

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

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REPORT ON THE 1995 MISSOURI REUNION

Apostle Marvin Ely

THE FAMILY OF GOD

It hurts! Dear God, how much it hurts!
Each time a loved one falls away
It seems a living part tears loose.
A black cloud dims the sunny day.

We ask discernment; it brings pain!
But we need know which way to go.
Be with us, help us hold Your hand
And take the way that You will show.

Yet—some are wounded so much more
Than we can even comprehend.
Please, Father, please! Come close to them.
Dear Lord, don't let our family end!

Forgive our sins, for none are free
of wrongs toward You. And help us know—
There's just one sin we can't repent,
One virtue the greatest we can show.

We know You command we hate the sin,
But love the sinner though he fall.
Faith, hope, love abide—these three—
"Pure love of Christ" the best of all.

Know this. Perfect love casts out fear!
Strength comes from love; Love comes from God.
All things will work together for good
To each of us who loves his God.

Submitted by Donna W. Moser

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SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse
5317 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

Elder Leslie P. Case
8312 Lee's Summit Rd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64139

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Elder Robert W. Oldham
5709 Logan Rd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris
Church of Christ
P. O. Box 472
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Michael McGhee
18907 E. 6th Street N.
Independence, Missouri 64056

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Ron Temple
5621 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

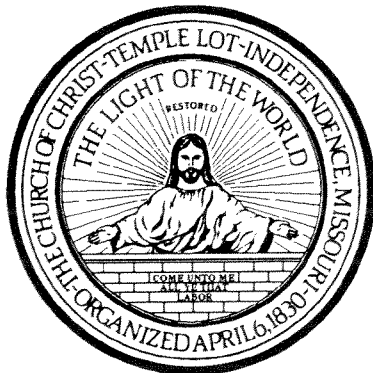
David Rudd
4917 Casey Court
Independence, Missouri 64055

FEATURE EDITOR - "Path Lights"

Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, Missouri 64052

PRODUCTION STAFF

Rickey J. Olson
Harvey L. Seibel



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To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate.

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Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights," submissions to other regular monthly Z.A. features, and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

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LOOK UP AND REJOICE

Elder Richard A. Wheaton

The basis of this article is taken from a sermon February 12, 1995, at the Temple Lot Local, of the Church of Christ, with some expansions as I have felt directed in preparing it to submit to Zion's Advocate. For some years I have resisted the Holy Spirit's prompting to speak out on this subject, because I listened too much to the complaints that the only thing being preached was doom and gloom, and while I suffer from no delusion that I am worthy to be a Noah, yet I am sure he heard much greater criticism, during his one hundred twenty years of preaching before the flood. But Christ prophesied, that as it was in the days of Noah, so it would be in the Last Days. Once again the Spirit moved upon me to speak upon this subject, when early in January, 1995, our Pastor asked me to speak. On those occasions in the past, when I have resisted the Spirit's prompting, I have felt it's rebuke, and in the future I shall no longer resist it, but speak when and as it prompts me to do so.

I will begin by using Joel 2: 1;

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;"

Joel was prophesying concerning the

"Last Days". We are living in "LAST DAYS" referred to in prophesy, which we all know to be true, from the abundance of prophesy in the Bible, Book of Mormon, Latter Day Revelation, and by the testimonies of many of the ministry and members of the Church of Christ in these the Last Days, both living today, and many who have passed on. They all bear testimony to the fact, that we are living in those LAST DAYS, right now, in February, 1995.

In case there is any question in your minds, as to whether Joel was prophesying of our day, or of Christ's crucifixion, or some other event, I want to refer to verses 23 through 24 before going on with this prophesy;

"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats (or vats, RAW) shall overflow with wine and oil."

The drying up of the former and latter rains was a part of the curse put upon the land of Palestine because the Jews had turned from the commandments of God following the crucifixion of Christ, and was to continue until the

return of His Kingdom upon the earth. (See Duet. 28: 15- 24, Isaiah 5: 1-7 and 30: 18-23, Hosea 6: 1-3, Zech 10: 1-3.)

These last two verses of Joel, pin-points the time of the fulfillment of this prophesy with unmistakable certainty to every believer in the Restoration. The Outline History of the Church of Christ, records on pages 77 through 79, the prayer offered by Orson Hyde, on the Mount Of Olives, in Jerusalem, on October 24, 1841, asking God to restore the rains and the fruitfulness of the land.

Note that this was just eleven and a half years after the establishing of the Church of Christ. It was also just under three years before the death of Joseph Smith, in 1844.

The former and latter rains were restored to Palestine in 1853, as confirmed by at least two separate news reports, also recorded in this reference from the Outline History. This event marks the time with unmistakable certainty.

THE FORMER AND LATTER RAINS HAVE BEEN RESTORED TO JERUSALEM, as promised by the LORD, in this prophesy.

Having established the time of the fulfillment of this portion of Joel's prophesy, the TIME OF THE END, AND CHRIST'S RETURN, is to take place in this our day and time, YOURS AND MINE, as promised by the Lord in this prophesy.

Now I want to go back and continue with a few more verses in this prophesy of Joel 2: 2- 8;

“A day of darkness and of gloominess,

a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.”

What Military man or woman would not like to serve in such an Army, in which they would not be wounded. My comrades and I, would have liked to have served our time in the Military in such an Army.

Let us go on with verses 9-11

“They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?”

Notice here that, THE EARTH SHALL QUAKE, THE HEAVENS TREMBLE BEFORE THEM, THE SUN AND MOON SHALL BE DARKENED, AND ETC., AND THE LORD SHALL COMMAND AND LEAD THAT ARMY AGAINST THE WICKED. HE WILL NOT BE THAT MEEK AND SUBMISSIVE PERSON WE KNOW FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT OF THE BIBLE AND BOOK OF MORMON, BUT HE SHALL BE VERY TERRIBLE.

Next He gives a commandment to you and to me, to the whole Church of Christ, brothers and sisters, which if we will comply with it, He will provide us a way of escape. Going on with verses 12 - 17;

“Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious

and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?”

He tells us to BLOW THE TRUMPET AND SOUND THE ALARM, GATHER THE PEOPLE, SANCTIFY A FAST, CALL A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY, SANCTIFY THE CONGREGATION, ASSEMBLE THE ELDERS, THE CHILDREN, THOSE THAT SUCK THE BREASTS; LET THE PRIESTS AND MINISTERS, WEEP AND PLEAD WITH THE LORD TO SPARE HIS PEOPLE. ENTREAT THE BRIDEGROOM TO COME FORTH FROM HIS CHAMBER TO TAKE HIS BRIDE.

And if we will do this, and not just for three days before conference each year, but until the LORD, will hear our cries, and know that we are sincere; Then HE, the LORD, has made us this promise, as we continue on with verses 18 and 19;

“Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied herewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen.”

But to partake of these promises and receive His protection, WE MUST, CALL A FAST, A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY, AND SANCTIFY AND DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO HIM AND HIS CAUSE. NOT AS A PART OF SOME OTHER ACTIVITY, BUT ONLY FOR THIS SPECIAL PURPOSE WHICH HE HAS SPECIFIED.

Then He will complete his work as related in the 20th and 21st verses;

“But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savor shall come up, because he hath done great things.”

I believe this “northern army” is primarily

the Russian armies, but also includes others of the Mongolian, Chinese, Japanese, Asiatic and Arab nations, as well. Though they are not now exactly allies, they represent most of the truly Anti-Christ forces in the earth.

I also believe that the “east sea” spoken of here, is the Pacific Ocean, the “utmost sea”, is the Arctic Ocean; and “the land barren and desolate”, is Siberia. I believe that this part of the prophesy is in the early process of fulfillment, in the fall of the Russian Empire of Lenin and Stalin.

I believe that the rest of the Gentile and Heathen Nations, (not necessarily all of their inhabitants), are also a part of this great force which will oppose the ARMY OF THE LORD in this overall conflict, which according to the book of Revelations, is called the Anti-Christ, and will be overcome by the ARMY OF THE LORD, before the thousand years of CHRIST’S REIGN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE begins.

Remember that the Scriptures, speaking of this time, says that “there will be two in the field, one will be taken and the other left...two women will be grinding at the mill, one will be taken and the other left”. (Matt. 24: 36 - 41).

Going back now to Joel, there is no nation or military force on earth, that is better described by this prophesy, or any other nation, or land than the Russias. It is the most northern of all nations, and its great northern armies, composed primarily of Mongolians, who since the days of Genghis Khan, have been among the most blood thirsty, ruthless, cruel, and feared peoples on the face of the earth.

The Mongol components of the Russian Armies have always been called upon by the Czars of Russia, and the USSR, for many generations, to perform its most ruthless operations of oppression. These same units are undoubtedly active in Chechnya today.

Russia has always run a close second to Germany, as the most oppressive nation against the Jews, and its practices of Jewish genocide rivals that of Nazi Germany under Hitler. This has been verified in recent years following World War II and especially since the fall of its Communist Empire. This nation is still a great and formidable threat to Christianity, and the house of Israel.

Our own nation has for more than 60 years, and still does today, treat the Russians with more caution than it does any other nation on the globe, including our allies. Though many boast today that we are now the uncontested military might on earth, we still keep our guard up and our eyes peeled for their treachery.

I believe that Russia is still a greater military and spiritual threat to world peace and safety, than any other combination of nations in the world for the following reasons:

1. The Russian nuclear arsenal is still intact.
2. She still has great air, land, and sea power.
3. Like the Nazi Germans, as a government, she has little or no moral or spiritual values.
4. They will continue to be a great threat, until the Lord's great army, spoken of above by Joel, subdues all the heathen nations of

the earth.

5. Let us not forget that Russia, and other nations can re-aim their nuclear weapons at us, as quickly as they are reported to have turned them in another direction after the collapse of the USSR.

6. Russia still has vast manpower, technology, and natural resources, to field great offenses in almost any direction, and at her will.

7. When Russia's economy becomes bad enough, and it will, her leaders will have no alternative but to turn the frustration of her masses outside her borders. It has always been so with the human race when they will not turn to God.

I do not believe that this great army spoken of by Joel is the armies of the United States and her Allies, or the United Nations; but is a heavenly host. This HEAVENLY HOST has been reported to have been seen by the Turkish armies facing the armies of General Allenby defending Jerusalem after the partitioning of Palestine following World War I, and again by the Arab armies in, the 1948 and later wars against Israel.

Do not forget that the Lord has said in many places in the Scriptures that He would fight Israel's battles in this day.

We recall, that during Christ's temptation by Satan, that Satan reminded Christ, that God had given His angels charge to protect Him (Christ) lest He dash His foot against a stone. (Mat. 4: 5 & 6.) Then why would such an Army

under Christ's command be so difficult to believe in.

But let us go on and finish this prophesy with verses 21 & 22;

“Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.”

This will be a glorious day for all those who will wait upon the Lord and remain faithful until that day.

I want to turn to Luke 21: 7- 11; Christ is speaking to His Apostles at the temple concerning His second coming;

“And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? And what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. (Matt. and Mark, read, “but the end is not yet.” RAW) Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers

places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.”

There has hardly been a year (yes even a month) in this century free of out-right war, threats and rumors of war, or commotions of nations in rebellion and strife. We have had two Great World Wars, that involved nearly every nation on earth. Before and between these two great wars, there were many nations at war one with another. Since World War II there have been many wars that involved most of the nations, through the United Nations, such as the Gulf of Tonkin incident which led to the Korean War, the Viet Nam War, the Persian Gulf War, the UN Police Actions around the world every day, and our own Nation's independent actions in self defense, such as the Cuban Missile Incident.

We see famine all over the globe and spreading rapidly, even in countries where there is no need for it, except from the destruction of the land, making it barren or unsafe to farm, by rebelling forces within nations, and their blockading of relief caravans.

We read of earthquakes all over the world, many where they were virtually unknown before. These things are coming to pass with every passing hour, yes literally every hour. The National Weather TV channel announced Friday morning, February 10, 1995, that it was initiating a daily section on the Weather Channel of EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE, in and near the west coast of the United States. Nearly every day there is reported a new earthquake some where in the world, (At least three in the

Los Angeles area, during the week of February 12 - 19, 1995, and in April more in Texas and Carolina, and in Japan, China, and S. Korea.) These quakes devastate not only millions and billions of dollars in property damage, but have taken hundreds and multiple thousands of lives, and untold thousands of injured, during the last few years.

When I was a boy, (I am now in my 74th year), earthquakes of this magnitude occurred only once or twice in a score of years. Writers in the Church's earlier publications of The Searchlight and Truth Teller, of the last Century were concerned for the Church because disastrous earthquakes were coming as often as every ten to fifteen years. Then should we not give greater attention when they are becoming common place every month, week or less?

I DECLARE UNTO THIS PEOPLE, THAT THE LORD IS SPEAKING LOUDLY TO US, TO SOUND THE ALARM, AWAKEN THE PEOPLE, THAT HE NOT COME UNTO US UN-AWARE, CATCHING US ASLEEP, AND WITHOUT OIL IN OUR LAMPS.

Now disease and pestilences are rampant all over the world, cholera, aids, cancer, fevers and viruses of every kind. Twenty years ago, most childhood diseases had all but disappeared in the United States, and some parts of the world, due to the intense immunization programs in our school systems and World Health Organizations. But now they are nearly out of control again in many parts of the country, and all over the world. This is so mainly

because they were considered by many to be too expensive and no longer needed. Ellis Island, in New York Harbor, was a quarantine station for every immigrant coming from Europe to this country, and the same was true in San Francisco, for those coming from Asia. But because diseases the world over had become so much better controlled through the World Health Organizations, they were abandoned and have been taken out of use for many years.

Now with the rise of disease again around the world and greatly increased immigration, they are kept in compounds in many parts of the country. But disease and pestilence are still on a very rapid increase.

I would now like to refer to I Nephi 3; In verses 148-176, Nephi records the vision which the Angel of the Lord showed him, of what shall come upon his people for many generations after his death. He saw the coming out of captivity of the Gentiles unto this land, (America, RAW).

And on through verses 177-178, the promise to Nephi that the Lord will not allow the Gentiles to "utterly destroy the mixture of thy seed, (Nephi's seed. RAW) which is among thy brethren".

Then in verses 179 and 180, we are told "Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall for ever remain in this awful state of blindness", into which they have fallen; which they are in today, the very days in which we are living right now, TODAY, February 1995.

In verse 181, the Lamb of God identifies

very specifically, who the remnant of this seed is, which He shall use to accomplish His purposes. This remnant is prophesied of in this chapter as well as others in this book."And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying, Behold, saith the Lamb of God, after I have visited the remnant of the house of Israel, and this remnant of whom I speak is the seed of thy father;" (Lehi, RAW).

In II Nephi 5: 36 - 39, we are given another marvelous promise concerning this special period of time;

“And behold, according to the words of the prophet, the Messiah will set himself again the second time, to recover them; Wherefore, he will manifest himself unto them in power and great glory, unto the destruction of their enemies, when that day cometh when they shall believe in him; And none will he destroy that believe in him.”

This is a very great promise to each of His creation, both the House of Israel, and the Gentile, if they will but believe in Him. But remember, believing is more than saying “I believe”, it follows that, if we believe we must also obey and keep His commandments. For He tells us in the 39th verse;

“And they that believe not in him, shall be destroyed, both by fire, and by tempest, and by earthquakes, and by bloodshed, and by pestilence, and by famine.”

We can see this destruction being fulfilled in nearly every country today, in our own streets, as well as throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Islands of the Sea's.

Those nations have all but forgotten their hatred of Israel, which they had only a couple of years ago, because of their fighting among themselves, as pointed out above that they would do. In the 40th to 44th verses;

“And they shall know that the Lord is God, the Holy One of Israel: For shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the Lord; Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for the mighty God shall deliver his covenant people. For thus saith the Lord: I will contend with them that contendeth with thee, and I will feed them that oppress thee, with their own flesh; And they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine;”

We also see this prophesy coming to pass, in many nations; first many thousands of Jews are delivered from their captors and dwell under their own flag and government as a free and independent nation for the first time in nearly two thousand years; and secondly, the Bosnians, Serbs, Arabs on every hand, the Russians, and on and on with out end, are in rebellion against their brothers, fathers, and governments. In verse 45;

“And all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.”

Mankind as a whole, has not yet accepted the Lord in any capacity, and that is why these things will continue until they do acknowledge Him.

Let us now go to 11 Nephi 11: 64-87 for a little more;

“Wherefore the cry of the blood of the saints shall ascend up to God from the ground, against them. Wherefore all those who are proud, and that do wickedly, the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, for they shall be as stubble; And they that kill the prophets, and the saints, the depths of the earth shall swallow them up, saith the Lord of hosts: And mountains shall cover them, and whirlwinds shall carry them away, and buildings shall fall upon them, and crush them to pieces and grind them to powder; And they shall be visited with thunderings, and lightnings, and earthquakes, and all manner of destructions; For the fire of the anger of the Lord shall be kindled against them, and they shall be as stubble, and the day that cometh shall consume them, saith the Lord of hosts”.

From the heavens are coming more frequent and severe hurricanes, typhoons, and tornadoes, than ever before. These are larger,

stronger, more devastating than ever before, and in places that only a few years ago were considered all but safe from this type of disaster. Until the 1960's, who would have expected tornadoes in Utah, Colorado, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Canada? These areas of North America now know the force of this kind of storm and destruction.

The same is true of many other parts of the world. There are also great mud and land slides, which cover whole towns and cities, “mountains covering them”. We see massive, devastating floods, both natural and by the bursting of great dams, due to earthquakes and over filling them by floods, as other scriptures prophesy.

We also see great fires, both natural and man made, in areas of this country and the world, causing great destructions, such as destroys much of the timber and property in our western states, year after year, with greater loss of life and property, than ever before. These are due in part to increasing drought. But in great measure due the denuding of vast areas of primal forests for lumber, for over a century, to house ever increasing populations, and for the extraction of surface and underground sources of wealth, largely to satisfy greed. Great cities are being destroyed, like those in Japan, Florida, California, and elsewhere around the world by these forces. “Such as the world has never known.”

Let us skip on down to verses 78 - 85;

“And as I spake concerning the convincing of the Jews, that Jesus is the

very Christ, it must needs be that the Gentiles be convinced also, that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God; and that he manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost; Yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, working mighty miracles, signs and wonders, among the children of men, according to their faith. But behold, I prophesy unto you concerning the last days; concerning the days when the Lord God shall bring these things forth unto the children of men. After my seed, and the seed of my brethren shall have dwindled in unbelief, and shall have been smitten by the Gentiles; Yea, after the Lord God shall have camped against them round about, and shall have laid siege against them with a mount, and raised forts against them; And after they shall have been brought down low in the dust, even that they are not, yet the words of the righteous shall be written, and the prayers of the faithful shall be heard, and all those who have dwindled in unbelief, shall not be for-

gotten; For those who shall be destroyed shall speak unto them out of the ground, and their speech shall be low out of the dust, and their voice shall be as one that hath a familiar spirit; For the Lord God will give unto him power, that he may whisper concerning them, even as it were out of the ground; and their speech shall whisper out of the dust."

In conclusion I want to use Luke 21: 25-28;

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; thesea and the waves roaring: Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Second Book of Nephi 11:145

"For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will shew unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men, save it be according to their faith."

The Comfort Of The Spirit

Matthew 5: 4, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted". Thus spoke Jesus to the disciples as they sat up on a mountainside at a time of retreat from the daily press of the multitudes who had followed him from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond Jordan.

His fame had spread far and wide as he been preaching in their synagogues, and healing their sick. He had a message of hope for a troubled nation and its poor and underprivileged people. His teachings of a Kingdom of God had the ring of authority that attracted widespread attention.

Of all human experiences death of a loved one was a traumatic and shattering event. It brought changes in ones fortunes and happiness even as it does today. With all the attending problems we all suffer the sense of loss and bereavement, our sorrow is overwhelming and we mourn for extended periods of time.

Mourning is as debilitating as a sickness from a physical disease. If we consider that it is a spiritual experience we see it as a difficult thing to cope with, untouchable and beyond

our sense of control. The eternal question always arises, "Who are we? where do we go at death?" To the unbeliever in God of the Bible, this is a unanswered question, usually ending in a denial that God exists. Most all people have some understanding of a god and a spirit world. Common to all is the emotional trauma of mourning the death of loved ones.

Jesus was sensitive to all the human suffering about him and this was no less a problem than any other sickness. His offer of hope through the Gospel of the Kingdom was the answer. To those who would

believe this gospel there was the hope of eternal life. Jesus taught the Jews that there would be a resurrection of the dead. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." St. John 6:28-29.

We read in the story of Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha, who died. Jesus taught that there was to be a resurrection of the dead.



“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?” St. John 11:25-26.

Jesus was crucified and died on the cross that we might have life and salvation for the soul, or our spirit and bodies, to be resurrected as was He. The story of His death and resurrection is related for us in all the four gospels. St. Matthew writes, “And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept (were dead. AGS) arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared to many.” Chapter 27:52-53.

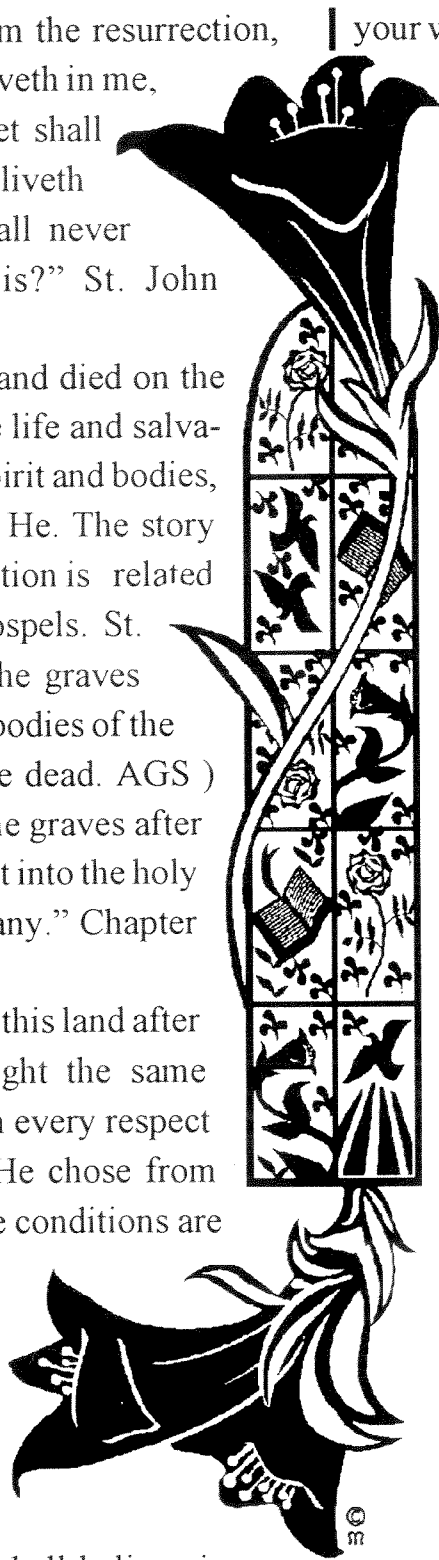
When Jesus came to this land after His resurrection he taught the same gospel of the kingdom in every respect to the twelve disciples He chose from among the Nephites. The conditions are the same, the blessing of comfort will come through the working of the Spirit to those who believe and are obedient. We read, “Yea, blessed are they which shall believe in

your words, and come down in the depths of humility, and be baptized; for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost , and shall receive a remission of their sins.” 3rd Nephi 5:49. “And again, blessed are all they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Verse 51.

Obviously, the ones who will be blessed are the ones who believe in God and accept the promise by faith in Him. These will inherit eternal life, coming forth in the resurrection having been found worthy of the reward for obedience to the will of God.

This teaching is comforting to us now in this life when we are mourning the loss of our loved ones. If we are believing, and obedient, the Holy Spirit will comfort our hearts by reminding us of the sure promises of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Elder Arthur G. Smith



Path Lights



Presence Of The Lord

*"Hello, Lord, are you there?
I haven't had an answer to my prayer"*

*A still small voice answered me
"Ponder these things and you'll agree"*

*"Each prayer is answered one by one
By the various things which I have done."*

*"Were you able to walk to your work
today?"*

*"Did you recognize your child at play?"
"Could you hear what others did say?"*

These, my son, are answers to prayer

*"Were you able to kneel and pray to me
In America, the Land of the free?"*

*"Were you able, my son to express
your views*

*And attend church whenever you
choose?"*

These, my son, are answers to prayers

*"But, Lord, I prayed for World peace too
To achieve this, what must I do?"*

*"To accomplish this, you must Labor
Starting with "Love thy neighbor"*

*Then they will spread this Love around
And Word peace will soon abound"*

*"Though you think that I'm not there
I really am—because I care"*

Sam Kidd March 29, 1995

Path Lights

THE FIRST STEP

On the next to last page of the July Advocate is an urgent request for articles and testimonies. With it is a list of possible topics. Each is a pertinent question; several are, to my mind, critical. These latter have a common denominator. The first step in the answer to each is contained in a remarkably vivid word picture, also found in the July issue. The questions are these:

How can we rely on the unchangeableness of God?

How do we fill our Lamps with oil?

How can we enjoy the Gifts of the Spirit?

What are some practical ways we can Overcome the World?

What specific steps can we take to overcome particular weaknesses, such as:

Anger, Pride, Lust, Temptation?

How can we return to the "Old Paths"?

How can we become "As a Little Child"?

What will it take for us to become a Humble People?

How important is paying Tithing?

How can we find the right Mate?

How can we improve our Marriage?

What are some basic steps to raising Godly Children?

How can we build Stronger Families?

What can we do to help bring about Zion?

The sentence with its wonderful word picture is in the News from the Ravenna Local, sent in by Norma Keith. See if you don't agree with her (and me) that "If your day is hemmed with prayer, it is less likely to unravel."

HE HEARS AND ANSWERS

Feel the fabric is unraveling?

"Hem your day with prayer!"

God promised us He'd never change.

"Hem your day with prayer!"

Lord, what can I do to help?

"Hem your day with prayer!"

Help me fill my lamp with oil.

"Hem your day with prayer!"

Please! Give Spirit's gifts to us.

"Hem your day with prayer!"

How can I o'ercome the world?
"Hem your day with prayer!"
Oh, help me rise above my weakness!
"Hem your day with prayer!"
Help me hold the old, old path.
"Hem your day with prayer!"
Let me be like a little child.
"Hem your day with prayer!"

Lord, can I ever become humble?
"Hem your day with prayer!"
Father, do I owe You tithe?
"Hem your day with prayer!"
Please, bring to me the one true love.
"Hem your day with prayer!"

How can we make our marriage good?
"Hem your day with prayer!"
Help us lead each child to you.
"Hem your day with prayer!"
Help us keep our family strong.
"Hem your day with prayer!"

Dear Lord, You've told us it will come:
Zion first, then Heavn'ly home.
Pure love of Christ we ask for now,
Because You've told us that is how
To cast out fear. Be With us here.
Help us hem our days with prayer!

Donna Moser
Love to all!

Report on the 1995 Missouri Reunion by Apostle Marvin Ely:

The Missouri Reunion took place on August 11, 12 and 13th at the Church on the Temple Lot. Since the Missouri Reunion Zion's Advocate reporter was unable to be at all the meetings, she asked if I would write the report in as much as I take notes of the services. I agreed to this request. To start with I would like to present thoughts from some of the testimonies followed by comments on the sermons.

One testimony centered around the work among the Cherokees and that we need to pray for the Indian children that their interest may

increase in the work being done at the Cherokee Mission in North Carolina. A sister stated that she was thankful for the activities for the young people and for the children's choir. She also said it is important to teach the children that they may have God central in their lives. Various ones during the reunion commented on the importance of our children and the training we should give them. Just preceding the reunion there was a Teen Camp held for the twelve through eighteen age group. During this camp many issues and needs of the young people were addressed. A very good report

was brought back of their activities.

One of the Teen Camp Counselors said: "It is a pleasure to be here and to have been with your children at the camp". He also stated that in Mexico this year there was a 3 day camp for the young people at which 46 were present. He also read a letter from young Placido in which he wrote: "Our future is in our young people".

A sister stated she was thankful for the love that had been given to her family as well as to herself in the trying things that had happened to them. She also said that she was grateful that we have a loving and forgiving God who loves us very much. A brother who recently had surgery for prostate cancer was thankful to God that he did not have much pain following surgery. He said: "I was administered to and received help from the Lord". Another brother who also had this type of surgery last year stated how well he had done following the surgery and how thankful he was for the prayers of people. The doctor he had was amazed how well he had done. The statement was made to the doctor: "I had a good doctor", but the doctor gave the Lord the credit.

A brother related his testimony about a trip he made to Honduras with the John Gill family and how they were saved from robbers by the power of God. He also described how brother John Gill's life was preserved after having been shot by one of the robbers. If it had not been for God, he would have lost his life. They were all thankful to God for the blessings they had received.

Time was given following the final ser-

mon for a testimony from a young sister who did not get the opportunity to offer her testimony during the sacrament service. She said: "I am thankful for the Teen Camp this week. The theme of the camp was Seeking the Lord". She also informed us that before their devotions they knelt and prayed. Then she said: "I want to tell the counselors how much I appreciate you giving up your time and vacations that the Teen Camp might be a success".

We can readily see that it is important to give guidance and direction to our children so they may know the path to walk that will bring happiness and peace to their lives.

In the opening preaching service we were admonished to nourish the word by our faith with great diligence and with patience, looking forward to the fruit there of that it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life. We were also told that the fruit is sweet above all that is sweet and white above all that is white, and pure above all that is pure. Also during this service, we were admonished to pay our tithes to the Church.

The next sermon centered in on the time of the end. He brought out many things that will take place before the return of Christ including that it would be a time of deception where false prophets shall rise and deceive many. Also it would be a time of iniquity. "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" Matthew 24:12. We were also informed that "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" Matthew 24:14.

In the next sermon we were asked: "Have you spiritually been born of God?" Alma 3:27. Then he read from Romans 12:1-3 in which we were told that we must present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. This is our reasonable service to God. He also read from the above reference that we must not conform to the world, but that we must be transformed. The importance of feasting upon the words of Christ was also stressed.

Another sermon referenced the following reference from Proverbs 4:26-27 "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil". We also were informed of the importance of humbling ourselves and continuing in prayer. We were told that we must pray over all things including the power of our enemies and against the devil who is the enemy to all righteousness. The importance of the family unit was also stressed.

One sermon held out special hope to us in which he read from John 14:1-3. "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also". The importance

of keeping God's commandments was also stressed.

In another sermon emphasis was placed upon the importance of first seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness. We were also told to put off the former conversations of the old man; "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" Ephesians 4:24. We were also told to bear one another burdens that they may be light.

In the final sermon he said: "I believe we are living in the generation that proceeds the coming of Christ". We were told to offer unto God our thanksgiving; "And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" Psalm 50:15. During this sermon, he stressed that this place would be the center place of the gathering. Also the statement was made in this sermon that we have a duty to take this gospel to the remnant of Jacob on this land and also to the Jewish people.

The reunion came to an end all too soon but it was good to be a part of the services and also to be able to fellowship one with another. We especially, enjoyed the music and songs that were presented during this reunion. It was really uplifting to see so many of the young take part in the services.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1995 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 7. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 8. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 5 and 6. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1995 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 21 through 23, at Independence, Missouri.

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