

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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Facets of Love

"Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee..."

DEUT. 5:16.



"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman... Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" GEN 2:23-24.



"And now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light... to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort..." MOS.

9:39-40.



"Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him... and love God with all your might, mind and strength..." MI. 10:29.

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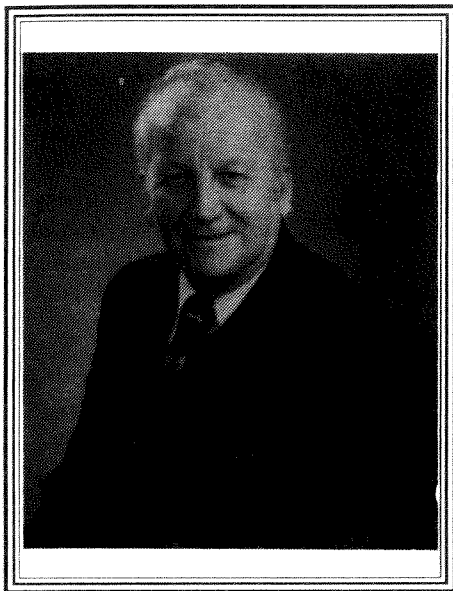
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

ARTICLE

From Babylon to the New Jerusalem with its Holy Temple in this Generation



By Apostle
William A. Sheldon

Within the Church of Christ we may be prone to think only of the goal of eternal life (salvation), and thus to dwell in the heavenly realm in the very presence of God and of Jesus Christ, with all the saints who have gone before, and others of the heavenly host; a noble and worthy goal if we have not lost sight of the fact that its attainment is vitally connected with a genuine compassion for our fellow man both temporally and spiritually.

Yet I feel that in many respects our belief for personal fulfillment has become limited

to that of the "hereafter." If so, do we ignorantly overlook, or even arbitrarily pass over the simple but powerful teachings of the Master relating to his dominion upon earth before that of the heavenly? Of the events in the physical which must transpire ere He is to become "King of kings and Lord of lords"? Do we suppose that our dwelling with God may only follow a life of suffering obedience in the here and now? No, you say. We are promised that his Spirit will be with us to comfort and revive; to heal our broken hearts and bodies, and to give us peace and joy through our faith in Christ in the face of continued suffering. Just so, for He has said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Matt. 5:3,4.

But now notice:

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. v. 5.

Note especially that the meek shall inherit the earth;

but all the above, together with that which follows, are appropriate to that blessed state in a very real sense upon the earth, even as beyond this life. Please be advised: the earthly inheritance shall be in accord with a fixed time decreed of God in the last days!

...Unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called... The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isa. 9:6-7.

How great are the words of our Lord! and how great the words of Isaiah and all the holy prophets! Yes, great also are the divine prophecies through our latter day prophet, Joseph Smith! Or have we assumed, as many others, that the only good done by Joseph Smith was to translate the Book of Mormon by the power of God? (An after-

thought: O, yes; also to assist in the organization of the Church of Christ by command of God; and yes: to receive the holy priesthood of God—agreed?) Notwithstanding human frailty including human exaltation, even by many others in the Church, he was a prophet who delivered much of the word of God to the Church.

For the sake of brevity, we have only touched a few preliminary scriptures as background since we intend to dwell on some more directly connected with the thoughts suggested by our title. Please read, however, all the above quote; all of Isa. 4; 11:1-9; 14:32; 25:9; 30:18-21; 32:16-18; 33:14-17; 35:3-10; 41:10; 48:20-21; 54:10-17; 57:15; 60:19-22; 62:1-4 and 65:17-25. These are only a few of the prophecies given of God for good to come upon his saints in the last days; things to occur upon this earth revealing the second coming of Christ in his righteous reign.

But can we suppose that real peace, goodness and joy may be had by the nations unless there shall have been a great humbling process through divine judgment, and the nations be caused to know that the God of Israel IS God, Lord of all?? Nay, it cannot be! Well—perchance this is somewhere in the distant future (we may blithely ruminant in the recesses of our minds)! Could it be in our time—right now—that the spiritual degeneration of the nations has become so

great that the wrath of God is to be poured out without mixture upon this generation in order to prepare the earth for that time of peace called the millennial reign of Christ?

We take comfort in quoting to others from Rev. 14:6-7 having been fulfilled by angelic visitation to Joseph Smith at the inception of this great latter day work of God for the gathering of his saints and the whole house of Israel, and that the organization of the Church of Christ in 1830 A.D. was a preliminary incident for that purpose. Are you not aware that this is all in preparation for the glorious reign of Christ upon the earth?

There may be only a few who agree with me that the angel referenced was John the Baptist who, according to our history, and in fulfillment of Isa. 40:1-3 regarding his coming, laid his hands on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, ordaining them to the priesthood, opening the way for promulgation of the gospel of peace; and this to be prior to the time when—

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Isa. 40:4-5.

But, returning to Rev. 14,

we find another angel which should come, saying—

...Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

And then the saints of God are warned:

...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. Rev. 18:4.

You are urged to read all of Rev. 18, and then to obtain our booklet, *Babylon's Fall and the Way of Escape*. If contact is made with me, either by phoning the Church office or by mail, I will be glad to send this booklet, for I am impressed with a spirit of urgency in this matter. As for Babylon's impact upon the Church: our special concern, aside from any connection with the "great and abominable church" delineated so well in the Book of Mormon (do we need to elaborate more specifically here?) is in the economic area, with its many enticements as a great part of a "pit of destruction" in the last days (see 1 Ne. 3:206-207 and 7:26-29).

The Gentile nations as now existent, with their systems of greed and human exaltation, are to be brought to naught, to be destroyed. This is succinctly prophesied in Dan. 2:44. The kingdom of God will break them

down so as to be "like the chaff of the summer threshing floors...and no place was found for them" (v. 35).

Well, perhaps for survival, our hearts being finally filled with the pure love of Christ, we will then see the development of Zion as a spiritual condition with its natural characteristic: all things common; but this is another subject.

Now: what about the New Jerusalem, and its focal point, the holy temple or house of the Lord? Here we would reference the tract *Zion and The Temple Of The Lord* for your research. Is Zion, as a physical location, the New Jerusalem spoken of in Eth. 6:3-8 and 3 Ne. 10:1-3? Most certainly. We will quote in this regard from 3 Ne. 9:86:

And verily, I say unto you, I give unto you a sign, that ye may know the time when these things shall be about to take place, that I shall gather in from their long dispersion, my people, O house of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion.

Zion is pre-eminently a condition of righteousness, but also a place where those of that spirit shall be dwelling together in unity, for God "shall establish again among them my Zion." We are informed in 3 Ne. 10:2 that "as many of the house of Israel as shall come, (will) build a city which shall be called the New Jerusalem," and that

Christ will be in their midst.

But the big problem with some is in connecting the building of a holy temple with that Zion, or New Jerusalem. What about it friends? Have we be-

The Gentile nations as now existent, with their systems of greed and human exaltation, are to be brought to naught...

come stung with false revelation in the past, and as a result conclude we or the Lord do not need a temple, a building especially devoted to His worship, even by His very presence? Well certainly God doesn't need it, for the fullness of the earth and all creation is His.

Will you concede that the Lord heard and responded favorably to Solomon's beautiful prayer as he stood before the temple he had built, as recorded in 1 Kings 8:22-53, and consecrated it with a sacrifice of peace offerings and a commitment for his people to walk in the statutes and commandments of God?

And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever; and mine eyes and

mine heart shall be there perpetually.

Do I hear: Oh, that was then, and they were living under the Mosaic law! We do not need a temple now, for we need only to consecrate our lives, our bodies as temples for God! Please be careful—thoughtful—prayerful—full of humility and faith. Doubt not but be believing. See Mormon 3:93.

Consider this: Would you have a part in building the New Jerusalem? You believe in that, don't you? Well, if not, you will certainly not be there, whether in this mortal frame or in the immortal state. Many shall be there, both of Israel and of converted gentiles, those of the saints of God having passed from the earth and those living contemporaneously. They shall come to a city having been built by human hands, and to be glorified by the Divine Presence: Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Ghost. And that New Jerusalem shall be "a holy city unto the Lord like unto the Jerusalem of old (Eth.6:8). It shall include a holy temple in honor to God!

For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come (the very presence of Christ/w.a.s.): and I WILL FILL THIS

HOUSE WITH GLORY, saith the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts (yes, He will provide the means for building his house through a dedicated people who will consecrate their all to Him/w.a.s.). The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former (that house built by Solomon/w.a.s.), saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts (during the millennial reign of Christ/w.a.s.). Hag. 2:6-9.

Methinks I hear voices saying: This refers to a temple to be built in Jerusalem. Well, be that as it may; I have no quarrel with a temple being built there too, for it surely shall be. But will we still object to a temple on the American continent? If so, why? Do we not understand that the law of God is to proceed "out of Zion," while the word of the Lord is to proceed also from Jerusalem (Isa. 2:3)? That—

The Lord shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem (Joel 3:16).

Okay. The Lord is going to speak out of the New Jerusalem (in Zion) in thunderous tones; but a temple??

And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and upon

her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory of Zion shall be a defense. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and a covert from storm and from rain. 2 Ne. 8:69-70.

This tabernacle is nothing but the Lord's holy temple; defined as "a place of worship for a large audience; a Jewish temple."

Do we have a problem with Zion (New Jerusalem) being in North America, in the U.S.A.? Well, are we convinced that the stone cut out of a mountain without hands, as referenced in Dan. 2:34, was truly the kingdom of God (v.44), which kingdom was revealed by the organization of this Church of Christ on April 6, 1830, and which occurred in these United States of America? If so, then where better to locate the New Jerusalem we are considering. The matter is solidified by Psa. 48:1-3:

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness (the seat of his government, for the law is to go forth out of Zion; Isa. 2:4/w.a.s.). Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known

in her palaces for a refuge.

And then we are strengthened further by verse 9:

We have thought of thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.

The sides of the north is surely North America, below the Arctic regions!

So why will any object to God having revealed to Joseph Smith that a temple to be consecrated to the worship of God should be built in Independence, Missouri, upon a lot lying westward and not far distant from the old courthouse (see D&C 57:1)? Well, there are doubters, unbelievers who will have no part in the building of the New Jerusalem or its temple; for this we can only mourn.

But again we hear the clamor: It says in RLDS D&C 83:2 that the temple would be built "in this generation," the generation of the giving of the revelation in 1832. So that settles the matter! That generation has passed away; therefore, no temple, as declared there! But hold on! Are we sure—really sure—of that conclusion?! Or is it that we really don't want to accept any revelations through Joseph Smith?

So, let us consider the term *generation*. We may think that since our children are in the next generation coming from us, that a generation is perhaps 20 to 30 years, or the time it takes to procreate, or create off-

spring. Or, we may have other thoughts to lengthen the time—but 164 years (plus); from 1832 to 1996 (plus)?? That period of time being a generation??

I believe that a prophetic generation is 100 years for the following reason: Four generations, according to Book of Mormon prophecy, is 400 years; therefore, one generation is 100 years. See Hel. 5:10-14; Al. 21:9 and 3 Ne. 13:7-10.

Aha! So a generation is 100 years, and no temple has been built in Independence on the spot appointed by God. But hold on, again. Jesus said that there would be none of that blessed generation of Nephites to whom He ministered who would be lost; even all of them living in that generation would be saved.

Consider this possibility: Christ came here among the Nephites in 34 A.D.; so in 100 years thereafter (or 134 A.D.) there would be a child having been born in 133 A.D. to godly parents. The joy of Christ was full because of them (those to whom he spoke) "and also this generation" (3 Ne. 13:7); those with their descendants coming forth in that 100 year span of time.

So: 164 years (plus) is still within that generation allotted to the building of the Lord's temple! I, myself, was born in 1922, within that generation beginning in 1832—before the year 1932—and could possibly live to see the building of the

New Jerusalem and the Lord's temple.

I have not lost faith in the building of the temple on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri. Neither do I believe that our spiritual forbears who

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came to Jackson County and Independence in the winter of 1866-67, who managed within ten years to acquire the Temple Lot property, did so in vain; that the sacrifices they made to hold this land from possession of the RLDS Church, which brought a civil suit for that purpose in the 1890's, was also in vain. No, no!

Granville Hedrick received a revelation in 1864 regarding the gathering of the saints to Jackson County, Missouri, in 1867 (see Outline History, p. 107). Why here? Because Independence, in Jackson County, was to be the center place of Zion, and where the Lord's temple should be!

Well, do we believe in that revelation? If not, then why be concerned with having our Church headquarters on the Temple Lot?? It could just as well be elsewhere!

I am convinced that the Temple Lot property is to be the

focal point for the gathering of the saints of God, even as inferred in the vision given to Elder Cole (see Outline History, p. 131), relative to the elders of Israel going through the dead fallen tree (which represented other latter day saint bodies) to prune out the live branches. This indicates a gathering of the saints of God—those who are pure in heart—that there may be one fold: the Church of the Lamb of God (see 1 Ne. 3:220-228); that here on the Temple Lot will be the beginning of the New Jerusalem (for there was a live stump of that tree on the Temple Lot); that this will be for the gathering of the remnant of Jacob (of the Lamanites), in the building of the New Jerusalem, "beginning at the Temple Lot," as we are informed through the prophet Joseph Smith; and that it shall be "in this generation."

(The following is principally copied from "Behold I Come Quickly," Part Two, as found in the Zion's Advocate for July 1970.)

Now learn a parable of the fig tree: When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation (in which these things transpire/w.a.s.) shall not pass, till all these things be ful-

filled. Matt. 24:32-35.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The reason for these re-

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

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

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

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

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

"And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, inasmuch that there were wars and rumors of wars

among all the nations and kindreds of the earth....

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

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

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

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

The sense of the term "trodden down" is clearly, under complete domination. Therefore, if something happened at the time of that war to release the land of Jerusalem from Gentile domination, and preparing the way that it might be a homeland for the Jews, then we may be certain that we are living in the very

generation of which Jesus spoke, "shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled," and this includes the second coming of Christ in great power and glory.

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

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

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

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

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

This was literally fulfilled at the time that General Allenby (of England) was preparing to capture Jerusalem from the Turks (in World War I). He didn't want to fire

upon it because of its religious and historical significance, so he wired the Prime Minister of London for advice. Being told to do as he thought best, he still hesitated, then wired the King. He was admon-

Every sign of which Jesus spoke has surely come to pass, except the coming "abomination of desolation" and the spectacular heavenly display just preceding the glorious appearance of Christ in the clouds of heaven.

ished to make it a matter of prayer, which he did, with all his officers. Rising from their knees, a herald approached with a flag of truce; the governor of Jerusalem surrendered.

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

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

Returning now to the Book of Commandments 48, we found (v. 25) that the Jews were to be scattered among the nations, and remain so "until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (and we have found that this was to be at the time of World War I).

*...And men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth. And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound; and when the time of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fullness of my gospel; but they receive it not, for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men: and **in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.** And there shall be men standing in that generation that shall not pass, until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land (Ibid. 26-28).*

Using the reasoning we have given in this presentation, a prophetic generation is 100 years, and the generation spoken of as "this generation" for the building of the Lord's temple is the same generation of time incorporating the deliverance of Jerusalem as shown above.

When the time of the Gentiles was to come in, the fullness of the gospel was to

shine forth; but in the same generation, the Gentiles times were to be fulfilled.

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

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

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

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

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

This too had been prophesied (Isaiah 29), and was to occur shortly after the great latter day restoration of the fullness of the gospel. All of this shows the wonderful

preparation made by God for the recovery of His people to Himself, and the second coming of Christ.

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

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

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

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

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

And all men who walked in the ways of the Lord, died

in those days, before the Lord brought the evil upon man which he had declared, for this was from the Lord, that they should not see evil which the Lord spoke of concerning the sons of men. Jasher 4:20.

It may come as a surprise that there were those who were righteous other than Noah and his family; but in that self-same year of the flood, the Lord took them in death. This harmonizes with Isaiah 57:1:

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

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

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

Three Laws

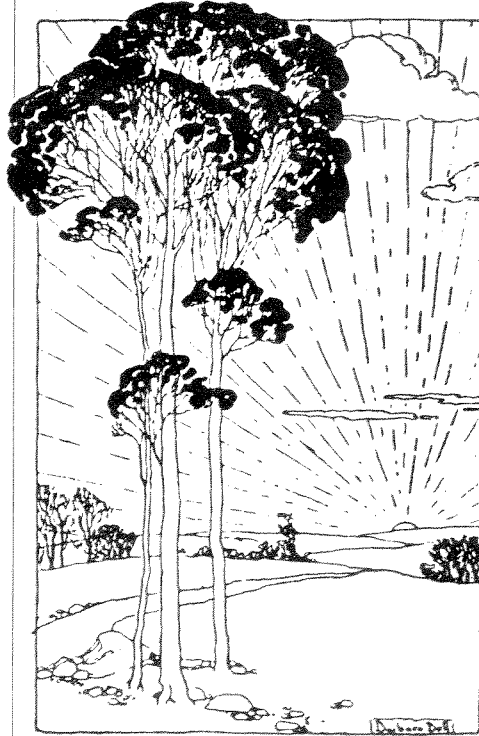
There are three natural (because created and/or commanded by God) laws I have come to know I can count on.

In order of importance:

Number 1 is: the law of gravity. It has never been known to be negated, unless possibly by the intention of God. Like the rest of the world I have learned to accept it completely.

Number 2 is: tithing. There may well be (and come into practice) a more nearly perfect alternative. But this I know. When practiced faithfully, this procedure makes a difference. In my own experience the income always goes farther: by increase, by added value received or by the actual diminishing of need. I have to admit: I didn't just suddenly exert tremendous will power and start on this course. At least thirty years ago I had a remarkable experience (which I've told many times). While reading in the Book of Mormon I came to III Nephi 11:10-15. As I got into v. 13, (p. 669), I began to feel an alert expectancy. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house..."; the rest seemed sud-

denly spotlighted! "...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." How could I not believe?!



Number 3 is: a given space can only hold one thing at a time. An ideal scriptural example is, "Perfect love casteth out fear." A box that holds one cubic foot cannot hold one cubic foot of water and one of sand. If

we feel we can't win and nothing worthwhile can happen in our lives, we are full to the brim with worry over ourselves. "Full to the brim" leaves no space for anything else. But don't give up; don't ever give up! If we are determined to serve Him, we can ask (and receive) help from the Lord! The Holy Spirit can pack into that precious space a deep love for God and a real concern for others. As this love and concern flow warmly into our space, measure for measure the worry (fear!) is displaced by the coveted "perfect love."

Like the others, this last and greatest of the three natural laws can be broken by me or by you. But it will never be repealed.

Sister Donna Moser

PATHLIGHTS

HIDDEN DANGERS

A couple of years ago while camping, I was taking my morning walk. As I walk, I usually look for dry wood. I saw a piece of wood; it was just the right size and it was oak. We really like oak for our fires.

I thought, "I'll get that piece on the way back." A small voice said, "You don't want that." I thought, that's silly, it's perfect and I'm going to pick it up.

On the way back, I stopped to pick up that branch. The voice said again, "Don't pick up that branch." Well, I picked it up. At least I started to and out came hundreds of bees. I thought, oh no, now what! The voice spoke to me again and said, "Don't move." This time, I listened to the voice. All those bees ended up on my left thigh. I stood perfectly still until the bees flew away.

When I got back to camp, I had only one bee sting.

I really hadn't thought much about this experience except that I should have listened to that voice and how lucky I was to have only one sting. Now I see something else. How often do we do things in this world that look harmless to our human eyes, but we can't discern the hidden dangers within. We have that voice warning us, and we heed it not.

I'm going to try to listen closer to that voice so I can avoid the pitfalls, and hopefully perhaps you'll do the same. I ask an interest in your prayers.

Your Sister in Christ,
Maybelle Woiak

Simple Blessings

I had a simple, great experience with the Lord this morning that I want to take a few minutes and share with you.

Last night as I was cooking dinner, I was looking for a certain vinyl spoon, which I could not find. This morning at breakfast, I needed it again, but still could not find it. As I was doing dishes, the thought came to me that it was in the backyard in the sand where the kids had played the day before.

Simple true gratitude came to my heart with a smile. Sure enough, I went outside and there it was. I never prayed about this little matter, but once again, I realize that God is aware and participates in every aspect of my life.

Do you think the world would be impressed with this little miracle? I don't think so, and I don't care. Today, my cup runneth over.

Love to you all,
Kathy Cloyd

A Special Service

Invitation to ALL to join us in the celebration of the 130th anniversary of the return of the saints to the Land of Zion and the Temple Lot.

A short slide program will be presented and a sermon by Elder Frank Fann of Independence, Missouri.

DATE—February 27, 1997

TIME—7:00 p.m.

**PLACE—Church of Christ, Temple Lot
200 S. River Blvd.
Independence, Missouri**

NEWS

EAST LOCAL, MISSOURI

The preachers of the month of December were Brethren Robert Oldham, Samuel Gould, Frank Fann, Roland Sarratt and Leslie Case. There were no services at the East Local on December 22nd, as the Independence locals joined together in Christmas observations on that date.

The gist of the month's sermons are as follows: The scriptures are for guidance in living our lives. Life is full of conflict. Conflict can be good or not good depending on the attitude and action we take. We must observe the Lord's counsel regarding the handling of conflict. 2 Nephi 14:12: "...ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus...etc." This, whether the confronting conflict is personal or general. The Lord has given steps to handle conflict and we must follow them to get His blessing in resolving the problem. We must always be willing to forgive (Matthew 6:14-15). We must love. First we must love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30). And our neighbor as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31). All other commandments are encompassed in these two. No conflict will be resolved except it is done in love, not to justify oneself or to accuse another. In conflict as in all other aspects of life we are responsible to being subject to God's will in bringing about a solution.

Often the most conflict in personal lives comes in the home, in ourselves over what we want and what we're able to have. Labor was commanded even in the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). And one is entitled to eat of the fruit of his labors. The Lord expects us to labor to support ourselves and our families, our Church, its missionary work, the building of the Temple and the establishing of Zion. We should ask ourselves, "What is right?" about everything that we do. If there is nothing

right in it, it must be wrong. The adversary tempts us through our desires. "Think of your brethren, like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all, and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you. But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the Kingdom of God" Jacob 2:22-23. The allure of material gain is powerful. Jesus himself was tempted (Luke 4:2-12). Paul said (1 Timothy 6:5-10) that having food and raiment to be content, and that the love of money (or what it represents?) is the root of all evil.

At this Christmas season there seemed to be a greater prevalence of the spirit of God evident. Why can't we keep that all the year? Our God is a great God (Duet. 10:17); He is God over all the earth (1 Nephi 3:43); there is none like Him, nor is there any other beside Him (2 Samuel 7:22); we are to serve Him with gladness, with thanksgiving and praise, His mercy is everlasting (Psalms 100); we are to love one another as He has loved us. There can not be a greater love than He has for us, to lay down His life for us. What does God expect of us? Both our devotion and our obedience. God's love is merciful. On the cross He prayed, "Forgive them." This we need to do, too. He is the kind of person that we need to be to qualify for Eternal Life. We need to watch every thought, every word.

When Christ returns He will judge all nations (Matthew 25:31-32). If we desire to be His people we must show forth His salvation, by our lives. We are to worship Him in the beauty of holiness for the Lord will judge the world with righteousness.

God's love for us is shown in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We can see the love of God around us; on the other hand, we can see the sufferings in the world around us. Whatever happens we must know that He is still in control.

When the Lord sent Samuel the Lamanite to prophecy to the Nephites, they didn't like what they heard. Sometimes it may be the same with us: we do not want to hear what God has

to tell us about ourselves. Samuel told them to repent. The signs of the nearness of His second coming are evident: distress of nations, perplexity, seas roaring, etc. We are to watch and pray, obeying His commandments that we will be able to stand in the presence of the Lord when He appears, that His coming be not as a thief in the night. As the children of Light, we are to be at peace one with another, not returning evil for evil, to abstain from even the appearance of evil, praying and giving thanks that we may be *blameless* at the coming of our Lord (1 Thessalonians 5:9-23). The Lord has given various warnings concerning this time that we are living in, things that will happen before the end. Some of these have been prevalent for some time, such as earthquakes, and famines, and pestilences, and false prophets, and wars and rumors of wars. But this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14. This has not yet been done. He that will endure to the end, faithful, will be saved (verse 13). The time has come for us to seriously study the requisites of Zion, for in Zion lies the safety of our people both physically and spiritually. No matter what era we live in God's word does not change. His word is to go on to perfection. When was the commandment to love the Lord with all the heart first recorded? Deuteronomy 6:5. And they were to diligently keep His commandments (verse 17). The counsels of the Sermon on the Mount were all taught from the beginning. God's plan is as it's always been, He requires a broken heart and a contrite spirit. The only thing we can rely on is the word of God. We must not blame others for our failures. We can only change ourselves. Too often we attempt things without reading the instructions. The only way we can be part of God's fulfillment of His purposes is to read and then follow His instructions.

Reporter,
Amy Schrader

NEWS

COLLINS, MISSOURI

The Collins Rally was held October 20th with guest speakers from Independence: Roger Bruner, Gary Housknecht, Mark Hill, and Bob Oldham. It was a wonderful day for all who could attend and our gratitude goes out to all of you who made it possible. Thank you for coming and sharing your time with us. And a special "thank you" to Martha Bruner for her "young men" who sang and filled the church with beautiful music.

We've had a small set-back in our relationship with the community churches. Normally I report on our annual Thanksgiving program and service with the community churches, but this year a vote was taken by the Baptist church (who hosts the thanksgiving service) to cancel services. As pastor, Allen went to talk to the Baptist minister, who feels that because of our belief in the Book of Mormon, they, as a congregation, can no longer worship with us. We were hurt to begin with, but couldn't allow this young man's lack of understanding to dominate the entire community. So, with Christmas being the next community celebration, to which we are the host, we made up fliers and posted them around town, inviting all who would come, with invitation to the Baptist and Christian Churches as well. We worried a little bit and prayed a lot and that evening—there they were! Eve-

ryone that wanted to come and celebrate the birth of our Savior was there. We sang together, shared our specials and poems, heard that wonderful story of the Gift of God. We ate together, laughed, and visited. We were blessed by the hand of God and it's because we love our neighbors and they love us. (Just a little Christmas miracle I wanted to share with you.)

Another "Christmas Miracle" took place earlier on that same day. We were witness to the baptism of Lisa Cobb, Rodney Cobb's wife. Lisa has prayed and studied much in preparation for this commitment. She was baptized by Brother Allen Kauffman. Brother Jack Martin officiated in the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Afterwards we shared a sacrament service together. There was in attendance a Sweet Spirit that touched us all. I never fail to be amazed at how gracious God is to us; how He hears our prayers and considers our needs.

One other thing: at our morning Christmas program we had some special guests. Some of our young folks from over in Preston came, bringing their families and also my son-in-law and his mom, dad, and sister. I can't put into words how grateful I am that they all came. Even now as I write I have to stop and wipe away my tears; but the joy was so great. They each one mean so much to us. I hope they'll want to come again—and again.

In closing, I want to leave you

with some sermon quotes and my heartfelt prayer for God's guidance and blessing in your lives for this new year of 1997.

- ◆ *An excerpt from a pay check stub: Watch your thoughts—they become words. Watch your words—they become actions. Watch your actions—they become habits. Watch your habits—they become character. And watch your character—it becomes your destiny!*
- ◆ *We must remember that the ultimate "measure" is Jesus Christ.*
- ◆ *When you find yourself in a fallen state, what would you pay to get out of it?*
- ◆ *Talent—if you don't use it or share it, it withers away.*
- ◆ *Are we as anxious to fulfill the desires of our Heavenly Father as we are our friends'?*
- ◆ *Sin is Sin!*
- ◆ *God is not dead. He may leave us to our own devices, but He is not dead.*
- ◆ *It's not how long we live, but how we live long.*

Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

1997 Scripture Theme Camp

~May 16-18~

Please mark your calendar and plan to join your brothers and sisters at this year's Scripture Theme Camp, sponsored by the Church of Christ, Temple Lot local. No age barriers... come one, come all! It will take place at Camp Shawnee, which is part of the Knob Noster State Park system between Knob Noster and Warrensburg, Missouri. This year's theme asks, "How Can We Demonstrate Our Faith??"

ONE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Sites are available for pop-up campers and RV's, but the Camp Director **MUST** be notified no later than April 6th. If you plan to utilize a pop-up camper or RV, call, write or otherwise notify the Camp Director listed below as soon as possible.

Watch for a more detailed announcement in the April Zion's Advocate.

CAMP DIRECTOR:
Gary Housknecht
11308 E. 78th Street
Raytown, MO 64138
Phone (816) 737-3240

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Mark Hill
J. Paul O'Haro
Don Case
Gary Welch

Attention!!!

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Plan to attend the Summer Youth Camp!!!

DATE: AUGUST 3-8

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For More Information Contact

Buzz Brickhouse at

(816) 356-9214

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1997 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 6. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 7. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on April 4 & 5. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1997 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 11, 12 and 13, at Independence, Missouri.

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Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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- Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day, The
- Concerning Marriage and Polygamy
- Cost of Salvation, The
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
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- God's Purpose in America
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