

MARCHING TO ZION, IN VICTORY, UNDER GOD'S BANNER

by Connie Smith

3 Nephi 7:10 Behold, I am the law, and the light; look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live, for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.

A Banner is something that unites people, they work together under the banner.

Example of rallying troops to a cause with a banner:

“This photograph is of six United States Marines raising the U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in the final stages of the Pacific War. The flag raising occurred in the early afternoon, after the mountaintop was captured. Three of the six Marines in the photograph would be killed in action during the battle.



That flag rallied the troops to fight with all of their might.

Following the flag-raising, Rosenthal (the photographer) sent his film to Guam to be developed and printed. George Tjaden of Hendricks, Minnesota, was likely the technician who printed it.^[47] Upon seeing it, the Associated Press (AP) photograph editor John Bodkin exclaimed, "Here's one for all time!" and immediately transmitted the image to the AP headquarters in New York City at 7:00 am, Eastern War Time.^[48] The photograph was quickly picked up off the wire by hundreds of newspapers. It "was distributed by Associated Press within seventeen and one-half hours after Rosenthal shot it—an astonishingly fast turnaround time in those days."

News pros were not the only ones greatly impressed by the photo. Navy Captain T.B. Clark was on duty in Maryland that Saturday when it came humming off the wire in 1945. He studied it for a minute, and then thrust it under the gaze of Navy Petty Officer Felix de Weldon. De Weldon was an Austrian immigrant schooled in European painting and sculpture. De Weldon could not take his eyes off the photo. With the photograph before him he labored through the night. Within 72 hours of the photo's release, he had replicated the six boys pushing a pole, raising a flag.

Starting in 1951, de Weldon was commissioned to design a memorial to the Marine Corps. It took de Weldon and hundreds of his assistants three years to finish it. Hayes, Gagnon, and Bradley posed for de Weldon, who used their faces as a model. The three Marine flag raisers who did not survive the battle were sculpted from photographs.

(Taken from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raising_the_Flag_on_Iwo_Jima)

This image, captured the heart of America and rallied not only the men in uniform, Marines, Navy, Airforce, and Army, but people across the United States. It unified them in the cause of freedom and patriotism. These men represented the United States of America. Even more than that, they were fighting for the freedoms of many nations and also against tyranny. They gained the first victory that day in defeating the Japanese and capturing a Japanese island. It came with a price of sacrifice and courage but every one of those Marines would tell you the gift of freedom is worth fighting for.

What Banner Do You Claim is Your Own?

When Pat came up with the topics for these classes she wrote: *“Food for Thought= People march under many different banners. Often, people give credit to their success to a certain banner. Is your banner your brains or intellect, or maybe it’s your physical appearance, or physical strengths? Is your banner having the right friends or being in the right circle of people? Maybe your banner is your heritage; those in the past have contributed to your good fortune?”* Whatever you contribute your good fortune to unless it is the Lord, you are under a false banner. Physical strength and even our brain power fail with age. Friends can cast us out, money and inheritance can become worthless. The only true banner of victory is God’s banner. His banner goes before us leading us onward and upward.”

What is our focus for victory?

- **Is it on God’s Kingdom?**
- **Is it in earthly desires...like losing weight, getting fit, making a good salary, saving up and going on that well-earned vacation or cruise, having a nice house, being righteous and faithful...**
- **Accomplishments are good to achieve and goals are not wrong to set. We can walk in victory in our everyday life for the things of this world.**
- **But what is our life’s plan for victory and marching to Zion? Does it align with God’s plan? Do we sit back and wait for God to do all the work?**
- **What is the difference between establishing the “cause of Zion” and saying, “God will build Zion”?**

Sometimes, I wonder, “Why do we get caught up in pettiness. Fighting for things that have to do more with preserving our egos and pride rather than the Kingdom of God?” I also wonder if we aren’t caught up in defending our own standard of righteousness, comparing ourselves to others. Do we decide what the gospel is or means instead of discerning the value and worth of other people as more important than being right and letting other people know we’re right? These are things I’ve done at times and that I see other people do on Facebook, at church, and in social gatherings. ...Self-righteousness, pride, tearing others down and lifting up oneself does not glorify God.

Instead, we should be standing and aligning ourselves with God, under His principles and His banner for Celestial living and Celestial preparation! Our call for Victory under Christ’s Banner is higher than a self-focus and a self-centered life.

Too often we sit aside waiting or get so comfortable with where we are at as a people, I fear we have lost our way or are at ease. Do we seek after and claim the victory that God provides? Jesus gained victory over death through His sacrifice of death and resurrection. This means everything to us as believers.

- **DC 100:7a All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence, faithfulness, and prayers of faith.**
- **DC 101:13e And inasmuch as ye are humble and faithful and call on my name, behold, I will give you the victory.**
- **DC 110:22a Brethren, shall we not go on in so great a cause? Go forward and not backward. Courage, brethren; and on, on to the victory!**

Maybe We Need a Little Self-Examination!

My Story: This is me in at age 26 ½ . This was my mindset: I thought I was a good person. I didn't drink alcohol, I didn't smoke or do drugs, I didn't cheat on my husband... at least not physically, but sometimes I had lustful thoughts. Hey, I reasoned, doesn't every one? I also went faithfully to church every Sunday and on Wednesday evenings, and I supported our women's functions. What more was there to being a good person?

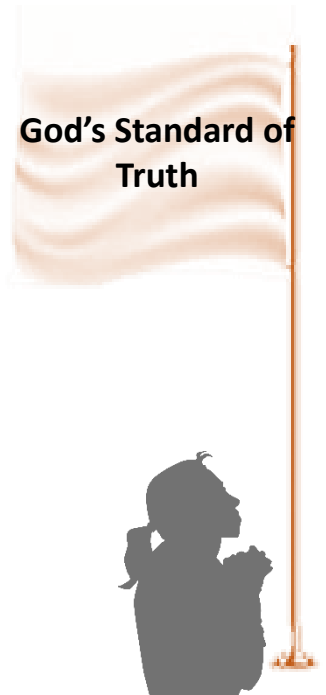


But, because the church was in such a state of confusion, I had an overwhelming desire to know what I believed. So, I made a commitment to read the New Testament. Where did that desire come from? God!

I didn't realize that my standard of righteousness, or what I thought, made me a "good person", was not anywhere near God's standard of righteousness and truth.

Another meaning for "banner" is standard. I was seeking God for truth and in that process, God raised His standard of truth in my life.

God's Standard of Truth



When God raises His standard in our lives, He wants us to **take a stand** and change. His word became alive to me and convicted me of my shallow thinking. It changed my heart. It revived my prayer life and set me on a new course.

I was convicted to repent and also had a conviction to obey His word. The gospel has a few don'ts but most of it is made up of dos. Do feed the hungry, do visit the orphan and widow in their affliction, do clothe the naked, do visit those in prison, do pray in the name of Christ, do repent daily, do humble yourself, do love your enemies, do feast upon the words of Christ...the list goes on and on.

The power in the Word of God changed my life! It was a course correction.

Every generation that does not align itself with God's Standard of Truth gets further and further away from it. I excused my wickedness because I thought everyone thought the way I did. I thought everyone acted the way I did.

But those thoughts were clever lies that Satan used to keep me in a state of inaction and blindness and in many ways embracing lies and half-truths. Sometimes we have difficulty in discerning truth and obtaining righteousness because we have judged our actions and accepted sin as OK. God is good! He was calling me to come back to Him with full purpose of heart and also to stand with Him by learning more and experimenting and exercising my faith on His word which built up my faith...exceedingly. He lifted a banner in my life.

Course Correction: Waldo Sermon Series – July 30, 2023 (excerpt from a Sermon by Elder Len Stephens)

- **Anagnorisis (A-nug-naw-ruh-sus)** - When a character discovers the true nature of their own circumstances. Enlightenment; experience with truth; bold, powerful experience or hit of truth; a change from ignorance to knowledge.
- **Peripeteia (Para-puh-tay-uh)** - A turning (reversal) from one state of affairs to its opposite. A whole new life; a new direction.
- My faith had become very weak but it came alive, it became a living faith that gave me hope. Hope in a relationship with Christ, hope in my fellow believers as I learned how to serve others with a purpose, hope for the Kingdom of God to be alive in me and to seek it with all of my heart. All of those things brought me great joy and love.

Len Stephens spoke this equation:

$$\textbf{Living Faith + Lively Hope = Action}$$

That's just what happened to me; Action = Seeking God daily, a renewed prayer life and serving others.

Alma 12:134 Yea, this light had infused such joy into his soul, the cloud of darkness having been dispelled, and that the light of everlasting light was lit up in his soul;

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DC 85:2b he that ascended up on high, as also he descended below all things, in that he comprehended all things, that he might be in all and through all things, the light of truth, which truth shineth. This is the light of Christ.

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

Another sermon caught my attention and puts the state of our affairs in perspective. The sermon was by Elder Jim Noland and his topic was the hymn, A Mighty Fortress is our God.

- In the hymn is this stanza:
A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing
Our helper He amid the flood; Of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal...
- In Jim's sermon he asked: "What is Satan's craft?" = his diabolical skills, his cleverness, his ability to deceive—and his powers are of such great significance, that in comparison to our own power, without the help of God, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we don't have a chance. Those on earth are not equal to the craftiness of the devil!"
- There is no equal to him on earth. No human can stand alone against him. HE HATES BELIEVERS! His main aim on earth is to steal, kill, and destroy God's work, the Holy City of Zion and God's people, the pure in heart.
- This is important to mention because the sins that I was so blind to I was also comfortable with and did not discern on my own that they were sin or that I could be free of them.

- Not only this but these sins, if not broken, are passed down to our children, and their children, and their children. Jim also talked about the “sin of iniquity”: Iniquities are those sins that our forefathers have passed on to us and we accept their behavior as normal. We then pass this “normal behavior” on to our children and our children’s children and their children’s, children, etc. (Exodus 20:5-6)
- **We must stand with Christ.**

I want to reiterate this concept: I was living in the sins passed down to me from my forefathers. Elder Jim Noland talked about this hymn. He also mentioned something very important that I think needs mentioned here. We need an encounter with light and truth.

It was a confirmation of what Elder Len Stephens had said. We need our own Anagnorisis (A-nug-naw-ruh-sus) moment and to engage in our own Peripeteia; and turn to God’s standard of truth as our Liahona to guide us in this life.

Standing with Christ –

A - *The Lord is my Banner; Jehovah Nissi*

1. 2 Chronicles 29:11 My sons, be not now negligent; for **the Lord hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him**, and burn incense. (A charge given to the Levites by King Hezekiah when he opened the doors of the house of the Lord.)
2. There is time when the Lord chooses you to stand before him. **He chooses you to turn to Him**, to serve him and that you should minister unto Him through your actions and thoughts. God called me out of a life of disobedience to stand before Him to serve Him in truth.
3. This happens in most people’s individual lives. But it can also happen as a nation. We have Enoch’s city of Zion, the people of Nineveh and one of my favorite Bible stories is of King Josiah...all examples of God working on a large scale with hundreds of thousands of people.
4. **Read: 2 Chronicles 34:14-31** This is the story of King Josiah, who was 8 years old, when he was anointed king over Judah.
5. **31 And the king stood in his place, (he made a stand) and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.** 32 *And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.*
6. A nation turned to God and away from sin. (Those who once sat in darkness saw a great light and were set on the right path.)

B - *Turn to the Lord with the Calves of Our Lips:*

*Hosea 14:1-9 O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and **turn to the Lord**; say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously; so will we render the **calves of our lips**...9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them; but the transgressors shall fall therein.*

Part of standing before the Lord under His banner includes genuine praise and gratitude. Let us offer Him the “calves of our lips”

- There are 2 commentaries of thought on this saying: “calves of our lips”.
- (1) ““Their worship should consist not of meaningless dumb ritual, but of "words"-- hymns and prayers, expressive of real gratitude and of actual needs--or perhaps pledges of repentance and reform. The people respond and undertake that their worship shall consist of "calves or bullocks of lips," i.e. not of animal offerings, but of **promises of reform or vows of obedience.**””
- (2) **"fruit of our lips," i.e. adoring gratitude or, "sacrifice of praise"**
- *Hebrews 13:15 ... therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. 16 But to do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*
- *Jeremiah 33:10-11 Thus saith the Lord; Again there shall be heard in this place, which ye say shall be desolate ... 11 **The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts; for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth forever unto them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord...*** (Calve of our Lips commentary Taken from Kavz: Septuagint Commentary by T. Lewis)

Under the Lord’s banner we are called to make an offering of the fruit of our lips through praise and adoring gratitude. We always think of offering our hearts but that includes our mouth and our words as well.

This is for us as individuals and of a nation under God. In the story of King Jehosaphat, he put all their singers at the front of the army. They went forth praising the Lord and the Lord fought their battle. These are all ways to Stand before the Lord under His banner.

C – Review:

- So far in order to move forward and not backward we see there are steps we need to take in order to claim Jehovah Nissi.
- Those steps include: **diligence, faithfulness, and prayers of faith, be humble, be faithful, have courage, stand before Him in repentance, praise and gratitude and move FORWARD.**

D - The Lord is My Banner – Jehovah-Nissi (Exodus 17)

- Jehovah Nissi - Where did this description of God originate?
- Soon after Moses was instructed to strike the rock and water would gush out the armies of Amalek came out to battle with the Israelites.
- In Rephidim, the army of Amalek came out to battle.
- Exodus 17:9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek; tomorrow **I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.**
- Exodus 17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.
- 12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.



- 14 And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua;....
- 15 **And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi;**

*Pat Quote: When Moses built the altar he named it “**The Lord is my Banner; Jehovah Nissi.**” That name proclaims God’s leadership and the protection of His people. It proclaims that we are the children and citizens of God and Jesus his Son is our Captain. Note: To follow under His Banner we must listen to our captain, Jesus Christ.*

Joshua 5:13-15 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand; and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

And he said, **Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come.** And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

Taking off your shoes is yielding your right to have authority in that place. Just like we saw earlier in the battle for Iwo Jima, raising a banner is a rallying cry for the troops. Here Jesus, our captain, was preparing Joshua to stand for Him and rally all of Israel to Him. We must yield to His leadership.

This is the heart of marching to Zion in Victory under God’s Banner. Jesus Christ is THE BANNER.

Sometimes what God asks of us doesn’t always make sense. But if we are to stand with Him then we must move out in obedience. We will not only stand but we will Stand firm: *Habakkuk 3:19 says, “The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds’ feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.”*

CHRIST OUR BANNER

John 3:14-17 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilder-ness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

15 That whosoever be-lieveth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 12:32-34 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever; and how sayest thou, The Son of Man must be lifted up? who is this Son of Man?

- **This was the complete opposite of what they had been taught and what they believed about the Messiah.**
- This crucifixion and resurrection were God’s chosen means to glorify Him and provide salvation to all if they would only look and live and go forth.
- Christ’s humility and submission to His Father’s will was undeniable.

THE LORD SABAOth = LORD OF HOSTS

- Sabaoth (Sabay-oth)-Hosts of Heaven. It comes from the Hebrew word for “that which goes forth” and for “armies” or “hosts”.
- It means, Lord of Armies or Lord of hosts” suggesting that God is with us as our Warrior God. He is fighting for us
- Jesus is the man of God’s choosing to stand with us.
- He is our advocate!
- Jim Noland said in his sermon: **An advocate is a person who comes to our aid or pleads our case to a judge. Advocates offer support, strength, counsel, and intercede for us when necessary.**
- Individually: *1 John 5:4-5 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*
- He leads the heavenly hosts. He was with Joshua in leading and directing the army of Israel.
- We need to call upon the Mighty God, the Lord Sabaoth to deliver us. The children of Israel were in bondage to Egypt. And they were content to be in bondage, for hundreds of years.
- It wasn’t until the Egyptians began to kill their children that they cried out to the Lord of Hosts to deliver them.
- Our children are in peril. There has been a war waged on the children of this generation that seeks to take away parental rights and push an agenda of confusion and perversion on our children and grandchildren. We have to fight and make a stand for good.

LIFT UP THE BANNER OF LIGHT

I was pondering one day, even mourning over the condition of our country, our state, the city of Independence and even individuals that have embraced false ideologies. There are so many people who don’t believe in absolute truth anymore and even practice and feel like they are one with all people and therefore they are God or the force that makes up God. I know people who believe this way.

So, I prayed, “God, how do we reach these people, how do they turn and come out from such rampant darkness and disbelief in truth?” My prayer was one of desperation, “God is it even possible to reach these people? How can we fight such gross blindness and darkness?”

As I prayed the book of Matthew came to my mind. “Look for the light scriptures.” I felt compelled to look up scriptures on Light. I went to Matthew 5 but my eye caught a verse in chapter 4. ***Matthew 4:15 The people which sat in darkness saw a great light, and unto them that sat in the region and shadow of death, LIGHT IS SPRUNG UP.***”

I read on into Matthew 5. When I got to the Beattitudes the Spirit inserted these words into them. So instead of it reading as printed, I read it as: ***Blessed are the poor in spirit, who come unto me, for light is sprung up, and theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

Blessed are they that mourn; for light is sprung up, and they shall be comforted...

Blessed are all the peacemakers; for light is sprung up, and they shall be called the children of God...(Mat 5:5-14)

With each verse it was the same. It filled my heart with joy. Matthew goes on to talk about being a light and a city that is set on a hill. Our journey here is one of personal progress and growth but there is a larger concept at play that involves all of God's people to be "a city set on a hill". We are a team of many.

Matthew 5:16-18 Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the light of the world; a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid...Therefore, let your light so shine before this world, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine eye be single to the glory of God, thy whole body shall be full of light.

DC 85:18a-b And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you, and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things.

Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him: for he will unveil his face unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will.

This was the banner that Ammon and the sons of Mosiah held up to the Lamanites. It's the same banner that will draw men, women and children to the God of heaven and earth.

A Short Testimony: Back in August of this year, one of my sisters and I took a trip to Arkansas to visit an aunt and uncle we hadn't seen in a long time. My aunt lost her only son about 7 years. My uncle lost his only son to suicide a couple of years prior to that. While we were there my uncle would bring up his son and I felt impressed he want to talk about him but didn't know how to get a conversation going.

The last night we were there we had dinner together and then stayed at the table and visited. My uncle began to share how a "spirit guide" had come to him over the years and helped him to work out his problems and to deal with the death of his son. They would have elaborate conversations. Never once did "angel" or anything like, including Jesus or God, come up as we talked. My aunt, too, said she had a spirit guide that would come to her from time to time.

I felt prompted to share a couple of testimonies and to let them know that when I hear a voice of discern that God is prompting me to do something that it was from God or the Holy Spirit. I shared my testimony of finding truth. The same one I shared today in class. I was able to praise the Lord and specifically say the name of Jesus to them. I even told them of the great love that grew in me for Christ.

Later, I found out my uncle had written a book about his dealing with his son's death. He gave my sister and I both a copy. In this book he spells out clearly how this spirit guide would speak to him, eventually revealing itself as his conscious and that he is one with everything. And when you are one with everything you really are god or a part of what makes up god. It's all very new age-ish in thought.

I praised God and have prayed that the proclamation of Jesus, the New Testament and the Holy Spirit as real entities will way upon their minds and cause them to search anew. I pray that light will spring up in their lives and dispel the darkness that is there and also convert them. The point

being that hope is alive and Jesus seeks to save those that are lost. How could I forget that so easily? We have light to share that will help people to come to their own anagnorisis moment and to experience that burst of knowledge and truth in their lives. Once they do they too will have that change of heart of turn from darkness to light and truth.

A City Set on a Hill – Working Together

Prayer of: Franklin D Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States; 1933-1945

Prayer on D-Day

My fellow Americans: Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the US and our allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far. And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest-until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home - fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas - whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them - help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the Nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, **I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.**

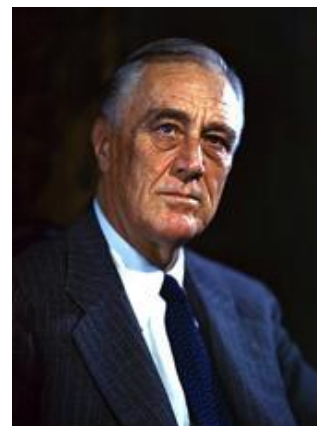
Give us strength, too - strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister Nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace a peace invulnerable to the scheming's of unworthy men. **And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom**, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.
Amen.



(Compare this prayer to the one Chief Captain Moroni prayed over the Title of Liberty when evil threatened to overrun the nation of the Nephites as civil divides were upon them.)

Title of Liberty: Alma 21: 40- And now it came to pass that when Moroni, who was the chief commander of the armies of the Nephites, had heard of these dissensions, he was angry with Amalickiah. 41 And it came to pass that he rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it, **In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children**; and he fastened it upon the end of a pole thereof.

42 And he fastened on his head-plate, and his breastplate, and his shields, and girded on his armor about his loins; and he took the pole, which had on the end thereof his rent coat (and he called it the title of liberty), 43 **And he bowed himself to the earth, and he prayed mightily unto his God for the blessings of liberty to rest upon his brethren so long as there should be a band of Christians remain to possess the land;**

What seemed Hopeless was a Rallying Cry to the country to STAND united for Freedom and Truth. The

battles of yesterday are the battles of today. The prayer I read that Roosevelt said during WW2 is the same fight that Captain Moroni fought for in his time. Our strength, our meaning and purpose in life comes from the Lord.



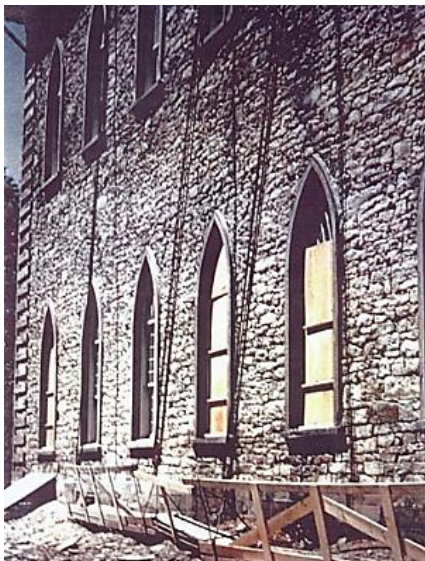
Two Shall Become One – Bond of Covenant

Working in a covenant relationship

- This is a marriage covenant as seen in Genesis 2:3 *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.*
- [DC 81:4a](#) *Therefore, verily I say unto you, that it is expedient for my servant(s) ...**be bound together by a bond and covenant that cannot be broken...***
- [DC 87:6e](#) *Search diligently, pray always, and be believing, and all things shall work together for your good, if ye walk uprightly, and remember **the covenant wherewith ye have covenanted one with another.***
- [DC 85:41](#) *Art thou a brother or brethren, I salute you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, in token or remembrance of the everlasting covenant, in which covenant I receive you to fellowship, in a determination that is fixed, immovable, and unchangeable, to be your friend and brother (sister), through the grace of God, in the bonds of love, to walk in all the commandments of God blameless, in thanksgiving, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Other scriptures to look up: 1Corinthians 1:10; Colossians 3:13-14; John 17:23.

Working Together for the Glory of God



Do you recognize or know what building this is?

This is the Kirtland Temple. Every stone was cut in the quarry and placed piece by piece. Every brick was handmade, every stone was hand cut. Each window was framed and fitted in place. Every door was made by hand and fitted as well.

All the members worked together, each person seen as valuable and needed. From the stone cutters, to the children who gathered clay, to the women who cooked and sewed and sacrificed their beautiful hair for the mortar and their expensive China for the finishing stucco overlay. Every person had a part in building this magnificent building.

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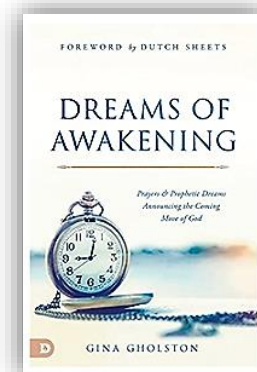
who gathered clay, to the women who cooked and sewed and sacrificed their beautiful hair for the mortar and their expensive China for the finishing stucco overlay. Every person had a part in building this magnificent building.

Is the work that began finished? This was only one part in the vision of Zion. We each have an individual part in finishing the work and building on what those who have gone before us started. Each generation has participated. If part of this work has crumbled, it is not God's fault and we are called to repair what needs repaired and continue in this great work. A work that is larger than we are.

Sometimes we only see part of the picture like this one, or like the servant of Elijah, but God sees it all and is in control.

COMMAND THE FOREWORD!

- Today, in our country, there is a great movement of purposeful prayer.
- Prayer is one of our defensive weapons. Faith + Prayer can move mountains because God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.
- There are many people of our faith and many people outside of our faith that God has been lifting His banner to and sending out a battle cry and a call to action.
- Last September was one of those times when Richard Neill shared a prophetic message that urged our people of the Restoration Branches to prepare ourselves for a coming shaking of our nation. This message gave a time line of 2 years before this would happen.
- There are many endeavors going on: 24Hour Prayer, Prayer Walking around neighborhoods and schools, etc (Linda Trimble organizes this in our branch. Invite her to speak to your Sunday School or Women's group about the power of prayer!)
- Gina Gholston is a woman who lives in Middleton, Ohio and has the gift of dreams.
- She has had two dreams in the last 3 years where the phrase, "Command the Foreword" has been used.
- One I'm going to read portions of her dream from Feb 14, 2023 of this year. Both dreams and more can be found in her recently published book,



COMMAND THE FOREWORD (from Gina Gholston) February 14, 2023

I dreamed that thousands of people had been summoned by the Lord to gather in a certain place. I am not sure where this place was located. We arrived at a very large colosseum-type building. The seating was sloped downward, and the stage was at the bottom of the slope. There were thousands of people in the seats, and on the stage were hundreds of people sitting in chairs. I knew the people in the auditorium were intercessors from around the nation and that the people on the stage were leaders of businesses, ministries, churches, denominations, colleges and schools, political leaders, etc.

As we all took our seats, suddenly there was a huge overhead screen that appeared. On the screen was a map of the United States. On the map, we began to see geyser type eruptions popping up in various cities. The first one was near Lexington, Kentucky. We knew this represented what was happening at Asbury College. Then other "geysers" began to pop up on the map. When the "geysers" erupted, they would spew out fire, water, and oil. This was all happening in real time.

We were literally watching the move of God as it was quickly spreading to the nation. And there was a thunderous applause and celebration that started to spread throughout this colosseum as we watched this happening on the map.

As the celebration broke out, the voice of God suddenly resounded. It was like His voice came down through a P.A. system, and it sounded like loud, deep thunder. We could feel the vibration as it shook the floor beneath us.

He said very adamantly, “Do NOT become distracted by the movement!” You could then hear a collective gasp released from the crowd. We all wondered, “What does that mean?”

He continued, “Celebrate the movement, YES! But do not become distracted by it! Work while you celebrate!” He repeated these three or four times. That phrase, “Work while you celebrate!” gripped us deeply. It was like a jolt that readjusted our focus. There was great joy for what was beginning to happen, but in that moment, we all became captured by a sense of urgency. It was then that we realized this was not a “normal” gathering. This was an urgent call to attention.

The map continued to be seen, and the real-time happenings continued to show on the map. Then, on the stage, two MASSIVE, steel cable ropes dropped down in front of those leaders who were seated there. Each cable had a very large steel ring on either end—so, two cables and four rings.

As soon as those cables hit the stage, four angels suddenly appeared and carried the cables out of our location. We then could see the angels—with the cables—on the overhead screen. Two angels carried one cable, each holding a ring in their hands. One angel went north to an anchor that was located there. The anchor was something that had already been set in place, and it went deep into the ground, and the angel placed the ring over the anchor, securing it in place. The other angel took his ring south to an anchor that was there and secured his ring to that anchor. The two angels with the other cable, took their rings east and west, securing their rings to anchors that were in those locations.

Then on the stage, in front of the leaders, two more cables fell. The four angels returned, and did as before, this time, taking the cables and securing the rings to anchors that were located northeast, southeast, northwest, and southwest.

Now, on the screen, we were looking at the map through the crisscross of these cables that had been anchored in place. Then the Lord spoke and said, “There is a shaking that is coming, but you must not fear! You must know and be convinced that this nation is anchored and surrounded. KNOW that! Be convinced of that!”

****Note:** I knew when He used the word “surrounded,” this was a reference to what Chuck Pierce and Tim Sheets spoke about at the Prophetic Summit in Middletown, Ohio on February 10, 2023. Both Chuck and Tim had been given a vision of fifty-one angels. Chuck saw the angels surrounding the United States, and Tim saw them surrounding the capitals of each state and one in DC.

Then, on the stage, there appeared a manilla folder in the lap of each of the leaders that were seated there. We each opened our folder to find one sheet of paper in each folder. On the paper were listed four instructive bullet points. Across the top of the page was written: **COMMAND THE FOREWORD!**

When I read those words, I knew I had heard that phrase before in a dream, but I had thought it was the word “forward,” not “foreword.” I was confused by that because I understood that a foreword is something written for the beginning of a book. I knew that all the other leaders were thinking the same thing. Was He saying that everything was going to be destroyed by this shaking that was coming, and a “new book” was going to be started?

There was a microphone on the stage, so I walked up to it and asked, “Lord, what does this mean?”

He answered audibly, speaking to us all, “It’s time to command what was written at the beginning. Command the foreword! Bring this nation back into alignment with that which was written in the beginning—when this land became a nation. It’s the purposes for which She was established. It is the prophetic decrees that were spoken in agreement with My intended purposes. Now, I say to you, ‘COMMAND THE FOREWORD!’ Know My purposes! Decree those purposes! Do not back down! Agree and decree, and your decrees will provoke a shaking that will bring this nation back into alignment with My original ‘Foreword.’”

In that moment, the place where we were gathered began to vibrate with what felt like an electrical current. A wind started to blow, and then it was as if fire just dropped down out of the heavens onto every one of us. It wasn’t a ‘burning’ type fire; it was the fiery presence of the Lord as He entered that room in a visible, tangible demonstration. When that happened, people began falling into the floor, overwhelmed by the presence of the Lord. Some fell to their knees and began to weep. Others were running around, lifting their hands with shouts of joy! The thing that came to my mind in that moment was, “This is a true baptism of Fire!” And none in that room was exempt from it. No one questioned it! It came with force, and everyone received it! Somehow, we all understood that we were being transformed by the Fire of God.

After some time, the leaders and all of those in the room were able to sit back down in their seats. As we each took our seat, a paint brush and a bucket filled with oil appeared at every person’s feet. The Lord instructed, “Go from here. Carry the Oil and secure the perimeters of your states. Paint the perimeters with the Oil, and it will be secured.” We knew He was showing us that this, too, will help to secure us when the shaking comes.

Then the attention of each of the leaders was drawn back to the piece of paper that was in our folders. We began to look at each of the bullet points that were listed.

The first bullet point said: “Get it anchored! Anchor the nation.” Beside that point was a red check mark, meaning that this point had been completed.

The next point said: “Secure the perimeters of all fifty states. Get the perimeters painted with the Oil!” We knew this was why we had been given the buckets of oil and the paint brushes.

The next bullet point said: “Establish an anchor in each state, and connect it to the ‘guide wire.’” We all understood that this meant connect the anchor to the cable that the angels had secured.

The last point said: “Establish a prayer grid in each state.” We understood that this meant to establish teams, who would hear in prayer and move quickly with assignments. (Note: This makes me think of the ‘Rapid Response Teams that I dreamed about in the Red River Meeting House dream.)

****Note:** I’m not sure what any of this looks like in reality. It was symbolic, but it felt very urgent.

Throughout the dream, the map was still on the screen, and we were seeing the fire pockets erupting in real time. There were many of these eruptions that popped up—first, in the eastern part of the nation, then slowly they began to pop up throughout the whole nation.

The Lord then instructed all of us to get into groups. Most of the people were grouped according to their state. These would be sent back to their state to carry out specific assignments that had to do with the bullet points listed on the page we had been given. So, there were fifty state groups formed.

Then others were assigned to regions and territories. There were four of these groups formed. These would watch in prayer and be able to facilitate and assist in assignments that had to do with the state groups located within their region/territory.

Then another group was formed that would be assigned to the entire nation. These would watch in prayer and be able to facilitate and assist in assignments that had to do with the regional/territorial groups, as well as all of the state groups.

As we each got into our group, everyone stood, holding the bucket of oil and paint brush we had been given. We knew that our first priority was to get the perimeters “painted” with the Oil, and this must be done quickly.

Then on the overhead screen, there was a calendar that was laid over the top of the map. It was not a calendar showing just a single month with its days; it was a calendar that listed all the months of 2023, every month with its days shown in small print on this one large page. On that calendar, the month of September was circled with a red marker, and we saw the finger of God tap the month of September. As we saw this, we again felt that rush of urgency, realizing that there was not a lot of time to get everything done. There was excitement for what was happening, but there was also a knowing that what was happening now was just a beginning. There was still much that needed to be established, and we were being “sent” by the Lord to do the work. End of dream.

When I awoke from this dream, the Lord said to me, “I will give more instruction concerning this.” So, I feel things are going to happen very quickly as He positions people to “secure” this nation in Christ, and align it with His “foreword”!

April 29, 1607: Dedication made from Robert Hunt at Cape Henry.

“We do hereby dedicate this land and ourselves to reach the people within these shores with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to raise up godly generations after us, and with these generations, take the Kingdom of God to all the earth. May this covenant of dedication remain to all generations as long as the earth remains, and may this land, along with England, be Evangelist to the world. May all who see this Cross remember what we have done here, and may those, who come here to inhabit, join us in this covenant and in this noblest work that the Holy Scriptures may be fulfilled. From these very shores, the gospel shall go forth, not only to this New World, but the entire world.”

This scripture was read after Robert Hunt made that dedication: *“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Thee. For the Kingdom is the Lord’s, and He ruleth among the nations” (Psalm 22:27-28).*

The Whole Wide World for Jesus

Poem by Oliver Crane

The whole wide world for Jesus,
For His is the domain;
And His is the dominion,
From sea to sea to reign;
To Him the kings of Sheba
Their royal gifts shall bring,
And isles afar their tribute
Shall render to their king.

The whole wide world for Jesus;
His banner be unfurled
Wide as His great commission—
Go ye to all the world,
And preach to every creature
The messages of peace;
Lo! I am with you always,
Till time itself shall cease.

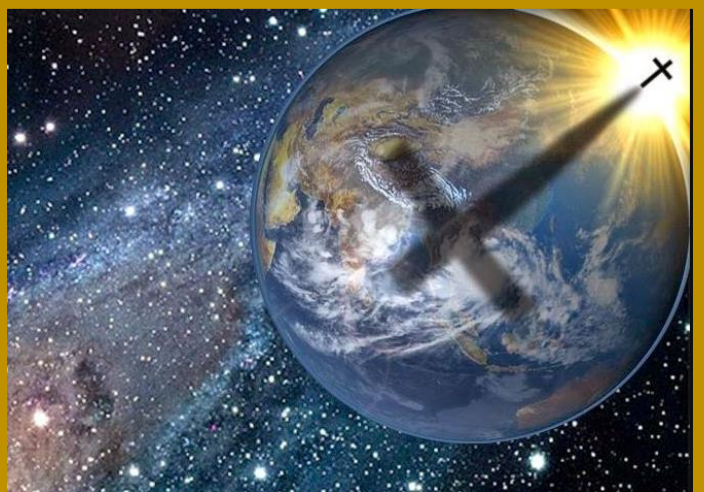
The whole wide world for Jesus;
Where Satan long hath reigned,
The Prince of Peace shall triumph,
The world shall be regained;
The realms which sat in darkness
Shall see the glorious light,
For lo! the dawn is breaking
Along the verge of night.

The whole wide world for Jesus,
O Church of Christ, awake!
Put on thy strength, O Zion,
The post of duty take;
Go forth upon thy mission,
In Jesus' name alone.
Till earth with all her millions,
His sovereignty shall own.

The whole wide world for Jesus,
Behold, the time at hand!
His vanguard-hosts are massing
Their force in every land;
Each thrill of ocean's cable,
Each breeze fresh tidings brings
Of conquests won for Jesus,
The mighty King of kings.

The whole wide world for Jesus,
Rejoice, ye sons of light!
For, brightly, scenes prophetic
Are looming into sight;
The world from sleep is waking
To sink in night no more,
For Jesus comes triumphant
To reign from shore to shore.

**The whole wide
world for Jesus;
His banner be
unfurled,
Wide as His great
commission to the
whole wide world!**



Prayer of Dedication, 27 March 1836 – Kirtland Temple

(This is lengthy and not in the PowerPoint but gives insight into the depth of dedication and unity of the people.)

Document Transcript

PRAYER,

*At the Dedication of the Lord's House in Kirtland, Ohio, March 27, 1836,—By JOSEPH SMITH, jr.
President of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.*

THANKS be to thy name, O Lord God of Israel, who keepest covenant and shewest mercy unto thy servants, who walk uprightly before thee with all their hearts: thou who hast commanded thy servants to build an house to thy name in this place. (Kirtland.) And now thou beholdest, O Lord, that so thy servants have done, according to thy commandment. And now we ask thee, holy Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of thy bosom, in whose name alone salvation can be administered to the children of men: we ask thee, O Lord, to accept of this house, the workmanship of the hands of us, thy servants, which thou didst command us to build; for thou knowest that we have done this work through great tribulation: and out of our poverty we have given of our substance to build a house to thy name, that the Son of Man might have a place to manifest himself to his people.

And as thou hast said, in a revelation given unto us, calling us thy friends, saying — “Call your solemn assembly, as I have commanded you; and as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom: Seek learning, even by study, and also by faith.

“Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing, and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God: that your incomings may be in the name of the Lord; that your out goings may be in the name of the Lord: that all your salutations may be in the name of the Lord, with uplifted hands to the Most High.”

And now, holy Father, we ask thee to assist us, thy people with thy grace in calling our solemn assembly, that it may be done to thy honor, and to thy divine acceptance, and in a manner that we may be found worthy, in thy sight, to secure a fulfilment of the promises which thou hast made unto us thy people, in the revelations given unto us: that thy glory may rest down upon thy people, and upon this thy house, which we now dedicate to thee, that it may be sanctified and consecrated to be holy, and that thy holy presence may be continually in this house; and that all people who shall enter upon the threshold of the Lord's house may feel thy power and be constrained to acknowledge that thou hast sanctified it, and that it is thy house, a place of thy holiness.

And do thou grant, holy Father, that all those who shall worship in this house, may be taught words of wisdom out of the best books, and that they may seek learning, even by study, and also by faith; as thou hast said; and that they may grow up in thee and receive a fulness of the Holy Ghost, and be organized according to thy laws, and be prepared to obtain every needful thing: and that this house may be a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of glory, and of God, even thy house: that all the incomings of thy people, into this house, may be in the name of the Lord; that all their outgoings, from this house, may be in the name of the Lord; that all their salutations may be in the name of the Lord, with holy hands, uplifted to the Most High; and that no unclean thing shall be permitted to come into thy house to pollute it.

And when thy people transgress, any of them, they may speedily repent and return unto thee, and find favor in thy sight, and be restored to the blessings which thou hast ordained, to be poured out upon those who shall reverence thee in this thy house.

And we ask thee, holy Father, that thy servants may go forth from this house, armed with thy power, and that thy name may be upon them and thy glory be round about them, and thine angels have charge over them; and from this place they may bear exceeding great and glorious tidings, in truth, unto the ends of the earth, that they may know that this is thy work, and that thou hast put forth thy hand, to fulfil that which thou has spoken by the mouths of thy prophets concerning the last days.

We ask thee, holy Father, to establish the people that shall worship and honorably hold a name and standing in this thy house, to all generations, and for eternity, that no weapon formed against

them shall prosper; that he who diggeth a pit for them shall fall into the same himself; that no combination of wickedness shall have power to rise up and prevail over thy people, upon whom thy name shall be put in this house: and if any people shall rise against this people, that thine anger be kindled against them: and if they shall smite this people, thou wilt smite them—thou wilt fight for thy people as thou didst in the day of battle, that they may be delivered from the hands of all their enemies.

We ask thee, holy Father, to confound, and astonish, and bring to shame, and confusion, all those who have spread lying reports abroad over the world against thy servant, or servants, if they will not repent when the everlasting gospel shall be proclaimed in their ears, and that all their works may be brought to nought, and be swept away by the hail, and by the judgments, which thou wilt send upon them in thine anger, that there may be an end to lyings and slanders against thy people: for thou knowest, O Lord, that thy servants have been innocent before thee in bearing record of thy name for which they have suffered these things; therefore we plead before thee for a full and complete deliverance from under this yoke. Break it off O Lord: break it off from the necks of thy servants, by thy power, that we may rise up in the midst of this generation and do thy work!

O Jehovah, have mercy upon this people, and as all men sin, forgive the transgressions of thy people, and let them be blotted out forever. Let the anointing of thy ministers be sealed upon them with power from on high: let it be fulfilled upon them as upon those on the day of Pentecost: let the gift of tongues be poured out upon thy people, even cloven tongues as of fire, and the interpretation thereof. And let thy house be filled, as with a rushing mighty wind, with thy glory.

Put upon thy servants the testimony of the covenant, that when they go out and proclaim thy word, they may seal up the law, and prepare the hearts of thy saints for all those judgements thou art about to send, in thy wrath, upon the inhabitants of the earth, because of their transgressions, that thy people may not faint in the day of trouble.

And whatever city thy servants shall enter, and the people of that city receive their testimony, let thy peace and thy salvation be upon that city, that they may gather out of that city the righteous, that they may come forth to Zion, or to her stakes, the places of thine appointment, with songs of everlasting joy, —and until this be accomplished let not thy judgments fall upon that city. [p. [1]]

And whatever city thy servants shall enter, and the people of that city receive not the testimony of thy servants, and thy servants warn them to save themselves from this untoward generation, let it be upon that city according to that which thou hast spoken, by the mouths of thy prophets; but deliver thou, O Jehovah, we beseech thee, thy servants from their hands, and cleanse them from their blood. O Lord, we delight not in the destruction of our fellow men: their souls are precious before thee; but thy word must be fulfilled: —help thy servants to say, with thy grace assisting them, thy will be done, O Lord, and not ours.

We know that thou hast spoken by the mouth of thy prophets, terrible things concerning the wicked, in the last days, that thou wilt pour out thy judgments, without measure: therefore, O Lord, deliver thy people from the calamity of the wicked; enable thy servants to seal up the law and bind up the testimony, that they may be prepared against the day of burning.

We ask thee, holy Father, to remember those who have been driven by the inhabitants of Jackson County, Missouri, from the lands of their inheritance, and break off, O Lord, this yoke of affliction, that has been put upon them. Thou knowest, O Lord, that they have been greatly oppressed, and afflicted, by wicked men, and our hearts flow out in sorrow because of their grievous burdens. O Lord, how long wilt thou suffer this people to bear this affliction, and the cries of their innocent ones to ascend up in thine ears, and their blood to come up in testimony before thee, and not make a display of thy power in their behalf?

Have mercy, O Lord, upon that wicked mob, who have driven thy people, that they may cease to spoil, that they may repent of their sins, if repentance is to be found; but if they will not, make bear thine arm O Lord, and redeem that which thou didst appoint a Zion unto thy people!

And if it can not be otherwise, that the cause of thy people may not fail before thee, may thine anger be kindled and thine indignation fall upon them, that they may be wasted away, both root and branch from under heaven; but in as much as they will repent, thou art gracious and merciful, and will turn away thy wrath, when thou lookest upon the face of thine anointed.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon all the nations of the earth: have mercy upon the rulers of our land: may those principles which were so honorably and nobly defended: viz, the constitution of our land,

by our fathers, be established forever. Remember the kings, the princes, the nobles, and the great ones of the earth, and all people; and the churches: all the poor, the needy and the afflicted ones of the earth, that their hearts may be softened when thy servants shall go out from thy house, O Jehovah, to bear testimony of thy name, that their prejudices may give way before the truth, and thy people may obtain favor in the sight of all, that all the ends of the earth may know that we thy servants have heard thy voice, and that thou hast sent us, that from among all these thy servants, the sons of Jacob, may gather out the righteous to build a holy city to thy name, as thou hast commanded them.

We ask thee to appoint unto Zion other stakes besides this one, which thou hast appointed, that the gathering of thy people may roll on in great power and majesty, that thy work may be cut short in righteousness.

Now these words, O Lord, we have spoken before thee, concerning the revelations and commandments which thou hast given unto us, who are identified with the Gentiles;—But thou knowest that we have a great love for the children of Jacob who have been scattered upon the mountains; for a long time in a cloudy and dark day.

We therefore ask thee to have mercy upon the children of Jacob, that Jerusalem, from this hour, may begin to be redeemed; and the yoke of bondage may begin to be broken off from the house of David, and the children of Judah may begin to return to the lands which thou didst give to Abraham, their father, and cause that the remnants of Jacob, who have been cursed and smitten, because of their transgression, to be converted from their wild and savage condition, to the fulness of the everlasting gospel, that they may lay down their weapons of bloodshed and cease their rebellions. And may all the scattered remnants of Israel, who have been driven to the ends of the earth, come to a knowledge of the truth, believe in the Messiah, and be redeemed from oppression, and rejoice before thee.

O Lord, remember thy servant Joseph Smith, jr. and all his afflictions and persecutions, how he has covenanted with Jehovah and vowed to thee, O mighty God of Jacob, and the commandments which thou hast given unto him, and that he hath sincerely strove to do thy will.—Have mercy, O Lord, upon his wife and children, that they may be exalted in thy presence, and preserved by thy fostering hand.—Have mercy upon all their immediate connexions, that their prejudices may be broken up, and swept away as with a flood, that they may be converted and redeemed with Israel and know that thou art God. Remember, O Lord, the presidents, even all the presidents of thy church, that thy right hand may exalt them with all their families, and their immediate connexions, that their names may be perpetuated and had in everlasting remembrance from generation to generation.

Remember all thy church, O Lord, with all their families, and all their immediate connexions, with all their sick and afflicted ones, with all the poor and meek of the earth, that the kingdom which thou hast set up without hands, may become a great mountain and fill the whole earth, that thy church may come forth out of the wilderness of darkness, and shine forth fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners, and be adorned as a bride for that day when thou shalt unveil the heavens, and cause the mountains to flow down at thy presence, and the valleys to be exalted, the rough places made smooth, that thy glory may fill the earth.

That when the trump shall sound for the dead, we shall be caught up in the cloud to meet thee, that we may ever be with the Lord, that our garments may be pure, that we may be clothed upon with robes of righteousness, with palms in our hands, and crowns of glory upon our heads, and reap eternal joy for all our sufferings. O Lord, God Almighty. hear us in these our petitions, and answer us from heaven, thy holy habitation, where thou sittest enthroned, with glory, honor, power, majesty, might, dominion, truth, justice, judgement, mercy and an infinity of fulness, from everlasting to everlasting.

O hear, O hear, O hear us, O Lord, and answer these petitions, and accept the dedication of this house, unto thee, the work of our hands, which we have built unto thy name; and also this church to put upon it thy name. And help us by the power of thy Spirit, that we may mingle our voices with those bright shining seraphs, around thy throne with acclamations of praise, singing hosanna to God and the Lamb: and let these thine anointed ones be clothed with salvation, and thy saints shout aloud for joy. AMEN AND AMEN. [p. [2]]