

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, December, 1970

No. 12

Lullaby For Innocents' Day

Margaret Widdemer

These are guns that shake the wards
(Hush, my baby in distress;
In the Lord Christ's day the swords
Were as swift and merciless).

These are bombs that, bursting by
Hospital and cradle, sing
(But the Innocents' last cry
To the Christ is no new thing).

These are little children, lying
Dead, whose homes are pitted sod—
(Rachel for her children crying
Is a story old as God).

Hush my baby: long ago
Woke the wars that do not cease,
(Christ knew all that we can know,
Who was called the Prince of Peace).

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EDITORIAL

SATAN THE ARCHENEMY OF GOD

“Yea, even that old serpent that did beguile our first
 parents which was the cause of their fall; Which was
 the cause of all mankind becoming carnal, sensual, dev-
 ilish, knowing evil from good, subjecting themselves to
 the devil . . . But remember, that he that persists in
 his own carnal nature, and goes on in the ways of sin
 and rebellion against God, remaineth in his fallen state,
 and the devil hath all power over him. Therefore he is
 as though there was no redemption made; being an
 enemy to God; and also is the devil an enemy to God”
 (Mosiah 8:74-75 & 77-78).

It is evidently the plan of God to have an opposition
 in all things in order to provide a choice to his human
 creation. Whether the devil conveniently fell for this
 purpose or whether the Lord in his great foreknowledge,
 knowing of Satan's eventual fall, thought to bring about
 the creation of man under these conditions we can only
 surmise.

In any event the Book of Mormon tells us in 2 Nephi
 1:100-103, “Wherefore, man could not act for himself,
 save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the
 other. And I, Lehi, according to the things which I have
 read, must needs suppose that an angel of God, accord-
 ing to that which is written, had fallen from heaven;
 Wherefore he became a devil, having sought that which
 was evil before God. And because he had fallen from
 heaven, and had become miserable for ever, he sought
 also the misery of all mankind.”

When man was put upon the earth he was given
 certain commandments with the stipulation that if he
 failed to keep them he would bring upon himself death.
 Adam and Eve were thus placed in a garden of paradise
 in a beautiful state of bliss. But Satan having himself
 sought that which was evil and having become miserable
 for ever now sought to bring about the misery of all
 mankind. And God, knowing the course that man
 would take and that there would be no way for man to
 extricate himself from his own condemnation, had al-
 ready prepared a way whereby man could be redeemed
 from his sinful and polluted state. The great battle be-
 tween the two great opposing powers was now set in
 motion, the outcome of which will find Christ victorious
 and the forces of evil and the works of darkness de-
 stroyed.

The purpose of this article is to help us to gain a
 little better understanding of this great archfoe of our
 souls.

Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 supplies us with a remark-
 able insight as to the type of being the devil is and
 what some of his aspirations were.

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son
 of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground,
 which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in
 thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my
 throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the
 mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I
 will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be

like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?" (Isaiah 14:12-17).

In Ezekiel we read, "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold; the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more" (Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Satan is here represented as being the anointed cherub perfect in beauty and gloriously attired. Lucifer, son of the morning, perfect until pride entered in, a being who walked amongst the stones of fire, a being who was highly exalted in heaven until sin entered in. What a calamity it was, and because of his lofty station in the courts of heaven and his power and influence over lesser angels he gained tremendous following of the heavenly hosts with which later he was to wage battle against Michael and his angels. A third of the stars of heaven went the way of Lucifer. Jude in speaking of these fallen angels in verse 6 says, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

Of interest to us at this point is that, in the above two quotations from Isaiah and Ezekiel, Satan or Lucifer is associated with the downfall of Babylon and Tyre. This is understandable when it is remembered that both these cities were successively temporal seats of Satanic power.

Satan stood on the left hand of God while the Son

stood on the right hand. But Satan thought to exalt himself even further and because he rebelled against God he was cast down from his exalted station. But with the Son, the Father was well pleased and because the Son was willing to abase himself, the Lord exalted him even more highly than before. (See Hebrews 2:16 and Hebrews 1:1-4 & 8).

Satan was one of the most powerful beings in the universe, perhaps second only to the Godhead. And because of the power and wisdom (or cunning) of this wicked one mankind is no match for him. Paul says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Even the Archangel of God used discretion in his disputation with the devil. "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee" (Jude 9). So likewise we must be careful not to think we can stand in our own strength. As once was brought out, the very act of railing would have been in error. Even the Lord when contending with Satan used words of rebuke instead of railing. "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee" (Zechariah 3:1-2).

In Job we read of some of the power that Satan is able to wield. Job was a very righteous man and perfect. But Satan was satisfied that the contest for this man's soul was going badly. He therefore accused God of having bribed Job with the abundance of blessings and protection, proposing that if he would remove these things from him he would curse God. The Lord agreed finally to give all but the life of Job into his hand. Satan was thus given free reign to try this man to the uttermost. The part that we would like to bring to our attention is found in verses 16 and 18-19 of chapter one and verse 7 of chapter 2.

"While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee . . . While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And, behold there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee . . . So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown."

This shows to what extent Satan is able to utilize physical forces to his end. Truly he is the prince of this world (John 14:30), and the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). This should also demonstrate to us

the continuing mercy of God in our behalf every moment of our lives, for without his constant protection Satan could soon overwhelm us with evil.

Even though Satan's power can and may extend to the physical elements, his power is more subtle when it comes to spiritual things. It is with ideas that Satan has been able to sway the world his way. His first great deception in the garden of Eden was an idea. "Ye shall be as gods knowing good and evil" he said. He was unable to sway Job in such a matter so he ask leave to use other means.

It is with the use of ideas we need to be most concerned about. This is also the point at which belief enters in. Do we believe in the words of Christ or not. Satan sows the seeds of doubt and so our final destiny will be dependent upon how we have believed. Communism and Evolution are two prime examples of how Satan has hoodwinked millions away from faith in God. Neglect of prayer is probably the one great factor enabling Satan to gain his ends.

Jesus gave this warning in 3 Nephi 8:50-51. "Behold, verily verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye enter into temptation; For Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name." The importance of prayer cannot be over emphasized. But "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). And "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:7-8).

Some of the ways in which Satan will deceive men in the last days are enumerated in 2 Nephi 12:24-28. "For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good; And others will he pacify, and lull them away unto carnal security, that they will say, All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well; And thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell. And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them, I am no devil, for there is none: And thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance." It is through temptations such as these that Satan is able to blind the eyes and harden the hearts of men and lead them away into broad roads of destruction. "For after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no not one; neither doth his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him" (Moroni 7:16). "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may

devour" (1 Peter 5:6-8). "And thus we see the end of him who perverteth the ways of the Lord; and thus we see that the devil will not support his children at the last day, but doth speedily drag them down to hell" (Alma 16:77).

The glorious victory over Satan so long foretold by the prophets is now drawing nigh. (See 1 Nephi 7:32 & 60-61). It is true that at the end of this time Satan will have one final fling at having his way but it will be shortlived and then peace and tranquility will be the everlasting heritage of the saints of God.

There is one further item of interest we would like to take up before bringing this writing to a close. In Revelation 12:7-13 we read, "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child."

The point that seems so clear here is that after the church of 1900 years ago was established and the man child taken to heaven (verses 1 through 6) the war in heaven was fought resulting in the casting out of Satan. Closer analysis of this scripture reveals that Satan was overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the testimony of his servants by which they overcame him. And though it was a time of rejoicing for the inhabitants of heaven it was a source of woe to the inhabitants of earth. And when Satan saw that he was cast unto the earth he went to make war with the church until it was taken into the wilderness.

Corroboration of the thought that Satan was not cast out till Christ had gained the victory by his own blood is given in John 12:30-32. "Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. NOW IS THE JUDGEMENT OF THIS WORLD: NOW SHALL THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD BE CAST OUT. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Jesus refers again to this event in John 14:30. "Hereafter I will not talk much with you: FOR THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD COMETH, AND HATH NOTHING IN ME." And finally Jesus in promising to send the Comforter had this to say, "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they

believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; OF JUDGMENT, BECAUSE THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD IS JUDGED."

COLLINS, MISSOURI LOCAL

It has been a good year for the Collins Local. We have had many visitors and enjoyed having every one of them. They came from Arizona, Colorado, California, Washington, Mississippi and from several Missouri Locals. Though this reporter was gone for the summer, I am told that the visiting ministers preached some very good sermons.

Helen Rodgers from Phoenix, Ariz., sister of Louise McIndoo, spent the summer with the McIndoos. Helen hadn't been well for some time but is much better now and is home in Phoenix again. We miss having her here, but are glad she is feeling so much better.

The Jimmy Speers have moved to South Missouri and attend church at Collins. These young people come eighty miles to be with us and we appreciate the tremendous effort they make to come to church.

The Larry Beam family plan to move to Wheatland, Missouri soon. Larry is a Chiropractor and will practice in Wheatland. We are very happy to have these fine young people join our Local.

Frances and Leon Yates enjoyed having all of their children and grandchildren with them for a while this summer and the Larry Kelley Family from Phoenix, Arizona, made Esther and Oren Caviness happy by paying them a visit. The Richard Wheaton family visit them now and then too.

Don and Ruth Willard added to our happiness when they came from Sedona, Arizona, purchased a home in Hermitage, Mo. and joined our group here. They had an open house after they were settled and it was well attended by neighbors and friends. They later went to Denver, Colorado and brought their daughter, Meredith Malone, home with them, and the three of them made a trip to Minneapolis, Minnesota to visit the Willard's other daughter and husband, Donna and Joe Mosier. From there Meredith flew home and the Willards came home. We are happy to report that Meredith has recovered from surgery and is back at work.

We have needed a new piano for a long time and the Larry Lee Shaw family gave us one in the spring. We appreciate this gift very much and again say, "Thank you, Shaws," for your generosity.

Brother and Sister C. L. Wheaton and his sister Pearl Skeen, attended church with us in September and Brother Wheaton brought us a good sermon warning of world conditions and our need to serve our Master and live a Christian life.

Brother and Sister E. Leon Yates showed slides and played tapes of songs and messages from our Brothers and Sisters in Yucatan, one evening at the Collins Church of Christ. It brought us closer to our loved ones in the gospel in Mexico, and the pictures of the ruins there renewed our faith in the Book of Mormon. Later they took their slides to Buffalo, Missouri and showed

them to the sixth grade. These youngsters were studying about Yucatan and were very interested in pictures of the ruins and the people.

Brother Joe Yates accompanied Brother William Sheldon on a missionary trip to South Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. They made encouraging contacts and much interest was shown. They were invited to return later.

We are delighted at the progress of Karla Rae, little daughter of Berniece and Don Martin. Karla's eye was badly injured and she was rushed to the hospital in Kansas City, where the doctors said it would be necessary to remove the eye. The elders arrived too late to administer to Karla before she went to the operating room, but they prayed for her and when the operation was over, the eye hadn't been removed.

She was administered to several times and many prayers were offered in her behalf. The doctors were puzzled and astonished that she did so well. She not only has the eye, but there is sight. We here at Collins rejoice with her family, that God saw fit to bless Karla as he did.

During the summer, the Woman's department sponsored a watermelon feast at the park in Bolivar, and an ice cream social at the Wendell Yates home.

The Women's department has purchased a carpet for the rostrum and isle in the church and will help furnish paint for the walls. We hope the painting is done before Thanksgiving. We have a new roof and ceiling and hope to get new windows in the future. There is a lot to be done to our church building, but we are working on it and hope to have a building that God will be pleased with.

In June, Irene Shaw accompanied Ruth and Don Willard to Grand Junction, Colorado, where they attended the Church of Christ reunion. They enjoyed a spiritual feast there. The next week, Rhondal and the Larry Lee Shaws went to Denver, where they all attended the wedding of Michael Malone and Verda Shaw, with Doctor Larry Lee Shaw officiating. Michael is the grandson of the Willards and Verda the granddaughter of the R. L. Shaws.

From Denver the R. L. Shaws went on an extended trip through several states and into Western Canada, where they visited relatives and enjoyed much beautiful scenery.

Brother and Sister E. L. Yates made a missionary trip to Texas recently. We miss them while they are away but are made happy when they return from their missionary journeys. They share many of their experiences with us and we enjoy that so much.

When we hear of so much turmoil and unrest in this country, this "Choice land above all other lands," one wonders how much longer God will tolerate it. As a nation we have been blessed so much and we don't seem to appreciate it.

May God watch over each one of you and bless you according to your needs. —Irene Shaw

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

NOTE: We solicit articles for this department written in an affirmative manner. An affirmative article is one in which a belief, or an opinion, is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE THE OPINION OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH OR THE OPINIONS OF THE EDITORIAL STAFF.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

By Vida Filley

In spite of all man's efforts to change the distressing conditions in our world today, problems and conflicts are growing steadily worse. Many reasons are given as to why this is so. It would seem that even those who do not consider the Bible "Relevant" to our time must be aware that there are two great opposing powers at work, no matter how they choose to explain them.

As Christians, we recognize in world events the fulfillment of the words of the Prophets as pertaining to the time of the end, or the second coming of Christ. We recognize the struggle for what it is—a battle for the souls of men. We see the power and efforts of the adversary of souls increased for "He knows his time is short." In the midst of all the confusion and conflicting claims, one thing is certain, each individual will find it impossible to avoid taking his stand. That that right choice can only be made on the basis of right understanding is only too evident. "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30).

In order to fight any war successfully, it is very important to understand the nature, position, disposition and tactics of the enemy. This knowledge or the lack of it has throughout history been the deciding factor for victory or defeat. Having some understanding of the opposition it is essential then to prepare well for the conflict. We read in Ephesians Chapter 6:11-18: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Some words spoken by my brother in testimony, shortly before his death, have since come often to my mind. I felt them to be truly directed and seasoned by the Spirit of God at that time. He said, "If individuals find it necessary to repent, then it can become necessary for people as groups—cities, nations and churches

to repent if they find themselves in error." He said, "REMEMBER YOU CANNOT USE A SHORT SWORD AGAINST A LONG ONE." We have just quoted the words from Ephesians 6 stating "The sword of the Spirit which is the WORD of God." Turning to Hebrews 4:12 we read, "For the WORD of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Christ Himself was "The WORD made flesh" (John 1:14). Christ said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). When Christ shall come to reign we read in Revelations 1:16 "And He had in his right hand seven stars; and out of His mouth went a sharp two edged sword." "That with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule over them with a rod of iron" (Revelation 19:17). "For by fire and by His SWORD will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many" (Isaiah 66:16). "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but MY WORD shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till ALL be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). Other scriptures could be given, but these should be enough to establish that a LONG SWORD could represent the WORD OF GOD. That word reaches from eternity to eternity. It shall be fulfilled in every detail, and shall stand forever!

On the other hand we have the "Short sword." What could this be except the Word of Satan and of man that does not measure up to the Word of God? These shall fail in the end for ". . . Then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:8). As my brother said, "Remember you cannot use a short sword against a long one."

There is, of course, the matter of determining which is which and how to measure, to understand. I remember a conversation I had with a small granddaughter as we walked about my yard one summer evening. She said, "You know, I want Jesus to always be in my heart—I don't ever want Satan to be in my heart." There was a short pause, then she asked, "But Grandma, HOW DO I TELL THE DIFFERENCE?" I tried to explain to her that this could indeed be a problem as Satan's word was not easy to detect. I told her that this was why we needed the Gift of the Holy Ghost "To lead and guide us into all truth." We need to study ALL of God's word and trust in His Spirit to give us the right understanding.

As we look back to Christ's first coming we see how

difficult it was for the people of that time to understand that this was in fulfillment of the words of the prophets. In failing to examine all scripture, they were looking for their Messiah to come in Glory as He will at His second advent. A simple matter of wrong timing and knowledge of the correct sequence of the prophesied events caused their downfall.

The same general pattern was repeated when the Gospel was restored. Those professing belief in every word of the Bible, nevertheless failed to examine the Word of God and again rejected the fulfillment of prophecy! "We have Abraham to our fathers" was not much different from "A Bible, a Bible, we need no more Bible." We find in both instances that the leading religions of the day were not humble enough to review the Word and look to God for the right interpretation. Is it possible that much of this same pattern could be repeated in regard to fulfillment of the end time prophecies?

Satan is not ignorant of the scriptures nor of the approximate time for their fulfillment. Therefore, as always, we can expect to see him work to confuse, misinterpret, and misapply God's Word. The counterfeit must be designed to resemble the genuine as much as possible. How else could he hope to deceive the "Very Elect?"

Isaiah 14:12 through 15 says, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also up on the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the North: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be LIKE THE MOST HIGH!'" Here Satan tells us his strategy. He aims to be as much LIKE God as it is within his power and cunning to be.

It was his hope to "Set his throne on high" when he tempted Jesus. Satan knew better than to misquote scripture to our Lord. His quotation was exact but his thought was to tempt Jesus to take a wrong action on the basis of pure scripture. As God of this world Satan was also offering it to Jesus as an easier way—and on his terms! Jesus had a longer sword than Satan for he used **more** of the written word to gain the victory saying "It is also written."

Satan continually tries to substitute a lesser, temporal gain for the great eternal values of God.

Looking at both sides we see

God is supreme ruler of the universe—Satan is the God of THIS world (2nd Corinthians 4:4).

God is a father—Satan is a father (1 John 3:10; Hebrews 12:5-9).

God has children—"the wheat." Satan's children are the "tares."

In Matthew 13:38 we read "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one."

It is interesting to note that a tare is a weed which until it is fully grown closely resembles wheat. It is poisonous, and if it's fruit or flower is eaten, death often

results. A "tare" or child of the wicked one apparently has much the same nature as the father. As Satan seeks to displace God, so his children can be expected to be counterfeit "Wheat" or Christians outwardly only. Until the harvest it will be hard to tell the difference. God has a kingdom—Satan also has his kingdom.

God has officers of His kingdom—Satan has his ministers also. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves" (Matthew 7:15).

God has angels—Satan has angels. One third of the angels of heaven followed him. Now an angel is an angel and HOW DO we tell the difference? If the prince of darkness, Satan, can be "transformed into an angel of light" (2nd Corinthians 11:14) this could be difficult to determine.

The test is not so much the appearance of the angel but What he has to say.

Again the measure and standard is the Word and the Spirit. We read in Galatians 1:8, 9, "But if we or an angel from heaven, . . . preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

God has His plan and His doctrines—Satan has his goals and his doctrines.

God's way is "Strait and narrow"—Satan's way is broad and leads to destruction.

God has "No variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

Satan is subtle and his ways devious.

God can perform miracles—Satan can bring about "Great signs and lying wonders."

In regard to this, I wonder if Satan, having a great understanding of the natural laws set in motion by God, can use them to create his own "miracles?" An example of this (in the time of Moses) is found in the seeming ability of the magicians to duplicate the miracle of turning their rods into serpents, even as Moses did. I have read an explanation of how this was done that I would like to pass along to you. It seems that serpents were found in Egyptian monuments in appearance like an Irish thorn cane, the head turned over the body as a handle. It seems the magicians knew how to paralyze a snake by putting pressure on the back of the neck so that it became rigid. The sorcerers paraded about with them as walking sticks. When thrown to the ground the snakes would begin to crawl away. Then the magicians could seize them by the back of the neck, renew the pressure, and walk away with them as if they were canes. Moses in Exodus 4 was told to take his rod, which had become a serpent and hold it by the tail. The magicians could not succeed if they handled their snakes this way. Moses and Aaron performed a genuine miracle, the magicians used trickery. A lying wonder.

God grants men freedom of choice—Satan puts him in bondage.

God's word is truth—Satan is a liar from the beginning. We see Satan's counterfeit of even the Urim and Thummin in the crystal ball!

Satan's final and greatest attempt to replace God will be fulfilled in the Anti-Christ who will be "Destroyed with the brightness of His coming" (2nd Thessalonians 2:8).

We should always remember that God has ALL power.

Satan's power, though great, is limited. Over and over we see this illustrated in the Bible. In the case of Job, the three Hebrew children, Daniel, and many more, the power of God was able to stop the attacks of Satan. Though severely tried, God gave them the victory.

As we approach the end we are told to expect Satan's efforts to grow stronger and bolder. There is bound to be repetitions of the kind of spiritual "warfare" waged in the past. But "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2nd Timothy 3:16).

The battle will not be over until Christ returns to reign. It would seem then especially important for us to study God's word diligently, especially those scriptures yet to be fulfilled. If we fail to gain correct understanding of these it could be possible for us to fall into error as so many have done in the past. Hosea 4:6 says "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

As children of the kingdom should we not look to God's word and trust His Holy Spirit to make it plain?

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13). May ours be the LONG SWORD "The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

JOSEPH'S PEOPLE

by Elder Don McIndoo

In the western sky distant strokes of lightning threw bright patterns against the stormy clouds, but where I stood the night was dark and still. Night sounds of the jungle village could be heard nearby, but then strong and beautiful voices were lifted in praise to God—"Hoy venimos con gozo a enseñaros . . ." (Today we come with joy to teach you . . .) With great feeling and real joy the words rang out from a people whose mouths most often voiced only the Maya language, for these are Joseph's people.

In the thatch-roofed home, now being used as a house of prayer and worship, from fifty to sixty people had gathered to worship after a day's labor of some fifteen hours. Precious candles held in calloused hands provided the soft light that threw shadows against the walls and into the palm leaves above, but it was the Holy Spirit that provided the real light that night; the light that lifted the words upward, that shone from the faces and that filled the hearts with humility, faith and love.

For three short hours the room was devoted to a variety of activities. Children who speak no Spanish and adults who have never learned to read harmoniously sang "restoration" songs committed to memory and now well-loved. Young men brought the first fruits of their

crops and presented them to the Lord as had their ancestors for millennia. Voices were lifted in quiet, humble prayer. The right hand of fellowship was extended to two strangers in their midst. When asked if there were sick among them, more than fifteen children, young men, mothers with babes in arms and aged quietly came forth and knelt on the dirt floor, awaiting a blessing from God with simple faith. Each listened with rapt attention to the inspiring words of their "pastor."

Several factors stand out to me as being marvelous as I consider this evening of worship. First, not one person in this congregation belong, as yet, to the Church of Christ. Marvelous? Yes, because the Holy Spirit is working in this isolated village drawing a people, who are a world apart from you and me, to the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fulness. Marvelous, because an Indian elder of the Church of Christ regularly comes to work with a people who are a five-hour walk from the nearest road. And he ministers the gospel with a power, a force and vitality that is felt by these he serves. Marvelous, because the Holy Spirit is at work in the jungles of Quintana Roo and Yucatan among these ancient and covenant people.

Having spent a portion of the summer in Yucatan with the Missionary-in-Charge of this field I can truthfully testify that the Spirit of God is working, and is felt, among this ancient and covenant people. The gifts and the fruits of the Spirit are much in evidence in the ministry which God has called in this land, for the Spirit we felt in a jungle village of Quintana Roo we also experienced in the towns and villages of Yucatan where ever our people meet together.

Many changes, political, social and spiritual, have taken place in Yucatan since my last visit seventeen years ago. Let me mention a few of them. Previously the "work of the gospel" was necessarily dependent upon to a great extent, and revolved about, the missionary from the United States. Today our Indian elders minister the gospel with amazing effectiveness, and the real work of conversion and ministry to the needs of the people is their responsibility and they give it their full and devoted attention. I see our Missionary-in-Charge acting in the following capacity:

- a. Supporting, aiding and teaching the ministry.
- b. Visiting and encouraging the members.
- c. Sponsoring a feeling of brotherhood, love and interdependence between the Mexican and U.S. membership.
- d. Helping to tie the Mexican locals more closely together.
- e. Acting as a liaison between the brethren in Mexico and their needs and the brethren in the U.S.
- f. His presence acts as a "drawing card" and stimulates interest.
- g. Providing financial assistance when needed.
- h. Providing much-needed transportation for the work.

- i. Shielding our brothers in Mexico from the problems we experience in the U.S.

A second great difference I see in Yucatan today is a change in the people of the towns where the Church of Christ has locals. Where once one encountered open hostility now one finds friendship and is often received a "brother" even by those outside the gospel bonds. I attribute this to several factors:

- a. The fruits of the spirit in the lives of our people.
- b. The generosity of our people in the U.S. in times past as they provided aid to those in need.
- c. The efforts of our missionary-in-charge in making contacts and friends from every phase of Mexican society.
- d. A sophistication of the Mexican political and social scene.

I believe that we of the restoration should be greatly concerned with the promises contained in the Scripture concerning Joseph's land and people, for our future is tied inseparably to theirs. In the Book of Mormon we find these promises made to the Indian people:

- a. They shall hear the words of their fathers and believe (p. 159, v. 82 and p. 146, v. 84).
- b. They shall become a delightful people (p. 159, v. 86).
- c. They shall be established in this land (p. 659, v. 58).
- d. The power of heaven shall be in their midst (p. 659, v. 59).
- e. They shall establish a New Jerusalem (p. 659, v. 59 and p. 664, v. 2).
- f. They shall go through the Gentile nations that have kept them in submission (p. 658, and 659).
- g. Greater things than the writings of the Book of Mormon shall be brought forth among them (p. 671, v. 1-3).
- h. A mighty spokesman shall be raised up among them (p. 89, v. 31-38).

Within the pages of this same book one finds several important promises as well as instructions for the Gentiles. Some of these are as follows:

- a. The Book of Mormon shall come through them to the Indian people (p. 156, v. 42).
- b. They shall carry the fulness of the gospel to Israel (p. 662, v. 91).
- c. They can be numbered among Israel and her promises (p. 662, v. 92 and p. 158, v. 77).
- d. They are to assist in the building of the New Jerusalem (p. 664, v. 1 & 2).
- e. They are to assist in the gathering of Israel (p. 664, v. 3-6).

In light of the Scriptures and based on my experiences among these people, I believe that our responsibility to the Indian people is great. We should prayerfully and carefully consider every avenue of service that is available to us. Let us fast and pray with a high and noble purpose in mind. Let us ask God how He would have us best serve His purposes in these eventful days.

Even without further instruction from the Lord the responsibilities and opportunities for us are numerous. For the most part the Indian people are relatively poor and oppressed. We can be of great help to them financially if we are willing. If we are willing to sacrifice we could see the gospel work grow rapidly among these people. I propose that we should greatly increase a portion of our budget to allow for the following:

- a. Assistance in building churches.
- b. Purchasing Bibles, Books of Mormon & Hymnals to be dispensed to Locals and given as gifts from the Church of Christ by our elders and missionaries as they visit homes.
- c. Translate and publish tracts in Spanish.
- d. Provide for Spanish audio-visual aids.
- e. Financial help for our people when in need, i.e. widows, essential travel, medical help.
- f. Some funds to be in the hands of the Missionary-in-Charge for immediate emergencies.
- g. A small bank account to be maintained by the Church in Mexico.

Such financial assistance must be used with wisdom and discernment to keep from developing a "dependent people."

As a people we must pray more earnestly for the labor in Mexico and among these people. We must pray that our elders will have ever increasingly the gifts of the Spirit. We must pray for those who have not yet heard the gospel call. We must pray that the Lord will call more laborers to the work (See Alma 4:6 and Matthew 9:38).

We should encourage our youth to learn to speak the Spanish language. We adults can study as well.

We need more visits by our missionaries and perhaps of shorter duration. Above all, brethren, we must be united in our efforts to assist in God's work. We stand at the threshold of marvelous things.

FREEDOM

by Alzada Keeney Massey

Freedom is one of the most interesting and yet most misunderstood concepts we are confronted with today. There, no doubt, are as many concepts as there are people. Our concept of freedom is demonstrated every day in the way we function within our family and with our fellowman.

What is freedom? "Freedom is the condition of being free."¹ One dictionary says it is "the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action."² "Freedom means that I shall be responsible for what I do, that all the acts that I perform originates in me."³ Liberty is a common synonym. Most philosophers speak of two kinds of freedoms: moral or ethical freedom and legal or political freedom. This article shall deal, for the most part, with moral freedom.

One of the first experiences a person can have with freedom or liberty is in the home. "Where the Spirit of

the Lord is, there is liberty."⁴ If a child or a spouse is completely dominated, you will destroy him or her. Ask yourselves these questions: Do all members of the family feel free to disagree? Do all members of your family feel free to discuss problems without the fear of being ridiculed or reprimanded? Are all members taught or have they learned to respect the rights and beliefs of others? Is each member free to be himself? This is a difficult atmosphere to attain, but very rewarding. It is very important that we teach our children to think for themselves, make their own decisions, and convert (not demand) them to your value standards. (When they are mature and their value standards differ from yours, accept it gracefully. Everyone wants and needs this liberty to lead his own life). Discuss the social problems of the day with your children. Have valid reasons for your "stand" and live your life by them. As parents, it should be our constant endeavor to "bring out" and develop the best potential within the child. As spouses, ideally, we should strive to bring out the best that is "in" each other. When there is no coercion or constraint in choice of action, love and devotion grows, for it is nourished by the exercise of using our liberty. Liberty working well within the family is beautiful and a rare treasure. Parents and spouses must cultivate a love which seeks, not to possess, but to give.⁵

You can not separate responsibility from freedom. Many times responsibility has been forgotten in relation to freedom. We are responsible for our choices. One of the ways man is different from other animals is his capability of recognizing that he is responsible for his actions. When we do not accept our responsibility, we have truly lost our freedom. We have entered the captivity and restriction of all other animals.⁶

One of the freedoms we treasure most in our great country, is the freedom of religion. (This concept also includes the right not to worship at all). The concept of religious freedom grew slowly. The early colonies did have religious freedom as we understand it today. This is real irony for it was religious freedom that motivated the migration. Nevertheless, it was a beginning, and in later years evolved into the freedom we enjoy today. We shall continue to enjoy our religious freedom as long as man keeps open and treads the path between his soul and God; therefore he can never be enslaved. "It is this freedom of religion which underpins every other freedom. Every other freedom depends on one's spiritual stature."⁷ Man "is made to transcend the normal limitations of animal life. That breakthrough is a freedom that is unique."⁸

In this age when emphasis is on freedom, we of the Restoration and other devout Christians, disagree with every fiber in our bodies with some of the interpretations of freedom by some of the ideologies. These ideologies are deceptive and they "sparkle" on the surface. What appears to be freedom turns out to be slavery. The Christian believes that "men can become well-organized, effective personalities only as they sub-

mit themselves to a Power greater than themselves and allow themselves to be governed by Him as completely as possible."⁹ Even though this seems a difficult path to follow, it is rewarding. Anything worthwhile takes courage, work, and faith to achieve. The ideologies that advocate that the philosophy of freedom is—to do what you want, when you want, are not accepting responsibility. Without accepting responsibility, man will lose his freedom. Freedom to think, choose, speak, etc., is a precious gift. When man puts himself into a position where he is incapable of thinking, making a choice, or speaking, he is in slavery. Rebellious youth seem to be seeking what to them is freedom. Freedom from what? They are seeking something that their parents weren't able or willing to give them. So, they turn to these ideologies that seem to "sparkle" with all the answers. This is sad, for they are seeking in the opposite direction for what they should rightfully want and need.

"We believe that man is endowed with freedom and created to know God, to love and serve him, and enjoy his fellowship."¹⁰ It is a challenge to read and study and work out our own salvation. With an open mind, a humble spirit, and a prayerful heart, the Holy Spirit can help guide and direct us. We have that promise. The individual with a mind already made up need not pray for guidance, for the Holy Spirit can not help a fixed mind. It is our precious gift of liberty to learn precept upon precept and try our new found knowledge. Be your own person. Use and cherish your gift of freedom. Guard it well so that it will serve you and others.

Footnotes:

1. WORLD BOOK.
2. Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary.
3. HE WHO IS, Arthur Oakman, p. 54.
4. II Cor. 3:17.
5. THE INTERPRETER'S BIBLE, Vol. 12, p. 138.
6. EXPLORING THE FAITH, Clifford A. Cole, Chairman and Basic Beliefs Committee, p. 92.
7. THE INTERPRETER'S BIBLE, Vol. 10, p. 466.
8. Ibid.
9. EXPLORING THE FAITH, Cole, p. 92.
10. THE INTERPRETER'S BIBLE, Ibid.
11. Cole, *ibid.*

POLLUTION

Sermon by Elder James E. Yates, Sr.
September 6, 1970

In a sermon by Elder John Jones some time ago, he spoke of the bone family. I would like to borrow a couple of bones or so from him and do a little bone picking tonight.

The jaw bone: Does ours hinge in the middle or flap at both ends with meaningless jabber? The wish bone: Do we wish we had a better car than our neighbor? A color T.V., a bigger and better house, or other material things? Or do we wish we were better Christians?

Backbone: Do we have the backbone to say "Yes, I

go to church; Yes, I am a Christian, or at least I try to be. I try to let my light shine, and I try to live my life so it shows." Do we have the courage to stand up and say "No" if we know or think something is wrong? Do we have the courage not to go along with the crowd, the styles and the trend, even when we know they are wrong? I think the answer is No. We don't like to admit it, but the answer is NO.

Too often we sit idly by, seemingly not caring what is happening all around us. Our land, our air, our water are all becoming polluted. There are several examples of pollution. We are told that there are thousands of acres of land in Colorado that are closed to the public because of pollution from atomic radiation. The air we breathe is polluted so bad that it is even despoiling whole forests. The water of our lakes, rivers and oceans is being polluted with waste from industrial plants and sewage from our cities. Fish and marine life is unfit to eat and it is dying off because of the contamination.

Our air, water, and land, however, are not all that is being polluted. The minds of the people are being polluted also. This pollution is not found in just one age group, either. It is found in all ages. The mind of modern man is becoming so polluted that he can't see the danger in the lowering of the moral standards of the country, and of the people. A common attitude is: "Everything is all right." Anything goes—topless Go-Go Dancers, see-through clothing for men and women, and the short-short dresses that are being worn today. "Nothing is wrong with all this," says the Christian and the non-Christian alike.

You think not? These things are wrong, for a number of reasons. And it is not only in the minds or eyes of the beholder. If you don't think I am right, just try sitting or standing in front of an audience or a classroom sometime. You will find you have to keep your eyes at your feet or on the ceiling. Unless of course you are a woman, and even they may not want to look.

Too many people see nothing wrong nowadays with the open use of drugs, the advocacy of free love, or children born out of wedlock. Too many people are indifferent to the rebellion and destruction for no apparent reason than that it seems to be **the thing** to do. Right or wrong, they have to do their "thing." The saying that God is dead, the profanity used and the taking of His name in vain—all of these things are being overlooked because our minds have become so polluted we can't, or won't see the red danger signs flashing before our eyes.

The Romans of ancient history days were a lot like we are today, and we know what happened to them. Is it happening to us and to others round about us today? There is an old saying, "You, too, can be replaced!" We have been told in the scriptures that we can and will be replaced if we do not obey the commandments of God.

We read in the Book of Mormon these words per-

taining to the fulfillment of prophecies:

"Yea, it shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches become defiled, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts; yea, even in a day when leaders of churches, and teachers, in the pride of their hearts, even to the envying of them who belong to their churches; Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be heard of fires, and tempests, and vapors of smoke in foreign lands; and there shall also be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and earthquakes in divers places; Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be great pollutions upon the face of the earth; There shall be murders and robbing, and lying and deceivings, and whoredoms, and all manner of abominations, when there shall be many who will say, Do this, or do that, and it mattereth not, for the Lord will uphold such at the last day. But wo unto such, for they are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity" (Mormon 4:36-40).

This sounds like we were reading it right out of our newspapers today. And here is more:

"O ye wicked and perverse, and stiff-necked people, why have ye built up churches unto yourselves to get gain? Why have ye transfigured the holy word of God, that ye might bring damnation upon your souls? . . . And your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted because of the pride of your hearts. for behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted. O ye pollutions, ye hypocrites, ye teachers, who sell yourselves for that which will canker, why have ye polluted the holy church of God? Why are ye ashamed to take upon you the name of Christ? Why do you not think that greater is the value of an endless happiness, than that misery which never dies, because of the praise of the world?" (Mormon 4:42, 43, 49-53).

Here we go back to the beginning of the sermon—to the bone family once again, to the backbone and the jawbone. Do we have a strong enough backbone, strong enough to be able to stand up straight, and do we have the courage to use our jawbone for more than idle gossip? Are we proclaiming to all, that we have taken upon us the name of Christ, and that we seek the greater value of endless happiness? O shall we, too, be polluted and bow down to that misery which never dies?

Which do we value more, the praise of the world, or the praise of GOD?

"Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ and it endureth for ever." (Moroni 8:52).

From the Desk of the Sunday School Editor LISTEN

Most of the comments from this department have been directed to the responsibility of the persons involved in the capacity of teaching, and whether it be a preacher or a Sunday class teacher few things are more sad than one trying to occupy who is ill prepared either academically or most important, Spiritually. We have stressed preparedness, both in knowledge of the scripture and in submission to the will of God, that his truth be presented by the Spirit of truth, and we be not found among those having a Zeal toward God but not according to knowledge, neither among those desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

The services, whether preaching or study, are for learning. When or if they dwindle to a matter of form depicting a professed christianity only, they are dead. The inspiration and dedicated preparedness of the one teaching is only half of the answer; the other half is the preparedness of those who listen. A teacher who is not prepared to teach is sad; just as sad is a congregation who has come unprepared to listen and learn. The fifty-third chapter of the Book of Commandments plainly says that the truth can only be taught and received by the spirit of truth otherwise it is not of God. The Lord's admonition in the scriptures is to listen with our understandings; hear and hearken, set our minds and hearts to learn his way and then do it.

If I as a member of a class or congregation fill my mind with other considerations, and let my mind dwell on thoughts of my own until the speaker's words are just a drone in my ears; if I let my attention wander to whatever else may be happening among the others of the congregation; if I spend my time and thoughts amusing some child; if I, having abused my need for proper rest, settle for a brief nap; and if I have not prepared the soil of my receptivity to receive my portion from the Lord, even a most devout teacher rightly dividing the word of truth will never be able to penetrate my real center of learning. Neglecting to listen can rob any of us of the instruction of the Lord to us.

As there are none so blind as those who won't see, so there are none so ignorant as those who won't listen. The tenth chapter of Romans poses an unhappy question and answer. First it is asked how shall people believe in him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear except one teaches and how shall one teach except they are authorized; yet granting all this how shall they learn except they listen? A conclusion is reached that the sound of the glad tidings, the words of the gospel of peace has gone forth to the ends of the world, but not all have believed the report, not all have obeyed. Not all listen.

In words expressed by Darleen Smith, adapted from a piece of "Searchings" we find an example of one of the human foibles which limits the edification of our understandings.

"Listening!"

"Have you ever wondered how much of the difficulty may be that we do not listen, really LISTEN? We only hear what's in our minds—not the sermon, not another's words (not what these words mean in the speaker's mind) (in God's, AES). We SEE only what we've already pictured in our own minds; not a person as he is, but just our mental picture of him."

Does what we think of a person, what we think that person believes, cause us to tune out when their opinion is being expressed until we don't really know what is believed, only our own conclusion of what another believes?

There is so much responsibility on the part of one who seeks to teach, but no less on the part of one who is present for the purpose of learning. The need to apply ourselves to the purpose is great whichever place we occupy. Some of us are the teachers part of the time but all of us are the listeners some of the time.

Let us learn to really LISTEN and then give heed.

Lesson Guide REPENTANCE

By Amy Schrader

The first fruit of faith-believing is repentance. Without repentance we can proceed no further. Oh we can go through the motions of baptism, of various good works, of church attendance, of fervent religious activity but if our heart hasn't repented all this will be in vain. The scripture leaves no doubt but that all need repentance. Let me repeat ALL.

Bible: Luke 24:46-47

Acts 2:36-38

Acts 10:34-43

Acts 11:18

Acts 17:30

Acts 26:20

2 Peter 3:9

Revelation 3:19-22

Book of Mormon: 2 Nephi 1:107-109

2 Nephi 6:48

2 Nephi 12:76-78

Alma 3:56-57, 86-87

Alma 9:27

Alma 15:52-53

Helaman 5:66-67

Ether 1:34

Book of Commandments 5:4; 10:4; 12:4; 13:3; 15:5, 45-46; 24:19; 36:4; 45:23; 52:9; 64:74

There are more scriptures and a quick review of some given in the account of the fall of humanity, is in order to refresh our minds to the fact that our very nature is sinful and needs repenting of. (See Mosiah 1:115-126; Alma 19:62-117; Genesis 6:5-13.) Also Proverbs warns us that. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (14:12; and 16:25). Isaiah too warns that our ways and our thoughts are not on a level with the Lord's

(55:8-9). The Lord again speaks of that which took place in the beginning by which we all become subject to the temptations of the devil through our fallen natures in the Book of Commandments (29:45-56).

We might ask what is that state of mind or heart which is repentance? What is required? First there must be an awakening to really feel the sinfulness of our nature; to understand why our thoughts and feelings and acts are often ones of sin. We must have an awareness, a conviction that indeed except we repent we are without God in the world (Ephesians 2:12).

Bible: John 8:1; Romans 13:11-12; 1 Corinthians 15:34; Ephesians 5-14; James 3:14; Jude 1:15

Book of Mormon: 2 Nephi 1:27-28, 38-39; 2 Nephi 6:94-96; Mosiah 2; 3 Nephi 1:30-31; Mosiah 1:86-87
Book of Commandments 15:48

With the awareness of our sinful condition there must also be deep regret and a willingness to confess both to God and to our fellowmen. Remorse—the broken heart and the contrite spirit—no resistance, no excuses, no explanations or self-justification. If we truly feel this, few of us will have any difficulty confessing to God in the privacy of our closets. But to confess, specifically the ways in which we behave contrary to the teachings of the Lord, the unrighteous thoughts and feelings, the weaknesses in our human nature which makes us subject to particular temptations of the evil one, we are hesitant to want to bare ourselves before the very people whose respect and love we desire the most. On the other hand it is very self-deceived of us to suppose that, what we have sometimes carefully hidden from our own selves, has not made itself evident to those around us. Often we are the last to know, to recognize what our true sins really are. The scriptures have somewhat to say on the sorrow for and confession of our sins.

Bible: Psalms 34:18, 38:17-18; Joel 2:12-13; Jonah 3:5; 2 Corinthians 7:8-10; James 4:8-10

Book of Mormon: 2 Nephi 3:31-34; Mosiah 7:37; 3 Nephi 5:66; Mormon 1:37-38; 11:9-10, 185-199

Book of Commandments 22:11-12; 60:16-17

True sorrow for and confession of our sin brings a result in the pardon or forgiveness from the Lord.

Bible: Psalm 32:1-5; Proverbs 28:13; Jeremiah 3:12-13; Hosea 5:15 and 6:1; Acts 19:18; 2 Timothy 2:25; James 5:16; 1 John 1:5-10

Book of Mormon: Mosiah 11:137-138; Alma 12:6-7; Helaman 5:110, 116

Book of Commandments: 16:21; 59:54-55; 60:21; 65:9, 22.

The Bible has two examples of humble, heartfelt confession that are well worth consideration. Psalms 51 and Daniel 9:1-19. What beautiful prayers of confession, the utter dependence on the mercy of God to forgive, the complete lack of any shade of excuse or exoneration.

Awareness, sorrow and confession, three of the steps of repentance; each one seems the biggest when we face it. How hard to admit, even to ourselves that the things we think, feel, do, yes in fact so much of what

we are; that very core of our being, from which comes our actions and our reactions; that heart from which the tongue speaks, is selfish and thus sinful. How sympathetic and understanding we feel for ourselves and therefore how defensive; and how hard not to turn to explanation, excuse and justification.

One reason we hide the truth from ourselves is that we shrink from the bitter sorrow, the heartbreaking shame, the shattering of our good opinion of ourself. And yet the heart must be broken. We must enter the depths of humility in regard to ourself. As long as we hold onto any illusion of self-sufficiency or righteousness we prohibit the entering into us of the Spirit and grace of God without which we are nothing. He requires a willing mind, a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Only those who will give up themselves can receive Christ, only those who die to self are born again.

How can we bring the self-renunciation about but to confess? Confess to God, but confess to God before men. Bring all out in the open; nothing hid, nothing covered up, no pretence about anything. No one can be made free if they are shielding secret sins; confessing the truth can set us free. Once everything is known and we accept whatever results, there is nothing more to lose, nothing to fear. What a sense of liberty can result. God forgives and the weight of it all is lifted. If man does not forgive he is the one remaining in error.

ONE DAY LOST

Submitted by Emil Heeb

Planets will be, so the whole thing won't bog down. They run the computer measurements back and forth over the centuries and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal which meant there was something wrong either with the information fed into it or with the results as compared with the standards. They called in the service department to check it out. But they said, "it is perfect." The IBM head of operations asked, "What is wrong?" "Well, we found there is a day missing in space in elapsed time." They marveled, scratching their heads and tearing their hair. There was no answer.

One religious fellow in the room said, "You know, one day I was in Sunday School, and they talked about the sun standing still." They did not believe him so they went to the Book of the Bible, and in the Book of Joshua they found where the Lord told Joshua, "fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee." Joshua was concerned because his enemy had surrounded him, and if darkness fell they would overpower him. So he asked the Lord to make the sun stand still. And the sun stood still, for about a whole day.

The spacemen said, "There is a missing day." They checked the computer going back and forth into the time it was written and found it was close but not exact, because the elapsed time that was missing back there in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes, not a

whole day. They read the Bible again and found it read, "about" a day.

"These little words in the Bible are important." But they were still in trouble because they could not account for 40 minutes. It had to be accounted for or be in trouble a thousand years from now. 40 minutes had to be found, because it can be multiplied many times over in orbits.

The religious brother also remembered, that somewhere in the Bible it said, that the sun was going backwards. Critics said he was out of his head, but in the Bible they read these words in II Kings 20. Hezekiah on his deathbed was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was not going to die. But Hezekiah did not believe him and asked for a sign as proof. Isaiah said, "Do you want the sun to go ahead ten degrees?" Hezekiah said, "It is nothing for the sun to go ahead ten degrees, but let the shadow return backwards ten degrees." So Isaiah spoke to the Lord and the Lord brought the shadow backwards ten degrees.

Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes. The 23 hours and 20 minutes of Joshua's day and the 40 minutes of Hezekiah's day in II Kings make the missing day of 24 hours. The space travelers had to log in the logbook as being the "MISSING DAY" in the universe.

THE BIBLE IS TRUE.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

by Darleen Smith

Watchmen! Alert!

Pestilences: plagues are now over the world; diseases once thought conquered, diphtheria in Texas, bubonic plague in Mexico and New Mexico, cholera through the Near East, Asia, Russia, Europe, etc.

Famines: people starving over the world even in America, as well as malnutrition among affluent peoples.

Great storms: in places they were never known before; tornadoes in Ontario, etc.

Earthquakes in sections of the world where never known before; Montana, Minnesota, etc.

Witchcrafts: false prophets, black magic, "Cults" of many sorts are on the increase and people are choosing to be swallowed up in these practices.

Pollutions: The air is fouled, the water and land are polluted, wasted with rapid destructions. A third of the fish and sea life are already destroyed. There is a mammoth increase in a red form of plankton which is poisonous to sea life.

Pollutions of the mind and of the heart and spirit; a flood of filthy literature overflowing nations; untruths even in advertisements, sensory "cults" to propagate, contrary to all decency; practices that will debase the human mind, emotions, spirit and body.

A comet is expected yet this year, which, by passing so close to the earth, can bring about (as viewed from the earth) the darkness of the sun. Its near approach can cause the moon to appear as if turned to blood. Its size and near approach can cause violent earthquakes

(the Mount of Olives could be split in twain). The jarring of the earth could make the appearance of stars falling. The near approach of so large a comet would cause great groaning in the heavens, caused by electrical forces, breaking of high altitude sound barriers, etc.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27)

"... As for you . . . my flock . . . (Israel).

"Seemeth it a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pasture? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet? (Ezekiel 34:17-18).

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense. He will come and save you" (Isaiah 35:4).

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him; BUT the JUST shall LIVE BY HIS FAITH" (Habakkuk 2:3-4).

CAN SCIENCE FILL OUR NEEDS?

by Donald B. Willard

So, we call this the Scientific Age. All hail Science! Great and marvelous are her works.

This century has now produced wondrous achievements, surpassing all those of previous history. Men have looked into space, travelled through space, and talked back from space.

Scientist's boasts and promises, while not to be disputed as to factual evidence, have created an image of infallibility and omniscience that tends to shut off criticism or contradiction in those areas that are mere theory or conjecture. Surely it must be permissible to adopt one of the procedures used by scientists themselves, in evaluating the claims they are so free in presenting. Let us look at some of their failures and mistakes for a moment.

While providing the marvelous gadgets of production, communication, convenience and entertainment, they have been able to devise only deadly weaponry for settling the differences between men and nations. In the obvious determination of the human race to follow the mass-suicide example set by the lemmings of arctic regions, science has hastened to provide the nuclear means to that end. Meanwhile all the splendid conveniences and pleasures of a "better life" are inevitably forcing upon us a miserable and polluted existence.

More than any other reason to distrust some of the disciples of science, it remains to point to the part they have played in creating today's social distress. Contempt for law and order, morality, and the rights of others, have derived largely from a breakdown attributable in many ways to pseudo-scientific theories

and concepts. When so many scientists announce that moral standards and rules were only inventions to serve as taboos for imposing docility on peoples by despotic rulers, the result has been a harvest of indecency, violence and chaos. Racial tensions, campus unrest, flag burning and obscenity have flooded in to fill a void. Science must bear its share of responsibility for the dire condition facing mankind today. Before we trust science too implicitly as the answer to human needs, let's recognize and admit its failures. The simple "right or wrong" training once provided in home, school and church and now so often held in contempt, has been replaced by the permissive society. Is it significant that Science has not as yet inspired a faith to live by, taught precepts of behavior, or furnished comfort of spirit for the human soul?

Above all, scientists have concocted such fantastic explanations of the origin of what we call life that a conclusion would appear inescapable. With the present horrible world-wide sociologic disintegration, it is clear that it is **their** teaching that is not "relevant." Their scorn of the simple old-fashioned "In the beginning, God—" has come home to them. It is time for Science to set its house in order. Who would say their atheism, atom-splitting and nebular hypotheses are making this a better world in which to live? Where will they turn to escape their own fears?

A LETTER

P.O.B. 568 Jerusalem Israel

May 6, 1970

Dear Brother Hanson,

Your much esteemed letter arrived safely, and we were glad to hear from you, and will write you these few lines letting you know that it arrived, and that we are glad to hear from those who love Jerusalem, and are interested in Israel, and the work of our Heavenly Father. We are very busy here with a great increase in our mail.

The Jews are still coming up from all over the world and are not fearful of the increased threats of our surrounding enemies including Russia. There is much fighting along the borders, but now quite a distance from Jerusalem. It is much like it was during the first returning at the time of Nehemiah. See chapter four where they had their swords and had to watch day and night. It was the same race of people then as it is now, but the purpose of the Almighty on this earth, in giving the kingdom to the little flock (Luke 12:32) will be carried out, the righteous will be few like in the days of Noah. Matthew 24:37, Luke 21:24, etc. We are very near to the full end of Gentile times.

The work is progressing in Israel, however, for which we all rejoice. Almost a hundred cards and letters a day are still coming in ordering New Testaments and Bibles with both testaments. Over a hundred in Jerusalem gathered together for the Lord's Supper

this year, and there were different groups assembled in different parts of Israel.

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well and pressing on in the narrow way, seeking daily for more and more of the Holy Spirit's power from above to give you victory over sin, and be worthy of a home in the soon coming kingdom.

With greetings and love to all from all of us, and may heaven's choice blessings richly abide with you for the glory of Him Who has called us from the world to be laborers in His vineyard.

Yours in the precious service

A. N. Dugger—Editor

P.S. I have read the Book of Mormon. It is very good indeed, but there is more light now. 2 Peter 3:18 and 1 John 1:7.

(A. N. Dugger is the editor of The Mount Zion Reporter, a monthly news magazine published in Jerusalem, Israel.)

GOOD THINGS BEAR REPEATING

Taken From a Sermon by T. J. Jordon

1963

I want to speak a word of advice to these young men, I don't mean boys and girls, I mean men of ability and manhood. There are three things that cause your wavering, and if continued, your downfall. And that is your moral conduct, false manifestations, and aspiring to office. And if any one of these gets resident in your heart or your mind, get it out. Because sooner or later it will be your ruin. Be yourself, and occupy where God directs, and do it with intelligence and fervor and God will come to your assistance and your blessing.

Let us be advised, let us be encouraged, but above all, let us set our house in order, let us get in the right condition, individually and as families. Let us rise to new heights, for we are right on the verge of a new era—God has set his hand for the last time to redeem his people.

Go back to your homes, keep the faith, walk circum-spectly before God from day to day. Don't forget your prayers before you enter into the duties of the day. Don't forget your prayers before you lay your body down to rest. That is good medicine for the soul. May God bless you is my prayer.

Ed. Note: Brother Don Housknecht had been announced to speak at this hour but had asked Brother Jordon to occupy in his stead for some had expressed a desire to hear him. At the close of the service Bro. Housknecht who was in charge, had this to say:

"I want to tell you something that is very strange. The very text, the very scriptures that I would have used, my brother has used. I don't know that I would have said the words as he said them—but can't you see that God meant them to be said?"

CAPSULE COMMENT

THE QUESTER

Watchman What of the Night?

He Who Foresees the Approach of Evil or its Consequences upon His Fellows, and Fails to Give Timely Warning Thereof, Is an Unfaithful Watchman, and Must Share, as He Deserves, the Distress of His Vision. From "Concerning Our Whereabouts."

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?" (Matthew 24:25).

"And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard sent his servant; and the servant went and did as the Lord had commanded him, and brought other servants; and they were FEW (emphasis mine).

"And the Lord of the vineyard said unto them, Go to, and labor in the vineyard, with your mights.

"For behold, this is the last time that I shall nourish my vineyard: . . .

"And it came to pass that the servants did go, and labor with their mights; and the Lord of the vineyard labored also with them; and they did OBEY the commandments of the Lord of the vineyard, in all things" (Jacob 3:136-138 and 140) (emphasis mine).

"For behold the field is white already to harvest; and it is the eleventh hour, and for the last time, that I shall call laborers into my vineyard . . ." (Book of Commandments 35:3).

". . . And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days . . .

"Behold, this is mine authority, and the authority of my servants, and my Preface unto the Book of my Commandments, which I have given them to publish unto you, O inhabitants of the earth . . .

"And again, verily I say unto you, O inhabitants of the earth, for I the Lord am willing to make these things known unto all flesh, for I am no respecter of persons. . . .

"Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled. . . ." (Book of Commandments 1:1, 2, 6 and 7).

"And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts:

"Wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father, that they shall be gathered in unto one place, upon the face of this land, to prepare their hearts, and be prepared in all things, against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked:" (Book of Commandments 29:8-9).

". . . Thus saith the Lord unto the Shepherds of my Sheep . . . Feed My Sheep! FEED MY SHEEP! . . . (emphasis mine).

"Yea, be this a warning unto you, that I will require my sheep at your hand. . . .

"Therefore is this last warning given unto those who would be numbered among my CHOSEN shepherds—ye be one or ye are not mine—and cast your eyes about and look to your flocks and seek to gather them together that all may become pure in heart. . . ." (From Revelation to Don W. Housknecht, Zions Advocate, December 1958).

WATCHMAN WHAT OF THE NIGHT ? ? ?

MY TESTIMONY

I firmly believe in the teachings of the Book of Mormon as part of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith in these last days. I have raised my family under adverse circumstances many times in order to assist my late husband, Apostle A. M. Smith in carrying the message of this wonderful Gospel to many parts of this land and lands across the sea. And contrary to reports and false rumors now being circulated and repeated by some in distant parts of the church, I shall continue to advocate the teaching of the Book of Mormon when ever and where ever the opportunity provides.

Sincerely, your sister Gospel Bonds,

Mrs. Minnie C. Smith
Ava, Missouri

ABOU BEN ADHEM

Leigh Hunt

Abou Ben Adhem, (man his tribe increased!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw within the moonlight of his room,
Making it rich and like a lily in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold.

Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said:
"What writest thou?"—The vision raised its head,
And, with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."

"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"
Replied the angel, —Abou spoke more low,
But cherrily still; and said, "I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow-men."

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
It came again, with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had
blessed,—

And, lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest!