye shall be redeemed without money. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth; Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye, when the Lord shall bring forth again Zion. Break for into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforted his his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem." (Isaiah 52:1-3, 9)

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

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:4, 10)

Scripturally the term "temple" is used in three different ways. In some cases it is used to describe our tabernacle of clay for "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" In another instance it is used to denote the church, the body of Christ, the saints of God composed of the organization of Apostles, prophets, etc with Christ as chief cornerstone. And finally it is used to designate the house of God, a place of worship. One of the most glorious promises in all scriptures is given in Isaiah 4:2-6, "In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even everyone 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 defence. 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 FROM RAIN."

First, may we ask if there can be any doubts as to the time spoken of here? Obviously it is still in the future. It is a time when Zion will abide in perfection and power. And what, pray tell, is the Tabernacle spoken of here? Surely the description given it must be a physical house, a place of shelter, etc. And further it must be of especial import to God or he would not have made mention of it. Therefore to fulfill prophecy is it not then reasonable, in keeping with the above, that God would reveal his intent in having that tabernacle built in this last day to his servants in this dispensation? In Zechariah we find a curious reference to the temple of the Lord but which may be a little vague as to the period of time referred to but one which is of sufficient interest as to be quoted anyway. "And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." (Zechariah 16:12-13)

In Haggai we find another interesting reference to the temple of the God. "For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, AND THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS SHALL COME: AND I WILL FILL THIS HOUSE WITH GLORY, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS. THE SILVER IN MINE, AND THE GOLD IS MINE, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS. THE GLORY OF THIS LATTER HOUSE SHALL BE GREATER THAN OF THE FORMER, saith the Lord of hosts: And in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts." (Haggai 2:6-9)

The latter house is to be even more glorious than the former house (Solomon's Temple). And the desire of all nations (and who else can this be except Christ?) shall come and fill the latter house with glory. And how this does confirm that which is found in Malachi 3:1, "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, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap."

And again we might ask, what is the significance of the gold and silver in the first quotation above? What does gold and silver have to do with the subject of house

of God which is mentioned both before and after it? Is it out of place? Or rather is it a reference to its use by the Lord in the construction of his latter house?

In the Book of Commandments we have two quotations which confirm the Bible and the Book of Mormon. "Wherefore gird up your loins and I will suddenly come to my temple; even so: Amen." (Book of Commandments 38:6) And in the same book we have God's authorization for the temple and the consecration of the spot of land for it. "And let my servant Sidney consecrate and dedicate this land, and the spot of the temple, unto the Lord." (Book of Commandments 59:70)

What then of the following quotation? "Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?" (Acts 7:48-49)

It is certainly known that God did have his temples in olden times, the most noted example was the temple of Solomon. The later temple, though larger, was not as rich as Solomon's temple. Also there was a temple in Jerusalem at the time of Christ's ministry on earth. So, what conflict is there? None! For God does not dwell in temples made with hands and the question may then be asked, did God dwell in Solomon's temple or any of the succeeding temples? Of course not. But it was still the temple of God. God even authorized the building of Solomon's temple and the one following. David was not permitted to build the temple of God because he was a man of blood therefore the promise went to Solomon his son. Then what of the temple of latter days? Is God to dwell there? Not necessarily. It is to be the house of God, a place of learning, and a place from which the law of God will go forth unto all the world. What then? It says the MOST HIGH dwelleth not in temples made with hands. That very consideration eliminates Christ completely for he himself said his Father was greater than he. It is therefore conceivable that Christ could make it his dwelling place during his one thousand year reign on the earth. We may concede and rightly so that when the new earth is come there will be no temple except God and Christ for they will be the temple thereof. (See Revelation 21:22)

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord; In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22)

It might be of interest to comment on the Greek and Hebrew meanings of the words translated into the English "temple". Those are found in Malachi, Zechariah, and Haggai above means "palace", or "temple". Those found in Ephesians and Acts above mean "A dwelling place, an inner sanctuary". However in the New Testament there are two Greek words both of which are translated into temple. The first means "a

sacred priestly edifice, a temple" and the other means as stated above, "A dwelling place, an inner sanctuary". In all cases, when referring to the temple of the body, the latter term is used, that is, a dwelling place or inner sanctuary. It is never a sacred priestly edifice.

To briefly summarize we have learned that the day of the Lord is to be a cloudy day, a day of wrath and thick darkness, one of distress and gloominess, a day of trouble and a day of destruction from the Almighty. The great sacrifice of God is to be offered in that day. It is to come in the time of the heathen. It is to come as a thief in the night and is to be ushered in with the return of Christ. It was to be preceded by the great tribulation with the signs in the sun, moon and stars marking the transition between them. At this point the heavens are to be rolled together as a scroll. The elect are gathered out from the earth and taken to Zion and Jerusalem wherein they shall find deliverance, for the righteous are not appointed to wrath. Sinners are destroyed, Zion is redeemed, the temple built, and the thousand year reign of peace commences.

## THE RESTORATION: IS IT BASED ON ERROR?

by

Apostle Wm. F. Anderson

During the spring of 1820 there lived a boy, who at that time was fourteen years of age. He no doubt was an average boy of the time, interested in the happenings of the time. Among the current events of the day of vital interest was the revival efforts of certain churches holding meetings in and around the community in which he lived. The boy with others of the family attended those meetings and became concerned about their salvation and the need of salvation.

The boy according to the story became confused when contention arose as to who should have the converts. In his confused condition he turned to the Bible for information. He came to the writings of James and read that which he considered was a solution to his problem. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." (James 1:5) Was that his first mistake? When he believed that which James recorded he decided to put it to the test. Selecting a quiet spot in the woods on his father's farm, he knelt to ask God and was overcome by powers which he felt was about to crush out his life. He could not speak; he struggled to pray and was relieved of the crushing force of the unknown power. There appeared a light which shone brighter than the noonday sun, and he saw two personages just above him seemingly not touching the ground. One pointing to the other said, "This is my beloved son, hear him." The boy had come to ask which of the churches he should join. He was told to join none of them, as their creeds, (teachings) were wrong. According to the understanding of the times this was a

figment of the boy's mind and of course not true according to the learned men of that day. God did not speak; the heavens had been sealed from the time of John the Revelator. God had not spoken since that time. So what the boy said was untrue and of the Devil. If this be true that which came later, known as the Restoration of the Gospel and the translation of the Book of Mormon would also have to be a product of an evil mind.

If we judge by those who now delight to drag Joseph Smith out of his grave to hold him up to ridicule, to smear his name, saying he was guilty of crimes or wrongs that dubbed him a bad person. While he lived he was accused of many things that were wicked and misleading. If these be true and nothing good can be attributed to Joseph Smith the boy or Joseph Smith the man, then those who are holding up the Book of Mormon cannot but accept the fact that it also came from that evil source, and cannot be reliable. Were I to believe what is being written and published about Joseph Smith, I would not have anything to do with that which he developed; not even the Book of Mormon. When you destroy Joseph Smith, you destroy ALL, not just a part of the work, that is attached to his name. If the Book of Mormon is the only good thing he accomplished as some indicate, then I cannot believe any of it to be of divine source. I do not believe God would deal that way with mankind whom Christ gave his life to save.

History, Sacred and Profane tells us that God rejected those who listened to that evil source. From the day the boy returned from the woods, he was accused of every evil on the calendar. His life was in constant demand. He would have been killed long before June 1844 except God preserved his life. He has been and is being lied about and his name smeared, being accused of many evils by those who accept in part that which he gave. Yes, Joseph Smith the man made mistakes. He would not have been human had he not.

There never was but one man that lived making no mistakes, and that was Jesus Christ. He also was accused of evil doings and things he did not do. He was finally nailed to a cross, not because he was evil but because he presented truth to the world, pointing out to them the right way. There were many prophets through the years who failed in their humanity and fell victim to the evil one. Might I refer to one in particular. There was a man named David. God chose him to be King over Israel. He went into sinful ways, and did many evil things, yet those today that malign the name of Joseph Smith and accuse him of all kinds of evils, extol to the people that will hear them the virtues of David the Psalmist. Need I refer to others? Then why not call attention to that which Joseph Smith did that was good, forgetting as in the case of David the Psalmist that he did that was wrong and let God take care of it? If there is anything good in that which is known as the Restoration, let us point to the good, and leave the mistakes of man with God. Let's be sure!

After a period of over twelve hundred sixty years of spiritual darkness, God had been silent, because He was

no longer wanted. It was startling to have a mere boy tell the learned men of the day, that he had a visit from heaven, and saw and talked with God and His Son. It was not the most pleasant thing to be told that they were mistaken and going the wrong way. Spiritual visitations was something new after so many years of silence. The Bible and the Book of Mormon tells us that Satan has the power to transform himself into an angel of light, and thus he deceives and leads men astray. Joseph Smith and many of those early elders were young in years and experience. Therefore they were not beyond the reach of the influence of Satanic forces which off times directed them into error. I cannot condemn any that might have been deceived; I know not that I might not have recognized the difference and also stepped into error.

There came a time in the life of Joseph Smith when he would be put to the test. When he succeeded to find a few that were willing to believe his story, he was out numbered. Among those that accepted what he offered were men well educated. These men were able to exercise influence over Joseph placing ideas of man into effect naming Joseph as the author. All bad moves were accredited to Joseph Smith.

One unusual story told concerning him was that after arriving in Illinois, he tunneled under the Mississippi River, then stole horses in Missouri and took them to Illinois through the supposed tunnel. There never has been a tunnel under the river near Nauvoo at that day and we know of none today. The room for doubt as to the possibility of physical accomplishment with the tools at his command is certain. Yes, they say he was sure a wicked man, and all the evils and mistakes of the Restoration can be laid at his door.

Above all things we should at least be fair, and not bring accusations that have no fact except what enemies have brought forth. I am wondering if those who now accuse Joseph Smith, when he cannot defend himself, would like to be accused and adjudged guilty without any opportunity to defend themselves?

Do unto others as we would like them to do unto us.

## 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 time of 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.