

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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*"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;
Yea, and are willing to mourn with
those that mourn; yea, and comfort
those that stand in need of
comfort, and to stand as
witnesses of God at
all times,
and in all things,..."*
Mosiah 9:39-40



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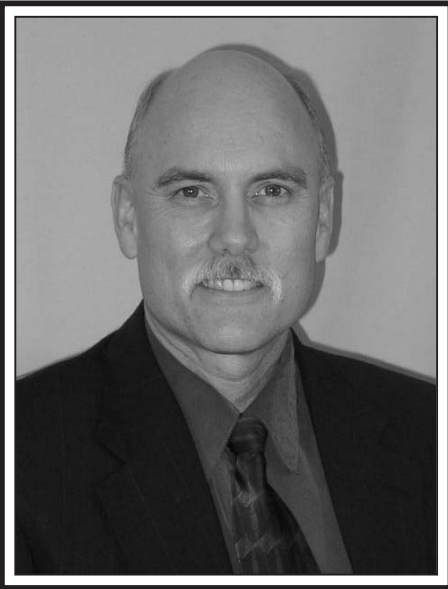
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

"FORGIVENESS"



By Elder Gordon McCann

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt 11:28-30).

The above words of Christ are a familiar quotation and have been quoted by many ever since our Lord and Savior first uttered them. I would like to focus on the words "heavy laden" that were

translated from the Greek word *phortizo*, as it would apply to our spiritual labor or struggle in the flesh. The meaning of that particular word was used to describe a vessel or animal when it had been loaded up with as many goods as it could possibly hold. Another definition was to be overburdened with spiritual anxiety. As we come to the age of accountability, or in other words, when we can determine right from wrong, a spiritual conflict erupts within our consciousness.

Our new spiritual awareness addresses our sinful nature and displays it in full view as if we were looking in a mirror for the very first time. The Spirit of God continues to work within us by helping us to understand that we have an advocate, Jesus Christ, Who took upon Himself flesh and blood so that He would be more able, as it is written in Hebrews 2:18, to "succor them that are tempted." Though Jesus was without sin, He was tempted in the

Jesus was given the same free will agency that is given to us all, the freedom of choice, to either obey His Father's will or to give in to the temptations that Satan placed before him.

flesh and suffered with that same struggle within the flesh. Jesus was given the same free will agency that is given to us all, the freedom of choice, to either obey His Father's will or to give in to the temptations that Satan placed before him. The Apostle Paul, as he wrote his epistle to the Romans, said these words as he described that spiritual conflict within himself:

"But I see another law in my members, warring

against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Romans 7:23-24).

Paul was not alone in expressing those same thoughts concerning that spiritual warfare that occurs within all of us. Nephi recorded his innermost feelings so that others may profit from them when he said:

"O wretched man that I am; yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh. My soul grieveth because of mine iniquities. I am encompassed about because of the temptations and the sins which doth so easily beset me. And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins;" (2 Nephi 3:31-33).

The Apostle Paul and Nephi both understood the feeling of "anxiety," or being "heavy laden," with sin. Both men had a desire to testify to you and to me that they had felt the press of sin within their hearts and that they labored with it. Paul penned a simple fact when he wrote:

"I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me" (Romans 7:21).

Satan is the enemy to all righteousness and will always be an adversary in this

spiritual warfare. The weaknesses of the flesh often time control the direction and desire of whom we are going to serve in this life, and instead of allowing the Spirit of God to overrule our fleshly desire, Satan uses our weaknesses to accomplish his goal of destruction. The Apostle Peter warns us to be on our guard continually because of the destructive nature of our opponent to all righteousness as he wrote these words:

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

Our adversary Satan constantly seeks ways to destroy us and to separate us from our God, while our Lord Jesus Christ is with us seeking avenues to preserve our life. Both influences of good and bad are within our mind, waiting for a decision on our part to either follow the good words of our redeemer Jesus Christ, or the bad influences of the adversary. I can speak with authority when I tell you that there is nothing more exquisite than to experience your burdens being lifted from you by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Sin on the one hand, with all its weight and anxiety of spirit and soul, and forgiveness on the other hand, with

its complete freedom and joy unspeakable where tears uncontrollably flow. There are no words that can adequately express your feeling of a lightened burden within when the words from our Master "Thy sins are forgiven," are spoken to you. Remember the faith that the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears had, when through her actions she had petitioned Jesus that He might forgive her. The remorse that the woman displayed for her sins and her true desire to have them removed from her gave cause for Jesus to frankly forgive her of all her sins. Then with the Master's parting words He said to her:

"Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace" (Luke 7:50).



LANDS OF PROMISE



By Roland Sarratt

Jacob, the brother of Nephi, recorded a prophecy given through Zenos, a prophet of ancient times. He likened the House of Israel to a tame olive tree, describing the various times the Lord worked with them. At one point of time the Lord of the vineyard took branches of the tree and set them out to become trees in different places in his vineyard. The prophecy specifically describes three separate plantings, indicating three different places where the Lord has led His people. Two of the trees were set out in poor

(PART 2)

ground, while the third one had good ground. Part of the third tree brought forth good fruit while the other part produced wild fruit. This described the Nephites and the Lamanites on this promised land. The other two peoples and their locality have not been identified to us yet. (See Jacob 3:30-68; for the complete parable also read verses 69-153.)

Up to this time the people on this promised land were kept from all other peoples in other lands by the great seas. Prophetically the sea was referred to as a wall because no one was able to build ships navigable enough to cross the great seas (see Gen. 49:22). Only under the direction and care of the Lord were the several groups taken across the oceans to this promised land.

Going back in time we find that Nephi, the son of Lehi, was given a vision while they were yet in Jerusalem. In one part of the vision he saw the Lamanites in the promised land, and also the Gentiles, in a land separated by many waters. The

Jesus Christ was recognized as the only head of the church, with no man or set of men taking His place here on earth.

Lord led a man of the Gentiles across the great waters to the promised land. Many others of the Gentiles, even great multitudes, followed and took the land for their inheritance, scattering the Lamanite peoples (see 1 Nephi 3:147-156). We can verify the fulfillment of that part of the vision by our American history. The Lamanites are the native Americans today.

The Gentiles were greatly blessed of the Lord as they began to awaken spiritually from the dark ages, but they were yet at a disadvantage. They had the Bible, but some of the plain and precious truths had been removed. As promised, the Lord did restore the fullness of His gospel and brought forth the ancient record Moroni had hid.

That record is the Book of Mormon, which is an abridged record of the Nephites and the Jaredites.

As we understand the prophecy given in Ezekiel 37:15-20, the Book of Mormon is to be joined with the Bible and the two are to become one in our hands. The Bible is the stick of Judah, and the Book of Mormon is the stick of Joseph. Judah and Joseph were sons of Jacob (Israel). The promised land of the Americas is also known as Joseph's land, while Judah's inheritance is in the land of Palestine.

The Lord revealed to Nephi that there would be writings by the Jews and the Nephites (Bible and Book of Mormon) and also by other tribes of Israel:

“For out of the books which shall be written, I will judge the world, every man according to his works, according to that which is written. For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews, and they shall write it: And I shall also speak unto the Nephites, and they shall write it; And I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; And I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth, and they shall write it. And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews: And the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel; and the lost tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews. And it shall come to pass that my people which are of the house of Israel,

shall be gathered home unto the lands of their possessions; and my word also shall be gathered in one” (2 Nephi 12:66-73).

Joseph Smith, Jr. translated the Book of Mormon under the direction of the Lord from an ancient reformed Egyptian language into English. He and five of his associates in this work organized the Church of Christ on April 6, 1830. The gospel of Christ was restored, not only in word, but also with true priesthood authority.

As in ancient times, persecution came against those who struggled to maintain the Church of Christ. There were many churches organized on this free land and their dogmas greatly differed from the teachings of this new church. Unfortunately, the human element made its appearance in the restored church. It was to be established like the ancient church and a commandment was given by revelation to search out twelve apostles. That commandment was not obeyed before a significant precept of man had its impact upon the church. Also the name of the church was changed twice.

When the ancient church went into apostasy, a man was set up to be the head of the church to take the place of Christ. In the restored church a similar office was established under the name of president. Although the restored church did not fall away into total apostasy, this innovation of man brought a cloud of darkness upon it.

The church grew and mi-

grated from the state of New York to Ohio and on to Missouri. The city of Independence was named by revelation as the place for the beginning of Zion, and the spot for the temple of the Lord was marked and dedicated in 1831. In 1833 persecution increased in Missouri to the point that the members of the church were driven from Independence, and eventually from the state in 1839. The people of the church established themselves just across the line into Illinois in the city of Nauvoo. They were not to have peace for any length of time there either, as Joseph Smith, the President of the church, and his brother Hyrum, were martyred in 1844.

As a result of this great tragedy the church divided into several factions, each with their own distinct name. A small group in eastern Illinois and Indiana, being somewhat isolated from the main church, held to what they understood were the original teachings as given by the scriptures and revelation. They declared themselves independent of those who were teaching false doctrines and practices. They had considered joining another group of the church in Wisconsin by comparing beliefs, but found reason not to do so. Eventually they established themselves as a true remnant of the original church, taking the name as was given in the beginning, Church of Christ.

A revelation was given to the Church of Christ in 1864 which instructed them to return to Independence, Mis-

souri, and purchase the property which was dedicated as the spot for the temple of the Lord. In 1867 they returned in late winter, crossing the Missouri River on ice. In the next several years they purchased the various lots, which made up the temple site.

After several years another restoration church followed suit by returning to Independence, and they established themselves nearby. The Church of Christ was very small in number and their ownership of the sacred spot was soon challenged. The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints sued the Church of Christ for the property in 1894, based upon a deed made in 1839, which was not recorded until 1870. The judge of the court awarded the property to the complainants, but the Church of Christ appealed the decision. By great sacrifice the little group raised sufficient funds to go to the U. S. Court of Appeals, and there the judge totally reversed the former court's decision. The Church of Christ retained ownership of the property with a clear title.

The Lord's favor to the Church of Christ was not just in their being able to retain ownership of the temple site, but more significantly, in bringing them through the difficulty of reestablishing the true structure of the church. In the 1920's they abolished the office of First Presidency and sought out twelve apostles, complying with what the Lord had established in the ancient church.

Jesus Christ was recognized as the only head of the church, with no man or set of men taking His place here on earth.

A great work is yet to be accomplished in taking the gospel of Christ into all the world where the Lord has led His people, the House of Israel.

The gospel of Christ had been restored to the Gentiles, fulfilling the third part of the prophecy given to Nephi. Now the gospel was to be taken to the Jews, or the Israelites, which would fulfill the final part of that prophecy. This was given by way of commandment to the Church of Christ (see Book of Commandments 30:7; 32:4). Many efforts have been made to accomplish that special work. There has been some significant success among the Mayan Indians in Yucatan, Mexico, and with a few of the people in Honduras. Very recently the work in Africa and the Philippines has opened up in rather miraculous ways. Although we have no evidence that these people are of the House of Israel we can testify that the Lord has had His hand in this work.

Moroni, the last writer of

the Book of Mormon, speaks of a prophet who labored among the Jaradites in warning them, and gives us some important information concerning the two promised lands anciently and in these last days:

“And now I, Moroni, proceed to finish my record concerning the destruction of the people of whom I have been writing. For behold, they rejected all the words of Ether; for he truly told them of all things, from the beginning of man; and that after the waters had receded from off the face of this land, it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord; Wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him, who dwell upon the face thereof; and that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord. Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning a New Jerusalem upon this land; and he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come; after it should be destroyed, it should be built up again a holy city unto the Lord; Wherefore it could not be a New Jerusalem, for it had been in a time of old, but it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord: and it should be built up unto the house of Israel; And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for which things there has been a type; for as Joseph brought his father down into the land of Egypt, even so he died there; Wherefore the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the land of Jerusalem, that he might be merciful

unto the seed of Joseph, that they should perish not, even as he was merciful unto the father of Joseph, that he should perish not; Wherefore the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built up upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come, when the earth shall pass away (Ether 6:1-8).

As to the land of Jerusalem known as Palestine, certain happenings need to be included here. When the Jews were expelled from their home land, the former and latter rains ceased, making it a desert land as quoted earlier from Jeremiah 5:23-25. In 1841 Orsen Hyde, a member of the restored church, made a trip to Palestine and offered a prayer on the Mount of Olives, invoking God for the return of the rains and the gathering of the scattered remnants of Judah. The former and latter rains did return in 1853, and the nation of Israel was reestablished in their promised land in 1948. This fulfilled the prophecy given by Christ in Luke 21:24, speaking of Jerusalem being trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. However the Jews are yet to be converted to the fullness of the gospel of Christ.

A great work is yet to be accomplished in taking the gospel of Christ into all the world where the Lord has led His people, the House of Israel. This work is still in the hands of the Gentiles, but the time of the

Gentiles is coming to an end. Speaking of the Gentiles, Jesus said this to His people on this land (Americas):

“But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem. And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst, and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily, I say unto you, At that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people; yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name; Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father, among all nations, in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance (3 Nephi 10:1-7).

God is to do a great work future to our time. The Gentiles

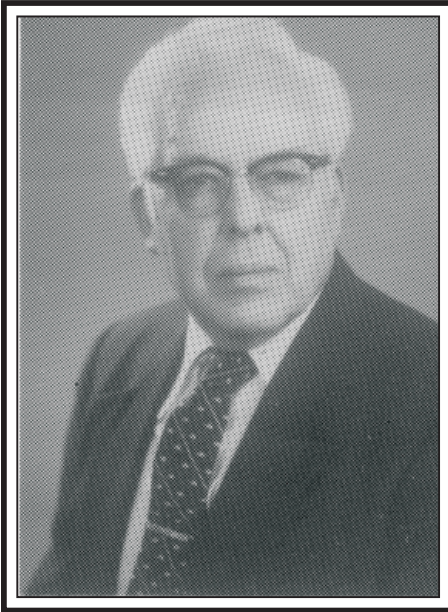
have a part in this work, but God will favor His ancient covenant people, the House of Israel, by bringing them to a knowledge of their ancestors and returning them to their homelands. They will be taught the true gospel of Christ.

God has designated lands of promise to certain peoples in ancient times and has made covenant with them to return their scattered descendants to those lands in these last days. This plan, however complex and impossible it may seem, shows us the uniqueness of God's thinking and the faithfulness of His word. It is a challenge for us to stretch our normal comprehension to grasp the mysteries of God, but the reward is glorious. Let us rejoice in the infinite works of God and yield ourselves to His purposes.



FROM the ARCHIVES

“COME, LET US DECLARE IN ZION THE WORK OF THE LORD OUR GOD” —Jeremiah 51:10



By the late
Apostle Robert H. Jensen

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it” (Isaiah 2:2).

“And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:3).

Millenniums have now transpired since the word of the Lord was

(Editorial – first published in the January 1994 issue of the *Zion’s Advocate*.)

given to Isaiah to write for the knowledge of billions of the children of God’s creation—among whom over 5 billion walk upon the earth at this very time.

We have the greatest advantage of all people in history. The fullness of the Gospel of Christ shines forth upon the earth, and the entire record of history—both scriptural and secular—are at hand to reveal all of the generations of the earth. These records identify the manner of God’s workings with mankind through the ages. From such we should gain in our time the most knowledge and understanding of the Divine Plan for our earthly lives and the plan of Eternal Salvation. Indeed, a magnitude of privilege not shared by any prior generation.

Concurrently with our great privilege and blessings there also accompany in the world, as prophesied by ancient worthies, sinful ways and crimes among so many that surely exceed those of Sodom and Gomorrah. Violent crimes against the people’s rights,

We must diligently study the scriptures of God to become well aware of all warnings and directions if we hope to be successful in preparing for all the hazards and promises of this mortal life.

property, safety and life have multiplied until now it all is declared by the national governments around the globe to be of epidemic proportions. All efforts thus far have failed to appreciably diminish its onward march.

Hearken again to prophecy:

“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, ...having a form of godli-

ness, but denying the power thereof; ... ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (II Timothy 3:1-7).

"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; And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say, All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well; And thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell" (2 Nephi 12:24-26).

We must diligently study the scriptures of God to become well aware of all warnings and directions if we hope to be successful in preparing for all the hazards and promises of this mortal life.

"And thus it is if ye will not nourish the word, looking forward with an eye of faith to the fruit thereof, ye can never pluck of the fruit of the tree of life" (Alma 16:169).

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

Let us then glory and live in the word of the Lord while we are yet on this earth in the time of the last days:

"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; And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb..." (1 Nephi 3:187-188).

Ours is a sacred mission. The Lord Jesus told the people:

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

Our responsibility to Him is to promote and establish peace upon every opportunity. We must pray for such opportunities.

"And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be" (I Nephi 3:189).

There was also a man named Philip Doddridge born in 1702. His gift was music and he composed the verses to an inspirational song that later appeared in the Saint's Hymnal published in 1895 (Charles Burney composed the melody in 1769). It is a hymn of both prophecy, admonition and inspiration composed approximately 100 years before Christ's Church was restored to the earth in 1830. A man of Doddridge's time could only have written such a magnificent work then through a dedicated love of God and His divine inspiration. I am pleased to share it with you. It was published under the caption,

The Sainly Life

*"Triumphant Zion! Lift thy head
From dust and darkness, and
the dead! Though humbled
long, awake at length, And
gird thee with thy Savior's*

strength!

Put all thy beauteous garments
on, And let thy excellence be
known! Decked in the robes
of righteousness, Thy glories
shall the world confess.

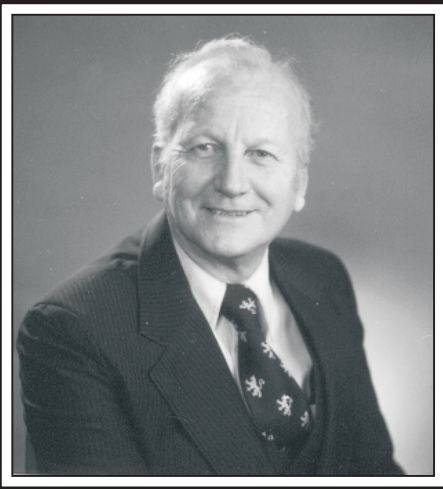
No more shall foes unclean in-
vade, And fill thy hallowed
walls with dread; No more
shall hell's insulting host
Their victory and thy sorrows
boast.

God from on high has heard thy
prayer, His hand thy ruin shall
repair; Nor will thy watchful
Monarch cease To guard thee
in eternal peace."

An urgent instruction has been given to us in these last days to prepare for our safety through righteous living and sojourning in the land of Zion. It was a Divine Revelation given to Joseph Smith, Jr., by the Lord on March 7, 1831, while Joseph was at Kirtland, Ohio:

"...And it shall come to pass, among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety..." (Book of Commandments 48:62).

Pondering the Words of JESUS CHRIST



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

Item 34: Is The House Built Upon THE ROCK Or Sand?

Matt 7:24-27 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 (See also Luke 6:47-49).

Jesus taught His disciples in America concerning the reception of bread and wine as types of His body and blood, saying this would be in remembrance of Him.

(Quotations are from the King James Authorized Edition of the Bible and from the 1908 RLDS Edition of the Book of Mormon; same chapters/verses as Independence Edition.)

3 Ne 8:41-46 And if ye do always remember me, ye shall have my Spirit to be with you. And I give unto you a commandment that ye shall do these things. And if ye shall always do these things, blessed are ye, for ye are built upon my rock. But whoso among you shall do more or less than these, are not built upon my rock, but are built upon a sandy foundation; And when the rain descends, and the floods come, and the winds blow, and beat upon them, they shall fall, and the gates of hell are already open to receive them: Therefore blessed are ye if ye shall keep my commandments, which the Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you.

Isa 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

From these texts, it is clear that **Jesus Christ Himself is the only solid Rock upon which to build a faith of acceptance with God. The fact that He was the promised Messiah, the Lord of our salvation, was the lesson which had been imparted to Peter by the Holy Ghost. It was the knowledge which Peter had, and which all believers may have through faith upon the gospel of Christ, a knowledge imparted by the Holy Ghost, that JESUS IS THE CHRIST; it is this knowledge which is a sure founda-**

tion of faith that will enable one to stand against the fiery darts of the adversary of our souls; that will enable one to overcome temptation; and this because of the verity of Jesus' promise that He would send another Comforter who would lead into all truth and would abide in His disciples:

John 14:15-17 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 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, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 14:26-27 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. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

However, in all this there is a very sobering reflection given by Christ:

Matt 21:44 ...Whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Jesus here alludes to the broken heart and contrite spirit which must truly be possessed by His disciples. Most of us may become broken-hearted at times in life because of the loss of a dear one, for human suffering, or for other legitimate reasons; but these are human aspects, often short-lived. His principal concern was for the heart broken by sin, and thus given completely to Him; for the development of a life-long humility of spirit, a contrition of spirit bringing repentance and obedience to God, which alone will produce the seed of eternal life.

On the other hand, whoever will not yield to the Good Spirit leading to Christ and His gospel (assuming it has been available through a divinely called servant of God) is liable to endure the full impact of God's judgment unto eternal death, or separation from Him, called the "second death," which comes through complete rebellion, insomuch that there is no longer found within him the Spirit of God to draw him.

Matt 10:11-15 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Mos 1:79-85 And now, I say unto you, my brethren, that after ye have known and have been taught all these things, if ye should transgress, and go contrary to that which has been spoken, that ye do withdraw yourselves from the Spirit of the Lord, that it may

have no place in you to guide you in wisdom's path, that ye may be blessed, prospered, and preserved. I say unto you, that the man that doeth this, the same cometh out in open rebellion against God; Therefore he listeth to obey the evil spirit, and becometh an enemy to all righteousness; Therefore, the Lord has no place in him, for he dwelleth not in unholy temples. Therefore, if that man repenteth not, and remaineth and dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine justice doth awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt, Which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord, and doth fill his breast with guilt, and pain, and anguish, which is like an unquenchable fire, whose flames ascendeth up for ever and ever. And now I say unto you, that mercy hath no claim on that man; therefore, his final doom is to endure a never ending torment.

Beyond THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT and Related Texts

Item 35:

The Doctrine Of Christ

The following words of Jesus Christ are the most concise statement of the fundamentals of His doctrine, i.e., the essentials of salvation into His kingdom, to be found in the scriptures. We are not to assume that these are the totality of His teachings, which certainly would include the laying on of hands for reception of the Holy Ghost, etc., the resurrection of the dead, the eternal judgment of mankind, as also His own prophetic statements, etc. It is a basic presentation requiring personal obedience for all who hear it and can make choice to either accept it or reject it. It cannot apply to infants who die, or to those who are "without the law" (see Moroni 8:11-27 & 2 Ne. 6:51-56). They who are without the law would include imbeciles, but also those who have not had opportunity to hear the gospel law, yet had

kept an inner law of righteousness which is acceptable to God (see Rom. 2: 12-15).

3 Ne. 5: 32-42 Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine. And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me; And I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me, and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me; And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God. And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned. Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me, believeth in the Father also; And unto him will the Father bear record of me; for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost; And thus will the Father bear record of me; and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me; for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost, are one. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in no wise receive these things. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them.

Sad to say: It is apparent that there have been many additions to the above by those of latter day saint persuasion, while many others declare less than this.

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

GOD GIVES A SIGN

REFERENCES: 2 Nephi 4:42-44; Jacob 1:1-12, 5:1-38

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson God warned Nephi that his brothers Laman and Lemuel were planning to kill him. Nephi and all the others who loved God packed up their belongings and headed out into the wilderness. Nephi brought the precious brass plates on which were written the words of God. God blessed the Nephites in their new home.

Thirty years had passed from the time that they had left Jerusalem. God chose Jacob and Joseph to be His ministers. Nephi, Jacob and Joseph worked together to teach the Nephites about God. God gave Nephi and his brothers many prophecies about Jesus. A prophecy is when God tells someone what is going to happen in the future. It may be a vision. A vision is a picture of the future. Or God may just say what is going to happen. God told them in many ways that Jesus Christ, His Son, was coming to earth.

One day Nephi called his brother Jacob to him. "Jacob," Nephi said. "It will be your job to keep the record of our people on the metal plates. Write everything that God does for our people so that our children and grandchildren can learn about God." Nephi knew he was growing old. Not long after that he died and went home to the Lord.

Jacob kept a record on the metal plates and he taught the people about God. Jacob taught the Nephites about Christ. "Be happy," Jacob told his people. "God's own Son is coming to earth someday. You must be ready for Him."

One day an evil man who did not believe in Jesus decided to give Jacob some trouble. "Listen to me, people!" this man said. "My name is Sherem. Jacob has been lying to you. God's not sending His Son to earth." Sherem was very smart. He knew how to make a lie sound like the truth. Some of the Nephites believed Sherem's lies. Jacob knelt in prayer to God. "Please, God, tell me how to stop Sherem from telling these terrible lies!"

Then one day Sherem walked right up to Jacob. "Jacob, I've been wanting to talk to you. You are wrong about Jesus the Son of God coming to earth." "Do you believe in the words written on the metal plates that we brought out of Jerusalem?" asked Jacob. "Yes," answered Sherem. Sherem was lying. The brass plates told about Jesus.

"God has told me that His Son is coming," Jacob told Sherem. "That's crazy!" said Sherem. "No one can know what's going to happen hundreds of years from now!" Sherem kept trying to argue with Jacob. But God told Jacob what to say. God's words were more powerful than all of Sherem's fancy words. Finally, Sherem just said, "Show me that Jesus Christ is true! Then I'll believe you." "That's up to God," Jacob told Sherem. "If God wants to, He will show you a sign." Suddenly God knocked Sherem to the ground! Sherem couldn't get up for many days. Sherem knew he was going to die. He called the people together. "I lied to you," he told them. "Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is coming to earth." Then Sherem died.

God had answered Jacob's prayers. He showed the people that Jesus Christ was true. The people who believed Sherem's lies were sorry. They knew that they must remember God's words which were written on the metal plates. God's words would always show them what was true. After that the Nephites lived in happiness and peace for many years.

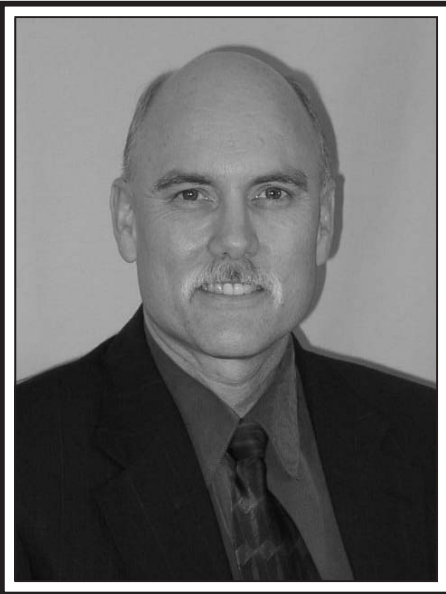
Sometime in your life you will meet people who will tell you lies about God. They may tell you that Jesus Christ is not true. God doesn't often strike people down like He did Sherem. But He can give you the words to answer just like He did for Jacob.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters of these words to answer the questions.

1. God told Nephi what was going to happen in a yphcorpe.
2. God chose Nephi's brothers to be nsretmiis.
3. Nephi told his brother objca to write on the sbars lapset.
4. Objca taught the Nephites that sejsu thrcsi was coming to earth.
5. Hsmree said sejsu thrcsi was not coming to earth.
6. Hsmree knew how to make lies sound uret.
7. Some of the Nephites lbidevee the lies.
8. Objca asked God to lehp him stop the lies.
9. Hsmree said, "Show me a gsni and I'll believe."
10. God rutcsk him down.
11. The Nephites knew the sbars lapset would always show them the urhtt.

Articles of Faith & Practice



By Elder Gordon McCann

In the book of Genesis is where the union of one man and one woman was conceived and ordained of God.

“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs,

and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:18, 21-24).

Jesus was teaching the multitude along the coasts of Judea beyond Jordan when the Pharisees asked him, “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?” Jesus quoted chapter 2 of Genesis, verse 24, but added the following:

“... What therefore God hath joined together,

Article #20

We believe that marriage is ordained of God, and that the law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of a breach of this covenant by adultery, the innocent one may remarry.

let not man put asunder”
(Matthew 19:6).

Jesus had made it very clear, when answering the Pharisees’ question, that when a man and a woman became husband and wife it would be until the death of the husband or wife. The union that God had sanctified and made holy and righteous was not to be broken.

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrew 13:4).

The marriage bond is a sacred covenant between the man and woman and with God. The promise from God was that once entered into He would bless and sanctify the union.

“And they were married, and given in marriage, and were blessed according to the multitude of the promises which the Lord had made unto them” (4 Nephi 1:12).

Bigamy, polygamy and any other relationship outside the confines of the holy union of one man and one woman as found in the Bible

and Book of Mormon is an abomination before God.


“Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none: For I, the Lord God, delighteth in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me: thus saith the Lord of hosts” (Jacob 2:36-37).

“...Let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband” (1 Corinthians 7:1-3).

There was only one other reason given by Jesus, besides death, for a husband or a wife to seek divorce, and that was for the cause of fornication on the part of either the husband or the wife (Matthew 5:31-32; 19:7-9).

“And again, I say unto you, that whoso forbiddeth to marry, is not ordained of God, for marriage is ordained of God unto man: Wherefore it is lawful that he should have one wife, and they twain shall be one flesh, and all this that the

earth might answer the end of its creation; and that it might be filled with the measure of man, according to his creation before the world was made” (Book of Commandments 52:16-17).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHURCH OF CHRIST
NOTICES AT A
GLANCE**

**July 25-30
Church of Christ
Teen Camp**

**July 30-August 1
Missouri Reunion**

**August 28-29
Missouri Camp for
All Ages**

**October 8-9
Women's Retreat**

**November 26-28
Phoenix Reunion**

MISSOURI REUNION

The Missouri Reunion Committee would like to invite all to attend the 2004 Missouri Reunion, which will be held **July 30, 31 and August 1, 2004**. All meetings will be held at the Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri.

For information please contact:

Roland Sarratt
15910 E. 36th Terr.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 373-6605
E-mail:
r.sarratt@earthlink.net

Michael McGhee
18907 E. 6th St. North
Independence, MO 64056
(816) 796-6255

PHOENIX REUNION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
The Phoenix Local would like to extend an invitation to all to attend the 2004 Phoenix Reunion, which will be held **November 26th, 27th and 28th**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

For information contact:

Bob Hedrick
2908 E. Rockwood Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 494-9661
bobnliza@juno.com

Jim Yates
1449 E. Rockwood Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85024-2969
(623) 582-4163
jimyatesjr@yahoo.com

Glenn Orsted
1327 E. Wescott
Phoenix, AZ 85024
(623) 780-8764
borsted@cox.net

MISSOURI CAMP FOR ALL AGES

August 28th and 29th at Knob Noster State Park.

- Hiking, biking, swimming, and other activities.
- Bring a sack lunch for Saturday.
- No tents required, shelter provided.

For more details please contact:

RUSTY @ (816) 254-8339
OR E-mail at
liberty1003@sbcglobal.net
MATT @ (417) 832-8349 OR
E-mail at
tabiandmatt@hotmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

*Does your lamp need some oil?
Would you like to spend time in fellowship with other women in the gospel?*

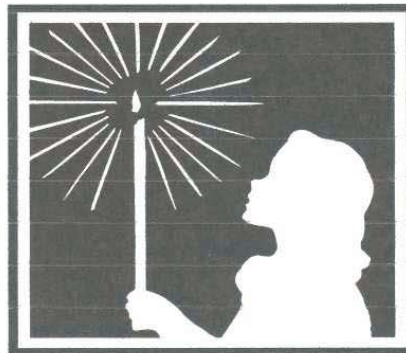
Then the Women's Retreat is for you!!!

October 8 & 9th, 2004

Lake Mauer Assembly of God Retreat Center

Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

Overnight fellowship activity for women only over the age of 18



*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16*

Meet: at 10:00 a.m. at the Temple Lot on Friday, October 8th to spend the day in Liberty, MO

Cost: \$40/person

Meals: Friday - noon and evening-brown bag or eat out

Saturday - breakfast and lunch provided

We will break up on Saturday about 5:00 p.m.

This is an outreach opportunity, so please invite friends and relatives, members and non-members alike!

Carrie Geier

14609 E. Phelps Ct.

Independence, MO 64055

(816) 836-0035

geiers@kcnet.com

OR

Geri Adams

2804 Westbrooke Circle

Blue Springs, MO 64015

(816) 228-8283

admsgeri@cs.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

Church of Christ Women's Retreat

Registration Form

October 8th & 9th, 2004

Lake Mauer Assembly of God Retreat Center (Directions enclosed)
Please return by September 15, 2004



Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Address: _____

Telephone#: _____

e-mail addy: _____

Do you like to stay up late? _____ Do you need a "quiet" room? _____

Special accommodations required (i.e.: bottom bunk, special diet, etc.) _____

Do you need additional accommodations if coming from out of town? (transportation from airport, lodging, etc.) If so, please list: _____

Send check or money order for \$40.00 payable to "Church of Christ Temple Lot United Workers" by September 15, 2004 to:

Cheri Campbell

5705 Logan Road, Kansas City, MO 64136

Things to Bring:

- Bible & Book of Mormon
- Towel & washcloth
- Comfy clothes
- Pajamas
- Toiletries
- Sheets & a blanket OR a sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Musical instruments

Let Your
Light
Shine!

If additional forms are needed, feel free to copy this form.

For questions or further information, contact:

Carrie Geier or Geri Adams
geiers@kcnnet.com or admsgeri@cs.com
 (816) 836-0035 (816) 228-8283

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2004 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 2, 3 and 4, at Independence, Missouri.

The **2005 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 3. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 4. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on April 1 & 2. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	Price Each [†]
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Foreign	4.50
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Book of Commandments (hard bound)	9.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	4.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—plastic)	12.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—hard bound)	18.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (plastic)	5.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (hard bound)	12.00
Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
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Libro De Mormon (Spanish)	7.00
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Temple Lot Deed30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Zion's Hymnal (members)	15.00
Zion's Hymnal (non-members)	18.00

[†]Cost of mailing will be added.

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Apostasy from the New Testament Church	Book of Commandments Commentary)
Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ	Evidences of the Book of Mormon First Presidency or First Apostles?
Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)	God's Promises to Israel
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	God's Purpose in America
Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	Great Plan of Redemption, The
Book of Commandments, The - Its Role in the History of the Restoration	Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants	Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem, The
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Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day, The - Sunday	Priesthood—Divine Authority
Colored Tracts to Native Americans: 1) Book in the Stone Box, 2) Did you Know?, 3) Epistle to American Indians, 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk	Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
Concerning Marriage and Polygamy	Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
Cost of Salvation, The	Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?	Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
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	Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon
	Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
	That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
	What about the Book of Mormon?
	Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
	Zion and the Temple of the Lord

*Note: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage)

Church of Christ

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SLIDE PROGRAMS WITH TAPED NARRATION

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472.

LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A (32 minutes)—Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

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RETURN, THE (12 minutes)—Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ, especially as holders of Title to the previously dedicated Temple Lot.

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For a sermon on cassette tape write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139; on video tape contact your local missionary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for Sunday School materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 West Colonel Drive, Independence, Missouri 64050. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

Bible Stories to Grow By—52 Lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7

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Who Am I?—Bible game on cards; free to Sunday Schools/\$1.30 to individuals.