

# Zion's

A D V O C A T E

*Be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled.”*  
—1 Peter 3:14—

Volume 101, Number 1 | 2024

An Official Publication of



CHURCH OF CHRIST.

RESTORED APRIL 6, 1830

“And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...” 1 Nephi 3:187

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The Church of Christ Email Group is a church member-only (and spouses, even if not a member) email communication group existing to keep the general church membership informed about prayer needs, blessings, and more. It does not have officially elected management (member volunteer only), although it regularly functions for the Church of Christ for missionary news and various announcements, like state rallies and reunions.

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# Apostles' Corner

## East Africa

**A**postles Brian McIndoo and Duane Ely traveled to Africa on January 7th. They first went to Ethiopia where they applied for their Resident ID cards. The Ethiopian government requires missionaries to have both a Work Permit and a Resident ID card. On a previous trip they were able to obtain new Work Permits. Because of some complications with their government, they were not able to successfully complete this application process for the required resident cards.

They next traveled to Uganda. Priest James Muburi is the leader of Uganda's one congregation. He had previously baptized fourteen new members into the Church of Christ. On their visit Brothers McIndoo and Ely were able to conduct a confirmation service for the new members and have a preaching service.

They next traveled to Kenya, where a Resident ID card and Work Permit are also required. They pre-

viously had obtained a new Work Permit, but again there were complications, and they were not able to complete the application process for the Resident ID cards. It used to be much easier to travel to Africa, but today there are many new requirements which are extremely difficult to accomplish.

In Kenya they held a priesthood meeting which gave an opportunity to discuss what is needed to improve the work among our mission leaders and the people. Several regional preaching services took place where members from several congregations gathered into one location for services. One of these services was held in Mochengo. This is where another church had gone there and tried to lead the members away from the truth of Jesus Christ. This church had been successful in taking some members from our Church, but many of those that left have returned to the Church of Christ. There is currently

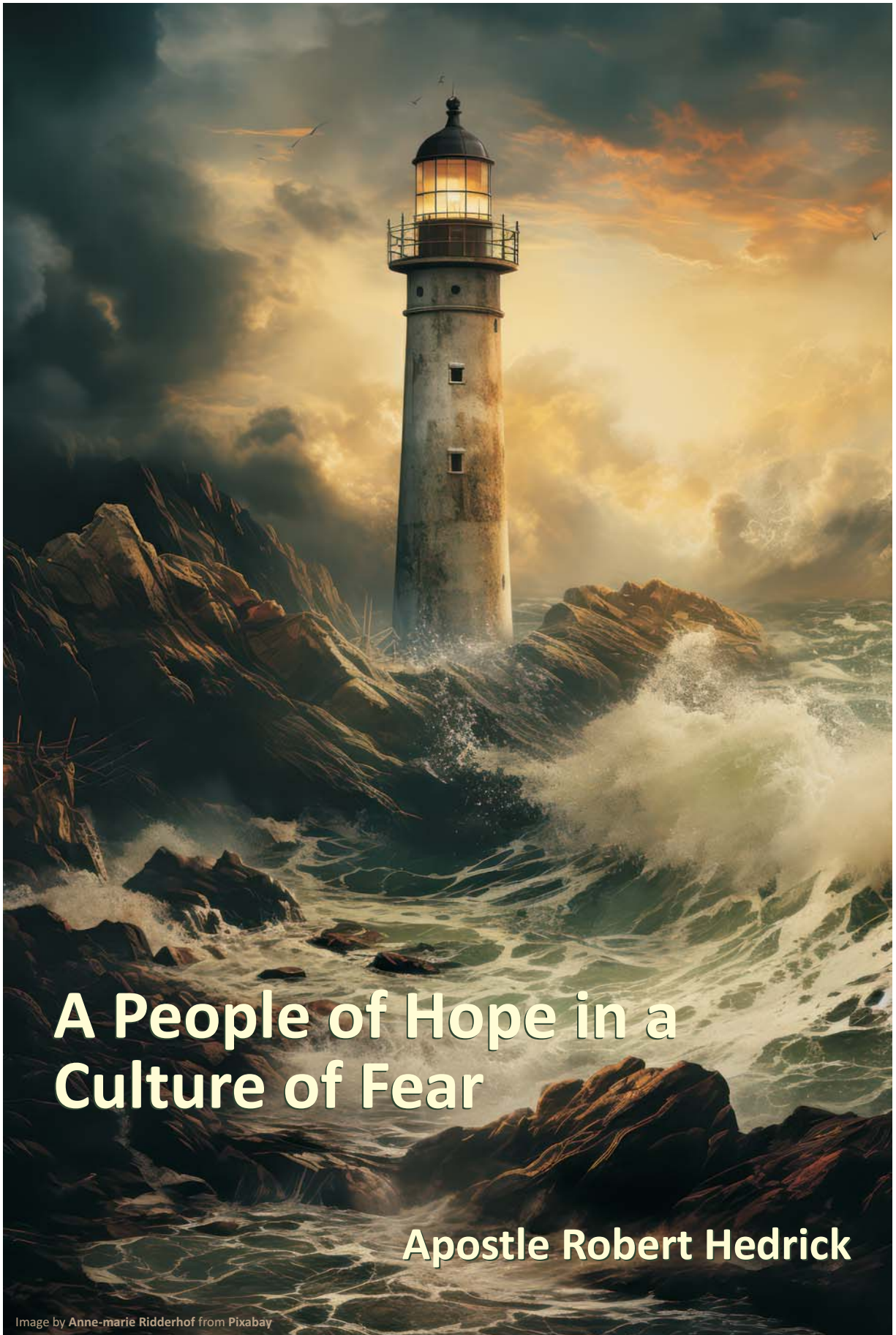
a large group of members there and they remain strong spiritually. We were able to encourage them to remain faithful.

They next traveled to Tanzania where they had a priesthood meeting and two regional preaching services.

During this trip they were able to provide medical aid for some members, provide funds to repair the two vehicles and purchase 350 mosquito nets for members in Kenya. Because of the heavy rain the mosquitos have infected members with Malaria. In Tanzania they were able to provide funds to complete the church building at Saro.

They were encouraged that all of the services were well attended, and the members were remaining faithful to the Church of Christ. There were a number of choirs that provided many specials for the congregations and missionaries to enjoy.

*Council of Apostles* ■



# A People of Hope in a Culture of Fear

**Apostle Robert Hedrick**

Image by Anne-marie Ridderhof from Pixabay

When you look around at world and national events, do they concern you? I mean, you don't have to be Nostradamus to look at the world and just have some concerns and wonder what's on the horizon. I think that it's reasonable to think that we're headed

a variety of ways. Some are planners. Perhaps they buy a stockpile of guns and ammunition, a pantry full of food, or even go to a bunker in the wilderness to survive. Truly what they're doing is trusting in the arm of flesh. It's no different than when COVID first came. In 2020, COVID justi-

They're afraid to live life. I don't want any of us to do any of those things, but we need to be aware of them and guard against all.

So, what is the answer?

Read and remember the first epistle of Peter. In 1 Peter he's writing a letter to groups of scattered people in a lot of different places – strangers and pilgrims. They were living in a world hostile to Jesus Christ. They were being punished, hunted, and persecuted. We can see the correlation today when we feel like the world is hostile to Jesus Christ.

But this is what he had to say, starting in verse 3,

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6) Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations."*

So here are people living in a hostile world. Hostile to their beliefs and way of life. Yet he's telling them to have hope because of the resurrection. You have a reservation in Heaven. There's a room waiting for you, a place



**...What's going to happen if the economy collapses, or what if I lose my job or my house, or what if I lose my retirement; what if I lose my insurance?**

for a season of difficulty, a season of judgment, a season of discomfort, physically or financially. When we look at the horizon we see an approaching storm. I actually don't believe it's the end of the world, but it feels like a storm is brewing on the horizon.

What I want to talk about is fear. The bad kind of fear. There's a good kind of fear and there's a bad kind of fear. I don't want to talk about the good kind, but the bad kind. The kind that says: what's going to happen if the economy collapses, or what if I lose my job or my house, or what if I lose my retirement; what if I lose my insurance?

In looking at these things, I am reminded of the people that gave us the scriptures. These people experienced the blessings of God. They had no health insurance, no retirement. They had God. It is good to remind myself of this occasionally.

In general, people seeing the chaos in the world respond in

fiably scared people. Most people believed whatever Dr. Fauci or the people in charge said as if it was gospel. The things we know now are completely different. I can't help but think we were trusting in the arm of flesh.

Other people, when they're looking at a storm approaching on the horizon, want to bury their heads in the sand. It's too scary to think about anything, so they just aren't going to. They will distract themselves with work, focusing on their job so there's no time to think about other things. They might distract themselves with entertainment: TV, surfing the internet, scrolling social media for hours. It's simply an attempt to occupy their mind so they don't have to think about scary things. Some might turn to alcohol or drugs to numb their minds so they can't think at all. All of these people are looking at the horizon and wanting to give up. They become depressed and have no hope for the future.

that God has set aside for you and for me. Throughout history there have been seasons of difficulty. Times when things have been uncomfortable. You can still rejoice because of the resurrection of Jesus. Verses 7-9:

*“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”*

Continuing in this letter, in the third chapter, Peter tells us:

*“8) Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.”*

He’s saying stick together. We need each other. We need each other’s strength. We need each other’s encouragement. We need each other’s support. Especially in times like this it’s even more important to be getting together as often as possible, to be there for each other, to be aware of what’s going on in people’s lives so you can pray for them, to have an encouraging word and to share your burdens with others.

*“9) Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto*

*called, that ye should inherit a blessing.”*

It’s not really hard to get involved in an online argument, but that’s not us. We’re not called to answer every accusation. We’re not called to respond to every insult. We’re supposed to respond with blessing.

*“10) For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11) Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.”*

Eschew is not a word used a whole lot but it simply means to flee from, to avoid it. We know what evil is. We can recognize it. Our job is to avoid it and do good.

*“12) For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”*

What a tremendous promise that we are always in God’s eyes, that God’s eyes are on us. He sees you, and He sees me, in every condition, in every place, in every situation. He sees us and He knows exactly what we’re going through. He hears our prayers.

Continuing on in verses 13-14:

*“And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be*

*not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled.”*

I really want to focus on the phrase, *“be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled.”* What Peter’s doing here is quoting Isaiah. Isaiah in the eighth chapter and twelfth verse says the same thing. He says, essentially, do not fear what they fear. What were Isaiah’s days like? He was prophesying to a Jerusalem that was wicked, that was about to be conquered by the Babylonians. They are surrounded, they’re worried, they’re thinking of making an alliance with other countries to give them protection, and God is telling them through Isaiah not to do that and not to be afraid of what everyone else is afraid of.

This is the first point I want to make. If you don’t get anything else out of this article, he’s telling us what kind of people to be. **We are to be a people of hope that are living in a culture of fear.** It’s powerfully attractive when we have hope and we’re surrounded by people that are fearful.

Fear is a funny thing. Do you remember masks? Everybody had to wear them; everywhere! We now know there was no reason for it, yet some people still do it. People wore them walking down the street, outside, or even driving their cars, by themselves. It was a created culture of fear that still exists. It has changed a little, but directed elsewhere in many instances. For example, safe spaces in colleges – because

students are afraid of having their feelings hurt. Everything seems to be driven by fear and it seems to be addictive, and it becomes a habit. Anxiety is a habit. It's something that we learn and we repeat over and over again. Just like an alcoholic. When

death. God is the one who makes us male or female. God is the one who told us what marriage is and who it's for. If you look at all of the big social issues that are taking place in the world right now, society is trying to assume the role of God. Society

asked. It's pride if you're at work or in your social circle and you're too afraid to share your faith because you might be rejected or made fun of. It's pride if you're afraid to tithe because then there might not be enough money left for the things you want or sometimes need. It's the way that the culture has influenced us and touched us. Although none of this is new, it seems to have been magnified 100% in the last few years.



**When I look at the world and the difficulties that I see coming, what I see is opportunities to share our hope, because I think that's what we were created for.**

they're stressed, they need a drink to ease their anxiety. Unless they have an underlying health issue, the people that are still wearing masks today do it because the mask alleviates their anxiety. It's to alleviate an emotional pain. It's exactly the same thing as people that smoke cigarettes when they get stressed to calm their nerves. This is the culture that we live in. But we need to be a people of hope, even if we live in a culture of fear.

That begs the question. Why are so many people who claim to be Christians so fearful? Have you ever thought about that? There are people who say, Yes, I believe in God, I believe in Jesus, but I'm scared, I'm fearful. I believe this is because the same things that have permeated our society have also been able to penetrate the Church.

We know that God brings about and determines both the beginning of life and physical

wants to determine the beginning of life, deciding which babies get to live and which ones don't. Society wants to determine what gender people are and to suggest that people can change their gender. Society wants to say what marriage is and who can have it. It's society that wants to determine the time and circumstances of death. The same thing happened in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. The temptation that Satan used was to be like God. It did not go well.

It's tempting to look at all this and think, well, that's the world, not us. But in some ways it is us. It does apply. The same pride of wanting to be in control. Our comfort. Our feelings. Those are the things that prevent us from doing what the Lord commands us to do. It's pride if you're afraid to bear a testimony or pray out loud in church. Your personal feelings are more important than doing what God has

That brings me to the second point that I really want to get across. **When it comes to these things about doing the Lord's commandments – do what you fear.** Mark Twain said that if you do the thing you fear the most, the death of fear is certain. For me, years ago when I began my career as a firefighter, I had to learn how to rappel, to get on a rope and jump off a building or a cliff or something in order to rescue people. To be honest, the first time is kind of nerve-wracking. But you know what? Now it's boring. It is boring because I've done it so much that the fear is gone. The only time there's any enjoyment to it is if I'm teaching somebody else how to overcome that fear.

This is an example of a physical thing. But when we do the thing we fear, we take away the power of fear. I know that sounds easy. It's not. I know that inside our minds fear is overpowering, telling us we physically can't. But I want to make you aware of something. It's a fact of

life that we decide what is overpowering. We are the ones who choose what will be overpowering to us because there's nothing in scripture that says there's anything of this life that we're supposed to fear. In fact, it's the exact opposite.

God has given us.

So, that brings up the next question. How do we do what we fear? The answer is found by going back to 1 Peter, chapter 3.

*"14) But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of*

unexpected twists that come up. Nothing is a surprise to God. God works through all the things that happen in our life. Whatever happened in our past, whatever is going to happen in our future, God works through these things to shape us. Romans, chapter 8, tells us that all things work together for good for them that love God. This is what it's talking about, all of these things. Good things. Bad things. Scary things. Making God the Lord of our lives means giving Him control, allowing Him to work in us to change what needs to be changed in us. He often does this by making us uncomfortable, but it's for our spiritual benefit. It also means trusting Him with our future.

*"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe*



**...If we're living our life doing the things that we're commanded to do we have absolutely nothing to fear.**

*"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" Philippians 2:12-13.*

We forget sometimes that when God gives us a commandment, He also gives us the ability to do it because He is the one that's working in us to accomplish it. When we say we can't do it, we're really saying God can't do it. Do what you fear and the fear goes away. Fear deprives us of a full rich life because we're worried about things. It prevents us from doing things that we might enjoy. It prevents us from receiving blessings God has for us, all because of fear. In 2 Timothy, chapter 1, it tells us that God didn't give us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind. That's what

*their terror, neither be troubled; but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts."*

Sanctify. Not a word we use a whole lot when we're talking about things that we do. Every time we have a sacrament service we pray to God that He would sanctify the emblems and make them holy. But here Peter is telling us to sanctify the Lord God. How do we make God holy? He already is. What we do when we sanctify the Lord is to make Him the Lord in our life. To make Him the boss. The root of fear is when we try to be in control of everything. The things we cannot control are what cause us to fear, but when Christ is the Lord of our life we have a reason for confidence.

Let me expound on that a bit. The Lord of your life. What does that mean? That means that everything that's happened to you, good and bad, was known by God before time began. Life is full of surprises for us. We have



*the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For af-*

Making God the Lord of your life also means that He is in complete control of the timing, the circumstances, the situation of our death and its outcome. In reality, what's the outcome of our death if we believe in God and have kept His commandments? It's simply a transition into some-

means He's in control.

I want to go back to Peter one more time. Back in chapter 3 of 1 Peter, the 15th verse:

*"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."*

Once again, this is an opportunity because we are to be a people of hope even if we're living in a culture of fear.

I started off talking about looking on the horizon and seeing the storm. There is another prophecy that applies.

*"For the kingdom of the devil **must shake**, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger and perish" 2 Nephi 12:23.*

The storm that's on the horizon, this season of difficulty and discomfort, **has a purpose**. In the midst of it we have a responsibility to be there to share our hope because when the judgment comes and people are broken, we have to be there to help pick up the pieces. We have to hold forth the truth. We have to look for opportunities to help people have hope. That's our role. We have to be in the midst of this difficulty so we can shine a light, share the reasons of our hope. When I look at the world and the difficulties that I see coming, what I see is opportuni-



**The storm that's on the horizon, this season of difficulty and discomfort, has a purpose.**

*ter all these things do the Gentiles seek:;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" Matthew 6:25-33.*

Making God the Lord of your life means trusting Him. That reminds me of the Exodus. Over a million people left Egypt. God provided food, water, and clothing that didn't wear out. All their needs were met. How did they respond? They wanted to return to Egypt, completely disregarding the fact that they were being abused as slaves there. I think that's kind of where we are sometimes. We become a slave to fear and we hold on to it because it's what we know. God is trying to remove us from this culture of fear. He has the promised land for us and spiritually will provide everything we need. We only need to trust Him.

thing that's wonderful. But if He's in control of the exact moment of our death, how should we live our life? The reality is it's almost like we're immortal in the sense that until God says we've done what we were supposed to do in this life, He's going to keep us on this earth. No matter what we may face, as long as we have a purpose on this earth, God will preserve our life.

I don't want anyone to take this to the extreme and say God must have a purpose for me so therefore I'm going to go 90 miles an hour the wrong way on the interstate. No, that's foolish. You know, that's like when Satan was tempting Christ and he was telling Him to jump off the top of the temple, that the angels would save Him; and Christ said, don't tempt the Lord. But if we're living our life doing the things that we're commanded to do we have absolutely nothing to fear. That's what having God as the Lord of our life means. It

ties to share our hope, because I think that's what we were created for. That's what we are living in this time for. This is our time and He's given us this great opportunity.

I want to turn over to Matthew one more time, in the 7th chapter, right there at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, verses 24-27:

*"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew,*

*and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."*


This storm on the horizon, it shouldn't surprise any of us. Jesus is telling us that when we hear the things that we're supposed to do and we do them, we have nothing to fear from the storm because He will keep our house because it's built upon that rock. Again, I firmly believe it's a season of difficulty. It's not the end of the world. The world may look completely different afterwards, but that's okay. Remember the three things that I really want to impress upon you.

- We're supposed to be a people of hope, living in a culture of fear.
- When it comes to keeping the commandments of God, do what you fear.
- This is a season of difficulty.

I want us to look at it like that. There are different seasons

in our life and some are more difficult than others. But this is a season. I don't know how long it might last. But to those that are younger, what I want for them to recognize is that this is a season. I want them to learn a skill, a trade, a job skill that they can learn and use. I want them to get married. I want them to have nine kids because this is simply a season the world has to go through in judgment.

There are still a lot of things that the Lord has for us to accomplish in the future. And I'm confident that when we can truly make him the Lord of our life, when we can live a life that is completely without fear because of His working in our hearts, that we will actually have the joy that He wants us to have in the midst of it all. And we're going to see it affect the people around us, and have opportunities to share and see people that come to Jesus in ways that we never thought possible. ■



...We have nothing to fear from the storm because He will keep our house because it's built upon that rock.

Photo by Ming Sun of Pexels

# Let Your Light Shine

Elder Alvin Harris

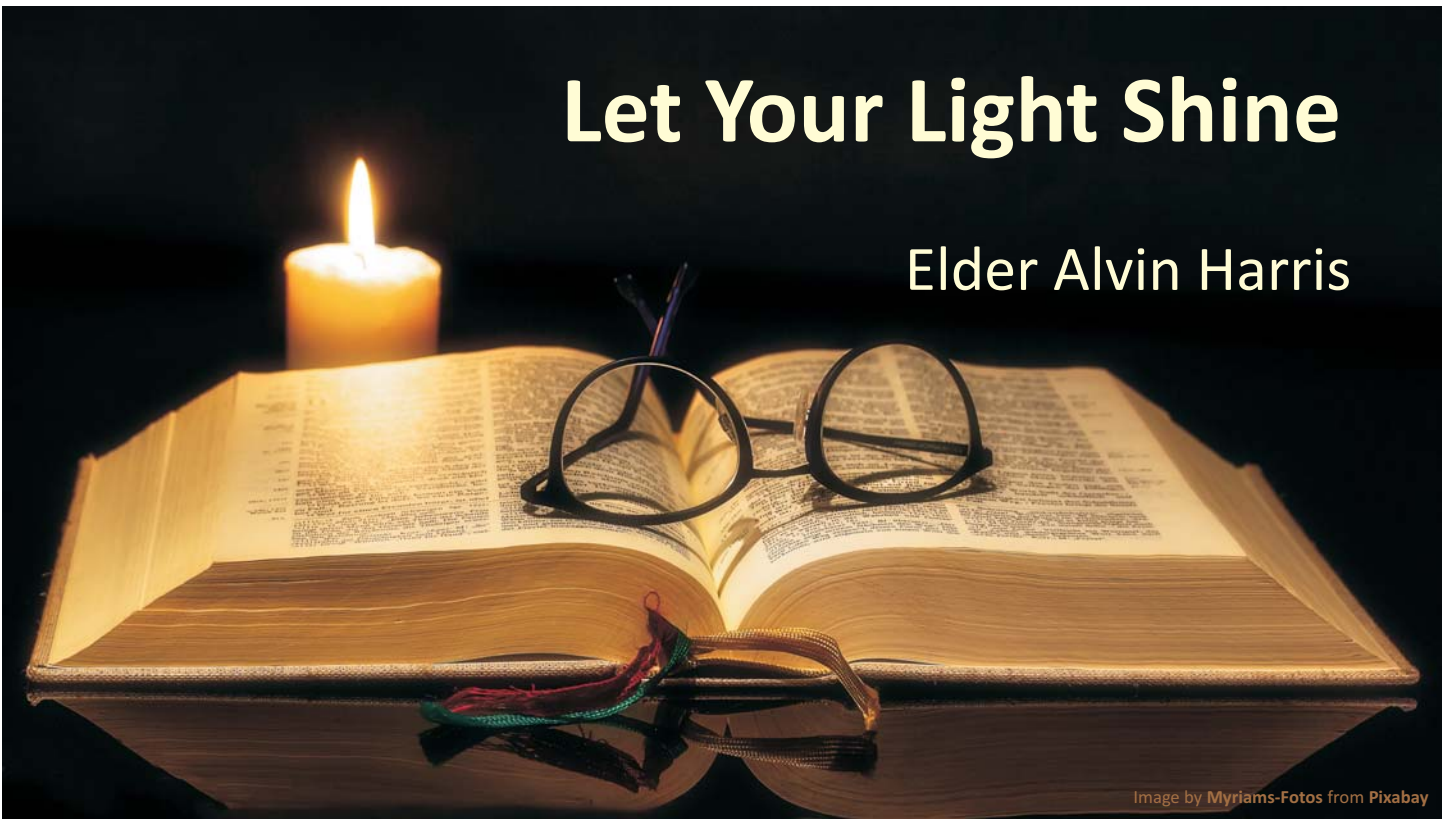


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To most people, religious activity is the belonging to a church, attending church services and participating in church activities. It presupposes


actions by the member. These can vary and be very specific for each individual member of a church.

Sometime during October 2023 I had a dream which was

and members of the Church of Christ may be falling short of the bar that Jesus has set for us in our mission for Jesus. We need to remember that our primary mission is to preach repentance and baptism to the world. Matthew 28:18-20.

This is not to say that our members are sinful, or participating in things that are wrong, or that we are not acting as Christians. I am not being accusatory, but only expressing what was impressed to me. We could be more proactive in reaching for a higher level of religious life or righteousness.

The first item related to me was about recruitment or seeking out new converts to Jesus' gospel. We as church members all attend church ser-



**We need to remember that our primary mission is to preach repentance and baptism to the world.**

that a church member believes the gospel taught by the church, that it is God's gospel as taught by Jesus Christ and that the member keeps God's commandments.

The above statement is true as a general statement or definition of religious activity. However, the carrying out of these activities involves specific, personal and sometimes private ac-

about a sermon that I was to preach. Over the period of the next few weeks it was revealed to me the content of the subject matter from that dream. I subsequently preached the sermon and was asked to relate the subject matter of that sermon in this article.

I will present three areas of activity that are very important and for which we as Christians

vices, church outings, bake sales, youth programs, fund raisers, etc.

However, for the most part these activities are among the believers as members so that we are preaching to the choir.

grand opportunity. How many of us miss such opportunities like that every day?

Do we engage our neighbor over the back fence? Do we offer our mower or a tool or do something for a neighbor when he is in

different and may even be something serious. But you must find out why they left before you can bring them back.

Our church has many families that have a member that has wandered. We need to get them back! Anytime a member leaves our church and joins any other church they are moving into the world of sin.

One example of this is worldly church ministry which are paid a salary, possibly receiving a food allotment or parsonage, and perhaps being given a car. According to scripture this is priestcraft and if a person follows such ministry and pays their tithes to them that person is partaking of the sin of priestcraft. Peter, Nephi and Titus all preached against this (Titus 1:11; 1 Peter 5:2; 2 Nephi 11:106).

Another reason some members may be wandering is that they are taken by the theory referred to as the rapture. This is a false doctrine. Jesus explains the last days leading to the judgment in the parable of the tares (Matthew 13:24-30-42).

These are only two such beliefs a person can get into or accept when leaving the true gospel. These people, friends or relatives need to be warned. We need to approach these loved ones with care and compassion, not in an accusatory manner, but in a helpful mode to show them how someone has misled them.

There are several things, particularly stories or happenings in the scriptures, that are



### **How do we approach visitors and what do we do that is positive to encourage a return visit?**

Where is our outside activity? We occasionally participate in a community blood drive, or garage sale, or dinners for fundraisers, but these again are largely participated in by our members. Where is our outreach to any nonmembers that attend? How do we approach visitors and what do we do that is positive to encourage a return visit? Do we follow up? We miss opportunities in these cases to recruit people as we socialize with them.

A personal example where I fell short happened in a restaurant as I was enjoying a family meal.

A man approached our table and said, "I noticed you ask a prayer over your meal." He went on to thank us and tell us how important that was, then left.

I thanked him for his kind words, but did I try to engage him? No, I didn't. I could have asked his name, asked him to join us, or invited him to sit down with us and have a cup of coffee. Did I? No, I didn't. I missed a

need? Or invite someone to our backyard barbeque? Do you ever invite a non-member to church with you or bring him to our potluck? We could set aside a visitors Sunday and invite a co-worker or friend. There are many things we could do, and we often don't.

**T**he second item I was impressed with is recovery. By recovery I mean those that once attended our church but now don't or have left for another church.

Today in our environment all churches are subjected to the disease of the church hopper. I know of a person that has belonged to four different churches in the past year. Why? When encountering such a person we need to engage them and find out the real reason they aren't satisfied with our church. The usual response is, I didn't like the pastor, or, I don't believe such and such. These are all what I call cop-outs. The real reason is usually something very

not required to be believed for salvation. We need to focus on God's commandments and the requirements for salvation, as opposed to reported happenings. We need to know the difference and teach the requirements.

before.

These little people repeat, act out and imitate everything you and I do and say. Be careful that everything you do and say reflects your Christian values. If you swear, they will swear. If you drink, they will drink. When

churches, including ours, and that is the Jewish faith. It is true they have not accepted Jesus as the Son of God, but one thing they do is spoon feed their children their faith from birth to the Bar mitzvah, and very few Jews stray because of this effort by their parents. They live their faith. We should do the same. If we did, we would lose fewer members. We have the truth. We have Jesus. We should be teaching this to our children twenty-four-seven.



**The thought that should precede every other thought in our minds every day, all the time, is the Gospel of Jesus Christ....**

**T**he last area of concern is our children. Our children are our most valuable assets. We must be sure they are raised with the Christian ideals firmly planted in their little heads. Sometimes I think our children are smarter than we are, and I know for a fact they are smarter than we give them credit for. They are just like little sponges, and they soak up everything they hear and see. They observe everything we do and say.

I have an embarrassing testimony of this myself that I will share as an example. Our family was attending a party with a lot of our friends and acquaintances in attendance.

One of my youngest children came up to me in the middle of the gathering, grabbed my sleeve and asked me in a voice loud enough for all to hear: "Dad, is that lady over there, the one you said had a funny face?" I was embarrassed as I never had been

older, if they have seen you violate traffic law, they will too. If you cheat or lie, they will too.

If you have a bottle of wine in your refrigerator, take your child to that refrigerator, show him or her the wine, and explain the use of it. Make it clear it is for sacrament only when the elders come over and it is not to be used for any other purpose. I have done this. This would also be a good time to explain that Christians don't use alcohol. As you go about your worldly activities of work and play, explain the things of the world, the good and the bad activities, and what to not get mixed up in.

Do not take it for granted that your children will learn from other relatives, peers, or friends at school or other places. That is precisely the problem. They will! And for the most part it will be the bad things in this world.

I must give credit where credit is due. There is one faith that I can think of that typically does not lose its youth like other

We need to instill in our kids the difference between being in the world and of the world (1 John 2: 15-16).

The thought that should precede every other thought in our minds every day, all the time, is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that all activities include keeping God's commandments. We need to be more proactive in our individual lives.

May God bless you in these efforts. ■



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# Intelligent Design

Elder Glenn Gill, PhD

In my previous writing I cited the chronology of creation events as written by Moses which showed a progression

titled *Faith of Their Fathers, Religious Conscience Meets Scientific Mind* cited the writing of Thomas Jefferson who was not

naturalistic interpretation of biology was written by Charles Darwin and published in England in 1859. It was titled *On the Origin of Species By Natural Selection*. It was an instant bestseller. It influenced speakers and writers in many fields. It was partly responsible for changes in science, economics, politics and national ideologies all over Europe.



***“Believe that man doth not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend” (Mosiah 2:15).***

from the creation of light energy to the advent of life in water then life on land and from the soil followed by the creation of man. I indicated that knowledge of this self-supporting progression was evidence of God’s handiwork—an intelligent design. Use of this term and this conclusion is not new. Wray Herbert in his essay

particularly religious. Jefferson wrote a natural history of Virginia in which he was impressed by the sheer beauty of the landscape and its complexity. He wrote that the elegance of life on earth could not have arisen by chance, but required, “intelligent design.”

The book that launched the

Charles Darwin himself followed his famous book on the origin of species with another book in which he said, nature requires and presupposes an ‘intelligent agent.’ Evolution became the most studied aspect of biological science. This led to new discoveries in the 1950s to present

time that began to reveal the chemistry of activities within plant and animal cells. Now, with the discovery of so much of how plant and animal life systems function on the cellular level, the complexity and timing of the chemistry, and our knowledge of DNA/RNA function and protein synthesis, there is reason to look more closely at how life itself began. There is reason to consider that the Biblical account of creation may be supported by new discoveries in science.

Currently there are three views regarding the relationship of science and faith:

- They are fundamentally at odds.
- They are and should be separate and distinct realms of concern.
- Science supports faith and the possibility of intelligent design.

If item three is true, there should be evidence in scientific discovery supporting the theory of intelligent design. There are at least six areas of scientific study that are possible sources of such evidence. They are:

- Relativity and the big bang theory.
- Anthropic Fine Tuning.
- DNA information and the origin of life.
- Irreducibly complex molecular machines and cycles. The Cambrian explosion.
- Human consciousness and self-reflection.

Relativity comes from Albert Einstein's formula ( $E=MC^2$ ) mass times the speed of light equals energy. Taken simply, it means mass equals energy times the speed of light squared. It basically means that energy and mass are the same thing. In Genesis, Moses wrote that the earth was void. There was no mass there. So, the first thing God did was say, "Let there be light." And there was light. Then there was also mass in the form of the earth, and God could begin the work of creating features of the earth and inhabitants to populate it. If there were no relativity, the earth would not exist.

Some Christians are of the opinion that the "big bang theory" could not be true. The evidence is compelling. The fact that the universe is expanding does the creation story no harm; what it does do is show that like the earth, the whole universe was void until provision was made for there to be mass and energy.

God made it all from nothing! The whole story backs up the statement in Mosiah, chapter 2, which challenges us to believe that God knows things we can not know. *"Believe that man doth not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend"* (Mosiah 2:15).

There is fine tuning in the universe and especially in the features that affect our existence as beings on this planet. Plants need CO<sub>2</sub> to make glu-

cose, the energy source for living cells. The process of making glucose releases oxygen into the atmosphere. Animals need oxygen to stay alive and give CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere from their life processes. In the atmosphere these two components of the atmosphere have remained at the same concentration over centuries of time, a fine-tuned balance of what living things need.

Gravity has also remained unchanged. Our bodies are made to stay upright on the earth at just the right weight and atmospheric pressure per our mass. If there were even a small change our body functions would be adversely altered. That is why astronauts' bodies are carefully monitored by medical technicians and they wear space suits.

The planets, planetoids, comets, and the moons of the planets move in precision, preventing disastrous collisions. In fact, the precision is so exact that in all of human history men have been able to time their activities by watching and keeping record of the positions and apparent movements of the moon and the planets that have been visible to them. When considered by physicists these observations become evidence for design.

Clifford Longly wrote, "The [anthropic-design argument] and what it points to is of such an order of certainty that in any other sphere of science, it would be regarded as settled. To insist otherwise is like

insisting that Shakespeare was not written by Shakespeare because it might have been written by a billion monkeys sitting at a billion keyboards typing for a billion years. So it might. But the sight of scientific atheists clutching at such desperate straws has put new spring in the step of theists.”

Nicolas Copernicus, the 17th century astronomer who first described our current understanding of the motion of the planets around our sun wrote, “the mechanisms of the universe, wrought for us by a supremely good and orderly Creator ... the system best and most orderly artist of all framed for our sake.”

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is the controlling chemical factor in all cells. It is specific to each individual living species. It

was deciphered by Watson and Crick, two famous biochemists, in the 1950s. They worked out its structure and helped explain how DNA can replicate itself. If DNA molecules could not replicate (make new copies of themselves) there would be no way to replace dying or damaged living cells or to reproduce plants or animals “after their kind”.

DNA also provides a way to manufacture proteins. Proteins are food and the building blocks of body structure and organs in the body. We know now how they do what they do, but how it all started remains a mystery, except to say it is part of God’s intelligent design. Lee Strobel called DNA “...the information storehouse for a finely tuned manufacturing process in which the right amino acids are linked together with the right bonds, in the right sequence to produce

the right kind of proteins that fold in the right way to build biological systems.”

In living cells there is constant molecular activity. This is a major part of being alive, and of reproduction of new generations within each species. This includes single celled organisms (bacteria, protozoa, algae, etc.) as well as plants and animals. Much of this action is carried out by molecular machines (specialized molecules capable of moving needed elements and other molecules from where they originate to where they are useful in the cell). These molecular machines have been made from complex patterns dictated by DNA. If they are not perfectly constructed, they cannot do the work that needs to be done in the living cell. And reduction in their complexity would make them useless. Thus, they are called, “irreducible complex machines”. They take part in protein synthesis, cell reproduction and other activities in individual cells of all living organisms.

Irreducibly complex machines could not have originated through natural selection. Charles Darwin wrote it himself in his famous book *On the Origin or Species By Natural Selection* published in 1859. “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.”

Charles Darwin could not





have known the things we now know about molecular machines. Now we know that an irreducible molecular machine could not be “formed by numerous slight modifications.” That is because the intermediate steps of construction would be rejected as useless by natural selection. Irreducibly complex machines are a prime example of intelligent design. Charles Darwin was a serious research naturalist. If he were with us today to see what modern biochemistry has revealed, I am sure he would be on the side of intelligent design.

The geological time frame known as the Cambrian Period preceded the time in which many of the plants and animals that are familiar to us are said to

have made their appearance. It was, according to geologists and paleontologists, a time of fossilization of thousands of species of plants and animals. Those species represent a huge jump in complexity of life forms and the appearance of 20-35 completely novel body parts with no transitional species identified (many missing links). According to scientists investigating intelligent design, this appearance of vast amounts of new DNA information in one geological period suggests the application of intelligence.

Another very convincing evidence of intelligent design is the human capacity for self-reflection, creativity, and artistic talents. No other animal shows social morality and knowledge of

good and evil. Only God’s human creation has written language and a recorded history. These things cannot be explained as mere physical interaction of physical matter in the brain. All these things are part of the intelligence given to us by a higher intelligence.

Moses wrote, *“So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion...over every living thing...”* Genesis 1:27-28. Also see Genesis 3:1-7. ■



# Established in One

David Seibel

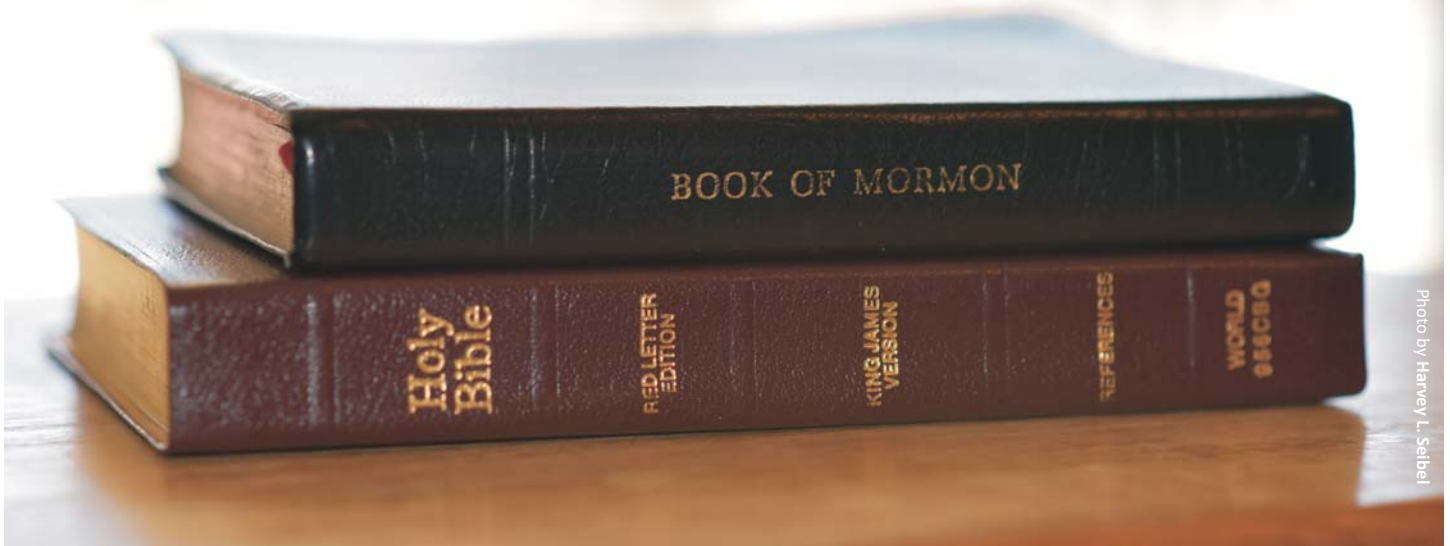


Photo by Harvey L. Seibel

**T**he prophetic message of 1 Nephi 3:155-196 reveals some rather interesting aspects concerning the two witnesses of God's truths. Herein is presented a brief perception of what this author believes that this passage of Nephi reveals to us.

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

156 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land;

157 And I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them.

158 And the angel said unto me, Knowest thou the meaning of the book?

159 And I said unto him, I know not.

160 And he said, Behold, it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew; and I, Nephi, beheld it;

161 And he said unto me, The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel;

162 And it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets;

163 And it is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, save there are not so many; nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel;

164 Wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles.

165 And the angel of the Lord said unto me, Thou hast beheld that the book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew it contained the plainness of the gospel of the Lord, of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God:

166 Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God:

167 And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the

Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches;

168 For behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious;

169 And also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away;

170 And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord; that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men:

171 Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God;

172 And after these plain and precious things were taken away, it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles:

173 And after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters which thou hast seen, with the Gentiles which have gone

forth out of captivity;

174 Thou seest because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God;

175 Because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceeding great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them;

176 Nevertheless thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity, and have been lifted up by the power of God above all other nations upon the face of the land, which is choice above all other lands,

177 Which is the land that the Lord God hath covenanted with thy father that his seed should have for the land of their inheritance, will not utterly destroy the mixture of thy seed, which are among thy brethren;

178 Neither will he suffer that the Gentiles shall destroy the seed of thy brethren;

179 Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall for ever remain in that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in because of the plain and most precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, whose formation thou hast seen.

180 Wherefore, saith the Lamb of God, I will be merciful unto the Gentiles, unto the visiting of the remnant of the house of Israel in great judgment.

181 And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying, Behold, saith the Lamb of God, after I have visited the remnant of the house of Israel, and this remnant of whom I speak is the seed of thy father;

182 Wherefore, after I have visited them in judgment, and smitten them by the hand of the Gentiles;

183 And after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly because of the most plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which has been kept back, by that abominable church, which is the mother of harlots, saith the Lamb, I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb;

184 For behold, saith the Lamb, I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be

plain and precious;

185 And after thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren; behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb;

186 And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation;

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

188 And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb;

189 And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.

190 And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles, unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren;

191 And after it had come forth unto them, I beheld other books which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the convincing of the Gentiles, and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true.

192 And the angel spake unto me, saying, These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them;

193 And shall make known to all kindreds, tongues and people, that the Lamb of God is the son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him or they can not be saved;

194 And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb;

195 And the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb;

196 Wherefore, they both shall be established in one;

Verse 155 speaks primarily of the migrations of the Anglo-Saxon puritans (Ephraimitic tribe) from Britain, who were prompted by a desire for religious freedom; this followed the discovery of the western hemisphere by Christopher Columbus. They carried with them a book; at first, this was probably the Geneva Bible, eventually superseded by the King James Version (v. 157). This identification of the book is verified by an angel who tells Nephi that it is a “record of the Jews”; an important aspect is that it also “contains the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel” (v. 161).

Another important aspect of the book is revealed. “It also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets” (verse 162). Of particular significance is that many of its prophecies specifically point to the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and to the specific year that the church, which was founded by Jesus, would be restored to the earth. Perhaps verse 162 is worded “many” instead of “all” because the Bible does not contain all prophecies; there are other prophecies, not in the Bible, that are made by prophets that appear in the plates of brass; and, there are further prophecies within the Book of Mormon.

I believe that these prophets of the brass plates are not mentioned in the Old Testament because the plates of brass were a product of the tribe of

Manasseh to which Laban, the keeper of that record, belonged; he was the Laban from whom Nephi acquired those plates. I also believe that these prophets of the brass plates, named within the Book of Mormon (Zenock, Zenos, Neum, and Ezaias), were probably also of the tribe of Manasseh. It also seems that the manuscript of the Old Testament was a separate record kept and maintained by the tribe of Judah. I perceive that God's purpose for preparing the plates of brass by the tribe of Manasseh, separate from that in the keeping of the of the tribe of Judah, was for the sole purpose to have them available for Lehi to take with him on his migration to the western hemisphere.

It is stated in verse 163 that this King James Bible "contain(s) the covenants of the Lord which He hath made unto the house of Israel." By the end of this article, it will become apparent why this author perceives this to be an important item of information.

Two further important factors of this passage are revealed. When this book "proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew it contained the fullness of the gospel of the Lord" (v. 165). And "these things go forth in purity unto Gentiles" (v. 166). I believe that the Textus Receptus went forth in purity to the Gentiles at the time that the first church with Gentile membership was formed in Antioch under the auspices of Paul during the first century. "In purity" means that

there was no loss in the covenants of the Lord nor in the plain and precious things of the gospel. God also provided a means whereby His truths should be preserved through the ages and to become available in purity for the King James Bible; i.e., He assured that the source manuscripts for the KJV were kept out of the hands of the great and abominable church. The ending verses of this passage of Nephi give assurance that this was God's plan.

The formation of the great and abominable church occurred *after* the book went forth from the apostles to the Gentiles (v. 167). I believe that full-blown apostasy of the church founded by Jesus did not happen until the appearance of Emperor Constantine, in which he made himself to be the effective head of the church, superior to the ecclesiasts, concurrent with his making Christianity to be the religion of the Roman Empire early in the fourth century; this occurred in 313 A.D. Although the formation of the great and abominable church was underway, it did not reach fruition until A.D. 570 when the Lombards brought an end to the western part of the Roman Empire and the pope began to raise his head, eventually to achieve enormous ecclesiastical and civil power over all the kingdoms of Europe.

This great and abominable church is prophesied by Nephi to "have taken away from the gospel of the lamb many parts which

are plain and precious" (v. 168) and "many covenants of the Lord have they taken away" (v. 169).

I maintain that the King James Version has seen no loss of the plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb, nor has it seen any loss of the covenants of the Lord. By the end of this article it shall become clear why I maintain this to be true. Furthermore, I have conducted a study of many of the covenants of the Lord that He made with Israel which appear in the Old Testament and show how some sixteen modern renditions of the Bible have significantly altered them to effectively have "taken them away." That study is much too long to include here. If any desire a copy of it, please contact the author of this article.

The book that came from the Jews passed through the hands of the great and abominable church (v. 171). The means by which this happened is revealing.

**1** Jerome, circa 400 A.D. was commissioned by the Pope Damasus I to translate the scriptures into Latin; his translation became the Latin Vulgate which is the official scripture of the Catholic Church. Its New Testament was translated from a corrupted Alexandrian version of the Textus Receptus which had previously been provided in purity to the Gentiles at Antioch. God assured that the purity of the Textus Receptus survived down through the ages to be-

come the source manuscript for the New Testament of the Geneva Bible and the later King James Bible; the sacred Masoretic text of the Jews became the source manuscript for the Old Testament of both these Bibles.

**2** The Protestants, the daughter churches of the great and abominable church, have revised and proliferated many different modern versions of the Bible, the first of which was the Revised Standard Version of 1881; all of these revisions use as a source manuscript the corrupted Codex Sinaiticus which had been found in 1844 by Constantin Von Tischendorf in Saint Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai. All these modern versions change the gospel of Jesus with a loss of plain and precious things; they also alter the covenants of the Lord to the extent that their meaning as intended by God cannot be discerned; effectively, they "have taken them away."

These many corrupted versions have gone forth to all nations of the Gentiles (vv. 172, 173), which has been the cause of stumbling by many (vv. 174, 175).

The Gentiles have not completely destroyed the seed of Lehi, although the Indians suffered greatly by them (v. 178).

*After* the Lord visits the remnant of Lehi's seed, by using the Gentiles to smite them in judg-

ment, and *after* the Gentiles stumble, because of the loss of the plain and precious things (vv. 182, 183), God will be merciful unto the Gentiles (v. 183). This mercy, to be extended by God to the Gentiles, originates with the coming forth of the Book of Mormon (vv. 184-186), and includes the preaching of His ministry during the latter days (vv. 187-189). Accordingly, this is speaking of our day and the full fruition of God's mercy to the Gentiles is yet to happen.

The Bible went forth amongst the Indians followed by the Book of Mormon (vv. 190, 191). "Other books" may refer to the Book of Mormon as a book of books; or, more probably, it may refer to not only the Book of Mormon but future books yet to come forth which have been written by other Israelites that God led away of the ten tribes; perhaps this occurred in which the time of the Assyrians conquered the north kingdom, circa 721 B.C.

A purpose of the Book of Mormon is to "establish the truth" of the King James Bible (v. 192). It is important to note here that if the plain and precious things of the gospel had been taken away from the King James Bible, it seems that this stated purpose of the Book of Mormon could not have been realized, for its truths would be lacking. Accordingly, it seems that the plain and precious things that are in the Book of Mormon shall confirm, i.e., "shall make known"

the very same "plain and precious things" which are in the King James Bible, but which have suffered loss by having been "taken away" in all modern bibles (v. 192).

Very important is that which is said in verse 195: "the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, *as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*" This italicized statement assures us that the "many parts which are plain and most precious of the gospel of the Lamb" (v. 168) have not been taken away from the King James Bible; accordingly, the KJV contains "the fullness of the gospel of the Lord" as was stated previously (v. 165).

That there has been no loss of God-given truths from the KJV is reiterated and fully confirmed in verse 196 by the statement "Wherefore, they both shall be established in one." It seems that the Book of Mormon can be "established in one" only with a Bible that teaches the *very same truths* as it does; accordingly, it cannot be one with any of the modern versions of the Bible.

Of all the bibles extant, only the King James Version teaches the very same gospel truths of the Book of Mormon and have unaltered covenants which the Lord made with the Israelites. Accordingly, the King James Version is the only Bible that can be made one with the Book of Mormon. ■

Since it's a new year we are trying something new. We decided, as members, that anyone can contribute something for the *Advocate*. Our sister Marilyn Smith presented her take on the start of the new year.

On December 31st of 2023 we gathered at the Warrensburg Local for fellowship and learning. Sunday School was spent studying and discussing Hebrews, chapter 4. Brother Donald Gill, our pastor, was also our speaker at the 11 o'clock hour. He used several scriptures from the Bible and Book of Mormon, but his testimony he shared about a student of his was, I think, the nutshell of the whole sermon, as well as directions for each of us as we enter this new year. Instead of complaining about what we can't do or shouldn't do, we need to begin each day asking God what we could do for Him today. So, as we each begin a new day in this new year may we each sow good seeds for the Lord that they may grow so that the Lord's Harvest may be Great! May each of you have a very blessed New Year.

*From Marilyn Smith*

The illustration of his student that Marilyn referred to is: In Donald's choir class he would have them stand, feet

apart, standing straight, and ready to sing. Well, one time this student was slouching and chewing gum. All the students knew when he would have them stand to sing that they had to have proper posture to sing without him telling them. So, when he saw this student slouching and chewing gum, he had to stop everyone and go through the correct singing posture. What he was telling us was we need to take stock of our spiritual posture, straighten ourselves, and get right with our Lord so we will be ready to embrace the new year as a better and improved spiritually person and be ready to be the light to shine for God to others around us. To sing a beautiful song by having the correct posture to sing our best. To do our best for the Lord.

On January 22, 2024, we had a guest speaker: Brother Trevor Wratt. Trevor read in Alma 3:27 and on where Alma asks lots of thought-provoking questions, making us really think about our spiritual walk with our God. He also talked about the sandy ground and building our spiritual house on the rock, the rock being the gospel of Our Lord.

We had 22 people present at our potluck meal. We normally have between 20 to 25 in attendance at our church services. Not

a large group, but we all enjoy the Spirit of the Lord that is in attendance with us every Sunday and Wednesday services.

If anyone wants to come visit us, our Sunday School Service starts at 10:00 a.m. where we normally have a lively discussion over the verses we read. We are now reading in Hebrews. Then at 11 A.M. we have what Donald Gill calls our Remembrance Service on the 1st Sunday of the month. Donald said he wanted to change the name from Sacrament to Remembrance as we are remembering the sacrifice that Jesus Christ did for us and our personal baptism and commitment we made when we were baptized. The rest of the month we have sermons at the 11 o'clock hour. Then, on the 3rd Sunday of each month, we have a guest speaker and a potluck dinner and fellowship time.

*Presented by Bonnie E Case*

## Warrensburg Local News

# The New Year

**Y**ears are but the measurement of time, and pertain to humanity and mortality. Eternity is with God, the eternal, and those who are with him, and is a condition that awaits us all after we have done with time.

Time, and the power to use it—life—is the gift of God. Years are made up of days. We have but one day at a time, and only one day of a kind. There are never two day exactly the same. The day that has passed never comes to us again. As “The mill cannot grind with the water that has passed,” so we cannot occupy the days that are gone.

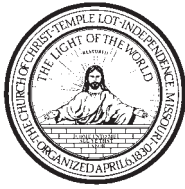
Our lives are made up of days, and the success of our lives depends upon the use we make of each day as it is given to us. A day wasted—unoccupied—is a day lost forever. We may improve the coming days, but can never reclaim the loss of days squandered in idleness.

As time is the gift of God, so God will hold us responsible for the use we make of it.

The passing of the Old Year, and the coming of the New, should cause every one to give thanks to God, and resolve to make proper use of the time and opportunities afforded us in the New Year. There is so much to be learned, and so much to be done, that there is no time to waste. We will never be in a place or condition where we can find nothing to do. Opportunities for work study, meditation and praise await us everywhere.

Thanks be to God for the coming of A.D. 1926, and may he help us to use it in such a way that when it shall have passed we shall have but little to regret.

— H. E. Moler  
*Zion's Advocate, January 1926*



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An Official Publication of



**CHURCH OF CHRIST.**

ESTABLISHED APRIL 8, 1830