

# 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 the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187

Vol. 55

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## The Nation's Strength

I know three things must always be  
To keep a nation strong and free.  
One is a hearthstone bright and dear,  
With busy, happy loved ones near.  
One is a ready heart and hand  
To love and serve and keep the land.  
One is a worn and beaten way  
To where the people go pray.  
So long as these are kept alive,  
Nation and people will survive.  
God keep them always, everywhere,  
The hearth, the flag, the place of prayer.

Vivian Byrd Price

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# Zion's Advocate

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## Editorial . . .

### A SHARP TWOEDGED SWORD

With all that exists today in the way of counsel that expresses the ideas and ideals of men, any effort to add to such counsel would be unprofitable and foolish except it be to the eternal welfare of man. Under these circumstances, words are cheap but truth alone is precious.

The truth which went out from the mouth of Christ was as a sharp twoedged sword. It was to quicken the conscience of man by making him aware of the wrongs that he was committing. It was to bring about correction. It was the unalterable word of God which is unchangeable even as God is unchangeable. His word is applicable to all men in any age or period of time, and its one main purpose is to save their souls.

That which has opposed the word of God are the countless lies of the adversary. They are stumbling blocks that have lined the path of life for mankind. Those who have been deceived by the devil have been instrumental in establishing false precepts by routing around factual truths rather than confronting them directly. Consequently many true principles have become lies by being sugarcoated with man made philosophy. Such lies have appealed to those who are inclined to lean upon the arm of flesh. The conglomerate of doctrines that envelops the so-called Christian world today is the product of modern philosophy.

A challenge is placed before all who will come directly to God in prayer to know His will. The test of faith that this challenge requires is the only means by which a person can bring about the showdown that reveals the stumbling blocks for what they are. However the person must be willing to have exposed to himself his own real character — both the good and the bad.

The truthfulness of the gospel of Christ can bear the brunt of any challenge made against it. Although there are many unbelievers who criticize and mock the true gospel of Christ, there need not be any apology for its existence. Neither is there any need for the believer to hesitate in upholding its truthfulness.

Many writers of the scriptures come right out and flatly state the facts with no respect to any man or set of men. Such writings need no explanations nor dressing up. They are what they are; we can either accept them or reject them. Our only favorable act is to bear witness to their truthfulness.

To the sinner truth is offensive. But it is said that no man is without sin and that Christ has come to save the sinner. We are all placed on the same level with none receiving the glory except He who made the great atonement for our sins. Jesus Christ was the one and only worthy to make this sacrifice. Will we deny ourselves the salvation of our souls because the truth is offensive to us? Let us individually answer this question.

Through the experiences of everyday life we learn that nothing of any great worth is accomplished without some effort on our part. Neither is it appreciated except we have given of ourselves to some degree. So it is with the plan of salvation.

This great plan requires a commitment on our part. We take upon ourselves the name of Christ and promise to do His will. We also must fully repent of all our sins which brings about the sacrifice of the broken heart and contrite spirit. After repentance we are then in the condition to dedicate our lives to the service of Christ by witnessing to God and to our fellow man our intent of heart by entering the watery grave of baptism and leaving behind us the guilt of our sins. The promise of the "comforter" is fulfilled when through the laying on of hands we receive the Holy Ghost, a divine and special spirit endowed upon mankind.

This is the introductory part. Leaving this door of faith we go on to perfection by meeting other tests that are placed before us which keeps our faith in God alive. The proving ground of our soul is our active faith in God whom we must petition continually.

We are tested for our faith, hope, charity and honesty, and we are often tested for our presence of mind to call upon God for His guidance in our decisions of life.

We are not without instruction; we find a never-ending source of wisdom in the word of God. Through the Spirit of God we are caused to be amazed at the well-planned details of His teachings. How practical are His instructions — yet profound! How stable are His precepts compared to the continual modifications of man!

The enactments of God are very real. No law is ever made to be of any effect except there is a means of enforcing it. God, being the ultimate of power and strength, will surely cause a consequence to come upon all His creation according to His knowledge and wisdom. The enactment of judgment is just as real as the enactment of law. Breaking the law of God brings condemnation and without the special provision of the atonement of Christ, the condemnation could not be lifted. Therefore a study of the plan of salvation is well worth the time and effort of any person who is aware of right and wrong.

RLS

## A "HOT LINE" TO GOD

Sermon by Apostle E. Leon Yates  
Phoenix, Arizona, Reunion, Nov. 26, 1977

(continued from the May issue)

I don't like to scare people by warning what is going to take place in our own nation, but it's coming, and it's coming soon. Those of us who think we are blessed now are really going to be on our knees, praying for understanding and wisdom and protection. But we all know there is a silver lining for the people who really trust in God. Whatever the situation may be, whatever may come before them, they do have an open line to God; and if they don't receive anything else, they can receive peace of mind and quietness, even in the face of death. This is a possibility. Make no mistake about it. It is possible for the man or woman who truly loves God and works for that end.

The prophet, Isaiah, was a man of God. He wrote things as he was moved upon by the power of the Holy Ghost, such as these words:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." (Isaiah 46:9, 10) Do you believe it? I do! In connection with that thought is the following, where Isaiah was looking down the vista of unborn time, even beyond your time and mine. He was speak-

ing to the children of Israel. They had been wicked but He was going to redeem them, and He says: "Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and show us former things? Let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth." (Isaiah 43:9) That's powerful scripture, a thing that none of us here could do, surely not without the power of Almighty God.

First Nephi 3:146-164, too lengthy to quote here, contains a most miraculous vision. It tells of this nation, and of when it was founded under God. This part of the vision was fulfilled in the year 1776. It is very inspiring reading and I hope each of you will read it in your homes. Here the angel showed Nephi many of the things he had shown Lehi, his father - things that were going to take place on this very continent, and of his brothers who had not yet been born. The angel even described the work that Columbus would do, and the later Gentile occupation of this continent, as shown in these few verses: "And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who

were in the promised land. And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise: And I beheld the wrath of God that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles, and were smitten." (Verses 147-150)

There are no other circumstances in all history that fulfill the conditions described above, except the work of Columbus and the following colonization of America by the oppressed Gentiles of Europe. A full reading of the chapter cited above will even describe the Revolutionary War where the "mother Gentiles" (the English) were gathered upon the waters and upon the land also to do battle against them. When we recall that the War was both by land and by sea, we remember the story of Paul Revere and his famous ride to the old North Church in Boston where it had been agreed that one light placed in the tower of the church would mean that the British were about to attack by land, and two lights in the tower would mean that they were coming by sea. It was at that time when Paul Revere made his famous ride to warn that the British were coming, the Minute Men came into being. The Power that set the universe into motion is the same Power that brought this nation into being. Nephi wrote: "And I beheld that the power of God was with them (the colonists), and also that the wrath of God was upon all them that gathered against them to battle. And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations." (Vs 154-155)

It was said from the pulpit here today that "in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall all things be established." And those words are from the scriptures; but all such witnesses are not necessarily from the Bible and the Book of Mormon. There are other witnesses whom God has dealt with, and I want to refer to an old document that was found in an old book containing a manifestation that was given to Columbus himself. It was copyrighted by A. McClurg & Company, Chicago, 1892. It is not a fantasy, or something that somebody made up, but is a revelation given to Columbus, and is in his own words!

"The boats had gone inside for salt and water. The sea became high and ugly and did not permit them to come back. The Indians were many, and banded together and fought them. At last they killed them. My brother and all the other people were with one ship that had remained inside. I, very much alone, was outside, on that wild coast, with a strong fever, in such great grief. All hope of escaping was dead. Painfully I climbed to the highest part of the ship, calling in a feeble voice, weeping and hurriedly, to the commanders of your Majesty's Navy in all the quarters of the compass for aid, but they answered me not at all. Worn out I fell asleep, moaning. I heard a very merciful voice saying: "Oh, dull and slow to believe and to serve thy God, the God of all! What has He done more for Moses, or for David His ser-

vant? Since thou wast born He hast ever had thee in His special care. When He saw thee at the age He thought best, He made thy name to resound Marvellously throughout the earth. The Indies, which are such a rich part of the world, He gave thee for thine own; thou hast shared them as it pleased thee, and He gave thee power for this. Of the mysteries of the ocean, which were sealed with such strong chains, He gave thee the keys; . . . "

What were the chains with which they were sealed? Ignorance. At that time the people thought the earth was flat and that if you should go far enough out, you would go over the edge. They did not know the earth was round, and it was that ignorance which sealed certain mysteries to them. There is harmony in these two witnesses. Nephi wrote that he beheld a man among the Gentiles, separated from his brethren, and that the Spirit of God wrought on that man and he went forth upon the many waters. Columbus wrote that he had a vision and a voice spoke, "**Of the mysteries of the Ocean**, which were sealed with such strong chains, He gave thee the keys;" Columbus testifies that he had a vision, he heard a voice. Are we going to disbelieve that voices speak? Many places in the scripture tell of voices speaking to men to enlighten them. There are such things today and I have experienced them, as others have. Such a voice is not an audible voice, but is described as "a still, small voice," that speaks to the soul. God does speak to His people today, in the same manner that He did in those days, and also by dreams and visions. That "still, small voice" speaks to the understanding, and the intelligence of men, and we have seen how Columbus' testimony together with Nephi's vision fulfill the words, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." (II Cor. 13:1) Nephi foretold this wonderful event, and Columbus says it actually happened to him.

Now hear another witness - a dream that came to another man back in Civil War days. It comes not from the Bible, or the Book of Mormon, but I believe that anything that comes from God, from that Intelligence that has set the universe in motion and touches upon an individual and gives him understanding, is a miracle, and if written down, it becomes scripture wherever you find it. This dream came to General McClelland at two o'clock of the third night after he came to Washington in command of the U. S. Army. The part applying to the present and future of the United States reads partly as follows:

"The dim shadowy figure was no longer a dim, shadowy one, but the glorified refulgent figure of Washington, the Father of this country, and now for a second time its Savior. \*\*\* As I continued looking, an expression of sublime benignity came gently upon his visage and for the last time I heard that slow solemn voice saying something like this: 'General McClelland, while yet in the flesh I beheld the birth of the American Republic - It was indeed a hard and bloody one, but God's blessing was upon the nation,

and therefore through this struggle for existence He sustained her with His mighty hand and brought her out triumphantly. A century has past since then, and yet the child Republic has taken her position; a peer with nations whose pages of history extend far into the past. And now she has been brought to her second great struggle, this, so far the most perilous ordeal she has to endure. \*\*\* But her cries have come up out of the borders like sweet incense unto Heaven. She will be saved. Then shall peace once more be upon her, and prosperity fill her with joy."

The above mention of, "her second great struggle," refers to the Civil War. The prophecy contained in this dream regarding the Civil War has been fulfilled and is now history. Those of us who live in this nation have known peace and prosperity, but unless this people repent and cause a situation to come about whereby no longer do their iniquities separate them from the God of the universe, this nation is heading for total destruction. Many people think this nation and the world are getting better. I believe it is more polluted in every way, spiritually and otherwise, day by day, and no nation that turns from God ever has or ever will escape destruction.

Abraham Lincoln, our Civil War president, understood that truth. I believe with all my heart that Lincoln was one of the greatest men who ever lived in civil life. I believe he was a God-fearing man, and I believe he had an open mind. He didn't even consider himself a Christian. We learn this and other things about him from the book, **The Humorous Mr. Lincoln**. Upon one occasion when he was running against Stephen A. Douglas for the presidency of the United States, they had a book for people to sign to indicate for whom they would vote. Mr. Lincoln wanted to look over the book to see how he stood with the voters. Some of them were ministers and other prominent men of the town, and Lincoln said, "I wish particularly to see how the ministers of Springfield, Ill. are going to vote." As the pages of the book were turned, Mr. Lincoln asked if this one or that one was a minister, or an elder, or member of the church. After they had closed the book, and Lincoln had looked at the notes, he turned to Bateman with inexpressible sadness and he said this: "Here are twenty-three ministers of different denominations and all of them are against me but three. And here are a great many members of the churches, a very large majority of whom are against me. Mr. Bateman, I am not a Christian, God knows I would be. But I have carefully read the Bible and I do not so understand this book. Taking a copy of the New Testament out of his pocket he continued:

"These men well know that I am for freedom in the territories, freedom everywhere as far as the Constitution and laws will permit, and that my opponents are for slavery. They know this, and yet with this Book in their hands and in the light of which human bondage cannot live a moment, they are going to vote against me. I do not understand it at all."

Mr. Lincoln paused, rose to his feet, walked up and down the room with his head bowed, and when he raised his face it was wet with tears. "I know there is a God," he said, "and that He hates injustice and slavery. I see a storm coming and that His hand is in it. If He has a place in the work for me, and He has, I think, I believe I am ready."

He has a place for every Christian that will be obedient to Him. In this day and age we have a great need for soldiers for Christ. I don't mean only soldiers for the Church; I mean soldiers for Christ - for Christianity - for humanity - for civilization. We stand in great need.

Quoting again Mr. Lincoln: "I believe I am ready. I am nothing, but the truth is everything! I know I am right because liberty is right, for Christ teaches it and Christ is God. I have told them that; a nation divided against itself cannot stand. Christ, and reason say the same, and they will find it so. Douglas doesn't care whether slavery is voted up or voted down - but God cares, and humanity cares and I care. And with God's help I shall not fail. I may not see the end." (This is dramatic. Here is a man who fought for his country, and he knew he would never see the end of his second term. He knew he would die.) He said further, "I may not see the end, but it will come; I will be vindicated and these men will find that they have not read their Bibles right."

As I have studied the Gospel of Jesus Christ within the confines of the Bible and the Book of Mormon, I find that they teach liberty and justice. This way of life should be here upon the continent today, but our leading politicians - they do not understand the word "justice," or if they do, they are violating their own consciences. At this point, I would like to read the rest of General McClelland's dream:

"BUT HER MISSION WILL NOT THEN BE FINISHED FOR ERE ANOTHER CENTURY SHALL HAVE GONE BY, THE oppressors of the whole earth, hating and envying her and her exaltation, SHALL JOIN THEMSELVES TOGETHER AND RAISE UP THEIR HANDS AGAINST HER. But if she be found worthy of her high calling they shall surely be discomfited, and then will be ended her third and last struggle for existence.

Let her in her prosperity, however, remember the Lord her God.

Let her trust in Him and she shall never be confounded."

I believe that with all my heart. I believe that if the Lord's people fall from a trust in the Lord God Almighty, and fail to live in accordance with that trust, we are doomed to destruction. In the Book of Mormon, the brother of Jared said that this was an everlasting decree, that the people who "possess this land of promise . . . should serve Him, the true and only God or they should be swept off when the fullness of His wrath should come upon them." (Ether 1:30) I believe that with all my heart. But the beauty

of the Gospel of Jesus Christ says that the promises that are held out are to individuals as well as to nations, if they will but be obedient.

There was a half-hour program on TV recently entitled, "It's Time to Pray, America." But it never mentioned that there should be a time to repent - just time to pray. What did Isaiah say? He said, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, . . ." (Isaiah 59:2) You can't get over iniquities by just praying. You have to do something about them. It takes repentance. Action! Whatever it is that you are doing that is wrong, stop doing it, repent - and then pray! I speak to individuals as well as to nations. I hope that we will not be rejected, but that the day will come in this great nation of ours when some noble politician like Abraham Lincoln will get up and make a campaign founded upon the platform of the policies of Jesus Christ, not failing to express himself though they might murder him, if he does. Some might lose their lives by upholding truth, but that should make no difference. We have to die sometime, in some way. The scripture says that the Spirit of love casteth out all fear. I can honestly say that I knew a man and his name was James Yates, my father. I will have to brag on him a little bit. I thought he was a marvelous man. I have heard him make this statement, and I know it was true. He said, "I have heard people talk about fear, but I don't know what they mean, for I don't know what fear really is." I believe that he was a Godly man, and I believe that every Godly person can have that same freedom from fear.

Many young people don't like to hear the kind of sermon I have been preaching tonight. They don't like to be discouraged, but there is a silver lining. Try to strive to be obedient to the extent that you can have an open mind and "Let that mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus." As Abraham Lincoln said, "The truth is the all-important thing." It's the same thing the Book of Mormon speaks of as "the rod of iron," - the Word of God. That's the truth. Anything else is false. So to any people who will be obedient to the truth, this will apply, as found in the Book of Commandments, purportedly Christ speaking, which I believe it was. "Fear not, little children, (speaking to the church) for you are mine, and I have overcome the world, and you are of them that my Father has given me; and none of them which my Father has given me shall be lost; and the Father and I are one; I am in the Father and Father in me; and inasmuch as ye have received me, ye are in me, and I in you . . ." (Chapter 53: vs. 38-41).

We have received Christ and taken His name upon us. When? When we went into the waters of baptism, and when we received the Spirit of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. We were reborn, or born again. I'd like Jimmy Carter to understand what rebirth really is. I'd like his son to know it and I'd like the irreverent news commentator to understand

what rebirth really is. The question was asked, "Can a man re-enter his mother's womb and be born again?" No, but he can be born of water and he can be born of the Spirit. He can receive that rebirth, and grow in that rebirth, and become an adult Christian, and act as an adult Christian, and pursue the truth and nothing but the truth.

"And none of them which my Father hath given me shall be lost: And the Father and I are one: I am in the Father and the Father in me. And inasmuch as ye have received me, ye are in me, and I in you: wherefore I am in your midst; and I am the good shepherd: And the day cometh that you shall hear my voice and see me, and know that I am. Watch therefore that ye may be ready; even so: Amen." (Book of Commandments, p: 97, vs. 39-43)

When we speak of Christ being in our midst, there are some who disbelieve. They ask, "Do you mean that Christ could really be here in our midst in Phoenix?" That is just exactly what I mean to say, and it is according to scripture. The Book of Mormon tells us that Christ would not show Himself to the Gentiles in our time, **except** by the power of the Holy Ghost, but that He **would** show Himself to the House of Israel, and that they would walk and talk with Him. I have had that experience in Mexico. I sat in that little Church of Christ on Harvard Street when I was just a boy, and later, as a young man, and I saw the rafters overhead, no ceiling yet, and felt such a high spiritual feeling that it just seemed like the Master was right there above those rafters - so much so that I felt I could reach out and touch Him. But I couldn't prove it. I had not at that time taken an active part as I do today, but I felt that He was there in that room. I could declare that He was there.

The Apostle Paul, at Mars Hill, said: "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, 'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.' Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you." (Acts 17:23) It is this God and His power I declare unto you tonight.

Down in Yucatan, Mexico, in a little service there with the Indians, I again had this experience. Oh, the ground was wet with their tears because of their humility, and their compassion, and their desires to understand the Gospel of Christ. And lo, and behold I had this feeling again. I looked up to the ceiling of that little old church, to the raw rafters there, and it just seemed like the Master was there. I got up and bore my testimony to that effect. When I sat down, old Brother Sabino got up and bore his testimony, and he said, pointing to the ceiling, "Right up there I saw the Master. My Brother Yates is right. The Master is here. And just before this service began, outside this building, I walked and talked with the Master."

The scriptures tell us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, without ever the shadow of turning. He revealed Himself to His servants of old, and He reveals Himself to His servants today. For in-



dividuals and for nations, iniquity will separate you and your God. But "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be washed white as snow." That is, if your

hunger, your thirst, your desires are after righteousness, and if you have a broken heart and a contrite spirit before God.

## FROM THE GENERAL BISHOPRIC

A few weeks before this writing a group of our Lamanite friends and brethren came to the Temple Lot in connection with the Longest Walk. This walk began at the coast of California on February 11 of this year and is to end at Washington, D. C. on or about July 15th.

Its purpose is to bring to the attention of the American people that there are before Congress eleven bills which, if they become law, will wipe out of existence all rights and privileges guaranteed to them by our fathers through treaties, and to appeal to Congress to vote down these bills.

The walkers have been joined by others as they have pursued their journey. Their journey has a second purpose that of bringing a spiritual unity and closer cooperation and understanding among the various tribes.

These people have proceeded on this journey with faith that God would provide their needs as they went to plead their cause before our law makers.

To this date they have reached Columbus, Ohio. They have marvelous experiences to tell of their way being opened before them.

After they reach their destination, they will need assistance to return to their homes. The urgency of this mission has been so great to them that many have left their jobs to go to Washington to plead their cause. Any help made available to them will be deeply appreciated by them.

The promises of God made to their fathers many centuries ago concerning them and the Gentiles brought to this land are being fulfilled before our eyes today. Let us humble ourselves and pray that we

may be found worthy to be numbered among God's covenant people.

The need for providing care for our aged is multiplying day by day. Some have said we are too few and too poor to undertake such a great task as providing a home for our aged and needy.

Did it ever occur to us that the early American colonies were just as few and as poor in comparison when they saw the necessity of freeing themselves from tyranny and to form a nation?

Our cause in behalf of our aged is just as noble and as necessary as was that of our colonies 200 years ago, and the same God who brought them through will bring us through if we place our trust in Him and rise to meet the need in faith and confidence in Him.

Need we repeat the admonition and promise of God as recorded in Mal. 3:10, "bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"?

The first commandment still rings down through the ages to us: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Matt. 22:37-39)

What greater expression of love both to God and to our neighbors than to provide comfort and security to those who can no longer care for themselves.

LET US MEET THE CHALLENGE AND REJOICE IN ITS ACCOMPLISHMENT.

Nicholas F. Denham

## WATCHMEN OF ZION

Isa. 52:7, 8

**Question:** Having been called to the Priesthood with a holy calling, what preparation should one make to fulfill his office and ministry?

**Answer:**

In his instruction to Timothy, Apostle Paul said:

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for

masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits" (2 Tim. 2:4-6).

Many men, called with a holy calling, are torn between two desires: a half-hearted willingness to accept a ministry on behalf of the Son of God; and on the other hand, there is much to entice him into worldly pursuit and pleasures which appeal to the flesh. We are to please Him who has chosen us, for God wants men

dedicated to His service above all else. Do we not read and understand:

"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me" (Matt. 10:37, 38).

The Master is not desirous of separating families and loved ones, but He expects His servant to love Him above all, so much so that the love of family and of earthly matters is, by comparison, as hatred (John 12:25, 26 & Luke 14:26-33).

Since it is through faith and good works that men are called into the holy priesthood (Alma 9:65-67), it is requisite that the faith should be nurtured and exercised by diligent humble prayer, and in spiritual fasting. There should be frequent separation from earthly pursuits and relationships to commune with God alone, in meditation and searching of the Scriptures for specific purposes, having first asked of God for divine guidance by the Holy Spirit of truth. The injunction of Apostle James is appropriate:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave

of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord" (James 1:5-7).

While the Church is established on the principle of direct and continuing revelation from God, we should realize that oft-times His counsel comes through understanding what He has caused to be written for our profit and learning. Christ referred His listeners to the words of the prophets of old. We have, additionally, and more importantly, the teachings of our Master himself, and those which were recorded of the words of His Apostles, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Therefore, as Paul instructed Timothy:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

And again, showing the excellency of the Scriptures:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

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Further questions related to the subject of priesthood may be directed to Apostle William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Mo. 64050.

## GENTILES SHALL BRING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST TO INDIANS

By Lovita G. Seibel

The descendants of Lehi are often spoken of in the Book of Mormon as "our seed". As such they were promised an inheritance in this "Promised Land", the Americas, by Lehi who spoke by the Spirit of God in prophecy. He also said that a knowledge of them would be kept from other nations as long as they kept God's Commandments. This is told in the Book of Mormon in 2 Nephi 1:18-26. But if they turned from God and became wicked, other nations would be brought here, and great bloodshed would follow. So Lehi counselled his sons to hearken to his words.

The Book of Mormon gives a brief history of Lehi's descendants, along with many prophecies and promises of God to his descendants. Since God foreknew, and had shown to Nephi in vision how wicked their descendants would finally become, there are also prophecies and promises to these other people who are called Gentiles in the Book of Mormon.

Nephi, the fourth son of Lehi, was a righteous man and leader. As mentioned before, he was given a vision of things that would happen in the future to their descendants. He beheld this, "And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they di-

vided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren" (1 Nephi 3:145)). But this isolation did not continue for he saw wickedness and mutual destruction develop among their seed, and as a result he saw the coming of the Gentiles to this land. By them he saw their seed (the Indians) scattered and smitten. See 1 Nephi 3:147-150.

Nephi was given a prophetic picture of the conditions which occurred many years later, which have been completely verified by American history.

Still there is a far more wonderful side to this picture of sin and grief, of wars and bloodsheds in which both the Indians and Gentiles so freely partook. This side is the fulfillment of God promises to both of these peoples.

These Gentiles brought a book, "And I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them" (1 Nephi 3:157). Nephi was told that the book was a record of the Jews, ". . . which contains the covenants of the Lord which he made unto the house of Israel; and it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets; . . . wherefore they are of great worth unto the Gentiles" (1 Nephi 3:161-164).



This book could be no other than the Holy Bible. It was to also contain the gospel of Jesus Christ (See v. 165), so it must have contained both the Old and the New Testaments.

Even so, the Gentiles still stumble in unbelief, but God promised that He would not always leave them in darkness. "For behold, I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious . . . behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb; and in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation" (1 Nephi 3:184-186).

The Bible was to go from the Gentiles to the Indians for Nephi also beheld, ". . . the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles, unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren" (1 Nephi 3:190).

After that Nephi saw other books, ". . . which came forth from the Gentiles unto them" (1 Nephi 3:191). These other books are to do a very special work, they are to come forth to ". . . the convincing of the gentiles, and the remnant of the seed (The Indians) of my brethren, and also the Jews, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true" (v. 191). This surely needs to be done for all categories listed! We note particularly the words "other books". So a plurality of them will be required to bring about so general a belief.

To continue, these ". . . last records (Note. - again a plurality) which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first" (v. 192). The first is the Bible, and surely it is now being questioned mightily today, by first the higher critics, and by the many versions which have come out in the 19th and 20th centuries, all of which seek to discount the prophecies, the miracles, even the verity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, or that He rose from the dead. It is of note that these "records" coming forth by the power of the Lamb, are in the hands of the Gentiles. Since this is to be true the Indians must get them, or can only get the books by the Indians going to the Gentiles for them, or the Gentiles bringing the books to the Indians.

Lehi had exhorted his sons, but the older ones came to Nephi for an explanation of their father's meaning. "And now, the thing which our father meaneth . . . is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief . . . then shall the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed" (1 Nephi 4:16). Farther on he says again, "And he meaneth that it will not come to pass, until after they are scattered by the Gentiles" (1 Nephi 4:261).

Once the Gentiles and the Indians fully comprehend this truth and accept the Gospel of the Messiah,

then both peoples should respect each other and also rejoice that God has brought them together on this land.

From 2 Nephi 12:75-76 we read that Nephi says this, "And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I would speak unto you: for I, Nephi, would not suffer that ye should suppose that ye are more righteous than the Gentiles shall be. For behold, except ye shall keep the commandments of God ye shall all likewise perish . . . for the Lord covenanteth with none, save it be with them that repent and believe in his Son, who is the Holy One of Israel."

After saying this Nephi goes on to say something about a book, which book we believe to be the Book of Mormon. He says, "For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many who shall believe the words which were written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed" (2 Nephi 21:80). Thus we learn that God is going to use the believers among the Gentiles to contact the Indians in order that they too might believe. And believing they will keep God's commandments, repent of their sins, and thus turn to the Holy One of Israel.

It is also promised in 1 Nephi 7:17-19 as follows, "And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; wherefore it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders. And it shall also be of worth to the Gentiles." ". . . and they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the Lord, out of all nations" (See Isaiah 66:19-20).

At the time that Jesus Christ visited and taught the forbears of the present Indians He also taught them the following, "That these sayings which ye shall write, shall be kept and shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that through the fullness of the Gentiles, the remnant of their seed who shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth, because of their unbelief, may be brought in, or may be brought to a knowledge of me, their redeemer" (3 Nephi 7:28). Jesus is here saying that the Gentiles must receive the writings of the seed of Lehi in order to bring to pass their part in taking to others the gospel and knowledge concerning Jesus Christ. The Book of Mormon being a second witness confirms the truth of the Bible account, for in the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses shall every word be established. See Matthew 18:16. Jesus goes on to say, "Therefore, when these works, and the work which shall be wrought among you hereafter, shall come forth from the Gentiles unto your seed . . . for thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles" (3 Nephi 9:91-92).

The rest of verse 92 gives an explanation of why its coming will be of much worth to the Gentiles. It reads, ". . . for this cause, that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and

come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel."

"And these things have I written, which are a lesser part (Book of Mormon) of the things which he taught the people; and I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again to this people, from the Gentiles, according to the words which Jesus hath spoken" (3 Nephi 12:2).

Once this has been done, God's promise to the descendants of Lehi or the Indians, is given in verse 3, "When they shall have received this, which is expedient they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things, then shall the greater things be manifest unto them."

This is truly a marvelous promise and one of which the church awaits fulfillment. We who have accepted and do believe the Book of Mormon to be a record of the Indian's forefathers are anxious for the Indians' belief. We desire to have these "greater things" made manifest.

Another reason given as to why the writings of the seed of Lehi are to come through the hands of the Gentiles is given in the Book of Mormon. See Mormon 2:39, 43. "Now these things are written unto the remnant of the house of Jacob, (which the Indians are) and they are written after this manner, because it is known of God that wickedness will not bring them forth unto them; and they are to be hid up unto the Lord, that they may come forth in his own due time." Had they not been hidden up they would have been destroyed when the Lamanites were fighting the Nephites. Or had they lasted, then surely the wicked Spaniards under Cortez would have burned them, or, since they were on gold plates they would have been melted down for bullion.

But God foreknew that wickedness wouldn't bring them forth, and v. 43 reiterates that it is done this way that the seed of this people (the Indians) may more fully believe His gospel, which is to go to them from the Gentiles.

Moromni, when abridging the Book of Ether, makes some comments of his own in the book. He says it was by faith that his fathers obtained God's promise that these things should come to his brethren through the Gentiles. (Ether 5:22).

Faith, even as that of a grain of mustard seed, can and will do great things, for God honors faith, accounting it for our righteousness. If faith has been born into our hearts, then we will repent and be baptized, even as it is taught in the Book of Mormon, as well as in the Bible. See Mormon 3:30-33. "Therefore repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus, and lay hold upon the gospel of Christ, which shall be set before you, not only in this record, but also in the record which shall come from the Gentiles from the Jews, which record shall come from the Gentiles unto you. For behold, this is written for the intent that ye may believe that; and if ye may believe that, ye will believe this also; and if ye believe this, ye will know concerning your fathers, and also the marvelous works which were wrought by the power of God among them; and ye will also know that ye are a remnant of the seed of Jacob, therefore ye are numbered among the people of the first covenant."

By reading and believing the Book of Mormon the Indians will come to know these things and to rejoice over them. They will come to realize their need for repentance, and baptism, both of the water, and by fire and the Holy Spirit. In thus following Jesus' example, and then in keeping His commandments, it shall be well with them in the day of judgment.

## BEAUTIFUL WORDS

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1-3).

"Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him . . ." Psalm 37:3-7).

The above prophecy — is it true? Prove its truthfulness — live it. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!

Among all the things of God's creation, which He said were good, He also made the laws of nature to govern all things.

"I am the Lord and there is none else, there is no God beside me . . ." (Isa. 45:5). "I form the light and create darkness: I make peace and create evil . . ." (Ibid 7).

We understand that each of these things shall bring forth of its kind. This then would result in a law of retribution, would it not?

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

But when our first parents transgressed the com-

mands of God and were cast out from His presence, they brought sin and death to all mankind. There had to be a plan brought forth whereby mankind could be brought back into the presence of His Creator, a plan of redemption; this was preached by Abraham in his day. Now, who was able to bring forth that plan after it seemingly was lost? Isaiah tells us about it.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end . . . the zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (9:6:7).

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Ibid 7:14).

The first and second chapters of Luke show this to be true. Now, it's history.

There are laws of required obedience to the government or kingdom of God.

The doctrine of Christ is: faith, repentance, baptism, laying on of hands (for the gift of the Holy Ghost, for ordination, for healing the sick, for blessing little children), eternal judgment and resurrection of the dead. These are the six fundamental principles.

And now, there are officers, called and ordained by revelation from God.

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (1 Cor 12:28).

"And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers: for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Eph. 4:11-14).

Jesus tells us, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:16, 17).

Then he asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? . . . And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:13, 16-18).

Paul tells us, "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:3).

A friend related to me a spiritual experience she had, once when we were talking about the gifts of the gospel. As a young woman she was keeping company with a young man she thought she might marry. Then her present husband was introduced to her; a voice said plainly, "This is the man you are going to marry." Without knowing where the voice came from, she answered firmly, "I am not!" But she did marry this man.

The riches of eternity — what do they mean to the penitent soul who will abide by God's law? Will we honor this plan of redemption our Lord gave His lifeblood to put into operation?

Jesus says, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

Many people in Christ's time, as now, love the man Christ, but failed to comprehend the purpose of His coming. Jesus rebuked Peter for that very thing.

"Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of man" (Mark 8:33).

The forewarning of that abiding Comforter promised to those who repent and are baptized, a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway, changes many things for the lonely traveler.

"And behold I have given you the law and the commandments of my Father, that ye shall believe in me, and that ye shall repent of your sins, and come unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit . . . For verily I say unto you, that except ye shall keep my commandments, which I have commanded you at this time, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (3 Nephi 5:66 68).

As Jesus hung there on the cross, a vinegar-filled sponge was put to His lips. Then He said, "It is finished." He bowed His head and gave up the ghost. He had been born into this world to bring forth a system that would redeem men's souls if they would apply it to their lives. He had suffered abuse and antagonism from those He came to save; He died the most horrible death they could bring upon Him. His efforts were finished . . . His physical suffering was over. He would be raised from the dead and the great resurrection would be brought to all mankind. The victory was won. It was finished.

"Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up

serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen" (Mark 16:14-20).

The Apostles went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, confirming the words with signs.

Now, what about these terrible floods? And we have been realizing the fulfillment of the promised judgment of droughts, with no snow, no rain, and with killing frosts. In Pakistan twenty thousand square miles were under water, one million tons of food destroyed.

Floodwaters will devastate all nations; fires will bring ruin; poverty will displace the strongholds of

wealth; tornadoes shall get worse; earthquakes shall increase. Instead of fertile fields there shall be famine, disease and pestilence, with no insurance to sustain the loss.

Why? Why? Jesus answers.

"And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations . . . I will bring the fulness of my gospel from among them" (3 Nep. 7:34, 35).

Can wickedness get any worse? There's a way out. Will we take it?

Lily Shirk

## TEMPLE LOT LOCAL NEWS

Greetings to all our "relatives" in the larger Church family! April and May have found us keeping out of mischief very well — no time to do otherwise.

On the second Monday of April our United Workers met at the home of Margaret Wheaton for monthly meeting and annual election. It was reported that several quilts had been made and some of these sold. (Most of our material has come from unsalable items from the Benefit Shop (Home for Aged). We have some wool quilts ready for next winter's needy; the lighter ones have been sold to our own members (bar-gains on both sides). We will divide the proceeds between the club and the Home for the Aged fund.

Margaret Casey and Irene Case remain in office as chairman and assistant. Grace Rudd is still secretary-treasurer. Margaret Wheaton will continue as cheery chairman for telephoning. They just shouldn't have done such a good job last year. The assistance committee consists of Margaret Casey, Grace Rudd and Velma Wheaton (as pastor's wife). Our fund raising and program committee will be Katie Moyer, Doris Ratterree and Menda Stotis. Katie Moyer will be devotional chairman and Donna Moser reporter.

We shared our usual potluck lunch and had such a delightful time together that, as always, it was a pleasure rather than a responsibility. We pray that our dear Father will accept to His glory what we try to accomplish this year.

Sunday afternoon, May 7th, our church downstairs area was the background for a wedding shower. It was a surprise for Robin Sprague (such a well-kept one that I just barely found out in time to get there). Susan Harris, Pat Bruner and Danielle Sprague were co-hostesses. They had us playing a scrambled wed-

ding word game that reminded me how long ago my wedding was. There was a sort of guessing game in which we tried to take away from each other and keep hidden household items. The most popular items were a toothbrush holder and a "red thing" (the only name we could find for it). There was a beautiful cake, decorated with pictures of Robin and Randy and bordered by tiny individual bridesmaid cakes. Of course there were many useful and pretty gifts too. God bless, dear Robin!

On Saturday afternoon, May 20th, Grace Rudd and daughter Denise opened their home for a baby shower for Becky Sheldon. There were guessing games: one set of intriguing definitions for parts of a baby (would you believe, 40 parts?), and possible newspaper headlines that might describe nursery rhymes. A sample of the latter was: Farmer's Wife Attacked by Blind Rodents (Three Blind Mice). The games were cute and funny; the decorations and refreshments were appealing; the presents were pretty and practical. But, best of all, the general loving desire for God's blessing of Becky and "Baby" was the outstanding feature.

We have two high school graduates this spring; we're very proud of both of them: Paula Case and Robin Sprague. How we do pray God's blessings on their next steps, and the next, and the next!

There is life in the old Anderson house on South Crysler, and dual life at that. Our Benefit Shop (Home for Aged) has opened for another summer at least. (Some much needed repairs will be made by a few of our Indian friends, who will pay their rent for one apartment this way. They have opened a full time office to be headquarters for their new National Indian Caucus). Our shop will be open for three days

weekly: Monday — 1:00 - 4:00; Tuesday — 10:00 - 2:00; Wednesday — 10:00 - 5:00. It is our desire to dedicate this effort to our Heavenly Father (and to some of his children in need).

Last, but decidedly not least! John and Barbara Case became parents on May 24th. A boy, weighing exactly seven pounds, and named Matthew Jacob. May God bless and keep and use the little family.

## CONFERENCE NOTICE

The August Ministers' Conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) for the year 1978 will be held Wednesday through Friday, August 16th-18th, at the East Independence Local Church of Christ. Conference will convene at 9:00 A. M. Wednesday. All members of the Priesthood are encouraged to attend. Evening services will be open to the public.

This conference is designed to "resolve mutual problems of the Ministry, to increase the zeal, enthusiasm and experience of the Ministry toward a co-

operative missionary endeavor, and to seek the will of the Lord concerning the missionary program of His Church." Special consideration should be given to individual spiritual preparation for the tasks required of a Minister of God in these latter days. Earnest fasting and prayer by all concerned is needed.

Committees are reminded to submit reports to the conference secretary no later than August 10th.

Gary A. Housknecht, Sec.

## THINK ABOUT IT

The first consideration of prayer should be offering yourself to God.

In grammar the first person is I. In prayer the first person is Thou.

The Preacher of Ecclesiastes said, "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in heaven and thou upon the earth; therefore let thy words be few."

The Lord said, "When ye pray use not vain repetitions . . ."

"Prayer is the hearts sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed" but do the true wishes of my heart agree with the words of my mouth?

We often say our prayers; but do we really pray just as often?

The prayer of faith is filled with expectation.

When a sailing ship captain, caught in a calm, asked a missionary on board to pray for wind, he was answered, "Unfurl your sails first."

## A FINAL TESTIMONY

On February 24, 1978 a young brother, Raymundo Polanco, of Yobain, Yucatan passed from this life. The cause of his death was kidney failure. Our brother was only twenty-two years of age when he passed away, but he leaves behind him a powerful and spiritual testimony to comfort and strengthen his family and his many loved ones in the gospel.

Raymundo first heard the gospel story from Brother Jeremias Koyoc in 1972 as they were working together in a cornfield. Prior to this time Raymundo lived a very worldly life - going to dances, drinking, fighting with his parents, etc. Brother Jeremias felt a great compassion for him and told him of a better walk of life that was available through the gospel of Christ. Jeremias invited his friend to go with him on a trip to Kopte to attend religious services. While there Raymundo greatly enjoyed the services. Upon arriving at his home he told his parents that he had enjoyed it much and was going to obey what he had heard.

And how true this declaration was to be! He quit all his wild ways and began to go to church, read the Bible and the Book of Mormon. He then began to explain to his parents and brothers and sisters all that he had learned of the Church of Christ. He was received into the church through baptism on March 21, 1974. He then began to assist in the services; he contributed to the church and prayed for the church, both in Yucatan and in the United States. He invited the elders to come to his home and hold services there.

Raymundo had been sick for a long time. After a sickness of three years he asked to be administered to and he said that he received much relief from his sufferings. Later, when he again became ill, his parents wished to take him to a cura, a sort of spiritualist healer, and although Raymundo did not wish to go he felt obliged to honor his parents. That night they traveled by a rented car to a town of Uman where this cura lived. But as the boy did not wish his services they waited until he was sleepy in order to perform the ceremony.

When the spiritualist began his prayers, Raymundo heard a voice from heaven that said to him, "Raymundo, my son, what are you doing here? Do you not know that you do not belong here? Immediately he arose, left the house and began to walk homeward. As he was walking he saw a bright star in the east and a vision of Jesus in the heavens. A voice said to him, "Son, today you are safe." He saw also some letters joined with Jesus which said, "Come unto me all ye that say 'Jehova'".

Later the affliction that was to take his life made itself manifest in our young brother. He lay very ill facing imminent death. His family was very distressed and sorrowful. They received much persecution from relatives and neighbors who maintained that Raymundo's illness was a result of having joined with the Church of Christ and belief in the Book of Mormon. One evening as they gathered around him, Raymundo posed this question to his family, "Have you ever seen God?"

After much thought they answered, "No, only in that we have seen Him through His works and miracles."

"Well," said Raymundo, "I have seen the Lord. And He has told me that it is necessary that I go with Him into His kingdom. Therefore, do not grieve for me because now I am going to a far better place."

This story of a young man and his experiences has been translated from letters written by Elder Placido Koyoc of Yobain. He tells us that this last testimony of our young brother has had a pronounced influence on the lives of Raymundo's family. Their belief has been strengthened and they have been able to withstand the persecution that surrounds the saints in Yucatan. He asks that you each remember the Polanco family in your prayers that God will lead them each into His kingdom as He did young Raymundo.

Donald E. McIndoo

## THE LORD'S SACRIFICE

by

Harvey E. Seibel

"For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many" (Isaiah 66:15-16).

"But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land, and those who shall be upon other lands; yea, even upon all the lands of the earth; behold, they will be drunken with iniquity, and all manner of abominations; And when that day shall come, they shall be visited of the Lord of hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire" (2 Nephi 11:116-117).

And again, "A noise shall come even to the ends 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, saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. 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: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground" (Jeremiath 25:31-33).

These scriptures tell of a time of great destruction in which the world will literally be covered with the

bodies of the dead. This terrible destruction will cleanse the world of iniquity, preparing the earth for the habitation of those who will live and reign with Christ throughout the millennium. This great slaughter is referred to in other places as the Lord's sacrifice.

"Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God: for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests. And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel" (Zephaniah 1:7-8).

As we can see, this sacrifice is closely associated with the day of the Lord. Gog or Russia therefore must then, of necessity, be that instrument of destruction with which God will cleanse the world after which Gog himself shall be destroyed. And if Gog is associated with that sacrifice the evidence for his involvement should appear in the prophecy concerning him. And indeed it does.

The account of Gog's invasion and ultimate destruction is given in Ezekiel 38 and 39. And though the house of Israel shall spend seven months in burying the dead, it is doubtful they will bury all who are killed before many have either moldered in the dust or been picked clean by scavengers. The account of these things is given in Ezekiel 39:17-22.

"And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather



yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, **of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.** Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord God. And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward."

In revelation, this sacrifice is referred to as the supper of the great God. It is at this time that the beast will be given to the burning flame. We read, "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of

mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: **AND ALL THE FOWLS WERE FILLED WITH THEIR FLESH**" (Revelation 19:17-21).

This slaughter ends Satan's earthly dominion for a period of 1000 years. And he that is left in Zion and he that remaineth in Jerusalem shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. (See Isaiah 4:3-4).

## A. I. M.? – OR INSPIRATION

The American Indian Movement does indeed have members participating in "The Longest Walk", which came through Independence in May. But that is only a small part of the story. The Walk's sponsor is not A. I. M., but the National Indian Coalition, an amalgamation of tribes and groups from all over the continent, including sympathetic non-Indians.

The Book of Mormon tells us that the Indians are a part of the Children of Israel. As such in particular, and as human beings in general, their honest concern becomes ours. The Coalition has the avowed (and some of us watched it in practice) purpose of emphasizing the spiritual aspect of life, of seeking guidance from the Great Spirit as they continue their walk. They are insisting that alcohol, drugs and weapons be eliminated. This is, of course, a practical means of insuring that the walkers remain peaceful. It is more. It is for the purpose of purification, done much as we fast in preparation for seeking God's help. They are so seeking!

On Sunday, April 30, the two Independence locals furnished a midday meal to 300 (approximately) Indian walkers, at the Temple Lot Local. Congregation members from several Missouri locals and also interested area residents held a prayer service in the morning. This was conducted by three of our own ministers: Apostles William Sheldon and Leon Yates and Bishop Nicholas Denham. The Indians held their own open air meeting outside in the afternoon.

Their stay here was hardly under way when they found themselves evicted from their headquarters office, one of the buildings owned by a sister church. They turned to the Temple Lot Local for help and it was given. For several days they kept people manning the phones and handling their Missouri transactions, then they were on their way again. During that time the main body camped at Lake Jacomo and members of our two congregations visited them there.

I talked to two of the spiritual leaders. One spoke of the many religious beliefs among the various tribes, and of ours, using a vivid phrase common among them. "I respect my brother's vision." Another talked about the Indian reverence (not worship) of the earth, the sun, all parts of the Great Spirit's creation. As he stood in the green quiet of the Temple Lot looking around at the surrounding buildings and parking lot, he said that they felt that this was a sacred place. "There is something different about this place. You can feel it." He told us that our people, the only ones who came officially to their help in trouble, were the closest followers of the Bible and the Book of Mormon that they had found. There was much individual help from all over the area; it was truly appreciated. He asked us to respect their beliefs, that respect ours. "Every man seeks his own vision." And then, "we will be back."

The ancestors of these people, who wrote the Book of Mormon, may have seen them coming. It remains

to be seen whether or not they are the actual beginning of the prophesied Lamanite movement toward Christ and Zion. They have not, as a body, come to know Jesus Christ as the Son of God, their Great Spirit. Individuals among them do, however, and they are in search of truth.

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near. So ye in like manner when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors" (Mark 13:28, 29).

Consider the possibility that what we see on the fig tree is — new leaves.

Donna Moser

**NOTICE**

The Audio-Visual Aids Committee has tape recordings (cassette) of all the sermons and music of the 1978 Church of Christ Conference. These are available to those who wish to listen to them on loan (\$1.00 postage and duplication) or to keep them (\$3.75 postage-paid for sermons, \$2.75 postage-paid for music).

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**LIST OF AVAILABLE TAPES FOLLOWS**

- Apostle Marvin Ely (In the Service of God)
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- Elder Albert Leighton-Floyd (The Sword of Justice)
- Apostle Donald McIndoo (Reaching Out With the Gospel)  
(This tape includes his ordination)
- Elder James Lacy (Stewardship, Our Reasonable Service)
- Music (Specials and congregational singing)

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Collins Local Church of Christ is currently in process of compiling a history dating from its beginning in the early 1930's. We are soliciting any information that would be helpful and necessary, such as names, dates, special blessings, experiences, and the circumstances of deaths, births, baptisms, blessings of babies, marriages, ordinations, etc., that in any way pertain to the Collins Local Church or its people. Send all contributions to Louise McIndoo, Rt. 1, Box 67, Preston, Missouri 65732. Thank you.

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"A Lamp Unto My Feet" — A 35 minute slide-tape narration about the Book of Mormon, directed toward Indian viewers.

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Send all orders to the Office Secretary, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Mo. 64051. Specify cassette tape or reel-to-reel. Slide projectors and recorders will not be provided.

Taped sermons can be obtained for home use by writing to Harold Gill, 18848 N. 30th St., Phoenix, Az. 85024 or to the Office Secretary, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051.

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