

# 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

VOLUME 78

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—NOVEMBER 2001

NUMBER 11

## LATTER DAYS

The sky broke apart and people died  
and chaos was supreme;

Buildings tumbled into rubble—  
"What does this all mean?"

Some persons even questioned God—  
concerned about His care;

But then they prayed and heard His voice,  
"Believe me, I was there."

"I was there when they crucified my Son—  
the angels I didn't call;  
Life everlasting would never be—  
my people all would fall."

"So it is in life today—My will must gain control;  
Each man must work within his heart  
in order to save his soul."

"I see the overall picture as the world  
is shown to me;

Without all the facts, the common man will  
probably disagree,

"With my decision as to why these things must  
surely come about;  
But I weigh each thing carefully so there  
can be no doubt.

"These are the Latter Days, my people—  
the righteous shall prevail;  
But those who use my name in vain will have  
just cause to fail."

Oft He would have gathered us underneath  
His wings, but we heeded not;  
And thus, we see, as in times past,  
what worldly evil now has wrought.

Ten thousand angels He could have sent;  
But He saw how the Nation was bent.

—Sam Kidd, October 19, 2001

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**ZION'S ADVOCATE** is the official publication of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd., P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472. Telephone (816) 833-3995 or (816) 833-3914.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** Church of Christ members' subscriptions are paid from general Church funds, but donations are requested (suggested: \$4.00 each year). In bundles of 12 or more for missionary purposes the rate is \$2.00.

Non-member rates: \$4.00 per year; foreign orders add 50¢.

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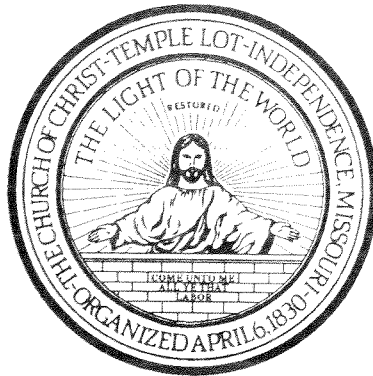
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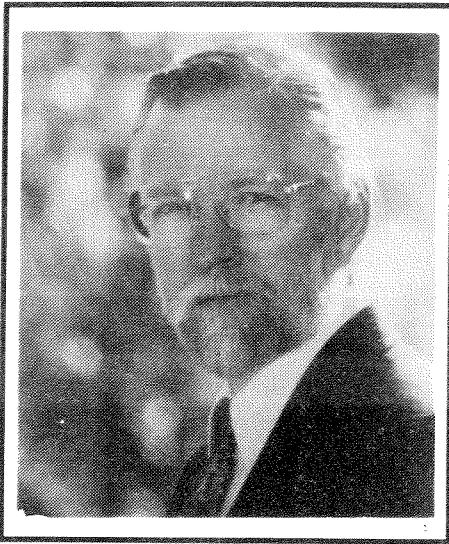
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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

# A Type and a Shadow?



By Harvey E. Seibel

**F**rom about the 66th year of the reign of the judges (or just 25 years before the birth of Christ), Satan began to stir up the people to a greater degree of wickedness than had previously been known in Nephite history. About twenty five years earlier a secret organization was formed which began to wield greater and greater control over the affairs of the people, so that they began to take over the government of the people.

They, at first, were more numerous among the Lamanites, though the Lamanites had sought to destroy them, but the more part of the Nephites united with this evil band of robbers. This was a cause of much sorrow to Nephi, the son of Helaman.

In consequence of Nephi's unwearied faithfulness the Lord gave him power to smite the people with various judgments according to their wickedness. Nephi prayed for a famine upon the people, and after two years the more wicked part of the people had been destroyed (including the robbers of Gadianton), and the remainder, seeing that they were about to perish from the famine, remembered both the Lord their God and the words of Nephi. So in the 76th year (15 years from the birth of Christ) God restored His blessings to them.

But in just four years, a certain number of dissenters went over to the Lamanites

**It is strange indeed that wickedness among the people of God would reach such a climax of evil just one year from the birth of Christ.**

and soon commenced a war with the Nephites, they having again embraced the secret plans of Gadianton. Efforts to put them down ended in failure. In a remarkably short time the robbers had become so numerous that they defied the combined armies of both the Nephites and the Lamanites. This terrible state of affairs served to stir the people up to remembrance of the Lord their God for only a short span of a few months, for the following year they returned to their iniquity. This wickedness

continued down to the 86th year of the reign of judges (just five years away from the birth of Jesus).

In this same year came Samuel the Lamanite to preach repentance to the wicked Nephites, to warn of their ultimate destruction and to provide them with some important signs, that of the birth and death of Christ. Though some of the Nephites repented at this juncture, most turned their hearts away from these words; thus it was the lesser part that served the Lord. These conditions continued in the 87th and 88th year with little alteration, save that the people began to be more hardened in iniquity, and then to do more and more of that which was contrary to the commandments of God in the 89th year.

It is strange indeed that wickedness among the people of God would reach such a climax of evil just one year from the birth of Christ. Satan truly gnashed upon the very thought of the Son of God coming to bring about his own eventual defeat. And now he raged in the hearts of men at the very eve when they should have been rejoicing at the imminent birth of their Savior.

The 90th year dawned and the words of the prophets began to be fulfilled, yet the people hardened their hearts,

all save it were the most believing part of them, both of the Nephites and the Lamanites. They rationalized away the signs by saying that the prophets may have guessed right, but otherwise all these great and marvelous works could not come to pass, that it was unreasonable that such a being as a Christ should come. And so passed the 90th and the 91st year. Then came the 92nd year and the sign of a day and a night and a day with no darkness which had been prophesied by Samuel (Helaman 5:57), frustrating the hope of the wicked.

But hardly had the sign been given than Satan began to stir up the hearts of the people unto disbelief; nevertheless, the more part of the people believed and were converted unto the Lord. And so the year passed. But the Gadiantons continued to thrive in their mountain strongholds and their numbers grew because of many dissenters from the Nephites which continued to fill their ranks. And so the people, both the Nephites and the Lamanites, began to decrease as to their faith and righteousness because of the wickedness of the rising generation, so that by the 95th year the people began to forget those signs and wonders which they had heard and to be less

astonished at a sign from heaven, attributing such things to the power of the devil. And now the people began again to wax strong in wickedness and abominations. This state of affairs continued until the 100th year of the reign of the judges, or nine years since the sign prophesied by Samuel had been fulfilled.

Then in the 13th year there began to be wars and contentions throughout all the land because the Gadianton robbers had become so numerous. In the midst of this frightful situation the Nephites were stirred up sufficiently to cry unto the Lord for deliverance, so that by the 22nd year the Gadiantons were all destroyed and all the Nephites were converted to the Lord because of their great deliverance, so much so that they did serve God with all diligence day and night. This condition of righteousness prevailed through the 28th year.

Six years now remained before the appearance of Christ to them. The people had lived in peace and righteousness for a period of seven years. Could they not hold out for six more? But Satan does not want a people prepared to meet the Lord. And so we read that in the 29th year there began to be some disputings among the people,

some being lifted up unto pride and boastings, etc. And so the people began to be distinguished by ranks, and soon the church was broken up, except among a few Lamanites, in the 30th year, while the remainder of the people were in a state of awful wickedness. Tragically, they did not sin ignorantly, but willfully rebelled against the Lord their God.

Men inspired from heaven began preaching and testifying boldly of their sins, but they were opposed by those who had been high priests, chief judges, and lawyers. In this year the seat of government was destroyed and the people were divided one against another, forming themselves into tribes. Though Nephi preached unto them, there were but few converted unto the Lord. And thus the 33rd year passed away and the people were anything but prepared to meet the Lord whose coming was only a little over a month away. It is such a tragedy when one thinks how these very same people, just a few short years earlier, had been diligent, both day and night, in keeping the commandments of God. Now their souls would be forfeit.

What we have witnessed in these periods is that before the birth of Christ, and before His appearance to them, the

people went freely and wholeheartedly into wickedness, sinning as it were with a cart

**It is painfully evident, especially to those of us who have lived through the last 50 years, that wickedness is on the increase.**

rope (Isaiah 5:18), being deaf to the pleadings of the servants of God. It was a time when Satan raged in the hearts of the children of men. Having occurred at the time of His first coming, can this same situation again arise before Christ's second coming as well?

Consider:

"For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good" (2 Nephi 12:24).

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he

knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Revelation 12:12).

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13).

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12).

"How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts" (Jude 1:18).

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished" (2 Peter 3:3-6).

"I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh,

shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us" (Psalm 2:1-3).

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:7).

A few observations concerning the day in which we live:

With the exception of the Korean War, the 1950s were a relatively calm period in our history. The evils with which our society today abound were either absent or not visibly apparent in that day. But in that decade an evil made its appearance in the first blatantly pornographic publication. The 60s saw the removal of prayer and Bible reading from our schools, and later the removal of the ten commandments. The 70s saw the legalization of abortion in our country, and by the 80s the homosexual movement rapidly grew into a powerful political presence in our national life. Many kindred evils arose, such as euthanasia, immorality of every kind, filthy entertain-

ments, the destruction of the institution of marriage and family, and every perversion imaginable, etc. This is in fulfillment of the Book of Mormon statement:

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

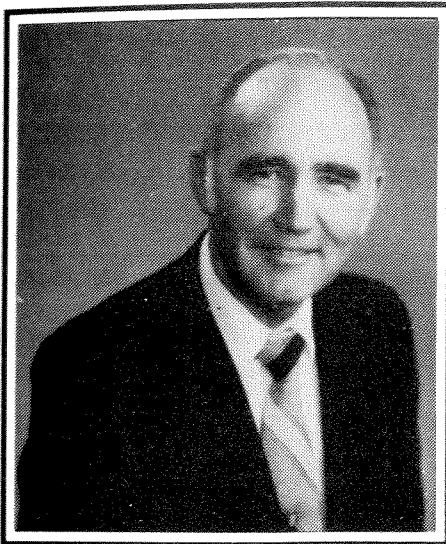
It is painfully evident, especially to those of us who have lived through the last 50 years, that wickedness is on the increase. But that increase is skyrocketing today. Satan knows that time is running out and that Christ is coming soon. And since this is the case we can expect that wickedness will run rampant. And this is the case. Jesus warned in Luke that as it was in the days of Lot so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man. Sodomy was the 'accepted thing' in those days, and today we see that this particular life style 'is the accepted alternative of our day.' In Lot's day it encompassed the five cities of

the plain. Today it encompasses the world. This sign speaks powerfully of the soon coming of our Lord and Savior, for He said this would be the condition that the world would obtain just prior to His return. It is no wonder that Christ asked if, when He came again, would He find faith in the earth. It is because the nations today have become like unto the Nephites at the time of the first coming. In the days of Nephi, there were just a few who remained faithful. And so it is today; only a few will hold out to the end.

We are already at the fork in the road. It is time we awakened to our plight and cast out those 'lions, or sins' we still harbor in our hearts. It is time we put on the full armor of God and come out of this world's system. It is time we become a holy people in the sight of God, and not be conformed to the image of this world. The coming of Christ and the judgments are at the door.

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Peter 4:17-18).

# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE APOSTLE JOHN



By Apostle Don McIndoo

It would seem wise to present some basic assumptions to help us in a study of the book of Revelation. We shall proceed on the assumption that the author of the book was the Apostle John, while in exile on the Isle of Patmos.

- a. Polycarp, the bishop of Smyrna, was a personal friend of John, and Irenaeus was a personal friend of Polycarp. Irenaeus gave a clear testimony that

## SECTION ONE: SOME BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

John was the author of Revelation.

- b. Andrew, bishop of Caesarea, in his *Commentary on the Apocalypse*, writes that Papias, Irenaeus, Methodius and Hippolytus all give witness to John's authorship of the book.
- c. Justin Martyr was a Christian philosopher who lived shortly after John's death and knew many of John's contemporaries. He was a believer in the millennium, and wrote, "**And a man from among us by name John, one of the Apostles of Christ, in a revelation made to him has prophesied that the believers in one Christ shall live a thousand years.**"<sup>1</sup>

The *historicist* approach endeavors to align specific historic events with certain details in Revelation.

Another basic assumption we shall make is that the book was written about A.D. 96, during the final years of the reign of the emperor, Domitian.

- a. On this point, the testimony of the early church fathers is quite uniform.
- b. Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of John. He writes concerning the Revelation: "**It was seen no long time ago, but almost in our age, at the end of the reign of Domitian.**"<sup>2</sup>

- c. Clement of Alexandria confirms this by speaking of John returning from his exile "...after the death of the tyrant." He also refers to him as being then "...an infirm old man."<sup>3</sup> The term, tyrant, could refer to either Nero or Domitian. This is important, because the persecution of Nero was in A.D. 64.
- d. Jerome, another early church father, wrote that John saw the Apocalypse while on the isle of Patmos, "**when banished thither by the Roman emperor Domitian.**"<sup>4</sup> This will be our assumption in this study.

**3** A third basic assumption is that the events unfolding in the book of Revelation are basically sequential in nature. However, it is admitted that many scholars see indicators that all the details of Revelation do not follow one another chronologically. Also, many see some passages as being parallel passages to events that had been described earlier. Taking all this into consideration, it will yet be helpful to view the prophecy as basically sequential in nature.

**4** The Lord had previously revealed to Nephi (1 Nephi 3) a prophetic view

of historic events that would unfold in the future. Nephi's vision is basically chronological in nature. Since it covers the same time frame, it will help us to find parallels in these two visions of world history that we might better understand the chronology of Revelation. In one sense, this is precisely the reason for which the Book of Mormon came forth. Its purpose is described in 2 Nephi 2:19-23:

**"Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; And that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together, Unto the confounding of false doctrines, and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, And bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days; And also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord."**

**5** Verse 19 of chapter one demonstrates how the vision will unfold in an orderly manner: Jesus instructed John to do the following:

- a.) **"Write the things which thou hast**

- seen, (Chapter 1)
- b.) **and the things which are, and** (Chapters 2 & 3)
- c.) **the things which shall be hereafter;**" (Chapters 4 - 22)

(Here we must realize that those things which shall be hereafter refers to things after John's day, not necessarily after our own day.)

**6** As we read the book, we find that seven seals were opened successively. This was followed by seven angels with trumpets that sounded successively. Then seven vials of God's wrath were poured out upon the earth, one by one. Even the language John used throughout the book gives us the idea of the sequential occurrence of the events unfolded to his view: He writes, "**And after these things I saw...**" and "**After this I beheld...**"

**7** One might also assume that it is likely that those ancient readers of the book of Revelation understood it better, and with less difficulty, than do we. They were familiar with both the customs of the times and with the apocalyptic style of writing that was common in Israel between 200 B.C. and 100 A.D.



## CHAPTER ONE

**I**n the opening verses of chapter one we find it identified as “**The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass...**” (Revelation 1:1). This book is an inspired book which contains the revelation of Jesus Christ. Verse three states in no uncertain terms that this book is a “**prophecy.**” There was unfolded to the eyes of John a vision with a series of successive scenes that predicted events that were to transpire in world history.

**L**With these few words I have introduced the *historical approach* to the book of Revelation. Those who teach this view believe that God revealed the entire “church age” in advance through the symbolic visions of the Apocalypse. The *historical* approach endeavors to align specific historic events with certain details in Revelation. Those early Reformers who were of the *historical* point of view and who lived after the year 1787, when Edward Gibbon’s *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* was published, relied heavily upon his detailed work, for his unbiased history covered

the very events which were prophesied in the Apocalypse, chapters 1 through 13.

**3**A unique characteristic of this line of interpretation is its advocacy of what is called the “year-for-a-day principle,”<sup>5</sup> i.e., forty-two months (42 months of 30 days, or 42 X 30) equals 1,260 days, or years. Another great, and non-negotiable, concept of the *historical* view is that the papacy represents the great “antichrist” of Revelation. This is the classic approach of the Reformers and early Protestants.<sup>6</sup>

**4**Those in the past who took this point of view were John Knox, John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Sir Isaac Newton, John Foxe and John Wesley. Elders of the Church of Christ, such as Hedrick, Haldeman, MacGregor, Flint, Wheaton, Seibel and Sheldon, have long used the ideas and research of these Reformers in support of our concept of an apostasy and a restoration of the church. Basically, this report will incorporate the *historical* point of view because none of the other systems are reconcilable with our teachings.

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## “LET’S LEARN TOGETHER THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL”

### RESURRECTION—the Fifth Principal

At the time that we die, our spirits return to our God who gave us life, and our bodies are discarded (Alma 19:43). Those spirits of the righteous are received into a state of happiness called paradise, a state of peace and rest. The wicked ones are sent into outer darkness, which some people call hell or the prison house. They will remain there until their Resurrection (Alma 19:44-47).

At the time of the Resurrection, each person’s soul will again be reunited with their body—a perfect immortal body which will not decay (II Nephi 6:28-32). They will be changed in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trump (I Corinthians 15:51-53).

Because of Christ’s death for us this Resurrection will be accomplished.

The Resurrection not only redeems all men from the temporal death, but it brings them back into the presence of God, where they shall stand before Him to be judged.

Everyone will not be Resurrected at once. The first group to be Resurrected will be those who have done good (the righteous) when the Lord shall return with power and glory. The second group will be those who have chosen evil (Mosiah 9:39-40; Revelations 20:4-6; I Thessalonians 4:16; Jacob 3:16-17; III Nephi 11:32-33; John 5:28-29, 14:3).

To partake in this first Resurrection we must:

- 1—Come to Christ (III Nephi 4:42)
- 2—Believe on His name (III Nephi 4:47; John 6:47; John 11:25-26)
- 3—Take upon us His name (III Nephi 12:18)
- 4—Hearken to His word (III Nephi 10:31; Matthew 7:21-25)
- 5—Keep His Commandments (III Nephi 5:68; 7:2)
- 6—Become as a little child (III Nephi 4:51-52; Matthew 18:3)
- 7—Repent of sin (III Nephi 5:39-40; 12:33-35; Luke 13:2-5)
- 8—Be baptized (III Nephi 5:40, 10:31; Mark 16:15-16)
- 9—Come unto Him with a broken heart and contrite spirit (III Nephi 5:66)
- 10—Endure to the end (III Nephi 7:10, 12:18; Matthew 10:22, 24:13).

There will also be taking part at this time some who died as little children and those of this life who never had an opportunity to hear the law of God or the message of the Savior.

The righteous who come forth at the first Resurrection shall live and reign with Christ for a thousand years upon the earth where there will be total peace, and the Lord shall reign over all the earth. Satan will be chained and will have no power (Revelations 11:15; I Nephi 7:60-62; Revelations 20:4-8).

At the end of the thousand years of rest, the ones who have chosen evil will come forth. This is when the Eternal Judgment occurs, which we will study next month.

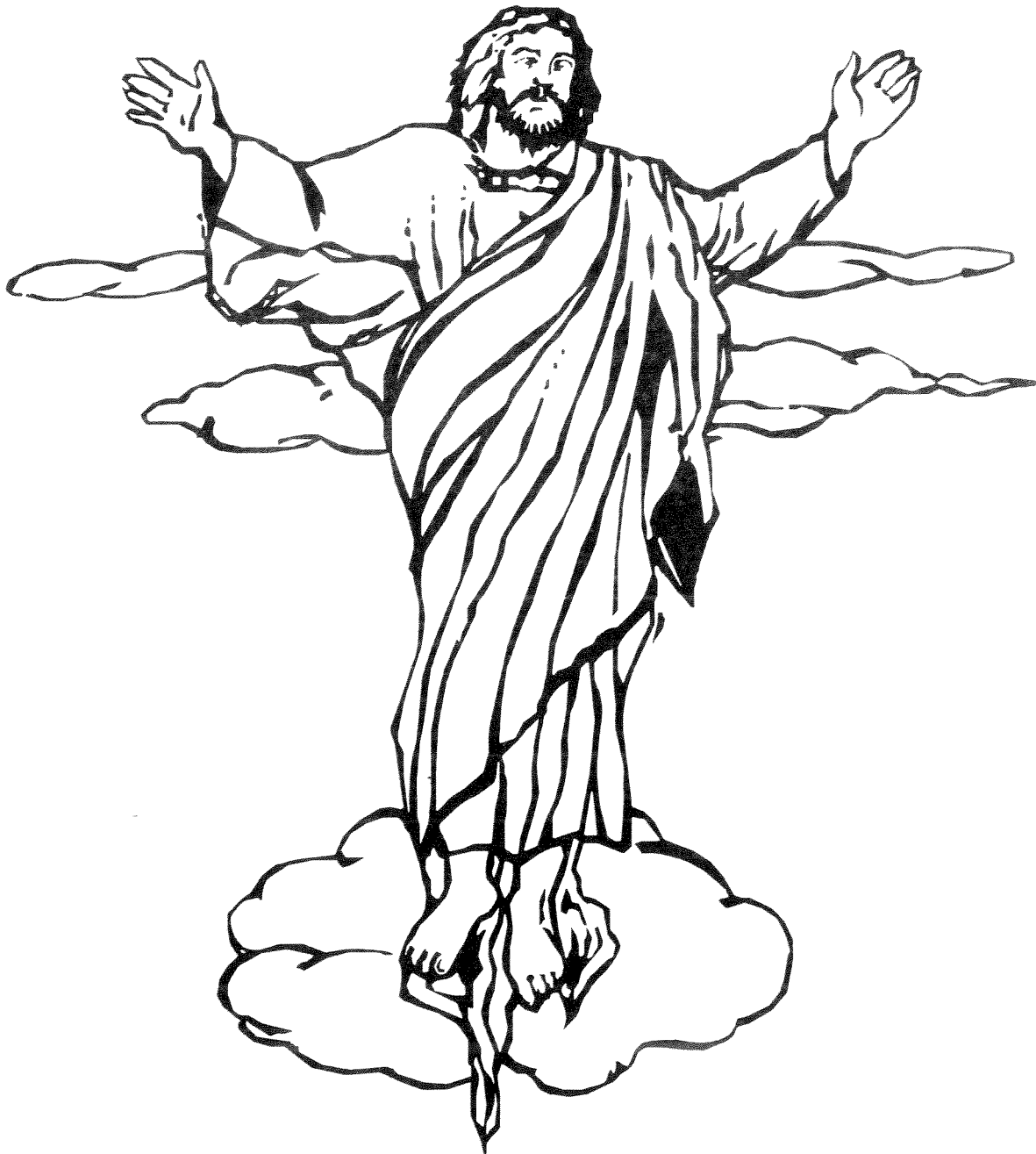
**GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**“LET’S LEARN TOGETHER  
THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL”**

**DISCUSSION:**

On a chalkboard, draw out the sequence of who goes where after death.

Picture of Jesus on a cloud to color.



# In The Beginning God Created the Earth and Mankind to Fulfill His Plan of Salvation

By Laverne Lussenden

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God; and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

- God created the land, which we call the Earth.
- God said let us build a house and call it the house of God.
- Equipment was provided to dig and level the land.
- Next was placed lumber, windows, roofing materials, wiring, all sorts of supplies, cement, nails, paint, and all other things necessary, and plans to build His (God's) house, but no one to use these materials.
- There was a pathway to the house with steps to enter the building, but no one to walk thereon.
- All the furnishings needed to dwell in this house were made available, but there was no one to place them in the proper order.

● Let us consider that God himself, through Jesus Christ, put everything necessary to build his dwelling. If only there was someone to build the house.

In other words, there was no one to build the house of God, so God created man.

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7).

From these passages, we see that God created someone called man, which we call the children of God, to build and occupy God's house.

“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose, And the LORD said; My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years, There

were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown, And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart, And the LORD said; I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them, But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6: 1-8).

From these scripture verses we see that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and man was not destroyed. Noah was given the plan to build a house, which we call the Ark, to dwell in during the time of the flood.

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and

upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). (He was not talking about Peter, but faith.)

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended; and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock: And every one that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended; and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Matthew 7:24-27).

These scriptures demonstrate the sure foundation needed for God’s house, by building our house upon the rock. In contrast, those who built on a sandy or unstable foundation, their house was likely to fall when bad times came. When the storms of life come in, do we have a sandy or a firm foundation?

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the

ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God; unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Ephesians 4: 11-15).

These passages talk about the establishing of the church. Verse 13: “...in the unity of the faith,” is a time of no quarreling between the saints, a time of the perfecting of the saints. It is the opportunity to improve our time while in this house. We have knowledge of Christ, and strive to become a perfect man, not changing, but steadfast, until we come into the fullness of Christ. Remembering that after following the rules and regulations of God, it is still the grace of God that allows us to have eternal life.

“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of

healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way (1 Corinthians 12:27-31).

God is concerned about all of us. We each have different gifts; covet which gift God gives you. Love God with all your strength and might, and have a love for others. God has prepared all the materials to build His house, and created mankind not only to build God’s house, but also to occupy it. In other words:

- What good is a preacher if there is no one to teach?
- What good are the pews if there is no one to occupy them?
- What good are the song books if there is no one to sing?
- What good are the piano and organ if there is no one to play?
- What good are the Bible and Book of Mormon if there is no one to study or use them?

I would ask you to use your imagination: of all the gifts and

talents that God has given to use in His house, which talent is yours and are you using it?

“And in the day that he shall set his hand again the second time to recover his people, is the day, yea, even the last time, that the servants of the Lord shall go forth in his power, to nourish and prune his vineyard; and after that, the end soon cometh. And how blessed are they who have labored diligently in his vineyard; and how cursed are they which shall be cast out into their own place! And the world shall be burned with fire. And how merciful is our God unto us; for he remembereth the house of Israel; both root and branches; and he stretches forth his hands unto them, all the day long; And they are a stiff-necked and a gainsaying people; but as many as will not harden their hearts, shall be saved in the kingdom of God. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I beseech of you in words of soberness, that ye would repent, and come with full purpose of heart, and cleave unto God as he cleaveth unto you. And while his arm of mercy is extended towards you in the light of the day, harden not your hearts. Yea, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts: for why will ye die? For behold, after that ye have been nourished by the good word of God all the day long, will ye bring forth evil fruit, that ye must

be hewn down and cast into the fire? Behold; will ye reject these words? Will ye re-

**At the last day,  
those who  
labored diligently  
will be blessed.**

ject the words of the prophets and will ye reject all the words which have been spoken concerning Christ, after that so many have spoken concerning him? And deny the good word of Christ, and the power of God; and the gift of the Holy Ghost, and quench the Holy Spirit? And make a mock of the great plan of redemption, which hath been laid for you? Know ye not that if ye will do these things, that the power of the redemption and the resurrection which is in Christ, will bring you to stand with shame and awful guilt before the bar of God? And according to the power of justice, for justice can not be denied, that ye must go away into the lake of fire and brimstone, whose flames are unquenchable, and whose smoke ascendeth up for ever and ever, which lake of fire and brimstone, is endless torment. O then, my beloved brethren, repent ye, and enter in at the strait gate, and continue in the way which is narrow, until ye shall obtain eternal life. O be wise: what can I say

more? Finally, I bid you farewell, until I shall meet you before the pleasing bar of God; which bar striketh the wicked with awful dread and fear. Amen (Book of Mormon, page 188: chapter 4: vs 3-18).

The servants prune the vineyard. At the last day, those who labored diligently will be blessed. Those who were not hard hearted shall be saved in the kingdom of God. Those who harden their hearts will feel shame and guilt before the bar of God, and be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone to suffer an endless torment. So, cleave to God, do not harden your heart, and be lost. Enter in at the straight and narrow path, which leads to eternal life. God will give you his grace and kindness.

Let us go to the House of the Lord.

# The World Trade Center MIRACLE

We saw a miracle in the midst of all the chaos that took place Tuesday, September 11, 2001. As I watched the re-runs of the collapse of the two World Trade Center buildings Tuesday afternoon, and prayed for the victims, families, and rescue workers, my engineer's mind became aware of the miracle I had seen "LIVE" Tuesday morning. I saw TWO OF THE MOST PERFECT IMPLOSIONS OF STRUCTURES I have ever

viewed, which is well over 50, on the news and on site. Both structures, one after the other, collapsed totally within themselves. I remembered wondering, what had caused the failure of the CENTER SUPPORT FOUNDATIONS, causing the interior column failures first, which is the technique used in the demolition of tall buildings. Then I heard the first report that extreme heat (1300 degrees plus) from the burning jet fuel, that had

flowed down the CENTER of the building, had melted the CENTER steel members, causing the structures to react like implosions.

Had either or both of these buildings failed in any other way, causing it to fall laterally, it would have extended 100's of feet more than the 1300 feet of its height, like a catapult, or battering ram through blocks of buildings, even just the floors above the impacts, like a topped or felled tree, the



loss of life and "collateral damage" would have been 10 times, or 100 times greater, if they fell in different directions, than it was. The horrendous force produced, as this 1300 feet of steel, concrete, glass, & etc., impacted ground zero, was many times more destructive than a World War II Bomb Group (27 planes) of B-17s loaded with 500 lb. bombs, a total of more than 150,000 lbs. I know from my own experience as a B-17 bombardier on 37 missions, 30 of which were as a lead bombardier, stationed in England.

In scientific terms, the probability of the fuel flowing down only the center of just one of these structures is huge, and the probability that the fuel released in the second structure would also flow only down the center of the

structure and imploding in an almost identical way is astronomical. GOD'S HAND WAS MADE MANIFEST, AND ALL OF THE WORLD SHOULD TAKE NOTICE OF IT. GOD STILL IS IN CONTROL OF THIS WORLD AND ITS TOTAL FORCES, AND IS GIVING THIS NATION, ESPECIALLY, WARNING TO LOOK UNTO HIM FOR ITS SALVATION.

Lest any think I do not support this MOST BLESSED NATION, THEY DO NOT KNOW ME. I LOVE THIS NATION, SECOND ONLY TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. I am a fervent FLAG WAYER and support our Government, President, and leaders, and continue to pray for their guidance. But we should ALL realize that we are eye witnesses to the beginning of that great event, which General George Washing-

ton saw as THE THIRD AND LAST GREAT PERIL to this Nation, and which both the Bible and Book of Mormon call the LAST DAYS, through all of which, God reigns, and CALLS US EACH ONE, to believe in His Son Jesus Christ, repent and trust in Him. When we do, He will sustain us, as individuals, the Church and as a Nation. Believe in MIRACLES: THEY ARE BEING PERFORMED IN OUR VERY MIDST. LOOK UP AND REJOICE IN HIM, FOR OUR SALVATION IS AT HAND.

*May God bless you all and all those who mourn,  
Dick Wheaton  
Independence, MO*

*—Posted on the CCEG*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ARIZONA REUNION

The Church of Christ, Phoenix Local, will be hosting our annual reunion. Services will begin on Friday morning, **November 23rd**, and will continue through Sunday evening, **November 25th, 2001**.

Those who plan to attend, or requiring more information, please contact the following people:

**Pastor Elder Gordon McCann**  
18808 N. 30th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85050  
(602) 569-2341  
[gjldmccann@aol.com](mailto:gjldmccann@aol.com)

**Asst. Pastor Priest Duane Ely**  
18814 N 30th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85050  
(602) 569-1516

**Asst. Pastor Priest Glenn Orsted**  
1327 E. Wescott Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85050-2393  
(602) 780-8764  
[borsted@ix.netcom.com](mailto:borsted@ix.netcom.com)

We invite everyone to come and share the Thanksgiving holiday and worship the Lord with us!



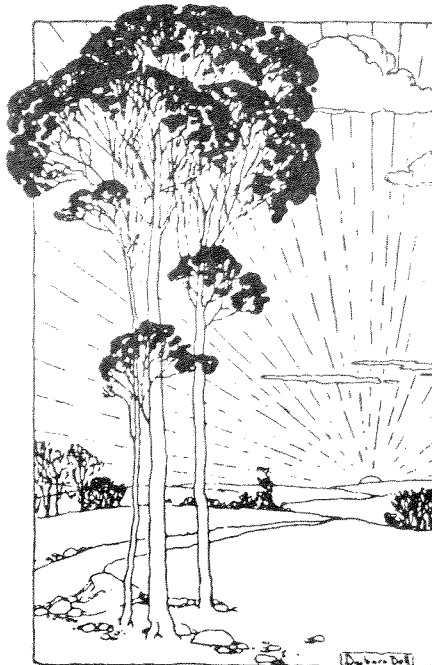
# A Story of the Love of God

By Plácido Matú

I remember that in one of my trips to the United States we were talking in the council meeting about outreach and how important it is to talk with other people about the gospel. When I came back from this trip my heart was full of joy (it always happens to me when I come back from missionary trips), and I was thinking about this issue when I was on the plane. When I arrived at the airport in Mérida, Yucatán, my family was waiting for me, and they had rented a taxi to go to the town where I live.

During this journey I was sitting in the front and suddenly my family fell asleep because it was late at night, almost 12 o'clock. At first I was quiet, but after a few minutes I was talking with the taxi driver about the weather, and some other things. Soon he began to talk to me about his family problems and immediately a voice came to my

mind, "This is the person you need to talk to about the gospel." I was thinking about that



## PATHLIGHTS

experience and suddenly he asked me a question, "What does the church teach about these things?" Immediately I thought to myself, "green light." Then I began to talk with him about our beliefs and about the gospel. We had a very good conversation during our trip, and when I said

good bye, I made this invitation to him, "You are invited to come to our church." He said "okay."

About two months later I had to travel to Cancún, Quintana Roo, México, for a missionary trip. When I came back it was Father's Day and the church in our local gave a party for the fathers. When I arrived it was exactly at supper time. But what a surprise to see the taxi driver sitting at the table at our church! A brother from the church made an invitation to him to go on that occasion. I shook his hand and there we were again sitting together talking about the gospel.

After the meal I invited him to come to church again, and he looked very interested in our church. Since that time he has come and participated in all the activities at church.

Eight months later he asked for baptism, but first he asked me to study the scriptures with him about baptism. He attended all of the studies and two months later he was baptized. Before his

baptism he bore a testimony. He said that he had two spiritual dreams that he could not understand at that time.

In his first dream many years ago he dreamed that he was attending in a place that he had not attended before. He saw a building and some people that were having a party, but he forgot about this dream for some time. When he came to church for the first time, suddenly he remembered about his dream. He saw the building, the people and the party exactly like in his dream. Now he said, "I know that God was showing me the place

where I need to be."

During his studies about baptism he had another dream. He saw that he was standing before two roads, one wide and one narrow. He saw that he began to walk in the wide road but immediately he saw that he was suffering, almost dying. When he woke up he completely understood that God was showing him what would happen to him if he took the "wide road."

From these experiences he knew that God was calling him to be a member of the church. Last April Brother Joel Aké was baptized. My brothers and

friends, you can see how God works with His children. It does not matter where you live or what language you speak; God has a plan for each one of us. And we know for sure that GOD LOVES US, but the question is, DO YOU REALLY LOVE GOD? How do you show that you love God? Do you realize that God has given you so much? Are you giving your entire life to him? If so, how is he working with you?

## **PATHLIGHTS**

# God Hears and Answers Prayer

Jenaro told us of a blessing that he had when he was a younger man. In those days, military service was obligatory. Every young man had to serve. However, no one would report, so they had to take special measures to get an army. Jenaro did not want to go, because they abuse the soldiers by beating them, etc. He prayed continuously about his desire not to be part of the army. The special measures taken to raise the army were that they would just go into the villages and take the young men. They also would stop the buses and board

them. They point out to various young men, and say, "You, you, you, you, and you. Let's go. Off the bus. You are now in the army."

Several times in his life, during those years when he was eligible to serve, they boarded buses where he was sitting. They never saw him—they always overlooked him. The people on the bus were amazed, and said so after the soldiers were gone. "How did you miss being picked?" they would ask him. "I don't know," he would reply. Once he was up front and standing next to the

driver when they entered. The soldier doing the picking stood right beside him and pointed out several teenagers and they followed him out. Again they did not see Jenaro. I guess the Lord had other plans for Jenaro. Today he is one of our leaders in Honduras.

*Alvin J. Moser*

*—Posted on the CCEG*

## REUNION REPORT

## Idaho Reunion 2001

We opened our first service on Saturday, July 14, 2001 with songs and a poem entitled "Rocks." Prayers were offered up for Val Kelley's mom, Marge, Teen Camp, our brother Klaus whose wife Nadene passed away the night before, a baby named Cody who has a life threatening lung problem, those in the Philippines, Don Smith, Erica, isolated members in Toppinish, Washington, and the Idaho local.

After the prayers were offered there were many testimonies of the healing power of God and how God helps us at work. Brian McIndoo told of a healing he received after becoming ill in Africa. Roy Coon talked about overcoming discouragement. And Mike Kelley was administered to.

After the morning service ended we had lunch and free time in which some of the group went tubing in the beautiful Coeur d Alene River.

Brian gave us our first sermon of the reunion, "Strength is what we need."

Revelation, 12:7&17

1 Nephi 7:28-40

Ephesians 6:11-14

3 Nephi 12:34-35

2 Corinthians 13:8

2 Timothy 4:2-4

Titus 1:9-11

Revelation 2:10-11

1 Peter 3:12

Phillipians 4:7&8

Galations 2:20

1 Nephi 3:68

Alma 10:17

Revelation 17:14

After the sermon we had more time to visit and take in the beauty of our surroundings.

Roger Bruner preached our evening service.

Proverbs 1:1

Hebrews 6:1-3 & 11

Isaiah 7:14-15

Jacob 2:44

Matthew 18:2

Proverbs 1:1

Mosiah 1:79

Psalm 46:1-11

After the evening service we had dinner and fellowship and a campfire with music and great company.

Sunday dawned bright and beautiful as we gathered for our Sacrament service. Roy Coon was in charge. We opened with song and prayer.

Joel Yates preached on:

Acts 17:16-31

John 20:24-29

1 John 1:1-4

3 Nephi 5:1-17

John 10:1-5 & 7-15

Hebrews 4:12-16

Matthew 25:1-12

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

We continued our sacrament serv-

ice with prayers for Bro. Klaus and family, Ron Temple, isolated members, Cody, Youth Camp and Ministers' conference. Testimonies were given afterward. After the service ended we had lunch and free time in which all the youth and youth-at-heart did some rock painting.

The evening service commenced with a sermon by Joel Yates, "Differences of Opinion."

2 Nephi 13:22-30

Revelation 3:7

Colossians 4:2-6

Proverbs 18:4-8 & 12-19

James 3:1

James 4:11

Ephesians 4:22

3 Nephi 5:29-31

1 Peter 3:8-12

James 1:19-25

Psalms 19:7

After the evening service we enjoyed another campfire and the company of all who were there.

*Love in Christ,  
Val Kelley*

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### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 2002 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, March 31. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 1. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 29 & 30. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 2002 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 9, 10 and 11, at Independence, Missouri.

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- Concerning Marriage and Polygamy
- Cost of Salvation, The
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
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