

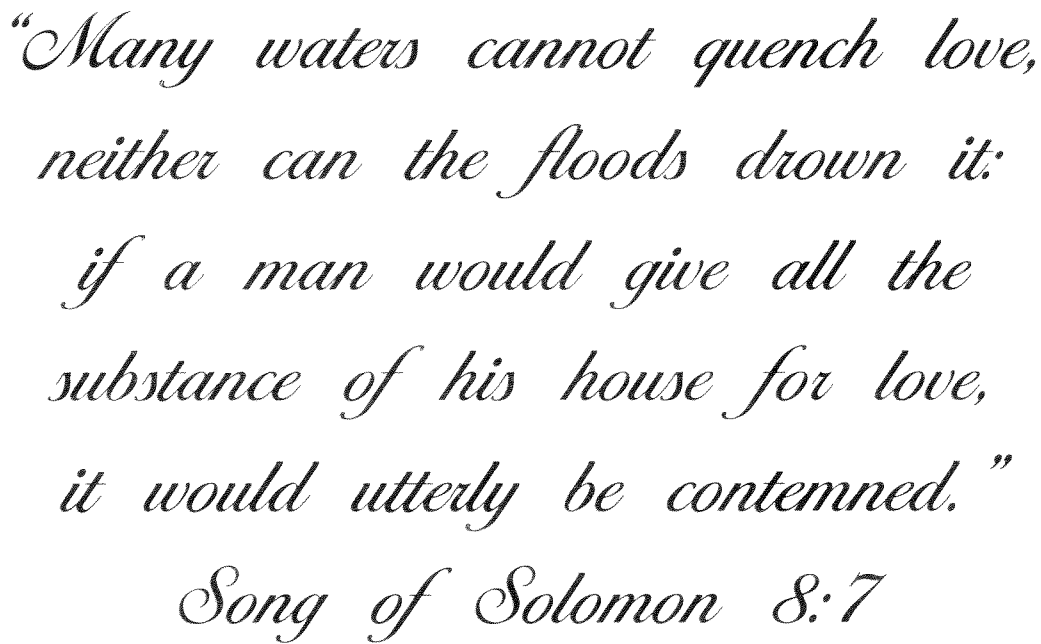
Zion's Advocate

*"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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*"Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it:
if a man would give all the
substance of his house for love,
it would utterly be contemned."
Song of Solomon 8:7*

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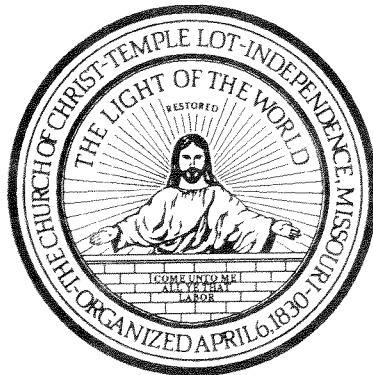
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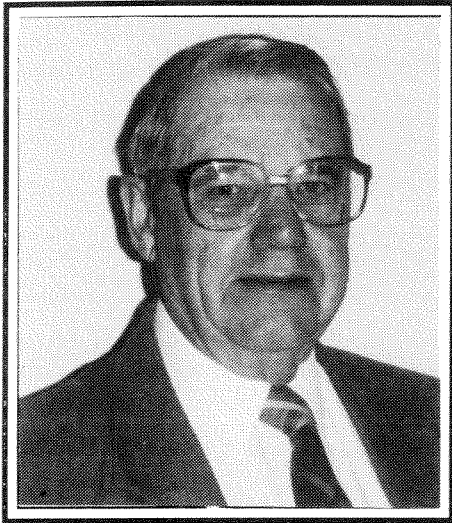
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

ZION *the* BEAUTIFUL



Elder Arthur G. Smith

There is no subject that has attracted more thought and words among us of the Church of Christ than the mention of Zion. It is not clearly described or identified; it remains one of the sweetest mysteries that only fulfillment of the prophesies from God in due time will give us an understanding of.

To most of us it is a spiritual state or condition that is related to the righteous, the pure in heart, who have been victorious over sin and are worthy to enter into the presence of our Father in heaven.

In the words of Jesus to his disciples we read, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" Matthew 5:8. In other scriptures we learn that no one who is evil or wicked can ever be in the presence of God; only the righteous are the ones who can be so blessed. If we can become a righteous people it is only then that we can be assured a part in the Zion of the end time.

We have in our hands the written word of scripture that holds the key to the time when we can expect Zion to be a reality. A prophet many years before Christ was born wrote what the Holy Spirit revealed to him. It would be well if we would give close attention to his words for God is unchangeable.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bring good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion" Isaiah 52:7-8.

This scripture is quoted in the Book of Mormon by Abinadi, a prophet of God, in Mosiah, chapter 7:77-78. He was chiding the priests for pretending to teach the people, and understand prophesy, and the law of Moses, and yet not be understanding of this prophesy of Isaiah.

Again in the 8th chapter, verses 66-69, he refers to it once more to show what was to happen in the last days. I am sure there was no doubt in the mind of Abinadi what it meant; his testimony was to stand against them with his death at their hands.

In the third book of Nephi, chapter 7, verse 43, it is none other than Jesus that is here quoting Isaiah 52:8-10 to the people on this continent, saying that "when the words of the prophet Isaiah shall be fulfilled," again relating this to the last days. Read verse 45: "The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes

of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God." This will be when Jesus Christ returns to claim the rule over all the earth, not before.

Again in chapter 9:86, Jesus says,

"And verily, I say unto you, I give you a sign that you 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."

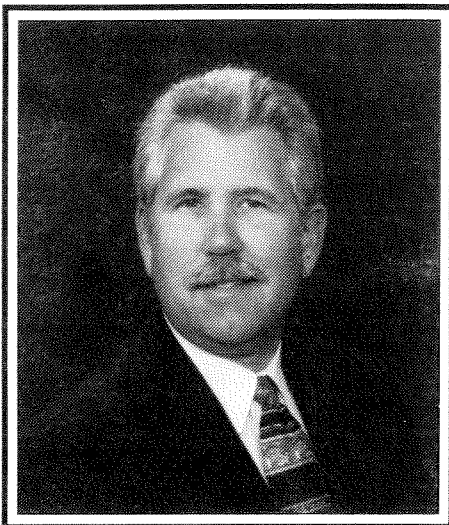
Note that he says, "shall be about to take place"; not the precise time, but a sign to be alert that it will begin, and Zion is to be established among them again, the house of Israel. It would be well for us to read carefully this chapter 9 from verse 46 through 56 that tells us what part the Gentiles will have and their judgment if they do not repent.

All this does not preclude us from the promise of the Holy Ghost if we seek to bring forth Zion as promised in I Nephi 3:187. Indeed, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ of salvation is our task; to prepare a people in righteousness and declare the doctrines of the kingdom of God.

That it will be returned by Jesus Christ tells us that it is subject to the will of God; it is not a material substance and has no location at present on earth.

I pray that we can come to an understanding and some day see eye to eye with charity and love of one another that shall prepare us to enjoy the blessing of Zion when our Lord comes. Amen.

What About the Necessity of **SEMINARY?**



By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

Most churches today require their ministry to have attended a seminary before occupying a position of pastor or even standing behind the pulpit. Recently we hear of some Restoration churches also sending their ministry to seminary. I can't recall all the times I've heard the comments: "He is not a 'real' minister because he has not gone to seminary," or "He has not 'earned the right' to preach and tell me about the Bible because he hasn't gone to seminary." How do we respond when these accusations are

made against the minister standing behind your pulpit on Sunday, the minister who brought you into the waters of baptism, or officiated at your wedding? Maybe a scriptural response would be better than, "My minister can beat up your minister."

■ WHERE DOES GOD
TELL US TO RECEIVE
OUR UNDERSTANDING?

Where did those in days past learn the gospel they preached? What does God say about the understanding and the wisdom of man, which is taught in schools called seminary? The Lord has given a gift to the world called the Holy Spirit (Ghost). This gift has special responsibilities, including the capability to teach man even as Jesus taught man. Jesus said that He would go away, but promised that He would not leave us alone, but that he would send a gift, the Comforter.

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come

In the early church it was by revelation through the Holy Spirit that men came into the ministry.

unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" John 16:7.

Is one to believe the Holy Spirit can no longer work with man? Are men refusing to use the Holy Spirit and opting to depend on the wisdom and knowledge of other mankind instead? Jesus pointed out that the world (man's wisdom, philosophies, education, and understanding) can not receive His gospel.

John 14:16-17: *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, nei-*

ther knoweth him...."

Mankind today has the idea that he has knowledge because there is a degree hanging on the wall that proves it. Knowledge acquired through the teaching of the Spirit can not be framed and hung up before the eyes of the world. Knowledge by means of the Spirit will not be considered of any worth on your résumé, nor will it impress the public, but God refers to those things as 'the world.'

"Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory..." 1 Cor. 2:6, 7.

Christ promised the gift of the Spirit to man. When the Lord provides a gift, we can depend on it being able to adequately provide its intended purpose; it will be a gift which will not need to be exchanged because it does not fit or does not work. However, as with any gift, the intended recipient has the option to receive and utilize it, or to put it in the closet to collect dust.

When Christ was ready to leave this world, he instructed the apostles to go and wait for the gift in Jerusalem.

Luke 24:49: *"And, behold, I send the promise of*

my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

The significance with the city of Jerusalem and the arrival of the gift has nothing to do with restricting the time and location wherein it is available to mankind. It has to do with the large number of people in the city of Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. This gave a large number of witnesses to the workings of the Spirit when the New Testament Church began to go out to the world and be recorded for future generations.

■ IT IS PROPHESED OF THE COMING OF FALSE APOSTLES, TEACHING FOR PERSONAL GAIN AND OF THEIR OWN PHILOSOPHIES.

There will be those with a form of godliness standing and teaching in the churches, representing themselves as Bible scholars, ever learning from books so they may be able to read Hebrew and speak Greek, who are considered educated, but at the same time never coming to the truth. "Truth" is the basic doctrine of Christ. We are warned not to let these types sway us from the truth and promises of Jesus Christ.

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world,

and not after Christ" Col. 2:8.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" 2 Tim 3:1, 5-7.

Of course there is a need to be taught and have a good knowledge of God's word before standing behind the pulpit or trying to convert non-believers. This is apparent when Paul told Timothy to study to show himself approved, which is only one of several times were the scriptures direct us to study God's word. It is reasonable to think that one would need to read and study the scriptures, because one must have read the scriptures before being able to recall them.

John 14:26: *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

Many can read scripture but not really understand what message it is trying to get

across; however, we are told the Spirit teaches, makes plain and provides wisdom and understanding to those responsible to preach the gospel. God has never required man to do anything which He has not first prepared the way for him to accomplish. The Apostle Paul gives an example of that promise:

1 Cor. 2:4-5, 11-14: "*And my speech **and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom**, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power: That **your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men**, but in the power of God. ...**For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?** even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, **not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God**; that we might know the things that are **freely given to us of God**. Which things also we speak, **not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth**, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned...."*

In the early church it was by revelation through the Holy Spirit that men came into the ministry.

Acts 13:2: "*As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them...."*

Rejecting the belief of an influential Holy Spirit capable of calling out and teaching men also means missing out on the Gifts of the Spirit. Paul never saw Christ in the flesh, but he had a revelation, a spiritual experience, on the road to Damascus. Should today's people expect to receive less from God? I think not, for we believe in an unchangeable God: if He changes, then He ceases to be God. God has given the Gifts of the Spirit to bless, comfort, teach, and draw man to Christ and glorify God.

1 Cor. 12:4-11: "*Now there are **diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit**. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of **the Spirit** is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the **same Spirit**; to another the gifts of*

*healing by **the same Spirit**; To another the working of miracles; to another **prophecy**; to another **discerning of spirits**; to another **divers kinds of tongues**; to another the **interpretation of tongues**: But all these **worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit**, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

■ IN SUMMERY LET US REFER TO JESUS CALLING HIS APOSTLES:

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him." Matt. 4:19-20.

Jesus made them what He wanted: "fishers of men"; they did not pay a seminary to teach them. Man's wisdom has and is continuing to prove itself contrary to what scripture teaches. Man has come to believe they have an enlightened knowledge of the Bible; with their increased wisdom they have rejected many of Christ's teachings and some of the fundamental beliefs of Christianity. I cite some examples:

I Some of the major Universities with theology departments, including Duke, Harvard, Princeton, De Paul, and Yale University, are teaching students the enlightened information that, "*what*

you read in the Bible is not what it seems on the surface."

2 They claim to have come to discover the origin of the gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. What they claim to know is this: for 40 years after Christ's crucifixion people told and retold stories and parables. It is not historical accounts but memories shared by a common past.

3 According to modern theology, Mark 16:5 is where Mark's gospel ends, leaving Jesus in the tomb. Does your Bible end Mark's gospel there? No, it does not: it goes on to tell of a resurrected Savior. According to the learned men of today, the reason you have more text is that the scribes added the ending that John and Matthew put on their gospels because no one was going to accept the terrible ending of Mark's gospel.

4 Speaking of the gospels of John and Matthew, modern theology teaches that they took and re-wrote Mark's gospel to suit the need of their particular location. For example: Matthew wrote to people who felt threatened by the Pharisees, so Matthew made Jesus a man from Israel, very Jewish like them. He created Jesus as having a lot of Jewish traditions, such as going to the mountain as Moses did and preaching five sermons, reminding them of the five books of Moses. Then this Jesus struck out at the Pharisees,

which his audience wanted to hear because they, too, were having problems with the overbearing Pharisees. Matthew wanted to bring the gospel up to his day so he added the woman finding Jesus at the tomb. I, personally, was unaware that being politically correct in the 1st century was an issue, but according to today's scholars it apparently was.

5 These same scholars teach that the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles are a single book called **Luke-Acts**. This book of Luke-Acts was written as a novel, with all the embellishments and poetic license needed to make it a good story; i.e.: written for Mystery (miracles, tongues, Holy Ghost), Adventure (shipwrecks, wild beasts), and Romance (weddings, feasts).

6 The bottom line of modern theology is that the authors of the Gospels wrote to make points. They never intended for us to take them literally.

Jesus called out men to be his apostles and disciples; it was His choice, not theirs. It is by revelation, not personal choice, that men were called into the ministry in Christ's days, and so they should be called today. Ammon said:

"...I am called by his Holy Spirit to teach these things unto this people, that they may be brought to a knowledge of that which is just and true; And a portion

of that Spirit dwelleth in me, which giveth me knowledge, and also power, according to my faith and desires which are in God"
Alma 12:112, 113.

Many people, for some reason, do not want to believe God is capable or willing to speak to men in this generation. The argument is usually that we have the scriptures and do not need further revelation. It is wisdom to try the Spirit, comparing it against scripture. Do they not agree? One must admit that God revealed His will to Israel and that they had the Law—but did He stop speaking or directing them after giving the Law? No, He spoke often. He had prophets who prophesied, which prophesies were recorded for them to read—but did God say, "You have enough," when the first prophet died? No, He called out more that they might continue to minister to the people. The cliché, "History repeats itself," is true, and people continue to make the same mistakes and go the wrong directions. Therefore, God continues to call out servants and employs them to do the same work that the servants did in the days of old. With that assignment He provides the way, and teaches them by the power of His Holy Spirit. Those who need a seminary must fail to trust God's promises and fail to use the Gift.

"For the Spirit is the same, yesterday, to-day, and for ever" 2 Ne. 1:65.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION: To Cure America Spiritually?

By Jim Gordon

God used Nephi to lead Lehi's family to this continent. After Lehi's death, Nephi led the group that would keep God's commandments northward, where they formed a separate community. Before Nephi died he left his people with this message,

"...For the Lord God is his name. And whoso knocketh, to him will he open; and the wise, and the learned, and they that are rich, which are puffed up because of their learning, and their wisdom, and their riches; yea, they are they whom he despiseth; And save they shall cast these things away, and consider themselves fools before God, and come down in the depths of humility, he will not open to them."

After the death of Nephi, his younger brother, Jacob, struggled to keep his people humble. In chapter 2 of his book he wrote:

"And the hand of providence hath smiled upon you

most pleasingly, that you have obtained many riches. And because that some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren, ye are lifted up in the pride of your hearts, and wear stiff necks, and high heads, because of the costliness of your apparel, and persecute your brethren, because that ye suppose that ye are better than they."

Then Jacob's son Enos became keeper of the records. 179 years after Lehi left Jerusalem Enos gave the records to his son because he was about to die. But before he did he wrote this about his own people,

"And there was nothing save it was exceeding harshness, preaching and prophesying of wars, and contentions, and destructions, and continually reminding them of death and the duration of eternity, and the judgments and the power of God; And all these things stirring them up continually to keep them in the fear of the Lord. ...And

exceeding great plainness of speech, would keep them from going down speedily to destruction."

Jarom, the next keeper of the records in their year 238, wrote this about his people,

"And it came to pass that the prophets of the Lord did threaten the people of Nephi, according to the word of God, that if they did not keep the commandments, but should fall into transgression, they should be destroyed from off the face of the land...."

And also, *"And it came to pass, that by so doing they kept them from being destroyed upon the face of the land."*

At this time it seems the Nephites were still keeping God's commandments, under duress no doubt, but keeping His words. The next keeper of the records, Omni, wrote,

"I...am a wicked man, and I have not kept the statutes and commandments of the Lord as I ought to have done."

What happens when the people are keeping God's commandments only because of the threats of their religious leaders, and the righteousness of those leaders fail? Omni's son, Amaron, the next keeper of the records, answers that question in verses 7 and 9:

"...And the more wicked part of the Nephites were destroyed."

Also, *"Wherefore, the Lord did visit them in great judgment; nevertheless, he did spare the righteous, that they should not perish, but did deliver them out of the hands of their enemies."*

Next, Amaron's brother kept the records for a short time, then gave them to his son, Amaron's nephew Abinadom. In the account of Abinadom he tells of constant wars and destruction, and then says this,

"I know of no revelation, save that which is written, neither prophecy."

The last keeper of the records in the land of Nephi was Amaleki, son of Abinadom. He tells us that Mosiah was told by God to, "flee out of the Land of Nephi," and to take with him the few righteous people left. Never again until after the coming of Christ did the Nephites merit such a level of destruction.

Between the reign of King Benjamin and the coming of Christ there were many periods of wickedness among the Nephites. However, the Lord

always pulled them back before total destruction overcame them by a combination of preaching and disaster. To show an example of this, let's start in the second chapter of Alma:

"...And it came to pass in the eighth year of the reign of judges, that the people of the church began to wax proud, because of their exceeding riches, and their fine silks, and fine twined linen, and because of their many flocks and herds, and their gold, and their silver, and all manner of precious things, which they had obtained by their industry... and they began to be scornful, one towards the other, and they began to persecute those that did not believe according to their own will and pleasure. ...Yea there were envyings, and strifes, and malice and persecutions and pride even to exceed the pride of those who did not belong to the church of God."

Alma decided to resign as chief judge and tour the country preaching the gospel. Alma began to preach, baptize, ordain ministers, and set the church in order, beginning in Zarahemla. Next he went to the city of Gideon, and had the same good results. After a rest at home in Zarahemla he went to the land of Melek, and again the people repented and Alma was able to order the church as he had at Zarahemla and Gideon.

Then Alma went to the City of Ammonihah, where he was cast out. An angel told Alma to return, and when he did he made one convert. Working with this one man, Amulek, they eventually, after much tribulation, converted a few people in the city. All those they converted were driven into the land of Sidom, where Alma and Amulek later joined them, because those left in Ammonihah proved impossible to change.

Before Alma and Amulek returned to Zarahemla they preached the gospel in Sidom, and we read this,

"Therefore, after Alma having established the church at Sidom, seeing a great check, yea, seeing that the people were checked as to the pride of their hearts, and began to humble themselves before God...."

And what of the city of Ammonihah? The following year we read this,

"And now it came to pass before the Nephites could raise a sufficient army to drive them out of the land, they had destroyed the people which were in the city of Ammonihah."

And so where the people repented they were spared, and where they did not they were destroyed.

Now keeping all of this in mind, let's review our own times.

From 1830 until 1844 the restoration church tried to teach this nation what we believe are the original concepts of Christianity. They would not believe us. In 1832, South Carolina seceded from the union. President Andrew Jackson sent the army in and stopped them. Eventually a compromise was reached and civil war was avoided for 28 years. During this crises, on Christmas Day, 1832, Joseph Smith brought a revelation that dealt with the wars that were coming upon this land and this world.

I quote here:

“Verily thus saith the Lord concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina. Which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls; and the time will come that war will be poured out upon all nations beginning at this place.”

On December 20, 1860, South Carolina again seceded, and by the spring of 1861 eleven other states had joined them. So the revelation was accurate as to where the war would start. And if that isn't enough, think about this: the first shots of the war were fired at Fort Sumpter, which sat on an island in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina.

It has been prophesied that in the last days peace would be taken from the earth. This revelation affirms this with the

added statement that it would begin with this war. This war was like all other wars inasmuch as it came in two parts. The rich on both sides wanted the war to resolve the financial issues. The poor men wanted it to resolve a social issue, namely slavery. The Civil War was fought to decide whether we would be a manufacturing nation or an agricultural nation.

When the canons were still and the smoke had cleared we had a new government that was dedicated to the idea that factories, businesses and corporations were to be given every encouragement and consideration. They were even accommodated with special laws to protect their investments at home and abroad. After the Civil War, the growth of big business and its foreign trade caused us to become more involved in other nations' affairs, and ultimately, their wars.

After the Civil War, the process of small companies going out of business and the surviving companies growing bigger was accelerated. About 1878, the big corporate movement began to take shape. Corporations grew so powerful that in time they would transform our government and society.

As the wealth of this nation grew so did other things. Religious leaders who previously were respected for their virtue began to lose influence with the American public. Newspaper and book sales began to skyrocket. So publishers and writers, often atheistic writers, grew

in their ability to influence public opinion. Education became a religious substitute for the half-believing and atheistic elements of our society. More people went to college than ever before. Parents would send their sons away as Christians and they would return doubting and with compromised beliefs.

As I mentioned in another article, it was about three generations after Joseph Smith on both sides of my family in the 1920's when this nation exploded into an era of wickedness. Speakeasy's and liquor wars and a host of other things too evil to mention came into being.

There were many things that grew together to create this evil American era, including modern philosophy, the appearance of the theory of evolution, and changes in entertainment, to name just a few. All of these can be shown to have been growing during this time, and to have made their contribution to the era.

But be that as it may, the most important thing that happened was a gradual shift from Christian values to money and worldly values, a move from Christian ethics to worldly ethics. And from that day until now the American people have done little else but boast about their wisdom, modern philosophy; their learning, modern education; and their riches, the products of our merchandising and industry. And what was it that Nephi warned us of?

“And the wise, and the

learned and they that are rich, which are puffed up because of their learning, and their wisdom, and their riches, Yea, They are they whom he despiseth...."

I believe that the depression was an attempt on the part of God to cure America spiritually. But as Jeremiah said of Judah,

"Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the Lord."

The Nephites were destroyed after four generations of wickedness. However, after four generations of wickedness in this nation the Lord has delayed that plan for something different.

The world will write its histories around its important events, but the truth must follow God's timetable. I believe the fate of this nation was sealed in 1948 when the new state of Israel was created.

In chapter 21 of the book of Luke, Jesus spoke of the fall of Jerusalem. In verse 24 He said,

"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the gentiles until the time of the gentiles be fulfilled."

On Friday, May 14, 1948, Jerusalem ceased to be trodden down of the gentiles. In 1951 Clarence Wheaton made contact with the Maya Indians in Ticul, Mexico, and two years af-

ter that in 1953, thirty members were baptized into the Church of Christ. The Lord has used the United States to protect Israel from its Arab neighbors,

I believe that the depression was an attempt on the part of God to cure America spiritually.

and it has been this church's privilege to nurture the Church first in Yucatan, and now in Honduras.

On page 186 of the Book of Mormon we find this,

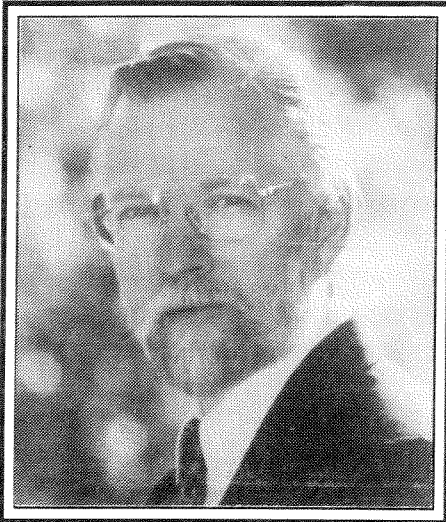
"And as they begin to grow, Ye shall clear away the branches which bring forth bitter fruit, according to the strength of the good and the size thereof, and ye shall not clear away the bad thereof, all at once, lest the roots thereof should be too strong for the graft, and the graft thereof shall perish, and I lose the trees of my vineyard."

These words of Zenos are aimed at the last days (our days) when God will gradually bring Israel back into the Church and purge the less righteous gentile elements out of it. Yucatan recently asked us to fast and pray for them for the intent that God would fit and qualify more of

their men to be called to hold the priesthood. When they grow to the point where the Church in Yucatan can sustain itself without our help we will see great changes in the Church here. They must increase and we must decrease as important elements in the Church, but let us take comfort in the hope that they will come forth with great power to reach the friends, neighbors and families that for so long we have been unable to touch.

And lastly, let us consider this: we live in a nation just like the one described by Nephi. A nation which is proud and puffed up because of its learning, its wisdom, and its wealth and riches. Every brother in the Church needs to examine himself to see how much of this thinking has contaminated his own beliefs about Christ. We need to examine ourselves so we may be among the more righteous part of the people. For as Amaron said, the more righteous part of the people were saved.

Fearfully & Wonderfully



By Harvey E. Seibel

Recently, I had the privilege of hearing the performance of a group of Inca Indian performers who created music on instruments native among them for centuries. Though the music was hauntingly beautiful, I pondered another matter. I studied one of the performers and thought of the miracle of creation, how God had created this human being in his own image, with the mental and physical capacity to create music using instruments which he himself had made. This human being was created from scratch by the Master Craftsman from a single cell. This, from a human standpoint,

is a marvelous achievement. Then I looked at this performer's partner. Here was another miracle of creation, with similar gifts and talents, again made from scratch from a single cell. How marvelous that God could make literally billions of such images of Himself, each able to function independently of all the rest. The greatest of man's achievements pales into insignificance in comparison to this. Yet each of these human creations grow old, deteriorate and die, each masterpiece returning again to dust.

But there is more to it than this. In the beginning, when God had created the first man, he instituted the law of 'after its kind.' This means that each form of life was limited to producing only its kind after it. The only variation possible was limited only to that already present in the genetic pool of that particular organism. The law of 'after its kind' was programmed into a microscopic segment within the gene called Deoxyribonucleic Acid, or DNA for short. This amazing molecule of life weighs a mere 3 trillionths of an ounce, yet contains sufficient encoded information to fill a thousand volume ency-

...So-called evolution from non-living to living is an impossibility. There is not sufficient information in the entire universe to create one organic molecule.

clopedia. It is God's computer program which insures the integrity of all life. All the information necessary for the creation of another image of God (half from the mother and half from the father) is contained within that microscopic molecule, and so the miracle of creation resident and inherent in that molecule is passed down from generation to generation to all ages of time. But the miracle of life does not end there.

The DNA molecule provides the information for the protein synthesis apparatus, yet the protein synthesis apparatus provides the very proteins for the DNA to exist. The pro-

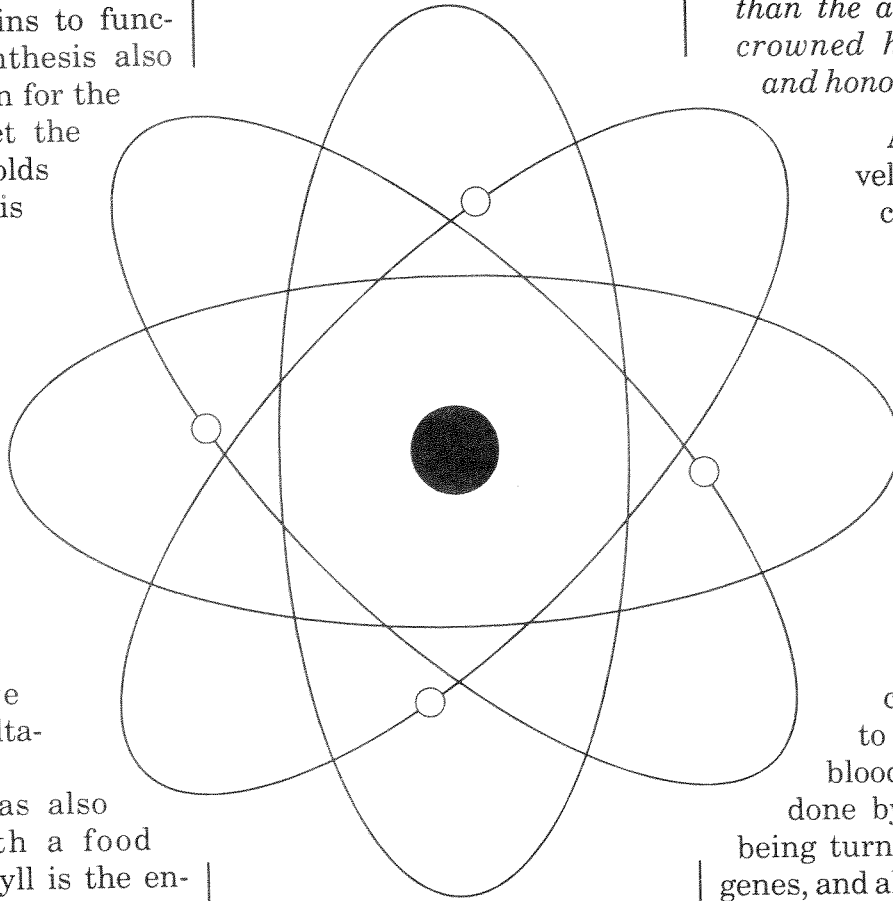
tein synthesis apparatus also provides phosphate compounds for the energy synthesis, the mitochondria, etc., yet the mitochondria provides the actual energy for the proteins to function. Protein synthesis also provides the protein for the cell membrane, yet the cell membranes holds that entire synthesis apparatus intact. Everything is interdependent and codependent on every other component. It is like the Yucca Lily and the Yucca Moth. Neither can live without the other, so they both must have been created simultaneously.

Then God has also provided us with a food source. Chlorophyll is the engine that converts sunlight into chemical energy within the plant for the synthesis of food for man. Now here is a strange thing: the blood of man is mainly composed of Carbon, Oxygen, Hydrogen, and Nitrogen, with Iron being the central component. It is a large molecule. Chlorophyll in plants are composed of the very same elements, with the exception that the central component is Magnesium instead of Iron, and unlike blood, it is a small molecule. I see in this the wonderful ingenuity of God.

Consider the miracle of

creation:

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I



will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" Psalm 139:13-16.

Yet, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour" Psalm 8:4-5.

An intriguing marvel is how the single cell first conceived in the mother's womb becomes a complete human being. At the first the cells are all alike, but then comes a differentiation, some cells changing to becoming liver cells, others, muscle cells, still others to form the eye, bone, blood, etc. This is all

done by biologic switches being turned on or off in the genes, and all this in accordance to the instructions encoded in the DNA molecule and communicated by the RNA, with the help of enzymes, etc., which are organic catalysts.

There is yet another element in this physical creation. The body does not exist without the spirit, and so God has breathed into us the breath of life, the spirit of man. The spirit of man functions and operates through the physical brain (the linkage between flesh and spirit), and thus has expression through the physical body. However, even this is not all, for man, who is a living soul, cannot

act for himself except he be enticed by one or the other spirit; that is, through the leadings of the Holy Spirit of God or through the temptations of the Devil. And depending upon the spirit that man chooses to follow, the works performed thereby will be judged to be either good or evil in the day of judgment. Thus there is a wo pronounced on all who list to obey the evil spirit, and the promise of eternal life to those who obey the Lord Jesus Christ.

That life could not have come about through any naturalistic means is graphically shown by the following: inside all material there is information—from the simplest hydrogen to the most complex compound. Dr. Robert Gange in his book, entitled: *Origins and Destiny*, and from information derived from various universities and laboratories, we have the following information: All of the information present in the inorganic materials of the entire planet earth equals to 160 exponential bits of information. When expanded to include the entire solar system the information increases to 170 exponential bits, which is equal to 10^{80} power in information. Expanding it further to include the entire universe, the number becomes 235 exponential bits of information.

But when we come to living matter we have an entirely different story. In living material every component is interdependent and codependent on every other component. Thus,

a single, non-replicating, protein molecule contains 1500 exponential bits of information, an astronomical jump from the information present in the entire inorganic universe. This shows that so-called evolution from non-living to living is an impossibility. *There is not sufficient information in the entire universe to create one organic molecule.*

But to take it a step further, one E-Coli bacteria contains 7 million bits of information, and one human cell contains 20 billion bits of information. Scientists today tell us that the human brain is the most complex creation in all of the universe.

Two well-known atheistic evolutionary scientists (Sir Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe), in an effort to finally prove the evolutionary origins of the universe, were forced to reverse themselves on the origin of life. They state that, although atheists all their lives, they had come to the conclusion that the high degree of order and specificity in the universe demanded pre-existing intelligence, even to the limit of God.

They computed that for life to have evolved through naturalistic means would be one chance in $10^{40,000}$ power. There are 10^{80} power of electrons in the entire universe, and if all space was filled with electrons the number would be 10^{130} power. Life then, through a naturalistic process, is impossible.

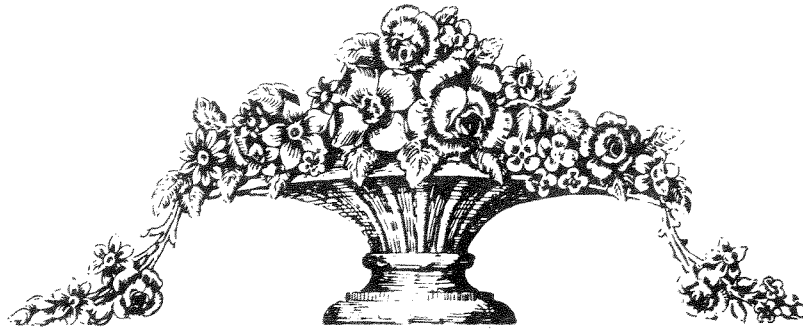
From the Book of Mormon, the infallible word of God, we read,

*“And if there is no God, we are not, neither the earth, **for there could have been no creation of things**, neither to act nor to be acted upon; wherefore, all things must have vanished away”* 2 Nephi 1:93.

*“For if there be no Christ, there be no God; and if there be no God, we are not, **for there could have been no creation**. But there is a God, and he is Christ; and he cometh in the fullness of his own time”* 2 Nephi 8:13-14.

Nellie Ann Raleigh

July 8, 1898 - December 19, 1999



Our dear sister in Christ, Nellie Ann Raleigh, passed away December 19, 1999, at the age of one hundred and one years, five months, one week and four days. She lived in Texas most of her life. She consented to move to the Pleasant Manor Nursing Home in Ashdown, Arkansas, in her declining years to be near her grandson, Lawrence Raleigh. Sister Nellie was predeceased by her husband and their six children.

According to the church records, Sister Nellie and her husband were baptized August 13, 1931, at Dalby Springs, Texas, by Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton, and they were strong supporters of the Dalby Springs Local Church of Christ. She remained a faithful witness to the gospel of Christ to the end of her life.

Sister Nellie had a major heart attack in November, 1999, and was recovering from it when she had a kidney infection which proved to be too much for her already weakened condition.

The Reverend Carl Raleigh officiated her funeral service. The place of interment was New Hope Cemetery, Bates-Rolf Funeral Home, DeKalb, Texas.

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me.
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Thru many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath bro't me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise;
Than when we first begun.

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