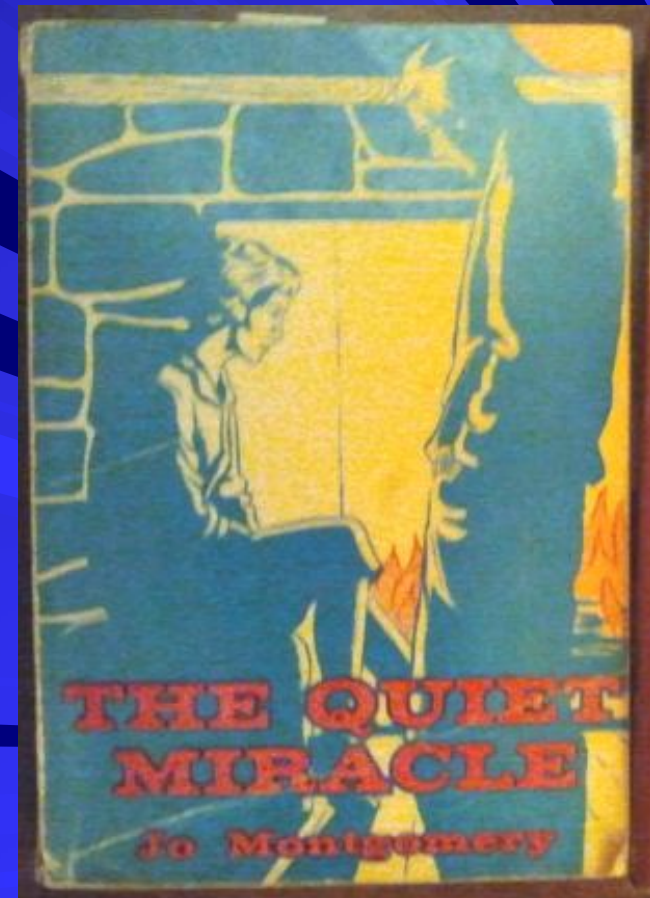


A Restoration Scripture Journey

lessons from
“The Quiet
Miracle”
by Jo
Montgomery



Tim O'Connor
converts to RLDS
church in college
(his family then
disowns him)
ordained priest,
Army veteran,
plans to be a high
school teacher



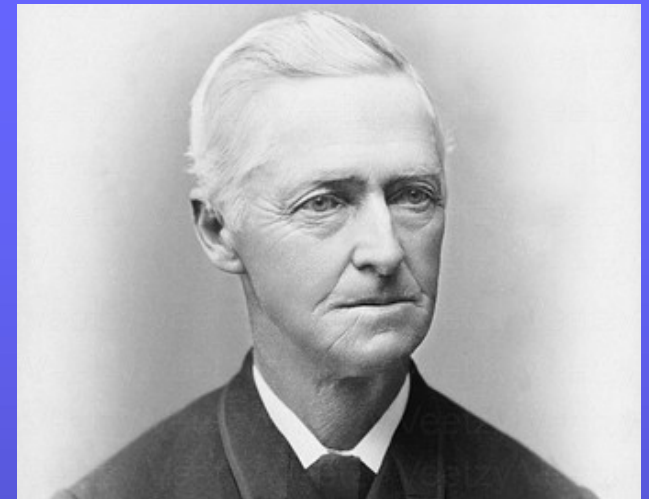
Tim visits Hammond Falls

District President
Brad Swanson
and his wife Ellen
live there.

Their home is a
serene oasis
of peace and
strength.



Kingston RLDS Church

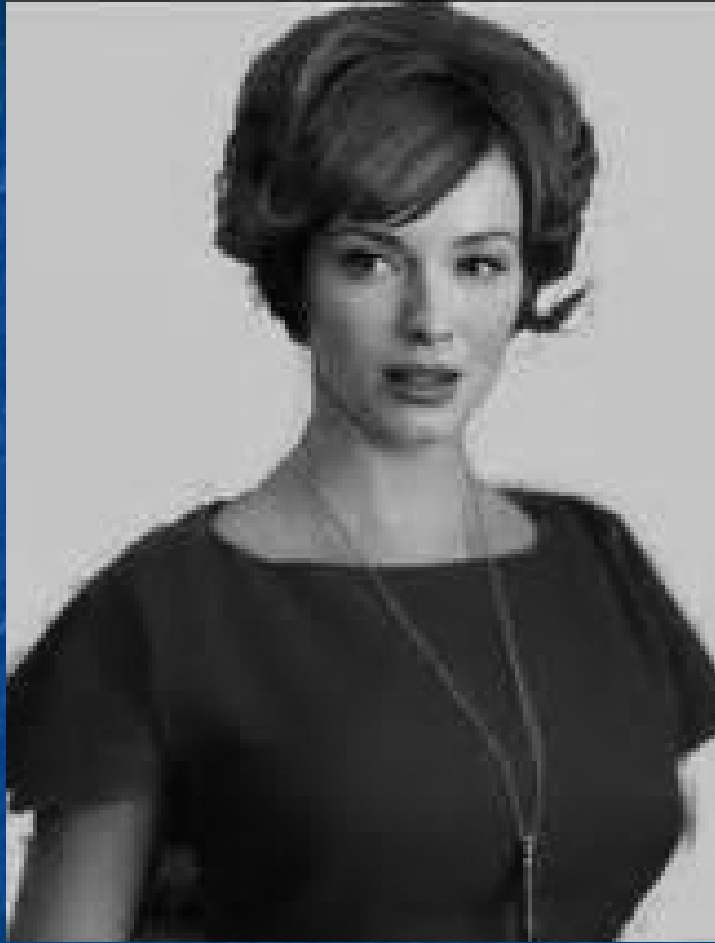


Pastor Harry
Forrest lost his
wife to an
illness. He's in
poor health
himself due to
overwork.



Hattie West
operates the
boarding house
where Tim
comes to live in
Kingston.

She is a faithful
RLDS woman.



Leigh West,
daughter of Hattie.
Inactive RLDS
member, nurse,
cigarette smoker,
very rebellious.

Hank & Anne Reed

Anne is Hattie's other daughter.

Hank is a non-member and a good man. He's also a smoker, beer drinker and gambler. He also cusses.



teenagers

Alice Taylor & Jerry Anderson

Alice is the
non-
member
girlfriend of
Jerry, an
RLDS
Church
member.



Mrs. (Milly) Taylor
Alice's mother,
member of a
protestant church





Julie Anderson
and her
fiance Don

Julie is an RLDS
member and
Don is not.

Lizzie Blackburn

Lizzie is a faithful Church member.

Unfortunately, she's also a well-known gossip.



Priesthood
meet together
often to share
concerns,
provide
support and
offer counsel.



The Book of Mormon “**PROMISE**”

Moroni 10, ‘...And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things. And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true; wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that he is.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from “The Quiet Miracle”

The Book of Mormon “**PROMISE**”

Moroni 10, ‘... And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, I would exhort you, that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and forever.’

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from “The Quiet Miracle”

The Bible and The Book of Mormon

The Bible is a collection of books...history and law, prophecy and poetry. It tells the story of the Hebrew people and their dealings with God. It contains God's revelations to man, and from it we learn His will as to how we may obtain salvation by His grace.

The Book of Mormon is a record of the ancient Americans just as the Bible is a record of the early Hebrews. It contains the sayings of the prophets, the history of the rulers, and the teachings of the ministers among the early people of America.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

The Bible and The Book of Mormon

Eyewitnesses to the Book of Mormon Plates

Twelve men saw and examined the Book of Mormon plates and heard an angel's voice tell them that it was a true record and a correct translation, and they were to bear this testimony to the world.

Eight men didn't claim to hear the heavenly voice, but they did see and examine the plates.

They all confirmed their testimony until death.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

The Bible and The Book of Mormon

Ezekiel 37 'take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions; and join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.'

In biblical days they wrote on a scroll of paper rolled around a stick. Stick of Judah—the Bible; Stick of Joseph—the Book of Mormon. God tells us that we should use them together and they will become one in our hand.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Revelation continues:

Christ's church was restored by God through angel voices, angel visits, through the voice and power of God in revealing His will and plans to men.

God established the church through modern revelation and He still speaks to us today.

The church is divinely established and is a divinely directed body.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Revelation continues:

Revelation 22 (John) "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book."

Deuteronomy 4 (Moses) "You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it."

Both scriptures say that men are not to add or subtract from the Word of God. They don't even suggest that God Himself doesn't intend to add things when He feels like it.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Jesus is and always will be the head of His church. He leads the church spiritually, but still it has to have the leadership of men, too. While Jesus was still on earth He made provisions for continuing the earthly direction of His church after He left.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Office of High Priest

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "Three presiding high priests, chosen by the body, appointed and ordained to that office, and upheld by the confidence, faith and prayer of the church, form a quorum of the Presidency of the church." (*Like Peter, James and John*)

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Office of Apostle

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The twelve...are called to be the...special witnesses of the name of Christ, in all the world; thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling."

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Office of Seventy

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The Seventy are to act in the name of the Lord, under the directions of the Twelve...in building up the church."

Luke: "...the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come."

(ministers of preparation and front line evangelism, preparing the way for the Lord)

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Office of Bishop

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The office of bishop is in administering all temporal things...to do the business of the church, to sit in judgment upon transgressors."

We're also told that bishops should give leadership in a teaching ministry for family life.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Office of Elder

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The elders are to administer in spiritual things...to hold the keys of all spiritual blessings of the church."

They are presiding ministers, giving spiritual leadership to the church and administering its ordinances of spiritual power.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Office of Priest

Doctrine & Covenants 17:10, *They fit into the general plan for the complete ministry of Christ's church. Their specific duties pertain to family counseling and such ordinances as baptism in water and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.*

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Office of Teacher

Doctrine & Covenants 17, Teachers are responsible for church attendance and also act as ministers of reconciliation.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Office of Deacon

Doctrine & Covenants 17, Deacons are assistants to the teachers and share their ministerial functions of testimony and teaching as well as the ministry of reconciliation. Deacons are also ministers of temporal needs and care for the properties and the needs of worshiping congregations.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Office of Evangelist

In Christ's church evangelists are to be revivalists, spiritual counselors, fathers to the church. Not being tied down with administrative duties they are free to carry their special kind of ministry wherever it's needed. Our evangelists preach the whole gospel of Christ...

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Structure of Jesus Christ's Church - Priesthood

Christ's Church: ...perfect in form and function to minister to the total needs of people...with the multiple and specialized ministry to do the job.

President and Prophet to represent Jesus

Apostles and Seventies to direct the missionary work as special witnesses for Christ

Bishops and Deacons to take care of church business in temporal things

High Priests and Elders to give pastoral leadership and administer the spiritual ordinances

Priests to give family ministry in special counseling and administer the outward ordinances

Evangelists and Teachers to provide the ministry of reconciliation

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

According to research the early church was faithful to Christ's teachings during the period of persecution by the Roman emperors. It was only after they converted emperor Constantine and the Romans took over that the **apostasy** started.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Apostasy, Pope Dictator, Pope's Inquisition

Conversions were not "true" and gradually they got things changed—adding elaborate rituals and new doctrines to make things more interesting. The most important parts of Christ's teachings had been lost in that downward spiral through the centuries. All the love, the gentleness, the kingdom ideal which Christ had taught and lived, disappeared. Men became more concerned with autocratic church decrees, elaborate ceremonies, official position, wealth and political power than with the business of building the kingdom of God on earth. Everything that happened was a direct result of the loss of that central ideal.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy

Acts 20, Paul said, "After my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy

Thessalonians, "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy

Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy

Revelation, *In the first instance, the church was represented as a woman clothed in light and purity and persecuted by a great red dragon. And certainly the early Christians were persecuted and martyred by pagan Rome.*

In the second vision the apostate church was represented by a woman dressed in purple and scarlet and jewels, riding on the dragon, and 'the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her.' This church was to become the persecutor, instead of the persecuted. 'And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Protestant Churches are Reformed Catholic churches, not a restoration of Christ's original church.

Martin Luther, 1500's, protests began

John Wesley said 'latter-day glory would come when God would arise to maintain His own cause and set up His own kingdom.'

Charles Wesley wrote a hymn asking God to choose 'new apostles'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Alexander Campbell, founder of the 'Christian' Church in America: the practical results of all creeds, reformations, and improvement warrant the conclusion that either some new revelation or some new development of the revelation of God must be made, before the hopes and expectations of all true Christians can be realized. We want the old gospel back and sustained by the ancient order of things.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Roger Williams, 'the apostasy of anti-christ hath so far corrupted all, that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy till Christ shall send forth new apostles to plant churches anew.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Prophets foretell a restoration of the gospel, not merely a reformation:

Daniel 2: 'Men' could not restore Christ's church...or the kingdom...it had to come from God.

Isaiah 29: Jews return to homeland and it would become a fruitful country again, and, a sealed book would come out of the dust. 'Thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground...and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust...for the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes; the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

“This people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.’

Promise—Cherished by Latter Day Saints:

‘Behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder...’

God was to restore Christ’s church to earth.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from “The Quiet Miracle”

Restoration vs. Reformation

Revelation: John said, 'And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, and...'

James 1:5, 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'

Joseph Smith, Jr. (1820)

Two personages appeared and one of them spoke, pointing to the other one, 'This is my beloved Son; hear him.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration vs. Reformation

Joseph Smith, Jr.

1823: Visited by an angel four times

1827: Metal plates and Urim and Thummim given

1829: Angelic messenger ordains—restoring authority to represent Christ which had been lost in the apostasy.

April 6, 1830: Church of Jesus Christ organized by the power and authority of God and according to the pattern shown in the New Testament.

No other events in history qualify to fulfill those prophecies!

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Book of Mormon Geography and Peoples

Genesis 49: 'Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall.'
These blessings would prevail 'above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.'

Joshua 17: *Joseph's sons were to possess a certain land, Ephraim to the south and Manasseh to the north, and 'the sea is his border.'*

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Book of Mormon Geography and Peoples

The American continents

Isaiah 16:8 ...they are gone over the sea...

Jeremiah 48:32 ...are gone over the sea...

Ezekiel 17:(12, 22) ...a choice land...

Deuteronomy 33:13 Joseph 'shall push the people together to the ends of the earth...a mountain high and eminent—blessed of the Lord be his land...'

Jeremiah 49:31 'Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone.'

Isaiah 18 '...land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Book of Mormon Geography and Peoples

References: (evidence of Book of Mormon)

Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan, by John Lloyd Stephens

Ancient America, by Baldwin

The Lost Empire of the Itzas and Mayas, by Theodore A. Willard

Ancient America and the Book of Mormon, by Hunter and Ferguson

Antiquities of Mexico, by Lord Kingsborough

Relacion de las Cosas de Yucatan, by Diego de Landa

Maya Society, by William Gates

Myths of Mexico and Peru, Lewis Spence

Myths of the New World, by Daniel Brinton

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Book of Mormon Geography and Peoples

It is exciting for people who accepted the Book of Mormon on faith to find their faith vindicated by external evidence!

John 2:23 Christ in America!

'And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.'

We believe that Christ, after his ascension, did visit America. And the Book of Mormon gives the account of that visit.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Book of Mormon Geography and Peoples

Quetzalcoatl

'his father created the world' –Lord Kingsborough
'expected to return at some time' –Dr. D.G. Brinton
'keep peace with all' –W.H. Prescott
'the cross as a symbol' –Lewis Spence

Who else could the white and bearded God have been, except Jesus Christ who had told his disciples in Jerusalem that he had other sheep not of that fold and he must visit them, too. If not Christ, then who?

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Book of Mormon Geography and Peoples

The Bible prophesied that some of the tribe of Joseph would go over the sea to the land shadowing with wings. Some archaeologists agree that the early Americans could have come from the middle eastern countries. Christ said he was going to visit his other sheep, and then archaeology shows us the white god, Quetzalcoatl, with the star, cross, darkness, and all the legends which fit right into the story as the Book of Mormon records it.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Book of Mormon Geography and Peoples

The Bible foretold that there would be a restoration of God's church, telling how it would come and when it would come. These things have been fulfilled in history. The Book of Mormon is the final witness to prove that we are the rightful church restored in the last days...it is the book out of the dust, substantiated by the Bible, by history, and the findings of archaeology.

No other church makes any of those claims. We make them all!

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration Beliefs: Faith and Baptism

Alma, 'Faith, is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith, ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.'

2 Nephi, 'If the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water.'

Even the Catholic fathers admit that baptism by immersion was universal for hundreds of years, until they changed it to sprinkling for the sake of convenience.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration Beliefs: Faith and Baptism

3 Nephi 5:23-26 (Christ speaking to the Nephites when he visited them in America), 'And he said unto them, On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them: Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration Beliefs: Faith and Baptism

Baptism is more than a symbol! Christ made it a condition of our salvation. We must accept him, repent of our sins, and then be baptized by the water and the Spirit. He has made that plain in many places in the New Testament. I think, to be on the safe side, we had better know how to be baptized and not leave it to chance and convenience.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

The Doctrine and Covenants

The Doctrine and Covenants does for time what the Bible and the Book of Mormon do for place. Those ancient Scriptures show God as a universal God working with all people throughout the world. The Doctrine and Covenants shows God as an active God who continues to work with people in the present day.

The really important functions of prophecy are to reveal and interpret God to his people, to reveal his will and doctrines to us, to correct and reprove us when we need it, and to testify of the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants—all of these books strengthen and amplify and witness for each other.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

The Doctrine and Covenants

Zion – Christ Lives Now!

The Doctrine and Covenants is supposed to be our blueprint for building Zion.

‘After the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him, that he lives.’

The simplest and most eloquent testimony in Christendom ...Christ lives! That's what the Doctrine and Covenants means...that Christ lives now. He lives and leads his church as he did of old, openly, dynamically, personally. That is the heart of the Restoration. Back of the doctrines, the books, and the priesthood, stands the living Christ.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death

Paradise: the place where the spirits of the righteous people who accept Christ will reside waiting for the resurrection and final judgment.

Heaven: the place in which immortal man will live after his resurrection and the final judgment.

Revelation 2:7 & II Corinthians 12:4,
'Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death

Paradise is the temporary residence of the spirits of the righteous until the day of final judgment.

Heaven is the permanent residence of the righteous after the final judgment when the spirit and the body are reunited after the resurrection. For the 'spirit and the body are the soul of man.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death

Final Judgment: everybody will be assigned their proper place and reward in the hereafter

Hell: opposite of paradise, a temporary place, where the spirits of ***those who have not accepted Christ or have not lived up to high standards of righteousness*** will reside until the final judgment.

Lake of Fire: opposite of heaven, an everlasting place of punishment—this is the second death.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death

Revelation 20:13-14, 'And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death

OPPOSITES

Paradise: a place of rest for the spirits of **righteous**—they will be able to go on learning about God, gaining greater understanding than they had on earth.

Hell: a place of rehabilitation of **sinner**s—and the teaching of those who had no opportunity to learn of Christianity during their lives on earth.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death

1 Peter 3:18-20: [Christ teaches in prison house]

Isaiah 24:21-22, 'prisoners gathered in the pit shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited'

Isaiah 42:6-7, 'open the blind eyes and bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.'

1 Peter, '...Being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit, Jesus went and preached unto the spirits in prison.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death

Unforgiveable sin: Blasphemers against the Holy Ghost will not be forgiven.

That means those who have known God and Christ, have accepted them, and then denied them and worked against them...just as Lucifer and the angels did when they rebelled against God in heaven.

Revelation 20:15, 'And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire' *along with death and hell when they are destroyed on the day of final judgment.*

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death

Paradise: Varying degrees of goodness

Hell: Varying degrees of badness

When they finally know the whole gospel story, when they are capable of making a choice, they will be called upon to do so.

*Those who still choose evil, in spite of their knowledge of Christ, will become blasphemers who will be cast into the **lake of fire**.*

*Those who choose Christ will be fit to go to **heaven**.*

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death

Salvation and eternal life are gifts to us by the grace of God. Our works don't save us. But what we do with those gifts, how we use them, will determine what is accomplished.

Good works are essential for entrance into God's presence. The degree of understanding and obedience that we have for God's laws in this life rewards us now in present happiness and satisfaction, and they will reward us similarly in the afterlife, too.

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death and Heaven's Three Glories

Celestial (sun glory)
Terrestrial (moon glory)
Telestial (star glory)

II Corinthians 12:2, 'I knew a man in Christ...such an one caught up to the third heaven.'

I Corinthians 15:41-42, 'There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.'

D&C 76, *modern day revelation*

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death and Heaven's Three Glories

Celestial Kingdom (sun)

D&C 76, 'They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name, and were baptized after the manner of his burial...that...they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands of him who is ordained...unto that power; and who overcome by faith, and are sealed by that Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father shed forth upon all those who are just and true; ...they are they...who have received of his fullness, and of his glory...these shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ for ever and ever.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death and Heaven's Three Glories

Terrestrial Kingdom (moon)

D&C 76, 'The people whose works entitle them to this reward are to receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fullness of the Father. In this kingdom will be those who died without law; and also they who are spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it; these are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men; these are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore they obtained not the crown over the kingdom of our God.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Life After Death and Heaven's Three Glories

Telestial Kingdom (stars)

These are they who deny not the Holy Spirit...these are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie. They are the people who on earth professed to follow great religious leaders but who didn't really receive the fullness of the gospel and live up to it. Perhaps they are the ones Christ meant when he said, 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter in the kingdom of heaven [celestial kingdom]...many will say to me...Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? ...and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'

D&C 76, 'These all shall bow the knee, and every tongue shall confess to him who sits upon the throne...for they shall be judged according to their works; and every man shall receive according to his own works...and they shall be servants of the Most High, but where God and Christ dwell they can not come.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Restoration Beliefs: Stewardship, Agency & Zion

See *Zion's Path* summary (next screen)

D&C 6, 'seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.'

D&C 64, 'Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her, and she shall be an ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven.'

Matthew 6:33, 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.'

Matthew, 'Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Matthew, 'The field is the world; and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

Stewardship — Excerpts from a Restoration Classic: “The Quiet Miracle” by Jo Montgomery

Page 316:

“Stewardship over time, talents, and material possessions . . . **We’ve left out the most important one of all. We’re stewards over the gospel, Christ’s Church.** If we don’t share it, if we don’t take it to other people who need it as much as we do, then we’re falling down on the biggest part of our job. We don’t deserve to have the fullness of the gospel if we don’t carry it to the rest of the world.”



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Restoration Beliefs: Stewardship, Agency & Zion

'If a man love me, he will keep my words...A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples...I give unto you to be the salt of the earth...I give unto you to be the light of the world, a city set on a hill...Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel.'

Alma, 'If you have no more than a desire to believe, then let this desire work in you.'

A Scripture journey based on excerpts from "The Quiet Miracle"

| | YOKE OF BONDAGE Works of Flesh—Self | KINGDOM—ETERNITY FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—SELFLESS |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Hearts have waxed hard | SELF-SERVING adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness | LOVE that draws people to the Kingdom |
| | THINGS THAT TAKE THE PLACE OF GOD (TEMPORARY) idolatry (serving idols), witchcraft, sorcery | JOY in His presence, inviting God; calm delight, communion with God (longer-lasting) |
| Ears dull of hearing | SELF-CENTERED hatred, variance, hostilities, fighting | PEACE Willing to forgive; being forgiven— D&C 64:2d it is required of <u>us</u> to forgive— <u>go and sin no more</u> —repentance required (condemner has the greatest sin), oneness, unity |
| | ZEALOUS NATURE emulations, jealousy | LONG-SUFFERING endure <u>pleasantly</u> —for we are all children of God Esther 2:21 It is a joy to serve God and others |
| | WRATH anger (a choice) “triggers” include injustice, conflict, negligence (left out), betrayal, humiliation | GENTLENESS useful; excellence in character Mosiah 2, 6:48 1 Peter 2:22-23 No guile found, committed to Him who judgeth righteously |
| | STRIFE, SEDITIONS arguments, divisions, rivals | GOODNESS a disposition (desire) to do good to others Mosiah 1: <u>Serve</u> one another—important in healing 1 Samuel 24:10: <u>each of us is the Lord’s annointed</u> Psalm 23:6: goodness/mercy follow all the days of our lives |
| Cannot see afar off | HERESIES false teaching: doubt/ contrariness vs. standard Word of God; disunion | FAITH a testimony to gauge all things in times of trial Jacob 5:4-8: Sherem is a faith-shaker; fidelity |
| | ENVY, MURDERS strife, ill-will, spite | MEEKNESS full of humility; 1 Peter 2:17-21 having the power to turn to advantage, but not using it—rather to serve God Harry Black: “power under control, submitted to the will of the Father” |
| | LACK OF CONTROL drunkenness, revellings, intoxication, letting loose, rioting | TEMPERANCE self-control Judges 16:30 not doing things for the moment only— but for all of eternity |
| | | Against such there is no law: the law cannot save you Romans 6:14 Jesus saves through grace |

Remember the marvelous experience of Joseph Smith, Jr., in the grove.

FRUIT: Love – draw people to the Kingdom

- consider modern-day experiences such as that of Tass Saada, etc.
- testimonies more widely accepted today of miracles, angelic visitations (Guideposts stories, other publications)

How to Share Our Unique and Inspiring Beliefs with Others

Know what YOU believe. Study Scriptures on a regular basis. Pray and fast for understanding and knowledge.

FRUIT: Faith – personal testimony

- Restoration: “Fullness of the Gospel”
- Testimony of Sherrie Smith – read through Scriptures annually
- Bookmarks – a tool to help read through Scriptures in a year – take one! Take two! Share with others!

How to Share Our Unique and Inspiring Beliefs with Others

Share testimonies.
Ask others what they believe.

FRUIT: Goodness – do good unto others

- Prepare by writing down your testimonies.
- Don't do all the talking! Listen and encourage others. Ask questions!

How to Share Our Unique and Inspiring Beliefs with Others

Give time for intellectual AND
emotional conversion.

FRUIT: Meekness – full of humility

- Pray for discernment and the leading of the Spirit
 - Be ready in an instant – doing all in submission to the will of the Father

How to Share Our Unique and Inspiring Beliefs with Others

Develop index card file with belief facts to share with others.

FRUIT: Temperance – self-control

- Line upon line, precept upon precept.
- If preferred, create your own “electronic” index card file.

How to Share Our Unique and Inspiring Beliefs with Others

Pray for priesthood to be prepared to minister through cottage meetings and home visits.

FRUIT: Long-suffering – endure pleasantly

- Be ready for priesthood visits in YOUR home.

ALSO:

- Invite other families to your home often.
- Be active in Spiritual Stewardship groups and close proximity groups.

How to Share Our Unique and Inspiring Beliefs with Others

Walk in the Light.

FRUIT: Gentleness – excellence of character

- Turn from selfish works of the flesh.
- Practice selfless works in order to develop Christ-like attributes and be useful to God.
- Strive to have ALL the Fruit of the Spirit.

How to Share Our Unique and Inspiring Beliefs with Others

Joy in the journey

FRUIT: Joy – calm delight

- Seek the presence of the Holy Spirit in all you do.
- With what we know, we should be the most hopeful and joyful people in the world!

How to Share Our Unique and Inspiring Beliefs with Others

Use discernment when approaching family members, neighbors, co-workers, youth.

FRUIT: Peace – sin no more!

- Through repentance, YOU are forgiven – be forgiving!
- Be strong, always in the Lord. Do not deny or water down the truth!

How to Share Our Unique and Inspiring Beliefs with Others

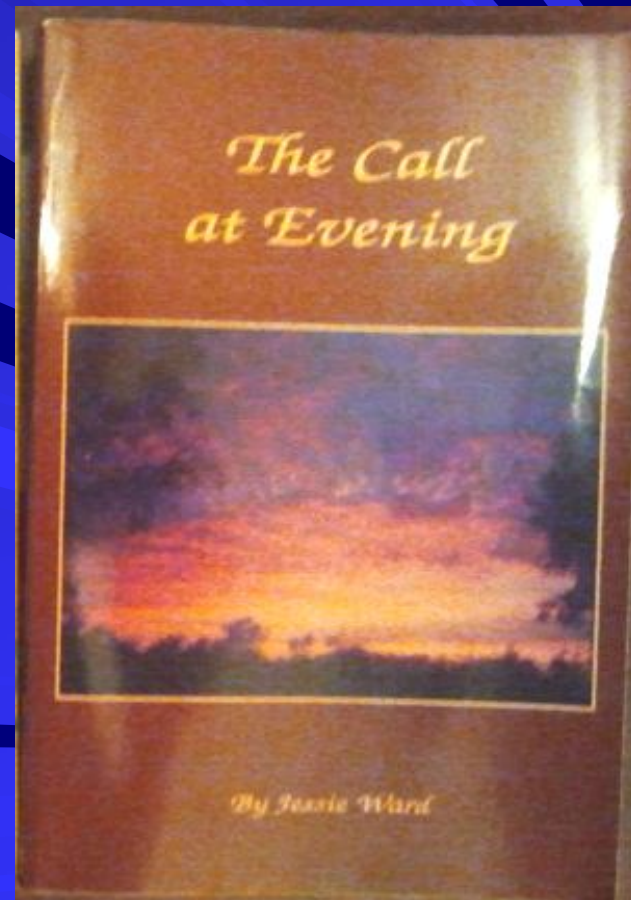
REMEMBER CHRIST **FIRST**



ARE **YOU** TRULY CONVERTED?

Aug. 21 - A Restoration Scripture Journey continues

with lessons from
“The Call at Evening”
by Jessie Ward



Stewardship — Excerpts from a Restoration Classic: “The Quiet Miracle” by Jo Montgomery

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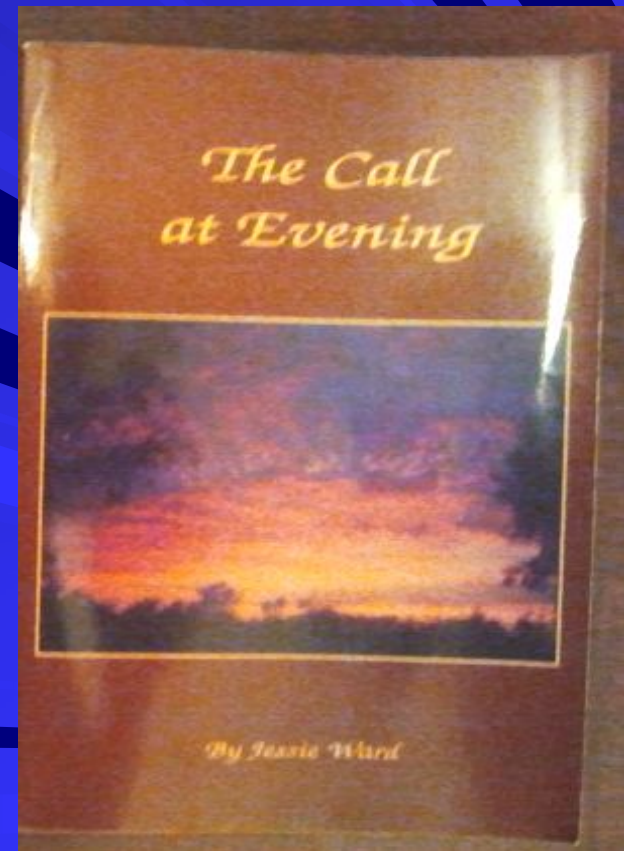
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A Restoration Scripture Journey

lessons from
“The Call
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Scenario 1

I am your co-worker. We have worked together about five years. You know that my husband has been diagnosed with cancer, and I am really worried about him. As a member of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ, how can your unique beliefs and practices help me and my husband at this difficult time?

Scenario 1 Responses

- Offer to pray.
- Offer to put their names on prayer list at church.
- Talk about administration by the elders and the authority of the priesthood; share testimonies.
- Discuss unique beliefs regarding life after death and opportunity to be taught by Jesus Christ.

Scenario 2

I am your next-door neighbor. We see each other going in and out of our homes. We speak occasionally and are cordial to each other, but we are not good friends. I go to the Lutheran Church, and I know your family attends a Restoration branch. If we would happen to start visiting one day about our churches and what we believe, what would you tell me about yours?

Scenario 2 Responses

- First, emphasize that you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, and that only in Him is the opportunity for eternal life.
- Talk briefly about how Jesus set up the structure of His church, then how the Apostasy happened. Mention the Reformation, which came about because of abuses and changes in the church, noting those influential Reformers who said the Church needed to be restored.
- Joseph Smith, Jr.'s experience praying about which church to join.
- The call of all men and women of faith to seek to build up and establish the cause of Zion.

Scenario 3

I am your brother-in-law. You are a man in your mid-30's who is married to my sister. Your family (and my wife) are members of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ. She and I attend different churches, since I was raised in an evangelical Christian church, where I still go on most Sunday mornings. My pastor has spoken out against "Mormons" and has publicly condemned The Book of Mormon. He also said that Joseph Smith was a false prophet. If we are at your home for a cookout next Saturday, and I asked you about this Book of Mormon and what it means to you, what would you say? How would you explain it to me? And what about this "false prophet" thing?

Scenario 3 Responses

- Talk about how you believe the book is a true record and has strengthened your faith and understanding about God and His purposes, and how it is an added witness of Jesus Christ.
- You'll probably want to discuss how the plates were found and translated by Joseph Smith, Jr.
- Discuss the restoration of the authoritative priesthood and how men cannot "call themselves" based on Bible references.

. . . continued

Scenario 3 Responses

. . . continued

- Touch on some of the archeological evidences “proving” the historical accuracy of the Book of Mormon, and how Joseph Smith, Jr., could not possibly have known of many of these things.
- Discuss other special insights revealed by God through the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith, Jr., that clarify such things as baptism of infants, calling of priesthood, etc.
- Share some of what you understand about the nature of a prophet – what makes him a prophet, how predicting the future may or may not be what he is called to do.

Scenario 4

I go to the Presbyterian Church. Our minister has been there 25 years, and is retiring. I'm on the search committee for a new minister. It's really a hassle, because some on the committee want a young man or woman fresh out of seminary, while I feel a more experienced man would be better for our congregation.

What do you think? What's the process in your church when you need a new minister?

Scenario 4 Responses

- This is an opening to discuss the whole concept of priesthood, how they are called of God, ordained, etc.
 - Discuss the fact that ours is a lay ministry and how the work is shared among the priesthood – different responsibilities for different offices, etc., based on gifts and talents from God.
- Tell how the members of the Branch vote to select from Elders who are already members of the Branch.

Scenario 5

I believe in Jesus and was baptized in a Protestant church, but I stopped going to any church because I don't like the fact that there are so many different churches.

I know what church you go to, and I've heard people in your church say that they are members of the "True Church" of Jesus Christ.

Why would they say that? Are all the others considered "False" churches?

Scenario 5 Responses

- Must start by affirming that much good work goes on in Christian churches of all denominations, and the saving grace of Jesus is available to all who confess His name and keep His commandments.
- Discuss how Jesus set up His Church as recorded in the New Testament.

. . . continued

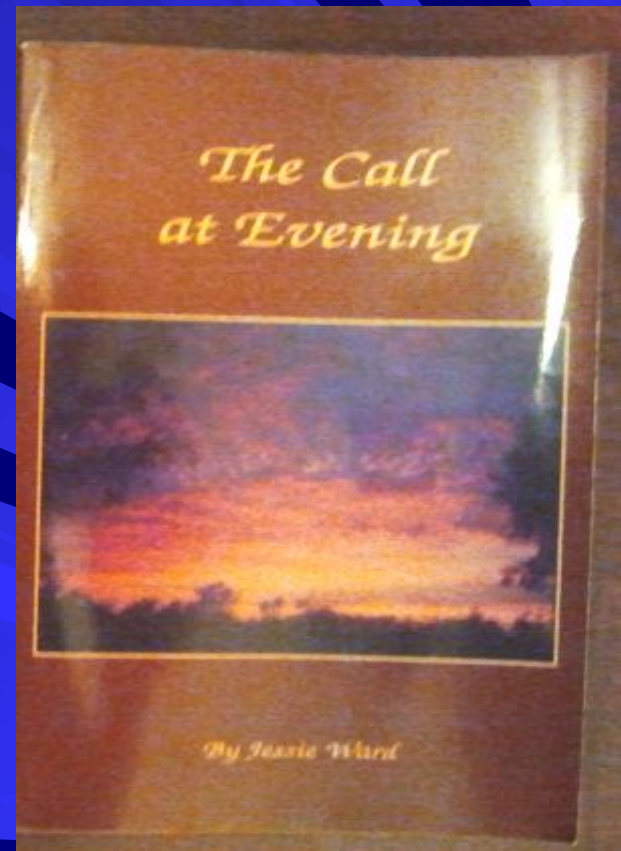
Scenario 5 Responses

. . . continued

- Also discuss how the efforts of each believer are necessary in the building up of the Kingdom of God on earth, preparing the world for the return of Christ; each of us is needed in the work and have unique roles to play.



Jessie Ward
1920





RLDS minister
Alfred Stewart
comes to Leesburg
in 1902. He shares
the Gospel while
convalescing
following a foot
injury.

Eager seekers meet in the evenings
under a maple tree.





1902 is a quiet
time with
fewer
distractions.
He and others
are able to
gather often
and are eager
to learn.

Doctor Stanley Lakeman

Many evenings,
the seekers
would meet for
Bible scripture
reading, note-
taking, and
discussion.

They used a
globe, drawings
and the King
James Version
of the Bible.



Jenny Burnside

BAPTISM



Share in the
fullness of the
Gospel.

Enjoy warm and
true fellowship.

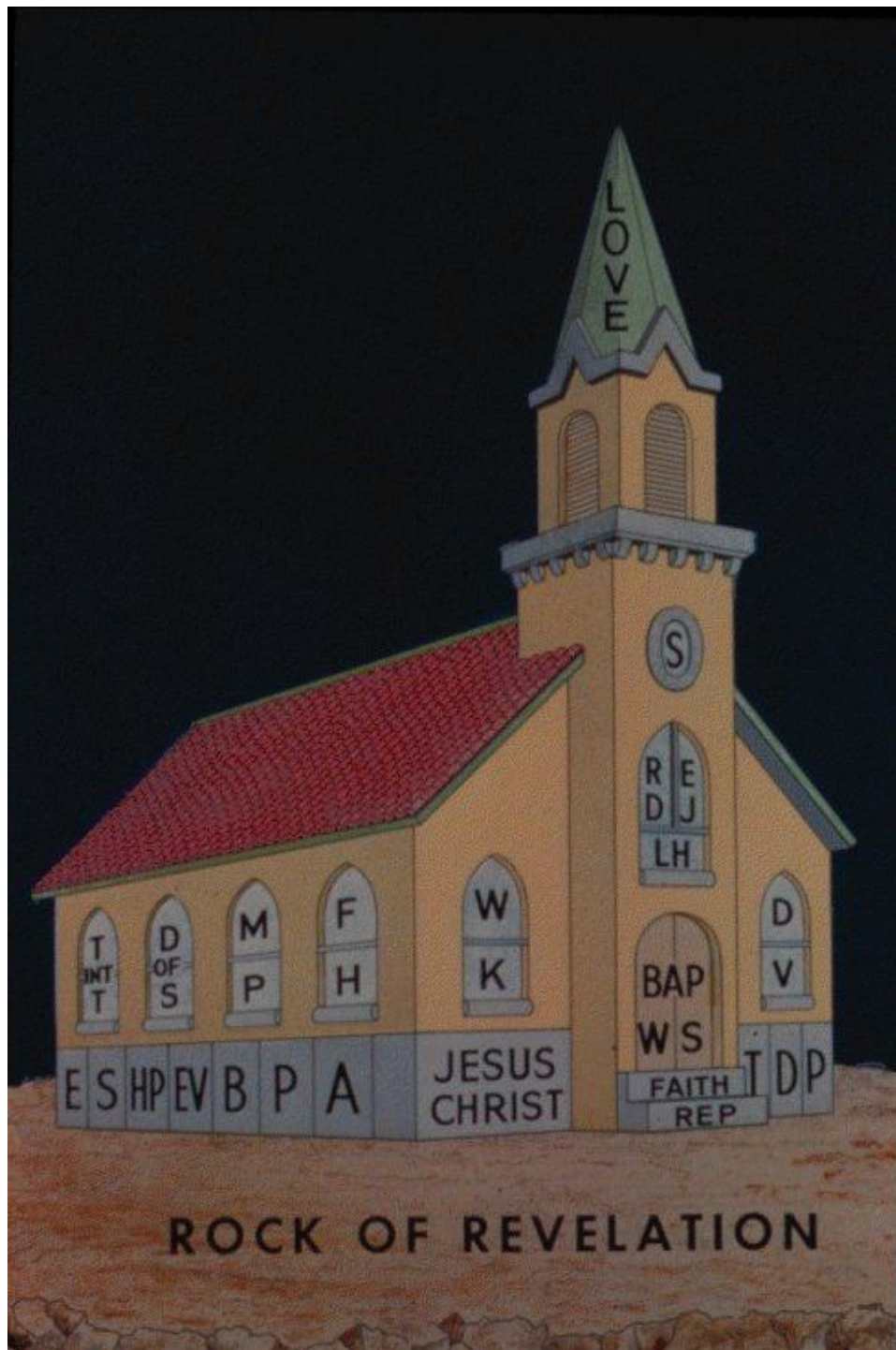
Strive to manifest
all the fruits of
the Spirit.

\$ Desired Response

Encouraged the author to complete the book when she was discouraged, telling her how valuable it could be to the Saints.



Elbert A. Smith



The Church of Jesus Christ

from Lesson 1
"Christ's Church"
from the
"Go Ye and Teach"
series, available on
www.Centerplace.org
library

(also on handout)

If you have internet access at this time, Click on this video "We Believe" and witness an inspiring "starting point" we have with other Christians, especially youth and young adults:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtPmX7e_Rpw

(This is a YouTube video with some advertising; there are programs available such as "Free YouTube Downloader" if you wish to avoid the ads and/or don't have internet access when witnessing.)

from the OGRB
website –

An Epitome of
Faith and
Doctrine

written by
Joseph Smith, Jr

Summer Study Series, Aug. 21, 2014, with Charlie & Susan Booth, sponsored by OGRB-WD

from Church website www.ogrb.org

Church of Jesus Christ - Oak Grove Restoration Branch



What We Believe

An Epitome of Faith and Doctrine

We believe in God the Eternal Father, and in his Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgressions.

We believe that through atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

We believe that these ordinances are, first, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, repentance; third, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

We believe that a man must be called of God by "prophecy, and by laying on of hands" by those who are in authority to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances thereof.

We believe in the same organization that existed in the primitive church; viz., apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.

We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

We believe all that God has revealed, all that he does now reveal, and we believe that he will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes, that Zion will be built upon this continent, that Christ will reign personally upon the earth, and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisaic glory.

We claim privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our consciences, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul, "we believe all things, we hope all things," we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

Respectfully,
Joseph Smith, Jr.
("Times and Seasons" Vol. III, page 710, 1842)

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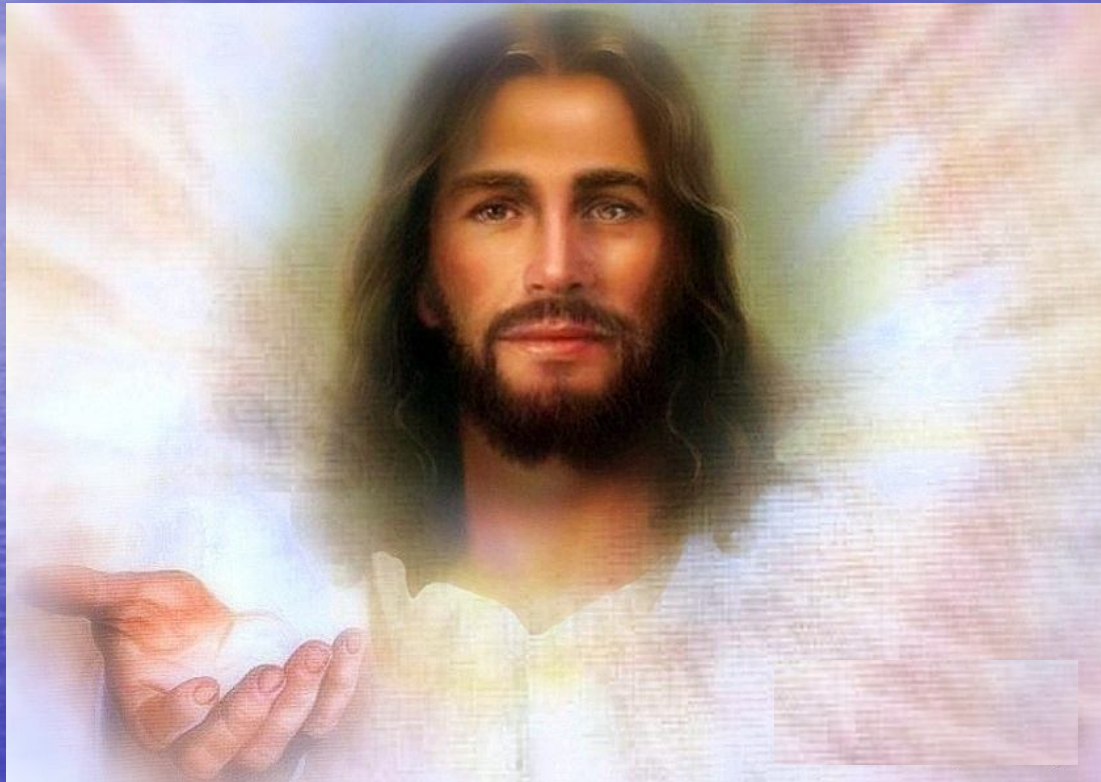
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ZION
(The New Jerusalem)
Joy in the Journey!

REMEMBER CHRIST **FIRST**



ARE **YOU** TRULY CONVERTED?

INDEX CARD TITLES:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>The Book of Mormon “Promise”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bible/Book of Mormon 2. Revelation Continues: A Marvelous Work and a Wonder 3. Jesus’ Church Structure: Foundation and Cornerstone 4. Restoration vs Reformation: What Became of the Church? 5. Book of Mormon Geography & Peoples: The Preparation of the Lord for the Preservation of His Truth 6. Restoration Beliefs: Faith and Baptism How Do We Become Children of God? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The Doctrine & Covenants 8. Life After Death Plan of Salvation—Mission of Jesus Christ Resurrection of Dead—Christ Restores Life 9. Three Degrees of Glory in Heaven 10. Restoration Beliefs: Stewardship, Agency & Zion The Kingdom of God— The Church which Christ Established 11. How Do We Recognize the Holy Spirit? 12. Days of Destruction <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Blend Quiet Miracle QM (Part I) with Call at Evening C@E (Part II).</i></p> |
|--|--|

Church of Christ established.

C@E 2-3

Daniel 7:21, *Besieged of the Devil, the dragon, and prevailed against.*

Revelation 12, *Church lost in the wilderness.*

Daniel 12:7, *power of the holy people scattered*

Isaiah 60:2, *the Lord in looking forward to it spoke of it as a time when ‘darkness should cover the earth, and gross darkness the people.’*

Zechariah 14:7, *yet the Lord gives us the encouragement that ‘at evening time it shall be light.’*

Psalms 119:130: “The entrance of thy words giveth light.”

Psalms 105: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Amos 8:11: *the Lord will send a famine in the land; not a famine of bread, but of hearing the word of the Lord.*

Isaiah 29:10: “For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.”

Isaiah 58:8: “Then shall thy light break forth as the morning.”

Isaiah 29:14: “Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.”

Habakkuk 1:5: “Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.”

Ephesians 1:10: “...that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ.”

Acts 3:21: “...until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”

**A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER –
The coming of the church out of the wilderness.**

C@E 2-4

...the time when the Lord shall rise to maintain His own cause; when He shall call together the few who are willing to receive His commandments, and shall again go against the enemy to battle; when there shall no more be a famine of the hearing the word of the Lord, but when the Lord shall again speak and direct His work as in the days of old; the evening time when it shall be light.

He shall call His church out of the wilderness. That gospel, the word of God, in the times of the restitution of all things shall be preached once more in the world, and thus the entrance of His word shall dispel the gloom, and at evening time it shall be light.

C@E 2-5

Isaiah 49:22, *in that day when Israel shall be gathered, the Lord will set up a standard to the people.*

Isaiah 18: 3, *that in the sight of the inhabitants of all the earth He is going to set up an ensign in the mountains.*

Daniel 2:44: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed.”

We shall remember that the gospel of Christ is the ensign of salvation, and that His church and His kingdom are synonymous. So we see that the prophets were looking down to that time when His gospel should again be preached, when His church should again be established in the last days.

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

Throughout the Bible the kingdoms of the earth, its lands, and people, are spoken of as mountains and hills. Those people who served God and were His people are spoken of as mountains. Those not serving Him could not attain to the heights of those who did and are called hills. The Lord is giving us the encouragement to know that although the dragon prevailed for a time over His church and kingdom, yet the time would come, in the last days, when His church would be restored and established in the tops of the mountains and should be exalted above the nations of the world. From His choice lands should His message go.

Isaiah 18:3: “All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, se ye, when He lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when He bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.”

C@E 2-6

Christ said, ‘the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.’ Christ established his church [...] years ago on the mountain of Israel. From there it went to scattered Israel and the nations of the earth. In the last days when the mountains of the Lord’s house shall be established, when the ensign is raised, the trumpet blown, it shall not be first upon the mountain of Israel, but upon that other mountain equal in height, the land shadowing with wings, the great American Continent, Joseph’s land. From there Isaiah tells us shall the message go to Israel, and thus ‘the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.’

Matthew 24: “The gospel of Christ is the trumpet which the Lord is going to blow in the hearing of all the world.”

Daniel 2:31-35, 44: “Thou, O king, sawest, and, behold, a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom. It became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”

When the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established, in the last days, in the tops of the mountains, its beginning will seem small, just a little stone cut out of the mountain, yet it shall grow until it fills the whole earth. It shall be exalted above the hills.

Man had nothing to do with the setting up of the kingdom. Human hands were not the power which cut it out of the mountain. God was going to set up His own kingdom.

C@E 2-7

Revelation 14:6: “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”

Man will not study out, man will not plan the organization of the church of Christ in the last days. Christ himself will send an angel from heaven, commissioned to do that work. An angel shall restore that gospel which Christ said should be preached in all the world for a witness before the end is to come. The kingdom of God will once more be with men, and although the day preceding has been dark, yet ‘the light shall break forth as the morning.’ The land shadowing with wings shall send its message of salvation, and the famine for the word of the Lord shall be broken. ‘At evening time it shall be light’ the prophet said.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

God has once more established His kingdom. He has sent His angel to the earth with the everlasting gospel that in its simplicity and its fullness it might again be preached in the earth. He has organized again His church. He has taken command of His army, and the great dispensation of the restitution of all things has begun.

I have no apology for coming to you with the statement that God has spoken to the earth again. He said he would do it and has fulfilled his word. He has started his marvelous work and a wonder which, like the little stone cut out of the mountain, may in the beginning seem of little consequence, yet will end in the overflow of wickedness and in the breaking in pieces of man-made institutions and the gathering together in one all things in Christ.

His church is brought forth out of the wilderness, and as the head, the chief cornerstone, He directs and supports His work. He has restored the organization of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, bishops, deacons, elders, high priests. He is giving as He gave in days gone by, the gifts of the Spirit, prophecy, tongues interpretation of tongues, healings, miracles, faith, knowledge, wisdom, helps, governments. The church no longer walks in darkness, but is illuminated by the light and power of the Spirit. Christ has established His kingdom as the Bible said He would in the last days and we are living in His fullness of times.

Do you remember the people he had led away and planted on a mountain high and eminent? Do you remember that Christ said, 'In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established'? That was the great plan of God. Hidden away from each other, the scattered people whom He had chosen to enlighten the world should make their records which would, when placed with the record of Judah (the Bible) in the great day of the world's doubt, testify in unmistakable terms to the truthfulness of the gospel of Christ and the unimpeachability of the word of God.

Ezekiel 37:16, 19: "Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it [written records], For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions. Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand."

Psalm 85:11: "Truth shall spring out of the earth."

Isaiah 29: "...add ye year to year..."

- *First ten verses cover a great stretch of the world's history.*
- *The Lord is showing his Prophet Isaiah the same vision of the future we have already considered from Zephaniah 2, the distress which was coming upon Jerusalem which would end in the great dispersion even beyond the rivers of Ethiopia. Yet the Lord said they should be brought down. Their speech should be low out of the dust.*
- *That times come in the history of the world when, Israel scattered and brought low, the Lord ceases for the first time to speak unto man. It is a significant fact that from the beginning until the Christian church went into apostasy somewhere between the third and the sixth centuries, the Lord always spoke to His people on earth.*
- *Isaiah, looking down through future generations, saw that time when the prophets and the seers were covered, that time when the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was closed.*
- *The prophet saw that time when Christ no longer added to the word the testimony of the spirit of prophecy. The gifts of the gospel were not given; the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony was closed.*
- *It was not until the angel had flown in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth that the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened and communication from heaven to earth was once more established.*

Isaiah 29:11: "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I can not; for it is sealed. And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned."

Isaiah 29:14, 18: “Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.”

C@E 2-10

Ezekiel 37:15, 19, *the two choice lands were to give their testimony to the world. And they were both to come to us by the power of God. Al-though the powers of hell and the ignorance of men have waged war against it, this Bible has come to us, preserved marvelously through the ages. This record of Joseph has come to us in the same way, by the power of God, and they two were to become one in the hands of the Lord in the last days.*

Isaiah 29: 17-18: “Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest? [a sign]

Psalms 85:11-12: “Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the Lord shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.”

When men cannot see the way, then the Lord will bring to their aid the testimony of another witness. When, from beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, Joseph’s land, should go forth the message, then it was that the stick of Joseph should be used in the hands of the Lord with the stick of Judah to dispel the darkness of the world, that we might know that God liveth.

Ezekiel 37, *at the time the two records shall be in God’s hand, Israel shall be gathered back and restored to their own land a united nation.*

Ezekiel 39: 22, 26, 28, 29: “So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward...After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against Me...Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out My spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God.”

C@E 2-11

Revelation 17:14: “In the time of restitution of all things, these shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

The last triumphant picture we have of the church is this: ‘And to her it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready.’

The majority of the Christians don’t want God to speak now. They want Him to keep silent and speak to them only from the past, when we should be praying for Him to tell us where the trouble lies—to tell us how we can be united again!

...custodians of that gospel which John saw the angel bring.

1 Peter 2:6: “Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.”

Ephesians 2:19-22: “Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

PRIESTHOOD

1 Corinthians 12:28: “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”

Ephesians 4:11: “And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.”

1 Timothy 3:2: “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach.”

1 Timothy 3:8: “Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre.”

Titus 1:5: “elders”

Hebrews 5:1: “high priest”

Luke 10:1: “seventies”

Apostle James: *the body without the spirit is dead, and Christ’s church as he left it here was not dead.*

Paul asserts that “our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.”

2 Timothy 4:3: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

Revelation 12:1: “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.”

Twelve stars: a quorum of twelve apostles who had the oversight of the church. As long as these remained the church retained her power; she kept her magnificent robe, described as the sun.

Revelation 12:2-3: “And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pain to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.”

Revelation 20:2: “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. A great red dragon, having seven heads.”

Revelation 17:9: *the seven heads are seven mountains—seven hills upon which Rome was built?*

Daniel 7:3: *in his vision are four beasts coming up from the sea*

Daniel 7:23: “The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.”

1st beast or kingdom: Babylonish kingdom

2nd beast or kingdom: Medes and Persians

3rd beast or kingdom: Greek kingdom under Alexander the Great

4th beast or kingdom: Rome—the beast with the seven heads—mountains—and ten horns [kings].

Revelation 12: *when the child was born, it was caught away and taken back to the throne of God. Thus it was that the kingdom of God was lost from the earth. Christ was no longer with the church by the power of His Spirit. [The woman fled into the wilderness.]*

Revelation 12: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which kept the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Daniel 7:8, 21: “I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints and prevailed against them.”

Revelation 13:7: “And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.”

Isaiah 24:5: “They have transgressed the laws, changed the plans, and broken the covenant.”

Revelation 13:7: “Therefore does the enemy overcome them.”

Daniel 7:25: “and wear them out, and my mighty army is destroyed. Only a few are left and the enemy shall greatly make war with them. They are now given into his hands until they have learned that their own strength and wisdom are unavailing. Then you may go again with a message, and among the few who will hear you, will we organize again my army and destroy utterly the enemy until he shall be heard of no more. Rest here in peace until the time shall be fulfilled.”

Revelation 17:3-4: “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.”

C@E 4-14

Revelation 17:6: “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.”

Changed in form and dress, she no longer walked with Christ dressed in linen clean and white, but partook of the favors of Rome and doled out her sins and her darkness to the kings of the earth. Riches decked her, but not the grace of the Spirit of God. The time had come when the ‘man of sin’ exalted himself above ‘all that is called God’ and sat in what the world considered to be the ‘temple of God.’ So the church was dead. It no longer sent out its message of salvation. In the words of Isaiah, ‘The Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep...the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.’ The earth had entered its midnight of darkness.

THE PREPARATION OF THE LORD FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HIS TRUTH

C@E 5-8

Matthew 21:42: “They say unto them, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render Him the fruits in their seasons.”

...the rejection of the Jews as a nation and the gospel being given to the Gentiles...

Luke 21:24: “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

The gospel of the Lord was given into the hands of the Israelites, not for their good alone, but that they might be husbandmen to the entire vineyard, the world. It was not the plan of God that only those known as the ‘chosen people’ should be saved, but rather, that they might be instruments in His hands in bringing salvation to the entire world. This they failed to do, although the Lord labored with them long and faithfully. At last He declared in desperation, I will let the vineyard out to other ‘husbandmen.’

Jeremiah 11:16-17: “The Lord called thy name, a green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.”

Romans 11:17: *the apostle is speaking to those other husbandmen, the Gentiles, to whom the vineyard was given.* “And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; ...”

The Lord had brought the hosts of Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand. He had settled them in the land of Canaan and there undertook to educate them into usefulness for His work. When we read the history, we are appalled at their failure to absorb His teachings. As time went on, they rebelled against His form of government and demanded a king. Three kings ruled over the twelve tribes, Saul, David, and Solomon. After Solomon's death, civil war broke out and the kingdom was divided. Approximately ten tribes formed into the northern kingdom, the kingdom of Israel, while the others became the kingdom of Judah, or the Jewish people.

C@E 5-9

As time went on and the people forgot God, the Assyrians took the kingdom of Israel, and carried them captive into Assyria. Thus was brought about the loss of the ten tribes, for from that time on their whereabouts were unknown to the world. Later when the people of Judah became so wicked that the Lord no longer protected them, the king of Babylon took Jerusalem, and the Jews entered into their famous seventy years of captivity.

Ezekiel 17:3: "And say, Thus saith the Lord God: A great eagle with great wings, long winged, full of feathers, which had divers colors, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar."

That is the Lord's way of telling us of the carrying away captive the nation of Israel into Assyria.

Ezekiel 17: 7-12: "There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers. ...say now to the rebellion house, Know ye not what these things mean? Tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon."

Verse 16: the Lord tells the king that he shall die in the land of Babylon, that the topmost branches, the kings, princes, and nobles, shall there in captivity consider the trespasses which they have trespassed against Him. Thus the Lord faced once more the evidence of man's unwillingness to serve Him. Had it been man's doings they would have given up in despair and said, 'It is of no use.'

Psalms 95:10: *God grieved for His people and did what He could to save the truth resident with them. For although first Israel, the ten tribes of the chosen people, and later Judah, the other two tribes, were broken down because of transgression, and carried by the two great kings captive into heathen lands, yet the Lord did that which thwarted the designs of the eagle.*

Ezekiel 17:22: "Thus saith the Lord God; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent."

C@E 5-10

King Zedekiah is the one referred to there in the phrase, 'I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one.' The hand of the Lord was over this tender one, and the Lord would not permit that he should fall into the clutches of the eagle. He tells us rather that he will remove him and establish him upon a high mountain and eminent.

The term 'mountain(s)' in the Bible is used in three ways other than literal:

Ezekiel 36:1, to designate special lands

Amos 6:1, to designate special nations

Ezekiel 6:2, to designate peoples forming a nation

...so this mountain high and eminent is a wonderful land, a strong nation, or a mighty people.

Ezekiel 6:23: “In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it; and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar.”

1. This twig of the Lord’s planting should grow into a goodly nation.

2. The land, or mountain, in which they should grow is of the height of Israel.

This is very significant.

Psalm 68:16: *the reason for the height of the mountain of Israel is because ‘this is the hill which God desireth to dwell in.’ Now if the eminence of Israel is because it is a choice land and choice people unto the Lord, then the eminence of this other land or mountain would be for the same reason, for we are told they are equal in ‘height.’*

Isaiah 65:8-9: “Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants’ sake, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains.”

It has taught us that the Lord has indeed more mountains than one, and that the seed of Jacob and of Judah shall inherit them.

We know that the land of Canaan was supposed to be a choice land, and the Israelites a chosen people, but what other land is a choice land?

C@E 5-11

Zephaniah 3:10: “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.”

Isaiah 18:2: *‘traveling by vessels on the sea’ in order to communicate with the land and people of the prophet.*

Use a globe of the world: By the power of the Spirit of God, the prophet looked out beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, which lay here in northern Africa, across the sea over which the vessels would come, and saw in vision the land shadowing with wings. The globe is turned slightly and there, stretched out like the shadows cast by two great wings, lay the lands of America, the great Western Hemisphere.

America was not yet discovered by man, but the great God of the universe knew of that land. He could hardly be expected to overlook the richest, finest land in the whole world. It was not undiscovered by Him! ...a ‘mountain’ equal in height to ‘Israel.’

Deuteronomy 33:13: “And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath.”

Genesis 49:26: “The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they can be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.”

Deuteronomy 33:17: “His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth.”

Psalm 80:8: *tells us that the Lord brought a vine out of Egypt and cast out the heathen and planted it. So Israel is the vine referred to, the people of God.*

The great eagle came against it. The lords of the heathen broke down the principal plants. Because they would not hearken unto His word that He might protect them; the Lord wept.

Numbers 21:26: *Heshbon was the city of Sihon, the king of the Amorites.*

Jeremiah 48:45: "...they that fled stood under the shadow of Heshbon."

Numbers 32 and 33: *we learn of the dividing of Heshbon and its provinces among the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh. Manasseh was Joseph's son, his firstborn.*

Joshua 13:25: *their coast was Jazer—equivalent to saying they came to the coast; they went over the sea.*

Jeremiah 49:30-31: "Flee, get you far off, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith the Lord; for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you. Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone."

Hazor was the head of many kingdoms. King Jabin of Hazor ruled over Madon, Shimron, and Achshaph, but more important, he ruled over the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, and the Hivites under Herman in the land of Mizpah. When these people were conquered and driven out by the children of Israel, southern Hazor was given to the tribe of Judah, and Hazor of the south became a city of Judah.

Isaiah 65:8-9: "Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sake, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of My mountains: and Mine elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there."

A study of the Bible will show that Joseph was given Reuben's birthright, and that thus Joseph became Jacob's firstborn, his successor. In this light the passage suggests that out of Joseph and out of Judah will the inheritor be brought forth. It is evident that the Lord was leading two peoples to this land.

1 Chronicles 9:3: *the children of Benjamin, Judah, Ephraim, and Manasseh dwelt in Jerusalem.*

So it may have been any of this mixture which the Lord led out. But we can trace Manasseh through the prophecies regarding Heshbon and Judah through the seed of the king and by Hazor. This is the Lord's doings and it is marvelous in our eyes. The knowledge of God and the inspiration of God were with these people. The Lord led away these branches in the day of the work of the greatest prophets the world has ever known. Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel were three of the many prophets of that day. So the inspiration of God was with them.

So the Lord said, 'Flee, get thee far off, dwell deep' (secretly). He wanted them to get 'far off' to the rich land, where they could dwell safely, where there were no surrounding warlike kings to harass them, where they would need no walls around their cities (neither gates nor bars), where they would be isolated from the rest of the world (dwell alone).

The Lord led them here, that, shut away from the knowledge of the rest of the world, He might preserve His truth and bring it triumphant through the period of darkness. There's only one place that will answer that description—'the land shadowing with wings.' [America]

HOW DO WE BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD? What must I do to be saved?

1. Belief or 'faith' in Christ

C@E 6-4

Paul: "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord."

Acts 16:31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Romans 5:1: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. Repent (and be baptized)

C@E 6-5

Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 17:30: "And...God...now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

3. Baptism, (by water)

C@E 6-6

Mark 16:16: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

Revelation 22:19: "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Deuteronomy 12:32: "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."

Acts 10:48: "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."

Matthew 3:11: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me...He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

John 3:5: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Matthew 3:16: "And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water."

Acts 8:38-39: "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip."

Romans 6:4-5: "Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also shall walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection."

Mark 1:4: "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

Acts 22:16: "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

3. Baptism, (by the Holy Spirit)

C@E 6-7

Acts 8:17: “Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 19:6: “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them.”

1 Timothy 4:14, *laying on of hands was practiced not only by the apostles, but by the presbytery of the church.*

Acts 9, *Ananias, not an apostle, used the ordinance of the laying on of hands.*

There is so little of the gift of the Holy Ghost manifest in the world—perhaps the law was forsaken—the law of Christ should be here today.

“Spirit” Characteristics:

C@E 6-8

Baptism of Spirit:

given to children of God, those who have named his name—the abiding Comforter

Holy Spirit:

given to bear witness and lead men to Christ

Spirit of God:

lights every man who comes into the world

Fruit of the Spirit: found in Galatians 5

1. Bear Witness of Christ

John 15:26: “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me.”

Acts 5:32: “And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him.”

2. Guide into All Truth

3. Show Things to Come

John 16:13: “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: ...and He will show you things to come.”

4. Witness that we are the children of God.

Romans 8:14-16: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God...The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

John 14:3 (Christ) “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Matthew 13:41 “The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Luke 11:21-22: “When a strong man armed keepeth his palace (*Satan’s hell/pit*), his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he (*Christ*) shall come upon him, and overcome him, He taketh from him all his armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.”

1 John 3:8: “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil.”

James 1:15: *Sin will cause Death*

Hebrews 2:14: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also himself like-wise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil.”

1 Corinthians 15:22: *Christ will make all men alive!*

2 Timothy 2:26: *Those that do not accept the teachings of Christ are taken captive by Satan.*

Psalms 9:17 and 55:15: *Captives of Satan are taken down to hell.*

Isaiah 5:14: “Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure.”

1 Timothy 4:10: “For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe.”

Zechariah 9:11: “As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit, wherein is no water.”

Isaiah 61:1: “He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”

Isaiah 49:9: “That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, show yourselves.”

Isaiah 42:7: “To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

Ezekiel: “...the strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of hell, with them that help him.”

Psalms 24:7-8: “Lift up your heads, O ye gates: and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in.”

Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Isaiah: *Speaks of Him as the mighty to save!*

Ephesians 4:9: *He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth.*

Paul tells us that “he led captivity captive.”

1 Peter 4:6: “For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead.”

He that liveth and was dead, but is alive forever-more, and has the keys of death and hell, will open the prison house and say to the prisoners, ‘Go forth.’ Truly it was a mission worthy of the Son of God.

...so that is the mission of Christ, and I have dared to speak lightly of it; dared to criticize it; dared to call it a failure; dared to laugh at religion. My God! Can He ever forgive me? Go tell that message to the world. Lord, how they need it! How we all need it!

...We have gone with hardness in our hearts against God and Christ, because we thought they were trying to damn humanity instead of save them. God in heaven! How could we ever have been so blind?

...You did not criticize Christ’s work. You only criticized what you thought was Christ’s work; what the religious world told you was Christ’s work.

...the Bible has all the puzzle pieces if we will only put them together right.

Luke 16:22: “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried.”

2 Corinthians 12:4: “How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”

Luke 23:43: “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

Revelation 20:5-6: “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power.”

The resurrection of the righteous or the just will take place when Christ comes, but the wicked must yet remain in the bands of death until the thousand years are ended.

The death brought into the world by Satan was two-fold:

Physical: separation of the spirit from the body & Spiritual: separation from God

Christ’s mission was to overcome the works of Satan. Not only did he overcome the spiritual death and return to His Father, but He overcame the physical death as well and appeared among men with spirit and body reunited. It was in this complete form He returned to God.

Ezekiel 37:12-13: “Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.”

Daniel 12:2: “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Job 19:23-27: “Oh that my words were not written! Oh that they were printed in a book! For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”

Isaiah 26:19: “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”

1 Corinthians 15:35-38: “But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed His own body.”

1 Corinthians 15:40: “There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial.”

2 Chronicles 6:18 & 1 Kings 8:27, the ‘heaven of heavens’ the highest heaven, the dwelling place of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Job 33:25: “His flesh shall be fresher than a child’s: he shall return to the days of his youth.”

The Bible, as you have made it appear to us, holds out comfort and correction for every wrong condition in life.

Joel 2:21, 22, 25: “Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.... And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.”

Isaiah 11:6-9: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.”

Christ said: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

Acts 1:11: “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.”

Luke 21:27: “And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud, with power and great glory.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

Psalms 72:7-8: “In His days shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.”

Revelation 20:1-3: “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

Revelation 21:2-3: “I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, ...and I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them.”

There have been a lot of people on this earth since the beginning. This earth, even as it is today, will support a great many more people than are on it, if the proper distribution were made. Also two-thirds of the earth's surface is now taken up with seas and oceans. John tells us that on the new earth there will be no seas. My faith in God is sufficient to believe that if it were necessary, He could and would make the new earth large enough to meet the demand.

SPENDING ETERNITY ON EARTH

When I learned this world was to be our dwelling place in eternity, I was disappointed. Yet that is what the Bible teaches, and it is what we must believe if we believe it to be the word of God.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD—

THE CHURCH WHICH CHRIST ESTABLISHED WHILE HERE ON EARTH C@E 10-5

Luke 9:2: “And He sent them to preach the kingdom of God.”

Luke 16:16: “Since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.”

1 Corinthians 12:13: “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.”

1 Peter 2:5: “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house.”

1 Corinthians 3:9: “Ye are God's building.”

When Christ left His church here it was more than a dead form. He gave unto them the Holy Spirit to be an ‘abiding Comforter’ in His church and kingdom, so that whenever the church of Christ is truly operating on the earth, there will be found ‘abiding’ the Holy Spirit to give power and light. Christ gave that gift to His church, and wherever that church operates you will find there Christ working with them through His Spirit.

Then baptism is the door by which we may enter His church (body) and kingdom. We learned from our study that faith, repentance, and baptism of the water (by burial or immersion) and of the Spirit (through the laying on of hands) were the first principles of the doctrine of Christ. So they must also be builded into His building.”

In this manner, Christ himself designates the powers of the Spirit which was placed in His church. This is the church of Christ, as I find it taught in the Scriptures.

Matthew 16:18: “Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

...as God is unchangeable, His spirit, if given today, would bestow the same gifts and have the same results as when Christ was here...

1 Corinthians 4: “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 4:7-10: “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith...to another the gifts of healing...to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues...It is the selfsame Spirit which divides to every man severally as He will.”

Mark 16:17-18: “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

Hebrews 6:1: “Therefore leaving the principles [fundamental law or truth—that from which other laws or truths are derived] of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation [principles] of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.”

Belief in Christ means more than just a belief that Christ was the Son of God. True belief in Him means a belief in and acceptance of the principles He advocated, a compliance with His plan of redemption. Anything short of this is not a belief. Consequently those who only half believe are not entitled to that promise.

We are evidently living in the evening time of the earth: that time when the earth waxes old as a garment.

Paul said: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”

Jeremiah 23:19-20: “Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirl-wind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the Lord shall not return, until He have executed, and till He have performed the thoughts of His heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

Luke 21:25-26 (Christ): *He says that in the generation in which the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled*, “there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”

Joel 1:4, 10, 11, 15: “That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.... The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.... alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.”

Christ speaking of the time says: “Nation shall rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginnings of sorrow.”

But we have learned in our study that these are not the works of God. His it was to give life and beauty; it has remained for the Devil and for man to bring death and destruction. It remains for Christ to bring about a restoration of true life.

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THE BOOK OF MORMON “PROMISE”

QM

Moroni 10, ‘...And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things. And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true; wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that he is. And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, I would exhort you, that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and forever.’

BIBLE / BOOK OF MORMON

QM 1-1

The Bible is a collection of books...history and law, prophecy and poetry. It tells the story of the Hebrew people and their dealings with God. It contains God’s revelations to man, and from it we learn His will as to how we may obtain salvation by His grace.

The Book of Mormon is a record of the ancient Americans just as the Bible is a record of the early Hebrews. It contains the sayings of the prophets, the history of the rulers, and the teachings of the ministers among the early people of America.

Eyewitnesses to the Book of Mormon plates:

QM 1-2

Twelve men saw and examined the plates and heard an angel’s voice tell them that it was a true record and a correct translation and they were to bear this testimony to the world.

Eight other men didn’t claim to hear the heavenly voice, but they did see and examine the plates.

They all confirmed their testimony until death.

Ezekiel 37 ‘take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions; and join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.’

In biblical days they wrote on a scroll of paper rolled around a stick. Stick of Judah—the Bible; Stick of Joseph—the Book of Mormon. God tells us that we should use them together and they will become one in our hand.

REVELATION CONTINUES

Christ’s church was restored by God through angel voices, angel visits, through the voice and power of God in revealing His will and plans to men. God established the church through modern revelation and He still speaks to us today. The church is divinely established and is a divinely directed body.

Revelation 22 (John) “I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.”

Deuteronomy: 4 (Moses) “You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it.”

Both scriptures say that men are not to add or subtract from the word of God. They don’t even suggest that God himself doesn’t intend to add things when He feels like it.

Church of Christ established.

Daniel 7:21, *Besieged of the Devil, the dragon, and prevailed against.*

Revelation 12, *Church lost in the wilderness.*

Daniel 12:7, *power of the holy people scattered*

Isaiah 60:2, *the Lord in looking forward to it spoke of it as a time when ‘darkness should cover the earth, and gross darkness the people.’*

Zechariah 14:7, *yet the Lord gives us the encouragement that ‘at evening time it shall be light.’*

Psalms 119:130: “The entrance of thy words giveth light.”

Psalms 105: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Amos 8:11: *the Lord will send a famine in the land; not a famine of bread, but of hearing the word of the Lord.*

Isaiah 29:10: “For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.”

Isaiah 58:8: “Then shall thy light break forth as the morning.”

Isaiah 29:14: “Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.”

Habakkuk 1:5: “Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.”

Ephesians 1:10: “...that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ.”

Acts 3:21: “...until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”

**A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER –
The coming of the church out of the wilderness.**

C@E 2-4

...the time when the Lord shall rise to maintain His own cause; when He shall call together the few who are willing to receive His commandments, and shall again go against the enemy to battle; when there shall no more be a famine of the hearing the word of the Lord, but when the Lord shall again speak and direct His work as in the days of old; the evening time when it shall be light.

He shall call His church out of the wilderness. That gospel, the word of God, in the times of the restitution of all things shall be preached once more in the world, and thus the entrance of His word shall dispel the gloom, and at evening time it shall be light.

C@E 2-5

Isaiah 49:22, *in that day when Israel shall be gathered, the Lord will set up a standard to the people.*

Isaiah 18: 3, *that in the sight of the inhabitants of all the earth He is going to set up an ensign in the mountains.*

Daniel 2:44: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed.”

We shall remember that the gospel of Christ is the ensign of salvation, and that His church and His kingdom are synonymous. So we see that the prophets were looking down to that time when His gospel should again be preached, when His church should again be established in the last days.

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

Throughout the Bible the kingdoms of the earth, its lands, and people, are spoken of as mountains and hills. Those people who served God and were His people are spoken of as mountains. Those not serving Him could not attain to the heights of those who did and are called hills. The Lord is giving us the encouragement to know that although the dragon prevailed for a time over His church and kingdom, yet the time would come, in the last days, when His church would be restored and established in the tops of the mountains and should be exalted above the nations of the world. From His choice lands should His message go.

Isaiah 18:3: “All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, se ye, when He lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when He bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.”

C@E 2-6

Christ said, ‘the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.’ Christ established his church [...] years ago on the mountain of Israel. From there it went to scattered Israel and the nations of the earth. In the last days when the mountains of the Lord’s house shall be established, when the ensign is raised, the trumpet blown, it shall not be first upon the mountain of Israel, but upon that other mountain equal in height, the land shadowing with wings, the great American Continent, Joseph’s land. From there Isaiah tells us shall the message go to Israel, and thus ‘the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.’

Matthew 24: “The gospel of Christ is the trumpet which the Lord is going to blow in the hearing of all the world.”

Daniel 2:31-35, 44: “Thou, O king, sawest, and, behold, a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom. It became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”

When the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established, in the last days, in the tops of the mountains, its beginning will seem small, just a little stone cut out of the mountain, yet it shall grow until it fills the whole earth. It shall be exalted above the hills.

Man had nothing to do with the setting up of the kingdom. Human hands were not the power which cut it out of the mountain. God was going to set up His own kingdom.

C@E 2-7

Revelation 14:6: “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”

Man will not study out, man will not plan the organization of the church of Christ in the last days. Christ himself will send an angel from heaven, commissioned to do that work. An angel shall restore that gospel which Christ said should be preached in all the world for a witness before the end is to come. The kingdom of God will once more be with men, and although the day preceding has been dark, yet ‘the light shall break forth as the morning.’ The land shadowing with wings shall send its message of salvation, and the famine for the word of the Lord shall be broken. ‘At evening time it shall be light’ the prophet said.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

God has once more established His kingdom. He has sent His angel to the earth with the everlasting gospel that in its simplicity and its fullness it might again be preached in the earth. He has organized again His church. He has taken command of His army, and the great dispensation of the restitution of all things has begun.

I have no apology for coming to you with the statement that God has spoken to the earth again. He said he would do it and has fulfilled his word. He has started his marvelous work and a wonder which, like the little stone cut out of the mountain, may in the beginning seem of little consequence, yet will end in the overflow of wickedness and in the breaking in pieces of man-made institutions and the gathering together in one all things in Christ.

His church is brought forth out of the wilderness, and as the head, the chief cornerstone, He directs and supports His work. He has restored the organization of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, bishops, deacons, elders, high priests. He is giving as He gave in days gone by, the gifts of the Spirit, prophecy, tongues interpretation of tongues, healings, miracles, faith, knowledge, wisdom, helps, governments. The church no longer walks in darkness, but is illuminated by the light and power of the Spirit. Christ has established His kingdom as the Bible said He would in the last days and we are living in His fullness of times.

Do you remember the people he had led away and planted on a mountain high and eminent? Do you remember that Christ said, 'In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established'? That was the great plan of God. Hidden away from each other, the scattered people whom He had chosen to enlighten the world should make their records which would, when placed with the record of Judah (the Bible) in the great day of the world's doubt, testify in unmistakable terms to the truthfulness of the gospel of Christ and the unimpeachability of the word of God.

Ezekiel 37:16, 19: "Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it [written records], For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions. Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand."

Psalm 85:11: "Truth shall spring out of the earth."

Isaiah 29: "...add ye year to year..."

- *First ten verses cover a great stretch of the world's history.*
- *The Lord is showing his Prophet Isaiah the same vision of the future we have already considered from Zephaniah 2, the distress which was coming upon Jerusalem which would end in the great dispersion even beyond the rivers of Ethiopia. Yet the Lord said they should be brought down. Their speech should be low out of the dust.*
- *That times come in the history of the world when, Israel scattered and brought low, the Lord ceases for the first time to speak unto man. It is a significant fact that from the beginning until the Christian church went into apostasy somewhere between the third and the sixth centuries, the Lord always spoke to His people on earth.*
- *Isaiah, looking down through future generations, saw that time when the prophets and the seers were covered, that time when the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was closed.*
- *The prophet saw that time when Christ no longer added to the word the testimony of the spirit of prophecy. The gifts of the gospel were not given; the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony was closed.*
- *It was not until the angel had flown in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth that the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened and communication from heaven to earth was once more established.*

Isaiah 29:11: "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I can not; for it is sealed. And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned."

Isaiah 29:14, 18: “Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.”

C@E 2-10

Ezekiel 37:15, 19, *the two choice lands were to give their testimony to the world. And they were both to come to us by the power of God. Al-though the powers of hell and the ignorance of men have waged war against it, this Bible has come to us, preserved marvelously through the ages. This record of Joseph has come to us in the same way, by the power of God, and they two were to become one in the hands of the Lord in the last days.*

Isaiah 29: 17-18: “Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest? [a sign]

Psalms 85:11-12: “Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the Lord shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.”

When men cannot see the way, then the Lord will bring to their aid the testimony of another witness. When, from beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, Joseph’s land, should go forth the message, then it was that the stick of Joseph should be used in the hands of the Lord with the stick of Judah to dispel the darkness of the world, that we might know that God liveth.

Ezekiel 37, *at the time the two records shall be in God’s hand, Israel shall be gathered back and restored to their own land a united nation.*

Ezekiel 39: 22, 26, 28, 29: “So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward...After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against Me...Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out My spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God.”

C@E 2-11

Revelation 17:14: “In the time of restitution of all things, these shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

The last triumphant picture we have of the church is this: ‘And to her it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready.’

The majority of the Christians don’t want God to speak now. They want Him to keep silent and speak to them only from the past, when we should be praying for Him to tell us where the trouble lies—to tell us how we can be united again!

...custodians of that gospel which John saw the angel bring.

Jesus is and always will be the head of His church. He leads the church spiritually, but still it has to have the leadership of men, too. While Jesus was still on earth He made provisions for continuing the earthly direction of His church after He left.

QM 3-2Office of High Priest

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "Three presiding high priests, chosen by the body, appointed and ordained to that office, and upheld by the confidence, faith and prayer of the church, form a quorum of the Presidency of the church." (*Like Peter, James and John*)

QM 3-3Office of Apostle

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The twelve...are called to be the...special witnesses of the name of Christ, in all the world; thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling."

QM 3-4Office of Seventy

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The Seventy are to act in the name of the Lord, under the directions of the Twelve...in building up the church."

Luke: "...the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come." (*ministers of preparation and front line evangelism, preparing the way for the Lord*)

QM 3-5Office of Bishop

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The office of bishop is in administering all temporal things...to do the business of the church, to sit in judgment upon transgressors." *We're also told that bishops should give leadership in a teaching ministry for family life.*

QM 3-6Office of Elder

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The elders are to administer in spiritual things...to hold the keys of all spiritual blessings of the church." *They are presiding ministers, giving spiritual leadership to the church and administering its ordinances of spiritual power.*

QM 3-7Office of Priest

Doctrine & Covenants 17:10, *They fit into the general plan for the complete ministry of Christ's church. Their specific duties pertain to family counseling and such ordinances as baptism in water and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.*

QM 3-8Office of Teacher

Doctrine & Covenants 17, *Teachers are responsible for church attendance and also act as ministers of reconciliation.*

QM 3-9Office of Deacon

Doctrine & Covenants 17, *Deacons are assistants to the teachers and share their ministerial functions of testimony and teaching as well as the ministry of reconciliation. Deacons are also ministers of temporal needs and care for the properties and the needs of worshipping congregations.*

Office of Evangelist

In Christ's church evangelists are to be revivalists, spiritual counselors, fathers to the church. Not being tied down with administrative duties they are free to carry their special kind of ministry wherever it's needed. Our evangelists preach the whole gospel of Christ...

Christ's Church:

...perfect in form and function to minister to the total needs of people...with the multiple and specialized ministry to do the job.

- *President and Prophet to represent Jesus*
- *Apostles and Seventies to direct the missionary work as special witnesses for Christ*
- *Bishops and Deacons to take care of church business in temporal things*
- *High Priests & Elders to give pastoral leadership & administer the spiritual ordinances*
- *Priests to give family ministry in special counseling & administer outward ordinances*
- *Evangelists and Teachers to provide the ministry of reconciliation*

FOUNDATION AND CORNERSTONE

1 Peter 2:6: "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded."

Ephesians 2:19-22: "Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

PRIESTHOOD

1 Corinthians 12:28: "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

Ephesians 4:11: "And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

1 Timothy 3:2: "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach."

1 Timothy 3:8: "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre."

Titus 1:5: "elders"

Hebrews 5:1: "high priest"

Luke 10:1: "seventies"

Apostle James: *the body without the spirit is dead, and Christ's church as he left it here was not dead.*

Paul asserts that "our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance."

According to research the early church was faithful to Christ's teachings during the period of persecution by the Roman emperors. It was only after they converted emperor Constantine and the Romans took over that the **apostasy** started.

Apostasy, Pope Dictator, Pope's Inquisition**QM 4-2**

Conversions were not "true" and gradually they got things changed—adding elaborate rituals and new doctrines to make things more interesting.

The most important parts of Christ's teachings had been lost in that downward spiral through the centuries. All the love, the gentleness, the kingdom ideal which Christ had taught and lived...disappeared.

Men became more concerned with autocratic church decrees, elaborate ceremonies, official position, wealth and political power than with the business of building the kingdom of God on earth. Everything that happened was a direct result of the loss of that central ideal.

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy**QM 4-3**

Acts 20, Paul said, "After my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy**QM 4-4**

Thessalonians, "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy**QM 4-5**

Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy**QM 4-6**

Revelation, *In the first instance, the church was represented as a woman clothed in light and purity and persecuted by a great red dragon. And certainly the early Christians were persecuted and martyred by pagan Rome.*

In the second vision the apostate church was represented by a woman dressed in purple and scarlet and jewels, riding on the dragon, and 'the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her.' This church was to become the persecutor, instead of the persecuted. 'And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.'

Protestant Churches are Reformed Catholic churches, not a restoration of Christ's original church.

Martin Luther, 1500's, protests began

John Wesley said 'latter-day glory would come when God would arise to maintain His own cause and set up His own kingdom.'

Charles Wesley wrote a hymn asking God to choose 'new apostles'

Alexander Campbell, founder of the 'Christian' Church in America: the practical results of all creeds, reformations, and improvement warrant 'the conclusion that either some new revelation or some new development of the revelation of God must be made, before the hopes and expectations of all true Christians can be realized. We want the old gospel back and sustained by the ancient order of things.'

Roger Williams, 'the apostasy of anti-christ hath so far corrupted all, that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy till Christ shall send forth new apostles to plant churches anew.'

Prophets foretell a restoration of the gospel, not merely a reformation:

Daniel 2: 'Men' could not restore Christ's church...or the kingdom...it had to come from God.

Isaiah 29: Jews return to homeland and it would become a fruitful country again, and, a sealed book would come out of the dust. 'Thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground...and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust...for the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes; the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.'

"This people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.'

Promise—Cherished by Latter Day Saints

'Behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder...'

God was to restore Christ's church to earth.

Revelation: John said, 'And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, and...'

James 1:5, 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'

Joseph Smith, Jr. (1820) Two personages appeared and one of them spoke, pointing to the other one, 'This is my beloved Son; hear him.'

Joseph Smith, Jr.

1823: Visited by an angel four times

1827: Metal plates and Urim and Thummim given

1829: Angelic messenger ordains—restoring authority to represent Christ which had been lost in the apostasy.

April 6, 1830: Church of Jesus Christ organized by the power and authority of God and according to the pattern shown in the New Testament.

No other events in history qualify to fulfill those prophecies!

2 Timothy 4:3: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

Revelation 12:1: “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.”

Twelve stars: a quorum of twelve apostles who had the oversight of the church. As long as these remained the church retained her power; she kept her magnificent robe, described as the sun.

Revelation 12:2-3: “And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pain to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.”

Revelation 20:2: “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. A great red dragon, having seven heads.”

Revelation 17:9: *the seven heads are seven mountains—seven hills upon which Rome was built?*

Daniel 7:3: *in his vision are four beasts coming up from the sea*

Daniel 7:23: “The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.”

1st beast or kingdom: Babylonish kingdom

2nd beast or kingdom: Medes and Persians

3rd beast or kingdom: Greek kingdom under Alexander the Great

4th beast or kingdom: Rome—the beast with the seven heads—mountains—and ten horns [kings].

Revelation 12: *when the child was born, it was caught away and taken back to the throne of God. Thus it was that the kingdom of God was lost from the earth. Christ was no longer with the church by the power of His Spirit. [The woman fled into the wilderness.]*

Revelation 12: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which kept the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Daniel 7:8, 21: “I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints and prevailed against them.”

Revelation 13:7: “And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.”

Isaiah 24:5: “They have transgressed the laws, changed the plans, and broken the covenant.”

Revelation 13:7: “Therefore does the enemy overcome them.”

Daniel 7:25: “and wear them out, and my mighty army is destroyed. Only a few are left and the enemy shall greatly make war with them. They are now given into his hands until they have learned that their own strength and wisdom are unavailing. Then you may go again with a message, and among the few who will hear you, will we organize again my army and destroy utterly the enemy until he shall be heard of no more. Rest here in peace until the time shall be fulfilled.”

Revelation 17:3-4: “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.”

C@E 4-14

Revelation 17:6: “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.”

Changed in form and dress, she no longer walked with Christ dressed in linen clean and white, but partook of the favors of Rome and doled out her sins and her darkness to the kings of the earth. Riches decked her, but not the grace of the Spirit of God. The time had come when the ‘man of sin’ exalted himself above ‘all that is called God’ and sat in what the world considered to be the ‘temple of God.’ So the church was dead. It no longer sent out its message of salvation. In the words of Isaiah, ‘The Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep...the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.’ The earth had entered its midnight of darkness.

BOOK OF MORMON GEOGRAPHY & PEOPLES

QM 5-1

Genesis 49: ‘Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall.’ These blessings would prevail ‘above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.’

Joshua 17: *Joseph’s sons were to possess a certain land, Ephraim to the south and Manasseh to the north, and ‘the sea is his border.’*

QM 5-2

The American continents:

Isaiah 16:8 ...they are gone over the sea...

Jeremiah 48:32 ...are gone over the sea...

Ezekiel 17:(12, 22) ...a choice land...

Deuteronomy 33:13 Joseph ‘shall push the people together to the ends of the earth...a mountain high and eminent—blessed of the Lord be his land...’

Jeremiah 49:31 ‘Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone.’

Isaiah 18 ‘...land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.’

References: (evidence of Book of Mormon)

QM 5-3

Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan, by John Lloyd Stephens.

Ancient America, by Baldwin

The Lost Empire of the Itzas and Mayas, by Theodore A. Willard

Ancient America and the Book of Mormon, by Hunter and Ferguson

Antiquities of Mexico, by Lord Kingsborough

Relacion de las Cosas de Yucatan, by Diego de Landa

Maya Society, by William Gates

Myths of Mexico and Peru, Lewis Spence

Myths of the New World, by Daniel Brinton

It is exciting for people who accepted the Book of Mormon on faith to find their faith vindicated by external evidence.

John 2:23 **Christ in America!** ‘And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.’

We believe that Christ, after his ascension, did visit America. And the Book of Mormon gives the account of that visit.

Quetzalcoatl

‘his father created the world’ –Lord Kingsborough
 ‘expected to return at some time’ –Dr. D.G. Brinton
 ‘keep peace with all’ –W.H. Prescott
 ‘the cross as a symbol’ –Lewis Spence

Who else could the white and bearded God have been, except Jesus Christ who had told his disciples in Jerusalem that he had other sheep not of that fold and he must visit them, too. If not Christ, then who?

The Bible prophesied that some of the tribe of Joseph would go over the sea to the land shadowing with wings. Some archaeologists agree that the early Americans could have come from the middle eastern countries. Christ said he was going to visit his other sheep, and then archaeology shows us the white god, Quetzalcoatl, with the star, cross, darkness, and all the legends which fit right into the story as the Book of Mormon records it.

The Bible foretold that there would be a restoration of God’s church, told how it would come and when it would come. These things have been fulfilled in history. The Book of Mormon is the final witness to prove that we are the rightful church restored in the last days...it is the book out of the dust, substantiated by the Bible, by history, and the findings of archaeology. No other church makes any of those claims. We make them all.

THE PREPARATION OF THE LORD FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HIS TRUTH

Matthew 21:42: “They say unto them, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render Him the fruits in their seasons.”

...the rejection of the Jews as a nation and the gospel being given to the Gentiles...

Luke 21:24: “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

The gospel of the Lord was given into the hands of the Israelites, not for their good alone, but that they might be husbandmen to the entire vineyard, the world. It was not the plan of God that only those known as the ‘chosen people’ should be saved, but rather, that they might be instruments in His hands in bringing salvation to the entire world. This they failed to do, although the Lord labored with them long and faithfully. At last He declared in desperation, I will let the vineyard out to other ‘husbandmen.’

Jeremiah 11:16-17: “The Lord called thy name, a green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.”

Romans 11:17: *the apostle is speaking to those other husbandmen, the Gentiles, to whom the vineyard was given.* “And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; ...”

The Lord had brought the hosts of Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand. He had settled them in the land of Canaan and there undertook to educate them into usefulness for His work. When we read the history, we are appalled at their failure to absorb His teachings. As time went on, they rebelled against His form of government and demanded a king. Three kings ruled over the twelve tribes, Saul, David, and Solomon. After Solomon’s death, civil war broke out and the kingdom was divided. Approximately ten tribes formed into the northern kingdom, the kingdom of Israel, while the others became the kingdom of Judah, or the Jewish people.

C@E 5-9

As time went on and the people forgot God, the Assyrians took the kingdom of Israel, and carried them captive into Assyria. Thus was brought about the loss of the ten tribes, for from that time on their whereabouts were unknown to the world. Later when the people of Judah became so wicked that the Lord no longer protected them, the king of Babylon took Jerusalem, and the Jews entered into their famous seventy years of captivity.

Ezekiel 17:3: “And say, Thus saith the Lord God: A great eagle with great wings, long winged, full of feathers, which had divers colors, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar.”

That is the Lord’s way of telling us of the carrying away captive the nation of Israel into Assyria.

Ezekiel 17: 7-12: “There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers. ...say now to the rebellion house, Know ye not what these things mean? Tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon.”

Verse 16: the Lord tells the king that he shall die in the land of Babylon, that the topmost branches, the kings, princes, and nobles, shall there in captivity consider the trespasses which they have trespassed against Him. Thus the Lord faced once more the evidence of man’s unwillingness to serve Him. Had it been man’s doings they would have given up in despair and said, ‘It is of no use.’

Psalms 95:10: *God grieved for His people and did what He could to save the truth resident with them. For although first Israel, the ten tribes of the chosen people, and later Judah, the other two tribes, were broken down because of transgression, and carried by the two great kings captive into heathen lands, yet the Lord did that which thwarted the designs of the eagle.*

Ezekiel 17:22: “Thus saith the Lord God; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent.”

C@E 5-10

King Zedekiah is the one referred to there in the phrase, ‘I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one.’ The hand of the Lord was over this tender one, and the Lord would not permit that he should fall into the clutches of the eagle. He tells us rather that he will remove him and establish him upon a high mountain and eminent.

The term 'mountain(s)' in the Bible is used in three ways other than literal:

Ezekiel 36:1, to designate special lands

Amos 6:1, to designate special nations

Ezekiel 6:2, to designate peoples forming a nation

...so this mountain high and eminent is a wonderful land, a strong nation, or a mighty people.

Ezekiel 6:23: “In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it; and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar.”

1. This twig of the Lord's planting should grow into a goodly nation.

2. The land, or mountain, in which they should grow is of the height of Israel.

This is very significant.

Psalm 68:16: *the reason for the height of the mountain of Israel is because 'this is the hill which God desireth to dwell in.'* Now if the eminence of Israel is because it is a choice land and choice people unto the Lord, then the eminence of this other land or mountain would be for the same reason, for we are told they are equal in 'height.'

Isaiah 65:8-9: “Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sake, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains.”

It has taught us that the Lord has indeed more mountains than one, and that the seed of Jacob and of Judah shall inherit them.

We know that the land of Canaan was supposed to be a choice land, and the Israelites a chosen people, but what other land is a choice land?

C@E 5-11

Zephaniah 3:10: “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.”

Isaiah 18:2: *'traveling by vessels on the sea' in order to communicate with the land and people of the prophet.*

Use a globe of the world: By the power of the Spirit of God, the prophet looked out beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, which lay here in northern Africa, across the sea over which the vessels would come, and saw in vision the land shadowing with wings. The globe is turned slightly and there, stretched out like the shadows cast by two great wings, lay the lands of America, the great Western Hemisphere.

America was not yet discovered by man, but the great God of the universe knew of that land. He could hardly be expected to overlook the richest, finest land in the whole world. It was not undiscovered by Him! ...a 'mountain' equal in height to 'Israel.'

Deuteronomy 33:13: “And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath.”

Genesis 49:26: “The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they can be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.”

Deuteronomy 33:17: “His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth.”

Psalms 80:8: *tells us that the Lord brought a vine out of Egypt and cast out the heathen and planted it. So Israel is the vine referred to, the people of God.*

The great eagle came against it. The lords of the heathen broke down the principal plants. Because they would not hearken unto His word that He might protect them; the Lord wept.

C@E 5-12

Numbers 21:26: *Heshbon was the city of Sihon, the king of the Amorites.*

Jeremiah 48:45: “...they that fled stood under the shadow of Heshbon.”

Numbers 32 and 33: *we learn of the dividing of Heshbon and its provinces among the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh. Manasseh was Joseph’s son, his firstborn.*

Joshua 13:25: *their coast was Jazer—equivalent to saying they came to the coast; they went over the sea.*

Jeremiah 49:30-31: “Flee, get you far off, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazer, saith the Lord; for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you. Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone.”

Hazer was the head of many kingdoms. King Jabin of Hazer ruled over Madon, Shimron, and Achshaph, but more important, he ruled over the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, and the Hivites under Herman in the land of Mizpah. When these people were conquered and driven out by the children of Israel, southern Hazer was given to the tribe of Judah, and Hazer of the south became a city of Judah.

Isaiah 65:8-9: “Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants’ sake, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of My mountains: and Mine elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there.”

A study of the Bible will show that Joseph was given Reuben’s birthright, and that thus Joseph became Jacob’s firstborn, his successor. In this light the passage suggests that out of Joseph and out of Judah will the inheritor be brought forth. It is evident that the Lord was leading two peoples to this land.

C@E 5-13

1 Chronicles 9:3: *the children of Benjamin, Judah, Ephraim, and Manasseh dwelt in Jerusalem.*

So it may have been any of this mixture which the Lord led out. But we can trace Manasseh through the prophecies regarding Heshbon and Judah through the seed of the king and by Hazer. This is the Lord’s doings and it is marvelous in our eyes. The knowledge of God and the inspiration of God were with these people. The Lord led away these branches in the day of the work of the greatest prophets the world has ever known. Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel were three of the many prophets of that day. So the inspiration of God was with them.

So the Lord said, ‘Flee, get thee far off, dwell deep’ (secretly). He wanted them to get ‘far off’ to the rich land, where they could dwell safely, where there were no surrounding warlike kings to

harass them, where they would need no walls around their cities (neither gates nor bars), where they would be isolated from the rest of the world (dwell alone).

The Lord led them here, that, shut away from the knowledge of the rest of the world, He might preserve His truth and bring it triumphant through the period of darkness. There's only one place that will answer that description—'the land shadowing with wings.' [America]

RESTORATION BELIEFS: FAITH AND BAPTISM

QM 6-1

Alma, 'Faith, is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith, ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.'

2 Nephi, 'If the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water.'

Even the Catholic fathers admit that baptism by immersion was universal for hundreds of years, until they changed it to sprinkling for the sake of convenience.

QM 6-2

3 Nephi 5:23-26 (Christ speaking to the Nephites when he visited them in America), 'And he said unto them, On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them: Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.'

QM 6-3

Baptism is more than a symbol!

Christ made it a condition of our salvation. We must accept him, repent of our sins, and then be baptized by the water and the Spirit. He has made that plain in many places in the New Testament. I think, to be on the safe side, we had better know how to be baptized and not leave it to chance and convenience.

HOW DO WE BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD? What must I do to be saved?

C@E 6-4

1. Belief or 'faith' in Christ

Paul: "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord."

Acts 16:31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Romans 5:1: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. Repent (and be baptized)

C@E 6-5

Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 17:30: "And...God...now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

3. Baptism, (by water)

C@E 6-6

Mark 16:16: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”

Revelation 22:19: “And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Deuteronomy 12:32: “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

Acts 10:48: “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.”

Matthew 3:11: “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me...He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”

John 3:5: “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 3:16: “And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water.”

Acts 8:38-39: “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip.”

Romans 6:4-5: “Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also shall walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.”

Mark 1:4: “John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

Acts 22:16: “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

3. Baptism, (by the Holy Spirit)

C@E 6-7

Acts 8:17: “Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 19:6: “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them.”

1 Timothy 4:14, *laying on of hands was practiced not only by the apostles, but by the presbytery of the church.*

Acts 9, *Ananias, not an apostle, used the ordinance of the laying on of hands.*

There is so little of the gift of the Holy Ghost manifest in the world—perhaps the law was forsaken—the law of Christ should be here today.

Baptism of Spirit:

given to children of God, those who have named his name—the abiding Comforter

Holy Spirit:

given to bear witness and lead men to Christ

Spirit of God:

lights every man who comes into the world

Fruit of the Spirit: found in Galations 5

1. Bear Witness of Christ

John 15:26: “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me.”

Acts 5:32: “And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him.”

2. Guide into All Truth

3. Show Things to Come

John 16:13: “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: ...and He will show you things to come.”

4. Witness that we are the children of God.

Romans 8:14-16: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God...The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

THE DOCTRINE & COVENANTS

QM 7-1

The Doctrine and Covenants does for time what the Bible and the Book of Mormon do for place. Those ancient Scriptures show God as a universal God working with all people throughout the world. The Doctrine and Covenants shows God as an active God who continues to work with people in the present day.

The really important functions of prophecy are to reveal and interpret God to his people, to reveal his will and doctrines to us, to correct and reprove us when we need it, and to testify of the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants—all of these books strengthen and amplify and witness for each other.

QM 7-2

Zion – Christ Lives Now!

The Doctrine and Covenants is supposed to be our blueprint for building Zion.

‘After the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him, that he lives.’

The simplest and most eloquent testimony in Christendom...Christ lives! That’s what the Doctrine and Covenants means...that Christ lives now. He lives and leads his church as he did of old, openly, dynamically, personally. That is the heart of the Restoration. Back of the doctrines, the books, and the priesthood, stands the living Christ.

Paradise: the place where the spirits of the **righteous** people who accept Christ will reside waiting for the resurrection and final judgment.

Heaven: the place in which immortal man will live after his resurrection and the final judgment.

Revelation 2:7 & II Corinthians 12:4,

‘Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.’

Paradise is the temporary residence of the spirits of the righteous until the day of final judgment. Heaven is the permanent residence of the righteous after the final judgment when the spirit and the body are reunited after the resurrection. For the ‘spirit and the body are the soul of man.’

Final Judgment: everybody will be assigned their proper place and reward in the hereafter

Hell: opposite of paradise, a temporary place, where the spirits of **those who have not accepted Christ or have not lived up to high standards of righteousness** will reside until the final judgment.

Lake of Fire: opposite of heaven, an everlasting place of punishment—this is the second death.

Revelation 20:13-14, ‘And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.’

OPPOSITES

Paradise: a place of rest for the spirits of **righteous**—they will be able to go on learning about God, gaining greater understanding than they had on earth.

Hell: a place of rehabilitation of **sinners**—and the teaching of those who had no opportunity to learn of Christianity during their lives on earth.

1 Peter 3:18-20: [Christ teaches in prison house] Isaiah 24:21-22, ‘prisoners gathered in the pit shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited’

Isaiah 42:6-7, ‘open the blind eyes and bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.’

1 Peter, ‘...Being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit, Jesus went and preached unto the spirits in prison.’

Unforgiveable sin: Blasphemers against the Holy Ghost will not be forgiven.

That means those who have known God and Christ, have accepted them, and then denied them and worked against them...just as Lucifer and the angels did when they rebelled against God in heaven.

Revelation 20:15, ‘And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire’ along with death and hell when they are destroyed on the day of final judgment.

Paradise: Varying degrees of goodness

Hell: Varying degrees of badness

When they finally know the whole gospel story, when they are capable of making a choice, they will be called upon to do so.

*Those who still choose evil, in spite of their knowledge of Christ, will become blasphemers who will be cast into the **lake of fire**.*

*Those who choose Christ will be fit to go to **heaven**.*

Salvation and eternal life are gifts to us by the grace of God. Our works don't save us. But what we do with those gifts, how we use them, will determine what is accomplished.

Good works are essential for entrance into God's presence. The degree of understanding and obedience that we have for God's laws in this life rewards us now in present happiness and satisfaction, and they will reward us similarly in the afterlife, too.

PLAN OF SALVATION—Mission of Jesus Christ

John 14:3 (Christ) "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Matthew 13:41 "The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Luke 11:21-22: "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace (*Satan's hell/pit*), his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he (*Christ*) shall come upon him, and overcome him, He taketh from him all his armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils."

1 John 3:8: "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil."

James 1:15: *Sin will cause Death*

Hebrews 2:14: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also himself like-wise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil."

1 Corinthians 15:22: *Christ will make all men alive!*

2 Timothy 2:26: *Those that do not accept the teachings of Christ are taken captive by Satan.*

Psalms 9:17 and 55:15: *Captives of Satan are taken down to hell.*

Isaiah 5:14: "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure."

1 Timothy 4:10: “For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe.”

Zechariah 9:11: “As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit, wherein is no water.”

Isaiah 61:1: “He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”

Isaiah 49:9: “That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, show yourselves.”

Isaiah 42:7: “To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

Ezekiel: “...the strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of hell, with them that help him.”

Psalms 24:7-8: “Lift up your heads, O ye gates: and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in.”

Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Isaiah: Speaks of Him as the mighty to save!

Ephesians 4:9: *He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth.*

Paul tells us that “he led captivity captive.”

1 Peter 4:6: “For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead.”

He that liveth and was dead, but is alive forever-more, and has the keys of death and hell, will open the prison house and say to the prisoners, ‘Go forth.’ Truly it was a mission worthy of the Son of God.

...so that is the mission of Christ, and I have dared to speak lightly of it; dared to criticize it; dared to call it a failure; dared to laugh at religion. My God! Can He ever forgive me? Go tell that message to the world. Lord, how they need it! How we all need it!

...We have gone with hardness in our hearts against God and Christ, because we thought they were trying to damn humanity instead of save them. God in heaven! How could we ever have been so blind?

...You did not criticize Christ’s work. You only criticized what you thought was Christ’s work; what the religious world told you was Christ’s work.

...the Bible has all the puzzle pieces if we will only put them together right.

Luke 16:22: “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried.”

2 Corinthians 12:4: “How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”

Luke 23:43: “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

Revelation 20:5-6: “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power.”

The resurrection of the righteous or the just will take place when Christ comes, but the wicked must yet remain in the bands of death until the thousand years are ended.

The death brought into the world by Satan was two-fold:

Physical: separation of the spirit from the body & Spiritual: separation from God

Christ’s mission was to overcome the works of Satan. Not only did he overcome the spiritual death and return to His Father, but He overcame the physical death as well and appeared among men with spirit and body reunited. It was in this complete form He returned to God.

Ezekiel 37:12-13: “Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.”

Daniel 12:2: “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Job 19:23-27: “Oh that my words were not written! Oh that they were printed in a book! For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”

Isaiah 26:19: “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”

1 Corinthians 15:35-38: “But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed His own body.”

Celestial (sun glory),
 Terrestrial (moon glory),
 Telestial (star glory)

II Corinthians 12:2, 'I knew a man in Christ...such an one caught up to the third heaven.'

I Corinthians 15:41-42, 'There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.'

D&C 76, *modern day revelation*

QM 9-2

Celestial Kingdom (sun)

D&C 76, 'They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name, and were baptized after the manner of his burial...that...they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands of him who is ordained...unto that power; and who overcome by faith, and are sealed by that Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father shed forth upon all those who are just and true; ...they are they...who have received of his fullness, and of his glory...these shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ for ever and ever.'

QM 9-3

Terrestrial Kingdom (moon)

D&C 76, 'The people whose works entitle them to this reward are to receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fullness of the Father. In this kingdom will be those who died without law; and also they who are spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it; these are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men; these are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore they obtained not the crown over the kingdom of our God.'

QM 9-4

Telestial Kingdom (stars)

These are they who deny not the Holy Spirit...these are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie. They are the people who on earth professed to follow great religious leaders but who didn't really receive the fullness of the gospel and live up to it. Perhaps they are the ones Christ meant when he said, 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter in the kingdom of heaven [celestial kingdom]...many will say to me...Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? ...and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'

D&C 76, 'These all shall bow the knee, and every tongue shall confess to him who sits upon the throne...for they shall be judged according to their works; and every man shall receive according to his own works...and they shall be servants of the Most High, but where God and Christ dwell they can not come.'

1 Corinthians 15:40: “There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial.”

2 Chronicles 6:18 & 1 Kings 8:27, the ‘heaven of heavens’ the highest heaven, the dwelling place of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Job 33:25: “His flesh shall be fresher than a child’s: he shall return to the days of his youth.”

The Bible, as you have made it appear to us, holds out comfort and correction for every wrong condition in life.

RESTORATION BELIEFS: STEWARDSHIP, AGENCY & ZION

QM 10-1

See *Zion’s Path* summary page

D&C 6, ‘seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.’

D&C 64, ‘Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her, and she shall be an ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven.’

Matthew 6:33, ‘But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’

Matthew, ‘Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

Matthew, ‘The field is the world; and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.’

QM 10-2

‘If a man love me, he will keep my words...A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples...I give unto you to be the salt of the earth...I give unto you to be the light of the world, a city set on a hill...Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel.’

Alma, ‘If you have no more than a desire to believe, then let this desire work in you.’

C@E 10-3

Joel 2:21, 22, 25: “Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength... And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.”

Isaiah 11:6-9: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.”

Christ said: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

Acts 1:11: “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.”

Luke 21:27: “And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud, with power and great glory.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

Psalms 72:7-8: “In His days shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.”

Revelation 20:1-3: “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

C@E 10-4

Revelation 21:2-3: “I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, ...and I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them.”

There have been a lot of people on this earth since the beginning. This earth, even as it is today, will support a great many more people than are on it, if the proper distribution were made. Also two-thirds of the earth's surface is now taken up with seas and oceans. John tells us that on the new earth there will be no seas. My faith in God is sufficient to believe that if it were necessary, He could and would make the new earth large enough to meet the demand.

SPENDING ETERNITY ON EARTH

When I learned this world was to be our dwelling place in eternity, I was disappointed. Yet that is what the Bible teaches, and it is what we must believe if we believe it to be the word of God.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD—

THE CHURCH WHICH CHRIST ESTABLISHED WHILE HERE ON EARTH

C@E 10-5

Luke 9:2: “And He sent them to preach the kingdom of God.”

Luke 16:16: “Since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.”

1 Corinthians 12:13: “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.”

1 Peter 2:5: “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house.”

1 Corinthians 3:9: “Ye are God's building.”

When Christ left His church here it was more than a dead form. He gave unto them the Holy Spirit to be an 'abiding Comforter' in His church and kingdom, so that whenever the church of Christ is truly operating on the earth, there will be found 'abiding' the Holy Spirit to give power and light. Christ gave that gift to His church, and wherever that church operates you will find there Christ working with them through His Spirit.

Then baptism is the door by which we may enter His church (body) and kingdom. We learned from our study that faith, repentance, and baptism of the water (by burial or immersion) and of the Spirit (through the laying on of hands) were the first principles of the doctrine of Christ. So they must also be builded into His building."

In this manner, Christ himself designates the powers of the Spirit which was placed in His church. This is the church of Christ, as I find it taught in the Scriptures.

Matthew 16:18: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

...as God is unchangeable, His spirit, if given today, would bestow the same gifts and have the same results as when Christ was here...

1 Corinthians 4: "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."

1 Corinthians 4:7-10: "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith...to another the gifts of healing...to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues...It is the selfsame Spirit which divides to every man severally as He will."

Mark 16:17-18: "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Hebrews 6:1: "Therefore leaving the principles [fundamental law or truth—that from which other laws or truths are derived] of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation [principles] of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God."

Belief in Christ means more than just a belief that Christ was the Son of God. True belief in Him means a belief in and acceptance of the principles He advocated, a compliance with His plan of redemption. Anything short of this is not a belief. Consequently those who only half believe are not entitled to that promise.

We are evidently living in the evening time of the earth: that time when the earth waxes old as a garment.

Paul said: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”

Jeremiah 23:19-20: “Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirl-wind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the Lord shall not return, until He have executed, and till He have performed the thoughts of His heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

Luke 21:25-26 (Christ): *He says that in the generation in which the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled*, “there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”

Joel 1:4, 10, 11, 15: “That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.... The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.... alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.”

Christ speaking of the time says: “Nation shall rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginnings of sorrow.”

But we have learned in our study that these are not the works of God. His it was to give life and beauty; it has remained for the Devil and for man to bring death and destruction. It remains for Christ to bring about a restoration of true life.

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| <div>Bible/Book of Mormon:</div> <div>QM 1-1</div> <p>The Bible is a collection of books...history and law, prophecy and poetry. It tells the story of the Hebrew people and their dealings with God. It contains God’s revelations to man, and from it we learn His will as to how we may obtain salvation by His grace.</p> <p>The Book of Mormon is a record of the ancient Americans just as the Bible is a record of the early Hebrews. It contains the sayings of the prophets, the history of the rulers, and the teachings of the ministers among the early people of America.</p> | <div>Jesus’ Church Structure:</div> <div>QM 3-1</div> <p>Jesus is and always will be the head of His church. He leads the church spiritually, but still it has to have the leadership of men, too. While Jesus was still on earth He made provisions for continuing the earthly direction of His church after He left.</p> |
| <div>Eyewitnesses to the Book of Mormon plates:</div> <div>QM 1-2</div> <p>Twelve men saw and examined the plates and heard an angel’s voice tell them that it was a true record and a correct translation and they were to bear this testimony to the world.</p> <p>Eight men didn’t claim to hear the heavenly voice, but they did see and examine the plates.</p> <p>They <u>all</u> confirmed their testimony until death.</p> | <div>Office of High Priest</div> <div>QM 3-2</div> <p>Doctrine & Covenants 104: “Three presiding high priests, chosen by the body, appointed and ordained to that office, and upheld by the confidence, faith and prayer of the church, form a quorum of the Presidency of the church.” <i>(Like Peter, James and John)</i></p> <div>Office of Apostle</div> <div>QM 3-3</div> <p>Doctrine & Covenants 104: “The twelve...are called to be the...special witnesses of the name of Christ, in all the world; thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling.”</p> |
| <div>Revelation continues:</div> <div>QM 2-1</div> <p>Christ’s church was restored by God through angel voices, angel visits, through the voice and power of God in revealing His will and plans to men. God established the church through modern revelation and He still speaks to us today. The church is divinely established and is a divinely directed body.</p> | <div>Office of Seventy</div> <div>QM 3-4</div> <p>Doctrine & Covenants 104: “The Seventy are to act in the name of the Lord, under the directions of the Twelve...in building up the church.”</p> <p>Luke: “...the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.” <i>(ministers of preparation and front line evangelism, preparing the way for the Lord)</i></p> |
| <div>Revelation 22 (John) “I testify unto every man</div> <div>QM 2-2</div> <p>that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.”</p> <p>Deuteronomy: 4 (Moses) “You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it.”</p> <p>Both scriptures say that <u>men</u> are not to add or subtract from the word of God. They don’t even suggest that God himself doesn’t intend to add things when He feels like it.</p> | <div>Office of Bishop</div> <div>QM 3-5</div> <p>Doctrine & Covenants 104: “The office of bishop is in administering all temporal things...to do the business of the church, to sit in judgment upon transgressors.” <i>We’re also told that bishops should give leadership in a teaching ministry for family life.</i></p> <div>Office of Elder</div> <div>QM 3-6</div> <p>Doctrine & Covenants 104: “The elders are to administer in spiritual things...to hold the keys of all spiritual blessings of the church.” <i>They are presiding ministers, giving spiritual leadership to the church and administering its ordinances of spiritual power.</i></p> |
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| <div data-bbox="71 71 776 289"> <div>Office of Priest</div> <div>QM 3-7</div> <div> Doctrines & Covenants 17:10, <i>They fit into the general plan for the complete ministry of Christ's church. Their specific duties pertain to family counseling and such ordinances as baptism in water and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.</i> </div> </div> | <div data-bbox="846 109 1550 256"> <div>Apostasy, Pope Dictator, Pope's Inquisition</div> <div>QM 4-2</div> <div> Conversions were not "true" and gradually they got things changed—adding elaborate rituals and new doctrines to make things more interesting. </div> </div> |
| <div data-bbox="71 327 776 474"> <div>Office of Teacher</div> <div>QM 3-8</div> <div> Doctrines & Covenants 17, <i>Teachers are responsible for church attendance and also act as ministers of reconciliation.</i> </div> </div> | <div data-bbox="846 281 1531 428"> <div> The most important parts of Christ's teachings had been lost in that downward spiral through the centuries. All the love, the gentleness, the kingdom ideal which Christ had taught and lived...disappeared. </div> </div> |
| <div data-bbox="71 512 776 768"> <div>Office of Deacon</div> <div>QM 3-9</div> <div> Doctrines & Covenants 17, <i>Deacons are assistants to the teachers and share their ministerial functions of testimony and teaching as well as the ministry of reconciliation. Deacons are also ministers of temporal needs and care for the properties and the needs of worshiping congregations.</i> </div> </div> | <div data-bbox="846 449 1550 634"> <div> Men became more concerned with autocratic church decrees, elaborate ceremonies, official position, wealth and political power than with the business of building the kingdom of God on earth. Everything that happened was a direct result of the loss of that central ideal. </div> </div> |
| <div data-bbox="71 802 776 1058"> <div>Office of Evangelist</div> <div>QM 3-10</div> <div> <i>In Christ's church evangelists are to be revivalists, spiritual counselors, fathers to the church. Not being tied down with administrative duties they are free to carry their special kind of ministry wherever it's needed. Our evangelists preach the whole gospel of Christ...</i> </div> </div> | <div data-bbox="846 680 1550 865"> <div>Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy</div> <div>QM 4-3</div> <div> Acts 20, Paul said, "After my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." </div> </div> |
| <div data-bbox="71 1096 776 1696"> <div>Christ's Church: ...perfect in form and function to minister to the total needs of people...with the multiple and specialized ministry to do the job.</div> <div>QM 3-11</div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President and Prophet to represent Jesus Apostles and Seventies to direct the missionary work as special witnesses for Christ Bishops and deacons to take care of church business in temporal things High priests and elders to give pastoral leadership and administer the spiritual ordinances Priests to give family ministry in special counseling and administer the outward ordinances Evangelists and teachers to provide the ministry of reconciliation </div> </div> | <div data-bbox="846 911 1550 1201"> <div>Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy</div> <div>QM 4-4</div> <div> Thessalonians, "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." </div> </div> <div data-bbox="846 1251 1550 1579"> <div>Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy</div> <div>QM 4-5</div> <div> Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." </div> </div> <div data-bbox="846 1629 1550 1843"> <div>Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy</div> <div>QM 4-6</div> <div> Revelation, <i>In the first instance, the church was represented as a woman clothed in light and purity and persecuted by a great red dragon. And certainly the early Christians were persecuted and martyred by pagan Rome.</i> </div> </div> |
| <div data-bbox="71 1730 440 1797"> <div>Restoration vs. Reformation:</div> <div>QM 4-1</div> </div> <div data-bbox="71 1801 727 1978"> <div> According to research the early church was faithful to Christ's teachings during the period of persecution by the Roman emperors. It was only after they converted emperor Constantine and the Romans took over that the apostasy started. </div> </div> | <div data-bbox="902 1919 1409 1957"> <div>On page 3 is the bottom half of QM 4-6</div> </div> |

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| <p><i>In the second vision the apostate church was represented by a woman dressed in purple and scarlet and jewels, riding on the dragon, and ‘the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her.’ This church was to become the persecutor, instead of the persecuted. ‘And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.’</i></p> | <p>Promise—Cherished by Latter Day Saints</p> <p>‘Behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder...’</p> <p>God was to restore Christ’s church to earth.</p> |
| <p>Protestant Churches are <u>Reformed</u> Catholic QM 4-7 churches, not a restoration of Christ’s original church.</p> <p>Martin Luther, 1500’s, protests began</p> <p>John Wesley said ‘latter-day glory would come when God would arise to maintain His own cause and set up His own kingdom.’</p> <p>Charles Wesley wrote a hymn asking God to choose ‘new apostles’</p> <p>Alexander Campbell, founder of the ‘Christian’ Church in America: the practical results of all creeds, reformations, and improvement warrant ‘the conclusion that either some new revelation or some new development of the revelation of God must be made, before the hopes and expectations of all true Christians can be realized. We want the old gospel back and sustained by the ancient order of things.</p> <p>Roger Williams, ‘the apostasy of anti-christ hath so far corrupted all, that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy till Christ shall send forth new apostles to plant churches anew.’</p> | <p>Revelation: John said, ‘And I saw QM 4-10 another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, and...’</p> <p>James 1:5, ‘If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.’</p> <p>Joseph Smith, Jr. (1820) Two personages appeared and one of them spoke, pointing to the other one, ‘This is my beloved Son; hear him.’</p> |
| <p>Prophets foretell a restoration of the gospel, QM 4-8 not merely a reformation:</p> <p>Daniel 2: ‘Men’ could not restore Christ’s church...or the kingdom...it had to come from God.</p> <p>Isaiah 29: Jews return to homeland and it would become a fruitful country again, and, a sealed book would come out of the dust. ‘Thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground...and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust...for the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes; the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.’</p> | <p>Joseph Smith, Jr. QM 4-11 1823: Visited by an angel four times 1827: Metal plates and Urim and Thummim given 1829: Angelic messenger ordains—restoring authority to represent Christ which had been lost in the apostasy. April 6, 1830: Church of Jesus Christ organized by the power and authority of God and according to the pattern shown in the New Testament.</p> <p>No other events in history qualify to fulfill those prophecies!</p> |
| <p>“This people draw near me with their mouth, QM 4-9 and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.’</p> | <div>Book of Mormon Geography & Peoples</div> <p>QM 5-1 <u>Genesis 49</u>: ‘Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall.’ These blessings would prevail ‘above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.’</p> <p><u>Joshua 17</u>: <i>Joseph’s sons were to possess a certain land, Ephraim to the south and Manasseh to the north, and ‘the sea is his border.</i></p> |
| <p>Top of page 3 ↗ is the bottom half of QM 4-9</p> | <p>3</p> |

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| <p>The American continents: QM 5-2</p> <p><u>Isaiah 16:8</u> ...they are gone over the sea...</p> <p><u>Jeremiah 48:32</u> ...are gone over the sea...</p> <p><u>Ezekiel 17:(12, 22)</u> ...a choice land...</p> <p><u>Deuteronomy 33:13</u> Joseph ‘shall push the people together to the ends of the earth...a mountain high and eminent—blessed of the Lord be his land...’</p> <p><u>Jeremiah 49:31</u> ‘Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone.’</p> <p><u>Isaiah 18</u> ‘...land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.’</p> | <p>Quetzalcoatl QM 5-5</p> <p>‘his father created the world’ –Lord Kingsborough</p> <p>‘expected to return at some time’ –Dr. D.G. Brinton</p> <p>‘keep peace with all’ –W.H. Prescott</p> <p>‘the cross as a symbol’ –Lewis Spence</p> <p><i>Who else could the white and bearded God have been, except Jesus Christ who had told his disciples in Jerusalem that he had other sheep not of that fold and he must visit them, too. If not Christ, then who?</i></p> |
| <p>References: (evidence of Book of Mormon) QM 5-3</p> <p><i>Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan</i>, by John Lloyd Stephens.</p> <p><i>Ancient America</i>, by Baldwin</p> <p><i>The Lost Empire of the Itzas and Mayas</i>, by Theodore A. Willard</p> <p><i>Ancient America and the Book of Mormon</i>, by Hunter and Ferguson</p> <p><i>Antiquities of Mexico</i>, by Lord Kingsborough</p> <p><i>Relacion de las Cosas de Yucatan</i>, by Diego de Landa</p> <p><i>Maya Society</i>, by William Gates</p> <p><i>Myths of Mexico and Peru</i>, Lewis Spence</p> <p><i>Myths of the New World</i>, by Daniel Brinton</p> | <p><i>The Bible prophesied that some of the tribe of Joseph would go over the sea to the land shadowing with wings. Some archaeologists agree that the early Americans could have come from the middle eastern countries. Christ said he was going to visit his other sheep, and then archaeology shows us the white god, Quetzalcoatl, with the star, cross, darkness, and all the legends which fit right into the story as the Book of Mormon records it.</i> QM 5-6</p> |
| <p>It is exciting for people who accepted the Book of Mormon on faith to find their faith vindicated by external evidence. QM 5-4</p> <p><u>John 2:23</u> Christ in America!</p> <p>‘And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.’</p> <p><i>We believe that Christ, after his ascension, did visit America. And the Book of Mormon gives the account of that visit.</i></p> | <p><i>The Bible foretold that there would be a restoration of God’s church, told how it would come and when it would come. These things have been fulfilled in history. The Book of Mormon is the final witness to prove that we are the rightful church restored in the last days...it is the book out of the dust, substantiated by the Bible, by history, and the findings of archaeology. No other church makes any of those claims. We make them all.</i> QM 5-7</p> |
| | <p><u>Ezekiel 37</u> ‘take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions; and join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.’ QM 1-3</p> <p><i>In biblical days they wrote on a scroll of paper rolled around a stick. Stick of Judah—the Bible; Stick of Joseph—the Book of Mormon. God tells us that we should use them together and they will become one in our hand.</i></p> |

Alma, ‘Faith, is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith, ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.’

2 Nephi, ‘If the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water.’

Even the Catholic fathers admit that baptism by immersion was universal for hundreds of years, until they changed it to sprinkling for the sake of convenience.

3 Nephi 5:23-26 (Christ speaking to the Nephites when he visited them in America), ‘And he said unto them, On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them: Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.’

QM 6-2

Baptism is more than a symbol! Christ made it a condition of our salvation. We must accept him, repent of our sins, and then be baptized by the water and the Spirit. He has made that plain in many places in the New Testament. I think, to be on the safe side, we had better know how to be baptized and not leave it to chance and convenience.

QM 6-3

Moroni 10, ‘...And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things. And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true; wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that he is. And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, I would exhort you, that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and forever.’

The Doctrine and Covenants does for time what the Bible and the Book of Mormon do for place. Those ancient Scriptures show God as a universal God working with all people throughout the world. The Doctrine and Covenants shows God as an active God who continues to work with people in the present day.

The really important functions of prophecy are to reveal and interpret God to his people, to reveal his will and doctrines to us, to correct and reprove us when we need it, and to testify of the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants—all of these books strengthen and amplify and witness for each other.

Zion – Christ Lives Now!

QM 7-2

The Doctrine and Covenants is supposed to be our blueprint for building Zion.

‘After the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him, that he lives.’

The simplest and most eloquent testimony in Christendom...Christ lives! That’s what the Doctrine and Covenants means...that Christ lives now. He lives and leads his church as he did of old, openly, dynamically, personally. That is the heart of the Restoration. Back of the doctrines, the books, and the priesthood, stands the living Christ.

Paradise: the place where the spirits of the **righteous** people who accept Christ will reside waiting for the resurrection and final judgment.

Heaven: the place in which immortal man will live after his resurrection and the final judgment.

Revelation 2:7 & II Corinthians 12:4,
‘Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.’

Paradise is the temporary residence of the spirits of the righteous until the day of final judgment. Heaven is the permanent residence of the righteous after the final judgment when the spirit and the body are reunited after the resurrection. For the ‘spirit and the body are the soul of man.’

Final Judgment: everybody will be assigned QM 8-2
their proper place and reward in the hereafter

Hell: opposite of paradise, a temporary place, where the spirits of **those who have not accepted Christ or have not lived up to high standards of righteousness** will reside until the final judgment.

Lake of Fire: opposite of heaven, an everlasting place of punishment—this is the second death.

Revelation 20:13-14, ‘And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.’

OPPOSITES

QM 8-3

Paradise: a place of rest for the spirits of **righteous**—they will be able to go on learning about God, gaining greater understanding than they had on earth.

Hell: a place of rehabilitation of **sinners**—and the teaching of those who had no opportunity to learn of Christianity during their lives on earth.

QM 8-4

1 Peter 3:18-20: [Christ teaches in prison house]

Isaiah 24:21-22, ‘prisoners gathered in the pit shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited’

Isaiah 42:6-7, ‘open the blind eyes and bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.’

1 Peter, ‘...Being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit, Jesus went and preached unto the spirits in prison.’

Unforgiveable sin:

QM 8-5

Blasphemers against the Holy Ghost will not be forgiven.

That means those who have known God and Christ, have accepted them, and then denied them and worked against them...just as Lucifer and the angels did when they rebelled against God in heaven.

Revelation 20:15, ‘And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire’ along with death and hell when they are destroyed on the day of final judgment.

Paradise: Varying degrees of goodness

QM 8-6

Hell: Varying degrees of badness

When they finally know the whole gospel story, when they are capable of making a choice, they will be called upon to do so.

*Those who still choose evil, in spite of their knowledge of Christ, will become blasphemers who will be cast into the **lake of fire**.*

*Those who choose Christ will be fit to go to **heaven**.*

Salvation and eternal life are gifts to us

QM 8-7

by the grace of God. Our works don’t save us. But what we do with those gifts, how we use them, will determine what is accomplished.

Good works are essential for entrance into God’s presence. The degree of understanding and obedience that we have for God’s laws in this life rewards us now in present happiness and satisfaction, and they will reward us similarly in the afterlife, too.

Three Degrees of Glory in Heaven

Celestial (sun glory),
Terrestrial (moon glory),
Telestial (star glory)

QM 9-1

II Corinthians 12:2, 'I knew a man in Christ...such an one caught up to the third heaven.'

I Corinthians 15:41-42, 'There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.'

D&C 76, *modern day revelation*

Celestial Kingdom (sun)

QM 9-2

D&C 76, 'They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name, and were baptized after the manner of his burial...that...they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands of him who is ordained...unto that power; and who overcome by faith, and are sealed by that Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father shed forth upon all those who are just and true; ...they are they...who have received of his fullness, and of his glory...these shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ for ever and ever.'

Terrestrial Kingdom (moon)

QM 9-3

D&C 76, 'The people whose works entitle them to this reward are to receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fullness of the Father. In this kingdom will be those who died without law; and also they who are spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it; these are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men; these are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore they obtained not the crown over the kingdom of our God.'

Telestial Kingdom (stars)

QM 9-4

These are they who deny not the Holy Spirit...these are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie. They are the people who on earth professed to follow great religious leaders but who didn't really receive the fullness of the gospel and live up to it. Perhaps they are the ones Christ meant when he said, 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter in the kingdom of heaven [celestial kingdom]...many will say to me...Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? ...and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.' D&C 76, 'These all shall bow the knee, and every tongue shall confess to him who sits upon the throne...for they shall be judged according to their works; and every man shall receive according to his own works...and they shall be servants of the Most High, but where God and Christ dwell they can not come.'

Restoration Beliefs: Stewardship, Agency & Zion

See *Zion's Path* summary page

QM 10-1

D&C 6, 'seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.'

D&C 64, 'Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her, and she shall be an ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven.'

Matthew 6:33, 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.'

Matthew, 'Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Matthew, 'The field is the world; and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.'

QM 10-2

'If a man love me, he will keep my words...A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples...I give unto you to be the salt of the earth...I give unto you to be the light of the world, a city set on a hill...Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel.'

Alma, 'If you have no more than a desire to believe, then let this desire work in you.'

PLAN OF SALVATION—Mission of Jesus Christ

C@E 8-8

John 14:3 (Christ) “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Matthew 13:41 “The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Luke 11:21-22: “When a strong man armed keepeth his palace (*Satan’s hell/pit*), his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he (*Christ*) shall come upon him, and overcome him, He taketh from him all his armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.”

1 John 3:8: “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil.”

James 1:15: *Sin will cause Death* C@E 8-9

Hebrews 2:14: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil.”

1 Corinthians 15:22: *Christ will make all men alive!*

2 Timothy 2:26: *Those that do not accept the teachings of Christ are taken captive by Satan.*

Psalms 9:17 and 55:15: *Captives of Satan are taken down to hell.*

Isaiah 5:14: “Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure.”

1 Timothy 4:10: “For therefore we C@E 8-10
both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe.”

Zechariah 9:11: “As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit, wherein is no water.”

Isaiah 61:1: “He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”

Isaiah 49:9: “That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, show yourselves.”

Isaiah 42:7: “To open the blind eyes, C@E 8-11
to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

Ezekiel: “...the strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of hell, with them that help him.”

Psalms 24:7-8: “Lift up your heads, O ye gates: and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in.”

Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Isaiah: Speaks of Him as the mighty to save!

Ephesians 4:9: *He also descended C@E 8-12
first into the lower parts of the earth.*

Paul tells us that “he led captivity captive.”

1 Peter 4:6: “For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead.”

He that liveth and was dead, but is alive forevermore, and has the keys of death and hell, will open the prison house and say to the prisoners, ‘Go forth.’ Truly it was a mission worthy of the Son of God.

...so that is the mission of Christ, and I have dared to speak lightly of it; dared to criticize it; dared to call it a failure; dared to laugh at religion. My God! Can He ever forgive me? Go tell that message to the world. Lord, how they need it! How we all need it!

...We have gone with hardness in our hearts against God and Christ, because we thought they were trying to damn humanity instead of save them. God in heaven! How could we ever have been so blind?

...You did not criticize Christ's work. You only criticized what you thought was Christ's work; what the religious world told you was Christ's work.

...the Bible has all the puzzle pieces if we will only put them together right.

HOW DO WE BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD?

What must I do to be saved?

1. Belief or 'faith' in Christ

C@E 6-4

Paul: "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord."

Acts 16:31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Romans 5:1: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. Repent (and be baptized)

C@E 6-5

Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 17:30: "And...God...now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

3. Baptism, (by water)

C@E 6-6

Mark 16:16: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

Revelation 22:19: "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Deuteronomy 12:32: "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."

Acts 10:48: "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."

Matthew 3:11: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me...He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

John 3:5: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Matthew 3:16: "And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water."

Acts 8:38-39: "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip."

Romans 6:4-5: "Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also shall walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection."

Mark 1:4: "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

Acts 22:16: "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

3. Baptism, (by the Holy Spirit) C@E 6-7

Acts 8:17: “Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 19:6: “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them.”

1 Timothy 4:14, *laying on of hands was practiced not only by the apostles, but by the presbytery of the church.*

Acts 9, *Ananias, not an apostle, used the ordinance of the laying on of hands.*

There is so little of the gift of the Holy Ghost manifest in the world—perhaps the law was forsaken—the law of Christ should be here today.

“Spirit” Characteristics: C@E 6-8

- Baptism of Spirit:
 - given to children of God, those who have named his name—the abiding Comforter
- Holy Spirit:
 - given to bear witness and lead men to Christ
- Spirit of God:
 - lights every man who comes into the world
- Fruit of the Spirit: found in Galations 5

1. Bear Witness of Christ

John 15:26: “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me.”

Acts 5:32: “And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him.”

2. Guide Into All Truth
3. Show Things to Come

John 16:13: “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: ...and He will show you things to come.”

4. Witness that we are the children of God.

Romans 8:14-16: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God...The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

C@E 11-1
...as God is unchangeable, His spirit, if given today, would bestow the same gifts and have the same results as when Christ was here...

1 Corinthians 4: “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 4:7-10: “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith...to another the gifts of healing...to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues...It is the selfsame Spirit which divides to every man severally as He will.”

Mark 16:17-18: “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

Hebrews 6:1: “Therefore leaving the principles [fundamental law or truth—that from which other laws or truths are derived] of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation [principles] of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.”

Belief in Christ means more than just a belief that Christ was the Son of God. True belief in Him means a belief in and acceptance of the principles He advocated, a compliance with His plan of redemption. Anything short of this is not a belief. Consequently those who only half believe are not entitled to that promise.

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD
Christ will Restore Life

C@E 8-14

Luke 16:22: “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried.”

2 Corinthians 12:4: “How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”

Luke 23:43: “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

Revelation 20:5-6: “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power.”

The resurrection of the righteous or the just will take place when Christ comes, but the wicked must yet remain in the bands of death until the thousand years are ended.

The death brought into the world by Satan was two-fold:

C@E 8-15

*Physical: separation of the spirit from the body
Spiritual: separation from God*

Christ’s mission was to overcome the works of Satan. Not only did he overcome the spiritual death and return to His Father, but He overcame the physical death as well and appeared among men with spirit and body reunited. It was in this complete form He returned to God.

Ezekiel 37:12-13: “Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.” C@E 8-16

Daniel 12:2: “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Job 19:23-27: “Oh that my words were not written! Oh that they were printed in a book! For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”

Isaiah 26:19: “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”

1 Corinthians 15:35-38: “But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed His own body.”

1 Corinthians 15:40: “There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial.” C@E 9-5

2 Chronicles 6:18 & 1 Kings 8:27, the ‘heaven of heavens’ the highest heaven, the dwelling place of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Job 33:25: “His flesh shall be fresher than a child’s: he shall return to the days of his youth.”

The Bible, as you have made it appear to us, holds out comfort and correction for every wrong condition in life.

We are evidently living in the evening time of the earth: that time when the earth waxes old as a garment.

Paul said: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”

Jeremiah 23:19-20: “Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the Lord shall not return, until He have executed, and till He have performed the thoughts of His heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

Luke 21:25-26 (Christ): *He says that in the generation in which the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled*, “there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”

Joel 1:4, 10, 11, 15: “That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.... The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.... alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.”

Christ speaking of the time says: “Nation shall rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginnings of sorrow.”

But we have learned in our study that these are not the works of God. His it was to give life and beauty; it has remained for the Devil and for man to bring death and destruction. It remains for Christ to bring about a restoration of true life.

Joel 2:21, 22, 25: “Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.... And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.”

Isaiah 11:6-9: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.”

Christ said: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

Acts 1:11: “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.”

Luke 21:27: “And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud, with power and great glory.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

Psalms 72:7-8: “In His days shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.”

Revelation 20:1-3: “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

Revelation 21:2-3: C@E 10-4
“I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, ...and I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them.”

There have been a lot of people on this earth since the beginning. This earth, even as it is today, will support a great many more people than are on it, if the proper distribution were made. Also two-thirds of the earth’s surface is now taken up with seas and oceans. John tells us that on the new earth there will be no seas. My faith in God is sufficient to believe that if it were necessary, He could and would make the new earth large enough to meet the demand.

SPENDING ETERNITY ON EARTH

When I learned this world was to be our dwelling place in eternity, I was disappointed. Yet that is what the Bible teaches, and it is what we must believe if we believe it to be the word of God.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD— C@E 10-5
THE CHURCH WHICH CHRIST ESTABLISHED
WHILE HERE ON EARTH

Luke 9:2: “And He sent them to preach the kingdom of God.”

Luke 16:16: “Since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.”

1 Corinthians 12:13: “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.”

1 Peter 2:5: “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house.”

1 Corinthians 3:9: “Ye are God’s building.”

FOUNDATION AND CORNERSTONE C@E 3-12

1 Peter 2:6: “Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.”

Ephesians 2:19-22: “Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

PRIESTHOOD C@E 3-13

1 Corinthians 12:28: “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”

Ephesians 4:11: “And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.”

1 Timothy 3:2: “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach.”

1 Timothy 3:8: “Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre.”

Titus 1:5: “elders”

Hebrews 5:1: “high priest”

Luke 10:1: “seventies”

Apostle James: *the body without the spirit is dead, and Christ’s church as he left it here was not dead.*

Paul asserts that “our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.”

When Christ left His church here it was more than a dead form. He gave unto them the Holy Spirit to be an 'abiding Comforter' in His church and kingdom, so that whenever the church of Christ is truly operating on the earth, there will be found 'abiding' the Holy Spirit to give power and light. Christ gave that gift to His church, and wherever that church operates you will find there Christ working with them through His Spirit.

Then baptism is the door by which we may enter His church (body) and kingdom. We learned from our study that faith, repentance, and baptism of the water (by burial or immersion) and of the Spirit (through the laying on of hands) were the first principles of the doctrine of Christ. So they must also be builded into His building."

In this manner, Christ himself designates the powers of the Spirit which was placed in His church. This is the church of Christ, as I find it taught in the Scriptures.

Matthew 16:18: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Revelation 17:6: "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."

C@E 4-14

Changed in form and dress, she no longer walked with Christ dressed in linen clean and white, but partook of the favors of Rome and doled out her sins and her darkness to the kings of the earth. Riches decked her, but not the grace of the Spirit of God. The time had come when the 'man of sin' exalted himself above 'all that is called God' and sat in what the world considered to be the 'temple of God.' So the church was dead. It no longer sent out its message of salvation. In the words of Isaiah, 'The Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep...the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.' The earth had entered its midnight of darkness.

WHAT BECAME OF THE CHURCH? APOSTASY (THE FALLING AWAY)

C@E 4-12

2 Timothy 4:3: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears."

Revelation 12:1: "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars."

Twelve stars: a quorum of twelve apostles who had the oversight of the church. As long as these remained the church retained her power; she kept her magnificent robe, described as the sun.

Revelation 12:2-3: "And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pain to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads."

Revelation 20:2: "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. A great red dragon, having seven heads."

Revelation 17:9: *the seven heads are seven mountains—seven hills upon which Rome was built?*

Daniel 7:3: *in his vision are four beasts coming up from the sea*

Daniel 7:23: "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."

1st beast or kingdom: Babylonish kingdom

2nd beast or kingdom: Medes and Persians

3rd beast or kingdom: Greek kingdom under Alexander the Great

4th beast or kingdom: Rome—the beast with the seven heads—mountains—and ten horns [kings].

Revelation 12: *when the child was born, it was caught away and taken back to the throne of God. Thus it was that the kingdom of God was lost from the earth. Christ was no longer with the church by the power of His Spirit. [The woman fled into the wilderness.]*

C@E 4-13

Revelation 12: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which kept the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Daniel 7:8, 21: “I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints and prevailed against them.”

Revelation 13:7: “And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.”

Isaiah 24:5: “They have transgressed the laws, changed the plans, and broken the covenant.”

Revelation 13:7: “Therefore does the enemy overcome them.”

Daniel 7:25: “and wear them out, and my mighty army is destroyed. Only a few are left and the enemy shall greatly make war with them. They are now given into his hands until they have learned that their own strength and wisdom are unavailing. Then you may go again with a message, and among the few who will hear you, will we organize again my army and destroy utterly the enemy until he shall be heard of no more. Rest here in peace until the time shall be fulfilled.”

Revelation 17:3-4: “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.”

THE PREPARATION OF THE LORD FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HIS TRUTH

C@E 5-8

Matthew 21:42: “They say unto them, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render Him the fruits in their seasons.”

...the rejection of the Jews as a nation and the gospel being given to the Gentiles...

Luke 21:24: “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

The gospel of the Lord was given into the hands of the Israelites, not for their good alone, but that they might be husbandmen to the entire vineyard, the world. It was not the plan of God that only those known as the ‘chosen people’ should be saved, but rather, that they might be instruments in His hands in bringing salvation to the entire world. This they failed to do, although the Lord labored with them long and faithfully. At last He declared in desperation, I will let the vineyard out to other ‘husbandmen.’

Jeremiah 11:16-17: “The Lord called thy name, a green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.”

Romans 11:17: *the apostle is speaking to those other husbandmen, the Gentiles, to whom the vineyard was given.* “And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; ...”

The Lord had brought the hosts of Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand. He had settled them in the land of Canaan and there undertook to educate them into usefulness for His work. When we read the history, we are appalled at their failure to absorb His teachings. As time went on, they rebelled against His form of government and demanded a king. Three kings ruled over the twelve tribes, Saul, David, and Solomon. After Solomon’s death, civil war broke out and the kingdom was divided. Approximately ten tribes formed into the northern kingdom, the kingdom of Israel, while the others became the kingdom of Judah, or the Jewish people.

As time went on and the people forgot God, the Assyrians took the kingdom of Israel, and carried them captive into Assyria. Thus was brought about the loss of the ten tribes, for from that time on their whereabouts were unknown to the world. Later when the people of Judah became so wicked that the Lord no longer protected them, the king of Babylon took Jerusalem, and the Jews entered into their famous seventy years of captivity.

Ezekiel 17:3: “And say, Thus saith the Lord God: A great eagle with great wings, long winged, full of feathers, which had divers colors, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar.”

That is the Lord's way of telling us of the carrying away captive the nation of Israel into Assyria.

Ezekiel 17: 7-12: “There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers. ...say now to the rebellion house, Know ye not what these things mean? Tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon.”

Verse 16: the Lord tells the king that he shall die in the land of Babylon, that the topmost branches, the kings, princes, and nobles, shall there in captivity consider the trespasses which they have trespassed against Him. Thus the Lord faced once more the evidence of man's unwillingness to serve Him. Had it been man's doings they would have given up in despair and said, 'It is of no use.'

Psalm 95:10: *God grieved for His people and did what He could to save the truth resident with them. For although first Israel, the ten tribes of the chosen people, and later Judah, the other two tribes, were broken down because of transgression, and carried by the two great kings captive into heathen lands, yet the Lord did that which thwarted the designs of the eagle.*

Ezekiel 17:22: “Thus saith the Lord God; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent.”

King Zedekiah is the one referred to there in the phrase, 'I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one.' The hand of the Lord was over this tender one, and the Lord would not permit that he should fall into the clutches of the eagle. He tells us rather that he will remove him and establish him upon a high mountain and eminent.

The term 'mountain(s)' in the Bible is used in three ways other than literal:

Ezekiel 36:1, to designate special lands

Amos 6:1, to designate special nations

Ezekiel 6:2, to designate peoples forming a nation

...so this mountain high and eminent is a wonderful land, a strong nation, or a mighty people.

Ezekiel 6:23: “In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it; and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar.”

1. This twig of the Lord's planting should grow into a goodly nation.

2. The land, or mountain, in which they should grow is of the height of Israel.

This is very significant.

Psalm 68:16: *the reason for the height of the mountain of Israel is because 'this is the hill which God desireth to dwell in.' Now if the eminence of Israel is because it is a choice land and choice people unto the Lord, then the eminence of this other land or mountain would be for the same reason, for we are told they are equal in 'height.'*

Isaiah 65:8-9: “Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sake, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains.”

It has taught us that the Lord has indeed more mountains than one, and that the seed of Jacob and of Judah shall inherit them.

We know that the land of Canaan was supposed to be a choice land, and the Israelites a chosen people, but what other land is a choice land?

Zephaniah 3:10: “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.”

Isaiah 18:2: ‘traveling by vessels on the sea’ in order to communicate with the land and people of the prophet.

Use a globe of the world: By the power of the Spirit of God, the prophet looked out beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, which lay here in northern Africa, across the sea over which the vessels would come, and saw in vision the land shadowing with wings. The globe is turned slightly and there, stretched out like the shadows cast by two great wings, lay the lands of America, the great Western Hemisphere.

America was not yet discovered by man, but the great God of the universe knew of that land. He could hardly be expected to overlook the richest, finest land in the whole world. It was not undiscovered by Him! ...a ‘mountain’ equal in height to ‘Israel.’

Deuteronomy 33:13: “And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath.”

Genesis 49:26: “The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they can be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.”

Deuteronomy 33:17: “His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth.”

Psalms 80:8: tells us that the Lord brought a vine out of Egypt and cast out the heathen and planted it. So Israel is the vine referred to, the people of God.

The great eagle came against it. The lords of the heathen broke down the principal plants. Because they would not hearken unto His word that He might protect them; the Lord wept.

Numbers 21:26: *Heshbon was the city of Sihon, the king of the Amorites.*

Jeremiah 48:45: “...they that fled stood under the shadow of Heshbon.”

Numbers 32 and 33: *we learn of the dividing of Heshbon and its provinces among the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh. Manasseh was Joseph’s son, his firstborn.*

Joshua 13:25: *their coast was Jazer—equivalent to saying they came to the coast; they went over the sea.*

Jeremiah 49:30-31: “Flee, get you far off, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazer, saith the Lord; for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you. Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone.”

Hazor was the head of many kingdoms. King Jabin of Hazor ruled over Madon, Shimron, and Achshaph, but more important, he ruled over the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, and the Hivites under Herman in the land of Mizpah. When these people were conquered and driven out by the children of Israel, southern Hazor was given to the tribe of Judah, and Hazor of the south became a city of Judah.

Isaiah 65:8-9: “Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants’ sake, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of My mountains: and Mine elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there.”

A study of the Bible will show that Joseph was given Reuben’s birthright, and that thus Joseph became Jacob’s firstborn, his successor. In this light the passage suggests that out of Joseph and out of Judah will the inheritor be brought forth. It is evident that the Lord was leading two peoples to this land.

1 Chronicles 9:3: the children of Benjamin, Judah, Ephraim, and Manasseh dwelt in Jerusalem.

So it may have been any of this mixture which the Lord led out. But we can trace Manasseh through the prophecies regarding Heshbon and Judah through the seed of the king and by Hazor. This is the Lord's doings and it is marvelous in our eyes. The knowledge of God and the inspiration of God were with these people. The Lord led away these branches in the day of the work of the greatest prophets the world has ever known. Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel were three of the many prophets of that day. So the inspiration of God was with them.

So the Lord said, 'Flee, get thee far off, dwell deep' (secretly). He wanted them to get 'far off' to the rich land, where they could dwell safely, where there were no surrounding warlike kings to harass them, where they would need no walls around their cities (neither gates nor bars), where they would be isolated from the rest of the world (dwell alone).

The Lord led them here, that, shut away from the knowledge of the rest of the world, He might preserve His truth and bring it triumphant through the period of darkness. There's only one place that will answer that description—'the land shadowing with wings.' [America]

...the time when the Lord shall rise to maintain His own cause; when He shall call together the few who are willing to receive His commandments, and shall again go against the enemy to battle; when there shall no more be a famine of the hearing the word of the Lord, but when the Lord shall again speak and direct His work as in the days of old; the evening time when it shall be light.

He shall call His church out of the wilderness. That gospel, the word of God, in the times of the restitution of all things shall be preached once more in the world, and thus the entrance of His word shall dispel the gloom, and at evening time it shall be light.

A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER

The coming of the church out of the wilderness.

Church of Christ established.

Daniel 7:21, *Besieged of the Devil, the dragon, and prevailed against.*

Revelation 12, *Church lost in the wilderness.*

Daniel 12:7, *power of the holy people scattered*
Isaiah 60:2, *the Lord in looking forward to it spoke of it as a time when 'darkness should cover the earth, and gross darkness the people.'*

Zechariah 14:7, *yet the Lord gives us the encouragement that 'at evening time it shall be light.'*

Psalm 119:130: "The entrance of thy words giveth light."

Psalm 105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Amos 8:11: *the Lord will send a famine in the land; not a famine of bread, but of hearing the word of the Lord.*

Isaiah 29:10: "For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered."

Isaiah 58:8: "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning."

Isaiah 29:14: "Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

Habakkuk 1:5: "Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you."

Ephesians 1:10: "...that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ."

Acts 3:21: "...until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

Isaiah 49:22, *in that day when Israel shall be gathered, the Lord will set up a standard to the people.*

Isaiah 18: 3, *that in the sight of the inhabitants of all the earth He is going to set up an ensign in the mountains.*

Daniel 2:44: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed.”

We shall remember that the gospel of Christ is the ensign of salvation, and that His church and His kingdom are synonymous. So we see that the prophets were looking down to that time when His gospel should again be preached, when His church should again be established in the last days.

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

Throughout the Bible the kingdoms of the earth, its lands, and people, are spoken of as mountains and hills. Those people who served God and were His people are spoken of as mountains. Those not serving Him could not attain to the heights of those who did and are called hills. The Lord is giving us the encouragement to know that although the dragon prevailed for a time over His church and kingdom, yet the time would come, in the last days, when His church would be restored and established in the tops of the mountains and should be exalted above the nations of the world. From His choice lands should His message go.

Isaiah 18:3: “All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, se ye, when He lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when He bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.”

Christ said, ‘the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.’ Christ established his church [...] years ago on the mountain of Israel. From there it went to scattered Israel and the nations of the earth. In the last days when the mountains of the Lord’s house shall be established, when the ensign is raised, the trumpet blown, it shall not be first upon the mountain of Israel, but upon that other mountain equal in height, the land shadowing with wings, the great American Continent, Joseph’s land. From there Isaiah tells us shall the message go to Israel, and thus ‘the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.’

Matthew 24: “The gospel of Christ is the trumpet which the Lord is going to blow in the hearing of all the world.”

Daniel 2:31-35, 44: “Thou, O king, sawest, and, behold, a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom. It became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”

When the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established, in the last days, in the tops of the mountains, its beginning will seem small, just a little stone cut out of the mountain, yet it shall grow until it fills the whole earth. It shall be exalted above the hills.

Man had nothing to do with the setting up of the kingdom. Human hands were not the power which cut it out of the mountain. God was going to set up His own kingdom.

Revelation 14:6: “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”

Man will not study out, man will not plan the organization of the church of Christ in the last days. Christ himself will send an angel from heaven, commissioned to do that work. An angel shall restore that gospel which Christ said should be preached in all the world for a witness before the end is to come. The kingdom of God will once more be with men, and although the day preceding has been dark, yet ‘the light shall break forth as the morning.’ The land shadowing with wings shall send its message of salvation, and the famine for the word of the Lord shall be broken. ‘At evening time it shall be light’ the prophet said.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

God has once more established His kingdom. He has sent His angel to the earth with the everlasting gospel that in its simplicity and its fullness it might again be preached in the earth. He has organized again His church. He has taken command of His army, and the great dispensation of the restitution of all things has begun.

I have no apology for coming to you with the statement that God has spoken to the earth again. He said he would do it and has fulfilled his word. He has started his marvelous work and a wonder which, like the little stone cut out of the mountain, may in the beginning seem of little consequence, yet will end in the overflow of wickedness and in the breaking in pieces of man-made institutions and the gathering together in one all things in Christ.

His church is brought forth out of the wilderness, and as the head, the chief cornerstone, He directs and supports His work. He has restored the organization of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, bishops, deacons, elders, high priests. He is giving as He gave in days gone by, the gifts of the Spirit, prophecy, tongues interpretation of tongues, healings, miracles, faith, knowledge, wisdom, helps, governments. The church no longer walks in darkness, but is illuminated by the light and power of the Spirit. Christ has established His kingdom as the Bible said He would in the last days and we are living in His fullness of times.

Do you remember the people he had led away and planted on a mountain high and eminent? Do you remember that Christ said, ‘In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established’? That was the great plan of God. Hidden away from each other, the scattered people whom He had chosen to enlighten the world should make their records which would, when placed with the record of Judah (the Bible) in the great day of the world’s doubt, testify in unmistakable terms to the truthfulness of the gospel of Christ and the unimpeachability of the word of God.

Ezekiel 37:16, 19: “Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it [written records], For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions. Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.”

Psalms 85:11: “Truth shall spring out of the earth.”

Isaiah 29: "...add ye year to year..."

- *First ten verses cover a great stretch of the world's history.*
- *The Lord is showing his Prophet Isaiah the same vision of the future we have already considered from Zephaniah 2, the distress which was coming upon Jerusalem which would end in the great dispersion even beyond the rivers of Ethiopia. Yet the Lord said they should be brought down. Their speech should be low out of the dust.*
- *That times come in the history of the world when, Israel scattered and brought low, the Lord ceases for the first time to speak unto man. It is a significant fact that from the beginning until the Christian church went into apostasy somewhere between the third and the sixth centuries, the Lord always spoke to His people on earth.*
- *Isaiah, looking down through future generations, saw that time when the prophets and the seers were covered, that time when the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was closed.*
- *The prophet saw that time when Christ no longer added to the word the testimony of the spirit of prophecy. The gifts of the gospel were not given; the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony was closed.*
- *It was not until the angel had flown in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth that the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened and communication from heaven to earth was once more established.*

Isaiah 29:11: "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I can not; for it is sealed. And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned."

Isaiah 29:14, 18: "Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness."

Ezekiel 37:15, 19, the two choice lands were to give their testimony to the world. And they were both to come to us by the power of God. Although the powers of hell and the ignorance of men have waged war against it, this Bible has come to us, preserved marvelously through the ages. This record of Joseph has come to us in the same way, by the power of God, and they two were to become one in the hands of the Lord in the last days.

Isaiah 29: 17-18: "Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest? [a sign]"

Psalms 85:11-12: "Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the Lord shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase."

When men cannot see the way, then the Lord will bring to their aid the testimony of another witness. When, from beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, Joseph's land, should go forth the message, then it was that the stick of Joseph should be used in the hands of the Lord with the stick of Judah to dispel the darkness of the world, that we might know that God liveth.

Ezekiel 37, at the time the two records shall be in God's hand, Israel shall be gathered back and restored to their own land a united nation.

Ezekiel 39: 22, 26, 28, 29: "So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward...After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against Me...Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out My spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God."

Revelation 17:14: “In the time of restitution of all things, these shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

The last triumphant picture we have of the church is this: ‘And to her it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready.’

The majority of the Christians don’t want God to speak now. They want Him to keep silent and speak to them only from the past, when we should be praying for Him to tell us where the trouble lies—to tell us how we can be united again!

...custodians of that gospel which John saw the angel bring.

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| Hearts have waxed hard | SELF-SERVING adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness | LOVE that draws people to the Kingdom |
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