

# Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 82

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—March 2005

NUMBER 3



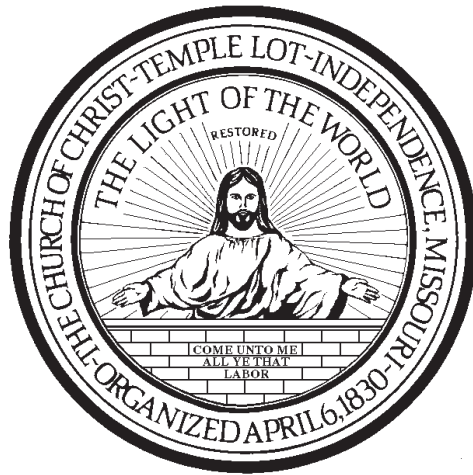
"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

Colossians 3:1-4

## ~ In This Issue ~

SERMON—For It Is Written -  
*Apostle Roland Sarratt* . . . . . 43  
ARTICLE—The Fullness of the Gospel-  
Corrupted! Part 2 - *Dennis Trudgen*. . . . . 48  
ANNOUNCEMENTS . . . . . 52, 59

SERIES—The Great Apostasy and the  
Restoration, Part 3 - *Harvey E. Seibel* . . . . . 53  
GSSA—Zarahemla . . . . . 58  
NEWS . . . . . 59



## THE APOSTLES of the CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Smith N. Brickhouse**, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214; e-mail: [smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com)  
**Frank Fann**, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-4346; e-mail: [fann212@juno.com](mailto:fann212@juno.com)  
**Placido Koyoc Matu**, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3125; e-mail: [p\\_matu@hotmail.com](mailto:p_matu@hotmail.com)  
**Placido Koyoc Yam**, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-911-911-3047  
**Mike McGhee**, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255; e-mail: [mcgheeme@msn.com](mailto:mcgheeme@msn.com)  
**Brian McIndoo**, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900; e-mail: [mcindoo@cox.net](mailto:mcindoo@cox.net)  
**Donald E. McIndoo**, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050  
**Alvin J. Moser**, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414; e-mail: [ajmoser3@cox.net](mailto:ajmoser3@cox.net)  
**Roland L. Sarratt**, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605; e-mail: [r.sarratt@earthlink.net](mailto:r.sarratt@earthlink.net)  
**William A. Sheldon**, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-833-3914; e-mail: [cofcti@kcnet.com](mailto:cofcti@kcnet.com)  
**Joel Yates**, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296; e-mail: [jyates2@yahoo.com](mailto:jyates2@yahoo.com)



### GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

#### SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse  
 5713 Logan Road  
 Kansas City, Missouri 64136

#### SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case  
 8312 Lee's Summit Road  
 Kansas City, Missouri 64139

#### GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Harvey E. Seibel  
 9800 E. 32nd Street S.  
 Independence, Missouri 64052

#### BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris  
 Church of Christ  
 P.O. Box 472

### ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

#### EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann  
 18808 N. 30th Street  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85050  
 E-mail: [gpmccann@cox.net](mailto:gpmccann@cox.net)

#### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Dan Lawrence  
 8420 Lee's Summit Road  
 Kansas City, MO 64139

Marlene Oar  
 19012 N. 29th Street  
 Phoenix, AZ 85050

#### PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

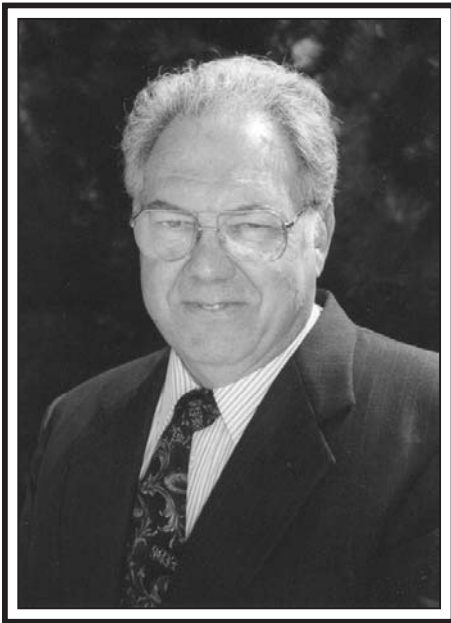
### STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;  
 To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;  
 To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

# For It Is Written



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

A statement used frequently among people today is, "Change is good." Most certainly change is good if it corrects an error in practice or reasoning, but change merely for the sake of change is acting blindly and can be disastrous.

Quite often change is motivated by the simple desire to put behind us the tiresome, old ways of our predecessors and bring in a new age of ideas. The former becomes passé while the new inspires the entrepreneur.

Such thinking is currently fashionable for businesses in our world today, but it also affects all parts of human life socially and structurally. Government, education, employment and religion have been effected dramatically. The rules of behavior come under the scrutiny of the reformer and the absolute is removed from the mind of the theorist.

Presently we are not lingering at the door of major changes; already we have crossed the threshold into a new world, untried and unproven. There is no turning back to the security of the simpler ways of life we once thought we enjoyed. The heritage of former generations has slipped through our hands while we were engaged in trying new thought processes and short cuts to solutions. Being preoccupied with the new toys of reasoning, we were hardly aware that we were being duped into thinking we are smarter than those who went before us.

Even as we contemplate our predicament, we instinctively look for stability and reality. There is only one place we

**The word of God, which was spoken and recorded, is the preacher's guide. He must seek to know and understand the will of God through His established word to effectively teach the truth:**

can find them: our belief in God. Without Him we are a runaway society without fact or reason. The amazing truth is that this very situation has been foretold by ancient prophets sent by God who spoke to a people in like situations who have seen our day. The prophecies are not complimentary to the Gentiles of this generation. We are simply offered the opportunity to repent of our waywardness and turn to the Lord.

The Israelites were told by



the prophet Jeremiah:

*“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein”* (Jer. 6:16).

That counsel is appropriate to our time. We have available to us the true word of God, but contention over various points of doctrine has made it undesirable to discuss openly our beliefs. The most popular religions of today have resorted to generalizing God’s acceptance of our variations of doctrines and have reasoned themselves into a compatible relationship. The authorities of many churches have broadened God’s plan of salvation for the souls of mankind to include members of most all religions.

Being somewhat out of step with most churches, this Church of Christ has not been quite so inclusive but has felt the need to state the particulars of the plan of salvation as given in the scriptures with true ministerial authority given of God to perform the ordinances. With the changing mood of religious values all around us, we have returned to our roots of truth found in the word of God. While others have looked to their Bible scholars and modern ordained prophets, we have tried to meet the challenge of popular reasoning with the basics of Christ’s gospel in our hands. However, the smallness of our number gives us little op-

portunity to be known publicly. The one thing that we have in our favor is the simple truth found in the scriptures. Upon them and the Spirit of God we must trust.

**...Isolated scripture can be misused to mean something that it does not mean. ...We should study to learn scripture whereby we can defend our beliefs....**

There are certain specifics in the plan of salvation that don’t allow for variations of doctrine. Jesus found it necessary to emphasize the distinction between the broad way and the narrow way.

*“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”* (Mat. 7:13, 14).

We give respect to the established word of God. Throughout Christ’s ministry to the Jews He made emphasis

on that which was spoken and written by the prophets. Their words testified of Him. He used the scriptures as a witness to His authority against all opposition.

Early in His ministry Jesus was met by the father of lies, the devil, and underwent a series of temptations. Give special notice of Jesus’ defense against the devil.

*“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:1-4).

Jesus’ answer was prefaced with the words, “It is written,” which referred to a recorded scripture of an earlier time.

*“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live”* (Deu. 8:3).

The devil had been successful in deceiving our first parents, Adam and Eve, and bringing sin into the world. Now he

seized this opportunity to try to overthrow the Son of God and possibly defeat the plan that God had made to save the souls of mankind. If he could trick Jesus into committing one sin he could bring Jesus and all mankind into a state of endless misery like unto himself.

*“Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone”* (Mat. 4:5, 6).

The devil is not adverse to using scripture if he can misapply it to his advantage. It also gives him some semblance of authority.

*“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone”* (Ps. 11, 12).

Jesus was not to be persuaded with the devil's wiles, and He countered his suggestion with another scripture.

*“Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”* (Mat. 4:7).

This written scripture is also found in the Old Testament and is appropriate to us.

*“Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted him*

*in Massah”* (Deu. 6:16).

The devil became rather bold at this point and offered everything he had.

*“Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

*“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”* (Mat. 48-10).

Although we don't have a single scripture with the exact wording as Jesus gave, there are several that, combined together, plainly state what he said.

*“Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy”* (Psa. 99:5).

*“For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God...”* (Exo. 34:14).

*“Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name”* (Deu. 6:13).

Jesus did not reason with the devil, but used the written word during the confrontation. After the devil left him the very scripture that the devil had used was fulfilled.

*“Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels*

*came and ministered unto him”* (Mat. 4:11).

We might take a lesson from this experience: isolated scripture can be misused to mean something that it does not mean. Also we should study to learn scripture whereby we can defend our beliefs, for our adversary is still very active in overthrowing the truth by deception.

Paul advises the Romans about the written word thus:

*“Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope”* (Romans 15:2-4).

That statement was penned by David, the Psalmist:

*“For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me”* (Psalm 69:9).

Truly, the spiritual sayings and admonitions were recorded for later generations that they might learn to trust in the scriptures rather than the teachings of man. We can find many statements from Old Testament prophets in the New Testament quoted as an authority on a subject. Mark quoted two prophets in his account of John the Baptist being a forerunner of Jesus Christ:

*“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”* (Mark 1:1-3).

Malachi prophesied concerning the messenger being sent before him:

*“Behold, I will send my messenger; and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts”* (Malachi 3:1).

Isaiah also speaks of John the Baptist in these words:

*“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God”* (Isaiah 40:3).

The word of God, which was spoken and recorded, is the preacher's guide. He must seek to know and understand the will of God through His established word to effectively teach the truth:

*“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assem-*

*blies, which are given from one shepherd”* (Ecclesiastes 12:10,11).

**Our works will not earn us salvation, but they are the evidences that we have obeyed the word of God.**

The word of God, like as goads and nails, penetrates the heart and mind of man, becoming his conscious. It will serve him well if he abides in the truth and relies on it throughout his days here on earth.

The Lord has declared that His words will go to the ends of the earth:

*“And my words shall hiss forth unto the ends of the earth, for a standard unto my people, which are of the house of Israel”* (2 Nephi 12:44).

The word of God is not limited to one people or one book. The Lord spoke to Nephi these words:

*“And because that I have spoken one word, ye need not suppose that I can not speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be, until the end of man; neither from that time hence forth and for ever. Wherefore, because that ye have a bible, ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have*

*not caused more to be written: For I command all men, both in the east, and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them: 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”* (2 Nephi 12:63-66).

Our works will be compared to the commandments written in the word of God and a judgment will be rendered based upon our obedience to those commandments. Our works will not earn us salvation, but they are the evidences that we have obeyed the word of God. Jesus spoke these words to the Nephites when He visited them in the promised land:

*“Write the things which ye have seen and heard, save it be those which are forbidden; write the works of this people, which shall be even as hath been written of that which hath been; For behold, out of the books which have been written, and which shall be written, shall this people be judged, for by them shall their works be known unto men. And behold, all things are written by the Father; therefore out of the books which shall be written, shall the world be judged”* (3 Nephi 13:1-3).

Paul wrote a famous letter to his young friend, Timothy, sharing his conviction on the written word of God:



*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).*

Paul expressed the hope of being accepted as perfect through doing good works. His hope was based upon scripture given by God which brings the necessary correction and instruction toward reaching that righteous state.

In the scriptures we find repeated the truth of an unchanging God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our Rock and foundation of truth. He has set the example for us to follow. Characteristic of God is His written word. We can depend upon that which He has said and caused to be written. The Brother of Jared said it this way:

*"And the Lord said unto him, Believest thou the words which I shall speak? And he answered, Yea, Lord, I know that thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie" (Ether 1:74, 75).*

Malachi quoted the Lord thus:

*"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Malachi 3:6).*

James gives his testimony in these words:

*"Every good gift and every*

*perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).*

Paul spoke the often quoted statement:

*"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).*

Moroni verifies the words of Paul and warns us against thinking that in God there is even a shadow of changing:

*"Behold I say unto you, He that denieth these things, knoweth not the gospel of Christ; yea, he has not read the scriptures; if so, he does not understand them. For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and for ever; and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing. And now, if ye have imagined up unto yourselves a god who doth vary, and in him there is shadow of changing, then have ye imagined up unto yourselves a god who is not a god of miracles" (Mormon 4:67-69).*

Surely we are convinced that God is unchangeable and that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. We know the truth of His word the same as He told the Jews:

*"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32).*

Also we can feel the effect

of Jesus' prayer when He said,

*"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).*

Yes, we are living in an ever changing world, but God is truly the same yesterday, today and forever. We can rely on Him. Let us praise and worship Him this day and forever for blessing us with knowledge of the truth of His written word.



# The Fullness of the Gospel- Corrupted



By Dennis Trudgen

**W**e learn from Paul's prophecy in Acts that after his death (he was martyred between 62-67 A.D.), men were to arise in the minister ranks that would change the gospel. Paul was not the only apostle to be killed during this period of great persecution against the Church. According to history and tradition, between 60 and 72 A.D., eight apostles were martyred! By 80 A.D., the Apostles Philip and Barnabas were also murdered, and with the martyrdom of Simon in 90 A.D. it appears that John stood alone in the office of an apostle. So from about 72 A.D. on, with the central authority of the Church of Christ removed, the abomi-

## Part 2

nable church was free to coexist and to make alterations of its choosing. Early witnesses and modern scholars agree that changes to the scriptures took place very early—many times deliberately!

“Still we fail to understand our Bible of today if we do not take full account of the many passages where, in spite of all the care of the scribes – rather; should we say, **occasionally because of such care? – changes did find their way into the text.** For the astonishing fact is that in some cases **deliberately and with full knowledge they altered the text they had received.**”<sup>5</sup> **“It is no less true to fact than paradoxical in sound, that the worst corruptions to which the New Testament has ever been subjected, originated within a hundred years after it was composed....”**<sup>6</sup> Eusebius quotes a second century father as writing: “Wherefore, they have not

Another error within the modern English translations is that they add words out of thin air! That is to say that they add or subtract words not because of an alternate reading in some obscure Greek manuscript but because they wish to promote the theology of the translators.

fear to lay hands on the *divine Scriptures under pretense of CORRECTING them.... As for their denying their guilt, the thing is impossible, since the copies were written in their own hand; and they did not receive the Scriptures in this condition*



*from their teachers, nor can they show the originals from which they made their copies.*"<sup>7</sup>

"Wherefore also Marcion and his followers have be-taken themselves to mutilating the Scriptures, not acknowledging some books at all; and curtailing the Gospels according to Luke and the Epistles of Paul, they assert these are alone authentic, which they themselves thus shortened"<sup>8</sup> (circa 185 A.D.). As a side note, Marcion taught that Jesus was not the Messiah. Tertillian called him "the Beast" (202 A.D.). "Nowadays, as is evident, there is a great diversity between various manuscripts, either through the negligence of certain copyists or the perverse audacity shown by some in correcting the text, or through the fault of those who, playing the part of correctors, **lengthen or shorten it as they please**" (circa 185 A.D.).<sup>9</sup> "Almost all the first century Christians expected the return of Christ; furthermore, the early Christians did not necessarily treat the NT text as a sacred text – i.e., as a fixed canonized text, sacred to the very letter. Some scribes may have considered themselves to be inspired by the Spirit, making some adjustments."<sup>10</sup> "**In the late first and early second century**, the oral traditions and the written word existed side by side with equal status – especially with respect to the material of the

Gospels. Often, the text was changed by scribes attempting to conform the written message to the oral tradition.... Other scribes, however, felt free to make 'improvements' in the text – either in the interest of doctrine or harmonization, or due to the influence of a competitive oral tradition."<sup>11</sup> Speaking of changes immediately following the Apostle John's departure around 100 A.D.: "Eusebius is witness to this fact. He also relates that the corrupted manuscripts were so prevalent that agreement between the copies was hopeless; and that those who were corrupting the Scriptures claimed that they really were correcting them."<sup>12</sup> One final quote comes from Jerome, compiler of the early 5th century Vulgate Bible: "for there are almost as many forms of texts as there are copies."<sup>13</sup>

When the books of the Apostles were put to paper, they were circulated throughout the Church as individual epistles or books. As seen in the movie the "Passion of Christ," Jesus and His disciples spoke Aramaic, which was very similar to Hebrew. Scholars still debate how many of the original (NT) books were penned in Aramaic as opposed to Greek, which was the world language of the time. For the purpose of this study, I would only add that there is much evidence of an Aramaic beginning: it was rare for Jews to speak Greek in Israel in those days;<sup>14</sup> the awkward verse Mat-

thew 19:24 makes sense when translated from the Aramaic since "camel" and "rope" are the same word. "*It is easier for a rope to go through an eye of a needle*"; the earliest Christian record that we have says "Matthew composed the words in the Hebrew dialect, each translated as he was able"<sup>15</sup>; other Jewish books of the time, including the Dead Sea Scrolls and Josephus' book on the Jewish Wars, were written almost entirely in Aramaic and Hebrew; Paul's name change only makes sense if the translation came from Aramaic, i.e., Saul's name means "he who asked," whereas Paul's name means "he who was answered."

One of the first textual critics of the NT was Origen of Alexandra. In 245 A.D. he published a work known as the Hexapla in which he compiled and revised the Greek manuscripts that he had in his possession. Unfortunately, he either had bad copies to work from or he himself made incorrect decisions or both. Many accuse him of being influenced by Neo-Platonism and Gnosticism. In 331 A.D., the first Christian Emperor Constantine commissioned Eusebius to make 50 copies of the bible to spread throughout the empire. It is important to note that Eusebius used Origen's Hexapla for the basis of these copies. Two manuscripts, the (SINAITICUS (Alpha) and the VATICANUS (B)) which have come forward in the late 19th century are believed to be two of the original fifty. The Alpha was found in a trash can in Saint

Catherine's Monastery, and the Vatican conveniently provided B to textual critics. These two manuscripts have been used for the foundation of the modern English versions of the Bible, as well as the first official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church, the Vulgate. To ensure a Catholic translation resulted in the new English translations, the Vatican was able to place Carlo M. Martini on the world-renowned United Bible Societies textual revision committee. Is it any wonder, then, that the Vatican fully endorses the New Revised Standard Version "Common" Bible!

Another Greek text type referred to as "Syrian," "Byzantine," or "Koine" came to us via the area of Antioch. After the persecution of 311 A.D. passed, Lucian carefully compared all readings of the NT to produce what is now called the "revised text." This revised text rapidly grew in popularity and spread throughout the Roman Empire. It is this version that became the Greek standard from 350 A.D. until 1882, when the first modern English translation was published, based on the Alpha and B manuscripts. Of the over 5,000 ancient Greek manuals in existence today, 95-99 percent are of the Antioch reading. And of these 5,000 Antioch Bibles, they agree with each other 99 percent of the time. So while the Alexandria translations faded into obscurity, the Antioch translation became the translation that was accepted by the local churches. In 382 A.D., the

Bishop of Rome, by now one of the most powerful leaders in the Church, commissioned Jerome to produce a Latin version of the

**...A church's doctrine is determined by the scriptures which that Church holds to be true!**

Bible for the purpose of becoming the Church standard. This action had a monumental affect on the Christian religion because, very simply, a church's doctrine is determined by the scriptures which that Church holds to be true! Although there was already a Latin version called the "Vetus Itala" that largely agreed with the Antioch readings, Jerome chose to utilize the corrupt Alexandria texts to produce his Vulgate, which he completed in 405 A.D. Within two hundred years, the Roman Church's power and authority shifted entirely to Rome and its Bishop. The papacy was born. With this, the Antioch Greek as well as all other translations were outlawed. For the next 1,000 years, with the full force of the Roman church behind it, the Vulgate remained unchallenged.

This all changed in the 16th century when reformers such as Martin Luther, William Tyndale, Miles Coverdale, John Rogers and others challenged

the Roman Catholic authority by publishing new Bibles in the language of their day. As in the past, many of these men paid with their lives. These new translations were based on the old Greek transcripts, of which a vast majority were of the Antioch type. In 1610, being faced with the fact that they could not stop the Reformation movement from publishing these English Translations, the Catholic Church published its own English version called the Douay-Rheims (DR). As this version was based on the Latin Vulgate, it also inherited the missing scriptures.<sup>16</sup> Another key difference between it and the Protestant Bibles was that the DR, having come to us from the additional Latin stage, mistranslated references of "repentance" and translated them as "penitence." So, in this Roman Church version of the Bible that is still being used, one of the six principal doctrines listed in Hebrews is now changed: "**not laying again the foundation of penance from dead works and of faith towards God,**" Heb 6:1 DR. There's a huge difference between the **doctrine of saying "Hail Mary's"** and the **doctrine of repentance!** The DR also supports the **doctrine of "Confession"** to a priest, which first gained prominence in the 7th or 8th centuries. Instead of "**Confess your faults,**" the DR has "**Confess your sins**" James 5:16. Another problem with this Catholic translation is how it mistranslates verses related to

graven images and idle worship. *"Thou shalt not make to thyself a graven THING, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, nor of those things that are in the waters under the earth"* Ex 20:4 DR. The word "thing" in the above text is not to be found in the original Hebrew. The definition of the original word in Hebrew means: "An Idle - graven (carved) image." The verse reads correctly in the KJV, NIV, NAS and is confirmed by Mosiah 7:97. God places a ban on making ANY image to be worshiped, prayed to, honored, or an image thought to have spiritual properties giving it the ability to protect someone. **To be clear, this restriction includes treating an image of Christ, His mother or any other saint as if it represents, in any way, the true person.** While Reformation Bibles often translate the Hebrew or Greek word "image," the DR consistently substitutes the word "idol." Sometimes the original sentence uses this word twice, restricting both "idols and graven images." In these cases, however, the DR translators choose to translate the sentence "idols" and "things," totally making up the second word. Two scriptures in Nephi confirm the translation "graven images" or "molten images" in Isa. 10:10 and in Isa. 48:5, against the DR Bible. 1 Ne 6:12, 2 Ne 9:91. The reason they substitute another word for "image" is that they want the reader to think that it is only images of *other* gods that

the Lord is restricting. Again, this is not so. The DR is famous for purposely confusing the text for their purpose. The early Church of Christ shunned images of the Divine: *"Ages before, Moses expressly commanded that neither a carved, nor molten, nor molded nor painted likeness should be made. This was so that we would not cling to things of sense but pass to spiritual objects. For familiarity with the sense of sight disparages the reverence of what is divine. Clement of Alexandria"* (c. 195, B).

Since 1910, almost all modern translations have been based on faulty Alexandra texts, whereas early Reformer Bibles were based on the majority or "Revised Text." Because these Reformers all translated from a majority based Greek text, there are only minor differences between them. These translations include the Tynedale, the Cranmer, the Geneva and the Authorized KJV.

If there are no original manuscripts surviving today, how do we know that it is the Alexandra type texts that are the more corrupt? First of all, when the Book of Mormon has a common verse with the Bible, it almost always agrees with the KJV. Secondly, there are many occasions when the doctrine has been changed compared to the Book of Mormon and other places within the Bible. Another way is by comparing these Greek manuscripts with quotes from the early Christian writers. These writings are exten-

sive, and the authors themselves date back as far as 90 A.D. "The Traditional Text receives more support from the early Church Fathers than does the Critical text. (At a ratio of 2:1 before 350 A.D. and 3:1 for important passages.)"<sup>17</sup> Lastly, there are several manuscripts that predate the Alpha, B, and the Vulgate that support Traditional Text readings. Amongst them are the Peshitta Syriac Version, the Sinaitic Syriac Version and the Old Latin Version (Vetus Itala) that dates back to 157 A.D. Another error within the modern English translations is that they add words out of thin air! That is to say that they add or subtract words not because of an alternate reading in some obscure Greek manuscript, but because they wish to promote the theology of the translators.

Unknown to most, **the Vulgate and the New English translations omit about 3000 words to about 200 verses from the New Testament.** As we would expect, collectively these versions prepare the way for the unity of the churches and pave the way for an Anti-Christ. Accordingly, they remove numerous verses that claim Jesus is a deity, that He is the Christ; they change or remove eight verses that say that Jesus is **"THE" Son of God** and make him merely **"A" Son of God**; they remove a verse that tells us that Jesus was the Creator of all things; they diminish the commandments of Christ to mere suggestions by replacing the word



**“doctrine” with “teaching” thirty times, “fasting” is removed six times, “pray/prayer” is removed eight times,** they replace references to specific sin such as **“fornication” and “adultery” with “immorality” 21 times, to be proud or to take pride in is actually added eight times, and to give the appearance that the souls of the wicked are destroyed, all references to everlasting fire/chains/destruction/habitation/punishment are replaced with eternal..** No wonder *“an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.”*

## References

7. Eusibius, *Eccesiastial History*, Vol. 1, p.522-524. From

- “The Last Word” Jay P. Green, Sr
8. Irenaeus 185 AD *Against Heresies Book 3 ch 11:12* p.864
  9. Origen Circa AD. 185 *In Matth. Tom. 15, 14*
  10. Philip Comfort, *Early Manuscripts and Translations*
  11. Philip Comfort, *The Origin of the Bible*, 1992
  12. Benjamin G. Wilkinson, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated* Eusebius Eccles. History, book 5, chap. 28
  13. Letter to Rome Bishop, Damasus 383 AD
  14. Josephus, wrote: “I have also taken a great deal of pains to obtain the learning of the Greeks, and understand the elements of the Greek language; although I have so accustomed myself to speak our own tongue, that I cannot pronounce Greek with sufficient exactness. For our nation does

- NOT ENCOURAGE those that learn the language of many nations....there have yet hardly been two or three that have succeeded herein”(42 A.D.) (Antiquities XX, X1 : 2).
15. Papias 150-170 AD quoted from Eusebius
  16. Some of the verses are missing only words, other have been completely deleted: Matt 5:22; 6:13; 16:3; 20:22,23; Mark 6:11; 13:14; Luke 4:8; 11:2-4; John 8:6; 10:14-16, 29; Acts 1:3; 2:30, 47; 17:26; 18:7; 23:9; 1 Cor 10:28; 15:47; Eph 3:9; 5:9; Col 2:23; 1Tim 3:16; 2 Tim 3:16; James 5:16; 1 Pet 1:22; Rev 22:14
  17. *New Age Bible Versions*, Riplinger p. 488; *The Revision Revised*, Burton p. 377

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### New York Reunion 2005

Where: Hogsburg, New York  
When: July 8 -10, 2005

The Akwesasne New York Local welcomes all of our brothers and sisters to fellowship and worship with us starting **Friday evening at 7:00 P.M., July 8 through Sunday afternoon, July 10, 2005.**

In order that the proper preparation may be made, please let one of the people listed below know if you will be attending, how many, and any dietary restrictions that you may have. We have some

housing available with church members, as well as some space for campers. There are also plenty of motels in the area.

We are looking forward to spending another Spirit-filled reunion weekend with many of our brothers and sisters.

**In Canada:**  
**Wayne and Susan Miller**  
868 Tollgate Road  
Cornwall, Ontario  
Canada K6H5R6  
(613) 933-5469

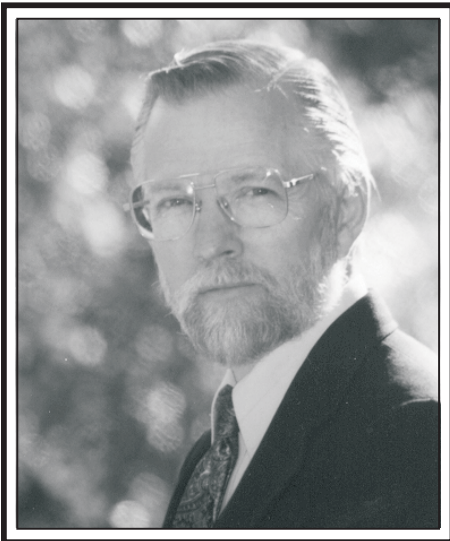
**In the United States:**  
**Eli and Gretchen Tarbell**  
PO Box 21  
600 State Route 37  
Hogsburg, New York 13655  
(518) 358-2911  
[egtarbell@hotmail.com](mailto:egtarbell@hotmail.com)

**Dale and Terry Waldruff**  
429 County Road 34  
Canton, New York 13617  
(315) 265-1221  
[terrwald@slc.com](mailto:terrwald@slc.com)

# THE GREAT APOSTASY AND THE RESTORATION

## ATTENTION YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHER INQUIRERS AFTER THE TRUTH

PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WITH HEADQUARTERS IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI  
THE ONLY CHURCH ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS



By Harvey E. Seibel

**H**ave you ever wondered how the Church of Christ differed from other churches? Or how our church is better than any other? And does it really matter what church we join? If these or similar questions have come to mind then the material presented in this series should be helpful in answering these questions.

We will continue from



### PART 3

where we left off in our last article. This time we will turn our attention to the prophecies of Revelation. John covers the same prophetic information that Daniel does, but gives additional details.

#### THE TIME OF DARKNESS AND ITS DURATION

(THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS)

#### THE PROPHECIES OF REVELATION 13 & 17

REVELATION 13

*“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, **and upon his horns ten***

***crowns**, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and **the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.***

*“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.*

“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.... Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six” (Revelation 13:1-8, 18).

The main points of this prophecy are as follows:

1. There is a beast with 7 heads, 10 horns, and 10 crowns.
2. This beast is like a leopard, a bear, and a lion with the name of blasphemy.
3. One head is killed and healed.
4. The dragon is the power behind this beast.
5. The beast has a mouth speaking great things, blasphemies.
6. It is to continue 42 months.
7. It made war against the saints and overcame them.
8. Power is given to it over all peoples.
9. The number of the beast is 666.

#### REVELATION 17

*“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many*

*waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.** And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said unto me, **Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, **when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*****

*“And here is the mind*

*which hath wisdom. **The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.** These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”* (Revelation 17:1-18).



The main points of this prophecy are as follows:

1. A woman sits on the beast which has 7 heads and 10 horns.
2. She is mystery Babylon the great, the mother of harlots.
3. She is drunk with the blood of saints and martyrs.
4. The beast that was, is not, and yet is.
5. The 7 heads are both mountains and kings.
6. The beast that was and is not is also the 8th and is of the seven.
7. The 10 horns are 10 kings but with no kingdom as yet.
8. The waters are multitudes.
9. The woman is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.

**Q**uestion 1 - *What is the great beast of Revelation 13 & 17?*

“But the beast which John saw had not only seven heads, but ten crowned horns. These signify the ten kingdoms into which, on its being broken up, the western Roman empire was divided. It follows that the beast which John saw rising out of the sea was not pagan Rome, nor imperial Rome, but papal Rome. It was Rome after its imperial head had been wounded to death by the incursions of the Goths - after its deadly wound had been healed by crowning the Pontiff, and making him sovereign of a considerable part of Italy. It was this imperial papal Rome which afterwards ‘opened its mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.’ It was this power

which ‘made war with the saints, and overcame them,’ and which all the wicked of the earth have been inclined to follow and to worship.’ *The Apocalypse Explained*, Professor Pond, p. 134 (*A Marvelous Work and A Wonder*, p. 63).

**COMMENTARY ON DANIEL 7, REVELATION 12, 13, AND 17**

**A**s we have seen, Daniel 7 describes four beasts representing Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. The first three are represented as a lion, a bear and a leopard. The fourth was a dreadful beast having ten horns. Revelation 13 and 17 also describes this beast as having ten horns, but with the characteristics of the three beasts before it; that is, of a lion and a bear and a leopard. The reason for these characteristics is because the fourth beast had absorbed the dominions of the former three beasts before it. Unlike the ten horned beast of Daniel 7, this beast had seven heads. According to Revelation 17 the seven heads represent both the seven mountains or hills upon which the woman sits, and also seven kings. History tells us that these kings were seven forms of government through which the Roman Empire passed during its long history. These were kings, consuls, dictators, decemvirs, military tribunes, emperors, and the exarchate. In John’s day five had already fallen, the sixth then reigned and the seventh was yet to

come.

The little horn of Daniel, the man of sin, and the beast of Revelation are one and the same power. *Both the beast of Revelation and the little horn of Daniel made war against the saints, and both overcame them for the same period of time.* The little horn, like the beast of Revelation, spoke great words and blasphemies against God.

Revelation 17 tells us that a woman sat upon this beast. She is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth. We are also told that the seven heads are the seven mountains on which the woman sits. This is Rome, the famous seven hilled city, or the city built upon seven hills.

Mysteriously, this beast is described as the beast that was, is not, and yet is. As such it is the eighth (meaning the eighth form of government), though it is of the seven which preceded it. In Revelation 13 we read that one of its heads was killed and then its deadly wound was healed. We are not told there which head suffered this deadly wound. But Revelation 17 reveals that it was the seventh head. This occurred when the Lombards conquered Rome in 570 and overthrew the Exarchate, the seventh and last form of the pagan Roman government (the seventh head). The Bishop of Rome succeeded the Exarchate, thus healing the deadly wound and becoming the eighth.

We are also told that the woman is drunken with the blood of the saints. This is be-

cause of the long war she waged against them. We read of this earlier when we covered the little horn of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13, both of which are described as having made war against the saints and overcoming them.

The rise of the little horn after the former ten, as we have seen in Daniel 7, is referenced in another fashion when we consider the prophecies of Revelation 12 and 13. We did not quote nor cover the 12th chapter, but I will briefly discuss one point to show the cohesiveness of the different prophecies concerning these matters.

The seven-headed dragon of Revelation 12 is Satan, the devil, as personified or represented by the pagan Roman government. Unlike Revelation 13 where we find the crowns upon the ten horns, here the crowns are upon the heads. This is because the former (Rev. 12) symbolized the rule of the Pagan Empire. Rome had not yet fallen. In the next chapter (Rev. 13), Rome has fallen and been divided into ten separate kingdoms, each ruling independently. Thus we see the transference of the crowns from the heads to the horns.

**Question 2** - *What is the number of his name?*

“The final pinpointing of the identity of the beast is found in verse 18 of this chapter: ‘Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six

hundred threescore and six.’ It is an historical fact that the Pope has a name written on his triple crown: Vicarius Fillii Dei, which when given Latin numerical equivalents, for letters represent numbers, appears as follows:

V	-----	5
I	-----	1
C	----	100
A	-----	0
R	-----	0
I	-----	1
U	-----	5
S	-----	0
F	-----	0
I	-----	1
L	-----	50
I	-----	1
I	-----	1
D	----	500
E	-----	0
I	-----	1

Sub Totals	112
	53
	<u>510</u>
Grand Total	666

“This is the number of a man, the Pope, of his name as representative of Christ (his claim). It is not the name of a single Pope. It is not the name in a personal sense. But it is an official name of all the Popes, over the centuries and thus fulfills the requirements of a name covering a prophecy of 1260 years” (*Chronology of the Bible*, pp. 336-337).

**Question 3** - *Did the Beast (the Papacy) have power over all peoples or nations? Did the Pope rule over the kings of the earth?*

“The noonday of papal dominion extends from the pontificate of Innocent III inclusively to that of Boniface VIII; or in other words, through the thirteenth century. Rome inspired during this age all the terror of her ancient name. She was once more the mistress of the world, and kings were her vassals.’... ‘In this assembly Boniface promulgated his famous constitution, denominated Unam Sanctam. The church is one body, he therein declares, and has one head. Under its commands are two swords, the one spiritual, and the other temporal; that to be used by the supreme pontiff himself; this by kings and knights, by his license and at his will. But the lesser sword must be subject to the greater, and the temporal to the spiritual authority.’ He concludes by declaring the subjection of every human being to the see of Rome to be an article of necessary faith. Another bull pronounces all persons of whatever rank obliged to appear when personally cited before the audience or apostolical tribunal at Rome; ‘since such is our pleasure, who, by divine permission, rule the world’” - *View of the State of Europe During the Middle Ages*, Henry Hallam, vol. 1, pp. 456, 478 (*A Marvelous Work and A Wonder*, pp. 100-101).

“He (Pope Gregory VII, A.D. 1073) was the first who claimed, as the representative of Deity, to be above all the kings in the world. This proud and self-exalting man strove, and strove successfully, not only to emancipate the spiritual power from all control by the State, not only to secure for it absolute independence, but, further, to subject the secular power of princes to the

spiritual power of priests, and thus to establish at Rome in his own person and in the succession of the Roman pontiffs an absolute and supreme ruler of the world. Nor did he propound this new and startling doctrine as a theory only. With daring audacity he excommunicated the German emperor Henry IV., released his subjects from allegiance to him, and forbade them to obey him as sovereign. He actually succeeded in exacting humiliating concessions from the emperor, and yet he subsequently bestowed his kingdom on another. This pope turned the bishopric of Rome into a universal and unlimited monarchy, and the sovereigns of Europe were unable to oppose his unprecedented usurpations. He established also an undisguised and irresistible despotism over the national Churches in other lands, by enacting that no bishop in the Catholic Church should enter on the exercise of his functions until the pope had confirmed his election, a law of far-reaching and vast importance, by which perhaps more than by any other means Rome sustained for centuries her temporal power as well as her ecclesiastical influence....

“When the maxims of Gregory VIII had been acted out for a century, and the power to trample on the necks of kings had come to be regarded by churchmen as an inherent right of the Papacy, the proud spirit of Papal aggression reached its climax. The period of climax may be dated from the pontificate of Innocent III, A.D. 1198. The leading objects which the Roman pontiffs had steadily pursued for centuries seemed at last attained: independent sover-

eignty, absolute supremacy over the Christian Church, and full control over the princes of Europe. The historian Hallam says of this man: ‘He was formidable beyond all his predecessors, perhaps beyond all his successors. On every side the thunder of Rome broke over the heads of princes.’ He excommunicated Sweno, king of Norway; threatened the king of Hungary to alter the succession; put the kingdom of Castile under an interdict; and when Philip Augustus of France refused at his bidding to take back his repudiated wife, Innocent did not hesitate to punish the whole nation by putting France also under the same dreaded penalty, until her king humbly submitted to the pope’s behest. King John of England and Philip II of Aragon were both constrained to resign their kingdoms and receive them back as spiritual fiefs from the Roman pontiff, who claimed also the right to decide the election of the emperors of Germany by his confirmation or veto.” (*Romanism and the Reformation*, pp. 11-15).

**Question 4** - *What is meant by the beast that was, is not, and yet is?*

“The beast, therefore, upon which the woman rideth, is the Roman government in its last form; and this, all must acknowledge, is the papal and not the imperial” - *Benson’s Commentary on the New Testament*, vol. 2, p. 782 (New York, 1839) (*The Fall of Babylon*, p. 104).

“‘The beast that was, and is not, he is the eighth, and is of the seventh, and goeth into perdition.’ It is true that the civil

power of the papacy grew out of this dukedom of Rome. The pope wrested it from the exarch of Ravenna” - *Lectures on Prophecy*, p. 46, Reverend Benjamin H. Charles, D.D. (ibid., p. 104).

In short the ‘beast that was,’ was the old Roman Government. When it fell, it ceased to be, or in the language of the prophecy ‘is not.’ When the Bishop of Rome began his rule, the life of the beast was restored fulfilling the ‘yet is’ portion of the prophecy. Thus the deadly wound to the seventh head was healed. The Exarchate was the seventh head. It was wounded unto death, but its wound was immediately healed by the rising of the Papal power in Rome. This last became the eighth (though it was of the seven before it) and went into perdition.



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Zarahemla

c a l m e h a r a z a e d l  
 m u c t r d d m f r s s e g  
 s r k g r l d u l s e b d i  
 d u i a a o a t e a a o i i  
 r g n i m a j n e b g n i k  
 o n g d r j r a g f e i s e  
 c i m o g e e i o u w r t l  
 e t o i d e v r s e a a o a  
 r i s l i w e o u a l g n m  
 e r i e g w a c c s i e e a  
 e w a t o w e r n s a r e o  
 n g h p w f l a n w i l g d  
 e r s u r p r i s e l d e l  
 n e p h i t e s i a d k d m

Amaleki  
 Babel  
 Coriantumr  
 discover  
 flee  
 God  
 Jerusalem  
 KingBenjamin  
 KingMosiah  
 language  
 Nephites  
 powerofGod  
 records  
 stone  
 surprise  
 tower  
 translate  
 warned  
 wilderness  
 writing  
 Zarahemla

ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Church of Christ TEEN CAMP 2005

Date: 1 March 2005  
To: All Prospective Counselors in Training (CITs)  
RE: 2005 CIT Applications for Teen Camp 2005

Brother Hedrick **by May 9th** so that CITs can be included in the planning process of camp.

Applications are now being accepted for Counselors in Training for the 2005 camp session of the Church of Christ Teen Camp to be held July 25th through 29th. Applications are available to download from the camp web sit at [www.campteenchallenge.com](http://www.campteenchallenge.com) or by contacting Brother Robert Hedrick by phone at 602-494-9661 or by e-mail at [bobliza@juno.com](mailto:bobliza@juno.com). Applications must be received by

Keep in mind the 2005 Teen Camp theme, Alma 17:68 & 69, "O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good...."

NEWS

## INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL REPORT

Hello to everyone from the Independence East Local!

It has been an active Christmas season for us this year, with the presentation of different programs during the holiday period in which we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

On Saturday, December 18th, the Women's Group enjoyed a breakfast together at the Englewood Café. This was a wonderful social time in which we enjoyed the fellowship of one another.

On the morning of December 19th there was a combined morning service at the Temple Lot Local in which many beautiful voices were lifted up in praise. The Christmas Spirit was very evident in the beauty and love shared during this time of remembrance. Also, that same evening we enjoyed another program at our East Local. There were many talents and musical gifts shared with us in the true meaning of Christmas...of thankfulness and glorifying God. Let us remember this precious gift all year through.

Sunday morning, December 12th, the blessing of baby Andrew Christopher Gahner took place before family and friends. Happy parents Elizabeth and Matt Gahner, big brother Alex Gahner, and Grandparents Belinda and Michael Smith beamed with joy. We give thanks to God for this beautiful ordinance and thank Him for His special watch care over our little ones.

In January, Apostle Buzz Brickhouse and wife Sue were accompanied by Priest Bill Malone and wife Karin (from Phoenix) on a missionary trip to our brothers and sisters in Kenya. In March, Apostle Frank Fann and wife Carol will travel to the Philippines for a missionary effort to our church family there. We pray for a successful trip and a safe return for all.

We are thankful for all of our health blessings and here we note just a few: Jim Gordon has healed from a broken leg, Amy Schrader has healed from a compression fracture of her hip, and Elder Bob Oldham is recovering from knee replacement sur-

gery. We ask for your continued prayers for them as well as others who are having health problems, as we remember all our brothers and sisters in prayers lifted up to our Heavenly Father.

As preparations are made for our upcoming Church Conference we would appreciate prayers for those meetings and all those who travel to and from Independence; and especially this year for those of our brethren who may be traveling from distant lands. We look forward to seeing our church family gather in for the upcoming Solemn Assembly and Church Conference, and we ask those who can't attend to please keep the Conference in your prayers. May the Lord's Spirit abide with us and may HIS will be done in all matters.

*Your Sister in Christ,  
Deb Haines*

### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your *Zion's Advocate* by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable *Zion's Advocate* costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

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 and 2. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The **2005 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 1, 2 and 3, at Independence, Missouri.

### 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†
Members (optional) .....	\$4.00
Non-Members .....	4.00
Foreign .....	4.50
Babylon's Fall and the Way of Escape .....	1.85
Book of Commandments (plastic bound) .....	6.00
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
Changing of the Revelations .....	.50
Libro De Mormon (Spanish) .....	7.00
Marvelous Work and a Wonder, A, by Daniel MacGregor .....	4.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ .....	9.65
Temple Lot Deed .....	.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God .....	2.50
Zion's Hymnal (members) .....	15.00
Zion's Hymnal (non-members) .....	18.00

### THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:\*

Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830	De La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish)
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
Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)	First Presidency or First Apostles?
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	God's Promises to Israel
Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	God's Purpose in America
Book of Commandments, The - Its Role in the History of the Restoration	Great Plan of Redemption, The
Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants	Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
Brief History of the Church of Christ, A	Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem, The
Call to National Repentance, A - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ	Latter Day Apostasy, A
Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day, The - Sunday	Latter Day Restoration, The
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	Priesthood—Divine Authority
Concerning Marriage and Polygamy	Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
Cost of Salvation, The	Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?	Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
El Libro De Mondamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion	Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
	Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
	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

†Cost of mailing will be added.

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

## Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
 TEMPLE LOT  
 200 S. RIVER BLVD.  
 P. O. BOX 472  
 INDEPENDENCE, MO 64051-0472

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 INDEP., MO  
 PERMIT NO. 259

### AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee:

#### 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.

**LIGHT AT EVENING** (27 minutes)—Story of the bringing forth of the book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

**OUT OF THE DUST** (45 minutes)—Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

**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.

#### HOLY SCRIPTURES ON AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE

Complete set narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and a set of the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it.

#### SERMONS ON AUDIO & VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES

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

**Book in the Stone Box, The**—About the Book of Mormon

**Church History for Juniors**—Includes a Teacher's Guide

**Jesus' Life and Teachings**—4 Quarterlies for ages 8-10

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