

# Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

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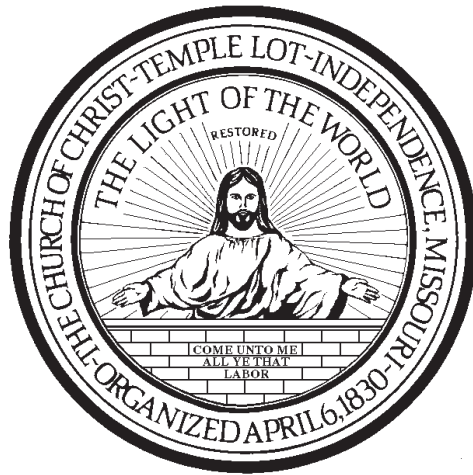


***"And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles..." 2 Nephi 7:18.***

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### 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.

# The Land Choice Above All Others



By Harvey E. Seibel

*“And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, **a land which is choice above all other lands**” (1 Nephi 1:54).*

**T**hese were the words of God to Nephi.

The same promise was made to the brother of Jared.

*“...Go to and gather together thy flocks, both male and female, of every kind; and also of the seed of the earth of every kind, and thy family; and also Jared thy brother and his family; and also thy friends and their families, and the friends of Jared and their families. And when thou hast done this, thou shalt go at the head of them down into the valley, which is northward. And*

*there will I meet thee, and **I will go before thee into a land which is choice above all the land of the earth**” (Ether 1:16-18).*

Later Lehi writes:

*“But, said he, notwithstanding our afflictions, we have obtained a land of promise, **a land which is choice above all other lands**; A land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children for ever; And also all those who should be led out of other countries, by the hand of the Lord. Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land, save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord. Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring.” (2 Nephi 1:6-11).*

The words of Jacob:

*“Wherefore, I will consecrate this land unto thy seed, and they who shall be numbered among thy seed, for ever, for the land of their inheritance: For it is a choice land, saith God unto me, above all other lands” (2 Nephi 7:30-31).*

From the above words we see that this land, the land of the Americas, was a choice land unto God. We know that the Nephites were brought into the land southward and the Jaredites into the land north-

ward.

Both the Nephites and the Jaredites, however, were given a solemn warning: they must serve the God of this land, which is Jesus Christ, or be swept off when their iniquity came to a fullness.

*“And he had sworn in his wrath unto the Brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them” (Ether 1:30).*

*“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” (Ether 1:32).*

On the other side of the coin the promise was:

*“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 1:35).*

*“And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, **it shall be a land of liberty unto them**; Wherefore, they shall never be brought down*

into captivity: if so, it shall be because of iniquity: For if iniquity shall abound, cursed shall be the land for their sakes; **But unto the righteous, it shall be blessed for ever**" (2 Nephi 12-15).

the face of the land, which is choice above all other lands, Which is the land that the Lord God hath covenanted with thy father that his seed should have for the land of their inheritance, will not utterly destroy the mix-

remnant of the house of Israel, and this remnant of whom I speak is the seed of thy father; Wherefore, after I have visited them in judgment, and smitten them by the hand of the Gentiles; And after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly because of the most plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which has been kept back, by that abominable church, which is the mother of harlots, saith the Lamb, I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb" (1 Nephi 3:181-183).

In the prophecies concerning our day it appears that the portion of this land that is possessed by the United States has a blessing that exceeds the rest of the Americas.

In the prophecies concerning our day it appears that the portion of this land that is possessed by the United States has a blessing that exceeds the rest of the Americas. Protestant Europe settled this part of the vineyard and Canada to the north, while Catholic Europe generally settled Central and South America. It was in our land that a free government was established. The Book of Mormon is very pointed about this, how that after we declared our independence the mother Gentiles gathered together against us. The British came against the colonies, not Canada, nor any other part of America. The Book of Mormon also speaks of a great nation of the Gentiles upon this land, which pinpoints our country more clearly than any other country in the western hemisphere.

*"Nevertheless thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity, and have been lifted up by the power of God above all other nations upon*

*ture of thy seed, which are among thy brethren; Neither will he suffer that the Gentiles shall destroy the seed of thy brethren"* (1 Nephi 3:176-178).

Perhaps it can be said that the other Gentiles also went out of captivity. However, when we consider the reason for the Pilgrims coming to this country was to escape the tyranny of the religious persecutions in Europe, our country stands unique from the others. Mexico and other areas to the south, Peru included, suffered under the heel of Catholicism. The inquisition even reached the shores of those southern lands. A free government was established in our land, a Republic. How free the other governments in this hemisphere are must be judged on an individual basis. But it was this land on which the hand of the Lord rested.

*"And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying, Behold, saith the Lamb of God, after I have visited the*

It was to this land, America in particular, that the gospel was brought forth. It was the Protestant Gentiles who had come out of Catholicism that stumbled exceedingly because of those precious parts of the gospel kept back by that abominable church. The countries to the south were kept in darkness by the Catholic priests and were not permitted to come out of that darkness. The gospel was not brought forth to those Gentiles. The gospel has, however, been taken to a small portion of the house of Israel in Yucatan and Honduras, but not to any extent the Gentiles of those areas, nor those of the rest of Central and South America.

Nephi was told,

*"And after thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren; behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb"* (1 Nephi 3:185).

These were the Gentiles of

North America. Any doubt concerning this matter should be removed by the following scriptures.

*“But behold, this land, saith God, shall be a land of thine inheritance; and the Gentiles shall be blessed upon the land. **And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles:** and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the Gentiles. And I will fortify this land against all other nations; And he that fighteth against Zion, shall perish, saith God; for he that raiseth up a king against me, shall perish”* (2 Nephi 7:17-20).

*“And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, **that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles,** yea, even upon the face of this land; And by them shall our seed be scattered. And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders. And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles: And not only unto the Gentiles, but unto all the house of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed”* (1 Nephi 7:15-20).

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, When these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, from them unto you, for it is wisdom in the Father that they*

*should be established in this land, **And be set up as a free people by the power of the Father,** that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel”* (3 Nephi 9:89-90).

There can be little question but that the land and nation referred to here is the United States. This was the mighty nation that God raised up among the Gentiles. And, yes, they were set up as a free people by the power of the Father. And it was to be a land of liberty among the Gentiles. These things were not true of any other country in the western hemisphere. America is specifically identified here as being the location where these great things were to transpire.

In the scripture above we are told that all who fight against Zion shall perish, for whosoever raiseth up a king against God shall perish. In Isaiah 40:9 Zion is commanded to get up into the high mountain. That America, in particular, is meant is shown by the prophet Amos.

*“Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!”* (Amos 6:1).

The Book of Mormon, as we have seen in the above scripture, identifies America with Zion. Zion obeyed the command to remove herself to the high mountain—that is America. Historically, Zion was identified

with Jerusalem and the southern kingdom. But prophetically, in the last days, it was to be identified with Samaria, or the northern kingdom. The warning against being at ease in Zion is directed to us here in America. We are also identified with Samaria, because America was populated with the descendants of Ephraim who had mixed himself among the Gentiles of northwestern Europe. The prophet Isaiah identifies Ephraim with Samaria and also with Israel. In fact, Ephraim, Samaria and Israel were interchangeable terms describing the northern kingdom. As Judah ruled the southern kingdom, so did Ephraim rule the northern kingdom. So when Ephraim came to America in the form of the English and Germans, etc., it was Samaria or Israel establishing herself in this great land, fulfilling a prophecy made to King David by the prophet Nathan.

*“Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime”* (2 Samuel 7:10).

This promise was delivered after David had become king over all Israel, and the children of Israel had possessed the land promised to Abraham. Now another place is appointed of God for His people of Israel, to which He will plant them, a place of their own, from whence they shall move no more nor be afflicted as beforetime. That place surely must be the place to

which Zion also was commanded to remove herself.

It should also be pointed out that ancient Samaria was never named chief of the nations, and neither did the house of Israel come to it as is declared here. Rather they founded it after the death of Solomon, and after their separation from the house of David. But they did come to America and establish themselves and have since become the chief of the nations as prophesied. Ancient Samaria could never be chief for the fact that from start to finish all her kings were wicked with not one righteous among them. Not only is Zion identified with America but it also will be the place of the New Jerusalem.

*“And behold, this people will I establish in this land (America), unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you”* (3 Nephi 9:58-59).

*“But if they (the Gentiles) will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land (America) for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob. And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem”* (3 Nephi 10:1-2).

In the Book of Ether we

read the following account:

*“For behold, they rejected all the words of Ether; for he truly told them of all things, from the beginning of man, and how that after the waters had receded from off the face of this land, it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord; wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him, which dwelt upon the face thereof; and that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord. Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning a New Jerusalem upon this land; and he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come; after that it should be destroyed, it should be built up again a holy city unto the Lord; wherefore it could not be a New Jerusalem, for it had been in a time of old, but it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord; and it should be built up unto the house of Israel; And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph...wherefore the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come, when the earth shall pass away”* (Ether 6:2-6, 8).

It is interesting to note, in this regard, that according to the prophecy in Daniel 2, the little stone kingdom was to be cut out of the mountain. That mountain was the nation of the United States, the same land to

which Zion in Isaiah 40:9 was commanded to get up into. As noted earlier, Nephi referenced our nation when he stated that this land (the USA) was to be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles. It was in this very nation or mountain that the plates of the Book of Mormon were hid up. It was also in this very land that the Church was restored again in the earth. Nephi, quoting Isaiah, writes,

*“And it shall come to pass in the last days, when the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem”* (2 Nephi 8:18-19).

The following quotations show that when the Gentiles are referenced, it is the people of this country in which we now live, as opposed to those of the American nations to the north or south. Consider:

*“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles which had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them; And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them; And I beheld that the power of God was with them; and also that the wrath of God was upon all them that were gathered together against them to battle.*

And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles which had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations" (1 Nephi 3:152-155).

Which Gentiles? The Gentiles which came from north-western Europe and settled our land! These Gentiles will not be suffered to utterly destroy the seed of Nephi nor Laman.

The prophecy in Isaiah 29 concerning the coming forth of the sealed book contains the following words:

*"And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee. And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust"* (Isaiah 29:3-4).

It was in this country that forts were employed as prophesied by Isaiah, and through this means the scattering was accomplished as we read in 1 Nephi 7:15-17, by those very Gentiles spoken of here.

It is certain that the Gentiles of our country did not scatter the Indian peoples outside our own borders. Our land, therefore, is specifically identified as the place where the great drama of the last days is to commence. The same is true of the wickedness of those Gentiles described in verses 34 and 35 of 3 Nephi 7:

*"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..."*

Speaking further the Lord says,

*"And after that ye (the people of Nephi) were blessed, then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which he made with Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed, unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles, shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel: and they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land"* (3 Nephi 9:65).

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, When these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, from them unto you, for it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land (the USA), And be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O*

*house of Israel"* (3 Nephi 9:89-90).

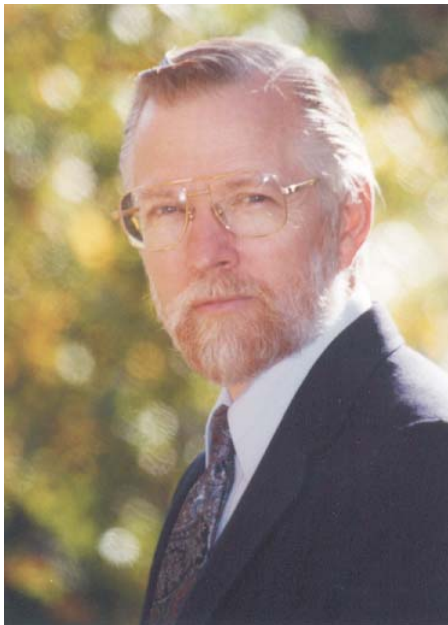
I believe this pretty well establishes that the drama of the last days is to take place within the borders of the United States, the mountain of the Lord's house, the land of Joseph of which the promised material blessings of Genesis 49 and Deuteronomy 33 are amply fulfilled, more so than in any other part of the Americas. This land is truly choice above all other lands.

Out of all the countries of the western hemisphere the finger of God has pointed out the one country which is named chief of the nations to whom the house of Israel came, the place where many are at ease, the designated place of Zion. It is this great Gentile nation whom the mother gentiles could not overcome, the land of freedom, the place where God has raised up His house, and brought forth His gospel and kingdom once again upon the earth. It is the mountain (nation) of the Lord's house, the place where the Zion of God shall stand. It is the land of Joseph as promised by Jacob and Moses, even to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills, containing the blessings of the heaven above, the earth below, and the deep beneath. It is the promised land, the new Israel, the modern Samaria, the land of Zion, the place of the New Jerusalem (see Amos 6:1). It was to this country that the pilgrim fathers were brought.

# 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

**FURTHER EVIDENCE  
IN SUPPORT OF THE  
BOOK OF MORMON**  
THE SEVENTY WEEKS OF  
DANIEL



### PART 9

*“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

*“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be*

*built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

*“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

*“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” (Daniel 9:24-27).*

The main points of this prophecy are as follows:

**1** Seventy weeks are determined upon the Jews and their city Je-

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DIFFERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES? OR HOW OUR CHURCH IS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER? 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.



rusalem.

- a. To finish the transgression
- b. To make an end of sins
- c. To make reconciliation for iniquity
- d. To bring in everlasting righteousness
- e. To seal up the vision and prophecy
- f. To anoint the Most Holy

**2** From the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem to the Messiah the Prince shall be 69 weeks.

**3** After the elapsed of that time Messiah shall be cut off.

**4** Then the people of the prince (Caesar's army under Titus) shall destroy the city and the temple.

**5** Messiah shall confirm the covenant with many for one week - the 70th week.

**6** In the midst of this week Messiah shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease.

**7** Desolation will continue thereafter until the consummation.

It is first fitting to lay a little background before discussing the details of this prophecy.

When was the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem given, after the conclusion of the 70 year captivity of Judah? There were four edicts issued by the Persian Kings, that of Cyrus, that of Darius, that of the 7th year of Artaxerxes, and that of the 20th year of Artaxerxes. It was this last edict that fulfilled every particular of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem.

**“THE FOURTH EDICT:  
THAT OF THE 20TH OF  
ARTAXERXES**

“It was in the 20th year of Artaxerxes (Neh. 2:1), when it

was reported to Nehemiah that, ‘The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire’ (Neh. 1:3). So it was still necessary for the decree to be given to rebuild Jerusalem and the walls. Nehemiah requests permission to build the city (Neh. 2:5) to which thing the king agreed (v. 6). The king gave Nehemiah a letter (decree) authorizing timber to make beams for the ‘gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into’ (v. 8). This was the first and only decree that fulfilled the prophecy, ‘to restore and to build Jerusalem’ (Dan. 9:25). Also, in the same verse, the walls were to be built ‘even in troublous times.’ That this was literally fulfilled at this time is shown: ‘And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded’ (Neh. 4:16-18).

“This edict utterly fulfills the prophecy: the walls of the city were builded and finished in 52 days (Neh. 6:15), after which the people were chosen by volunteers and by lot to inhabit the city, and rulers were set up and the ancient law given to the people. All this happened by our

reckoning in 460 B.C., just 490 years to the end of the prophecy of 70 weeks, 3½ years after the crucifixion. And it truly was ‘even in troublous times,’ as recorded in Daniel” (*Chronology of the Bible*, by Elder M. Harvey Seibel, pp. 169-170).

“What was the purpose of the seventy weeks? ‘Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy’ (Dan. 9:24). This being the stated purpose, the 7 weeks, the 62 weeks, and the final week must all, in a special way, cover division of spiritual events into these respective time segments. Consider a major characteristic or purpose of the Jews, was the carrying the truth of the gospel and preserving it for all men, for through them the Bible was given to the world. They were a chosen people. Prophets arose among them from the beginning, but with the rise of Samuel, prophets were more abundant, even to the end of the Old Testament canon, and their teachings and prophecies fill the pages of Scripture. But Malachi was the last of the prophets: the canon of Scripture closed and was not opened again until the coming of John and the Messiah. A priestly and a prophetic silence reigned, and the people sat in darkness (Isa. 9:2; Matt. 4:16). The picture seems clear indeed: the priests and prophets were the mediators between heaven and man, the line of communication; but 49 years, 434 years, and 7 years were to wind things up for the nation, to end this dispensation of the chosen people of the Jews. It is

beautifully logical to consider that the 49 years terminated the lines of communication in its official capacity, that 49 years, a tithe of the total 490 years remained to the chosen people, that men sat in spiritual darkness for 434 years leading to Christ, that for 3½ years the covenant was confirmed in Judaea, and the final 3½ years with the 'other sheep'" (*ibid.*, pp. 172-173).

#### "THE SEVENTIETH WEEK

"Sixty-nine weeks, or 483 years of the total 490 have passed, leading us to the Messiah the Prince (Dan. 9:25-26), to the baptism of Christ and the beginning of His ministry in 24 A.D. The events of the final week are clearly stated: 'He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease' (Dan. 9:27). For three and one-half years Christ confirmed the covenant, preaching throughout Judaea and performing many healings and wonders that the 'many' might be brought into the kingdom of God. Then, in the midst of this work, he was 'cut off' (v. 26), causing the 'sacrifice and the oblation to cease' (v. 27). For his death on the cross brought an end of the sacrifices of the ancient law, and left the promise unfulfilled: there were still three and one-half years of the week of 'confirming the covenant': a half week slated to throw the scholars and commentators into confusion and conjecture" (*ibid.*, pp. 174-175).

Four hundred eighty-three years were to elapse from the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem until the beginning of Christ's ministry. During that period (the 70th week), He is to

confirm the covenant with many. Then in the midst of the week (after 3½ years of ministry) He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease. He did so by the sacrifice of Himself upon the cross. At that moment God, so signifying that it was finished and all now had direct access to the Father, caused the veil of the temple to be rent in the sight of all. There no longer had to be a priest 'go-between,' only the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who now was our great High Priest and intercessor with the Father. Having been rejected by the Jewish nation, the Gospel was carried to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof, namely, the Gentiles. And because of the sentence which they themselves pronounced upon themselves out of their mouths at the trial of Jesus, the people of the prince (Titus) did come and destroy the city of Jerusalem and the temple, crucifying the people by the hundreds on the hilltops, leaving the city in desolation. The former and latter rains also were withheld and did not return again until 1853.

But what of the other half of the week? It says He was to confirm the covenant with many for one week. Half of that week had been fulfilled in Jerusalem. He had told his disciples that He had other sheep, and that they too would hear His voice. The Book of Mormon records His visit to this country, as do the Indians themselves in their traditions. Moreover He also went to the lost tribes of Israel which had been led away of the Father. In other words,

when Christ came He visited all of the house of Israel wherever they had been scattered through the world. The last 3½ years was fulfilled by our Lord in carrying the gospel to the rest of the house of Israel who were not in and around Jerusalem. This is one of the great evidences that the record of the Book of Mormon is true.

Mormonism is not true. The Book of Mormon is and can stand on its own feet. John tells how we can know the Spirit of God.

*"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of Antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world"* (1 John 4:2-3).

This is just what the Book of Mormon does confess. It is a second witness for Christ, wonderfully confirming the record of the Apostles and Prophets.

#### CONCLUSION

*"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

# Differences in the Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #4

Submitted by Michael Kelley

There is one section of the Sermon on the Mount from the Bible concerning taking no thought for your life, what ye shall eat or drink, etc., which is somewhat different from the Book of Mormon account. Below these differences are highlighted in **bold italics** and I will offer possible explanations for these differences on the following page.

**Matthew 6:25-34:** “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] **not much more** [clothe] you, **O** ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? **(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:)** for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient **unto** the day **[is]** the evil thereof.” Matthew 7:1: “JUDGE not, that ye be not judged.”

**3 Nephi 6:1-13:** “**And now it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, he looked upon the twelve whom he had chosen, and saith unto them, Remember the words which I have spoken. For behold, ye are they which I have chosen to minister unto this people.** Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, **even so** will he clothe you, **if ye are not** of little faith. Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient **is** the day **unto** the evil thereof. **And now it came to**

**pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, he turned again to the multitude, and did open his mouth unto them again, saying, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Judge not, that ye be not judged."**

In the body of the text there are only minor differences such as the reference to Gentiles being omitted from the Book of Mormon. This may be due to the fact that the Nephites had no social interaction with the Gentiles while the Jews did and thus the reference would have more meaning to them. Also another minor difference is in the Bible it states "O ye of little faith" versus the Book of Mormon's, "If ye are not of little faith," which seems more conditional and fitting rather than accusatory.

The primary difference between the Sermons on the Mount in this section is the introduction and ending of this section. Clearly in the Book of Mormon this section was intended only for the Twelve and not intended for the multitude. Of the 12 Apostles it is recorded:

**Mark 10:28-29 (30?):** "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, (should we add verse 30? "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands,...").

**Mark 6:7-10:** "And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; And commanded them that they should take nothing for *their* journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in *their* purse: But *be* shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place."

Clearly it was only the apostles (and possibly the seventy additional elders) who were sent forth two by two as traveling missionaries who were to give up their worldly cares and trust in God to provide for their bodily requirements such as food and clothing. It would not be logical or reasonable to expect this of the entire multitude, whether it be the unconverted listeners or converted lay members to leave their homes and responsibilities to go forth as missionaries when they were not even called for that work. Even those of other ministerial offices such as priests and teachers were commanded to work for their own pay and support of their families:

**Mosiah 11:155:** "Yea, and all their priests and teachers should labor with their own hands for their support, in all cases save it were in sickness, or in much want; and doing these things they did abound in the grace of God."

**1 Peter 5:2:** "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;...."

Some Christians who have only the Bible could possibly stumble with certain passages of the Bible and think these requirements are for them when they were in actuality never chosen for such a work and the associated sacrifices. Some also could fall prey to wolves who use these and like passages to con them into selling all of their possessions so that these false leaders may glut themselves off of the labors of the people. Thankfully we have the Book of Mormon that clarifies these passages and other Hebraic sayings such as, "If thine eye offend thee pluck it out," or, "If thy hand offend thee cut it off," which were never intended to be taken literally, but rather figuratively.



## GRAND JUNCTION LOCAL, COLORADO

**G**reetings:

The elected officers of our local are mostly unchanged from last year. Bro. David Larsen is our pastor. The one change is that Bro. John Bell is now the assistant pastor.

Our local is small in number, but our diligent members keep active. Summertime offers vacations and travel to some of our group. Sr. Lois Bell is spending mid-summer with her sisters in Independence, Missouri. Jean and Joan Larsen spent their two-week vacation taking their mother, Alice Larsen, to the west coast to enjoy the lovely scenery and visit her granddaughter, Tina Larsen Metcalf and little Desiree. They also stopped to visit John and Julie Larsen and their three little ones, who are greatly missed since they moved from Grand Junction to Mesquite, Nevada, where John has a better job. Johnny and Enid Bell have plans to enjoy some traveling and camping since Johnny's shoulder surgery. Bro. Marvin Carroll makes frequent missionary trips to our brothers and sisters outside the U.S.A. Sr. Kathy Larsen makes frequent quick trips to visit her invalid mother, Sr. Martha Bender, in eastern Nebraska, and see to her well-being.

We are kept aware of the need for prayers for suffering ones among us. Several have chronic conditions that cause pain and disability. In most urgent need at the present are Jim Shaw's granddaughter, Tona Ogden of Craig, Colorado, and David Larsen. Tona has newly-discovered fibro-myalgia. David's difficulties with diabetes have been complicated by intense pain in his kidneys and diaphragm caused by injuries suffered when a car hit him.

Our three-day Colorado Reunion began, as always, on the second Friday in June. As travel becomes more difficult for some due

to health, expense, or work, we missed those who were unable to attend. We gladly welcomed all those who came to share that blessed time. And we gratefully welcomed the Holy Spirit which presided over our every meeting as well as our social times together, eating and visiting. In communing and worshipping with brothers and sisters in the family of God and Christ, we have a taste of the joy awaiting us in eternity.

We gathered for prayer meeting each morning at nine o'clock. In prayers and testimonies, the needs of many were held up that we might unite our prayers, vocally or silently, in their behalf. In testimonies and songs we heard praise and gratitude for blessings of healing, of guidance, of protection, of happiness. Pervading all was the feeling of thankfulness, joy, peace and love.

The messages of our afternoon and evening speakers were dove-tailed so closely that they flowed together. We heard sermons by Bros. Bill Malone, Glenn Gill, John Case, David Larsen, and Joel Yates.

We were asked, "Are you ready to meet God?" We were told that we must not be lukewarm or complaisant because righteousness requires being actively diligent in obeying God's commandments; that we need to pray for God's help to be righteous, avoid even any appearance of sin, be diligent in good works, study to know what God's commandments are, have true charity toward others, and remain faithful and diligent until death.

Each speaker mentioned the necessity of baptism. We must take the name of Christ and obey His teachings in order to be saved at that last day. We are created free to choose good or evil, belief in Christ and love Him and God (which is demonstrated by obedience) or indifference and rebellion, eternal salvation or eternal damnation. We must follow Christ's teaching, not the false ideas of unwise men.

Also addressed was our handling of misfortunes, disappointment and suffering in this life. We must follow Christ's example and patiently endure adversities while we press forward toward perfection.

God's laws are given to guide sinners to goodness. Repent of past sins, be baptized, receive the Holy Ghost to be our help, feast on the word of God, and obey Him. There is no other way to salvation for any who have opportunity to hear the word of God.

Have the courage to do right, now. There are no works after death. Christ was tempted, but sinned not. We will be judged by Him. Believe God's promises as well as his commandments. Have hope, demonstrate charity, be patient and forgiving, know the joy of righteous living and loving others. The scriptures give us instruction and reproof. Be godly, content, and go on to perfection.

Each statement of admonishment or encouragement was backed by readings from the Bible and the Book of Mormon. We are grateful for our brothers' reminding us of these precious truths that we cannot hear too often.

Songs are an important part of worship. We always enjoy the singing of tender or joyous songs in services and the song service preceding the evening sermons.

I think we all were strengthened by this time together and all that we shared.

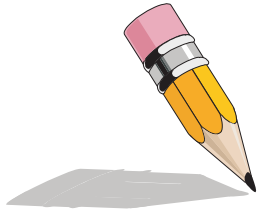
*May God bless each of you,*

*Your sister,*

*Alice Larsen*

*Reporter for the Grand Junction Local*

## EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL, MISSOURI



Greetings to all from the East Independence Local!

We are very thankful to have lots of news to report. First of all, we are thankful for the many prayers that have been answered for all our brothers and sisters in need, including those who have been on the "missionary trail." We've had many health blessings, just one of which is the recovery of Br. Gerald Cox from knee replacement surgery.

Apostle Frank Fann and grandson Br. Cody Fann, Elder Charles Brantner, Elder Andy Brantner, and Elder Jeff Oldham have returned from a missionary trip to the Philippines in June. They returned with many stories and photos to share with us at the Missouri Reunion. We are also thankful that Br. Charles has recovered from the pneumonia he brought back home with him!

Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse and Apostle Joel Yates (from Phoenix, AZ) returned from their short trip to Nigeria in May. Then in June Br. Brickhouse, wife Sr. Sue Brickhouse, Priest Bill Malone and wife Sr. Karin Malone left for another missionary trip to Tanzania and Kenya, where Br. Daniel and wife Sr. Kate Malone joined them for a short time. From the reports we received it was a successful trip for all.

On June 7th the Women's Department hosted a Mother/Daughter dinner, an annual event that everyone enjoys.

We have construction news to report: the drainage tile work on the church's driveway is finally completed! After watching the large tiles sitting near our church driveway for months, they have all of a sudden found their home under the earth near the driveway entrances. We also have a newly graded sloping lawn out to the street!

On Sunday, July 21st we saw some new faces as the gathering for Teen Camp began. That Sunday afternoon, the bus loaded as the teens and camp staff were off to a very hot week at camp.

On Thursday, July 28, a Scripture Adventure Day Camp took place at the East Local Annex for the younger children ages 5-11.

Beginning Friday, July 29th through Saturday and Sunday, we gathered into the House of the Lord on the Temple Lot for the Missouri Reunion of the Church of Christ. We were a large group this year, with all the teens added to our numbers. We counted approximately 417 in attendance over the three-day span.

We are happy to announce the birth of Sr. Cherish and husband David Morgan's baby girl on August 5th. Her name is Katherine Grace Mor-

gan. She weighed in at 7 pounds 9 ozs. and was 19½ inches long. Big sister Sadi, who is eleven years old welcomes her home. Happy grandparents are Sr. Cheryl and Br. David Taylor, and great-grandmother is Sr. Ruth Brockman.

Our Women's Department group enjoyed "An Evening on the Square" on August 9th. The 20 of us who were able to gather at the Independence Square rode in a mule-drawn covered wagon while listening to our driver tell us about Independence history. After our tour we enjoyed a wonderful meal together at a restaurant on the Square. Much fellowship was enjoyed.

Our Women's Department has held two garage sales to benefit the Philippine Mission Fund. The first was held in May at Lisa and Terry McGhee's residence, and one in August at the Fann residence. Both did very well. The women are also selling trash bags and planning another fund raising activity for September.

Once again, we are so thankful to God for all His blessings upon us, and we ask a continued interest in your prayers for those who are in need. May God Bless each and every one of you.

*Sr. Deb Haines*

OBITUARY

# Velma Wheaton

December 31, 1927~July 19, 2005

Velma was born December 31, 1927, in the middle of the desert near Mesa, Arizona, the middle daughter of Oren and Esther Caviness. She passed from this life on July 19, 2005, in the home, after a long illness of Parkinson's disease, diabetes, congestive heart failure, and related ailments. She was a devoted member of the Church of Christ from her youth.

She was an avid lover of horses, the great outdoors, and all nature, where she hiked, fished, hunted, and camped with the love of her life, her husband Dick.

She graduated from Phoenix Union High School and attended the University of Phoenix, Arizona. There she was active in her other loves: music and drama. She played the clarinet and saxophone in a marching band at her high school. She was in numerous plays at her college. She loved drama.

Velma worked as a telephone operator and for the Forestry Service in Washington State at the fire tower. She was the secretary of the General Church of Christ (Temple Lot) and retired from American Gilsonite in Utah as an executive secretary.

Her most beloved job was wife



and mother and missionary work with her husband. They traveled all over the southwest working with the American Indians. She and Dick were doing God's work until the decline of her health.

Velma was preceded in death by her parents, Oren and Esther Caviness, and her granddaughter, Nicole Housknecht. She is survived by her spouse of 52 years, Richard Alden Wheaton, Sr.; and daughters, Karma Augustine, Konie Stillians, Vonna Jo "Jody" Housknecht, Patricia Todd and Nanette Smith; and sons, Brad "Chip" Wheaton and Richard "Rick" Wheaton, Jr.; and sisters, Lorraine Patterson and Sharon

Kelley; 14 grandchildren, and 6 ½ great grandchildren.

She will be remembered for her great love: her love for her husband, her love of her family, but mostly for her love of God. She will be remembered by all of us for her testimonies of God's blessings in her life.

A memorial service was held in her memory at the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot, July 22nd, after a dinner for the family provided by the Local United Workers. The sanctuary was nearly full with family, loved ones, and friends. There was music by Gary and Neva Housknecht and Janice Welch, with Grace Rudd at the organ, and many memories contributed by the family.

On Saturday, July 23rd, a private service was held at the graveside in the beautiful Mount Washington Forever Cemetery on the west side of Independence, Missouri. The site is in the middle of a forested area where deer are frequently seen grazing and raising their young. Indeed, it is a tribute to our Sister Velma and the life she lived.



## Church of Christ

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### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

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.

The **2006 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on March 31 and April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

### 2005 CHURCH OF CHRIST REUNIONS

#### MAY

#### Scripture Theme Camp

- ▶ May 13-15, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Camp Shawnee Camp Area at Knob Noster State Park.
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Mark Hill, Jesse Lawrence, Randy Sheldon, Dan Lawrence, Dan Malone.**

#### JUNE

#### Idaho Reunion

- ▶ June 3-5, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Southwestern Idaho Senior Citizen's Recreation Association, Inc. (S.I.S.C.R.A.).
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Roy Coon**  
3995 County Line Road  
Emmett, Idaho 83617  
(208) 365-34109  
racoont21@juno.com or  
racoont21@earthlink.net

#### Colorado Reunion

- ▶ June 10-12, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Karen Bell**  
PO Box 1137  
Palisade, CO 81526  
(970) 464-4624  
kbell@gvii.net
- John Bell**  
572 34 Road  
Clifton, CO 81520  
(970) 434-7100  
jeeb54@gvii.net
- Allen Downs**  
515 28½ Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
(970) 245-8344  
addowns@hotmail.com

#### Michigan Reunion

- ▶ June 25-26, Saturday-Sunday
- ▶ Bradley Local, Michigan
- ▶ For information, contact:  
**Duane Lee**  
2053 Fawn Ave.  
Middleville, MI 49333  
(269) 795-7420
- Randy Lee**  
2953 Wing Rd.  
Hastings, MI 49058-9537  
(269) 948-8971

#### Springfield Rally

- ▶ June 26th, Sunday
- ▶ 2251 N. Golden; Springfield, Missouri.
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Elder Matt Case**  
(417) 832-8349  
tabianhdmatt@hotmail.com
- Priest Martin Addie**  
(417) 862-2255  
ec05959@earthlink.net

#### JULY

#### Wake Up Camp 2005

- ▶ July 1-3, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Bemidji Local Church, Bemidji, Minnesota
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Hannah Gould**  
(218) 586-2774
- Sam Gould**  
(218) 586-3759

#### New York Reunion

- ▶ July 8-10, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Hogansburg, New York
- ▶ For information contact:  
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  
Hogansburg, New York 13655  
(518) 358-2911  
egtarbell@hotmail.com
- Dale and Terry Waldruff**  
429 Country Road 34  
Canton, New York 113617  
(315) 265-1221  
terrwald@slc.com

#### Church of Christ Teen Camp

- ▶ July 24-29, Sunday-Friday
- ▶ Camp Far Westa, near Stewartsville, Missouri
- ▶ For kids ages 12-18
- ▶ Camp Cost: \$115.00
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Michelle Oldham**  
5811 Duggleby  
Davenport, IA 52807  
(563) 359-1693  
jnmham@mchsi.com

#### Scripture Adventure Camp

- ▶ July 28, Thursday
- ▶ Independence, Missouri
- ▶ For kids ages 5-11
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Randy and Becky Sheldon**  
(816) 229-6712  
r-bsheldon@juno.com
- Jennifer Yates**  
(602) 569-9296  
a2zyates@cox.net

#### Missouri Reunion

- ▶ July 29-31, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Roland Sarratt**  
15910 E. 36th Terr.  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 373-6605  
r.sarratt@earthlink.net

#### Michael McGhee

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

### SEPTEMBER

#### Camp for All Ages

- ▶ September 16-18, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Pinnacles, about ten miles north of Columbia, Missouri
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Jesse Lawrence**  
jesselawrence@earthlink.net

#### Women's Retreat

- ▶ September 30-October 1, Friday-Saturday
- ▶ Lake Mauer Retreat Center in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.
- ▶ For women ages 18 and up
- ▶ Cost: \$45.00/person (includes one night accommodation and 3 meals)
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Carrie Geier**  
14609 E. Phelps  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 836-0035  
geiers@kcnet.com
- Geri Adams**  
2804 Westbrooke Circle  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
(816) 228-8283  
admsgeri@cs.com

### NOVEMBER

#### Phoenix Reunion

- ▶ November 25-27, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Phoenix, Arizona
- ▶ For information contact:  
**Pastor Bob Hedrick**  
2908 E Rockwood Dr  
Phoenix, AZ 85050  
(602) 494-9661  
bobnliza@cox.net
- Assistant Pastors:**  
**Duane Ely**  
18814 N 30th St  
Phoenix, AZ 85050  
duanekathyely@aol.com
- Gordon McCann**  
18808 N 30th St  
Phoenix, AZ 85050  
gjmccann@cox.net