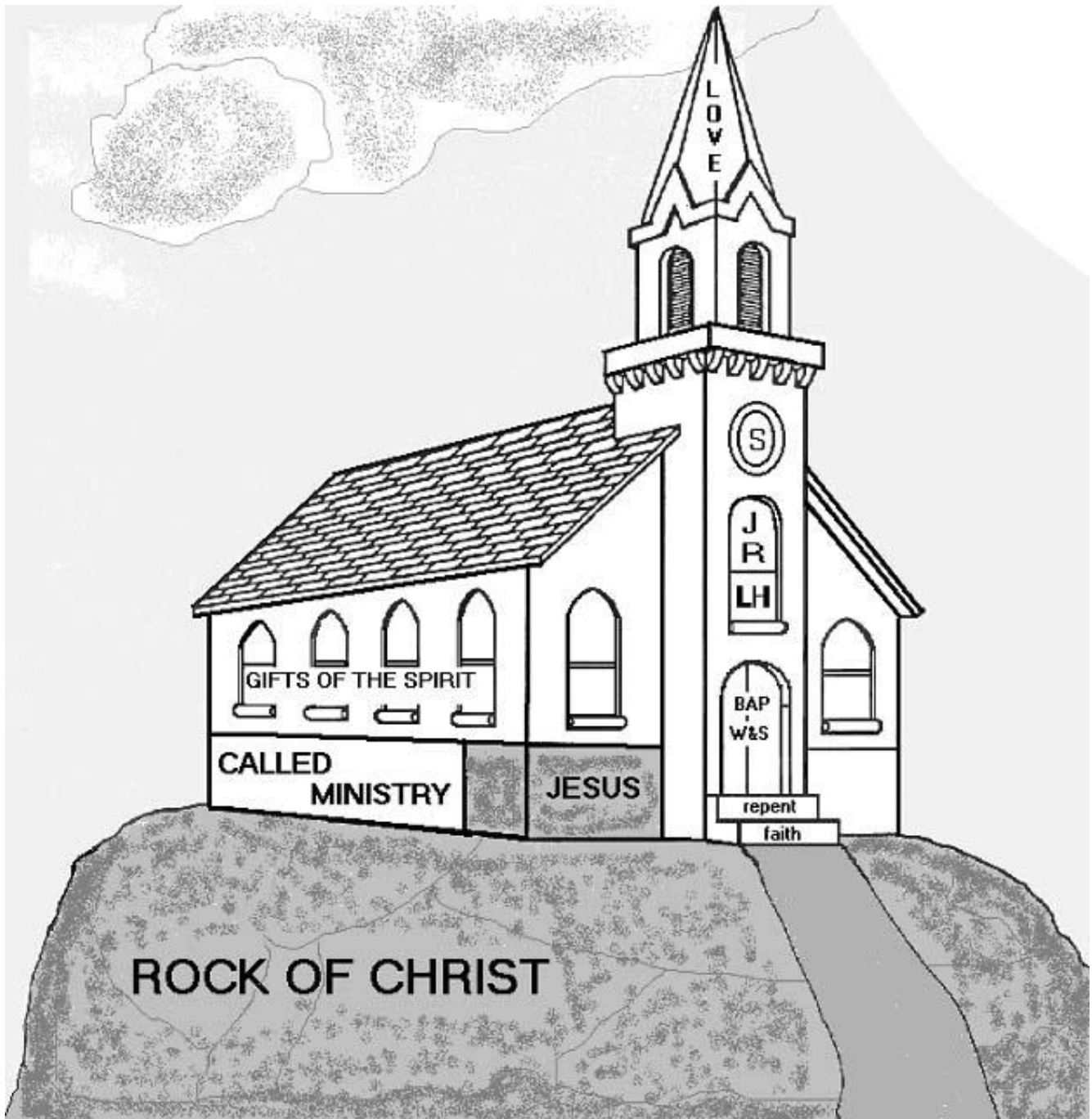


“I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH”



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Restored on April 6, 1830
headquarters
on the temple lot
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

I. God Is Unchangeable, His Works Are Perfect.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. [Heb 13:8]

Isaiah 55:8,9; Psalms 147:5; Deuteronomy 32:4; James 1:17; Ecclesiastes 3:14,15; Malachi 3:6; 1 Nephi 3:26-32

II. The New Testament Church

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. [John 8:12] (3 Nephi 5:11-12)

Jesus is our advocate with the Father. [1John 2:1] He is the author and finisher of the faith. [Hebrews 12:2] He is the central theme of the Bible and the Book of Mormon. [Luke 24:27; John 5:39; Jacob 5:19; Ether 5:41; 2 Nephi 11:48; 2 Nephi 15:10]

Jesus Christ taught a **doctrine**, “Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” [John 7:16-17] (See also Matt 7:28; 22:33; Mark 1:22; 11:18; Luke 4:32; Acts 2:42; Eph 4:14; 2 Nephi 13:32; 14:7)

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**” [Mat 4:17] Jesus desires that we all come to him and repent. He has a kingdom and he brought it into being. “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.” [Luke 16:16] We know that in Jesus’ day people began to enter into the kingdom. “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.” [Mat 23:13]

Jesus announced, “I will build my church.” [Matthew 16:18] **Jesus the Christ is the ROCK upon which that church is built.** The Bible boldly states over and over that God is the Rock. [Deut 32:4; 2 Sam 22:32] The New Testament clearly proclaims, “that Rock was Christ.” [1 Cor 10:4]

The Church of Christ was built according to the commandments and the example of Jesus. What is the doctrine of Christ? What did the church built by Christ look like? How are his ministry chosen? The church should look the same today as it did when He built it.

III. Foundation Of The Church Built On The Rock

It was established on the Rock of Christ and he is the **Corner Stone** of the building. “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” [Eph 2:19-22] see also 1 Peter 2:6.

Jesus further says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. [John 14:6] “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” [John 6:63] **The church measures what it does based on what Jesus did and what he said.** “Verily, verily I say unto you, This is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do, that shall ye also do.” [3 Ne 12:34]

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps. [1 Pet 2:21]

IV. The Ministry In Christ’s Church Include

APOSTLES, EVANGELISTS, ELDERS (PASTORS), PRIESTS AND TEACHERS.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. [Eph 4:11-13]

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. [1 Cor 12:28]

(See also: 1 Tim 3:1-8; Phil 1:1; Titus 1:5-7; Luke 10:1; Acts 14:23; 20:17; 1 Pet 5:1; Moroni 3:2)

The building must be the same:

1. God put (set) ministers in his church.
2. They are to remain there until *we all come in the unity of the faith*.
3. We are not perfected in the faith yet, therefore God's purpose is not fulfilled and they must remain in the church until His purposes are completed.

The ministry in the Church of Christ must be called *as was Aaron* or they do not have **authority** to represent Him. (Hebrews 5:4; Exodus 4:10-16; Exodus 28:1; Acts 13:1-3; Matthew 16:19; John 15:16; 3 Nephi 5:46)

V. Principles of The Gospel [Hebrews 6:1-3]

Steps) Faith -- Hebrews 11:6
Repentance -- Mark 1:14-16

Door) Baptisms (water & Spirit) -- John 3:5

In the **name** of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost: Matthew 28:19; 3 Nephi 5: 24-27

Front Windows) Laying on of hands

Blessing of children -- Mark 10:14-16
Healing of the sick -- James 5:14-16
Ordination -- Acts 13:2,3
Confirmation -- Acts 8:14-17
Other special blessings -- Acts 6:3-6
Resurrection of the dead -- Juan 11:25
Eternal judgement -- Matthew 25:31-46
Going on unto perfection -- Matt 5:48; John 17:23

VI. Front Round Window) Stewardship Was A Custom Of Daily Life.

[Matt 25:14-30; Luke 12:42-48; I Peter 4:10]

VII. Side Windows) The Power And Gifts Of The Spirit Were Demonstrated.

The church was given gifts until perfection would come: (1 Cor 12:4-11, 28, Acts 2:16,17; 1 Thes 5:19, 20; Moroni 10:8-17) Tongues, Interpretation of tongues, Discerning of spirits, Miracles, Prophecy, Faith, Healing, Dreams, Visions. Perfection will come when we are face to face with God. (1 Cor 13:9-12; Acts 2:39)

VIII. Top) Fruits Of The Spirit--Transformation Of The Lives Of The Members

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. [Gal 5:22-23] (See Also: 2 Peter 1:5-7)

The **love of God** and your neighbor was their principle commandment. [Mark 12:29-31]

IX. The Word Of God Was Their Constant Guide.

[Matt 4:4; 24:35; II Tim 3:14-17; 2 Nephi 13:28-30; 3 Nephi 12:20-23; 2 Nephi 2:20-23]

X. Christ Promised To Return To His Church.

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. [Acts 1:10-11] (See Also 3 Nephi 11:30)

He is going to present the church to himself without faults. It must look the same when he comes as when her was here.

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. [Eph 5:26-27]

XI. The Church Was Called The Church Of Christ.

*Now ye are the **body of Christ**, and members in particular. [1 Cor 12:27]*

*So we, being many, are one **body in Christ**, and every one members one of another. [Rom 12:5]*

*The **churches of Christ** salute you. [Rom 16:16]*

*And they who were baptized in the name of Jesus, were called the **church of Christ**. [3 Ne 12:13] (See also Mosiah 9:49; 3 Nephi 13:36; 4 Nephi 1:1, 28, 31; Moroni 6:4)*

*Have they not read the scriptures, which say, **Ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name?** for by this name shall ye be called at the last day; and whoso taketh upon him my name, and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day. [3 Ne 12:16-20]*

XII. They Were Commanded To Endure To The End

*But he that shall **endure unto the end**, the same shall be saved. [Mat 24:13] (See also Mark 13:13; John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Thes 1:4; Rev 1:9; Rev 2:9; Rev 16:16)*

*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand. [Eph 6:13] (See also 2 Peter 1:10)*

*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even **unto the end of the world**. Amen. [Mat 28:20]*

*Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, **and endure to the end**, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. [2 Ne 13:30] (See also Omni 1:47; 3 Nephi 7:10; Mormon 4:95)*

APOSTACY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

These components of the Church of Christ were all present in the first century. Slowly many of them were laid aside and others were added in their place. Men changed the ordinances and there was a “falling away” or an apostasy of the church.

The Prophets And Apostles Foretold This Apostasy (Rev. 12:14)

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord; And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.-Amos 8:11-12

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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables.-2 Timothy 4:3-4

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first . . . 2 Thessalonians 2:2-3

For I know this, that 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. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.-Acts 20:29-31

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.-Galatians 1:6-8

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE CHURCH THAT CHRIST BUILT?

Historians Record The Apostasy

The church faded away bit by bit and the truth was lost.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism: "We seldom hear of them [gifts of the Holy Ghost] after the fatal period, when the emperor Constantine called himself a Christian: From this time they almost totally ceased: The cause of this was not, (as has been vulgarly supposed,) "because there was no more occasion for them," because all of the world became Christian. This is a miserable mistake: not a twentieth part of it [the world] was then nominally Christian. The real cause was, "the love of many" almost of all Christians, so called, was "waxed cold". The Christians had no more of the Spirit of Christ, than the other heathens. This was the real cause why extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost were no longer to be found in the Christian church; because the Christians were turned heathens again, and had only a dead form left." -Wesley's Sermons, vol. 2, p. 266

Johann von Mosheim (1694-1755) was church historian and Lutheran preacher. He stated, "The Christian church was scarcely formed when in different places, there started up a certain pretended reformer, who not satisfied with the simplicity of that religion that was taught by the Apostles, meditated changes of doctrine and worship" (MOSHIEM: First Century, Ch. 5, p. 2).

"There is no institution so pure and excellent which the corruption and folly of man will not in time alter for the worse, and load with additions foreign to its natures and original designs. Such in a particular manner, was the fate of Christianity. In

this century many unnecessary rites and ceremonies were added to the Christian worship, the introduction of which was extremely offensive to wise and good men" (MOSHIEM: Second Century, Ch. 4, p. 2).

The corruption in Christ's church continued. "During this [seventh] century true religion lay buried under a senseless mass of superstitions, and was unable to raise her head. The earlier Christians had worshipped only God and His Son; but those called Christians in this century worshipped the wood of a cross, the images of holy men, and bones of dubious origin." -Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, Fourth American Edition, p. 250

Alexander Campbell one of the founders of the Disciples of Christ, later known as the Church of Christ said, "We argue that all christian sects are more or less apostatized from the institutions of the Saviour: that by all of the obligations of the christian religion, they that fear and love the Lord are bound to return to the ancient order of things, in spirit and truth." (A. Campbell, The Christian Baptist, vol. 5, p. 402)

Roger Williams established the Baptist church in America in 1638. On his return from England he refrained from fellowship with the church, and lived in an isolated religious condition, preaching the gospel to the Indians, as he found opportunity, but refusing to participate in the ordinances. He had embraced a singular notion, which is thus stated by one of his biographers: "He denied that any ministry now exists which is authorized to preach the gospel to the impenitent, or to administer the ordinances." (Baptist History, J. M. Cramp, p. 461)

Of Roger Williams it is said: "He conceived that the apostasy of Anti-Christ has 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." (Struggles and Triumphs of Religious Liberty, p. 238, 239)

Evidences of Apostasy

- 200 AD – Prayers for the Dead
- 254 AD – Baptism of Little Children
- 360 AD – Worship of the Saints
- 438 AD – Mary Called the Mother of God
- 500 AD – Priests Wear Special Clothing
- 593 AD – Prayers to Mary
- 682 AD – Holy Water Introduced
- 708 AD – Ritual of Kissing the Pope's Toe
- 817 AD – Office of Cardinal
- 988 AD – Fasting on Fridays and For Lint
- 1079 AD – Priests Forbidden to Marry
- 1090 AD – Rosary Beads
- 1100 AD – Money Accepted for the Mass
- 1190 AD – Selling of Indulgences
- 1215 AD - Transubstantiation and Confession to the Pope Commanded
- 1229 AD – Catholics not Permitted to Read Their Bibles
- 1263 AD – The Sacramental cup, only the Priest was permitted to drink.

- 1311 AD – Baptism (not by immersion)
- 1854 AD - Immaculate Conception, that Mary was conceived of a virgin.
- 1870 AD - Infallibility of the Pope
- 1950 AD Assumption of Mary, that Mary ascended into heaven.

The Conflict Of The Protestant Reformers

These reformers were burdened by conflicting teachings and a lack of spiritual power and authority in their day. They did not fall into agnosticism or infidelity. We should not either. They all believed that the light of the gospel would again shine forth. God Himself was to bring about a Restoration of the Gospel and the Kingdom.

“We have to pattern after the first church as well as we can. But we can never equal it. With all our efforts, the great disparity will ever remain. And could the Apostles and primitive Christians be here, they would doubtless weep at beholding it.” (A. Campbell, Millennial Harbinger, vol. 5, p. 40)

“And yet the wise men of the world, the men of eminence, men of learning and renown, cannot imagine what we mean by talking of any extraordinary work of God. They cannot discern the signs of these times. They can see no sign at all of God’s arising to maintain his own cause, and set up his kingdom over the earth.” John Wesley

“But the preparation of a people for the coming of the Lord must be the result of the Restoration of the ancient gospel and order of things.” Alexander Campbell, The Christian System, Page 311

“Though the heavens of gospel light are still obscured by many clouds (the sects of various names), the promise is that ‘at evening-time it shall be light.’ [Zech. 14:7] The primitive gospel, in its effulgence and power, is yet to shine out in its original splendor to regenerate the world.” Alexander Campbell, Amos S. Hayden, Early History of the Disciples in the Western Reserve, [Cincinnati: Chase & Hall, 1875] pp. 36-37

There are those who say Christ built his church, and it did not fall away “...the gates of hell [would] not prevail against it.” (Matt 16:18) The testimony of the scriptures and these historians plainly show that the apostasy was real. The gates of Hell can not prevail against the Rock and can not prevail against the church if it is founded on that Rock. The scriptures declare that the iniquity was beginning to show itself within the church, thus the church left the Rock. The church retreated into the wilderness but would later come forth again. (Revelation 12:6-10)

The reformers sought after that which the Prophet Jeremiah desired to see. “...Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for you souls...” (Jer 6:16) (See also Ecc. 3:14-15; Amos 3:7)

Martin Luther a catholic priest and a man of vision whose followers founded the Lutheran Church said, “I cannot tell what to say of myself. I am Phillip Melancthon’s forerunner. I am preparing the way for him like Elias in spirit and power.”

“Luther perceived that the ancient and primitive Church must, on the one hand, be restored in opposition to the Papacy by which it had been so long oppressed” (MARTIN LUTHER: D’Aubigne’s History of Reformation, Vol. 2, p. 111).

"...Either some new revelation, or some new development of the revelation of God must be made . . . We want the old gospel back, and sustained by the ancient order of things; (-A. Campbell, Christian System, p. 250)

John Wesley stated, "Has the case been altered since the Reformation?...Not at all. Indeed many of the Reformers themselves complained, that 'the Reformation was not carried far enough.'" John Wesley, Sermon, "The Mystery of Iniquity:", The works of John Wesley, 3rd Ed. [Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978] Vol. 6, pp. 262-263

DOCTOR WILLIAM SMITH: "We must not expect to see the church of Holy Scripture actually existing in its perfection on earth. It is not to be found, thus perfect, either in the collected fragments of Christendom, or still less in any one of these fragments; though it is possible that one of those fragments more than another may approach the scriptural or apostolic ideal" (Classical Examiner of University of London Bible Dictionary, p. 163).

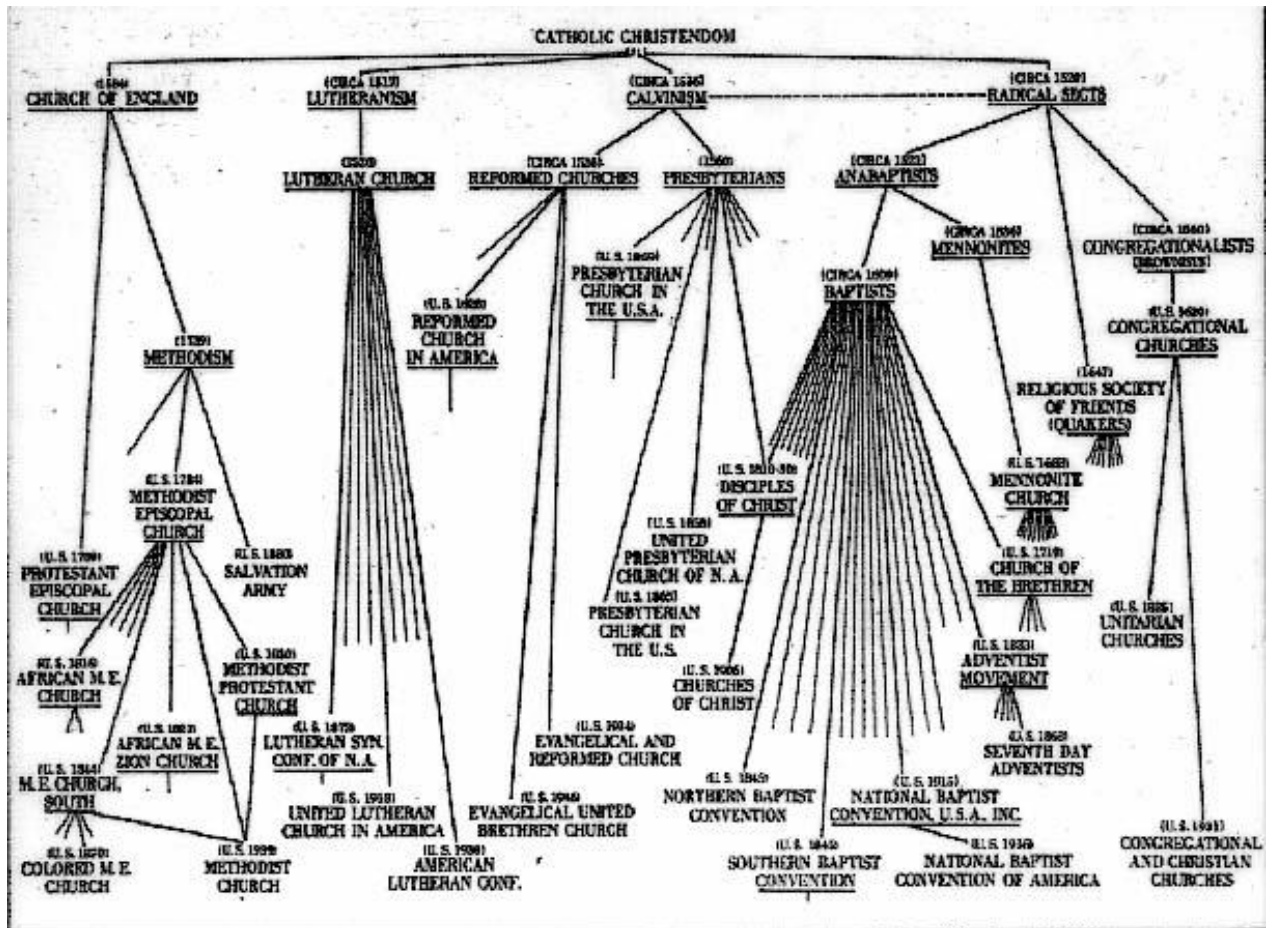


Diagram-The Division of Protestantism, Life Magazine, Nov. 10, 1947. These churches and many more have come into existence because they protested against something that was done wrongly in their mother church. Therefore, they were called "protestant" churches. They tried to reform the existing church, each believing that the other had gone astray. The Christian churches in our day now number into the hundreds.

Restoration Predictions From The Reformers

While these reformers worked at reforming they dreamed of a Restoration.

Poem by Charles Wesley. "Almighty God of love, Set up the attracting sign, And summon whom thou dost approve, For messengers divine. From favored Abraham's seed The new apostles choose, In isles and continents to spread The soul-reviving news."

"The primitive gospel, in its effulgence and power, is yet to shine out in its original splendor to regenerate the world." (-A. Campbell as quoted in History of the Disciples in the Western Reserve by A. S. Hayden, p. 37)

"I am very confident the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth out of His Holy Word." (address of John Robinson to the departing Puritans.)

The times that we have reason to believe are at hand, if they are not already begun, are what many pious men have termed the Latter Day Glory; meaning the time wherein God would gloriously display his power and love in the fulfillment of the promise that the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea." (John Wesley, Sermon 71.)

"What could God have done which He hath not done, to convince you that the day is coming, that the time is at hand, when He will fulfill His glorious promises; when He will arise and Maintain His own cause, and to set up His Kingdom over all the earth?" (Wesley's Sermons, vol. 2, p. 98)

Scriptural References That Tell Of The Coming Restoration

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. [Rev 14:6-7]

*And **this gospel** of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. [Mat 24:14]*

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. [Dan 2:28-45]

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left...And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. -Isaiah 11:11-12

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. Isaiah 60:2

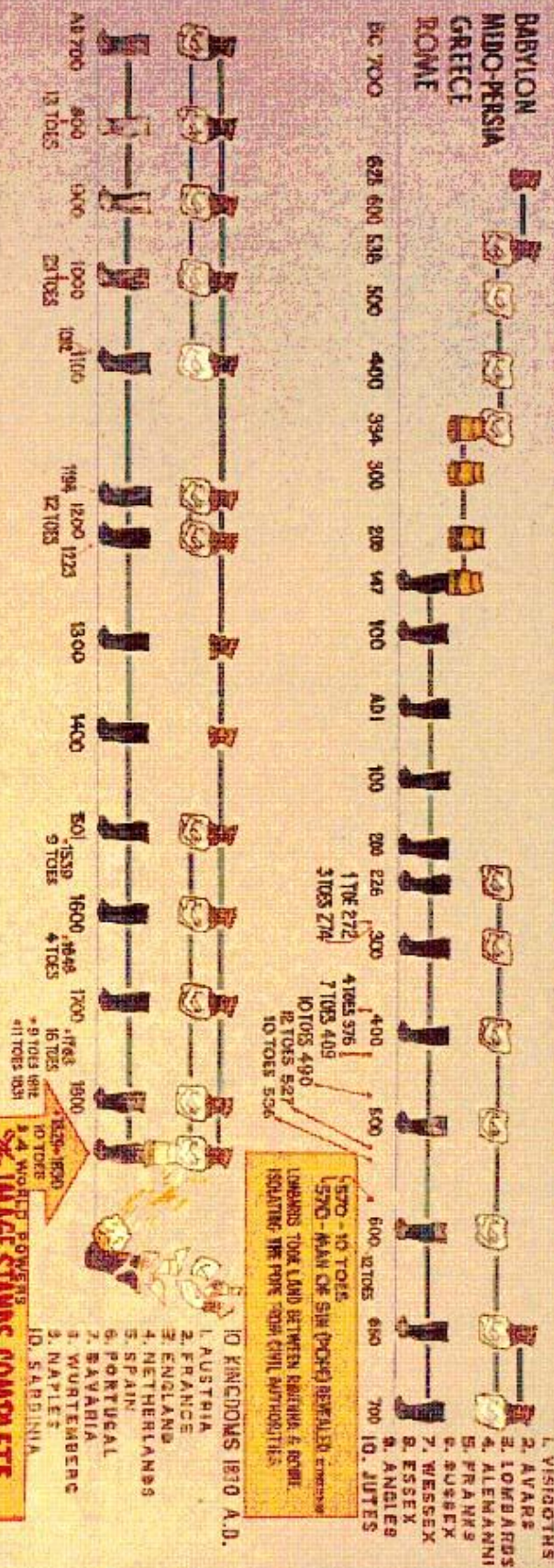
And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. [Dan 2:44]

Daniel's great image [Daniel 2:31-35] stood complete for only a short period of time in 1829 and 1830 when the Book of Mormon was translated and the Church of Christ was organized. Then it fell when Belgium broke away from France in October of 1830.

The GREAT IMAGE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR

FOUR WORLD POWERS

DANIEL 2:31-35



HEAD OF GOLD The Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar, 625-538 BC.

BREAST & ARMS OF SILVER The Medo-Persia Empire conquered Babylon, 538-334 BC.

BELLY & THIGHS OF BRASS The Grecian Empire conquered Medo-Persia, 334-147 BC.

LEGS OF IRON The ROMAN EMPIRE conquered Greece 147 BC-570 AD. 570 AD THE POPE BEGAN TO RAISE UP AGAINST CIVIL GOVERNMENT DOMINATION.

TOES OF IRON & CLAY The Kingdoms into which the Roman Empire was divided.

DANIEL 2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a Kingdom, which shall never be destroyed... And it shall stand forever."

DANIEL 2:45 "The first time the IMAGE was complete, but never again! In the days of these kings (609 & 606) shall the God of Heaven set up a Kingdom, ONLY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST SHALL STAND FOREVER!"

DANIEL 2:45 "The Kingdom of God shall break in pieces all these Kingdoms. At the end of World War II there were 78 nations in the world. Since WWII 74 new nations have established independent states making 152 in all. (1971)

I. CAN THERE BE SCRIPTURE IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE BIBLE?

Most Christians would unreservedly say NO! Some reasons given:

Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Rev. 22:18,19 For 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; 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.

Does this mean that God will not add anything to the Bible? Is that what this verse says? Consider:

1) Does the verse say God cannot add, or man cannot add to these words? If man, then why could God not add His own words by revelation to edify His people?

2) In approximately 100 A.D., the Bible was not a "book" as we now have it. It was canonized hundreds of years later. The book of Revelation is the "book of this prophecy". In Rev. 1:3,11 we find: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written therein and, What thou seest, write in a book and send it unto the seven churches 11 John was commanded to write a book (Revelation) of the things he saw. The book of Revelation is the book referred to in Rev. 22:18,19.

3) It is not definite that the Book of Revelation was the last book written in the first century.

4) What if God had given the same commandment to "not add" to His word earlier in our scripture? He did! A principle is laid for our understanding. Consider the following scriptures:

Deut 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

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

Prov 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

If the previous verses mean that God will not speak any more after He gives the command to "not add to the word I command you", then any commandments God gave after Deut 4:2 should not be scripture. Thus, Deut 12:32, Prov 30:6 and Rev. 22:18-19 ARE NOT SCRIPTURE according to this logic.

This can not be! The Lord is concerned that man not change what He says, whenever He says it. It is not that He can not speak any more, or that man should not write down those words and call them scripture. The facts are before us. After God told man not to "add to His words" in Deut 4:2, there is a great deal of "scripture" left in the Bible. The words from Deut 4:3 to Rev. 22 are scripture! Therefore, the words "to not add" in Deut 4, Prov. 30 and Rev 22 all mean the same: Do not write what we think, write as scripture whatever God says. Whenever God speaks to His Prophet, let those words be written.

For example, consider the prophet Jeremiah:

Jer 36:1,2,4,23,27,28,32 this word came unto Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel ... and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the Lord, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book ... Jehudi ... cast it into the fire ... until all the roll was consumed ... Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah... saying, 'Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll' ... Then took Jeremiah another roll, and Baruch the scribe ... wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire; -and there were added besides unto them many like words.

Should we call Jeremiah a "false prophet" for adding words to what was already given, or "accursed" for preaching a different gospel? God Forbid! Jeremiah only wrote what God said, and GOD spoke more words the second time, which were like the first. Additional revelation must be in harmony with that given before, but does not have to be the same words.

The following illustrate that revelation should not be limited; only to be received with caution:

Isa 28:13 The word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little.

Matt 4:4 Man shall live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

1 Thes 5:20-21 "Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good."

Rev. 19:10-11 ... for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

See also (Joel 2:23-31; Eph 4:11-13)

Isa 8:20 "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

Isa 5:20 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil..."

Resolved: 1) DO NOT DESPISE PROPHESYINGS; The Lord desires to give precept upon precept.

2) Refer to BOTH the Law & to TESTIMONY for verification of truth;

3) A testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy;

4) Do not call that which is GOOD, Evil, just because others share that view.
Test it for yourself, and hold fast to that which is good.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy:

"...From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2Tim 3:15)

What were those scriptures, which Timothy used from a child? THE OLD TESTAMENT! (Not even the New Testament, which Paul was in the act of writing!) Paul said they HAD ENOUGH for salvation! Was Paul saying that there was no need for additional scripture? Did Paul mean his letters were not "Scripture"? We believe they ARE scripture, because we discern they were authored by the Spirit of God.

This is still the test today. Do not call Good, Evil. If the God of Heaven wishes to reveal Himself to people today by the Spirit, as He did for 4000 years and have those words written for our edification, as did the Apostle Paul, we should not oppose Him. HE DOES NOT CHANGE (Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8).

He used angels to minister to Jacob, Abraham, Lot, Isaiah, Daniel, Joseph and Mary, the Shepherds, Jesus, Peter, Cornelius and John. Thus, since God does not change, and he has consistently used angels throughout ALL of scripture, HE will not stop! After Christ's departure, angels continued to minister. Even the book of Revelation was delivered to the apostle John by an angel (Rev. 1:1). Hebrews 13:2 indicates that angels will continue to appear to people. Repentance and faith are still brought forth by angelic ministry from heaven.

Hebrews 1:14 tells us that angels are "all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." Therefore, since there are still heirs of salvation, angels MUST still be ministering to people today! Thus a RESTORATION OF TRUTH will certainly include the ministry of angels.

"I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth." (Rev 14:6)

This restoration was spoken of by God's prophets of old, and recorded in the Bible!

II. DOES THE BIBLE SPEAK OF ANOTHER BOOK OF SCRIPTURE OR DOCTRINE?

Gen 48:8-20 Story of Jacob blessing Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Ephraim, the younger, was set before his older brother Manasseh. Jacob prophesied that they would " ... grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth. And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my Father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused, and said I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.... and he set Ephraim before Manasseh."

This extension of the blessing to the younger son was not the normal pattern. It indicates a special intervention by the hand of God in bringing about this prophecy. We have discovered it is prophesied that Manasseh will become a nation, and Ephraim will become a greater one. Both inherit the following blessing:

Gen 49:22,25,26 Joseph is promised a land blessed by God. "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall; ... and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under ... unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren."

Hundreds of years later, Moses also gave the same type of prophetic message, revealing the same promises to the descendants of Joseph:

Deut 33:13-17 And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his- land, for the precious things of heaven,... and for the precious things of the earth ... let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren ... He shall push the people together to the ends of the earth and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.

This message is consistent with Gen 49 in the blessings of land to Joseph, and setting Ephraim before Manasseh. God is trying to tell us something. Will we hear it? Through the separation of Joseph from his family, physical salvation from famine was brought to his people and to Egypt. In a similar pattern, the lineage of Joseph will also be separated "to the utmost bound." The following scriptural warnings indicate they would leave the Jerusalem area before captivity in Babylon (586 B.C.). This will bring spiritual salvation to the world in the last days. To cause this gathering "to the ends of the earth", a RESTORATION OF TRUTH would come through Ephraim as referred to earlier in the prophecies by Jacob and Moses. The land this branch would come to would be "over a wall". That wall is a sea (Gen 49:22; Isa 16:8).

Isa 37:32 For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this. (see also 2 Kings 19:30-31)

Jer. 49:30,31 Flee, get you far off dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith the Lord; for Nebuchadrezzar ... hath taken counsel 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.

Isa 16:8 For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vine of Sibmah: the lords of the heathen have broken down the principal plants thereof, they are come even unto Jazer, they wandered through the wilderness: her branches are stretched out, they are gone over the sea.

Jer 48:32 O vine of Sibmah, I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach even to the sea of Jazer...

[Note that from Num 32:37,38 the children of Reuben were in Heshbon and Sibmah. In I Chr 5:1, the birthright belonging to Reuben's descendants was given to the sons of Joseph. In I Chr 9:3, the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh were in Jerusalem.]

God is on record that HE will lead a remnant out of Heshbon, Sibmah and Jerusalem. And that He would lead them far away from the land of their forefathers, over the sea: (to where?)

Isa 18:1 Woe to the land shadowing with wings which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia

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

On your map, going from Israel, beyond the rivers of Ethiopia (modern day Northern Africa) and -over the sea, will place you in a land shadowing with WINGS ... America, the land which dwells alone, having neither gates nor bars.



Hos 11:9,10 I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim; for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee...They shall walk after the Lord; he shall roar like a lion ... then the children shall tremble from the west.

Hos 8:11,12 Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin. I have written to him the great things of my I, but they were counted as a strange thing

We are told that the words of God's law were written to Ephraim, and that they would cry from the west. To further illustrate these principles, read the following:

Eze 37:16,17 Moreover, thou son of man, 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.

The word written for Judah was handed down to the Christians through Judah. The apostle Paul was of Benjamin, a companion tribe to Judah in the southern kingdom, so his writings would also be a part of the "stick of Judah." Together these writings are the BIBLE. What could be the stick of Ephraim? When would it come to pass, and become one with the BIBLE?

Isaiah clearly foresaw such an event. Note the following from the 29th Chapter of Isaiah. He foresaw a condition of spiritual perplexity and confusion:

"Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink." (Isa 29:9)

He precisely pointed out the condition of the religious world, with many denying the possibility of revelation from God:

"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." (Isa 29:10)

The Lord promised that in the midst of such conditions, He would restore spiritual power. By means of a "vision", a "book" would be brought to the attention "of all":

"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 cannot, 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." (Isa 29:11-12)

Neither the learned nor the unlearned were able to translate it of themselves. But divine aid was promised, that the book's testimony would be heard. During the time of hardened hearts, God would move:

"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as 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: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do 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." (Isa 29:13-14)

With the appearance of the book, men previously deaf to the word of God were to hear, the spiritually blind would see, the meek would rejoice through these words, those that murmured would

learn doctrine, and the poor would rejoice in Jesus Christ, the Holy One of Israel. This book testifies of Christ:

"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. The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the 'Holy One of Israel.'" (v.18-19) "They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine." (v.24)

The timing of those events was also prophesied, that the serious investigator might authenticate them! In direct association with the "vision" and the "book," he declared: "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?"(v. 17)

We are told it would come to be just before Lebanon "greened up" (became productive and fertile). For centuries, Lebanon was not productive, having only one season of rains per year. But in the 1850's, the latter rains began to fall, and the land became very fertile; in fact more so than most around it.

Before that time came, Joseph Smith publicly prophesied in the 1830's that in the near future, Lebanon would "green up" in fulfillment of the prophesy in Isaiah 29 (quoted above). He was laughed at and disbelieved. That was a rather bold statement to make, since it would be proven by the future. Yet, since the vision of Joseph Smith in 1823, and his public prophecies, remarkable changes have taken place in the productivity of Lebanon, Palestine's neighbor to the north.

After centuries of drought and famine that overwhelmed the land, the rains began to fall in Palestine. As evidence of this we quote the following:

I know not whether you are aware of the fact, but it is one that is fully authenticated, that the "latter rain" returned last year to Mount Zion—a rain, that had been withheld, so far as our information goes, ever since the dispersion of the people; and He who has brought back the "latter rain" in its season, will also give the "former rain" in its season; and these returning showers of earthly blessings are the harbingers of returning showers of spiritual benedictions from on high. —(Rev. Hugh Stowel, in Scottish Presbyterian Magazine, 1853.)

I arrived in Indiana a few days since, from the Eastern Continent; I stopped at Joppa nearly the whole winter. For my part I was well pleased with the country. It is certainly a land of most wonderful fruitfulness with a delightful climate, producing everything if properly cultivated, and from two to three crops a year. They have grain, fruit and vegetables all the year round, in fact, I never was in such a country before; I have seen much good country in Europe and America, but none to compare with Palestine; its fruitfulness is uncommon, and the climate the most delightful, even in winter. I did not see the least sort of frost, and vegetables of every sort were growing to perfection in gardens. It is a fact that the rain and dew are restored; recently (in 1853), the former and latter rains were restored, to the astonishment of the natives. - (Louis Van Buren, sr., November 14, AD 1867.) (See Parsons' Text Book, pages 205, 206.)

Another has written of the increase in productivity in Palestine around this same time period.

"A change for the better came at the close of the Crimean War in 1856.11 Improvements in productivity in Palestine continued very noticeably into the early 1900's..."Sandy wastes have been turned into beautiful orange groves. Desert places have been transformed into a veritable Garden, of Eden." "All this rebuilding and reconstruction of the land is taking place today before our eyes exactly as foretold by the Old Testament prophets thousands of years ago." (George T.B. Dais, Rebuilding Palestine According to Prophecy, [1935] p. 15-16, 34.)

But do not take our word for it. Consider the documentation in the Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th edition (1911) and 13th edition (1926), under the heading of "Lebanon":

"The mixed population, as a whole, displays the usual characteristics of mountaineers ... but its ancient truculence has given way before strong government action since the middle nineteenth century and the great increase of agricultural pursuits, to which the purely pastoral are now quite secondary. The culture of the mulberry and silk, of tobacco, of the olive and

vine, of many kinds of fruits and cereals, has expanded enormously, and Lebanon is now probably the most productive region in Asiatic Turkey in proportion to its area."

The evidence is in. Thus, whatever this book that Isaiah is referring to, potentially the same book that Ezekiel was referring to in his prophecy, must be here by NOW. Do you know what it is? Do you believe Isaiah's prophecy? Have you considered that it would teach doctrine? And be despised by many?

In the spirit of restoration of salvation to his people, David shares the following:

Psa 85:6-11 Wilt thou not revive us again; that thy people may rejoice in thee? Show us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. I will hear what God the Lord will speak; for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints; but let them not turn again to folly. Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Jesus said that He had other sheep not of that fold (in Jerusalem) which would hear his voice [John 10:16] and that He was only sent unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel [Matt 15:24].

There is only one book that came forth out of the earth before 1850 that claims the status of divine scripture, as it teaches doctrine. It testifies that God led descendants of Joseph to the land of America. It also testifies that Jesus appeared to this people. This book is the Book of Mormon!

In the spring of 1820, a 14 year-old boy named Joseph Smith, Jr. was confused about which church to join—the church that Jesus built. He shares this testimony:

"I was one day reading the epistle of James, first chapter and fifth verse, which reads: '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.' Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at this time to mine.... I reflected on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, I did ... So in accordance with this my determination, to ask of God, I retired to the woods to make the attempt.... and finding myself alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God.

I had scarcely done so when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction. But exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction ... I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun; which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy, which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two personages (whose brightness and glory defy all description) standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said, (pointing to the other,) 'This is my beloved Son, hear him. I... [Compare "two personages" with Stephen's vision in Acts 7:56]

"No sooner therefore did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personage who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right.... I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong... 'they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrine the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.'... I was hated and persecuted for saying that I had seen a vision, yet it was true; and while they were persecuting me ... and speaking all manner of evil against me falsely for so saying, I was led to say in my heart... 'Who am I that I can withstand God.' (Outline History, pp. 15-17)

On Sept. 21, 1823, "while I was thus in the act of calling upon God I discovered a light appearing in the room, which continued to increase until the room was lighter than at noonday, when immediately a personage appeared at my bedside standing in the air, for his feet did not touch the floor... He called my by name and said unto me... that God had a work for me to do, and that my name should be had for good and evil, among all nations, kindreds,

and tongues... He said there was a book deposited written upon gold plates giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang." [The Book of Mormon] (Outline History, p. 21)

The angel appeared to him three times that night and told him the very same things, and that the Lord was going to restore the authority, power, and true doctrine of Christ's Church again to the Earth (Rev. 14:6). He was warned that he must have no other intention but to glorify God, otherwise he could not get the plates.

On September 22, 1827 Joseph was given the plates. They were translated by the "gift and power of God," and in sixty to ninety days of actual work, the book was finished. Twelve men saw the plates. It was brought forth to confound false doctrine, to bring us to a knowledge of our fathers and God's covenants in the Latter Days. The church was restored on April 6, 1830. The Lord restored the spiritual gifts and original ministry set in the church. (Outline History, pp. 24-28)

The Book of Mormon is the history of some of the descendants of Joseph and Judah who were led from Jerusalem to America about 600 BC, before Jerusalem fell siege to Babylon, as the prophecies above indicated. It states that after His ascension, Jesus appeared unto the descendants of these Jews. He spoke to them to bear witness to His covenant people that He is the Messiah, and they felt His wounds. The Book of Mormon is a witness to all men on Earth, that Jesus is impartial and never forgets His people.

If this is the case, the Book of Mormon must certainly not contradict the Bible, for Isa 8:20 says to check the law, "and if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

Therefore, let us investigate the teaching of the Book of Mormon. Is it of God, or Man? Any other book of Scripture would have to teach the same Gospel as in the Bible, or the author would fall Under the warning of Gal 1:6-9: eternal damnation.

Could You Write the Book of Mormon under the Same Conditions that Joseph Smith Wrote it?

(The author of this article is unknown. The article was circulated in the Independence area in 1948. Dates and numbers relating to how many years have passed since the Book of Mormon was printed, have been changed to correspond with the year 1995.)

1. You must be between twenty-three and twenty-four years of age.
2. You cannot be a college graduate. In fact, you can have only three years of formal schooling.
3. Whatever you write must be on the basis of what you know and not what you learn through research.
4. You must write a history of an ancient country, such as Tibet, covering a period from 2200 B.C. to 421 A.D.
5. You must write a book with 102 chapters, twenty-five of them about wars, ten about history, twenty-one about prophecy, thirty-two about doctrines, five about missionaries, and nine about the mission of Christ.
6. You must include in your writings the history of two distinct and separate nations, along with histories of different contemporary nations or groups of people.
7. Your writings must describe the religious, economic, social, and political cultures and institutions of these two nations.
8. You must weave into your history the religion of Jesus Christ and the pattern for Christian living.
9. When you start to produce this record covering a period of over twenty-six hundred years, you must finish in approximately eighty days.
10. When you have finished, you must not make any changes in the text. 'Me first edition must stand forever (this does not include grammatical errors, etc).
11. I 1. After pauses for sleep and food, if you are dictating to a stenographer, you must never ask to have the last paragraph or last sentence read back to you. You must start right where you stopped previously.
12. Your history or record must be long, approximately 777 pages with over 500 words per page.
13. You must add 180 proper nouns to the English language (William Shakespeare added thirty).

14. You must announce that your "smooth narrative" is not fiction, but true-yes, a sacred history.
15. In fact, your narrative must fulfill the Bible prophecies; even in the exact manner in which it shall come forth, to whom given, and its purpose and accomplishments.
16. You must publish it to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, declaring it to be the Word of God.
17. You must include with the record itself this marvelous promise: "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."
18. Tens of thousands must bear record to the world for the next 165 years that they know the record to be true. Because they put the promise to the test, the truth is manifested to them by the power of the Holy Ghost.
19. Thousands of great men, intellectual giants, and scholars, must subscribe discipleship to the record of its movement, even to the point of laying down their lives.
20. There can be no flaw, whatever, in the entire book (except in grammar, or other errors of man in transcribing, etc.).
21. Your descriptions of the cultures in these civilizations, of which you will write about, is not known when you publish your manuscript.
22. Yet, you must not make any absurd, impossible, or contradictory statements.
23. Even so, many of the facts, ideas, and statements given as true in your record must be entirely inconsistent with, even the direct opposite of, the prevailing belief of the world. Yet very little is even claimed to be known about these civilizations and their thousands of years of history.
24. You must invite the ablest scholars and experts to examine the text with care. You must solve diligently to see that your book gets into the hands of all those most eager to prove it a forgery and who are most competent to expose any flaws in it.
25. After 165 years of extensive analysis, no claim or fact in the book is disproven, but all are vindicated. Other theories and ideas as to its origin rise and fall, leaving your claims as the only possible ones.
26. Thorough investigation, scientific evidence, and archaeological discoveries for the next 165 years must verify your claims and prove even the minutest details of your history to be perfectly true.
27. Internal and external prophecies must be confirmed and fulfilled in the next 165 years.
28. Three honest, accreditable witnesses must testify to the whole world that an angel from heaven appeared to them and showed them the ancient records from which you claim your record was translated.
29. You must hear out of heaven the voice of the Redeemer declaring to you and those three witnesses that your record is true, and that it is their responsibility to bear testimony of it- and that they do.
30. Eight other witnesses must testify to the world that they saw the ancient records in broad daylight, and that they handled them and felt the engravings thereon.
31. The first three and the second eight witnesses must bear their testimony, not for profit or gain, but under great personal sacrifice and severe persecution, even to their deaths.
32. You must talk a friend into financing your book with the understanding that he or you will never receive any monetary remuneration from it. This person must mortgage his farm to have it printed. You must sell the book at cost or less.
33. Finally, after suffering persecution and revilement for twenty- four years in the process of producing and defending this book, you must give, willingly, your own life for your testimony that the record is of God.

The Book of Mormon has met the above requirements, which is evidence that it could not have been written by an uninspired man. It was translated by the power of God from ancient records. It is worthy of being classed as Scripture-which it is.

Spiritual Teachings of the Book of Mormon

1. It teaches that God is the same yesterday, today and forever.
 - a. God speaks to all people when and wherever he chooses. 3 Nephi 5:68
 - b. He has demonstrated his power by restoring his word and his church. 2 Nephi 12:59-62

- c. Miracles have not ceased. Mormon 4:82-83
 - d. Angels still appear to men. Moroni 7:30-31
2. It contains the doctrine of salvation
 - a. Obedience to God is essential. 3 Nephi 5:68
 - b. Baptism is necessary. 3 Nephi 5:39-40
 - c. Partaking of the sacrament of Christ is necessary. 3 Nephi 8:33; 40-46
 - d. We must endure to the end of life. 3 Nephi 7:10; 12:18
 3. It establishes the truth of the Bible.
 - a. Testifies of Jesus Christ. 2 Nephi 11:39
 - b. It establishes that we must give heed to the Bible. 2 Nephi 15:16-18
 - c. Bible was written by inspiration and is true. 1 Nephi 3:191
 - d. Explains some of the prophecies in the Bible. 2 Nephi 11:110-160
 - e. Gives us scriptures that should be included in the Bible. Alma 16:188; 205
 - f. It teaches racial equality and that we must treat all men alike. 2 Nephi 11:112-115
 - g. Wars started for conquest are evil. Alma 21:135-139
 - h. Other records to come forth at a later time. 2 Nephi 11:143-145
 - i. Settles doctrinal arguments. 2 Nephi 2:19-21; 1 Nephi 3:192
 4. It gives us a blueprint of the Church.
 - a. Ministerial offices in the body. 3 Nephi 5:45; 4 Nephi 16; Moroni 3:1
 - b. Ministry must work for the good of Zion and not for money. 2 Nephi 11:109; Mosiah 9:57-59
 - c. Ordinances and how they are to be performed. 3 Nephi 5:24-26; Moroni chapters 2, 3, 4, 5
 - d. Mission of the church. Mormon 4:86
 5. Reveals many covenants of God.
 - a. Restoration of Israel in the later day. 1 Ne 4:33; 2 Ne 6:2; 7:12; 11: 20; 12:82; 3 Ne 7:31
 - b. Establishment of a Land of Promise. 1 Ne 1:54; 2 Ne 1:6; Ether 1:29-31
 - c. Building of a New Jerusalem. 3 Nephi 9:58; 10:1-3; Ether 6:3-10
 - d. Great Blessings given to the Gentiles. 2 Ne 5:30; 7:17; 12:75; 3 Ne 7:30; 9:65
 - e. Covenant of protection for those seeking to bring forth Zion. 1 Ne 7:34-37
 - f. The covenant of baptism. Mosiah 9:41, 179; Alma 5:27; 3 Ne 3:69

THE TEACHINGS OF THE GOSPEL

Critics of the Book of Mormon often like to use this reference from Galatians 1:9: "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Nevertheless, the members of the Church of Christ are able to respond with confidence,

"The Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon Teach the Same Gospel."

A. The Same Gospel of Salvation.

1. One must believe in Christ.	John 3:16	III Nephi 5:34
2. One must repent.	Acts 2:38	III Nephi 5:40
3. One must become as a little child.	Matthew 18:2-5	III Nephi 5:39, 40
4. One must be baptized.	Mark 16:16	III Nephi 5:34
5. One must be obedient.	Matthew 28:20	III Nephi 5:68
6. One must endure to the end.	Matthew 24:13	III Nephi 7:10

B. The Same Gospel Ordinances.

1. Blessing of little children.	Mark 10:13-16	III Nephi 8:23-26
2. Healing of the sick.	James 5:14	IV Nephi 1:6
3. Reception of the Holy Ghost.	Acts 8:14-17	Moroni 2:1, 2
4. Baptism by immersion.	Romans 6:3,4	III Nephi 5:24-26
5. Ordination of the ministry.	Acts 13:1-3	Moroni 3:1-3
6. The Lord's Supper.	1 Cor. 11:23-26	III Nephi 8:30-39

C. The Same Church Organization.

1. Founded on Christ, the Rock.	Matthew 16:15-18	III Nephi 5:41
2. Named after Christ.	Romans 16:16	III Nephi 12:13
3. Based on an unchangeable God.	Malachi 3:6	Mormon 4:68
4. Christ called Twelve to be her head on earth.	Luke 6:12-16	I Ne. 3:78, 88, 165
5. Maintained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.	1 Cor. 12:4-11	Moroni 10:8-12

D. The Same Principles Concerning Man's Future.

1. This is the day of our probation.	2 Corinthians 6:1,2	Alma 9:40,41
2. Christ's triumphant return.	Revelation 1:7	III Nephi 11:29,30
3. The millennial reign of Jesus Christ.	Revelation 20:1-6	I Nephi 7:55-62
4. The resurrection of the dead.	John 5:28-29	Alma 8:98,100
5. Men to be judged according to their works and the Scriptures.	Revelation 20:12	II Nephi 12:66
6. The restoration of Israel.	Isaiah 11:11-16	III Nephi 10:5-8

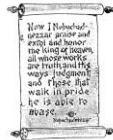
E. Identical teachings in many other areas.

1. Good works are essential.	Titus 3:8	Mosiah 3:21
2. Jesus is the Only Begotten Son	John 3:16-18	Alma 3:83
3. Only in Him is there salvation.	Acts 4:12	Alma 18:11
4. Ministry are to work for their own support.	Acts 20:33-35	Mosiah 9:57-59
5. A man shall have but one wife.	1 Timothy 3:2	Jacob 2:33-37
6. The ethical teachings of Jesus.	Matthew 5, 6 & 7	III Nephi 5, 6 & 7

There are no differences in the teachings of the Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon. Yet we are able to see many differences between the teachings of Christ and the doctrines, practices and organizational structure of the many denominations that exist in the world today. The true Church of Christ shall always be founded upon the teachings of our Master, Jesus Christ.

“VERILY, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, THIS IS MY GOSPEL; AND YE KNOW THE THINGS THAT YE MUST DO IN MY CHURCH; FOR THE WORKS WHICH YE HAVE SEEN ME DO, THAT SHALL YE ALSO DO; FOR THAT WHICH YE HAVE SEEN ME DO, EVEN THAT SHALL YE DO; THEREFORE IF YE DO THESE THINGS, BLESSED ARE YE, FOR YE SHALL BE LIFTED UP AT THE LAST DAY.”

III NEPHI 12: 34, 35



Critics of the Book of Mormon are then left with this pertinent question:

If the Bible and the Book of Mormon both contain identical teachings, why do we need the Book of Mormon?

There are several important answers to this good question:

1. The first reason is found in the book of Acts as we read, ***"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:"*** (10:34). Indeed, God is no respecter of persons, nations or tongues. He did not send the saving message of the Gospel in the person of His Son only to those of the Old World. In the New World were many isolated peoples who were also to hear of His saving grace.

Nevertheless, the Scriptures tell us that the personal ministry of Christ was directed toward a distinct people. Jesus told His disciples, ***"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*** When Christ walked in Palestine, only the tribes of Judah, Simeon, Benjamin, and a portion of Joseph lived in Israel. The other peoples of Israel were scattered among the Gentile nations and upon the islands of the sea. For this reason we read the following words of Jesus in John 10:16:

"And other sheep I have, which bring, and they shall hear my and one shepherd."



are not of this fold: them also I must voice; and there shall be one fold,

This passage does not refer Gentiles, as many suppose. His disciples was specifically defined: ***commanded them, saying, Go into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*** (Matthew 10:5, 6) That ministry would not begin until after His resurrection when He sent Peter to the home of Cornelius (Acts 10) and Paul was called and made apostle to the Gentiles: ***"And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles."*** (Acts 22:21)

to a personal ministry of Christ to the personal ministry, and that of His twelve ***"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and not into the way of the Gentiles, and***

By these words we can understand that after His resurrection Christ visited others of the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The Book of Mormon is a witness of the love of God for the house of Joseph that had been led by Him to America. While in America Jesus told His followers, ***"And verily, verily, I say unto you, that I have other sheep, which are not of this land; neither of the land of Jerusalem; neither in any parts of that land round about, whither I have been to minister. For they of whom I speak, are they who have not as yet heard my voice; neither have I at any time manifested myself unto them. But I have received a commandment of the Father, that I shall go unto them, and that they shall hear my voice, and shall be numbered among my sheep,***

that there may be one fold, and one shepherd; therefore I go to shew myself unto them." (III Nephi 7:24-26)

2. A second reason for the necessity of the Book of Mormon pertains to one of the great purposes of Jesus Christ in the latter day. The Gospel of Jesus Christ went first to the house of Israel, then to the Gentiles. In the latter day it is to go from the Gentiles back to the house of Israel. The Apostle Paul clarified this when he wrote, ***"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:"*** (Romans 11:25, 26) Our Pilgrim fathers were well aware of this latter-day work and prayed unceasingly for its fulfillment.

The children of Israel have always required more than one witness before accepting a thing as valid. In John 8:13 we read, ***"The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true."*** This is the very reason that the apostle wrote, ***"In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established."*** (II Corinthians 13:1) The Book of Mormon is another witness to the divinity of Christ and His mission to Israel.

3. The need for another witness to the divinity of Jesus is accentuated in Christian nations today. There are powerful coalitions of professors, teachers and ministers of religion that are studying the Bible and ancient manuscripts in order to understand just "Who Was Jesus?". After years of study and discussion one such group, The Jesus Seminar, has published the results of their findings and thoughts. These wise leaders of religious thought have come to the following conclusions:

- a. Only 20% of the words found in the four Gospels are the true words of Jesus.
- b. The Lord's Prayer was not given by the Master.
- c. Jesus never taught that He would return again to the world.
- d. Jesus was not a celibate person.
- e. Jesus was not resurrected from the dead.
- f. The New Testament, like the Old Testament, is full of myths.

Today the beliefs and teachings of many are changing, and new revisions of the

Bible appear each year. In such an atmosphere we need another faithful witness to the divinity of Christ, His resurrection and doctrine. In short, we need another witness to the veracity of the Holy Bible. The Book of Mormon is such a witness.

4. Whereas the Book of Mormon came forth and was translated by the power of God, the Bible has passed through the hands of a great, human institution, identified within the Bible as ***"... a woman (sitting) upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."*** (Revelation 17:3, 5). In the prophetic language of the New Testament, the term "woman" is synonymous with a church. In the Book of Mormon that institution is spoken of as the ***"... great and abominable church..."*** (I Nephi 3:219).

Over the centuries as the biblical manuscripts were copied and recopied by innumerable scribes, many changes were accidentally made while others were deliberately made to the text. Many plain and precious teachings of great clarity were removed or altered. Since many would find it difficult to believe that the precious lines of the Bible could have been altered, let us turn to several biblical authorities.

a. Professor I. M. Price wrote in his text, *The Ancestry of Our English Bible*, "Still we fail to understand our Bible of today if we do not take full account of the many passages where, in spite of all the care of the scribes - rather, should we say, occasionally because of such care? - changes did find their way into the text. For the

astonishing fact is that in some cases deliberately and with full knowledge they altered the text they had received." - p. 21

b. Philip Comfort, writing about the New Testament in his book, *The Origin of the Bible*, wrote the following: "In the late first and early second century, the oral traditions and the written word existed side by side with equal status - especially with respect to the material of the Gospels. Often, the text was changed by scribes attempting to conform the written message to the oral tradition.... Other scribes, however, felt free to make 'improvements' in the text - either in the interest of doctrine and harmonization or due to the influence of a competitive oral tradition." - pp. 184,185

In the Book of Mormon we have a history of the house of Joseph, one of the tribes of Israel. This book contains the word of God as revealed through His prophets and the doctrine of Jesus Christ, taught by a resurrected Savior. This book did not pass through the hands of an "abominable church" nor through those of thousands of scribes as did the Bible. It was translated by the power of God and is a faithful witness of His Holy Word, of the divinity of Christ and the veracity of the Holy Bible.

5. Perhaps the most important reason for accepting the Book of Mormon is the simple fact that it contains the Word of God; however, most people have been taught that the canon of scripture is full and there can be no more Word of God. They use as evidence of this the writing of John as he closed his book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. John wrote, **"For 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:"** (Revelation 22:18). The assumption is made that he referred to the Holy Bible, but this is erroneous, for the apostle was speaking only of his book now called Revelation. At that point in time there was no Bible in existence. Dr. Phillip Comfort, in his book, *The Origin of the Bible*, writes, "The earliest extant copy of an entire New Testament is the one preserved in Codex Sinaiticus (written about A. D. 350). Prior to the fourth century, the New Testament was circulated in its various parts: as a single book or a group of books (such as the four Gospels or the Pauline Epistles)." (pp. 183, 184)

6. Certainly another important reason for accepting the Book of Mormon as the Word of God is the fact that the Prophet Ezekiel spoke of it by way of promise: **"Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then For Joseph, the stick of his companions: And join them they shall become one in thine hand. 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."** (Ezekiel 37:16, 17, 19)



In the same way that Jesus, as Messiah, became a measuring instrument to the people of Judah, so has the acceptance of the Book of Mormon become a test of faith in the hands of God for the Gentile people. Jesus prophesied to the Gentile people of this great land, **"And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you, At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; And if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them; And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them;"** (III Nephi 7:34-36).

Just as unbelieving Israel was brought unto destruction, so has unbelieving America fallen into a moral decline of pride, iniquity and hypocrisy. God's institution of marriage has been converted by our nation into approved systems of fornication, adultery, homosexuality and divorce. Deception and lying in high places are so common as to be taken for granted. Violence in the streets, in our homes and in medical clinics where abortions are performed is beyond the imagination of our parents.

Has the fullness of the gospel been taken from our midst? Just to read the reports coming from the Jesus Seminar is ample proof that the wisdom of our wise men has perished. Jesus told us, "**Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.**" (Luke 8:18) The doctrines and practices of most of today's denominations would scarcely be recognizable by their founding fathers.

Many are the reasons to believe in the Book of Mormon, a book written to the peoples of this great land, filled with the inspiring word of God and containing marvelous prophecies concerning the future of America.