

Zion's Advocate

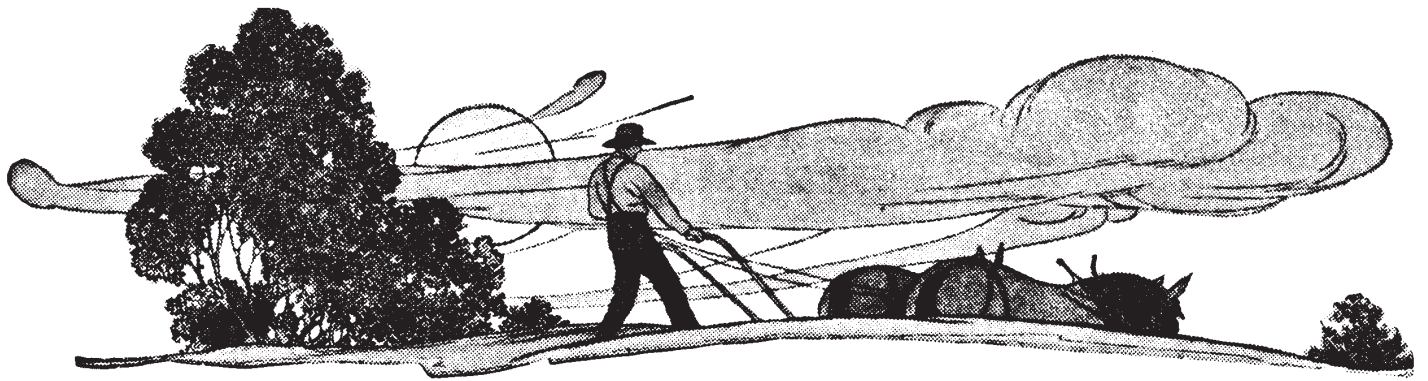
*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*

1 Nephi 3:187

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**"IT IS A GOOD THING TO GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD,
AND TO SING PRAISES UNTO THY NAME...."**

PSALM 92:1

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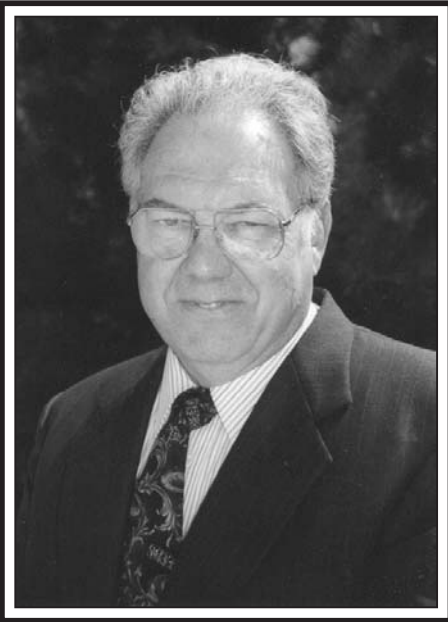
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

Redeeming Our True Heritage



By Roland Sarratt

Facing the reality of national and world conditions today in relationship with a God of truth and righteousness is a great challenge for any member of the Church of Christ, young or old. The more developed nations of the world are facing some very consequential situations which will likely affect us both physically and spiritually. We may not know exactly what will happen or when it will happen, but from the prophecies in the scriptures we are warned that certain things will happen.

We, as ministers of the Church of Christ, must face the reality that we have the responsibility to give warning as we see these conditions develop. Ezekiel was told:

Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.

But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away

Our spiritual and physical salvation depends upon our ability to face the reality of our national and world conditions in relationship with the standard of truth and righteousness that is in God.

in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. (Ezekiel 33:2-6)

Ezekiel was chosen by the Lord to be a watchman to warn the Israelites. In truth "the sword" was a real threat to them and the prophet had an awesome responsibility. We, of the ministry of the church, have a similar responsibility. As in ancient times, when we are prompted to give warnings the people's response in taking warning will determine their ultimate salvation. The protec-

tion of one's physical life from the sword is dependent upon one's repentance of sin and obedience to God's will. They will be saved from the sword if they turn to the Lord. If they don't turn to the Lord the sword will come upon them and destroy them.

As we continue to read the Lord's message to Ezekiel we find this statement:

The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth (Ezek. 33:12).

We can make that statement more positive by saying, the righteous must endure to the end and the wicked must repent and become righteous to be worthy for salvation. Applying that scripture to this day, we need to identify our personal righteousness and not be ashamed of the good that we have chosen to accept in our lives. If we yield to peer pressure or to the many bad influences that try to control our lives, we will lose our righteous heritage and suffer great loss, as did Esau when he sold his birthright. If we make the wrong choice we have no promise, and we will not only be subject to lose our lives, but in the final end we will lose our souls.

The good influences in our personal lives have probably

come from our parents, grandparents, ministers, teachers and various individuals that have been good examples to us.

If we yield to peer pressure or to the many bad influences that try to control our lives, we will lose our righteous heritage and suffer great loss, as did Esau when he sold his birthright.

All good things that have influenced us collectively make up our personal heritage.

If we have an appreciation of good and an abhorrence of evil it is because we have chosen good over evil. This didn't come about accidentally. Somehow our conscience formed that distinction. This heritage is a great blessing to be cherished. With the help of God it is the means by which we can face the world.

Our spiritual and physical salvation depends upon our ability to face the reality of our national and world conditions in relationship with the standard of truth and righteousness that is in God. As a church, we may not be able to effect a

change in the world which would save it from the dire consequences prophesied in the scriptures, but if we are able to be examples morally and spiritually we can effect a change upon our immediate contacts wherever the church exists. It depends upon our ability to understand the truth and to live the truth. Every misconception of the truth can be a stumbling block to us and to those we may influence. Every deliberate misapplication of the truth is a greater stumbling block which will bring condemnation.

There are many precepts of men in the world, and most of them are optional to our acceptance. We are apt to become entangled in the social acceptance of them by peer pressure. Also, we may become involved through politics as efforts are made to legalize certain practices that we do not accept. Many of these things are beyond our control. We can do little or nothing about it except to state our reason for not accepting them.

We are faced with an increased tolerance of immoral behavior in our society. Our society has become permissive in allowing sinful activities to become accepted behavior. The scriptures call it "ripening in iniquity." When a people indulge themselves in a lifestyle less moral than what they know to do, it is called iniquity.

The baptized members of this church are obligated to obey the moral standard that the scriptures teach. That standard is to be socially observed

by the body of Christ. Nonetheless, we personally will be challenged by the permissiveness of the society in which we live outside the church.

The public educational system is one of our greatest challengers. The school systems give little or no consideration to spiritual values. Expressing our belief in spiritual communications between God and man may bring contempt from those who disbelieve. The law is on their side but the truth is on our side if we truly believe in a living God who hears our prayers.

Many people of the world consider themselves above the moral guidelines encompassed in the law of God, and because they reject them they are not subject nor morally restricted by them. We have to personally deal with this fact so that we are not influenced by their general trend of thinking.

We are subject to the laws of this land, but we should seek to keep ourselves free from the liberal direction which would lead us into activities of immoral behavior contrary to the Godly standard which we know to be true.

In the last half century this country has gone through a major change known as the "sexual revolution," also referred to as "being liberated." This change has affected the actions, speech, dress and attitude of most of the citizens of this country.

The result of the revolution was a marked increase in promiscuous sexual relations. Husbands and wives became involved in extra-marital

affairs. The divorce rate increased. Couples of men and women lived together without the benefit of marriage. Homosexuals came out of the closet and started calling themselves "gay." Pornography was sold at the newsstands openly. Movies, television shows and various types of entertainment lowered their restrictions on profanity and lewdness.

Along with this revolution was the uprising of the Hippie movement, which was primarily a demonstration of rebellion against the established society. Drug use was greatly increased and drug trafficking became a serious problem nationwide. Crimes of robbing, stealing, murdering, kidnapping, child and spousal abuse have become almost daily news.

As a result of promiscuous sexual relations pregnancies increased, which demanded the legalization of abortion. The outbreak of various diseases did not effectively slow the sinful practices until the dread disease of AIDS came to the promised land. After the initial shock the willful and hardened sinners have ignored reasonable precautions and have continued to risk death by continuing to satisfy their lustfulness.

The family unit has suffered the greatest loss. Disruptions in the home due to divorce have had a detrimental effect upon the younger generations, causing various emotional problems which carry forth from parent to child. The loss of stability in the family unit directly affects the moral fiber of

the nation.

Due to the increase of immorality the ministers of all churches have been faced with a tremendous challenge. Many went with the new morality or the "New Age" teachings. Those who stayed with the former teachings considered themselves fundamentalists. Thus, many churches became divided on moral issues.

Many of the ministers of this Church of Christ have spoken out from our pulpits and in classrooms against the immoral practices that have become noticeable from time to time. Very little has been done to go public in renouncing the immorality that has been paraded before us. Some have advocated abstaining from watching television and movies.

The ministers of this church have generally agreed with the fact that we are experiencing the fulfillment of prophecy pertaining to the last days. We have been adequately warned against deception and against being ensnared in sinful practices. We are keenly aware that this nation is "ripening in iniquity."

Christ warned His disciples against being deceived, which applies particularly to our time:

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ...And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many (Matthew 24:4, 5, 11).

Although the deception Jesus speaks of is that of being deceived by false christs and false prophets, He also warned them against being caught in a world-wide snare:

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (Luke 21:34-36).

A deception that has been promoted in this land (United States) includes the human right to choose the lifestyle of an individual's preference without moral restraints. Relationships between two consenting adults, married or unmarried, are socially and legally acceptable. The willful acceptance of this great deception will bring the wrath of God upon this people unless repentance and correction is made.

At this time the laws of this land claim to protect underage children from many of the sinful practices that adults are free to engage in, but there is no protection from the bad example that a drunken, a drug-addicted or an adulterous parent makes upon their children. The willful sinfulness of the parent is the guide for the underage child. Therefore, the sins of the par-

ents will come upon the children because of the bad examples.

Perhaps we have become conditioned to the wickedness that is all about us to the point that we are not aware of God's anger toward the ever increasing iniquity of the people of this nation.

Christ spoke to the Gentiles of our day through Mormon, which could apply generally to most all nations of the world today:

Hearken, O, ye Gentiles, and hear the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, which he hath commanded me that I should speak concerning you, for, behold he commandeth me that I should write, saying,

Turn all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways, and repent of your evil doings, of your lyings and deceivings, and of your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and your priestcrafts, and your

envyings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations, And come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, who are of the house of Israel (3 Nephi 14:1-3).

The Gentiles in the Book of Mormon can be identified as a certain people. In Nephi's vision the Gentiles are the European nations. The mother Gentiles that came against those who had escaped from captivity positively identifies the British who fought the early pioneers of this nation. They are also identified as Caucasian, "white and exceeding fair." (See 1 Nephi 3:151-155.)

Christ prophesied concerning the Gentiles in the last days:

And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you, At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations;

And if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel

from among them;

And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them;

And I will shew unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you, but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fullness of my gospel.

But if the Gentiles will repent, and return unto me, saith the Father, behold, they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel;

And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father.

But if they will not turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice, I will suffer them, yea, I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them, and shall tread them down,

And they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Thus hath the Father commanded me, that I should give unto this people this land for their inheritance.

And when the words of the prophet Isaiah shall be fulfilled, which say, Thy watch-

men shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing, for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.

Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God (3 Nephi 7:34-45).

These words are most crucial to our present situation. The Lord has set forth the reasons for His wrath against the Gentiles:

- Sin against His gospel
- Reject His gospel
- Become filled with lyings, deceits, mischiefs, hypocrisies, murders, priestcrafts, whoredoms, and secret abominations

If the Gentiles do these things the Lord will bring the fullness of His gospel from among them. At present the fullness of His gospel is available to them if they desire to obtain the benefits of it through repentance and obedience to the plan of salvation. We might say there will be a time when the fullness of the gospel will no longer be available to those who have rejected it. The consequence of that would be that they will not have the benefit of the plan of salvation through

the principles of the gospel, nor the prophecies that would give warning as well as hope concerning things that are still to come.

The gospel will then go to the Lord's covenant people, the House of Israel, and the Gentiles will no longer have power over the Israelites. The consequence of the Gentiles' rejection of the gospel and resulting willful wickedness will result in the Lord allowing His people to go through and tread them down. If the Gentiles will repent and turn to Him, He will not suffer His people to tread them down. At this time it appears that the great majority of the Gentiles will not repent and turn from their wickedness.

The promise is to the House of Israel, that this land (the Americas) is their inheritance. It is the place where the Lord will bring again Zion. The Lord will show forth His power to all the nations of the earth. He will "...make bare his holy arm...."

Moroni has also written to the Gentiles in warning them of a great evil that is to come to the nations of the earth in the form of secret combinations:

And now I, Moroni, do not write the manner of their oaths and combinations, for it hath been made known unto me that they are had among all people, and they are had among the Lamanites, and they have caused the destruction of this people of whom I am now speaking, and also the destruction of the people of

Nephi;

And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed, for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them, and yet he avenge them not;

Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shewn unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you, which are built up to get power and gain, and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you;

Yea, even the sword of the justice of the eternal God, shall fall upon you, to your overthrow and destruction, if ye shall suffer these things to be;

Wherefore the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you, that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you, or wo be unto it, because of the blood of them who have been slain; for they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who build it up.

For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up, seeketh

to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries;

And it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people; for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies; even that same liar who beguiled our first parents;

Yea, even that same liar who hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning; who hath hardened the hearts of men, that they have murdered the prophets, and stoned them, and cast them out from the beginning.

Wherefore I, Moroni, am commanded to write these things, that evil may be done away, and that the time may come that Satan may have no power upon the hearts of the children of men, but that they may be persuaded to do good continually, that they may come unto the fountain of all righteousness and be saved (Ether 3:94-102).

Again we need to give attention to what the Lord has caused to be prophesied to the Gentiles:

- The nation that upholds secret combinations to get control will be destroyed.
- The Gentiles should be warned about these secret combinations so that they don't allow these things to get above them.
- The sword of the justice of God will fall upon the Gentiles if they allow these combinations to get control over them.

- Those who build up those secret combinations are seeking the overthrow of all nations, lands and countries.

- The secret combinations are built up by the devil who is the father of all lies.

- Moroni has written these warnings that evil may be done away and that Satan will have no power on the hearts of the people.

We may not be able to identify the secret combinations that are present in the world today but we can see efforts made to control the masses by political actions in the more developed nations. It is noticeable that this prophecy concerning secret combinations changes to the singular: secret combination. We should be aware that if there is a secret combination designed to overthrow this nation, as well as the nations of the world today, that its existence would not be publicly known. Therefore, we have to depend upon the Spirit of God to reveal such things to us that we might be warned. Thus, we need the gifts of prophecy and revelation among us to warn and prepare us as indicated by the prophet Ezekiel.

Moroni tells us the requirements of the people who occupy this land, the Americas:

And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be

swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them.

And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God.

And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off.

And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done.

Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written (Ether 1:31-35).

And thus the Lord did pour out his blessings upon this land, which was choice above all other lands; and he commanded that whoso should possess the land, should possess it unto the Lord, or they should be destroyed when they were ripened in iniquity; for

upon such, saith the Lord, I will pour out the fullness of my wrath (Ether 4:22).

Those of us who have been taught true moral conduct based upon the gospel of Christ have a great heritage to defend...

The words of Moroni in warning the Gentiles are plain enough for us to know that when this nation becomes ripened in iniquity that the Lord will pour out the fullness of His wrath upon its people and they shall be "swept off." We, of the Church of Christ, are privy to this knowledge but as yet we have not become publicly noticeable in warning the people of this land of that impending consequence.

Perhaps we have not become sufficiently convinced that there is an impending consequence of God's wrath being poured out upon this nation. Perhaps we have become conditioned to the wickedness that is all about us to the point that we are not aware of God's anger toward the ever increasing iniquity of the people of this nation. We of the ministry of the church should be more in tune with the Spirit of God that we might be

more sensitive to His divine will and respond to His promptings in speaking out against the wickedness and evils that are encroaching upon this land of promise.

The fall of Babylon is yet to occur, which may very well be in connection with the secret combinations of which we are warned:

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities (Revelation 18:1-5).

The fall of Babylon appears to be a direct consequence of international trade of merchan-

dise. This, we know, is happening in the world today, and definitely this nation plays a big part in it. Those who try to control the wealth of the nations have little reason to give regard to the individual well-being of the peoples of those nations, particularly their need for freedom and Godly principles. Their interest is primarily the profit they gain through international buying and selling, which is referred to as "fornication." God's wrath is kindled against such actions. The warning to His people is simply given, "Come out of her." There is a need for this people to disassociate and separate themselves from that element in the world. For this to happen, a place must be prepared for the Lord's people. Therefore, Zion must be established.

We have been told by revelation that we are to establish the cause of Zion. To establish this cause we must be a righteous and holy people. We must do as the scriptures tell us: to love good and hate evil, because God loves good and hates evil:

Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph (Amos 5:14,15).

Those of us who have been taught true moral conduct based upon the gospel of Christ

have a great heritage to defend and promulgate. Our heritage goes back to the European peoples that escaped to this land (the Americas) prior to the time that this nation (United States of America) was established, and includes the establishment of this nation on Christian principles. It goes back to the time that the fullness of the gospel of Christ was restored and the Church of Christ established. It also goes back to the time of Christ when He established His church while here on earth. It even goes back to the ancient prophets that have prophesied of the last days.

Joel prophesied of a coming event, of which we should be cognizant:

Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber; and the bride out of her closet.

Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people (Joel 2:15-18).

The Psalmist made this

statement:

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

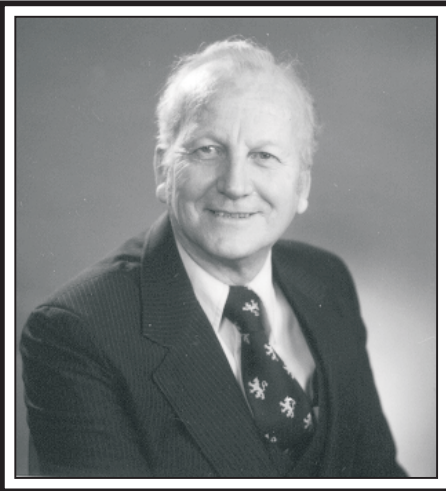
For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.

For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name (Psalm 61:1-5).

We must make the choice now, not later, that Joshua made:

"...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Pondering the Words of JESUS CHRIST



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

Item 40: Gentile Humiliation

In fulfillment of Malachi 3:2, 5 we are given a very graphic portrayal of events among gentile nations as to their destruction, beginning with the remnant of Jacob (American Indians) going through those gentile nations to cut them off (3 Ne. 9: 99-106). This destruction apparently focuses upon the gentile nations of the Americas (from the north through the south of this whole continent). However, the destructive process will include that which is delivered by the incursions of "Gog" and her cohorts (Russia with others of the USSR, and allied Arabian nations, as revealed in Ezekiel, chapters 38 & 39). This is also referenced in Mic. 5:5, 6, where Russia is identified as "Assyria" of the latter days, which was to "come into our land" (the land of Palestine, or of the

(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.)

nation of Israel today). It is in Ezek. 38:11, 12 that we are informed of "Gog" (Assyria) coming into America; and this is apparently in the same time period, according to Mic. 5:8, when the "remnant of Jacob" (American Indians) are to go through the Gentiles for their destruction. So there is to be a two-pronged assault upon the Gentiles of this continent.

It is following this, a terrible time of tribulation which will be a humbling process to the gentile nations, that repentant gentiles are to be numbered with the remnant of Jacob in building the New Jerusalem (see 3 Ne. 10:1, 2). It is evident that the final gathering of the saints and of all Israel will not occur until after this humbling process among them.

3 Nephi 10: 3-8 *And then shall they (repentant gentiles, w.a.s.) 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. And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight; for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward....

This section relating to Gentile destruction, prior to the gathering of Israel and including the saints of the latter days, as found in 3 Nephi, chapters 9 and 10, would be rather tedious or overlong to the average reader, but the student of prophecy is well advised to engage this study; it is fascinating and sobering to say the least. The shape of world events at this time (January 2003) appear to be a preliminary to this tragic development, including a third world war; but what else could set the stage, as a prime example of God's judgment because of human wickedness, and thus to humble the nations, that a righteous remnant be prepared in the establishment of Zion and in the bringing in of the 1,000 year reign of Christ in peace??

HEROES OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

JACOB PREACHES

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson a wicked man named Sherem had come among the Nephites. He taught that Jesus Christ the Son of God was not coming to earth. Some people believed Sherem. Jacob prayed for a way to show the Nephites that Sherem was lying. One day Sherem walked up to Jacob. "Show me a sign that Jesus Christ is real and I will believe you." God did give a sign. He struck Sherem to the ground! When Sherem was able to get up he told the people that he had lied to them, and then he died. The Nephites who had believed Sherem knew then that Jesus Christ was true.

JACOB PREACHES REPENTANCE

Jacob 1:15-20 2:1-46

God continued to bless the Nephites, but some of them began to forget Him. Just as he did each time he was worried about his people, Jacob knelt in prayer to God. God spoke to Jacob. "Go to the Temple tomorrow and give them my message."

The next day Jacob stood in the Temple before the people with a message from God. "Many of you are spending all your time looking for gold and silver and forgetting your God. Because some of you are richer than others you are persecuting those who are poor." To persecute means to be very mean to someone, to treat someone like he is worthless or sometimes even to hurt him. Some of the rich people were being very mean to the poor people because they had more beautiful clothes than the poor people. "Every person is precious to God," Jacob said. "He does not care if you are rich or poor. Do not look down on people whose clothes are not as beautiful as yours. Do not be cruel to them. Help the poor. If you keep persecuting the poor I will punish you."

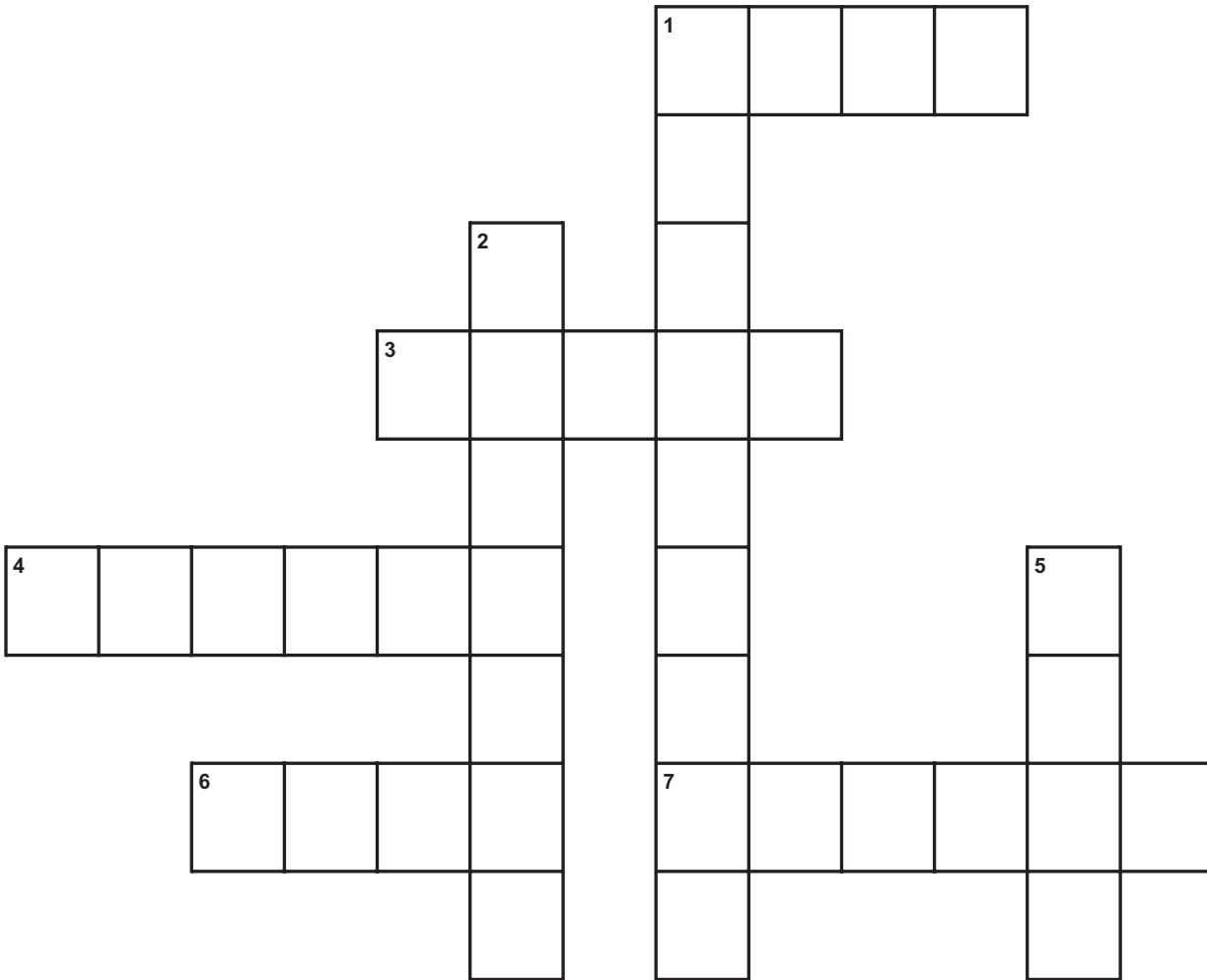
Being proud and mean was wrong, but the Nephites were doing something even worse. "I wish I didn't have to say these words," Jacob said, "they will make the women very sad." "Some of you men are doing something very wicked. You have girlfriends beside your wives. Some of you even have more than one wife. You have broken the hearts of your tender wives and lost the confidence of your children because of your bad examples before them. Even the Lamanites who have been cursed have only one wife. In that way they are better than you."

God can only bless His people when they are righteous. To be righteous means that you "live right." You follow God's laws. God wants to bless His people. He always warns His people when they are doing wrong. He always gives them a chance to change. When we do wrong in our lives, God warns us through sermons, the scriptures and His spirit. He loves us. He wants us to repent so that He can bless us. When we do "live right" He blesses us in every way.

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



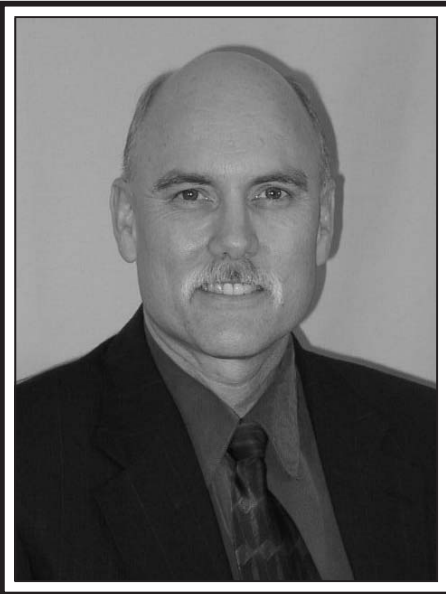
Across

1. WHAT JACOB DID WHEN HE WAS WORRIED.
3. GOD DOES THIS WHEN WE OBEY HIM.
4. SOME NEPHITES BEGAN TO _____ HIM.
6. SOME NEPHITE MEN HAD MORE THAN ONE _____ .
7. WHERE GOD TOLD JACOB TO PREACH.

Down

1. WHAT THE RICH DID TO THE POOR.
2. THE RICH HAD BETTER _____ THAN THE POOR.
5. SOME SPENT TOO MUCH TIME LOOKING FOR _____ .

Articles of Faith & Practice



By Elder Gordon McCann

Firstly, we know there are prophecies which teach us that a temple will be built once again in Jerusalem in the last days. Ezekiel, chapters 40 thru 49, give us a description of a temple in Jerusalem during the millennium.

“Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern. And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew

them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them” (Ezekiel 43:10-11).

Verse 12 teaches us something very important. It says, *“This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.”* At the present, every part of this mount where the house of the Lord will be is occupied by the “sacred enclosure” of the Muslims and their holy temple, called “Dome Of The Rock.” Only Muslims can enter the area.

The temple of Ezekiel is the same as seen by the prophet Haggai. In Haggai 2:6-9 we read,

“For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the

Article #23

We believe a temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal Himself and endow His servants whom He chooses with power to preach the gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue and people, that the promises of God to Israel may be fulfilled.

heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations (description of the tribulation, dem), and the desire of all nations shall come (the coming of Christ, dem): and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.”

The day of tribulation shall be “even the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7). The Jews will have problems and continual battles, making it impossible to construct the house of the Lord on Mount Moriah until the time when they shall be delivered by the coming of Jesus Christ, as we read in Zechariah 12:1-9 & 14:1-4. For this reason the prophet Zechariah said:

“And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord...” (Zechariah 6:12).

We believe that among the house of Jacob, here in the Americas, another temple will be built to the Lord. [Isaiah 2:2-3, 66:1-6; Micah 4:1; Malachi 3:1-4; 3 Nephi 10:1-4; 3 Nephi 11:4, 29; Ether 6:4-8; Book of Commandments page 110, 59:70; Note: “generation” Webster’s Unabridged #8, a family; a race; a class; any allied group of persons. (Obsolete term used by historians to refer to a nation, or empire, etc. ajm) Thus, in the sense of Daniel 2:44 “not be left to other people,” would apply.]

The following scripture references are provided as supportive evidence to the stated belief:

“Wherein Christ will reveal himself and endow his servants whom he chooses with power to preach the gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue and people, that the promises of God to Israel may be fulfilled” (Micah 4:1-2; Malachi 3:1-4; 3 Nephi 9:57-59; 3 Nephi 10:1-8; 3 Nephi 11:4, 29; Book of Commandments page 62, 38:6; page 73, 44:29; page 106, 59:13-16).

Footnote: The above discourse for Article #23 came from a pamphlet titled “Scriptural References For The Articles Of Faith And Practice of the Church Of Christ” by Apostles Don E. McIndoo and Alvin J. Moser.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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:

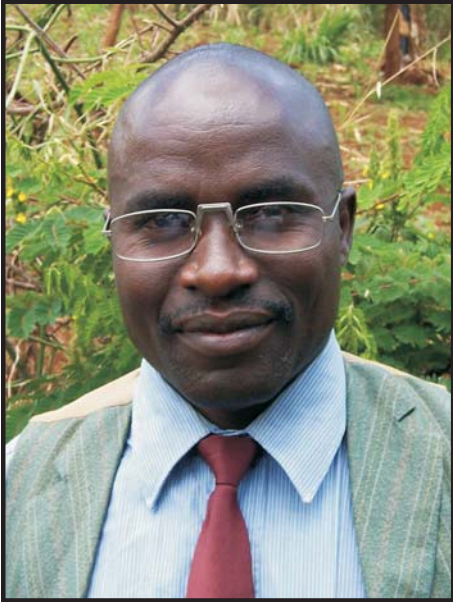
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(623) 780-8764
borsted@cox.net

The Day I'll Not Forget



I would like to thank God first of all in my life for knowing the truth, which I might not have known at all. But I know God is searching His people who will worship Him in the spirit in these last days.

John 4:23-24. Now we are told here that God seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. In my life for several days I asked myself before I joined the Church of Christ, "Am I real in spirit?" But when I received baptism I started to experience some things like visions, revelations and dreams. This reminded me that this was done by the Holy Ghost. Then I came to know that God will use someone who is filled with the Holy Ghost and who has left worldly things.

Ephesians 5:1-5. So this style

continued in my life, and also I started to hear from my wife several dreams about me and how I was preaching, admonishing and inviting people to come and repent of their sins in Jesus Christ. Other times my neighbours who were not members of the church testified to me that they were seeing me many times in their dreams preaching to the white people. So when this continued I decided to ask Brother Apostle Brian what was the meaning. What he told me is to continue praying to God because He was preparing me for His ministry.

So from that time my life started to change completely, because I started to have a desire to search the scriptures. I felt more love for others, and my soul changed. So this made me know that God needed me to work in His vineyard.

When it came to pass, it was the third year after my baptism, the day of Tuesday, 23rd October, 2003, at 12:30 p.m. God revealed His will as the Scriptures say: 2 Nephi 12:60-62.

This day I saw the hand of God doing the same work as He was doing before. This day of the Lord we were at Nyansakia Church with Brothers: Apostle Smith, Elder Michael, Priest Mokwel and Sister Margaret. That time Apostle Smith and Elder Michael were preaching and I was little in a sleep.

As I was in this state, suddenly I heard a sound of crying from Elder Michael saying, Brother Peter Mo-

ses, God has called you to be a Teacher in the office of teaching. When I heard this I found myself crying and praying to the Lord while kneeling down. When I finished praying I heard another brother start praying also. When everyone had prayed I started to hear testimonies from brothers and sisters, up to six people who testified about my calling. From there we ended the service. Apostle Smith Brickhouse told me that the following day he was going to ordain me.

So on 24th October, 2003, I was ordained at Getuka Church as a Teacher in the Church of Christ. So since then I have seen God working with me wonderfully, and it is true that God does not change. As He called His servants in the early church, He is doing the same today.

So let us all continue praying to God to call more ministers into His vineyard.

Luke 10:1-2. Good time for each and everyone when you'll continue doing so.

*May God bless you all through His mighty power,
Moses Nyamira-Teacher*

LETTER to the EDITOR

The Temple Lot

Dear Editor of the *Zion's Advocate*:

I have often sat in the Church office and listened to Apostle William Sheldon informing the guests who visit the Temple Lot office and grounds, which happens many time per day in the summer time, and often throughout the year, as to the events leading to our having title and possession of the Temple Lot. It would be of great interest to the membership of the Church, in my humble opinion, to hear his dissertation to these guests. I hereby give a brief summary of his offering to these guests.

We hold this property for the Lord. We expect the time to come when the Lord will gather the pure in heart, who shall all have a part in this great work. We hold this property as trustees-in-trust for the Lord, and when the Lord is ready the temple will be built by these pure in heart.

Joseph Smith and other elders dedicated this spot for the temple on August 3, 1831. The saints who had gathered here were driven out of Independence in 1833, and from the state of Missouri in 1838-39, by the governor's order, and the property reverted back to the state of Missouri.

Our people were gathered near Bloomington, Illinois, and consisted of several families, including the Hedricks, Frisbeys and others. One night in 1864, while the Civil War was still raging, Granville Hedrick was visited by an angel while in his bed and was instructed that the Lord would open up the way for the saints to return to Independence, Missouri, in 1867, and obtain possession of the Temple Lot.

In harmony with this instruction twelve families proceeded to leave that area and returned to Independence. They came in the winter time in order to have the ice cover of the Missouri river to cross upon because there were no bridges across the river in those days.

When they had reached the area to cross the river it was discovered that the ice was a bit soft on the surface due to the two preceding days of moderate weather, and the question arose as to the safety of the ice in holding up those heavily loaded wagons including their families. Bro. George Frisbey said, "The Lord told us to come and He would open up the way for us to return. We are here and that river is all that keeps us from our goal. We are going!" They made it safely and the other wagons followed safely.

The Frisbeys took up a home just south of the Temple Lot, and the group purchased the Temple Lot property. Bro. Frisbey cared for it for several years, planting young trees obtained from the Missouri River bottoms on the lot. The property was fenced and kept neatly for many years.

The Church decided to start the building of the temple in 1929. The excavation for the basement of the temple was completed, when the hard times of the great depression caused the work to cease. In later years the excavation was filled in to await further instruction from the Lord.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nicholas F. Denham,
Grandson of George P.
Frisbey*

OBITUARY

In Loving Memory

Joseph Edwin Carney

November 1, 1942 – January 21, 2004

Beloved Son, Brother, Husband, Father, Uncle, and Grandpa, Joseph was born in Michigan in 1942 to Joseph and Lurah Carney. He was the sixth of seven children.

He married Alice Seibel on July 3, 1964, in St. Louis, Missouri. He has five sons: Joseph, Andrew, Aaron, Jeremy and Daniel. He has three daughters: Tanya, Lovita and Heather.

He retired from the Chrysler Corporation after 31 years of service.

He became a member of the Church of Christ in 1959.

He passed away after a long struggle with leukemia in

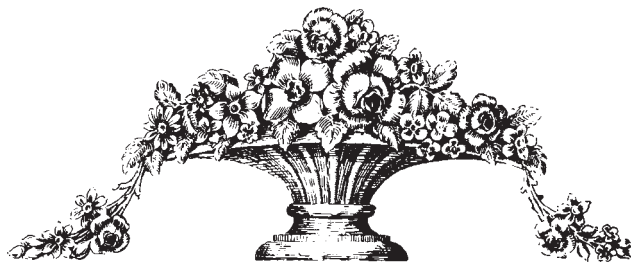


Houston, Missouri.

His wife, one brother, two sisters, eight children, twelve grandchildren and many, many other family and church members, survive him.

Services were held January 26, 2004, at the Duncan Funeral Chapel in Mountain View, Missouri. Officiating was David Keeney. Johna Mae Kosemczak sang "How Great Thou Art" and "The Old, Old Path." He was laid to rest at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Mountain View, Missouri.

Contributed by Jessica L. Carney



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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.

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	Zion and the Temple of the Lord

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