

Zion's Advocate

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

Vol. 46

Independence, Missouri, July 1969

No. 7

How Did You Die?

Edmund Vance Cooke

Did you tackle the trouble that came your way
With a resolute heart and cheerful?
Or hide your face from the light of day
With a craven soul and fearful?
O, a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce,
Or a trouble is what you make it,
And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts,
But only how did you take it?

You are beaten to earth? Well, well, what's that?
Come up with a smiling face.
It's nothing against you to fall down flat,
But to lie there—that's disgrace.
The harder you're thrown, why, the higher you bounce;
Be proud of your blackened eye!
It isn't the fact that you're licked that counts;
It's how did you fight—and why?

And though you be done to the death, what then?
If you battled the best you could.
If you played your part in the world of men,
Why the Critic will call it good.
Death comes with a crawl, or comes with a pounce.
And whether he's slow or spry,
It isn't the fact that you're dead that counts,
But only how did you die?

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Zion's Advocate

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EDITORIAL

THE IMAGE

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he caused all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six" (Revelation 13:11-18).

Our main effort or purpose in this study concerns the two horned beast and the image of the first beast. As so much material has been published regarding the identity of the first beast we shall not go into any great detail as to its identity other than to reiterate briefly some identifying characteristics. Firstly the number of his name is the number of a man and has been quite adequately established as belonging to the man who wears the title of Vicarius Filii Dei (Vicar of God). The Roman numerals of this name add to 666 and identifies Catholicism as being the beast. Other identifying marks include the following: he was to make war with the saints and overcome them, and he was to continue 42 months or 1260 years which as we know ended in 1830.

We know of the arising of the first beast, its identity and the time allotted for it to have dominion. The apostasy was complete in 570 A.D. But in 1830 a light sprang forth and a little stone was cut out without hands: a stone which will eventually fill the whole earth. The beast no longer prevailed against the saints, for judgment was given them and the time would come when they would possess the kingdom. Never again would the saints be overcome.

But what of the two horned beast and the image to the first beast? When were they to make their appearance?

On July 4th, 1776 a new nation was established which became known as the United States of America. The men who wrote the constitution were inspired men and the new nation was founded upon righteous principals. A few years later, in 1830, God re-established his church upon the earth. But Satan was already at work, for shortly after the birth of the church, two

wicked men made their appearance upon the world scene and started two complementary systems of thought which has contributed more than anything else to destroying faith in God and his word. These two men were Karl Marx and Charles Darwin. Communism disavows God and evolution fills the vacuum.

It has been the communist intent to destroy belief in God. Their aim has been to subvert every religion and to use them to further their own designs. In accordance with those designs they have successfully infiltrated and gained control of the World and National Councils of Churches, and have swayed them down the road toward world communism. By subverting religion they are able to make it less hostile to themselves and to their overall aim of world domination. Their success can be measured by statements made by certain well known clergymen of today. For example: the God is dead theory and that God used the evolutionary process to bring about creation, and that the creation story is a mythical representation of the natural order. Their success is also measured by the intrusion of churchmen into politics, governmental affairs, demonstrations, protest movements, etc. The "new morality," "student co-habitation," and the outlawing of prayer and Bible reading in the schools are other manifestations of their success.

The following is the basic communist blueprint for world domination: to sway the churches away from the fundamental teachings of Christianity which they have already largely accomplished in the National Council of Churches, to further the ecumenical movement or to bring about the one world church and in so doing to bring about an amalgamation of church and state, to sway public opinion against the fundamentalists, to do away with the literal interpretation of scripture, chastity before marriage, concepts of divinity and salvation, and to impose restrictions on those desiring to adhere to the fundamental tenets of christianity.

According to a document entitled, "Operation '76," the communists plan to bring these designs to fruition by sponsoring a domestic interfaith union between the major denominations which is to be implemented by a series of "guidelines" laid down by the government and later to be sustained by the Supreme Court. Since these decisions will be binding, **those attempting to operate outside the council will be subjected to crippling economic disabilities.** The Federal Government will step in to render it virtually unlawful to formally propagate those religious teachings to which the National Council of Churches has objected. The tax exempt status of such religious organizations, clergymen and their supporters will be re-examined and excluded from exemptions previously granted.

What we have just covered is the fulfillment of the latter half of the prophecy of Revelation 13. It is probably obvious to most that the image is represented by the world State Religion, but who or what is the two horned beast? Note briefly the following: The communists have infiltrated and taken over the National Council of Churches and are working in conjunction

with high ranking personnel in the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish denominations to bring about a one World Super Church. These agents are also working with high officials in our government to bring about enforcement to the teachings and aims of this superchurch. It is this Government which will empower the Ecumenical movement in this country and enable it under sanction of law to accomplish its evil designs. Let's analyze this thought further.

This beast had two horns. Horns in other prophecies have had reference to powers, governments, principalities, nations or kingdoms. This being the case and, if the United States is that beast which rose up out of the earth, then what might be the two horns? We can only conclude that they represent our two forms of government headed by the two dominant parties of this nation. It says that this two horned beast was instrumental in forming an image to the first beast and that he had power to give life unto the image and that the image should kill all who did not worship it.

That this is so, is becoming increasingly apparent in light of recent Supreme Court rulings. But it says that he gave power unto the image to kill any who did not worship it. Should the government be caused to implement laws as above described the image will surely have the power to bring about punitive measures against all who will not yield themselves to it. And he (the image) will also cause all to receive a mark in the hand or forehead and that no man might buy or sell, save he had that mark, or the name of the beast or number of his name. The crippling economic measures to be imposed on resisters will fulfill this part of the prophecy.

What conclusion can we draw? It is the U. S. Government which will give power to the ecumenical movement in this country. It is the two horned beast which gives power to the image of the beast. It is the National Council of Churches which will be responsible for the prosecution of its enemies and which will via government sanction impose crippling economic measures. It is the image which will destroy its opponents and that no man might buy or sell.

That this country should enforce worship of the first beast is understood by its giving the image the power to persecute those who have not the number or name of the first beast. The Babylonian system of worship will be more fully established, thus this nation will compel its people to worship the first beast, the image being only what it implies, a copy of the first beast. The National Council of Churches will only be on a parallel to the World Council of Churches which has the same objectives. Thus will be fulfilled the prophecy and the time when there shall be save two churches only, that of Satan and that of Christ.

Now the question is, are we able? Will our faith be strong enough to bear us over the tide of evil to come? and through that great tribulation? If we have any hopes at all we must now depart from iniquity and mediocracy in our way of living and not procrastinate the day of our salvation. Surely when that day comes

Christ will shed his power upon his people for the Book of Mormon so indicates. Perhaps it will be during that time of religious persecution when the word of God is forbidden to be preached that the servants of God will go forth in mighty power to declare the word of God. Perhaps, then, the kings of the earth will hear that which they had not considered, for the kingdom of the Devil must shake or how shall the people be brought to repentance?

H. E. S.

BAPTISMS

On March 23, 1969 at the Phoenix, Arizona Local Church of Christ, the following young people were baptized and had the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost: Rebecca Jo George, Robin Lynn George, Catherine Rene George, Terry Lynn Richins and Karen Sue Yates all of Phoenix, Arizona.

Those officiating in the baptisms and confirmations were Elders James E. Yates, Sr. and Hubert E. Yates, Sr.

BAPTISMS

On May 18, 1969 a baptismal service was held at the Collins, Missouri Local Church of Christ. Charles Leon and Rhonda Lynn Shaw, the son and daughter of Larry and Patricia Shaw of Buffalo, Missouri, were baptized by their grandfather, Elder Edward J. McIndoo. James Alan and Gary Neil Routh, the sons of R. C. and Marjorie Routh of Humansville, Missouri, were baptized by Apostle E. Leon Yates. Apostle Yates, Elders Joseph Yates, Oren Caviness and Edward McIndoo officiated and assisted in the confirmations.

BLESSINGS

Heather Marie Stephens, the daughter of Ross and Jeanee Stephens, was blessed by Elder George Brantner March 16, 1969 at Cedar Springs, Michigan.

Deborah Lynne Eddy, the daughter of Ronald and Nancy Eddy of Flint, Michigan, was blessed by Elders Don W. Housknecht and Harold H. Polack April 27, 1969, at Flint, Michigan.

Darrin Jeffrey Malone, son of William and Karin Malone of Phoenix, Arizona, was blessed by Elders Donald E. McIndoo and John H. Jones May 11, 1969 at Phoenix, Arizona.

BLESSINGS

Tina Marie Hutchison, the daughter of Harry Hutchison, Jr. and Faye Hutchison of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, was blessed May 25, 1969 by Apostle William A. Sheldon and Elder Ray W. Hunholz.

Lisa Ann Burmeister, the daughter of Arthur Edwin and Patricia Frances Burmeister of Chesaning, Michigan, was blessed May 25, 1969 by Elders Edward J. Toulouse, and Harold H. Polack.

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FINAL REPORT OF THE 1969 CONFERENCE DINING HALL

We want to express our thanks to all our people throughout the church for their generous donations.

Our total donations amounted to \$447.47 while our expenses were only \$298.38. This will give us a starting balance of \$669.99 for the 1970 conference.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Hester Wentworth
Sally Brantner
Lovita Seibel

INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL NEWS

Summer is here again, and a year ahead for the newly elected officers. We pray the Lord will bless us this coming year, for we need His Spirit to guide our every step. Let us pray for one another.

Our officers for the year ahead are not all new, but they are the following:

- Pastor Brother John Randall
- Assistant Pastor Brother Rolland Sarratt
- Secretary Sister Adair McCubbin
- Treasurer Brother Kenneth Smith
- Music Leader Sister Metta Anderson
- Pianist Brother Rolland Sarratt
- Librarian Sister June Sarratt
- Reunion Kitchen Committee Sister Loraine Welton
- Flower Committee Sister Metta Anderson
- Building Custodian Sister Dorris Sheldon
- Grounds Custodian Brother Rex Weaver
- Auditor Brother Rolland Sarratt
- Advocate Reporter Sister Ruth Randall

Sunday School Officers

- Superintendent Brother James Speers
- Assistant Superintendent Brother Frank Fann
- Secretary Sister Loraine Welton
- Treasurer Brother Kenneth Smith
- Pianist Sister Melissa Nast
- Assistant Pianist Sister Michelle Nast
- Program Committee Sisters Ruth Randall
Adair McCubbins — Jewel Beem
- Vacation Bible School Committee Sisters Marie Weaver
Doris Sheldon — Ruth Randall

Teachers

Adult Class	Brother Curtis Yates
Young Adults	Brother Kenneth Smith
Juniors	Brother Larry Beem
Primary	Sister Marie Weaver
Beginners	Sister Jewel Beem

United Workers

Chairman	Sister Marie Weaver
Assistant Chairman	Sister Metta Anderson
Secretary-Treasurer	Sister Doris Sheldon
Social Committee	Sisters Doris Sheldon
	Lorraine Welton — Adair McCubbins
Sunshine Committee	Sister Carolyn Fann

Ronald Church and Violet Rauch were united in marriage by Apostle William Sheldon, Sunday, June 1st, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Their attendants were Kathy Murphy, a friend of the bride, and Fredrick Church, brother of the groom. This young couple have been attending church at the East Local, and we are glad to have them with us, we hope they continue to come.

Sister Doris Sheldon gave a bridal shower for Violet Rauch the evening of May 29th, at her home. It was well attended; everyone enjoyed the games and the delicious lunch. Violet received many nice gifts for her new home.

We were all saddened by the news of the death of our dear brother and Apostle Thomas Jordan of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Our deepest sympathy goes to Sister Jordan.

Brother and Sister Rex Weaver have returned from their vacation visiting friends and relatives in Michigan.

Ronald and Darl Temple are vacationing in Michigan, where they are spending some time with Ronald's parents. They will both teach school again in Belton, Missouri, this coming year.

Ronnie Sheldon is also spending his vacation in Michigan.

Apostle William Sheldon recently returned from his mission field in Wisconsin, and will return again, this time to Michigan. We hope and pray his labors will be fruitful.

Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Smith, Jr., of San Antonio, Texas, are visiting their parents and other relatives and friends in Independence, Missouri. Jim has been stationed at Lackland Air Force Base, but expects to be sent overseas soon. Our prayers will go with him.

Robert Smith is home from college in Chicago, Illinois. He is now employed for the summer in Kansas City, Missouri.

Brother and Sister John Randall recently spent a day visiting friends at Kingsville, Missouri.

Brother and Sister Robert McCubbin and family have gone to Florida to visit relatives. Sister McCubbin's mother has been quite ill. We hope when they return she will be much improved.

The Curtis Yates' family are planning their vacation soon, they will visit relatives and friends at Collins and Preston, Missouri.

Those who spent Memorial Day weekend out of town are Brother Sam and Sister Helen Kidd and son, Bruce. They visited Helen's mother, Sister Blanch Martin at Collins, Missouri.

Randy Sheldon enjoyed an outing with the Richard Wheaton family at Bennett Springs, Missouri.

The Welton family were visitors at Sister Minnie Smith's at Ava, Missouri.

The United Workers of our Local recently purchased carpeting for the vestibule of the church. We have been busy getting ready for the Missouri Reunion to be held at our Local, June 27-28-29. We have purchased dishes and silverware and there are yet other things to do. We are looking forward to the services hoping and praying the Lord will meet with us, that we might have a spiritual feast.

On May 18th, our speakers were Elders Curtus Yates and Vance Harris. At the 11:00 o'clock service Brother Yates gave us several thoughts on, Why am I here this morning, and why should we attend services? Because we hunger and thirst after righteousness and truth, and to know the ruth shall make you free. It pleases God that we attend services, and it is important, that we have a desire and an interest in them. This way we will enjoy more of the blessings He has for us, and the more strength we receive from God the more we grow.

He also brought out many things that are precious to us as Christ's followers. The Bread and Wine which symbolizes the body of Christ. Prayer, and do we pray enough. Forgiving, and are we too proud to forgive. Are all things done to the glory of God? He also mentioned redemption of the soul, faith, hope and charity; all these things are incorruptible, but the things of this world are corruptible. He quoted several scriptural passages such as I Timothy 2:7, 3:16, Psalms and others.

At the 6:30 service Brother Harris talked on what is wrong with our church today. What are the reasons that cause some people to get peeved because they do not get elected to an office, or because the preacher doesn't say what they would like to hear and so stay at home. Do we tear the pages out of the Bible to appease someone because they do not believe what it says? If we did, there would be nothing left but the cover. We must speak and teach the truth regardless of what other people believe. He also brought out that there are many of our neighbors who would possibly come to church if we would get out and invite them to come. There is nothing wrong with the church; it's the members that are wrong. We are all sleeping with too much a sense of security. He read the 6th chapter of Hebrews, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection," we have something to look forward to. We have the coming of the Lord to look forward to as our King. Let our light shine that some might rub off on others. We must pray for those who do not come to church. We must reach them somehow. We should thank God for our blessings each day. In closing he said, we should truly make this a matter of earnest prayer.

On Sunday, May 25th, we had as our guest speaker Elder Eugene Walton from the Reorganized Church. Sister Edna Smith favored us with a solo at this service.

Brother Walton read scripture to center our minds from John 1:1, the 83rd Section of the Doctrine and Covenants, and the 10th chapter of Moroni in the Book of Mormon. He said the world needs a conviction that Jesus is the Christ. It is our commission to bear testimony of the truth. Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you.

There is a Spirit that draws all men to him, but the Gift of the Holy Ghost is something we can possess if we are obedient to the Gospel. Those who are taught the Gospel of Christ in their homes, should appreciate what is taught, for there are many who do not have that privilege. The Bible is ours to read and it is our Father's letters to us from Heaven. He also said, many times our intentions are good but that "road to Hell is paved with good intentions."

If we commit our all to Christ He will show us the way we should go. This is the purpose or work of the Spirit of God. This is the way we mature in the Gospel. We need the visitation of angels and all the gifts of the Gospel. If we are called fanatics because we are serving God, then we should be proud to be called a fanatic. In conclusion, he said, we should dedicate our all to God.

At the 6:30 service, Brother Maynard Case occupied the stand. He opened with the thought that all men who stand behind the sacred desk need our prayers. He then read John 3:16, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son," Matthew 24:5, "Take heed that no man deceive you," Matthew 10:19, and Mark 13:13, "He that endures to the end shall be saved." He talked on these scriptures and then brought out somewhat the conditions of the world today, which was very enlightening. He brought out the fact that in our schools today, the children are not taught the true history of our government. He also spoke of the threat of our firearms being taken from us, and other conditions that exist. But when you see these things come to pass, lift up your heads and know your redemption draweth near. He then spoke of the farewell address of George Washington. In it he warned the people three times to watch for foreign politics. We don't realize we are being choked by a Communist Government. We must make our choice; either bow to the Soviet Union or stand for God and right. His closing remarks were, "Let us get on our knees and ask the Lord to bless us. Let us start serving God and him only."

On June 1st, Sacrament Sunday, we had a very good service with Brother Randall in charge, assisted by Brother Rolland Sarratt and Brother Curtis Yates. We all enjoyed a good degree of the spirit.

At the 6:30 service, Brother Kenneth Smith was the speaker of the hour. We also enjoyed a solo by Brother Rex Weaver. Brother Smith read from Matthew 25:1, about the ten virgins. From the Book of Mormon he read the story of Nephi's vision of the tree of life. He

said, we all know the Lord's coming is soon, and we should all be prepared. It is our duty and responsibility to tell others, especially our young people, of the Gospel of Christ. We, also can be partaking of the tree of life, or the fruits of the Gospel. Lehi and his family did, except the two older sons Laman and Lemuel who would not partake. Some have let go of the rod of iron and strayed away. In closing he said Jesus is coming soon to claim his own.

On June 8th, Brother William Sheldon occupied the pulpit. He opened his sermon with the thought that he always feels the need of prayer when he speaks. What is our purpose of coming together? It is to worship God. There are those who God can use in his work of preaching the Gospel.

There are many things to take place in the work of God in these latter days. Normally it would require a long time to take place, but he will shorten those days for the elect's sake. God will unfold to us the things to come to pass, that we may become wise in these things, not to discourage us, but that we might know and be prepared. Every cloud has a silver lining, and sometimes we have to move ourselves to see the sun, and not be satisfied to sit behind a cloud. He quoted Isaiah 66:14, The hand of the Lord shall be known toward his servants. We must have his Spirit to see this.

He also spoke of the great heathen purge. The heathen will arise with great power. He referred to the scripture in Joel 2, Zechariah 14, Ezekiel 38-39, and Isaiah 28:15. These things are coming and we have no time for vanities and falsehoods. There will be an overflowing scourge of Abominaion of desolation. This heathen time will be about three and one-half years as found in Revelation 11:9; also Daniel 12:10. Many will be purified in and out of the church; the wicked will not understand, but the righteous shall understand.

He said many things will happen at the same time. God will help those who are faithful and come to him in humility. There are great things ahead for us if we make preparation for them.

Brother Randall spoke to us at the evening service. He told us that God truly had something in mind when he created us, but Satan also had something in mind and he will defeat God's purposes if he can. Our minds should be from our natural to our supernatural. Let this mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus. His servants were directed in the past, so we should have the same direction. We should search the scripture to find ourselves as things are to be done on earth as it is done in heaven. His ways are above ours, as the heaven is above the earth. It is Eternal Life to know God and his Son Jesus Christ.

He spoke of the story of the vineyard recorded in the Book of Mormon, how the servant labored all the day long, that the trees of the vineyard should not be lost. So it is God's great pleasure that none of his children are lost. The desire of our hearts should be to come out of the world, that we might have his divine smile and direction.

The time will soon come when we won't be able to work. We must find out what is wrong with us and change our lives and be obedient. We must have more love and be more humble before God. In closing he said, How wonderful to meet our smiling Savior and see His expression of love for us.

Reporter Sister Ruth Randall

THE CAUSE OF ZION

In recent days, the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) has sought the Lord through fasting and prayer. We feel the Lord has heard our prayers. We feel thus because of greater understanding that has come to us through Christ's spirit working in diverse ways.

Hear the word of the Lord: "Seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion." This was given to Oliver Cowdery in April 1829. In May 1829, a revelation was given to Hiram Smith: "Now as you have asked, behold I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion." The same month, May 1829, the following was given to Joseph Knight, Sen. "Now as you have asked, behold I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion." The following month, June 1829, we find a similar statement given to David Whitmer: "Seek to bring forth and establish my Zion. Keep my commandments in all things . . ."

Do you suppose that God is trying to tell us something? ". . . In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." We have four witnesses stating we should "seek to establish the cause of Zion." More than this, it is direct revelation from God to each of the four witnesses.

It has become apparent that many of our people do not properly understand the words "cause of Zion." Some have understood these words to mean that after Zion becomes a reality it should, indeed, have a cause, thus we must begin to build the "place" Zion, and then "seek to establish the cause."

The first great "cause" of all things is God. God has been trying to tell us there is something known as a "cause" which will make Zion a reality. When we establish the "cause" Zion will automatically follow.

My brothers and sisters in Christ; my friends; do we not know what **MUST** be established before Zion becomes a reality? Should we proceed to build the place before the "cause" is "established"? Do we know what the "cause" is? Surely we do??? Has Christ been with us lo these many years, and we do not yet know what must **PRECEDE** Zion?

It has been said that Zion is both a "condition" and a "place." To this we agree. The "place," if it could be built, would never cause the condition to be realized. On the other hand, the "condition" would certainly bring about (cause) the existence of the "place."

When we as a people condition our hearts with the

pure love of God, desiring to deal justly, one with another; when we are willing to share our substance, cheerfully and lovingly, we shall not be far from the establishment of the great "cause" of which God has commanded us to "seek."

If we do not first establish the "cause" of Zion, all our efforts to build the place shall be of no avail. Let all things be done in their proper order. Zion's cause must follow the "CAUSE OF Zion."

Do you believe this, my gospel friend?

Yours for the cause of Zion,

Joseph W. Kidd

NOTE: All references to latter day revelation are from the Book of Commandments, Chapters 5, 10, 11 and 12.

TO THE READERS OF THE ADVOCATE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who sent flowers, cards, and letters of love and sympathy, also the many prayers offered in my behalf which has been a source of comfort and strength to me during this trying time.

We are indeed a fortunate people to have the knowledge of the Gospel in times like these, which assure us that our loved ones, who have lived a good life, have gone to a better home. I need your prayers.

Yours in Gospel Bonds,

Sister Mary J. Jordan

"O, my beloved brethren, turn away from your sins; shake off the chains of him that would bind you fast; Come unto that God who is the rock of your salvation" (2 Nephi 6:89-90).

"And now my sons, remember, remember, that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation, that when the Devil shall send forth his whirlwinds; yea, his shafts in the whirlwind; Yea, when all his hail and mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you, to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build, they can not fall." (Helaman 2:74-75).

"Therefore, whoso heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock, and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock" (3 Nephi 6:36).

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.

CHRIST, THE ROCK

Lovita G. Seibel

It has been taught by some that Peter was the "Rock" upon which Christ proposed to build His church, thus elevating Peter to a place or position of complete leadership over the Church. A place so important that he would in a sense replace Christ.

This teaching is based on what is said to Peter in Matthew 16:15-19, as follows, "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto Thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Taking this scripture by itself one might feel justified in thinking that Peter had been singled out for special position, and given special authority above the other disciples.

But it seems that the disciples did not understand what Christ had said in that manner, for a little later they came to Jesus and requested Him to tell who was greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Obviously they were thinking of the position of men or people, for they certainly must have recognized that God and Christ were first. Jesus' answer also indicates that He understood that they were thinking of man's place in the kingdom, for we read, "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:1-4). Jesus went on from there with His teaching about humility and compassion, then to trespasses among the brethren, and how to deal with those who trespass, and He again told them (and here He was speaking to all the disciples L.G.S.) that, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 18:18). So the keys of this authority were given by Christ to all of His disciples and not to Peter only.

When considering Matthew 16:15-19 we should keep our minds on what the subject was that Christ and His disciples were talking about. We give the answer in

Peter's words, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." While Christ confirmed in what manner Peter had been blessed, still He did not dismiss the subject with which He had opened when He had asked them, "Whom do you say I am?" for in verse 20 we learn, "Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ." Nor does it appear that He had changed the subject when saying, "And upon this rock I will build my church."

In referring to the Greek, from which our English Bibles were translated, we learn that Christ used two words in the Greek with different meanings. When He said, "Thou art Peter" He said, "Thou art Petros"; while the rock upon which He said He would build His church is from the Greek word Petra." Also it is interesting to keep in mind that Christ, Himself, gave the meaning of the name which He had given to Peter. In John 1:42 we read, ". . . And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a stone."

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament has this to say, "Petra—a rock, ledge or cliff" and then refers to Schmidt's Commentary to the effect that Petra means the massive living rock, and petros, a detached but large fragment. The fact that Christ used both terms in His statement serves to show that Peter was not the "rock" upon which He planned to build His church.

Scott's Commentary says, "The true meaning of Petros or Peter, is given by Christ when He calls him Cephas, or a stone, and Petros never signifies rock, according to Leigh. Petra means a rock, which is the regular figurative expression in Holy Scriptures for divine protector, (2 Samuel 22:2, 32; Psalms 18:2, and many other places) thus this word cannot be applied to any other than Christ or God."

That Peter was a stone, and not the "Rock" for church foundation, seems quite evident from his own human weaknesses which are recorded in the self-same chapter, Matthew 16:21 through 23, which reads, "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and the chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: Thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest not of the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

The Scriptures should give us sufficient for a firm base of understanding of what, or of whom, Christ was speaking when He said, "Upon this rock (Petra) I will build my church."

Keeping in mind the reference in Scott's Commentary, and its statement that the word rock (Petra) is used regularly in the Scriptures as a figurative expression for a divine protector, and therefore the word applies to God or to His Son Christ. Let us now consider some of these Scriptures.

THE ROCK OF SALVATION

"He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he . . . that he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation . . . Of the Rock that beget thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee" (Deuteronomy 32:4, 15, 18).

"And he said, The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; the God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; and thou savest me from violence . . . For who is God, save the Lord? and who is a rock, save our God?" (2 Samuel 22:2, 3, 32).

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower . . . For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God?" (Psalms 18:2, 31).

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defense to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me" (Psalms 31:1-3).

There are numerous other places where God is called the Rock, as the spiritual protector of His people. Such a list would include Psalms 62:2, 7; 78:35; 89:26; 95:1-3; 1 Samuel 2:2; 2 Samuel 23:3; Psalms 28:1; 42:9; 61:3; 71:3; and 94:22.

CHRIST WAS THE ROCK OR STONE WHICH MANKIND REJECTED

An Old Testament prophecy foretells that this would be the case in the following words, "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doings; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Psalms 118:22-23).

The writers of the New Testament fully understood the meaning of this prophecy to be Christ, as will become evident by quoting some of their writings on the subject.

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder" (Matthew 21:42-44). Christ here reproves the Scribes and Pharisees for their unbelief, and predicts that because of it they will lose the kingdom of God to

others. Peter makes a further application in his first epistle.

"If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also as lively stones, (Peter is not the only stone, for here in speaking to the church he calls all of them lively stones. LGS) are built up an spiritual house, an holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. (Note this wording, it is of the same meaning as that given by Christ when He said, "On this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," while here one who believes on Christ shall not be confounded, or prevailed against, LGS). Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. (I Peter 2:3-8).

Isaiah also predicts the rejection which the Christ will receive, and the results to the people of Israel.

"Sanctify the Lord of Hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken" (Isaiah 8:13-15).

Paul, when writing to the Romans, explains why and how this happened to the people of Israel. "Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at the stumbling-stone; As it is written, Behold I lay in Sion a stumbling-stone and a rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed" (Romans 9:32-33).

Christ was the rock which many rejected. They thought to build in their own ways, and seemingly even some in so called Christianity have also sought to reject Him and replace Him with Peter as the Leader (head of the corner) for the Church's foundation.

CHRIST THE SURE FOUNDATION

Again let us look into the Old Testament prophecies to obtain a basic concept regarding the foundation of the church.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste" (Isaiah 28:16).

Here God promises that He will lay a sure foundation stone, which is a precious corner stone, and one which man can safely and steadfastly believe in and trust. Of this the New Testament writers have something to say.

"FOR OTHER FOUNDATION CAN NO MAN LAY than that is laid, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST" (I Corin-

thians 3:11). Then Paul goes to admonish every man to build on this foundation which is Christ, and that what each builds will determine each one's final reward or result. Have you wondered who the builders are who have been referred to as rejecting Christ, the corner stone, in several of these prophecies? We see by what Paul has to say here that the builders are every man. You and I, and all others, we cannot escape being of the builders. Paul also tells us what will happen to our building, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (I Corinthians 3:13-15). We should take heed, not only as to how and what we build, but to be sure that we believe and build on the true, the sure, the tried foundation which God has laid, even Christ Jesus.

There is no doubt about who is the foundation in God's eyes, and we need not to expect the foundation to have been changed from God's choice. For, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2 Timothy 2:19).

So Christ only, and no other, can be the foundation for His church because, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at naught by you builders, which is become the head of the corner. NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED" (Acts 4:10-12).

It is interesting to notice that both here and in his Epistle that Peter recognizes that Christ is the stone which was rejected, but which had become the prominent part of the church formation. Nor does he ever apply the prominent place of being the church's foundation to himself.

Concerning the Gospel written by Mark we find Eusebius has this to say, "And the presbyter used to say this, Mark became Peter's interpreter and wrote accurately all that he remembered, not indeed, in order of the things said and done by the Lord. For he had not heard the Lord nor had he followed him, but later on as he followed Peter who used to give teachings as necessity demanded, but not making as it were an arrangement of the Lord oracles so that Mark did nothing wrongly in thus writing down single points as he remembered them. For to one thing he gave attention, to leave out nothing of what he had heard and to make no false statement in them."

If this be a true account of the writing of the book of the Gospel of Mark, that he was so careful to leave out nothing which he had heard Peter teach, and to care-

fully write it accurately so as to make no mistake, then we must conclude that he never heard Peter make any claims to being the "Rock" or the foundation on which Christ would build his church; for in the account by Mark in the eighth chapter, verses 29-30, he has only this to say about the experience, of which Matthew gives the fuller account. "And he saith unto them, But whom say we that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ. And he charged them that they should tell no man of him."

Paul understands that Christ is that important "rock" or foundation, or corner stone, not only to those of his day but also in times past, for he says, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST" (I Corinthians 10:1-4).

It is not possible for any one to come to God by any other means except by Christ. Christ says that He is the door, and any one who goes in by other means is a thief and a robber. So it is not possible for any one to get into the kingdom except through Christ. Peter's name will not help at all, for Christ is very explicit on this matter. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME" (John 14:6).

What has been written here seems quite conclusive as proof that there could be no foundation for the church except Christ, for He is the foundation which God has laid and is the rock on which it was to be built. But there are a couple of sidelights on the subject of Peter, or of any possibility of his holding such a position as some have claimed for him. Had he held such a position in the early Christian Church it would seem that all the other disciples and members would have been subservient to him and his decisions. Yet, we find according to the Bible that this was not so. For Paul tells us, "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed" (Galatians 2:11). And in Acts it was not Peter's decision which was sent to the Gentiles. "Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. And after they held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: . . . Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God; But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood" (Acts 15:12, 13, 19, 20). Here James renders the decision, not Peter.

As though looking forward to the teaching of some, Jesus gives one command which perhaps should be considered before we close this subject. "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest

among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 23:9-11). The word Pope means papa, and the Catholic priests are called father. This seems in complete opposition to the command of Christ. Christ is our church and spiritual foundation, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being;" (Acts 17:28). It is as the song writer understood.

"The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord:
She is his new creation, by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy
bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he
died."

THE BIRTHRIGHT NATIONS

(continued from June 1969)

We mentioned above that Israel was to be found in the isles that were to the northwest. Taking a straight line to the northwest from Palestine we come to the British Isles. Let's return to Hosea. "And it shall be at that day, saith the Lord, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name" Baali is a Hebrew word meaning "my lord". God had rejected this title and now decreed that he should be known of his people by the name of Ishi which in the Hebrew means, "my husband." Israel was to forget those names by which she offended and again seek unto God as her husband.

During the time of the Judges the children of Israel worshipped an idol called "Baal-berith" meaning lord of the covenant. "Berith" is the Hebrew word for covenant, and since it is used as a proper name in Judges 8:33 and 9:4 it is rendered into the English without translation. "And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon wear dea,d that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god" (Judges 8:33). "And they gave him three score and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith, wherewith Abimalech hired vain and light persons, which followed him" (Judges 9:4).

God made his covenant (berith) with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and chose the children of Israel to be a special people unto him. As such they were the children of the covenant or the covenant people of God. The Hebrew word for man is "ish." Now by taking the Hebrew term for covenant and combining it with the Hebrew term for man we have "Berith-ish" or covenant man. Today they are known as the British or men of the covenant.

Omri the sixth king of Israel was the builder of Samaria, the capital city. Assyrian tablets refer to Samaria as Khumree. The inhabitants of Wales call their country Kimry or Cymry meaning Welsh-man. Welsh is a teutonic term meaning strangers. Herodotus says that the Khumbri dwelt in his day in the Crimean peninsula, having arrived there from Media which was not their original home. Historians have been able to trace the Anglo-Saxon people to a point in history where they

made their first appearance (in Media) just three years after the ten tribes had been taken to that country. The same is true of the Danes, Celts, Jutes, Scots, Welsh and Normans.

After Israel was taken into captivity they clung to the name Isaac, dropping the name Israel, and called themselves Saac, Sacae or as per Latin derivation Saxae. Thus Saxon is derived from the Hebrew Isaac. Saac Sunnia means sons of Isaac and Beth-Sakai means house of Isaac. The following historians; Plutarch, Tacitus, Pliny, Ptolemy, Strabo, Diodorus, Gawler, Sharon Turner, Prideaux, and Albinus, variously say that the Saxons came from Media and were known as Sacaea, or Sakai, or Sacae-Sani, Saca, Sacki, Sach-sen and Cimbrians and were accompanied by the Angli.

In British history the earliest settlers in southern England and Wales were known as Simonii. They came by sea in 720 B.C. at the same time that a magical race from the east arrived in Ireland. Simonii is the plural form of Simeon. It is now known that when the coast colonies of Dan and Simeon knew that their brethren were defeated, they embarked in their ships and fled to the islands which were to the northwest of Europe. The magical race which settled Ireland at this time were known as the Tuatha de Daanan. They brought with them a stone which they called, the pillar stone upon which all their kings and queens were coronated. This stone was known to both the Irish and Scots as LiaFail or Leagael or stone of Destiny. It is a most surprising fact that "Tuatha de Daanan" when translated is "Tribe of Dan."

After the Tuatha de Daanan had become established in Ireland, a group known as "Milesians" (Scots) headed by one Herremon or (Erreman) and his brother Heber (or Eber) came up from Spain, conquered the Tuatha de Daanan and set themselves up as rulers over the country having divided the land between them. Later Herremon became known as prince of the Tuatha de Daanan.

Thus far we have given some evidence as to where the ten-tribed kingdom of Israel had migrated. Let's return now to Jeremiah and the king's daughters. According to Irish legend, about 585 B.C. a princess from the east arrived in northern Ireland name Tea (Teah) Tephi. To Irish historians she was known as the daughter of Pharaoh. In Egypt she had been known as Tarah. Yet, notwithstanding her descent from Pharaoh she was said to be the daughter of a Jew. This princess was not the only one to arrive in Ireland. She was accompanied by an aged guardian called Ollan Folla meaning revelator or prophet. This prophet also brought a scribe with him variously called Brug, Bruch, Simon Brach, Breck, Brack, Barech, Berach. Jeremiah's scribe was Baruch as we know. (Jeremiah 45:1)

At this point there is a discrepancy in the accounts for in one it is the Tuatha de Daanan who brought what they called the "pillar stone" when they came to Ireland. In the second it was the prophet and his scribe and the princess who carried with them the pillar stone when they arrived in Ireland. The latter account is more likely only from the standpoint that if there is any

credence to the story then the pillar stone (coronation stone) had to remain in Jerusalem until after the crowning of the last king (Zedekiah).

According to the London Sun dated 28 June 1837 the pillar stone or Liafail was conveyed into Ireland from or by way of Spain about 700 B.C. About 370 years later it was taken into Scotland by King Fergus. This stone according to tradition was the stone upon which Jacob laid his head at Bethel. Some contend that this rock was carried with the Israelites wherever they traveled and that it was from that rock Moses called forth the water, it being the physical rock which followed them, a type of the Spiritual Rock (Christ) which also followed them. This stone (then known as the stone of Scone) remained in Scotland until 1296 A.D. when it was taken to London by King Edward I. The stone is now kept in Westminster Abbey beneath the coronation chair with these words engraven, "Jacob's Pillow Stone." Sir Walter Scott rendered the prophetic verse on the stone as follows:

Unless the fates are faithless grown,
And prophets voice be vain
Where'er is found this sacred stone
The wanderers' Race shall reign

When the princess arrived in Ireland, she married Herremon and was made Queen receiving her coronation upon the pillar stone. The capital city then became known as Tara. We said earlier that Herremon was a leader of a group of Scots (Milesians) who had come up from Spain and made himself master of the Tuatha de Daanan. Who was he? Professors Totten gives his genealogy as follows: Judah begat Zerah; Zerah begat Ethan; Ethan begat Mahol; Mahol begat Calcol; Calcol begat Gadhol; Gadhol begat Easru; Easru begat Sru; Sru begat Heber Scot; Heber Scot begat Boamhaim; Boamhaim begat Ayhaimhain; Ayhaimhain begat Tait; Tait begat Aghenoin; Aghenoin begat Feabla Glas; Feable Glas begat Neanuail; Neanuail begat Nuaghadh; Nuaghadh begat Aloid; Aloid, begat Earchada; Earchada begat Deagfatha; Deagfatha begat Bratha; Bratha begat Broegan; Broegan begat Bille; Bille begat Gallam (or William); Gallam begat Herremon and Heber. This was the Zerah line of the royal house of Judah. David was of the Pharez branch. When Tea Tephi a descendant of King David married Herremon it was the uniting of the Zerah and Pharez lines of Judah, thereby healing the breach.

To return to our scripture of the three overturns we said that the overthrow of Zedekiah and the removal of the Sceptre from Jerusalem constituted the first overturn. It follows then that the remaining two overturns must have occurred with the transfer of the throne (and the pillar stone) from Ireland to Scotland and from Scotland to England. And if there be no mistake then that is where we may expect to find the throne when Christ returns again to earth. There is one other aspect regarding the Leagael (Liafail) which we will now take up. Gael IS a Hebrew word, yet it is the name of the tongue which is

the very root of the king's English. Young's concordance gives Leag as the original Hebrew word (which is Gael spelled backwards) while Strong's Concordance gives it as Gael, meaning "Stammering" (tongue). It is "leag" to the Hebrew and "gael" to the Saxon.

The evidence then (and this is by no means all the evidence) points very strongly to the Israelitish origins of the peoples of the British Isles and her neighboring countries of Sweden, Norway, Scandinavia, Denmark, Germany, etc. Generally there were two related groups of people who migrated westward into central and northern Europe. These were the Celtic and the Teutonic (Germanic) tribes. The Teutonic tribes consisted of the Lombards, Franks, Teutons, Saxons, Angles, Jutes, Goths, Vandals, Burgundians, Cimbri, Scandinavians, Normans, Danes, Sueves, Heruli, Alemanni, and Thuringians. These were the ancient Germans who came originally from the east, from the same area as the Medes. There were three groups of Celts who settled Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England, one group (the Gauls) settled south of the channel. According to Roman accounts the ancient German people were tall and very fair. They lived in tribes and counted their wealth in flocks and herds. Slaves consisted of those captured in battle or who had sold themselves for food during famine time or who had gambled away their freedom.

We now come to the main question of our study. Have the birthright promises been fulfilled? Consider the following: 70% of all the cultivated physical resources and wealth of the world were in the hands of Great Britain and America at the height of their power in the early 1950's. According to the World Book Encyclopedia, the Commonwealth COMPANY OF NATIONS (Hes) included Great Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, India, Pakistan and Ceylon. The British Empire included Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Malaya, Borneo, New Guinea, Fiji Islands, Tasmania, New Hebrides Islands, British Guiana, Jamaica, South Africa, British Honduras, Sudan, Somaliland, Hong Kong; China, Nigeria, Cyprus, Togoland, Cameroons, Uganda, Kenya, Zanzibar, Tangayika, Nyasaland, Southwest Africa, Khyber Pass, Rhodesia, Bechuanaland, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Suez Canal, Aden, British West Indies, Burma, Falkland Islands, Malta, Singapore, Bermuda, Basutoland, Gambia, Gilbralter, Gilbert Island, Mauritius, Nauro Isl, Swaziland, and Washington Isle. It extended over one-fourth of the earth surface and one out of every four persons in the world lived in Great Britain, a British dominion, or a British possession.

American possessions included American Samoa, Guam, Midway Island, Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Panama Canal Zone.

What about the gate of his enemies? There is some controversy over what constitutes a gate. One thought is that gates are strategic points or areas of the world, the control of which, gives an advantage to the possessor over surrounding territories or lands or countries. The other view (the more plausible one) is that gates represent the ruling power within a nation. Cruden's Con-

cordance makes the following statement: "The gates were the important part of an ancient city. They gave the only means of passing through the wall and were usually closed at night and were strengthened by bars of brass or iron. **The gate was the place of public concourse**, partly because it was an open space, not usually found elsewhere in the city. **MUCH OF THE LEGAL BUSINESS OF THE CITY WAS DONE THERE**, (Ruth 4:11).

THE WORD GATE IS SOMETIMES USED TO MEAN POWER OR DOMINION. GOD PROMISES ABRAHAM, THAT HIS POSTERITY SHOULD POSSESS THE GATES OF THEIR ENEMIES, THEIR TOWNS, THEIR FORTRESS, (Genesis 22:17). THEY SHOULD CONQUER THEM, THEY SHOULD HAVE DOMINION OVER THEM."

A few scriptural examples should suffice to show that this is the case.

In Deuteronomy 21:19 judgment for sin was executed in the gate of the city. See also Deuteronomy 22:15 and 24; 25:7 and Ruth 4:11. In Genesis 23:10-11, 17-18, Abraham concluded the purchase for a burying place in the gate of the city. In Jeremiah 38:7 the king of Judah sat in the gate of Benjamin, and in Jeremiah 39:3 when Nebuchadnezzar overthrew Jerusalem all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate. And lastly in Daniel 2:48-49 the king of Babylon made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon while Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were set over the affairs of the province, but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

The modern nations which have led the world in civilization and liberty are the English speaking nations. The Anglo-Saxons have done more than any other people in the world's history for the diffusion of civilization, enlightenment, civil and religious liberty and constitutional government. They have also been foremost among the nations in evangelism and missionary work of the world.

Surely we have seen the fulfillment of the birthright promises of Joseph in the English speaking people of the world, such as no other people ever did. They (America and Britain) did become a multitude of people, they did possess the gate of their enemies, they did possess the blessing of the heavens above and the earth beneath. America (Joseph's land) in particular, received the blessing of material abundance. She outproduces the world in countless commodities. It is largely in America that the prophecy regarding the increase of knowledge in the last days was fulfilled. This land truly is choice above all other lands. We are the richest nation in the world. We need only to cite the following: In 1953 the United States led the world in beef production. With a little over (at that time) 1/20th of the world's population this country consumed nearly 1/4 of the world's output in beef. In 1952 the U. S. was producing enough milk annually to fill a river 3,000 miles long, 40 feet wide and 3 feet deep. Today the citizens of this country are the best fed, best dressed, and best sheltered people that have ever lived. The U. S. has greater and more varied

natural resources than any other country in the world. These include great stretches of fertile soils, an abundant supply of almost all important minerals, vast forests, etc. The U. S. has large reserves of all the more widely used minerals except tin. These include coal, petroleum, iron, copper, bauxite (Aluminum ore), lead, zinc, and stone. One half of the world's 7 or 8 trillion tons of mineable coal is found in the U. S. This country is also the world's largest producer of copper, and has one tenth of the 85 billion tons of mineable iron ore deposits known to exist in the world. The U. S. is one of the few areas in the world where great quantities of oil are available. It not only produces enough oil for its own needs but supplies the world with almost two thirds of the petroleum it uses each year. This country has about one seventeenth of the world's entire land area but its crop and grazing lands produces approximately half of the world's corn and cotton, one third of the world's tobacco, one fourth of the world's oats, one sixth of the wheat, one seventh of the barley, one tenth of the sugar beets, one tenth of the cattle and one twelfth of the sheep. In grain production the U. S. ranks number one in wheat, oats, and corn. The U. S. and Canada outproduce the world in barley. Only in rice and rye are English speaking countries deficient. China is the world's producer of rice and Russia for rye. This country also ranks first in Flax (from which we obtain linen), cotton, and tobacco. The U. S. is second in field bean production and alfalfa production, and third in soybean and sugar beet production. In 1953 Australia outproduced the world in sheep production with the U. S. running seventh. Also in 1953 the U. S. ranked number two in hog production with China slightly in the lead.

The Book of Mormon declares emphatically that we are a Gentile nation. This is true. Yet Israel mixed himself among the Gentiles and lost his identity. That Ephraimite blood existed in Joseph Smith can be proved by reference to Ezekiel 37. The stick of Joseph was to be in the hand of Ephraim. This not only confirms Joseph Smith's true national identity but many of the rest of us as well. Yet notwithstanding this fact and because of the Gentile blood which also courses through our veins the gospel was to go from the Gentiles to the Lamanites and Jews. Both these conditions were fulfilled in 1830 and thereafter.

God promised that Joseph was to become a Nation and a Company of Nations. We have shown how that the company of nations has come about. But Manasseh also was to become a great people. Only Book of Mormon students can know the fulfillment of this promise for surely Manasseh did become a great and glorious nation during the Nephite era. The Book of Mormon says there could not have been a happier people. Indeed they were richly blessed from heaven. But notwithstanding God's marvelous favor upon them, when they transgressed his law they suffered. Thus it was that when they did fully turn away from him they were smitten until they were totally destroyed.

What then of Ephraim and his company of nations

today? The Josephite promises have been fulfilled and God has vindicated his word. What now? We have no guarantee of his continued favour unless we turn unto him with full purpose of heart in obedience to his commands. The Book of Mormon warns that those who possess this land must serve the God of this land (Jesus Christ) or be swept off in the day of judgment and wrath. The warning signs are already beginning to appear. Contentions and strife are greatly on the increase. The withdrawal of God's favor is beginning to be increasingly apparent. This is particularly noticeable in the steady eroding away of our wealth, power and prestige.

In 1946 America lost the Philippines. Pakistan and India were lost to Britain in 1947. Burma and Ceylon and Israel were next to go in 1948. Then Sudan and the Suez Canal went in 1956. The following year saw the loss of Ghana and the Gold Coast. In 1960 Cyprus, Nigera and Somalia were lost. Next it was British Cameroon, Kuwait, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tanganyika, in 1961. In 1962 it was Jamaica, Rwanda, Uganda, Trinidad, Tobago, and Western Samoa. Signapore, Zanzibar, Malaysia and Kenya were next lost to the commonwealth in 1963. Nyasaland, Malta, and Northern Rhodesia were lost in 1964. In 1965 it was the Maldive Islands, Gambria and Rhodesia. Next to go were Barbados, Bechuanaland, British Guiana and Basutoland in 1966 and finally Mauritius was lost in 1967. It is obvious then that the peak of power has been reached and the decline has set in. This has been the same route of all great empires—the gradual loss of outlying possessions until the frontiers of the mother country itself is threatened. The decline of the U. S. has not been so noticeable as has been the decline of Great Britain. Yet, however, the decline has set in. Our loss of prestige abroad, the internal strife and conflict within are evidences of our deteriorating greatness. The pride of our power is being broken. We have lost faith. We are beginning to deny God as a nation and so our floundering increases. Because we have rejected God, God is rejecting us as a nation. The sword of his justice hangs over us except we repent.

We have read two statements in the scriptures regarding the time when Christ would come and take the sceptre. The question is, when was Christ to receive it and if he has already received it, from whom did he receive it? No one in that day was sitting upon the throne of David in Jerusalem. Moreover the third overturn had not yet been accomplished. Actually Christ did not at that time take the sceptre of Judah nor sit upon the throne of David. This thought is substantiated beyond doubt in Luke 19:11-13, "And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come." Christ left without taking the throne. The sceptre is yet to be

given him and it shall be given him when he comes in his glory to rule over his people upon the earth in power.

Judah it should be noted never fulfilled the Josephite promises. They never became a multitude of nations, nor a multitude of people (the thousands of millions). And they did not possess the gate of their enemies.

This then concludes our study of the Sceptre and the Birthright. We have shown that God's promises have not failed nor returned unto him void. We have shown the fulfillment of the birthright promises to Joseph. We have also shown that the sceptre has not yet departed from the house of Judah, being still in the hands of the lineage of David. God's word has been amply and marvelously vindicated. His work unailing. The future then is certain. The remainder of His work shall be accomplished.

Source Material: Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright by J. H. Allen, The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy by Herbert W. Armstrong, The Quest of Three Abbots—Pioneers of Ireland's Golden Age by Brendan Lehane, The Standard History of the World, Volume III, by Israel Smith Clare, Tara—A Pagan Sanctuary of Ancient Ireland by Charles Scribner's Son, Introductory Animal Science by Wesley Patterson Garrigus, Principles of Field Crop Production by John H. Martin and Warren H. Leonard, Grain Crops by Harold K. Wilson, World Book Encyclopedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, Encyclopedia Americana.

A LETTER ANSWERING QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

Dear Brother Grzincic:

Your letter asking for information on the subject of the Holy Ghost was forwarded to me here in Milwaukee. I trust this letter may serve you temporarily, and especially your dear friend who is so very much concerned about the welfare of her soul.

It is indeed refreshing to contact the one or two, here and there, who can be reached by the Holy Spirit of truth, who desire heavenly things in the midst of a nation increasingly dedicated to a search for, and devotion to, the carnal, or the physical, which shall pass away leaving naught but desolation and misery to its devotees.

In order to understand what one must do to receive the Holy Ghost, it is necessary to understand His nature, purpose and methods of operation within the lives of those who have allowed His influence to dwell in them.

You will note that I have used a term denoting personality—a being—and so He is. Without going into great detail, I wish to affirm that the general term, God, while indicative of a single being, is applicable to the three distinct personalities or beings comprising the godhead as individuals, or as a unity. Thus we may speak of the supreme being, the Father, as God; the Son, Jesus

Christ, as God; and the Holy Ghost (or, Holy Spirit) as God; and the three together, being a complete unity (or as being described in simple terms to our understanding: being one God, as husband and wife have become one flesh), undivided in the act of creation and of imparting life, both physically and spiritually, according to the divine Mind. Thus do we read in Genesis 1:2:

“. . . And the **spirit** of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

And again (verse 26):

“And God said, Let us make man in **our image, after our likeness**. . . .”

This “spirit of God” was not the Father, nor the Son but the Holy Ghost.

When Jesus was about to be delivered into the hands of men to be crucified, He gave His disciples to understand that though He would leave them, He would “. . . Pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you forever;

“Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for **he dwelleth with you**, and shall be in you.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:16, 17, 26).

This is an entirely different operation or function of the Holy Ghost then that which is generally ascribed to Him, and thought to be the way in which the Holy Ghost is received. It is supposed that the gift of the Holy Ghost comes through the ability of one to speak in tongues, but I hope to show this gift of tongues in its proper perspective; not as fulfilling the promise of Christ just quoted, which is the primary function of the Holy Ghost, and by which we become sealed to God unto eternal life, **if we endure to the end**; but the gift of tongues is for **some** of those who have believed and obey the gospel, for the edification of the whole body of Christ, which is His Church. I will explain further a little later.

Going back to verse 15, just preceding the above quotation, Jesus said:

“If you love me, keep my commandments.”

It was upon this statement that the succeeding verses depend. If we love him and keep his **commandments**, He will give us the gift of the Holy Ghost. This entails, not just righteous living, but obedience to all the law by which we enter into the kingdom of God, viz., having had faith in God and repented of sin with a godly sorrow, we also yield to the commandment to be born of water and the Spirit (John 3:3, 5) according to the scriptural pattern.

Here, we might enter into three related, and important subjects, namely: baptism by water, the laying on of hands, and also the need of these ordinances being accomplished through a divinely appointed priesthood authority. I suggest a reading of tracts on “Baptism”

and the “Laying on of Hands” by Apostle Flint, and “Priesthood—Divine Authority” by myself.

The gift of the Holy Ghost as an **abiding** Comforter cannot come except through those appointed by God to lay hands upon those who have been properly baptized, and by the prayer of faith. It is true that the Holy Spirit has ever moved upon man, even wicked men, in the accomplishment of God’s purposes, but He cannot **abide** in human hearts except where they have complied with God commandments, and they as “branches” abide in the “vine,” which is Christ.

Jesus complied with His own law (received from the Father) when He came to John for baptism. John was a man **sent from God** and had authority to baptize with water, but not to baptize with the Holy Ghost. See John 1:29-34; Luke 3:21, 22. Note that the Holy Ghost came in a bodily form like a dove, alighting on Christ and remaining (**abiding**) on Him.

Now we have no record of Jesus speaking in tongues at this time, nor at any other time, for that matter. We are perfectly safe in saying that the gift of tongues had nothing to do with Jesus receiving the Holy Ghost. He obeyed the law of God and it came, not through the laying on of hands, as it later was given, but by coming directly from the Father in the form of a dove. At that time, no man was authorized to perform the laying on of hands; but He, being the Son of God, we would expect extraordinary means to be employed.

Later, we find the apostles laying on hands to bestow the Holy Ghost; the only valid means given in the scriptures. Read Acts 8:14-20 and Acts 19:1-6. The first text says nothing whatever about the gift of tongues, but the second text does. However, to assume, because of this, that it is a necessary sign of having received the gift of the Holy Ghost, it is unwarranted.

When one is touched in this manner it is a temporary gift given for edification at the time; it does not continue to come in that way upon them. So, the Holy Ghost being manifested as an unknown tongue does not fulfill the promise of the Lord, saying that He would send another Comforter who would abide with His disciples and teach them all things.

We will show that the gift of tongues is not given to all who believe, whereas the gift of the Holy Ghost, as an **abiding Comforter**, which will lead into all truth, is **given to all** who obey the commandments of God.

If you will take the means to read I Corinthians 12:1-11, you will find that the gifts of tongues is but one of nine spiritual gifts coming through the operation of the Holy Ghost into the lives of those who believe. It is listed as the eighth gift, and has no pre-eminence over any other, but the apostle Paul says that if any speak in tongues, he should also pray that he interpret; or else how is the church edified? Read also I Corinthians 14:1-8. It is very important to the understanding of this subject.

Referring again to I Corinthians 12, we find that the Spirit **divides** these gifts, severally, “as he will” (verse 11). The will of God prevails here, not man—and this

for the benefit of all; for instruction and comfort in the knowledge of what has been said.

Finally, he says that God had set certain members in the Church "as it hath pleased him" (verse 18), among them being "diversities of tongues" (verse 28), but he says further:

"Are all apostles? are all prophets? . . . do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? (Verse 29).

The answer of course, is **no**, to all these questions. And so, the answer to the question before us is that the gift of tongues is no evidence of having received the gift of the Holy Ghost in His most important function, viz., that of coming upon and abiding with those who have believed and obeyed. Hence, it is not necessary to speak in tongues to receive the Holy Ghost.

We cannot say that there is a specific feeling which comes upon one who has received the gift of the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands as before-mentioned, except that usually it may come as a warmth, flooding the mind and body, in reassurance that he has pleased God.

Others may receive a fuller witness of the remission of their sins, or other manifestation from God, such as the speaking in an unknown tongue, or voicing the word of the Lord in prophecy; while some may feel there has been no evidence given. Yet, I have heard such as this latter group state their assurance that they had been directed in their pathway and enabled to avoid many pitfalls of temptation; exactly what the Holy Ghost was to accomplish in the lives of the obedient.

Incidentally, one cannot possibly sin against the Holy Ghost or be guilty of the unpardonable sin unless the Holy Ghost has truly come to him; and he knows it has come, and then turns against God by denying that Holy Power in his life. Refer to Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-29.

One last consideration is that of speaking in **other tongues** in contrast to the gift of **unknown tongues**. The unknown tongue is just what is said: unknown. Only God can give the interpretation and thus edify the church. But, it was with "other tongues" that the disciples spoke on the day of Pentecost. The strangers who heard were from many nations round about, and they all heard and understood, every man in his own tongue (Acts 2:1-11).

This is the same power and gift to be given yet in the future by which "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."

Trusting this may aid somewhat in coming to the knowledge of the truth on this important subject, I am

Yours, in Gospel Bonds,

Apostle William A. Sheldon

I HAD A DREAM

and in my dream, I was among the ruins of an old building with just the foundation remaining, but modern plumbing had been installed, and hanging on one of the pipes was a plaque which read:

I HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATION, THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

It was signed by Joseph Smith, Jr. My name was on the plaque with others, although I was unable to read the other names. My name stood out along with Joseph's.

I have been for some time now, praying and looking for the answer to this dream and have at last been shown. It came to me in this way:

Why do you look for what I have given you, for the answer is the dream. You have asked for the truthfulness of my gospel and I have shown it unto you in a dream, but you went and asked of man the meaning thereof, and turned from me. Until now have you looked unto man. You have trusted in the arms of of flesh and they have not revealed it unto you.

Oh, man, why do you ask and then cannot see, for I say unto you that my gospel is laid upon the same foundation that was laid by Joseph Smith, Jr. and is the same foundation that was laid in Jerusalem of old.

The modern plumbing that you saw was the doctrine of men and is not built upon my gospel. Look and see who has kept my doctrine. Look and see if it be built upon the foundation of old or if it be built upon the doctrine of men.

The plaque which you saw was the names of those who have gone before you, and they that are yet, and they that are yet to come.

Hear my word, for as you have asked, so shall you receive. But have faith to see what you receive and look not unto the way of man.

Now, look no more for I have given it to you for the last time.

Now, who has the gospel that is laid upon the foundation of old, even the foundation that Joseph laid? Is it the gospel of love for all mankind? Or is it built upon the doctrines of evil? For my gospel cannot be built upon without love for all.

Yes, I have called you out of obscurity into light. I will open the Book of life and therein will I write your name, but if you shall fall, it will be on your own, for all things shall be shown you, yea, the Holy Ghost shall come unto you and He shall be with you. So be strong and preach my gospel to all that will hear. So you have loved, so you will be loved, even so.

Go now unto your calling, even that of an evangelist, and remember I am with you unto the end.

Amen.

Dream was in November of 1963 and answer was in March of 1969.