

Zion's Advocate

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

Vol. 47

Independence, Missouri, July 1970

No. 7

Because He Lives

By

Adele Lathrop

Because He lives, I, too, shall live;
The same life quickens me
That held His Spirit all secure
Above the death-bound Tree.

Because He lives, I cannot die.
Death signifies no loss;
My soul shall know but spirit-change
Because He knew the Cross.

Because He lives, His Cross transmutes
Death into life, for me;
And failure, fear, disease, and death,
Love crowns with victory.

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
The Fear of the Lord (Ed.)	98	The Gift of the Holy Spirit	109
Wedding	100	From the Desk of the	
Behold, I Come Quickly	101	Sunday School Editor	110
Were There Horses in America	108		

Zion's Advocate

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

EDITOR

Harvey E. Seibel, 1502 South Logan, Independence, Missouri 64055

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Amy Schrader, Route 5, Box 302, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601.

Lovita M. Seibel, 1200 West Maple, Independence, Missouri 64050

BUSINESS MANAGER OF ZION'S ADVOCATE: C. LeRoy Wheaton, Box 472, Independence, Missouri, 64051. Subscriptions and changes of address.

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

Second class postage paid at Independence, Missouri.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year, \$1.50. In bundles of twelve or more for missionary purposes, \$1.00. Canadian and all foreign rates, \$1.75.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings, and Subscriptions for the Advocate to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051.

Secretary, Council of Apostles, Archie F. Bell, 802 South McCoy, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Secretary, Council of Bishops, Nicholas F. Denham, 4116 South Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64055.

General Church Secretary, James A. Hedrick, 3507 South Crane, Independence, Missouri 64055.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to:
 Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
 Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051.

	Price Each
Book of Mormon—Missionary Edition.....	\$1.00
Book of Mormon—Cloth Binding	\$2.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ.....	\$2.00
Book of Commandments (Leatherette).....	\$1.25
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed.....	\$1.00
The Autobiography of B. C. Flint.....	\$1.50
Zion's Praises	\$2.25
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God.....	\$0.50
Temple Lot Deed	\$0.20
A Brief History of the Church of Christ.....	*
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance.....	*
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands.....	*
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism.....	*
The Latter Day Restoration	*
Apostasy or Succession, Which?	*
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	*
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ.....	*
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	*
Articles of Faith and Practice, No. 1, (English).....	*
Changing of the Revelations	*
What the Church of Christ Teaches in Respect to Matrimony, (Spanish).....	*
What About Israel?	*
Priesthood, Divine Authority	*

Note: *Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are: In packs of 6, 30c; or of 100, \$4.50.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

Our quarterlies are not dated, but numbered, because they contain a regular course of study, and if the schools desire to make this study, they should order the quarterlies according to number so as to avail themselves of the entire course, so far as the study has been extended up to the present time. None of the courses are as yet, complete.

In compliance with the action taken at the 1960 General Sunday School Association General Assembly, all publications printed by the Association will be sent free of charge. Send ALL orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 64051.

	Price Each
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 3, Jesus Ministry con't.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus.....	N/C
Sunday School Record Book	N/C
History and Religion—Chart.....	1.50

EDITORIAL

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments" (Psalm 111:10).

"The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted" (Proverbs 10:24).

It is evident from the above scripture that there are at least two kinds of fear—that which is exercised by the righteous in their confidence toward God and that which naturally affects the wicked. The former is justified in the sight of God: the latter is the result of wickedness.

But what does it mean to fear the Lord? Does it mean to be afraid of him? Or does it mean something more than that? According to the above scripture, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. In Psalm 96:4-5 we read, "For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens." This is one very good reason why we should fear the Lord, for he is great and his power boundless. The scriptures also tells us that God is love and that he is good. These are two additional reasons why he is justly deserving of our fear toward him. But whether we choose to serve him or not there remains a day of reckoning for each of us. "Rejoice, O young man in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment" (Ecclesiastes 11:9). "For God shall bring every good work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14). The fact that God will bring us to judgment makes it all the more important that we exercise the fear of God in our lives.

But this responsibility toward God should be born out of love of him and his righteousness and not solely because we are afraid of the consequences if we don't. Our fear of him should be born out of respect for him, our reverence and love of him and the awe we should have of him and his infinite greatness.

As we have seen above, fear is the beginning of wisdom and certainly it is a wise man who will exercise this fear. However the fear of the Lord entails much more than just being afraid. It enjoins us to obedience to his commands and a turning away from all that is evil. "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" (Proverbs 8:13). ". . . and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil" (Proverbs 16:6). In Proverbs 1:7 we read that "The fear of the Lord is beginning of knowledge." And Psalm 19:9 tells us that "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever." The fear of the Lord is also the assurance that God will fulfill all his promises whether unto life or death. "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death" (Proverbs 14:26-27). And "The

fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil" (Proverbs 19:23).

Seeing that all these things are true it becomes apparent that the fear of the Lord is to be greatly desired. And like faith we cannot please God without it. The Lord himself in 3 Nephi 11:8 states that he will be a swift witness against them that "fear not me." We are many times instructed to fear him. Psalm 2:11 tells us to "Serve the Lord with fear" and Psalm 34:9 admonishes us to "O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him." We are to serve the Lord with fear lest at any time we should depart from him. For we fight not against flesh and blood. This is why we are admonished to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. But if we will do so there are certain blessings pronounced which will be ours to enjoy "For there is no want to them that fear him."

What are some of these rewards? "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life" (Proverbs 22:4). "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him . . . Like a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him" (Psalm 103:11-13. ". . . yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God" (Ecclesiastes 8:12-13).

Of particular interest to us in this troublous time are the promises of the Lord to those who fear him in the latter day. "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7). "But unto you that fear my name, shall the Son of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall" (3 Nephi 11:23).

Truly the righteous man is abundantly rewarded for his obedience unto God. The rewards, both spiritual and material, are greater than the service warrants. But what about those who do not exercise fear in the Lord? The Book of The Proverbs gives us a very excellent answer. "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me; For that they hated knowledge, AND DID NOT CHOOSE THE FEAR OF THE LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despiseth all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear or evil" (Proverbs 1:24-33).

It becomes clear here that we have a choice of two fears. We may fear the Lord and be "quiet from fear of evil" or else we may not fear the Lord and be given over to the fear of evil. Thus it appears that without the fear of the Lord certain other fears, common to all those who know not God, takes its place. A good example of this is found in Luke 21:26. "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth:" But the righteous are told not to fear these things. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: SEE THAT YE BE NOT TROUBLED" (Matthew 24:6). The righteous are instructed further in Isaiah 8:12-13 thus, "Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; AND LET HIM BE YOUR FEAR, AND LET HIM BE YOUR DREAD:"

There is a time among the wicked however when the wicked will suddenly become possessive of this fear of the Lord. However this fear will not be so much out of reverence for him as out of dread of him. "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" (Isaiah 2:19). See also Revelation 6:12-17.

The sharp contrast between one who fears God and one who does not becomes evident here in that the righteous have confidence in their God to save them out of all adversity causing their worldly fears to swallowed up in him through faith while the wicked are given over to the power of the evil one whereupon they become subject to all the fears of the ungodly. The Lord also "will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not" (Isaiah 66:4).

But we who are of the household of faith should not be subject to such fears. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (I Timothy 1:7). "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). Continuing with I John 4:18 we learn further, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." Moroni 8:18 confirms this thought, for in writing he says ". . . I fear not what man can do; for perfect love casteth out all fear. . . ."

Knowing, as we do, the terrible things soon to transpire among the children of men, fear will play no small part in their affairs. We know also that according to the Book of Mormon the kingdom of the devil which shall be built up in the last days must shake. But what does the Lord say of the righteous and the wicked at that time? "Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire. . . . Yea, in fine, all those who belong to

the kingdom of the devil, are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake" (I Nephi 7:37-51). The righteous shall be delivered. See also Malachi 4:1-2.

These should be words of comfort to us especially in view of the awful calamities which are about to befall the world. If we fear the Lord we need not fear the calamities but if we fear not the Lord then we shall fear the calamities.

The ultimate crisis will come when we are brought before the throne of God to be judged for our works. What a blessing this will be to the righteous for their fear will not have been in vain, but what awful calamity it will be to the wicked. For "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). And the fearful have a dreadful fate to meet. For Revelation 21:8 tells of "the fearful, and unbelieving" etc., "shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

How important it is then that we do not misplace our fear. For "the fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Proverbs 29:25). And again "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him" (Psalm 89:7).

In closing "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

COME UNTO ME!

By

Janice Hansen

Race holds no barriers for me,
I love each man the same:
His skin is black, your skin is white,
I died for both the same.

He is yellow, you are red,
But I look not at skin:
I probe the heart, the soul,
I always look within.

And if I only loved a man,
Whose skin was just like mine:
Then I would cease to love my God,
Who created all mankind.

Come unto me, every soul,
Be brothers one and all:
For when you truly love me,
All racial barriers fall!

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22).

MANN - KRUEGER WEDDING

On Saturday, May 23, 1970, Marlene Mann of Lee's Summit, Missouri and Jerry Krueger of Independence, Missouri were united in marriage. Marlene is the daughter of Margaret and Harry Mann of Lee's Summit. Jerry's parents live in Omaha, Nebraska.

Marlene and Jerry were united in a simple ceremony at the home of her mother (her father passed away several years ago) by Elder C. LeRoy Wheaton, Jr. They were attended by Marlene's cousin, Jerry Adams and husband, Gary. Two of the bride's aunts Doris Ratterree and Luella Luff, were present as well as two cousins, the sons of Jerry and Gary Adams. Mildred Wheaton was also present. Mr. and Mrs. Krueger, Jerry's parents, were unable to attend as his father had just undergone a very serious operation.

Marlene and Jerry Krueger are at home at 305 North Pleasant, Independence, Missouri 64050. May God's richest blessing be theirs to enjoy.

LeRoy Wheaton

A KING

A short while ago the Duke of Windsor was interviewed on television before the British public. In the interview he said he would have liked going on being King "but I was going to do it under my own conditions."

There is another, one Lord Jesus who wants to be King in your heart, but only on His own conditions. He alone lays out the requirements by which we can become subjects of His kingdom. He alone gives the laws which govern that kingdom. We can fulfill the requirement, obey the laws and be citizens or we can choose our own way and remain subjects of some other kingdom. There is no bargaining table, no negotiations about the rules in His kingdom; anything other than His conditions would cause it to cease to be His. We of the United States have never had a King. I have sometimes wondered just what that emotion of allegiance is that people in a monarchy feel for their sovereign. We call our Lord by many names, authentic titles which He has given us in reference to Himself: such as our Savior, Redeemer, Shepherd, Master, Friend, but not nearly so often do we casually refer to Him as our King. We are not used to having a King. The term is so permanent. we are used to officials which we elect for short periods of time and can remove when or if they fail to please us. Not so with a King. To a King we are entirely subservient. And until we have enthroned Him in our hearts as King, we can scarcely really consider ourselves His subjects. God has provided Him a throne in the midst of the Heavenly Kingdom, can we do less than offer Him a throne, first place in our hearts?

By One Concerned

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

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, I COME QUICKLY

By

William A. Sheldon

Part I

Without doubt, the single most momentous event which the world has even known, or ever will know, is the resurrection of Jesus Christ with all its implications for the human family. Yet today, as never before in the nearly 2000 years which have passed since that stupendous event transpired, men are doubting, even denouncing this greatest of gifts from God.

Moreover, the spirit of atheism which denies the existence of a supernatural being, good or evil, is greatly on the increase and threatens the most firmly entrenched beliefs in God and in the divinely appointed Son of God.

Many false gods have been invented to supplant the true and only God of the universe, as recorded from the earliest histories; but none has more subtly or ingeniously undermined the true faith than the god of modern science manipulated by psuedo-scientists, who are, more often than not, the unwitting dupes of the great arch deceiver, the god of this world, who is the devil of all devils, and unrelenting enemy of God and man.

It is these psuedo-scientists, found in every branch of the physical sciences, each seeking support from his "fellow," which have built an inter-twining network of facts and theories (supposed to be facts) which has shut out the sunlight of truth from many of their students.

These remarks are not intended to cast doubt upon true scientific research or those real scientists who recognize and acknowledge the fact that there is more to science than its physical aspects; that it includes many intangibles from the human standpoint alone, and from which standpoint, understanding and truth will never be attained, worlds without end. Such scientists comprehend to some degree that there are spiritual forces, and readily consent to an uncaused Cause, Who is God, from the many observable facts that there can be no other answer!

The false doctrines of the physical sciences have, by their very nature, denied God, yet not in so many words.

But Satan is not content with a single, insidious line of attack. He assaults the very bastions of faith, the churches built in the name of God and of Jesus Christ. Many of their hirelings deny the verities of the scriptural record.

They say: Adam was not the first man; the creation

story is not to be taken literally; no world-wide flood; Moses leading all Israel through the waters on dry ground, and which waters afterwards drowned the hosts of Pharaoh—a myth; the virgin birth of Christ—a fairy tale; He was not the divine Son of God; His resurrection—only a fable.

There is no miraculous event of the past or revelation of the future but what is denied and ridiculed by the learned men of our day. But Isaiah said:

"... For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid" (Isaiah 29:14).

Nephi verifies, also:

"O that cunning plan of the evil one!

"O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men!

"When they are learned, they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves;

"Wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness, and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish.

"But to be learned is good, if they hearken unto the counsels of God" (2 Nephi 6:57-61).

However, the greatest danger to the members of the Church of Christ, or, for that matter, to any professing belief in God and in Jesus Christ, is to say, either consciously or otherwise, "My Lord delayeth His coming."

There is no subject which has engaged the attention of the holy prophets, and about which they have spoken by the Holy Ghost, as has that of the second coming of Christ into the world; His coming in power and great glory; an event which, for sheer, observable, physical impact upon the world, has never been seen.

But it will be seen and experienced by all:

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him..." (Revelations 1:7).

For many, the coming of the Lord will be a time of terror and destruction, but for some, a time of revival and great joy.

"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 Son of righteousness (Jesus Christ/W.A.S.) arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall" (Malachi 4:1, 2).

For those of us who believe, then, it is well that we search diligently into the scriptures, asking God for light, and then to make such rapid correction of our lives, and spiritual development, as shall enable us to "stand" and not fall. Surely the events of our time should cause us to realize that the coming of Christ is so near as to be within the expected life span of most of us, even in **this** generation.

Jesus said:

"... As a snare shall it come on all of them that dwell on the face of the whole earth."

But He obviously excepts the saints:

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21: 35, 36).

Again, Daniel said:

"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (Daniel 12:10).

Jesus gave certain signs regarding His second advent, to which we should like to call attention, and He said:

"... When you see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand (or the second coming of Christ/W.A.S.)

"Verily I say unto you, **This generation** shall not pass till all shall be fulfilled" (Luke 21:31, 32).

The signs of which Jesus spoke and for which we are to look and thereby understand "that it is nigh, even at the doors" (Mark 13:29), are briefly, these:

1. Signs in the sun, moon and stars.
2. Distress of nations, with perplexity.
3. The sea and the waves roaring.
4. Earthquakes in divers places.
5. Men's hearts failing them for fear.
6. The earth to be corrupt and filled with violence.
7. Famines and pestilences.
8. Nation shall rise against nation.
9. Many shall come in Christ's name, and shall deceive many.
10. False Christs and false prophets.
11. An abomination of desolation.
12. Jerusalem to be no longer trodden down of the Gentiles.

Reference is made to Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21 and Genesis 6: 5, 11.

This list is not to be considered as a chronological listing of events. Most of them are contemporaneous, and by their very frequency, a continual, endless round of circumstances; the human mind of the many becomes dulled to the sensational, the spirit inured to tragedy, violence and wickedness.

For this reason, men will say in their hearts (and some openly), "My Lord delayeth His coming" (Matthew 24:55).

If you will suggest to people that these signs give

evidence that the second coming of Christ is near at hand, and be so bold as to say that it will undoubtedly happen **within thirty years** from now, most of them will give you a look of unbelief, to say the least, and if they are of the rapidly increasing number of atheists and agnostics, they will laugh you to scorn.

Knowing this Peter admonished the disciples of his day to be "mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

"... That there shall come **in the last days** scoffers, walking after their own lusts.

"And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? (coming of Christ/W.A.S.) for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (2 Peter 3:2-4).

O yes, they say, these things seem more prevalent because our means of communication is better; we hear more about world events, and even in our local communities.

But Peter again says that in this they are willing ignorant, forgetting the flood of waters which cleansed the earth in Noah's day, and shutting out from the mind that (as Jesus said):

"... As in the days of Noe (Noah/W.A.S.) were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37; Luke 17:26).

"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot..." (Luke 17:28).

Now, as the same conditions were to exist just before the coming of Christ as did in Noah's and Lot's day, which produced destruction from the Almighty, why should we think that God has "mellowed" since then, or has changed, so that He would not bring down destruction upon this wicked generation in the latter days?

He is the Lord; He changes not; therefore, it is only a question of time, according to His timetable into which every dispensation has been properly fitted, until He will indeed fulfill all things spoken of by the holy prophets.

The word of the Lord has come in these last few days saying:

"And thus, if the people of this generation harden not their hearts, I will work a reformation among them, and I will put down all lyings, and deceivings, and priestcrafts, and envyings, and strifes, and idolatries, and sorceries, and all manner of iniquities, and I will establish my church, like unto the church which was taught by my disciples in the days of old.

"And now if this generation do harden their hearts against my work, behold I will deliver them up unto Satan, for he reigneth and hath much power at this time, for he hath got great hold upon the hearts of the people of this generation: and not far from the iniquities of Sodom and Gomorrah do they come at this time; and behold the sword of justice hangeth over their heads, and if they persist in the hardness of their hearts, the time cometh that it must fall upon them..." (Book of Commandments 4:5, 6).

Nephi records essentially the same thought:

"And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; an except they repent, it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles" (3 Nephi 9:56).

That generation did harden their hearts, and more so has the present; therefore the word of the Lord is fulfilled thus far, for they have been delivered up to Satan.

Corruption and violence are rampant in our land; the cup of iniquity is brimming to overflow with murder, rape, robbery, extortion, adultery, lying and deceiving, priestcrafts, envy, strife, idolatry, sorcery, and all manner of iniquity. There are witchcrafts and soothsayers (diviners) tampering with the occult, or evil spirits, seducing many from the true worship. Astrology is increasingly popular, seemingly harmless, but believed to reveal wisdom in the course of human affairs.

The secret orders, in their wicked combinations, plot the overthrow of all nations by subverting their freedoms. The evidence is clear in our land. Read Ether 3:92-102.

Some of the Restoration Movement have rejected Joseph Smith as a prophet; have rejected all latter day recorded revelations; have rejected doctrinal points of light and truth which God has revealed, and which gloriously overshadow the precepts of men in the sectarian churches; deny a restoration of holy priesthood authority; deny a divinely appointed and organized Church of Christ; reject the apostolic office; reject the belief in a latter-day temple of the Lord and the establishment of a literal Zion for the gathering of the saints and the house of Israel; reject the Book of Mormon as a divinely translated word of the Lord and historical record.

In a word: the Gentiles are rejecting the fullness of the gospel (both those who are within and outside the Church of Christ), just as Christ said they would do read (3 Nephi 7:34, 35).

In all these things, Satan has deceived the multitudes, and leads them carefully down to destruction. The gates of hell are opened wide to receive such.

Is it any wonder, then, that an offended God should bring upon the nations the revulsions of the forces of nature?

The present concern for environmental pollution only vaguely illustrates the problem. The over-riding pollution is within the spirit of man.

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

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

Further:

"... The destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he

is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant" (Jeremiah 4:7).

"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 30:3).

Jesus said to those who believed and followed Him:

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it (the world/W.A.S.) be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Matthew 5:13).

Isaiah affirms the same judgment, thus:

"... When the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it" (Isaiah 28:18).

And he further calls it "a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth" (Isaiah 28:22).

Daniel has spoken of "the abomination that maketh desolate" (Daniel 11:31; 12:11), to which Christ refers. Matthew 24:15-22 and Mark 13:14-20 clearly indicates the latter days with particularly reference to Judea, or the present nation of Israel, while Luke's account (21:20-24) records the desolation of ancient Jerusalem (an abomination of desolation) which took place in 70 A.D.

There is no conflict here. As so often happens, history repeats itself, and events of ancient date foreshadow the more momentous events of the latter days. This is brought out more plainly in the Inspired Translation of the Bible.

We are mainly concerned, of course, with the events of our day, and how they affect the future, according to prophecy.

The foregoing prophets have all described the arising of a mighty military power just before the great "day of the Lord," in language we should be able to understand. Let us summarize these descriptions, and perhaps others, and try to determine what it is and from whence it shall come.

1. Isaiah speaks of an "overflowing scourge" which shall "pass through;" it is a "consumption (or it shall consume; destroy) even determined upon the whole earth."

2. Jeremiah, speaking for the Lord, says:

"... I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction ... and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way" (Jeremiah 4:6, 7).

"... The Lord shall war from on high ... against all the inhabitants of the earth ... for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword ... and the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth ..." (Jeremiah 25:30-33).

3. Ezekiel saw the approaching "day of the Lord" as "a cloudy day: it shall be the time of the heathen."

4. Daniel was shown that "there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time," and that an "abomination that maketh desolate" was to have been set up (Daniel 12:1, 11).

5. Jesus indicated this was to be in the latter days as well as in 70 A.D. Because the Jews had rejected Him and all the prophets, He told them:

"Behold your house is left unto you desolate" (Matthew 23:37, 38).

They were killed and taken captive; thus shall it also be in our time.

6. Joel speaks also of the "day of the Lord" as "a day of darkness" etc.; that there shall be "a great people and a strong," and "the Lord shall utter his voice before his army." There shall be "the heathen," and are called "the northern army" (Joel 2).

7. Ezekiel speaks of Gog, of the land of Magog, "the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal;" that he will come against the "mountains of Israel" (nations of Israel, which includes the present nation called Israel, as well as the U.S.A., which is an "Israel" nation because of Ephraim and Manasseh being located here) in the latter days. (See Ezekiel 38 and 39.)

According to Smith's Dictionary of the Bible, Magog is the general area of dwelling of Gog, which is of the Scythian race found generally north of the Black and Caspian Seas.

Thus we have described for us a heathen people (non-believers in God), living north of the land of Israel where the prophets lived, and north of the Black and Caspian Seas.

Surely this is generally descriptive of the Russian people and nation, which is apparently outstripping the U.S. and the world in military armament, preparing for the day soon to come when they feel sufficiently strong, with their allies, to overpower any possible combination against them.

Make no mistake about it: it is the Lord's army which he shall bring against these wicked nations which have forgotten Him. Gog will not understand it so, but he will be the instrument of God's justice, and later will the Lord vent his fury upon him also.

They shall prevail for a time, but the Lord shall spare His people.

"Wherefore, the righteous need not fear, for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire" (1 Nephi 7:37).

Part 2

In our previous study, we covered, briefly, the unbelief and wickedness which was to characterize the general disposition of the nations in the last days, and would result in the judgments of God being poured out.

It should be observed that His purpose is not retributive for the sake of the divine wrath, alone, but ultimately to bring peace through repentance and reconcili-

ation of the nations to Himself. He will destroy the wicked, but save the penitent who call upon Him for deliverance.

Though he chasten His people severely for their slothfulness and unbelief, yet will He turn and have mercy upon them. Christ shall come, ushering in the great thousand year reign of peace, bestowing undreamed spiritual joy upon the saints in His presence, with abundance of physical blessings far superior to anything of present earthly desire.

Of the nations outside the "camp of the saints," those unworthy to dwell in the presence of Christ, but having been spared as the more righteous peoples of the earth, those who had come against Jerusalem to battle, but were not destroyed—if they shall come up "from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts," and "keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16-19), they shall be blessed, but if not, they shall not have rain and shall be smitten with plagues.

It is evidently of these that there shall come again wickedness into the Lord's vineyard (the world). They shall be gathered by Satan, after the thousand years, to come against the Lord and His people: they shall be destroyed, and Satan and his angels and the sons of perdition cast into the "lake of fire and brimstone," which is the second death. See Jacob 3:145-153 and Revelation 20.

This very brief resume of the triumph of the kingdom of God is given here to point up the value of our preparation now, to escape the wrath to be revealed, and to receive the manifold favor of God to come.

Returning to a consideration of the days of our time, we recall that "as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. . . . Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot" (Luke 17:26, 28).

Then Jesus said, concerning both of those times:

"They did eat, they drank, they were given in marriage . . . they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded" (Luke 17:27-28).

This may appear somewhat strange. We might say, "What is wrong with these things? Well, nothing is wrong—except!

Do you remember that Jesus cautioned against being over-indulgent in the things of this life?

". . . Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:34, 35).

Now, if we will not take heed in these things, soon they become the overriding factors in life: we are laying up treasures on earth, rather than in heaven. Therefore, earthly things, our cares and pleasures, have become as gods to us, and we may soon forget the great God of heaven (for His commandment is everlasting life

and eternal bliss and peace); forget to place all our trust in Him; forget to worship Him in spirit and in truth. In these things, or in this manner, the ordinary, everyday affairs of life can push God out of the picture.

But remember—He is a jealous God! **He will not be ignored!** If we will not turn to Him willingly, giving Him our greatest love and devotion, then shall the sword of His justice be revealed in destruction of all the rebellious, and wrath upon the slothful who have forgotten Him!

Generally speaking, in this country, we are an affluent society, with more and more time for leisure and pleasure, and the ability (with the help of the credit card) to indulge these cravings. I almost said, satisfy these cravings. But they are virtually insatiable for most people, and when one thing is attained, there appears another and another. So we reach out for more, often spending beyond our financial, mental and physical limits. We speak not only of the acquisition of material or money, but of the outreach for position in life, prestige, power and all manner of carnal desires.

If our efforts are to meet the normal demands of our living—well and good. If they are to obtain for the benefit of others, too—so much the better. But the danger is in the spirit of selfishness predominating and corrupting our soul, forgetting the true values of life.

The Lord has said:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

Dear friends, this is not only applicable in the ultimate relationship of man with God, but will have a definite bearing upon our survival and ability to “stand” in the days of tribulation immediately upon us.

“It shall be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion” (Isaiah 29:8).

And again:

“Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat that which is good (partake of the gospel of Christ/W.A.S.), and let your soul delight itself in fatness” (Isaiah 55:2).

Now, there were other things about Lot's day that will bear some notice, remembering that it applies now, as well.

Not only was there inordinate sexual appetite and perversion, but great callousness and cruelty towards one's fellow man. An interesting account of those days is given in the Book of Jasher, in which is revealed the

inhumanity of Sodom and Gomorrah, and two other cities.

The judges and people erected special beds in the streets. If a stranger came, he was forced to lie upon the bed, and if he was shorter than the bed, he was stretched; if longer than the bed, the ends of the bed were drawn together. It appears he was crushed smaller. In either case, it was nigh to death, with no pity.

If a stranger came that was hungry, they gave him silver and gold, but proclaimed to the whole city not to feed him. When he died from hunger, those who gave him the gold and silver took the same, and then they fought for his clothes. Afterward, they buried him in the desert.

We mention this because of similar heartlessness exhibited in recent years and months in our cities.

One example: a woman beaten, stripped and raped in plain view of many people, with no response to her cries for help.

Another woman was stabbed repeatedly, robbed and left in the sight of several witnesses. Then the man returned, and stabbed her several more times, after which, I believed she died.

An elderly woman was having her purse snatched, but hung on. There were several witnesses, but no help until an officer arrived. One man told her to give it to the thief.

Two policemen were in an auto accident and injured. When some went to help, one bystander said, “Let them die—who cares?”

A young man crawled to a narrow ledge atop an 11-story building, undecided whether to jump or not. Crowds rushed to see. One said, “Chicken—go ahead and jump.” Another said, “I hope he jumps on this side. We couldn't see him if he jumped over there.”

And so, we might go on and on, relating the similarities between Noah's and Lot's days and the present, but what is the use? It is later than we think!

Well, but is it really in our time? Can it be in this present generation? And what is a generation?

This question has been covered before, but we feel it important enough to repeat in connection with this present study of the prophecies.

Remember that Jesus said:

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree: When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

“So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

“Verily I say unto you, This generation (in which these things transpire/W.A.S.) shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled” (Matthew 25:32-35).

Among the things this generation was to see was that Jerusalem should no longer be “trodden down of the Gentiles,” and at that time, the Gentile times should be fulfilled (see Luke 21:24).

I know it is generally believed that this occurred in

June of 1967 in the amazing six-day war between Israel and her Arab neighbors. At that time, the portion of the city of Jerusalem occupied by the Arabs was taken over by the Israelis, and they have a fixed determination to retain it: it is not negotiable, so far as they are concerned.

However, Jerusalem is not to be considered as only a city, but rather, it is representative of the whole nation of Israel, just as Washington, D. C., London, and Paris are representative of the respective nations.

Our news reporters tell us that such and such has come from Moscow, or the Kremlin, and it represents the voice of Russia—just so with Jerusalem.

The Book of Mormon tells us that Jesus was "born of Mary at Jerusalem." We understand that the city of birth was at Bethlehem, but our reference was not a lie, for it continues on:

"... Which is the **land of our forefathers**" (Alma 5:18-19).

The reason for these remarks is because of my belief that the **land of Jerusalem** was released from Gentile domination many years before 1967, hence has not been "trodden down" since that release; the Gentile times were closed **then**, not in 1967, and so it is later than many think!

Chapter 48 of the Book of Commandments sheds some light upon this matter, and so we turn and read a portion of a revelation to Joseph Smith regarding the same interview between Christ and His apostles as recorded in Matthew 24. He spoke of the desolation to come upon the city of Jerusalem and the ancient temple (refer to verses 25 to 28):

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

"And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion ..."

In this connection, let us turn to I Nephi 3:232-237, of which we quote a part:

"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.

"And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose foundation is the devil,

"Then **at that day**, the work of the Father shall **commence**, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants which he hath made to his people, who are of the house of Israel."

What was a part of "his covenants?" That they should be gathered back to their lands of inheritance!

This reference from the Book of Mormon regarding wars and rumors of wars upon all nations, had its beginning of fulfillment with World War I, and it was to be at that time that God would commence to gather His people of Israel back to Canaan, the land of Jerusalem, and when it would no longer be "trodden down of the Gentiles."

The sense of the term "trodden down" is clearly, under complete domination. Therefore, if something happened at the time of that war to release the land of Jerusalem from Gentile domination, and preparing the way that it might be a homeland for the Jews, then we may be certain that we are living in the very generation of which Jesus spoke, "shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled," and this includes the second coming of Christ in great power and glory.

We make no pretensions of knowing "the day nor the hour" (which is impossible), but Jesus said when we saw these signs, that His coming was "near, even at the doors," and that we should "look up and lift up your (our/W.A.S.) heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

History records the notable Balfour Declaration in 1917 on behalf of England, that Palestine was to be preserved as a homeland for the Jews, which was concurred in by the U. S., France and Italy.

These four nations are evidently the "four carpenters" (Zechariah 1:20, 21) which "cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it."

This declaration and provisional step for the gathering of the Jews to the land of Jerusalem could not have been taken without another most remarkable occurrence in fulfillment of prophecy.

"As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts **defend** Jerusalem; defending also he will **deliver** it; and passing over he will **preserve it**" (Isaiah 31:5).

This was literally fulfilled at the time that General Allenby (of England) was preparing to capture Jerusalem from the Turks (in World War I). He didn't want to fire upon it because of its religious and historical significance, so he wired the Prime Minister of London for advice. Being told to do as he thought best, he still hesitated, then wired the King. He was admonished to make it a matter of prayer, which he did, with all his officers. Rising from their knees, a herald approached with a flag of truce; the governor of Jerusalem surrendered.

As Allenby entered the city, the Turks had second thoughts and prepared to fire their field artillery against the city. Suddenly, airplanes (as birds flying) appeared, and the Turks retreated without firing a shell.

We feel this prophecy and its fulfillment to be of great significance in pointing up the end of Gentile domination (treading down) of the land of Jerusalem, and also signalling the close of the times of the Gentiles.

Returning now to the Book of Commandments 48, we found (v. 25) that the Jews were to be scattered

among the nations, and remain so "until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (and we have found that this was to be at the time of World War I).

". . . And men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth.

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

"And there shall be men standing **in that generation** that shall not pass, until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land" (Ibid. 26-28).

Again the question: what is a generation, from a scriptural or prophetic standpoint? The Book of Mormon gives us the answer.

Jesus rejoiced over the generation of those to whom He appeared on this continent, saying that none of them should be lost; but He sorrowed over the fourth generation, because He foresaw that they would be led captive by the devil to their utter destruction, both physically and spiritually (see 3 Nephi 13:7-10).

Samuel, the Lamanite prophet, had, only a few years earlier, spoken of this same destruction, saying that it should be **within four hundred years** (see Helaman 5:10-13).

Putting these two texts together, we may easily see that four generations is 400 years; hence, one generation is 100 years.

Using this measuring stick, we again return to our Book of Commandments 48 text.

When the time of the Gentiles was to **come in**, the fulness of the gospel was to shine forth; but in the same generation, the Gentiles times were to be fulfilled.

The Book of Mormon was published to the world in 1829 and the kingdom of God (Church of Christ) was restored (organized according to the commandment of God) on April 6, 1830. Surely, the light did break forth in 1829-30, and the Gentile times "came in."

Gentile nations were to have their opportunity to hear and obey the fulness of the gospel, "but they receive it not, for they perceive not the light."

This rejection closed the heavenly portals against the nations (though individuals, largely of Israel, or Ephraim, have received the word with gladness through the years), and thus has closed the Gentile times in the same generation. 1829-30 plus 100 years gives us a time limit of 1929-30 for that generation.

We have found that the land of Jerusalem was no longer trodden down of the Gentiles after 1917, and from then, has been gradually repopulated by the scattered Jews.

Prior to this, in about 1853, the former and latter rains had begun coming upon that land, which had been parched for centuries through the divine curse because of Israel's wickedness.

This too had been prophesied (Isaiah 29), and was to occur shortly after the great latter day restoration of the fulness of the gospel. All of this shows the wonderful preparation made by God for the recovery of His people to Himself, and the second coming of Christ.

The "desolating sickness" spoken of in Book of Commandments 48:28 which was to come in "that generation," occurred in 1918, with scarcely a nation escaping. The great influenza plague struck millions of lives, untold numbers of whom perished.

Now, again remember that in the same generation that these things were to be seen, "all those things" would be fulfilled. Every sign of which Jesus spoke has surely come to pass except the coming "abomination of desolation" and the spectacular heavenly display just preceding the glorious appearance of Christ in the clouds of heaven. All of these things, except as noted, have come to pass since the outbreak of World War I in 1914, and we may expect to witness ever more calamitous and destructive events upon all nations.

We are perhaps wearied and terrified by such rehearsals, but we must understand that destruction and desolation awaits the wicked.

Nevertheless, grace, mercy and salvation, are for the obedient, faithful saints of God.

One recorded item from the Book of Jasher, just before the flood, will serve to illustrate God's mercy upon the righteous.

It may come as a surprise that there were those who were righteous other than Noah and his family; but in that self-same year of the flood, the Lord took them in death.

This harmonizes with Isaiah 57:1:

"The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, **none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.**"

For those of the righteous who remain, a spiritual "ark" is to be prepared (ZION), hiding them from the "floods" of the "overflowing scourge."

They will be greatly tried, but the Lord will keep them in perfect peace who trust in Him.

William A. Sheldon

(to be continued)

"Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof. So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory" (Psalm 102:13-16).

WERE THERE HORSES IN AMERICA PRIOR TO THE SPANISH CONQUEST

By The Wheatons

1. A few days ago, we received a letter from some members of the Church of Christ, who were making a study of the Book of Mormon, in which the following question was asked:

While we were having Book of Mormon classes a question came up. . . . We wondered if there were drawings of horses in any of the Maya Indian drawings down there, that is, we wanted to know if there was a way of disproving the theory that there weren't horses here (in America) before the Conquistadors brought some.

2. We are happy to state that we can affirm, without hesitation, that there is overwhelming evidence that horses existed in the Americas, long prior to the Conquest of America. It is sad to recall that at the time of the Conquest a very zealous Spanish missionary, Diego de Landa, caused all of the ancient Mayan records they could lay hands on, to be collected at Mani, near Dzan, where the Church of Christ is located, and burn them, or caused the metals on which some of them were engraved to be melted up, and the gold and silver thus obtained was shipped to Spain as loot. Consequently, most of their written, or demotic documents, which had been made on a sort of papyrus or parchment were destroyed.

3. But, on the other hand, this is not the only means by which such evidences were preserved. Among the stone carvings of the Maya ruins, at Chichen Itza, the pictograph characters of the Newspaper of the Rock in the petrified forest of Arizona, and the asphalt pits of California, and sand pits of many other places of North America the evidence of Pre-Spanish horses have been preserved. For instance, on the walls of one of the ancient structures at Chichen Itza in northeastern Yucatan, there is to be found embedded in a wall; a large square stone on which has been carved the likeness of a horse, with a man standing near it, which would indicate domestication of the animal. I purpose in my forthcoming trip to that area to obtain some good photographs of this carving, both in color and black and white. Reference to this carving is to be found in Archaeology of the Book of Mormon, page 7, by Milton R. Hunter, published by the Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah.

4. During our travels in the mission field, we have taken occasion to visit a number of the largest Museums in the United States, Canada and Mexico, as well as the great Museums of Antiquities in London, Turino, Italy, Jerusalem, and Cairo, in search of archaeological material. Among them the Museum of Natural History in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, the Museum of Natural History in Denver, Colorado, also at Toronto and Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, especially in reference to the fauna of the Americas, and in all of these museums we found the fossil remains of horses, which we have photograph-

ed, showing beyond successful contradictions, that horses had existed here many milleniums prior to the coming of the Conquistadors to these shores. In the Regina Museum especially, attention is called to the fact that horses were apparently indigenous to America, and found their way across the frozen waters of the Bering Straits, and down into Asia and the Old World, only to be brought back to the Americas again, supposedly by the Spaniards. If this is true, then it will be interesting for the exponents of the theory of the horse being brought to the Americas for the first time by the Spaniards, to explain away the fact that the ancient Mayas carved the likeness of a domesticated horse, with a man, on the walls of one of their structures over five hundred years before the conquest as has been pointed out above. It could not have been carved in this place after the Conquest, for most all authorities on the archaeology of this area, Chichen Itza, agree that this great city was abandoned about 1000 A.D., and was built many centuries prior to that date. In fact, an examination of many of the temples there show that long prior to the erection of those structures and temples which are now to be seen there, much older temples are found in excellent conditions of preservation over which the present temples have been erected. This is also true at Uxmal, Sayil, Monte Alban, Cholula, Teneyucca and other places. It is related that the temples of the subjected peoples, who had been conquered by the Aztecs of the Valley of Mexico, were never destroyed, but rather they were covered over as mounds, or other temples erected over them. This was the case at Cholula, where we find six pyramid temples built one over the other and the oldest is given the dating of about 5000 years ago.

5. Summing up this brief review concerning Pre-Spanish horses, I wish to give two references from the Book of Mormon, out of some fourteen or more other passages on the subject of horses, as follows:

"They had . . . also all manner of cattle, of oxen, of cows, and of **sheep**, and swine, and of goats, and also many kinds of animals which were useful for the food of man.

"And they also had horses, and asses, and there were elephants, and cureloms and cummons; all of which were useful unto man, and more especially the elephants and the cureloms and cummons" (Ether 4:20-21).

6. The people of Ether, known as the Jaredites, according to the Book of Mormon account, came to America from the great tower of Babel where the languages were confounded, (circa 2500 to 5000 B.C). Therefore from this reading, we note that the horse was here at the time of the Jaredites, which agrees with the accounts of the antiquarians. Then again, the following:

"And it came to pass, that we did find the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were beasts in the forest of every kind, both the cow, and the ox, and the ass, and **the horse**, and the goat, and the wild goat, and all manner of wild animals, which were for the use of man" (I Nephi 5:216).

7. These people, the Nephites, as a colony of Is-

raelites, came to America about 600 B.C., and this account relates to events which transpired shortly after their migration. Thus the horse was in America and observed by the people of these two great migrations; first about 3000 B.C., and later about 600 B.C., and on numerous other occasions. The carvings on the old ruins of Chichen Itza, was placed there prior to 1000 A.D. The pictographs found scratched or carved on the Newspaper of the Rock, at the Petrified Forest, Arizona, contains the pictures of at least three horses in different positions. So far as I know no date has as yet been deciphered, except that they were made by the Indians of the Southwest centuries prior to the coming of the Conquistadors to that area. And the findings of the fossil remains of horses in the asphalt pits of California, and places in Canada, and of the United States are well known and established, and may be summed up in this way.

"The presence of herds of horses in the vicinity of asphalt deposits during the period of accumulation is clearly testified to by the numerous remains of these animals found at Rancho La Brea (California). While many individuals are recorded in the collections, all of them belong to a single species, the extinct western horse (*Equus Occidentalis* Leidy). In stage of evolution and in general body structures this type resembles the modern horse, although differing from it in a number of specific details. Standing on the average about 14½ hands (four feet, ten inches) at the withers this animal was of the height of the modern Arabian horse. It was, however, of considerably heavier build. . . ." (Chester Stock, **Rancho La Brea**, A Record of Pleistocene Life in California, pp 42-43).

We hope to enlarge upon this subject in our new book setting forth Book of Mormon evidences which is now in manuscript form and by the blessings of the Lord we hope to see in print before too long.

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By

Charles E. Cottrill

The Holy Spirit is referred to variously in the scriptures as the Holy Spirit, The Spirit of God, The Holy Ghost and the Comforter, all being one and the same Spirit.

Many other spirits of various kinds are referred to, but in most cases these are to be considered, with a possible few exceptions, as separate and apart from the Holy Spirit. One of these exceptions is the spirit of burning mentioned in Isaiah 4 and 4 and in considering the work of the Holy Spirit this must be taken into account. The spirit of adoption referred to in Romans 8:15 is one that must also be taken into account.

In discussing the Gift of the Holy Ghost we must bear in mind that even though it must come as an abiding comforter through obedience to the first principles of the gospel which includes the laying on of hands, all men have the spirit striving with them unless they rebuke the spirit in which case it will finally

cease to work with them and strive with them as is mentioned in Genesis 6:3, quote, "My spirit shall not always strive with man."

Those who do not rebuke this spirit and who allow themselves to be led by it will of course be led to obedience of the gospel and as a result they will receive this same spirit as an abiding comforter, John 14:16, "And I will pray the father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever." See also verse 26. Here we find that this same comforter is the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit.

We find in verse 17 another one of the appellations in referring to the Holy Spirit where it is referred to as the Spirit of truth. See also John 15:26.

It would appear from the reading of John 16:7 that as long as Christ was with the disciples, there was no need for the comforter since he could minister to them directly, but when he was gone it would then be necessary for him to send the comforter, so that he could still minister to them indirectly through the Holy Spirit.

While most Christians are aware of the fact that the Holy Spirit is the third party or person in the God Head or Trinity many do not think of the Holy Spirit as a person, but he is nevertheless, and is referred to as "He" several times. In John 16:13 we find the Holy Spirit referred to as "He" five times and once as "himself."

Some may want to argue that this is an arbitrary application of the word "he," but space in one article will not permit the full discussion of all points that may arise.

Now how do we become possessors of this Holy Spirit or abiding Comforter? All Restorationists will answer, by the laying on of hands. This is true, so in order to intelligently discuss this subject we must understand fully the rite we call the laying on of hands. The laying on of hands was nothing new even in the time of Christ.

Moses was commanded to set Joshua apart for his work by the laying on of hands. See Numbers 27:18-23. And in Deuteronomy 34:9 we find, quote, And "Joshua . . . was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him." Here we find another appellation for the Holy Spirit.

We also find that in more than one instance, "hand," singular instead of "hands" plural is used but we can be sure that in all cases the laying on of hands is meant, as for instance in Numbers 28:18 "hand is referred to and later in the same case 28:23 the plural is used.

The Israelite Priests laid their hands on their sacrificial animals to prepare them for the offering. Such rites of course were types and shadows of things to come.

Now even as Moses prepared Joshua through the laying on of hands for his work, we are prepared for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit by the same rite. After this, he no longer strives with us from without but from then on he dwells within us, John 14:17, "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."

To go into the office and functions of the Holy Spirit to any extent would take up too much time and space, so this can be discussed under that heading in a later article. We should, however make plain the fact that the gift of the Holy Spirit is bestowed by the laying on of hands, remembering also that the laying on of hands is a rite used for other purposes also, and even when they are laid on for the purpose of bestowing the Holy Spirit, they are also at the same time being laid on for confirmation.

In Acts 8:17 we find, quote "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." Nothing could be plainer than this verse as to how we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, but we should remember that it is like a seed planted in the ground. It must be nourished by faith and continued repentance, as well as the need to walk according to a good conscience. If we do this it will grow within us, leading us into all truth and righteousness and show us things to come. It will even bear testimony to us that Jesus is the Christ so that our faith can become knowledge and we can know that he is. It will give us the peace Christ spoke of even a peace that the world can not know.

But most of all it will lead us to the point where Christ can and will acknowledge us as joint heirs with him, sons of God by adoption, at which juncture the Spirit will also testify to us that we have become the sons of God.

The gift of the Holy Ghost should not be confused with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is a different subject and will be discussed in an article to follow.

I would also point out that it does not necessarily follow that the gift of the Holy Spirit is always bestowed upon us by the laying on of hands, for God is never a party to a fraudulent contract, so if we submit ourselves to this rite for any other purpose than to prepare ourselves to serve God, God is not bound in any way to bestow the gift; also if we have not fully repented, or do not understand the purpose of baptism, God is not to be fooled or to be mocked; the gift will not be bestowed.

I have known some who went straightway from the service wherein hands had been laid on them and never attended another, but instead returned to their wallow in the mire, they having not received the promised seed because they had failed to comply with the full instructions contained in God's word.

Other scriptures supporting the statement quoted from Acts 8:17 are as follows: Acts 19:6, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. Book of Mormon, Moroni 2:2-3, "And he called them by name, saying, Ye shall call on the Father in my name in mighty prayer; and after ye have done this, ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your

hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name ye give it, for thus do mine apostles." Now Christ spake these words unto them at the time of his first appearing; and the multitude heard it not, but the disciples heard it and on as many as they laid their hands, fell the Holy Ghost.

Book of Commandments 37:7, "Thou didst baptize by water unto repentance, but they received not the Holy Ghost; but now I give unto thee a commandment, that thou baptize by water, and they shall receive the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, even as the apostles of old." Book of Commandments 55:3, "Take upon you mine ordinances, even that of an elder, to preach faith and repentance, and remission of sins, according to my word, and the reception of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands." See also D.C. 34:2c and 53:2b.

Here we have four books telling us one and the same thing, that the gift of the Holy Spirit comes as a gift from God through the laying on of hands by those who have authority to do so.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL EDITOR

Hello out there: Every day I watch the mails looking for those letters and reports of those methods that you people are using to stimulate and maintain the interest of those who attend your Sunday School classes. Due to the fact that we who teach in our Sunday Schools for the most part are not trained in teaching methods we can use all the suggestions that we can get of ways to present the truths of the gospel especially to the understanding of the younger children. If you have been blessed in your search for an approach to the matter please pass it on.

The greatest preparation that a teacher can make is prayerful study. None of us are sufficiently able to handle the things of God without His Spirit. By His grace we can teach His truth His way; if we try to teach His truth our way we are sure to fumble. If you are a teacher, study: learn what the scriptures say. It is true that any one can be led by the Spirit to expound on any point of the gospel (beyond the written page) but we had better know what the written page does contain as that is our only safeguard as to what spirit is giving us guidance. The Spirit of the Lord will never lead one contrary to that which the Lord has had recorded. Unless we know what is recorded we have no means of testing the spirits. I repeat my earlier recommendation; every teacher should procure a concordance for both Bible and Book of Mormon. Use them not only to find the scripture relating to your subject, but also be sure and check the context in which the text appears. I have on various occasions thought I knew a text that stated a certain thing only to find out when I checked the circumstances in which it had been used that it couldn't relate to the matter that I had in mind at all. "Seek and ye shall find!" Happy hunting!

THE DIVINE SCULPTOR

Somewhere, sometime ago I read a story of a sculptor who, as I remember started to carve a statue of the Christ. He made various starts that he abandoned, as when he came to the face he was always dissatisfied. Finally he spent many months searching the scripture, reading all that he could find about Christ, and when he had exhausted the references given he again began the statue. This time as the work progressed he felt more satisfied. Under his deft fingers all the revered characteristics of the Master he had come to know and love found expression on the face of the statue. But more amazing to those who gathered to watch day after day; as the face of the statue gradually developed showing all the strength, the humility, the tenderness and love of the heart of the Master, the face of the sculptor also gradually changed till it bore a resemblance to the face of the statue.

From the poem titled "Arraignment" by Joseph Luff comes the following stanza

Creation and redemption were
Associate in the plan
Devised by me, hence came the need
Of pilgrimage for man;
And as creation on that clay
My faultless "image" drew,
E'en so, redemption work shall bring
My "likeness" into view.

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:" (Proverbs 23:7).

Abraham Lincoln once said that every man over forty is responsible for his face.

"I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it, still
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when days were past
The bit of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it still it bore
And I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay
And gently formed it day by day,
And molded it with power and art.
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when years were gone,
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress bore
And I could change that form no more."

WHY NEED WE BELIEVE IN GOD?

The subject of our study is "To Believe in Jesus," so the first question arising in the mind is why? We might simply answer, for salvation and quote many scriptures which state just that, but this only creates another set of questions. One, what is salvation and how come we need it? We have gone over some of the testimonies of God Himself and of those who have been privileged to see Him, regarding the fact of His being. Only as we become aware of His reality, also to realize that as we are, we are estranged from Him, will the term salvation begin to have meaning for us.

The question why? is at the base of most of men's search and learning, often even proceeding the how? We, many times ask why before we are capable of understanding the explanation. At these times we simply have to learn to accept the statements of those who know. A mother tells her child the stove is hot and will burn before it knows what hot and burn mean, much less understands why the stove is hot or why hot burns. Every day of our lives we accept and use many things, the why of how it works being beyond our understanding. I know by having been told so and by experience that the motor of my automobile needs gas, oil, water, and lubrication. How it uses these to put a set of gears and wheels into motion I do not understand. Should I fail to act and keep replenishing the supply just because I do not know the how or why, sooner or later I will learn that it was so; sooner in the case of the gas, later, perhaps much later, in regard to some of the car's other needs.

So it is with the plan of salvation, much of the why may be beyond our comprehension at least at first, but the rules are simple, and we had better accept and follow them, or we will find out later, much later perhaps and to our sorrow that it was all true and needful.

The why of the need for salvation begins with the disobedience of man. The 3rd chapter of Genesis gives the record of that first rebellion. For those who use the Inspired Version the 4th and a portion of the 5th chapters also pertain to this happening. The act of disobedience committed was to eat of the fruit of a particular tree that God had forbidden. Satan, in tempting them to do so, appealed to the potential sense of the pride of the human nature. First he lied by misinterpreting what God had told them and denying that it was true, and then held out the tantalizing thought that by this act of disobedience they would become as knowledgeable as God. To be as God; to be given God's power and glory, was the covetous wish that had caused Satan's own fall; see Book of Mormon, 2nd Book of Nephi 101-104 and Book of Commandments 29:45-46. By reading of this 1st chapter of the 2nd Book of Nephi we see that rebelling against God didn't even make the Devil happy and that being miserable, he wants all mankind to rebel and be miserable also. And even as Adam and Eve yielded to his tempting and chose for self, so the love of self grows in each heart, and separates us from God. God gave us our privilege to choose as we will; for Him or for our ourselves. The choice of self and

all its consequences is the condition of sin from which we need to be saved. Now because the choice of a foreparent brought upon us the nature in which the love of self is predominate, it was necessary that by the choice of another we be brought back. This other being is the Only Begotten Son of God. However even with Jesus' act of redemption there is still the matter of our agency of choice. His redemption will apply only when we choose to accept it by living according to the rules governing the plan. The first rule is to believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The scripture says that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established (Matthew 18:16). This was spoken in regard to the accusation of trespass, but surely it applies to other matters also. We have the corresponding statement in three books of scripture that Jesus Christ is the only name by which we can be saved; See Book of Commandments 15:24, Acts 7:10-12, II Nephi 11:39.

Along with the 2nd Book of Nephi 2, also the 6th chapter with the 11th chapter, verses 95-115 are good references on the subject of our separation from God and of Jesus' redemption. Some of the Bible scriptures that can be included on the subject of the need to believe in Jesus are: Mark 8:34-38, John 3:16-21, 5:19-29, 10:18, 11:25, 26, 12:44-50, Romans 5, II Corinthians 5:14-21, Hebrews 3, and many others that can be added according to the depth each teacher desires to go.

The search for and study of the statements in the scriptures on the mission of Jesus, and the mental exercise of accepting them as true is the beginning of faith. We are commanded to have faith so it follows that it is something over which we have a choice. We can decide what we are going to believe. We can decide here and now if we think that the condition called salvation, brought to us by belief in Jesus is something that we desire, and if it is worth further inquiry to learn what that part expected of us is.

WE GIVE GOD OUR PRAISE

By

Edna Hamilton

All days can't be sunny
We must have some showers,
All days can't be happiness . . .
We must have sad hours.

We cannot have rainbows
Without dashing rain,
All can't be joy and peace . . .
We must have some pain.

God will sustain us
Through grief-stricken days,
For life, health, and love
We give God . . . our praise!

WHERE ARE WE IN FULFILLED PROPHECY?

By

A. M. Janicke

Romans 11:25, 26 states: "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

Are we certain that the Deliverer here referred to is Christ? 2 Nephi 2:15 speaks of a deliverer; verse 17 identifies him as a seer, and verse 22 places his appearance in the latter days. Alma 21:54 states that we are a remnant of the seed of Jacob. This deliverer was to come out of Sion (the United States). What man has done more to turn this country away from ungodliness than Joseph Smith did by presenting to us the Book of Mormon (2 Nephi 2:17)?

When the country of Israel took control of both the new and old sectors of Jerusalem during the June of 1967 war, Luke 21:24, was fulfilled: "And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." It is no wonder that the Scofield Reference Bible had to be revised: for it contained the following comment on this verse "The 'times of the Gentiles' began with the captivity of Judah under Nebuchadnezzar (II Corinthians 36:1-21), since which time Jerusalem has been under Gentile overlordship."

The next event to take place in God's Timetable may be the execution of vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen (nations), such as they have not heard (Micah 5:15). Let us pray that we shall be spared this judgment within our borders: "And I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory" (Isaiah 46:13).

Behold the field is white already to harvest, therefor whoso desireth to reap, let him thrust in his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God: Yea, whosoever will thrust in his sickle and reap, the same is called of God: therefore if you will ask of me you shall receive; if you will knock it shall be opened unto you. Now as you have asked, behold I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. Behold I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work, and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things, whatsoever shall be intrusted to his care. Behold I am the light and the life of the world, that speaketh these words: Therefore, give heed with your might, and then you are called: Amen. (Book of Commandments 11:2-5).

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise" (Proverbs 10:19).