

# The Greater Light

## *The End Time Messenger*

*“... Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed Repentance and Baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that THE GREATER LIGHT might come to them.”*

## Merry Christmas

2012

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### AT CHRISTMAS

*A man is at his finest toward the finish of the year.  
He is almost what he should be when Christmas Season's here.  
Then he is thinking more of others that he is thought the months before;  
And the laughter of his children is a Joy worth toiling for.  
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;  
When The Christmas Spirit rules him he comes close to the sublime.  
Man is ever in a struggle and he is oft misunderstood;  
There are days the worst that is in him is the master of the good.  
But 'At Christmas' kindness rules him and he puts himself aside;  
And his petty hates are vanquished and his heart is opened wide.  
Oh, I do not know how to say it but somehow it seems to me;  
That 'At Christmas' man is almost what God sent him here to be.*

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**The Church Of Christ With The Elijah Message**

**THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.**

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND EUROPE**



## Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God The Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the Universe; Ruler and Judge of all; Unchangeable and without Respect to persons.

2. We believe in Jesus Christ The Manifestation of God in the flesh, who lived, suffered and died for all mankind; whom we own as our Leader, Witness and Commander.

3. We believe in The Holy Ghost, The Spirit of Truth, The Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, Reveals things to come, and is the medium by which we Receive Revelation of Jesus Christ.

4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of The Atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without The Law. For The Power of Redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)

5. We believe that through The Atonement of Christ all men may be Saved by Obedience to The Laws and Ordinances of The Gospel; viz. : Faith in God and in The Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination, (b) Blessing of Children, (c) Confirmation and The Gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17), (d) Healing of the sick.

6. We believe in the literal second coming and Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ; in The Resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.

7. We believe in The Powers and Gifts of The Everlasting Gospel: viz: The Word of Wisdom; The Word of Knowledge; The Gift of Faith; The Gift of Healing; Working of Miracles; Prophecy; Discerning of Spirits; Divers kinds of Tongues; Interpretation of Tongues.

8. We believe The Fruits of The Spirit to be Love, Joy, Peace, Long Suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance.

9. We believe that in The Bible is contained The Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is an added Witness for Christ, and that these contain 'The Fullness of The Gospel.'

10. We believe in the principle of Continuous Revelation; that The Canon of Scripture is not full, that God Inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom he may choose.

11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly Baptized members, one of whom is an Elder, there The Church exists with Full Power of Church extension when acting in Harmony with The Law of God.

12. We believe that a man must be Called of God by Revelation and Ordained by those having Authority, to enable him to Preach The Gospel and Administer The Ordinances thereof.

13. We believe in the same Church Organization as existed in the time of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in The Church is that of an Apostle, of whom there are Twelve, who constitute Special Witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have The Missionary Supervision and The General Watch care of all The Churches.

14. The primary function of The General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is Missionary and the building

up and extension of The Kingdom of God in all the world.

15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to The Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.

16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends The True Brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein The Divine Command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.

17. We believe that all men are Stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of Stewardship is not the increase of Church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of The Common Fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy The Bounty and Gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.

18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of The Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when Chosen or Appointed by The Church to devote their entire time to Missionary Work, their families are to be provided for out of General Church fund. The Admonition of Christ that The Ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but go Trusting in God and the people, is applicable.

19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by The General Bishopric under the supervision and direction of the general conferences of The Church. The temporal affairs of The Local Churches shall be Administered by local Bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.

20. We believe that marriage is Ordained of God, and that The Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.

21. We are opposed to war. Men are not justified in taking up arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.

22. We believe in The Literal gathering of Israel, and in The Restoration of The Ten Lost Tribes.

23. We believe a Temple will be Built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will Reveal Himself and Endow His Servants whom He Chooses with Power to Preach The Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue and people, that The Promise of God to Israel may be Fulfilled.

24. We believe that a New Jerusalem shall be Built upon this land 'unto The Remnant' of The Seed of Joseph. (Ether 6:6-8; III Nephi 10:17), which city be Built, beginning at The Temple Lot.

25. We believe The Ministry and Membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics and should not affiliate with any society which administer Oaths or Covenants in conflict with The Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

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If you do not have means to read *The Greater Light* from a computer or make a hard copy to read, then let The Headquarter Office know and a hard copy will be made and mailed to you.

Message 53:3, 'Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them.'

Message 53:10, 'Yea, I have brought a **Warning** and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful

**even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men.'**

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**It is the agreement of *The Quorum of Twelve of This Church*, that no Minister is to ordain any man into *The Ministry* until said candidate has with all his heart and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in *The Articles of Faith and Practice*.**

**It is each Elder's duty to Seek Guidance from and to keep The Territorial Apostle informed of his works in the region he is laboring.**

Secretary For The Twelve  
Apostle Leonard H. Draves

## FOREWORD

**THE GREATER LIGHT**, the official publication of *THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WITH THE ELIJAH MESSAGE*, *The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of the Hope we have in Christ.

In its pages are found the thoughts and expression of a united people, whose only aim is to promote *The Cause of Christ* by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue and people, *The True Gospel of Christ* that through Obedience to His Laws we might be found worthy of *Eternal Life*.

In this publication, *The Record of The Nephites* is quoted many times. This Book was Revealed and Translated by *The Gift and Power of God*: the year 1829 marked the beginning of *The Restoration of all things*. It is a history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The American Indians. Though it contains a Record of two other groups of people who once lived here, it is for the most part a Record of The People of Nephi.

*The Messages* so often mentioned in this

publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work given to him of God; that of Restoring all things (Matthew 17:11). The Angel first came in 1829, and Restored *The Authority Of The Son Of God*, that *THE CHURCH OF CHRIST* might be Established as in The Days of The Apostles.

In 1927, The Angel Messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us *The Word Of The Lord* that *THE CHURCH OF CHRIST* might be set in Order, that a people might be Prepared to be *The Bride Of Christ*. This is *The Elijah Message* so many have looked for, *The Midnight Cry* has been Proclaimed, *A Warning of Destruction*, but to *The People Of The Lord*, a Message that Christ's soon Coming is near at hand. Fear God and give *Glory to His Name*, for *The Hour of His Judgment* has come. Awake thou that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of Prayer and Fasting in Humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again Spoken and Revealed *His Will* from Heaven. To this end, we Dedicate *The Greater Light*.

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like to keep our records up to date. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Thank You!

Secretary-Treasurer of Bishops'  
Bishop Reece Johnson

## THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY *To All People*

### SEVENTIETH MESSAGE

*The Angel Messenger of The Lord, The Resurrected, John The Baptist, appeared to me at my home, Independence, Missouri, August 20, 1947, at 11:42 p.m., and gave the following Message. The Light which has always accompanied The Messenger filled the room. (Matthew 24:15, Luke 12:42-43) He left at 12:30 a.m.*

-W. A. Draves

1. 'Arise and write The Message I will give you. I am The Messenger of The Lord, His Servant, sent to bring a Warning, a Cleansing, and to Prepare a People to be The Lord's Bride when He comes.

2. I speak as from *A Fountain of Truth* and with *Power and Authority*. I bring The Authority for mankind to represent Christ and His Church. Therefore remember this is a Holy Work and must be kept Holy.

3. Moreover The Lord has heard the prayers of this Assembly and has answered. Peace-herein is your Joy in Obedience and in Humility: for Joy comes by Obedience and Peace in much Assurance.

4. Let *The Assured Way of The Lord* be your Way-for I bring Peace and a Way of Deliverance. I speak The Lord's Words-for His Ways are Just. I proclaim *The Midnight Cry*. I bring Peace-let it remain

among you-in your gatherings and in your homes.

5. Let all be in the field as the way opens. Let all speak and teach the same things. Heed diligently and it will be well with The Faithful and to all who obey and defend This Cause.

6. Counsel together with your brethren and qualify to lead the people in *Peace and Righteousness*. Hold High *The Banner of Truth* in The Words I bring.

7. Send The Message and Warnings to the ends of the earth and to all nations. Print The Messages in other languages.

8. Let those with the responsibility of preaching and teaching of The Gospel in all the world consider deeply their Calling and Choosing in This Work, for The Work is Great that lies before you.

9. Let all watch and pray, for the trials will come to all. Mankind must come all The Way.

10. The Lord has been and will be with His People by His Spirit, and His Peace shall long linger with The Faithful until they become *The Jewels of God*.

11. Fear not, for the end cometh and all must be judged-may your Faith bring you to God-ward for then all shall see Him at His Appearing.

12. Give This Message to The Church, to your brethren and then to all.

13. Fear not man-nor their evil ways-do The Lord's Will.

14. I will come again.'

## From The Editor

*Submitted by Editor  
Leonard H. Draves  
Missouri*

## The Spirit Of Christmas

*By William A Draves*

The word 'Spirit' has many different meanings, to some it means Life or Soul, to others it is the feeling or motivating part of man's mind. Many times the high school students interprets 'Spirit' as enthusiasm, loyalty, and vigor one has for his school. Another meaning is *The True Intentions*, the pervading or prevailing essential of an event. 'The Spirit of Christmas' also has many different interpretations to many people, we hope to present some of the meanings of 'The Spirit of Christmas' through song.

Christmas is a time to be happy, and have a 'Holly Jolly Christmas'. Christmas is sitting before an open fire, girls dreaming of mistletoe and boys thinking of candy, popcorn and turkey. Christmas is a time of sharing and giving, a time to hear Christmas music, sing carols, and hear 'The Christmas Bells' rings. To the small ones, Santa Clause has become one of the prevailing meanings of Christmas; while others think of Christmas as a family time when everyone will be 'Home for the Holidays'.

Yet when Christmas Eve rolls around many start to forget about the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season, worrying about that certain gift for a certain person, and once again realize that 'True Intentions' or 'Real Meaning' of Christmas. Thoughts turn once again to 'The Birth of The Christ Child' and the surroundings of This Wondrous Happening. They recall that 'Holy Night' in Bethlehem with 'The Star Shining Bright' over the stable behind The Inn, leading The Seekers to The Small Babe Lying in 'The Manger'. With this 'Spirit of Christmas' in their hearts and minds, they many times try to form a Christmas Prayer to offer this small Child Named Jesus. Perhaps The True Spirit of Christmas could

be summed up in a simply way by the children all over the world in words of Wihla Hutson's famous Carol, which you have heard and can feel the warmth of by reviewing them. This is 'The Spirit of Christmas'.

## ***Some Children See Him***

*Words by Wihla Hutson, Music by Alfred Burt*

Some Children see Him lily white, The Baby Jesus born this night. Some Children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair. Some Children see Him bronzed and brown, The Lord of Heaven to earth come down.

Some Children see Him with dark and heavy hair. Some Children see Him almond-eyed, This Savior whom we kneel beside, Some Children see Him dark as they, Sweet Mary's Son to whom we Pray.

Some Children see Him as they, And, ah! They Love Him, too! The Children in each different place, Will see The Baby Jesus' face-like theirs, But Bright and Heavenly Grace, and filled with Holy Light. O lay aside each earthly thing, And with thy heart as offering, Come worship now The Infant King, 'Tis Love that's born tonight!

***May you have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.***

## **From The Apostles**

*Submitted by*

*Editor: Leonard H. Draves  
Missouri*

## **CHRISTMAS TIME**

*By William A. Draves*

Galatians 4:4, 'But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son . . .'

Christmas time - a special time of the

year – all over the world.

It is peculiar, in a way, to see the Christmas decorations in the stores in Tokyo, as well as in many other nations. One hundred fifty three Flags will wave one day over Christian nations.

Decorations are there, even though some are not yet Christian nations.

Each year, when November is over, much of the world gears up to or for the festival of Jesus' Birthday Celebration. He was born the 25th of the month in the warm growing season climate of Palestine. Eight days hence He was taken to The Temple to be registered as all other Hebrew babies were accustomed too. And some there gave Prophecy to His Position in the world. Thus, Render to Ceaser the things that are Caesar's and to God the things which are God's. So this became the first day, first month, first year of date and time after Christ. We count it B.C. before Christ and A.D. after. Thus our calendar registers time from The Birth Registration of Christ. So each year, beginning at the start of the month in which He was Born we begin the celebration of His Birth. *That is Christmas.*

He came in The Meridian of time, four thousand years after Adam, and nearly 2000 years will pass ere the folding in of *The Millennium reign*. The Day of Rest from the toil and sin tried time of mankind.

We like the time and season because we all sail into the celebration and respect of Good Will Towards All Mankind, in a Greater Love than at most times of the year. All alike we respect The Christ, as well as recognize His Death and Resurrection in keeping Sunday as our day of rest and Sabbath.

All men's natures are alike; it is their habits that carry them far apart. **‘And His**

**Name shall be called . . . The Prince of Peace . . .’** Isaiah 9:6. Gift bearing, heart touching, joy bringing Christmas Day of grand memories, King of the year. He Teaches us to forget our own heartaches and ease others.

The fact that most of us celebrate Christmas like this, even some who do not consider themselves Christ's followers, show how much we are Creatures of Love. We all sail cheerfully into Christmas time appreciating Good Will towards all men. It is time when families get together. We need Christmas time to get reacquainted with our families, with mankind. Goodwill: Our attitude and actions speak louder than words. Life would be pretty dull without Christmas time, seeing Loved ones again in reunion, families, home, and Church members.

Thus all of us are affected by Christmas, by arranging our lives, or rearranging our attitudes toward mankind. Christ like, Love one another, bear each others burdens. If it is not the qualities of Jesus which compel us to engage in this annual round of Love, fun and games, it must be the sheer pressure of the time of the year itself. Yes, that must be it. The time itself has its own significance. And, when the time rolls around once more for us to get The Christmas Spirit, few of us can resist. That is not far wrong, actually, it is good. There is something very special about Christmas Time, God's Time of Remembrance, Praise and Love.

There are different kinds of time. Sometimes, when one of our children come home after an evening out we say, "*Did you have a good time?*" They may have only been gone for two or three hours and we know that those two or three hours could have been a good time, a bad time, or just a

so-so time. Often, time can be a drag, and one has to be busy to get the time to move along. A factory worker on an assembly line may have to do that. A jogger who is determined to run for 30 minutes may find that 30 minutes is a mini-eternity.

Christ Time, point of determination has its own special quality, a quality that builds up hundreds of elements get funneled into *The Christmas Season*.

For some of us it is the nip in the air and snow flurries. For others, it is decorations, giving of gifts, or working harder to do good for some family: clothing them, or helping. There are scenes of Christ's Nativity that get placed in the oddest places where we stumble over them. There are the Carols that trigger memories and emotions. There are disgusting things that crop up too . . . like the frantic sales that run wild of unwanted gifts, exchange, but we care not for the unpleasant subject. It is enough to note how *The Time of Christmas* affects us all, how it works its way beneath our skin and finds its way into our hearts, our beliefs in God, The Christ and His Purpose of Coming about to Redeem and Ransom mankind. Thus Christmas is something we must understand what it really is, that is a big thing! The time itself. It is not just The Festival of Jesus Birth; in our Spirits, on everything. If Christmas was just a one day affair, we would not make so much preparation for it. Remember it is an entire month of planning and programming.

Many other things center around the thought of Christmas, it is the celebration of something that happened to time.

Perhaps you do not think that much about Time, though, it is the flow of our lives, the flow of history, and it just seems to go on and on and on. Some people have

described the continuation of time as a circular thing so that the flow of time never ceases. We may not know or be able to explain it, but we do know that The Scriptures say, **'the day comes, when TIME shall be no more, when eternity breaks forth.'**

It is the very best thing that has happened for all of us. We are living in time. We are experiencing pulsating movement and we are propelled along with it. Time is the great overriding element in our common environment. We swim through time as a fish swims through water. Occasionally time can be indescribably bad. Some times can be very pleasant.

Christmas is about Time. It is the celebration of something that happened to time. A special time, we talk about war time, spring time, our own time, the company's time – now there is *Christmas Time*, too, and it is 'The Best Time' of all.

It does not just endure only throughout the month of December, it is the celebration of the existing fact that because of The Birth of Jesus Christ all time, all centerings, has become Christmas time. (When the TIME had fully come.)

Galatians 4:4. To some this may appear as a simple, offhand statement is in fact very profound, and *The Fullness Of Time* is a phrase like that. It is worth considering closely, because when we do, we can begin to understand how all of time has become Christ, Christmas Time through Jesus' Birth, and because all time has been affected by Christmas there is HOPE for all of us.

## From The Bishops

*Submitted by Editor*

## WHAT IS TITHING?

The word 'tithes' means one tenth. From the beginning of time God has sent apart one seventh of our time as belonging to Him. In *The Garden of Eden* He set apart one tree which He Claimed as His Own, and warned our first parents not even to touch it. That Tree is gone, but in its place God has Ordained The Tithe as Sacred to Himself, and He Warns us not to use it for our own needs. One tenth of our increase is His.

Deuteronomy 14:22, **'Thou shalt Truly Tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.'**

Increase means profit. The farmer must Tithe his year's profits. The businessman must Tithe his net gains. The workingman turns his time into money. His salary or wage is profit; therefore, he is to Tithe that income. Gifts are also profit or increase of our possessions. When we earn a dollar, ten cents belongs to God. When our profit is 1,000 our Tithe is one tenth of that, or \$100.

To the unselfish Christian, it will be a Real Privilege to give God the first tenth of our increase. The Tithe is to be carefully set aside for God's Work before we use the other nine tenths. *It is Holy to God.* It should never be borrowed. Certainly it should never be kept, for that is what God Calls robbery of Sacred Things.

Malachi 3:6, **'I am The Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.'**

Without God's Unchanging Protection, we would quickly be consumed by the destroyer. The principle of systematic giving, in *The Spirit of Sacrifice*, is just as much a part of genuine Christ Likeness as it ever was. *The Spirit of God* never changes. Hence The New Testament Christian will be as Self Sacrificing and Liberal as was The Child of God of Old Testament times.

Luke 6:38, **'Give, and it shall be given unto you.'**

## ARTICLE

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

Reprint: L.M.Thornton

Submitted by Editor

Noah was commissioned to build an Ark to save mankind that were Obedient to God's Mandates, as was John The Baptist sent to Preach The Kingdom Message in the wilderness 2000 years ago and to Restore all things in this day and age. So was Paul directed by *'The Holy Spirit'* to go into Macedonia. *Who but God can give Directions and who will dare usurp His Place?*

Nor must it be overlooked that *The Calling of The Ministry* depends upon an Open Channel of Revelation. The Ministry cannot merely be appointed, but man can only assume The Ministry when he is Called of God by Revelation as was Aaron (Hebrews 5:4).

Unlike other vocations, The Office of The Ministry is closed except unto those who Heaven Calls and Pray tell us *how can God Call unless He speaks it becomes a Revelation?*

Matthew 4:4, **'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth (from time to time, LMT) out of The Mouth of God.'**

Revelation of *The Holy Spirit* is The Life Blood of The Church of Christ, wherein it relates God's Message to His People in this modern age.

Mark 13:11, **'Take no thought before hand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate; but whatsoever shall be**

given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but The Holy Ghost.'

*The Holy Spirit* as The Great Intelligent Force that proceeds from The Father, must if it do anything, *Reveal*. For intelligence can only unfold itself in Revelation. Like the light that proceeds from the sun, so does *The Holy Spirit* Shine forth from *The Presence Of The Godhead*. It would be rational to speak of the existence of the sun without light as it would be to talk of God without Revelation.

John 16:13, 'Howbeit when He The Spirit of Truth, is come, He will Guide you into all Truth; for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come.'

Surely, then, in the light of these Promises, none should or could (but they do) doubt *The Revealing Powers of The Holy Spirit*. However much men oppose this True Doctrine of continued Revelation, God will nevertheless, continue to Reveal His Mind.

**'Heaven and earth shall pass away but the Inn.**

**And there were in the same country Shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.**

**And, lo, The Angel of The Lord came upon them, and The Glory of The Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.**

**And The Angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy, which shall be to all people.**

**For unto you is Born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ The Lord.**

**And this shall be a Sign unto you; Ye shall find The Babe wrapped in swaddling**

**clothes, lying in a Manger.'**

**And suddenly there was with The Angel a Multitude of The Heavenly Host Praising God, and saying,**

**'Glory to God in The Highest, and on earth Peace, Good Will toward men.'**

**And it came to pass, as The Angels were gone away from them into Heaven, The Shepherds said one to another, 'Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which The Lord hath made known unto us.'**

**And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and The Babe lying in a Manger.**

**And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning This Child.**

**And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by The Shepherds.'**

As we read here, Jesus, The Savior of the world, was Born. He came as a Baby, then grew to be a Man that gave His Life for you and me, so we could live with Him forever when we die. We celebrate His Birth because of our Faith in Him, and *His Birth was The Beginning of a Life-Changing Event: The Cross*. So let's celebrate Jesus' Birthday together, and remember why He Came.

## ***My Christmas Prayer***

*By Nat Olson*

*Submitted by Ellen Draves*

*Missouri*

Dear Lord, my heart overflows with Thanks to You for all *The Good Gifts* You have given me. For friends and family who share their Love with me. For a future filled with Hope, because it rests in Your Hands. For Peace of Mind which goes beyond all

my understanding.

How drab, how empty life would be without those Gifts!

And Dear Lord, accept my thanks for the tangible things of life. For a place to live, for transportation, for food, for finances and for all those other necessities of modern living.

Thank You, too, for those extra Gifts which go beyond necessity. For fun things and fancy things, for things that delight the mind and lift the heart. For all the beauty of Your Creation, I Thank You!

But most of all, Dear Lord, Thank You for coming to this earth, to Live, to Love, to Die, and Live again.

Thank You for becoming a man, closed in a Body that got tired and worn, understanding how I so often feel. Thank You for Promising that You are The Way, The Truth, and The Life. And that through receiving You, I may Live with You in Your House, content in Your Love forever.

In The Name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and my Savior, I pray. Amen!

## Let Us Study Together

*Sister Ellen Draves  
Missouri*

### Mockers

Isaiah 28:22, ‘Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your \_\_\_\_\_ be made strong; for I have heard from the Lord God of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.’

Galatians 6:7, ‘Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.’

Jude 18-19, ‘How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who \_\_\_\_\_ them-

selves, sensual, having not the Spirit.’

Mormon 9:26-27, ‘And now behold, who can \_\_\_\_\_ against the works of the Lord? Who can deny his sayings? Who will rise up against the \_\_\_\_\_ power of the Lord? Who will despise the works of the Lord? Who will despise the children of Christ? Behold, all ye that are despisers of the works of the Lord, for ye shall wonder and perish.’

Proverbs 17:5, ‘Whoso mocketh the poor \_\_\_\_\_ his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.’

III Nephi 29:4-5, ‘And when ye shall see these things coming forth among you, then ye need not any longer \_\_\_\_\_ at the doings of the Lord, for the sword of his justice is in his right hand, and behold at that day, if ye shall spurn at his doings, he will cause that it shall soon overtake you. Wo unto him that spurneth at the doings of the Lord; year, wo

Romans 6:12, ‘Let not sin therefore reign in your \_\_\_\_\_ body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.’

Message 25:14, ‘Repent, ye \_\_\_\_\_ of pleasure, for your worship is not of the heart, your prayers are only from the lips, and an outward show, and this is an abomination unto the Lord. For your effort is to get gain and your hearts are full of greed; therefore, the wrath of God is kindled against the \_\_\_\_\_, and the hireling, for they shall receive the greater damnation, for the Lord will send a scourge and destruction in the land; and he shall cleanse the people of darkness and superstition and your mockery shall come to an end.’

Matthew 15:7-8, ‘Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This

people \_\_\_\_\_ nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.'

Message 74:4, 'False prophets will arise. False \_\_\_\_\_ will be made. Evil will grow worse and worse among the ungodly. Hearts will be sad until few will have faith in the gospel of Christ. Mockery shall be among men, but the truth shall go on to its mission.'

Message 69:4, 'Yea, moreover, Israel will slowly hear and come forth \_\_\_\_\_. Heed the warning I have sent by my servant, John. This is the closing hour—the warning is sent and to all that hear, life everlasting, but to them that mock and scorn, Woe! Woe! Woe! and sad will be their end. Behold I have spoken.'

Message 7&8:4, 'The Lord requires this work to be done after the \_\_\_\_\_ that he shall give you from time to time. It is well that you choose a wise man who fears God and who is no mocker, but one who will follow the \_\_\_\_\_ that God shall give concerning the building of this house. He may draw the plans, and if he will give heed to the voice of the Spirit and the instructions that I shall deliver to you let him draw the prints and plans.'

Message 9:3, 'I will give you more of the plans of the temple, but be not \_\_\_\_\_ in carrying out the plans that I have given you. Get, as I have told you, a wise man whose heart is filled with the Spirit of God; who is no mocker. Let him draw the plan and prints of the building as far as he can, for behold, this house is not built after the \_\_\_\_\_ of men; for it shall yet be shown to many who doubt and question the wisdom of this house, that the Lord has directed, and that it was not the wisdom of men.'

Message 106:23, 'Choose a man who is no mocker, who is humble and of good \_\_\_\_\_, to bring up the prints and plans from the instructions I have brought and will bring.'

## Food For Thought

*Sister Karen Wilkin  
Missouri*

Saturday, November 3, 2012, 9:00 P.M. One Sunday during Church Services Brother Reese Johnson brought out about 'God Having a Plan' for us all. What he said made a lot of sense and really got me to thinking. This is my '*Food for Thought*' for The Christmas Season.

God had a Plan when He Decided to 'Create the Earth.' *What was His Plan?* Well, *The Bible* Prophesies that He Created The Heaven and the Earth in 6 days and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day He Rested. God had a Plan to make the Earth beautiful and useful. He had not Created a human being yet, but He had a Plan. I'm sure He Gave a lot of thought as He Created all Life as well as non-living things. (Genesis, Chapter 1)

God had a Plan: Then God Decided to Create a human, 'Man'. He used clay to mold this human and The Word says He Breathed Life into Him. He would Call this man, 'Adam'. Adam enjoyed the many Wonderful Things God had Created. But God Saw that Adam was lonely, so He Created him a 'Woman', her name would be 'Eve'. God Knew in Advance, even when He Created her that Eve would fall into satan's trap, but even before any of that happened, God had a Plan. (Genesis, Chapter 2)

When God Instructed Noah to Build a boat and take his family and two of every

animal onto The Boat with them, God had a Plan. His Plan was to Keep people and animals Producing so Life could continue on once the rains subsided and they reached land. (Genesis, Chapter 6)

When God Allowed satan to tempt Job so he could disprove his Faithfulness, God had a Plan. To this day we Respect what Job went through and use his Faithfulness through all the challenging trials he endured for our own Hope and Promises from God. (Book of Job)

I won't go through all *The Bible* Stories as it would take up too much space, but we understand that through each Written Story, each Psalm and Proverb, every Book Written in *The Bible*, *The Record of The Nephites* and *The Word of The Lord*; God had and has a Plan. If God's Plan wasn't Fulfilled, it wasn't anything He did or didn't do; it was because man didn't follow through in Obedience. For instance when God Called for The Temple of The Lord to be Built and gave The Instructions in the early Messages, He had a Plan. It was man who failed Him in this Commandment of The Building of The Temple. However, God's Plan will still be Fulfilled in The Building of The Temple of The Lord. **He Still has a Plan for The Temple and who will Build it for Him.** (Message 106:19, 21, 22).

When God Sent His Messenger, John The Baptist, as Promised in Malachi 3:1; He had a Plan! Although The Messenger has not come for many years, God Still Has a Plan and He Promised us His Word Will NOT return unto Him Void. (Message 106:25)

The Christmas Season is now upon us once again. Let us Reflect and Meditate on This Great Plan God had. Every single thing

that transpired from the moment He Sent His Angel to Reveal to Mary what would happen; His Plan was being Placed into Action, at The Right Time and Right Place as Written and Prophesied. Prophecy was being Fulfilled. (The Four Gospels)

When God Knew it was Time to Fulfill The Revelation of His Birth to a Virgin named Mary, God put Forth His Plan and He Came Forth as a New Born Baby on this Earth to Fulfill Prophecy for mankind to know of His Great Love for mankind. God had a Plan. He Planned it so He would be Born in a Barn (cave) instead of a room at The Inn. He Planned that The Star would be so Bright that The Wise Men would Follow that Star and find The Christ Child, Lying in a Manger. He Planned that The Shepherds would Find Him at The Right Time. He Planned every Aspect of His Birth and Knew Exactly what would Happen and Take Place because of His Birth. (Read The 4 Gospels for more Insight on The Wonderful Event of Jesus's Birth).

When Jesus Walked the Earth and Chose His Apostles, He had a Plan! He Knew what each one would do and/or not do. Because He had a Plan, He didn't Allow the things of Life Lead Him Astray. He Kept His Eye on The Main Goal He had Set out to Accomplish. We know there was nothing easy about His Journey, but, He was Successful in Everything He Set out to do. His Example was for all mankind to Follow and Live by.

When Jesus made The Sacrifice to Die on The Cross; God had a Plan. His Plan was to Give mankind The Opportunity to have Eternal Life with Him. His Plan was to Give His Own Life so we might have Salvation and Life Everlasting in Eternity with Him.

He Bled and Died on The Cross and

Suffered such humiliation and Endured such awful agonizing Pain so we might understand His Great Love for mankind. God had a Plan. (Matthew, Chapters 26, 27 & 28)

God Has A Plan!!!! He has a Plan for you. He has a Plan all Laid out for each person. (Jeremiah 1:5) His Plan for each Soul is that they might Accept Him and be Saved, to Live with Him throughout Eternity. But He Knows that not everyone will Accept that Plan and many go to The Beyond not Knowing The Love of Christ and cannot Dwell with Him in Paradise, but must Live Eternally without Him. (Messages 53:9; 104:33)

God has a Plan for those who Follow Through and Endure to The End. **He has a Plan for your Life. (Jeremiah 29:11) God has a Wonderful Plan for your Life.** He didn't Say He would make it Easy, because anything Worth having does not come easy, but takes Dedication, Submissiveness and Faith. But He does Desire for each one to Accept Him as their Savior and give their Life to Him. He Desires that every Soul would Endure Life's Trials and Endure to The End. (Messages **74:12**; 83:8; 84:6; 84:24; 88:13).

Yes, God Has A Plan. His Plan Includes Returning Soon just as His Word says He Will do. He has a **Plan** all Laid out for The Future, for each person, for His Work, right up to the end.

We have an Opportunity to be Included in His Plans. God has a Plan for The Millennium Reign for those Thousand Years. He has a Plan for The Time He Sets satan free for a Short Season. Then His Final Plan will become Living with Christ Forever and Ever in Peace, Joy and Love.

During This Wonderful Time of The

Christmas Season, Reflect on God's Plan for you. *Pray about what His Plan is for you in The New Year ahead. Pray that His Plan for your Life will not return unto Him Void but you will be within His Will for your Life and Fulfill those things He has Planned for you.*

God Bless you each one and may you have a Blessed Christmas Season and a Wonderfully, Blessed New Year.

## Testimonies Of The Past

2007 General Assembly

**Donald Thompson, Missouri:** I thank The Lord for you all. That is why I am here. I was baptized in 1965. I didn't start studying as I should. I didn't get involved. I knew This Work was True. I feel unworthy, but The Lord Called me for a purpose. I want to do something for The Lord and to hurt no one. Remember, we cannot hide from The Lord. He sees and knows all of us. Walk upright and do good always. I love you all.

**Michael Greenwell, Missouri:** I don't get the time to do what I want to do. My job keeps me busy some 13 to 15 hours a day. I recently had surgery and spent my savings on that and I didn't think I could afford to come to The Assembly. The Lord worked it out for me to be here. I am thankful for that. Give as much as you can give, don't worry what you get out of it. Give your all and your best. The Lord will turn it into a Blessing. Remember, give to The Lord.

**Oladawn Thompson, Missouri:** It is a Blessing to be here with you. It is good to come together and worship and praise The Lord. This is a Precious Work. We must be Obedient to The Lord. We must die within us so we can rise up and live in Christ. True Happiness is being obedient to The Lord. When we share Christ, there is a great

happiness and joy within you. God is your mainstay. The written Word will ground you firm in The Lord. Worship The Lord in Spirit. Put Christ first and only Him. Come out of the world and yield to Christ. Feast on The Written Word, it will give you strength and help you to endure. Get grounded in The Word, make it foremost in your life. It is never too late to learn of The Lord, Praying and Fasting is for our benefit. I want to walk closer to God everyday. We are evil without The Spirit of God within us. I love The Promises God has given to us. God cannot Bless us if we stand in the way of our Blessing. Be Humble always. I love Administrations, The Blessed Oil and Prayer are Great Tools The Lord has given us. Remember, satan only has power if we give it to him. Yield your will to The Lord!

**Nawassa Greenwell, Missouri:** My leg was hurting a lot, and I needed to get some groceries. The Lord told me that Grace is sufficient for me to get to the store. I went in Faith. When I got to the store, the best parking space was available for me. Even my family helped me unload. I had ten dollars left, which I owed my daughter. SO I had all my needs provided for me. If you don't believe in The Lord, why ask Him for help. My grandson got sick and was better when Michael prayed for him. After that, when he needed prayed for he would ask grandpa himself.

**Tammy Thompson, Missouri:** I am Blessed by the Testimonies. I was able to get two days off of work for The Assembly. I also got my bonus check which was not to come until July. That gave me the money I needed to be here. It was a Blessing and I am thankful to be here and to stay with my parents. That helps out a lot. Yesterday River prayed, he is such a Blessing to me.

He is so full of Jesus. When he was playing in the play room, he heard the people praying over the intercom and he stopped playing and prayed also. He is such a Blessing to his family and to all. I love you guys.

**Richard Johnson, Iowa:** I would like to read from John 14:1-2, '**Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me.**

**In My Father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a Place for you.'** Our Spirits deserves to be with The Lord. Our Spirits groans for John The Baptist to come again. Pray for this group of people everyday, so none will slip away.

**Nawassa Greenwell, Missouri:** I know that it is important that we pray for one another. We need to pray for those in need. I thank all that prayed for Mike when he was down.

**Donald Thompson, Missouri:** I read recently about a group of college kids doing a study on prayer. They tested 3000 people and found out that those they prayed for did better than those that were not prayed for. They wanted to know if prayer really works. So you see, God answers prayers!

**Brenda Humpert, Missouri:** I thank God that I am here today. I know that God answers prayers. I pray that God will give the Sega family a special Blessings for coming so far to be here with us. I remember when we came to The Assembly for the first time in many years, I was prayed for concerning my job. I wasn't sure if I would have one when I returned as my boss said they had to cut back, and I was the only one working. When I returned home, I was assigned to work with another company. It was a Blessing, because it was that company that had an opening here in Kansas City that

made it possible for us to move here and be near The Church. Also Robbie was prayed for and he was accepted into a computer program that he wanted. Blessings are here. We are all a family. The Lord will provide. I thank The Lord.

## ARTICLES

### From The Vineyard

#### Worship

*Sister Oladawn Thompson  
Missouri*

**Worship** is showing Reverence and Gratitude to God Reverence: A feeling or Attitude of deep Respect, Love, Awe, Gratitude: Thankfulness, Appreciation.

Worship is about position of our Hearts, Worship can be offered in Song, Praise, Adoration, Prayer and Meditation.

We by our Actions can Worship God, money, power, a person, or even a life style.

Our Worship should be clearly of interest to God. Every one has an inner need to Worship. God ask us to Worship Him. *The Bible* makes it Clear that there is Only One God Worthy of our Worship.

Deuteronomy 6:4-18, **'Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is One Lord.**

**And thou shalt Love The Lord thy God with all thine Heart and with all thy Soul, and with all thy Might.**

**And these words which I Command thee this day, shall be in thine Heart.**

**And thou shalt Teach them Diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up.**

**And thou shalt bind them for a Sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as**

**frontlets between thine eyes, and thou shalt Write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.**

**Thou shalt Fear The Lord thy God and Serve Him, and shalt swear by His Name.**

**Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you:**

**For The Lord thy God is a Jealous God among you, lest The Anger of The Lord thy God be Kindled against thee and Destroy thee from off the face of the earth.**

**Ye shall not Tempt The Lord your God, as ye Tempted Him in Massah.**

**Ye shall Diligently keep The Commandments of The Lord your God, and His Testimonies and His Statutes, which He hath Commanded thee.**

**And thou shalt do that which is Right and Good in The Sight of The Lord, that it may be well with thee.'**

A Scribe to The Lord The Glory due His Name, Worship The Lord in Splendor of His HOLINESS.

Psalms 29:2, **'Give unto The Lord The Glory due unto His Name: Worship The Lord in The Beauty of Holiness'.**

When we come into The House of The Lord we need to already be Prepared to Worship, Pray to The Lord before entering The House of Worship and get your mind upon The Things of The Lord, read The Scriptures a bit, do whatever it takes to bring you into The Holiness of The Lord. Come Hungry for The Word of God, Come in Expecting to draw Closer to The Lord, Come in Reverence, Come to Worship our Lord to give Him Glory by your Actions. Come to Hear from The Lord, Come to Sing Praises to our Lord, Come in Honor of what

He has Already done for you.

So much of the time we Come into The House of The lord, with all our things of the world weighing us down with all our problems and with all our 'ME THINGS' that it hinders us from Worshiping. (For instant what we have to do or what we have to get done or Hope this don't last long as where we have to go next). This attitude cheats us of Truly Worshiping and being Blessed by The Lords Spirit. We carry our worldly time clock with us and say to The Lord by our Actions, you only have this long to Bless me.

Oh my what selfish attitude we have taken on! Don't cheat yourself, clear your minds before you walk into The House of Worship. Tell The Lord you are here to Worship HIM and you are here to Come Closer to Him. Repent of the things hat hinders your Walk with The Lord and Come with a Clean Heart and Mind to Receive His Blessings. Make your plans a little later or another day. As the most important time you can spend is in Worship. Don't allow anything else to interfere. Come with The Knowledge that God Loves to Hear your voice. He Loves to Hear your Prayers. He Died for your sins before He let you die in your sin.

He Deserve you to Worship Him in every way. He Celebrated with The Angels when you were Baptized, in His Communion He Drew you Close to Him. He Healed your sins and your Hearts when they were heavy with burdens. He Lifted these burdens. He Held you when things were tough. He gave you Rest when you didn't think there was no rest. He has Filled your Soul with Wonder and Blessings of Joy to the point it caused us to Rise and Dance in The Spirit. His Love has filled you to over-

flowing many times, even when you least deserved it. Now with all this how can one not Rise up and Worship Him in The Depths of Holiness.

Come to Him in The Spirit of not what HE can do for me but what you can do in Worship to Him. Then as you Worship in Truth of Holiness you will see many Miracles in your own Life. You will take upon yourself a New Attitude and a Deeper Love for The Lord and His Scriptures.

We as grandparents, parents and Children must Learn to Worship The Lord in Holiness and to Teach our children that The House of Worship is a Place we Learn of His Goodness and must be Respected in everyway.

I do not wish to offend anyone but we must turn off our phones, our minds, from the things of the world and Come into The House of The Lord with One Purpose in mind 'to give our Lord Honor and Glory' and to Worship Him'.

**Psalm 34:3, 'Oh Magnify The Lord with me and let us Exalt His Name together!'**

**Psalm 95:6, 'O come let us Worship and Bow down, (Pray) let us Kneel before The Lord our Maker.'**

**Psalm 96:8-9, 'Give unto The Lord The Glory Due unto His Name; bring an Offering and Come into His Courts. (Offering Clean and Pure Heart ready to Receive).**

**O Worship The Lord in The Beauty of Holiness: Fear before Him, all the earth'. (The Fear is Respect to His Word Knowing He is Faithful to Fulfill).**

The Lord Delight in your coming to Him and in your Praise to Him.

**Zephaniah 3:17, 'The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is Mighty; He will Save,**

**He will Rejoice over thee with Joy; He will Rest in His Love, He will Joy over thee in Singing’.**

*Do you hear what this One Little Scripture is Saying to you? Our Lord Delight in Hearing you. He Delight in your Love for Him. He Delight over you. He will Give you Rest in His Love. He even Sings over you.*

We don't always Deserve to be Loved like that but our Lord and Savior does. *So why do we give Him the crumbs of our Life instead of The First Meat? (Tithes)*

We need to Learn to Fully Worship The Lord and to Respect and Honor Him in our Services to Teach our children The Proper Way of Worship and also Worship Him in our everyday Life.

There is not one of us that don't have a friend that we desire to hear from daily or want to spend time with. The Lord is Asking us to be His Friend in our daily Walk to take time to Talk to Him, to spend Time with Him daily, in our times of Joys as well as in times of need. He Longs to Hear from us. His Heart Delights in our Voice, even in the beat of our Hearts. He Longs to Spend time with each of us in the secret places of our Hearts in our daily walk. He Longs for us to Come to Him in Prayer, in Song, in our Actions. Our homes should be Full of The Lords Presence His Spirit should always linger there.

John 4:23-24, **‘But the hour cometh, and now is, when The True Worshippers shall Worship The Father in Spirit and in Truth: for The Father Seeketh such to Worship Him.**

**God is Spirit and they that Worship Him must Worship Him in Spirit and Truth.’**

Romans 12:1-2, **‘I beseech you there-**

**fore, brethren by The Mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a Living Sacrifice, Holy, Acceptable unto God, which is your Reasonable Service.**

**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by The Renewing of your Mind, that ye may Prove what is that Good and Acceptable, and Perfect, Will of God’.** (This Chapter speaks of The Church in Whole Body, how we should be and act. The Members of The Body of The Church).

Leviticus 19:30, **‘Ye shall keep My Sabbath and Reverence (Respect) My Sanctuary: I Am The Lord.’**

Exodus 31:3, **‘Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep; for it is a Sign between Me and you throughout your generations: that ye may know that I Am The Lord that doth Sanctify you.**

Message 84:13, **‘It is finished, no more the old law of burning of Sacrifices on The Alter and its split bloods, The Worship of day or days, but Keep ye The Lord's day, The First Day of the week for Worship and Service in Respect to The Resurrection.’**

Herein was The Gospel Restored to a nation and nations bringing forth Fruit thereof.

Deuteronomy 4:9, **‘Only take Heed to thyself and Keep thy Soul Diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen and lest they depart from thy Heart all the days of thy Life: but Teach them to thy sons and thy son's son.’** (other words Teach our children and grand children to Diligently Hold up in Respect The Things of God).

Deuteronomy 11:16, **‘Take Heed to yourselves, that your Heart be not**

**deceived and ye turn aside and Serve other gods and worship them.'** (Here we are Warned not to put anything above God: such as pleasure or our own will as this causes you to leave your True Love The Lord and your Actions become a way of Worshiping pleasures or other things you will lose your Affection for our Lord and then the things of the world becomes your God.)

**1 Samuel 15:25, 'Now therefore, I Pray thee, pardon my sin ,and turn again with me, that I may Worship The Lord.'** (So when we come into The Lord whether in Service together or alone with The Lord we must Repent first become Cleansed and then go into Pure Worship which The Lord Delights in.)

Example of the above statement:

**1 Samuel 15:30-31, 'I have sinned: yet honor me now, I Pray thee before The Elders of my people and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may Worship The Lord thy God.'**

**So Samuel turned again after Saul: and Saul Worshiped The Lord.'** (Here Saul ask for Forgiveness and Samuel forgave him and Saul was Forgiven and able to Worship).

**1 Chronicles 16: 23-28, 'Sing unto The Lord, all the earth; shew forth from day to day His Salvation.'**

**Declare His Glory among the heathen; His Marvelous Works among all nations.**

**For Great is The Lord and Greatly to be Praised: He also is to be Feared (Respected) above all Gods.**

**Glory and Honor are in His Presence; Strength and Gladness are in His Place.**

**Give unto The Lord The Glory due unto His Name: bring an Offering (Pure Heart) and Come before Him: Worship**

**The Lord in The Beauty of Holiness'.**

**1 Chronicles 16:8-15, 'Give Thanks unto The Lord; Call upon His Name make Known His Deeds among the people.'**

**Sing unto The Lord, Sing Psalms unto Him, talk ye of all His Wondrous Works.**

**Glory ye in His Holy Name: let The Heart of them Rejoice that Seek The Lord.**

**Seek The Lord and His Strength ,Seek His Face Continually.**

**Remember His Marvelous Works that He hath Done, His Wonders and The Judgment of His Mouth .**

**He is The lord our God; His Judgment are in all the earth.**

**Be Mindful always of His Covenant; the word which He Commanded to a thousand generations.'**

**Psalms 4:4-5, 'Stand in Awe and sin not: Commune with your own Heart upon your bed and be Still.'**

**Off The Sacrifices of Righteousness and put your Trust in The Lord.'**

**Psalms 5:3-8, 'My Voice shalt thou Hear in the morning, O Lord in the morning will I Direct my Prayer unto Thee and will Look up.'**

**But as for me I will Come into Thy House in the multitude of Thy Mercy and in thy Fear (Respect) will I Worship toward Thy Holy Temple.**

**Lead me O Lord, in Thy Righteousness, because of thine enemies: make Thy Way Straight before my face'. (Our enemies are our sins or desires not Right or According to The Lord's Will. In other words keep me from sin so that I may Serve you According to Your Will.)**

**Psalms 29:2, 'Give unto The Lord The Glory Due unto His Name: Worship The**

**Lord in The Beauty of Holiness.'**

**Psalms 86: 11-12, 'Teach me Thy Way, O Lord; I will Walk in Thy Truth: Unite my Heart to fear Thy Name.**

**I will Praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my Heart: and I will Glorify Thy Name for Evermore'. (Remember to Fear The Lord is to Respect The Lord).**

**Psalms 95:6, 'O Come , let us Worship and Bow down: let us Kneel before The Lord our Maker'.**

**Psalms 99:5, 'Exalt ye The Lord our God, and Worship at His Footstool; for He is Holy.'**

**Psalms 99:9, 'Exalt The Lord our God, and Worship at His Holy Hill; for The Lord our God is Holy'.**

**Psalms 149:1, 6, 'Praise ye The Lord. Sing unto The Lord a New Song and His Praise in The Congregation of Saints.**

**0 Let them Praise His Name in The Dance: let them Sing Praises unto Him with The Timbre and Harp.**

**For The Lord Taketh Pleasure in His People: He will Beautify The Meek with Salvation.**

**Let The Saints be Joyful in Glory: let they Sing Aloud upon their beds.**

**Let The High Praises of God be in their mouth and a two edged sword in their hand'.**

**Psalms 150:1-6, 'Praise ye The Lord. Praise God in His Sanctuary: Praise Him in The Firmament of His Power.**

**Praise Him for His Mighty Acts: Praise Him According to His Excellent Greatness.**

**Praise Him with The Sound of The Trumpet: Praise Him with The Psaltery and Harp.**

**Praise Him with The Timbre and Dance: Praise Him with Stringed Instru-**

**ments and Organs.**

**Praise Him upon The Loud Cymbals: Praise Him upon The High Sounding Cymbals.**

**O let every thing that hath Breath Praise The Lord. Praise ye The Lord.'**

**Acts 24:16, 'And herein do I Exercise myself, to have always a Conscience Void of Offense toward God and toward men'. (So to have this kind of Mind and Heart we must always Repent and Obey The Lord's Will).**

**Message 27:10, 'Hear ye Hear ye ! oh ye People of The Lord! Be Humble in your Work. Have your Hearts Filled with Love for all men. Be ye at Peace. God to the land. Gather in groups where you can Worship The Lord your God in Peace, that The Spirit of God may Remain among you.'**

**Message 47:12, 'Many will Come to Worship The Lord and because of those that Keep and Do His Will, He will Cause that they shall Overcome. They that are Patient to Keep His Words shall be Delivered from The Hour of Temptation. they that Overcome shall Drink of The Water of Life Freely'. (So you see The Lord here is telling us that our Actions will bring or hinder those that are Looking for a Place to Worship. Our everyday Life needs to be where we are showing Respect and Reverence to our Lord and His Bride, The Church at all times. How we treat people and how we Speak and where we Are. What we do 'Sheds a Light' on what we Worship and on The Lord's Church.**

**If we who have what The Lord has Given, then our Light in This Work should Shine in every Situation we face daily. (The Fruits should be Evidence in our daily Life.)**

**Message 75:4, 'Behold! Let not trade-**

**tions Come among you. The Lord Speaks to the nations and this people as Respect the day and days of Rest, which is THE LORD'S DAY, being The First Day of the week that there might be A Day of Worship and Learning of The Lord.'** (This is for our Rest and for our Learning *who Loves us more?* And when we take time to Clear our Minds and Hearts of things of the world then Worship becomes very Special to you as well as to The Lord.)

Message 77:12, **'Long The Lord Accept The First Day of the week to Gather and Worship in Respect to The Resurrection. Let your minds be Holy at all times. Be in Humility that The Lord will Hear your Prayers'**.

Message 78:3, **'Moreover, there are those who Bear The Fruits of The Spirit and are Humble, Many Seek to be Right before God'**. (To be Right before God you must have The Fruits of The Spirit Living and Acting in your Life and being Obedient to The Written Words.)

Message 81:23, **'The Church is Organized. I have Given The Type and Leadership, The Way through The Gates is Open. Repentance and Faith are The Beginning, Worship and Receive The Gift. The Hands must be Laid upon all that The Spirit might Come to those that Prepare for It'**. (As we Learn to Give our self to True Worship, we will Receive Greater Gift of God's Love Working within us).

Message 84:3, **'Let The Church and all men Respect The Resurrection, for with it there is Hope for all mankind. Come together and Worship on The First Day of the week- But remember God Always. Keep The Lord's Day Holy.'**

'Keep The Lords Day Holy'! This is a

deep statement. I would ask each of you within your own Heart *what does this mean to you?* Ponder these Words and Ask God what He would have you do on The Lord's Day. Each of us has to answer this within our own Heart.

But always remember God where ever you are and remember, we are to be His Spokesman in the world. Our Light Reveals who we Truly Worship.

Message 85:3, **'Seek to Warn and Save all you can, all that will Repent Hastily and Faithfully Come This Way, Defending The Words I bring, Worship and Come all The Way unto The Lord. Let The Spirit Come unto them, those that Receive same The Lord will Bless'**.

*Have we Come all The Way? Are we a Living Example of what God has Called us to be? Do people Know that we Serve a Living God and that His Messenger has Come and we are True Believers? or are we just Serving God afar off in Pretense of our Minds, only Serving Him on the surface, only getting what we need but not giving our Lord back The Praise and The Honor by our Actions as He would Like us to do?*

I am afraid that I Come up short in True Worship of our Lord and my Heart hurt for such as I am. As I should be much Closer than I am and I Pray that I have not hinder anyone to fall because of my lack of an example. My God Rise up all to where we should be and then may we stay on that Standard and be a Living Light to those around us.

Message 88:3, **'Praise The Lord in Worship, Lift up and Rejoice, Bask in His Life given Light. I bear Witness of that Light. The earth is Lightened by The Words I bring. I Come to Moderate The Will of God. I Proclaim The Gospel of**

**Jesus Christ. Only through His Atoning Blood, can Mankind be Saved’.**

Message 88:3, ‘**Let all things be done in Order-and Comely. If The Spirit Mellows and Calmeth The Soul, it is of God. Serve The Lord in Praise, in Joy and Peace. Pray Earnestly and The Master of men will Manifest His Power’.**

Message 88:37-38, ‘**Therefore Come against him (satan), break his yoke by True Belief and Study The Word-Obey Tthe Lord's Spirit and make Ready.**

**There will Come trials, but they cannot destroy. Yea, Read these Words and Follow through, find Worship and Deliverance’.**

We must free our self from satan’s yoke or our own self will. We need The Lord’s Strength to do so, and this Comes by True Belief and Studying The Gospel and then Coming to Obedience to The Written Words. We have no excuses to not Grow in The Lord’s Will. It gets easier as you spend Time with The Lord in Study and Prayer then your Heart will Desire to Come to Him daily in Prayer, Study and Worship.

Message 104:26, ‘**Let all Awaken to their Calling and Help more in This Work Attending Services, Worship and Working among the people’.**

Message 107:13, ‘**Let there be Peace in your Gatherings and the weakness will turn to Love and Strength. Arise from lethargy. Swing wider The Gate. Let The Lord’s People Come all The Way to This Plan of Deliverance-Receive a New Heart and Abundance of God's Spirit and Deliverance will be made Sure’.**

Let The Lord’s People Come all The Way! Oh my is He saying *we are to far away from Him that Deliverance is just a pace away? we are lethargy?* We are lazy

in other wards?

Message 92, ‘**There Cometh a day when a True Gift will be Given. With Great Wisdom will it Work a Work and Convince, moreover Convict but as yet is not among you in Measures of Saving Grace’.**

These Scriptures makes me sad as I don’t want to displease my Lord. I want that True Gift of His Pure Love, Working within me to Saving Grace. But for this to Come, we got to Learn how to Worship, Learn how to Fast and Study The Word, be Obedient to The Written Words and to rid self of our petty ways such as bitterness, dislike for a person, not liking this or that and thinking that its OKAY to be the way you are. Its OKAY to let things go of The Lord after all He will Forgive me. These thoughts are of man or satan and won’t get us anywhere.

We have to Rise up to The Standard of The Lord and stop being babies in The Spirit and be in The Lord to Serve others with This Pure Gospel. He has Given us so Freely to Walk in The Light of our Lord when we feel like it and when we don’t.

We need to be Warriors of The Lord, to combat The Spirit of laziness, selfishness, pride, worldly desires, contentions, my way or no way attitude. We need to be more Prayerful, Citizens of The Gospel, who Desires to Serve and to Help those who Walk in The Love of Jesus Christ. Women needs to be Helpmates to their men as well as mothers who Lead and Teach daily their children in The Ways of The Lord by Words as well as our Actions.

Message 116:7, ‘**Be Discreet, be Humble, Lift your Lifestyle to be Tidy, Neat, Patient and Full of Grace. Think again, you Represent The Lord’s Body and Members in Particular, that your**

**Humility will be Accepted of God and man. God is Just. He will Open The Door before you. My Message is to all that will Hear, Listen, Open and Obey. Deliverance will Come.'**

So you see to Worship The Lord as He would have us too is to Learn His Ways to Tidy our Life (Give up the things not Pleasing to God rid our self of sin). To give our Life to The Lord in all Ways, to say no to things that He Says no too. To do those things He Commands us too. We cannot Serve two masters.

Message, 117:1-2, **'Behold My Fellow Servant. I have Come again to you with a Message-a Message of Life to The Obedient. Remember ye are The Body of Christ, The Church and Members in Particular'**.

**To The Humble and Obedient, Saith The Lord, Your Faith has been Exceeding Great. You have Endured and shall find My Peace in Abundance.'**

Now here The Lord Speaks Directly to those who are Obedience. They are Blessed. We must be Obedient to all His Commands to find this state of Great Peace in Abundance.

We must Learn to Worship Him in Reverence in our meetings put aside all the worldly things and thoughts and free our Soul, Heart and Mind from any sin or grudges we might be holding against another to truly find True Worship and Relationship with our Lord.

When we Strive to do this then God will Give us Strength to Overcome and we will come Closer within our self to True Worship and find such Joy and Peace even in our days of troubles and trials. We will still have Joy in our Hearts for what our Lord has given us.

Message 113:7, **'May The People of The Lord take on New Courage, for He will give a New Heart to all that Hear and Come This Way of Authority and Deliverance. The Servants of The Lord speaking kindly to all and to one another.'**

Message 113:10-11, **'Blessed are The Meek and all that Consecrate themselves to Serve The Lord. They shall enter The Rest of The Lord and shall be Preserved while The Indignation passes over.'**

**Keep The Faith, be Diligent, hold The Vigilance and The Sunlight of Righteousness shall Overshadow with Healing in His Wings, Study Deeply The Words I bring and it will Work well with you. As you Believe The Words of The Lord and The Prophets, and Obey, satan has no power on you'**.

Message 119:4, **'In The Communion: Sacrament of The Lord, is Salvation to The Truly Humble and Repentant. The Lord has and will Forgive. Let your Hearts be Clean and your Lives Pure. Hear The Words of Comfort and Encouragement I bring.'**

Message 20:2, **'Keep The Standard and The Work will not Suffer. It has been Established to move to every nation and the people of this world'**.

In *The Record of the Nephites* it speaks of The Sacred Privileges of Worship: Alma 50:39, **'Behold it Came to Pass that the son of Nephiah was Appointed to fill The Judgment Seat in the stead of his father. yes he was Appointed Chief Judge and Governor over the people, with an Oath and Sacred Ordinance to Judge Righteously, and to keep The Peace, and The Freedom of the people and to grand unto them their Sacred Privileges to**

**Worship The Lord their God; yea and to Support and Maintain The Cause of God all His Days and to bring the wicked to Justice According to their crimes.'**

Alma 45:1, '... yea and they did Fast much and Pray much and they did Worship God with Exceeding Great Joy'.

Alma 6:6, 'Never the less The Children of God were Commanded that they should gather themselves together oft, and join in Fasting and Mighty Prayer, in behalf of The Welfare of The Souls of those who knew not God'.

Message 52:14, 'Let all be Humble and Repentant. Grieve not The Lord in slothfulness. Let not your goings displease Him, nor become shameful in disobedience and justification in evil doings and that against The Gospel Law. Betray not one another, but Love your Brother. Some have been untrue to their fellows; and their end will be sad for in their Hearts they Know The Better Way. Yet fail to Obey . . . All men must Overcome besieging Sins'.

Besieging sins are those that we have trouble getting rid of (bad habits of any kind).

We must rid our self of the things that stand in the way of our Worshiping The Lord and of growing in The Ways of The Lord. Lets not let these things hinder our growth. It's like a cancer, it will eat out your good if you do not get rid of it.

At first riding self of the things you like or enjoy that you know is contrary to The Written Word is hard, but if you step out in Faith and say No, then God will Give you Strength to Overcome. Then you must Keep Praying and Stay in The Word and Stay The Course.

But to Truly Worship God as He would

have us too, we must Surrender to His Will and Repent, We must Come Clean and Abide in The Word of God, and Seek His Face.

There is a Way of Conduct when we enter The House of The Lord and it should always be with a Prayer on our Hearts and Repentance of our sins. Hoping to Grow Closer in The Will of The Lord and leaving all of the things of the world outside, Coming together in Hopes, Coming Closer to The Lord. Learning of His Will and Applying it to our Life. Always Mindful that we are in The House of The Lord and always Holding up The Standard He Speaks of.

We must Bear The Fruits of The Lord in our Lives. We cannot please God without these Fruits and growing into this Measure of Love He Speaks of so many times. The Lord Tells us that This Work cannot be Done without The Pure Love of Jesus Christ. This Pure Love gives us Patience with others and Acts of Kindness and gives within us a Love for mankind we cannot even understand at times.

So as Citizens of The Lord, we need to Teach our children to Depend on The Lord to Know The Fruits of The Lord and not only Teach the children by Words only but by Actions. The Lord Expect us to answer by our Actions.

Message 31:8-9, '**Much is folly before Me and man is nothing of Good when he Heeds not My Voice. Know ye The Witness of My Spirit, how that is Caused The Hearts of men to Mellow before Me. Is this Spirit still with you? Heed ye The Still Small Voice and The Promptings of The Divine Spirit. Be not conformed to the works of darkness nor the ways of the world. Work with an Eye single to My**

**Glory. When I Speak answer by your Actions: Abide in My Doctrine. Let your Words and Deeds be that to My Honor and Glory. Return your Love to Me that your Works may Show your Faith.**

**Ye that Name My Name give Thanks unto your Master; in so doing I will Bless you that you will be a Blessing and Bless others. Let My Spirit Rule your Lives. Be ye Long Suffering. Be not as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal, be Filled with Charity and let Peace Rule your Minds and your Lives. The Fire of Joy shall Burn within you. Yea The Lord will Walk and Talk with those that Keep His Law in Fullness. Seek not the praise of men. Be not heady nor high minded. Seek to do Good. A Good Tree cannot bear corrupt fruit, nor a corrupt tree bear Good Fruit’.**

Message 65:7, ‘... let your Light Shine as The Lord Speaks, Answer by your Actions’.

Message 91:13, ‘Be thou Clean that Bear The Vessels of The Lord. Let your conversations be Clean. Let Realness of Charity Rule your Lives. Lift up A Standard’.

Message 89: 14, ‘Let all take New Courage, New Faith. Let The Spirit Lift you, fear not to Lift your hands to The Lord’.

Psalms 134:2, ‘Lift your hands in The Sanctuary and Bless The Lord. Worship The Lord in Spirit and Truth. Rejoice in The Lord, Show His Love by Showing it in our Lives.’

So in ending this, let’s follow The Admonition of Psalms 29:2 and turn away from the things of the world and Acknowledge The Lordship of Jesus, let your Life be an Act of Worship unto Him. Do everything for The Glory of God. When you do this you

are Engaging in Holy Worshiping of The Lord Jesus.

Many people relates Praise and Worship to only Singing Songs at Church. It is much more. It is a Condition of your Heart, a Willingness to Exalt God who Gives us more than we Deserve.

There are many Ways of Expressing your Love to God. By Song, by Playing Music, Testifying, Praising Him in Poem, in Prayer, in Study, in Mediation, in Fasting, in Obedience to The Written Word, and in Testifying. Worship must Always be Holy and Full of Devotion towards your God.

May we always remember in Worship comes Reverence. Spiritual Respect to our Lord as well as to His Sanctuary and one another.

The Lord says in Philippians 2:10-11, ‘... that at The Name of Jesus every knee should Bow, of the things in Heaven and things in earth and things under the earth.

**And that every Tongue should Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to The Glory of God The Father.’**

What a Wonderful Day that will be! He alone is Worthy of Worship and Praise!

## **The Tree Of Life**

*Apostle Donald Thompson  
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I would like to talk about ‘*The Tree of Life*’, ‘*Eternal Life, Eternal and Eternity*’.

To a five-year old, it seemed so easy. He helped his parents dig a hole in the ground into which his dad placed the root ball. Mom and he covered the area around the base of the thin trunk with dirt. Everyone stood back to admire the addition to their backyard landscaping. Then the boy asked to call his grandparents. He wanted to tell them he had

planted an apple tree and he was now ready to hang the apples on it! Instant apple tree! Just add water . . . or in this case, apples. But as you and I know, it is not quite that easy, *is it?*

Another family, Another yard. Another dad. This man bought 25 apples trees for his family's acreage. Four years later, all but one of the trees finally begun to bear fruit. The orchard keeper Loved caring for the trees and picking the apples. He did it for a dozen years.

One summer he decided to visit a nearby orchard to ask about the tree that had never born a single apple. The horticulturalist there explained the mystery. When orchard workers till the ground around the trees, they make sure to hit the trees' trunk until they weep-until the sap runs from them. Apple trees must be wounded and 'weep' before they can produce fruit.

The man went home and drove a 16-penny nail through his barren tree until the sap flowed from the wound. The next year that one tree bore more fruit than all 24 others combined. That tree had 12 years of fruit-bearing potential locked up inside, yet none of it could be released until the tree had been wounded.

*Do wounds mark your life?* The pain of suffering those wounds have caused you to have deep, deep roots. Those roots have grown all the way down into the soil of the garden you and I know as Eden. You likely know the story from Genesis 2:3. The Creation of the tree, the Command regarding the tree, the tempter lurking in the tree, and the people standing at the base of the tree listening to the temptation. And, finally, the bite those people each took from the tree's fruit.

Adam and Eve's disobedience left

wounds on every single person who would at any moment in history plant their feet on God's Created earth. Well, not on all people. All but one-the One Named Jesus Christ. The Heavenly Father came down as The Son to take the sins of the entire world upon Himself. He did this in order to bring complete Healing to you, to me, to all who would Believe in Jesus as their Savior. In Jesus, we have Forgiveness for all our sins and The Gift of Eternal Life-right now as we Live here on earth. 'The Gift of God' is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23).

One day, we will experience that Life, that Healing, that Glorious Rescue in The Banqueting Halls of Heaven.

Yes, 'His Story' Jesus' Story-which has through Faith become our story-also involves a tree. That tree Rose up from the ground, taking The Shape of a Cross. NO one drove 16-penny nails into tree; Roman soldiers drove spikes into it, spikes that also pierced through The Flesh of the One Named Jesus. While the severity and gruesomeness of our Lord's Wounds makes our eyes turn and weep still today, those Wounds also continues to pierce Hearts and turn Lives toward The Savior in Repentance and Faith. Yes, The Tree of Christ's Cross bore Blessed Fruit.

That Fruit is personal. Because of what happened on The Cross, God has brought Blessing upon Blessing into your Life, and mine. God has Poured out His Grace upon each of us, and He now Considers you His Beloved Child, an Heir of Heaven's Incredible Beauty and Glory.

Man of Faith, The Holy Spirit has Plans for you! He has Planted you in the fertile, wee-watered Soil of God's Love. He is Growing you into a 'Mighty Tree', a Tree

that provides Shelter, Stability, and Hope to others whose Lives are battered by the fierce storms Life often brings.

Listen to The Words The Prophet Jeremiah uses to describe you. *'Blessed is the man that Trusted in The Lord, and whose Hope The Lord is. For he shall be as a Tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river'* (Jeremiah 17:7-8). On a Tree Jesus gave His Life for each of us. In turn, He gives all The Faith-Filled a Blessed Life.

Blessed are you, Man of God, whom The Lord has Planted in His Kingdom. You draw up The Living Waters your Savior Promised you as you sink your roots deep into The Soil of His Word. You receive Nourishment through His Presence and Promises. Blessed are you, whom your Savior Protects, even during the weeping days of drought and pain. Blessed are you, Man of God, as you place your Spirit-Created Faith in the One who gave His Life on a Tree, The Tree of The Cross.

In Greek thought Eternity indicates timelessness, a state qualitatively different from time.

If we are to be True to Biblical Thought, however it is probably more Accurate to Conceive of Eternity as an endless span of time. The Fourth Gospel Teaches us that whoso eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood hath Eternal Life (John 6:54). Obviously this does not mean that Christians are exempted from physical death but that The New Relationship to Christ is such that it is not Affected by temporal boundaries of Life.

God is Spoken of as Eternal, in that He is Absolute Lord over time and is in no way bound by it (Psalms 90:4). Frequently The Hebrew and Greek words which are trans-

lated Eternal simply indicates the unknown length of a Lifetime or any indefinite span of time.

John 6:38-40, **'I Came down from Heaven, not to do Mine Own Will, but The Will of Him that Sent Me.'**

**And this is The Father's Will which hath Sent Me, that of all which He hath Given Me I should lose nothing, but should Raise it up again at the last day.**

**And this is The Will of Him that Sent Me, that everyone which Seeth The Son, and Believeth on Him, may have Everlasting Life: and I will Raise him up at the last day.'**

John 6:47, **'Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that Believeth on Me hath Everlasting Life.'**

Romans 6:22-23, **'But now being made free from sin, and become Servants to God, ye have your Fruit unto Holiness, and The End Everlasting Life. For the wages of sin is death;**

**But The Gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'**

Titus 1: 1-7, **'Paul, a Servant of God, and an Apostle of Jesus Christ, According to The Faith of God's Elect, and The Acknowledging of The Truth which is after Godliness;**

**In Hope of Eternal Life, which God, that cannot lie, Promised before the world began.**

**For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.**

**But after that The Kindness and Love of God our Savior toward man Appeared,**

**Not by Works of Righteousness which we have done, but According to His Mercy He Saved us, by The Washing of**

regeneration, and Renewing of The Holy Ghost;

Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior;

That being Justified by His Grace, we should be made Heirs According to The Hope of Eternal Life.'

Message 35:4, 'To those who have not Covenanted with Me, This is The Way that shall Lead you to Life Eternal.'

Message 41: 8, 13, 'Let all Come in by The Door, and Humble themselves before God. For This is The Way that Leadeth to Life Eternal for all who Endure to the end. Hold High The Standard of Truth, The Ensign of The Love of God for man . . .

Reject not My Words, Quench not My Spirit. Let all the erring Repent. Teach men to Come Partake of The Tree of Life. Enter in at The Strait Gate, Abide in The Way which is Narrow and Endure unto the end that ye may Obtain Eternal Life, Saith your Lord. For I Am He who Speaketh. Bring your Sacrifices of a Broken Heart. Repent in a Contrite Spirit.'

Message 42:5, 'Contend with no man, only for The Truth. Remember The Lord Jesus who Intercedes to The Father for mankind that He shall Draw all who will Come unto Life Eternal.'

Message 49:3, 'Behold, Saith The Lord, The Field is White already and The Harvest is Ripe. Let those that will, Come unto Me that they all my Obtain Life and Obtain it more Abundantly. Yea, whosoever will Thrust in their Sickle to Reap is doing My Will, and if they Endure to the end the same shall Obtain My Gift, even The Gift of Eternal Life.'

Message 52:4, 'To The Faithful, thus

Saith The Lord, Hearken! Ye, My Servants, Arise to your Calling. Oh, I have Plead! Few have heard. If you Believe in God, Believe also in Me, for it is My Words that shall Judge you in the end, for I Am The Eternal One!'

Message 55:10, 'Preach Repentance and Baptism that mankind might find Life Eternal in The Way of The Lord. Let The Hands be laid on all.'

Message 56:11, '. . . Enter in at The Strait Gate, Abide and Endure unto the end that ye may Obtain Life Eternal.'

Message 62:4, 'Thus Saith The Lord, O Israel *wilt thou Come Forth that you might be Delivered?* I have Called thee. I have Named thee. I have Chosen thee. I Am The Great High Priest. I Am He who scattered thee and I Am He who shall Deliver-who shall gather. I will Bring Back all the outcast, moreover all those that are dispersed. Learn ye My Ways and Come unto Me and Life Eternal shall be your Reward.'

Message 64:21, 'I am to Direct in all Things of The Work of The Lord, I am to Bring The Instructions that The Spirit of God may Lead men to Righteousness and Life Eternal. His Sheep shall Know His Voice.'

Message 83:21, 'Those that are Covenant breakers, turn away from and those that count My Words and This Work as evil. Let them alone. Thus Saith The Lord, They Know not My Gospel, for I Am The Lord and Savior. I Only Am The Eternal God.'

Message 84:36, 'The ideals in man's Heart will fade away. The Great Truth and The Church in Her Bright Garments must Shine and Stand forth. This is Light and Truth that Jesus is The Christ, The

**Eternal God.'**

Message 85: 9, 14, 'Miracles are for Witness and Proof of God's Power. Yet it is only God's Flow and Power to His own and all that will be His of all nations, color and kind through The Gospel of Salvation of Christ Jesus, The Everlasting and Eternal One . . .

The Lord Rested in the hands of evil men and they Caused to be brought about The Plan of God-Redemption and The Resurrection of Himself to an Example of Life Eternal. For all mankind, Resurrection, but to many a ransom to all that Hear and Obey-Enduring to the end that they might be Saved.'

Message 88:15, 'Mankind shall Live by every Word that Proceedeth out of The Mouth of God, The Very Eternal Christ The Lord and Maker of all. He Cometh down with Power in His Word.'

Message 97:3, 'The Authority is Given that This Work Move on and Salvation be Preached in and through The Atoning Blood of Jesus Christ, His Resurrection and Eternal Living: His Coming again to Reign with mankind.'

1 John 2:23-25, 'Whosoever denieth The Son, the same hath not The Father: But he that Acknowledgeth The Son hath The Father also.

Let that therefore Abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in The Son, and in The Father.

And this is The Promise that He hath Promised us, even Eternal Life.'

Message 59: 10-11,18, 'The Lord is The Resurrection and The Life. He that Believeth on Him and Obeys His Will shall have Right to The Tree of Life and

to Eternity, and in them shall be seen The Glory of God. For Christ Came to Redeem and to Provide The Way. Therefore, I Come to Point The Way and that *The Church of Christ*, The Lamb's Bride, may be Prepared to meet Him when He Comes, when all men will Live to Serve The Lord, that The Millennium Reign shall be. And The Great Day of The Lord shall Come, when all the earth shall Rejoice and be Glad for a New Heaven and a new earth shall be in The Lord's Planning.

This is The Way for mankind to find Eternal Peace, to Endure to The End . . .

This is The Lord's Work and I am His Messenger sent to bring The Warning. *Will mankind Heed it that their feet may be Guided in The Way of Peace and away from the shadow of death out of confusion and darkness into Life Eternal?'*

So God tells us if we Believeth on Him and Obey His Will, we shall have Right to The Tree of Life and to Eternity.

We all have our own Walk with The Lord, let us try to Obey His Will, that we might be a Blessing to our Lord, and those around us. May God Bless you all!

## **Does Rapture Exist?**

*Sister Thresa Ray  
Missouri*

The rapture has long been upheld, and maintained as part of The Christian Doctrine by many churches of The Christian world. Members and Leaders of different churches have set forth a Doctrine that Leads people to Believe in an event heralded as part of The Coming of Christ. During the rapture, those who Believe in God, are supposed to

be whisked away from the planet earth before 'The Great Tribulation' and hence they escape the punishments and terrors that God is suppose to inflict upon the sinners. Then with all the evil destroyed from the earth, God and those whisked away will return to Live in Eternal Happiness and Joy.

This Belief is idealistic and causes the Believer to Live only for this event and not for God. This Belief decreases the necessity for Good Works and Deeds by Causing the Believer to think that he is something Special, in that he doesn't sin. This Belief causes the Believer to Live only for the physical and not The Spiritual; to Believe in the physical uplifting of the body through the rapture causes the being not to Desire to Grow Spiritually within. This Belief Creates a barrier which inhibits the development of The Relationship between The Spirit and The Soul, as The Soul is Lead by the shallow beliefs of man.

To begin, the word 'rapture' DOES NOT EXIST within the confines of The King James version of *The Bible*.

Next, the term 'rapture' has its foundation in the Latin language, not in the Aramaic or Hebrew tongues of The Scriptures. The base word of 'rapture' is from Latin, 'raptus or rapere' which means to 'carry away'.

The term has a many fold meaning according to Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, 1959 ed.. Webster. **rapture**; a seizing by violence; transport, ecstasy violence of a pleasing passion; rapidity with violence; an attack of intense excitement, delirium, hysterics, paroxysm.

The definition from Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, 1966 ed. Webster. a state or experience of being carried away by very-whelming emotion, an

expression or manifestation of ecstasy or passion.

\*Notice in the first set of definitions, the term definition included is connected with some type of violence, either in action or emotion – this 'violence' could hardly be the act of a Loving God. Neither does God Work through Emotions but through Love and Qualities of Love.

The third point to consider is that of actual Scriptural Support for such an occurrence. To be blunt, there is NO Scriptural Evidence for such an act traditionally expounded by some religious leaders. Consider, the current understanding of rapture, is that all the good people of the earth will be removed by God before The Tribulation; hence when The Good are removed, only the evil will be left. Yet this thought is contrary to The Message set forth in the following verses, which clearly indicate that it is the evil which will be removed, and The Good will be The Ones to Remain.\*

Psalm 37:9-11, 20-22, 28-29, **'For evildoers shall be cut off; but those that wait upon The Lord, they shall inherit the earth.'**

**For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be; yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.**

**But The Meek shall Inherit the earth, and shall Delight themselves in The Abundance of Peace.**

**But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of The Lord shall be as the fat of the lambs; they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.**

**The wicked borroweth and payeth not again; but The Righteous sheweth Mercy and giveth. For The Lord Loveth Judgment, and Forsaketh not His Saints;**

they are Preserved forever; but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

The Righteous shall Inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever’.

Psalm 104:35, ‘Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou The Lord, O my Soul. Praise ye The Lord.’

Psalm 125:1, ‘They that Trust in The Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be Removed, but Abideth forever.’

Proverbs 2:21,22. ‘For The Upright shall Dwell in the land, and The Perfect shall remain in it.

But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it’. (*The wicked, not The Righteous shall be rooted up from the earth.*)

Proverbs 10:25-30, ‘As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more; but The Righteous is an Everlasting Foundation.

As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

The fear of The Lord prolongeth days, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

The Hope of The Righteous shall be Gladness; but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

The Way of The Lord is Strength to the Upright; but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

The Righteous shall never be Removed, but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth’. (*If The Righteous are raptured, then how can this Scripture be?*)

Proverbs 3:25,26, (*Remember The Lord is talking about The Righteous.*) ‘Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the deso-

lation of the wicked, when it Cometh,

For The Lord shall be Thy Confidence, and shall Keep thy foot from being taken’.

Matthew 13:24-30, (*Parable of the tares*) ‘Another parable put he forth unto them saying, (*Jesus speaking*) The Kingdom of Heaven is Likened unto a man which sowed Good Seed in his field.

But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then Appeared the tares (*weeds*) also.

So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, *didst thou sow Good Seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?*

He said unto them, *An enemy hath done this.* The servants said unto him, *Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?*

But he said, Nay, lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

Let both grow together until The Harvest: and in The Time of Harvest I will say to the reapers, *Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather The Wheat into my barn.*’

Matthew 13:36-50 (*Parable of the Tares explained*) ‘Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and His now Disciples came unto Him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares in the field.

He answered and Said unto them, He that soweth The Good Seed is The Son of Man;

The field is the world; The Good Seed

are The Children of The Kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

The enemy that sowed them is the devil; The Harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are The Angels.

As therefore, the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of his world.

The Son of man shall Send Forth His Angels, and they shall gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend and them which do iniquity.

And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Then shall The Righteous Shine Forth as the sun in The Kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear'.

(Parable of the Hidden Treasure) Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath and buyeth that field.

(Parable of the Pearl of Great Price) 'Again, The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a merchant man, Seeking Goodly Pearls.

Who, when he hath found The One Pearl of Great Price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it'.

(Parable of The Net), 'Again, The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind.

Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered The Good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

So shall it be at the end of the world: The Angels shall come forth, and sever

(*separate*) the wicked from among The Just.

And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.'

(*The tares were taken first and the wheat was taken to a place of safety.*)

Matthew 24:36-41, (*Jesus speaking*), 'But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not The Angels of Heaven, but my Father only.

But as the days of Noe (*Noah*) were, so shall also The Coming of The Son of man be.

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered The Ark,

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also The Coming of The Son of man be.

(*How many people were raptured in the Days of Noah?*)

Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two women, shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

(*Again, go back to 'The Days of Noah' , and who were taken? The wicked.*)

Message 90:18, 'As in the days of Noah, the doubter, the disobedient, the sinner were all taken away in their unbelief.'

*One can see that The Gathering of The Good is after The Tribulation and not before.*

*The rapture is based almost entirely upon two verses out of the entire Holy Bible; the verses have been held up for Glory and idealistic simplicity, while all other conflicting verses have been conveniently forgotten. (See the verses listed above.)*

The two verses are found in *Thessalonians*.

I **Thessalonians 4: 16-17, ‘For The Lord Himself shall Descend from Heaven with a shout, with The Voice of The Archangel, and with The Trump of God; and the dead in Christ Rise first: (The Righteous that died between the time Jesus was Resurrected until this time will be Resurrected when Christ returns to earth.)**

**Then we which are Alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet The Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with The Lord’.**

*(This Scripture does not say that we should stay in the air—just meet The Lord.)*

Acts 1:11, **‘Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven, this same Jesus, which is Taken Up from you into Heaven, shall so Ccome in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven’.** *(Christ went to heaven without stopping, He will return in like manner.)*

I **Corinthians 15:52, ‘In a moment, in The Twinkling of an Eye, at The Last Trump: for The Trumpet shall Sound, and the dead shall be Raised incorruptible and we shall be changed’.**

*(If we are changed, then we would not have need to leave the earth other than to meet Christ.)*

*(My father, Brother W.A. Draves explained it as when you meet a Loved one at a bus station, you do not get on the bus and go back with them---you take them with you. Meeting Christ in the air is like that--He is Coming back to earth with us. Actually we are Coming back to earth with Christ.)*

*(Remember He will Descend just as He Ascended. He is not Coming back half way and then taking us back up. Christ is*

*Meeting His Bride (us) and setting up The Kingdom of God here on earth.)*

Message 75:7, **‘Speak The Truth and Justice will follow you wherever you go. Remember in the end when The Angels divide between them that Serve God and them that Serve Him not—be ye among them that Serve The Lord. Though mankind may be consumed, let not The Word of The Lord be hindered from its, Mission. The wicked are as chaff that the storm carrieth away, but The Righteous as a Sweet Savor in His Mouth.’**

Message 52:8, **‘All evil shall be destroyed and the earth shall be**

**Restored to its Former Beauty for the time will be shortened, that The Elect of The Lord may be Saved. They shall find Safety in The Lord in Obedience to His Will. Sin will not have hold on them and they shall be Pre-served and Arrayed in Peace. But the waters of the wicked shall be burned up and their idols shall melt away. For The Lord is God—He is God’.** *(The time will be shortened or The Elect will not be Saved.)*

Matthew 5:5, **‘Blessed are The Meek, for they shall Inherit the earth.’**

*(If we are taken up who would Inherit the earth—sinners? This is contrary to Scriptures. We will be tried in the end time but The Lord tells us He will Stand His in Places of Safety when The Indignation passes over.)*

Matthew 6: 9-13, *(Jesus is speaking),* **‘After this manner therefore Pray ye: Our Father which Art in Heaven, Hallowed by Thy Name.**

**Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will be Done in earth, as it is in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our Daily Bread. And Forgive us our debts, as we For-**

give our debtors.

**And Lead us not into Temptations, but Deliver us from evil: For Thine is The Kingdom, and The Power, and The Glory, Forever. Amen’.**

*(Jesus told us to Pray ‘Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will be Done in earth as it is in Heaven’. Even in The Lord’s Prayer, we are Praying for The Kingdom of Heaven to be here on earth.*

**As you can see, there is no ‘rapture’.**

When Jesus returns The Scriptures call it The Great and Terrible Day of The Lord. Great for The Righteous and terrible for the wicked. The Scriptures tell us that The Tribulation will be Great and all must pass through it, however The Lord will Stand The Faithful in Holy Places—Places of Safety, protecting them, when The Indignation passes over.

Isaiah 26:20, **‘Come, My People, enter thou into Thy Chambers, and Shut thy doors about thee: Hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until The Indignation be over past’.**

Message 46:10, **‘Blessed are The Meek and all those that Consecrate themselves unto Me. I will be with them,’ Saith your Lord, ‘and Stand you in Holy Places, Protecting you when The Great Indignation cometh. You Shall be Called Mine when I make up My Jewels.’**

Message 68:10, **‘Let The Message go far and near, Preaching the same things of The Gospel of Peace and Lo, ‘Saith The Lord, ‘I will Stand you in Holy Places while The Indignation passes over.’**

Message 113:10, **‘Blessed are The Meek and all that Consecrate themselves to Serve The Lord. They shall enter The Rest of The Lord and shall be Preserved while The Indignation passes over.’**

Message 115:7, **‘Hold The Peace. Let not the contentions of the world destroy Hope. The Righteous shall be Preserved. The Lord will Stand His in Holy Places until The Indignation passes over.’**

There is much to look forward to and many Scriptures to be Fulfilled. God will Send His messenger, John The Baptist, to Prepare The Way before Jesus’ Return. Just as He has Done, leaving 120 Messages and He will Send Him again. His Temple must be Built.

When Jesus Returns to earth all The Righteous that died since Jesus’ Resurrection will be Raised from the dead. As Scriptures Said, His Righteous will be Changed in a Twinkling of an Eye and meet Him in the air. But we will Come down with Him. Jesus will Appear to His Temple, and to Jerusalem. There will be a New Heaven and a new earth with His Government starting at The Temple and going forth to all the world.

When The Millennium (Jesus’ 1000 year Reign on earth) begins, then satan will be bound and have no power for the 1000 years. At the end of the 1000 years satan will be loosed for a little season.

At the end of that time, will be Judgment Day. When Jesus will Judge all According to their works.

Yes, one is ‘Saved’ by Accepting Jesus as their Saviour. We are only Saved by The Grace of God. However, when one really Accepts Jesus as their Saviour, there is a Change in them and Good Works will follow because of ‘The Love’ one is Filled with. All are Judged by their works.

II Corinthians 5:10, **‘For we must all Appear before The Judgment Seat of Christ; that every one may Receive the things done in his body, According to that**

**he hath done, whether it be Good or bad.'**

Revelation 22:12, (*Jesus speaking*),  
**'And, Behold, I Come Quickly; and My  
 Reward is with Me, to give every man  
 According as his work shall be.'**

**We also must Endure to the end.**

Revelation 2:10, '**. . . be thou Faithful  
 unto death and I will give you a Crown of  
 Life**'. (*Jesus is speaking*).

**Message 102:11, 'Knowledge Cometh  
 from Study of The Books and Grace from  
 much Prayer. Salvation by Obedience,  
 Deliverance by Endurance.'**

I realize that I have talked about more than just the 'rapture' subject, there is so much to happen in this 'End Time'. And all the things are tied together. The Battle of Armageddon is going on now. There will be diseases, wars, earthquakes, and all manner of 'indignation'. He also tells us that the worst is yet to come, however; God also tells us that He will Stand His in Places of Safety when 'The Indignation' passes over.

May God be with each of you. May we count our Blessings and Rejoice that we have 'The Three Measures of Meal', God's Fullness of The Gospel to Direct us in this, 'The End Time.'

*\*The writing between the \*'s was quoted from a sermon/article by Milo Militori, 1984)*

## Primary Department

*Editor: Sister Joy Ellen Draves  
 New York*

### What Christmas Really Means

Christmas has taken on so many other things over the years. We have the story of Santa. We have The Gift Giving. These things aren't bad in themselves, as The Gift Giving started with *The Wise Men*. But it

can take away from *The Real Meaning of Christmas*.

*What is Christmas all about? What happened that First Christmas? Why do we celebrate it?* The Bible answers all of these questions in Luke 2:6-18: **'And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.**

**And she brought forth her Firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a Manger; because there was no room for them in the Inn.**

**And there were in the same country Shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.**

**And, lo, The Angel of The Lord came upon them, and The Glory of The Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.**

**And The Angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy, which shall be to all people.**

**For unto you is Born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ The Lord.**

**And this shall be a Sign unto you; Ye shall find The Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a Manger.'**

**And suddenly there was with The Angel a Multitude of The Heavenly Host Praising God, and saying,**

**'Glory to God in The Highest, and on earth Peace, Good Will toward men.'**

**And it came to pass, as The Angels were gone away from them into Heaven, The Shepherds said one to another, 'Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which The Lord hath made known unto us.'**

**And they came with haste, and found**

**Mary, and Joseph, and The Babe lying in a Manger.**

**And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning This Child.**

**And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by The Shepherds.'**

As we read here, Jesus, The Savior of the world, was Born. He came as a Baby, then grew to be a Man that gave His Life for you and me, so we could live with Him forever when we die. We celebrate His Birth because of our Faith in Him, and *His Birth was The Beginning of a Life-Changing Event: The Cross*. So let's celebrate Jesus' Birthday together, and remember why He Came.

## Junior Department

*Editor: Sister Thresa Ray  
Missouri*

Dear Youth,

I hope you are looking forward to Christmas this year – looking forward to Celebrating Christ's Birth. Jesus is indeed, **'The Reason for The Season'**.

We have such a Loving God that would Manifest Himself in the flesh, be Born of woman, Live a Life Example on this earth for us to Follow, Suffer and Die for you and I. Die for our sins, that through Belief in Him, we many Receive Eternal Life! *How Blessed we are?*

You can read from *The Bible* all about Christ's Birth in Matthew, Chapters 1 and 2 as well in

Luke, Chapters 1 and 2.

Even as the people in Israel awaited The Birth of their Savior, there were people in North America awaiting The Birth of that same Savior. *The Record of The Nephites,*

Helaman, Chapter 14: 2-8 tells us of Samuel, The Lamanite's Prophecy about Jesus' Birth. This took place 6 years before Christ's Birth.

**'And Behold, he said unto them, Behold, I Give unto you a Sign, for five years more Cometh, and Behold, then Cometh The Son of God to Redeem all those shall Believe on His Name.**

**And Behold, this will I Give unto you for a Sign at The Time of His Coming; for Behold, there shall be Great Lights in Heaven, insomuch that in the night before He Cometh there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall Appear unto man as if it was day.**

**Therefore there shall be one day and a night, and a day, as if it were one day, and there were no night; and this shall be unto you for a Sign; for ye shall Know of the rising of the sun, and also of its setting; therefore they shall Know of a surety that there shall be two days and a night; nevertheless the night shall not be darkened; and it shall be the night before He is Born.**

**And Behold there shall a New Star Arise, such as one ye never have Beheld; and this also shall be a Sign unto you.**

**And Behold this is not all, there shall be many Signs and Wonders in Heaven.**

**And it shall Come to pass that ye shall be Amazed, and Wonder, insomuch that ye shall fall to the earth.**

**And it shall Come to pass that whosoever shall Believe on The Son of God, the same shall have Everlasting Life.**

III Nephi, 1:12-21, tells of what actually happened here in North America when Christ was Born.

**'... The Voice of The Lord Came unto**

him, saying,

Lift up your head and be of Good Cheer, for Behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall The Sign be given, and on the morrow Come I unto the world, to shew unto the world that I Will Fulfill all that which I have Caused to be spoken by the mouth of My Holy Prophets.

Behold, I Come unto My Own, to Fulfill all things which I have made Known unto the children of men, from the foundations of the world, and do The Will, both of The Father, and of The Son; of The Father because of Me; and of The Son because of My Flesh. And Behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall The Sign be given.

And it Came to pass that The Words which Came unto Nephi was Fulfilled, According as they had been Spoken; for Behold at the going down of the sun, there was no darkness when the night came.

And there were many, which had not Believed The Words of The Prophets, fell to the earth and became as if they were dead, for they Knew that the great plan of destruction which they had laid for those who Believed in The Word of The Prophets, had been frustrated; for The Sign which had been given was already at hand.

And they began to Know that The Son of God must shortly Appear; yea, in fine, all the people upon the face of the whole earth from the west to the east, both in the land north and in the land south, were so Exceedingly Astonished, that they fell to the earth;

For they Knew that The Prophets had Testified of these things for many years, and that Sign which had been Given was

already at hand; and they began to fear because of their iniquity and their unbelief.

And it Came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light though it was mid-day. And it Came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they Knew that it was the day that The Lord should be Born, because of The Sign which had been given.

And it Came to pass, yea, all things, every whit, According to The Words of The Prophets.

And it Came to pass also, that a New Star did Appear According to The Word'.

The Articles of Faith and Practice, number 9 says, '. . . in *The Bible* is Contained The Word of God; that *The Record of The Nephites* is an Added Witness for Christ, and that these Contain 'The Fullness of The Gospel'.

These Scriptures you have just read is an Added Witness to The Birth of Christ.

We indeed have much to Celebrate this Holiday Season! May your Heart be Filled with Joy as you Reflect on Christ's Birth and what it means to all mankind. Have a Wonderful and Blessed Christmas as you remember 'The Real Reason for The Season'.

Love in Christ,

## Young Adult Department

*Editors: Matthew & Ellen Thompson  
Missouri*

Dear Young Adults,

Even though The Thanksgiving Holiday has passed and we are approaching Christmas, I wanted to talk on giving Thanks to God.

We need to remember the things that we

are Thankful for and give Thanks to the one that has Blessed us in our Lives. We need to Praise and give Thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ. God has Given us so much in our Lives and there are so many ways we can show The Lord that we are Thankful for the things He has Blessed us with.

We can Reflect our Praise and Thanks to Him through Song. There are many verses in The Book of Psalms about Praising The Lord through Song.

Psalm 28:7, *'The LORD is my Strength and my Shield; my Heart Trusts in Him, and I am Helped. My Heart Leaps for Joy and I will give Thanks to Him in Song.'*

Psalm 106:1, *'Praise The LORD. Give Thanks to The LORD, for He is Good; His Love Endures Forever.'*

Psalm 147:7, *'Sing to The LORD with Thanksgiving; make Music to our God on The Harp.'*

Psalm 69:30, *'I will Praise God's Name in Song and Glorify Him with Thanksgiving.'*

Psalm 95:2, *'Let us Come before Him with Thanksgiving and Extol Him with Music and Song.'*

Psalm 106:1, *'Praise The LORD. Give Thanks to The LORD, for He is Good; His Love Endures Forever.'*

Psalm 118:28, *'You are my God, and I will give you Thanks; you are my God, and I will Exalt You.'*

Psalm 147:7, *'Sing to The LORD with Thanksgiving; make Music to our God on The Harp.'*

Praising The Lord in Song is just One Way that we can Express our Thanks to The Lord. We can also show Thanks through our Prayers when we Communicate with our Lord and also through our Actions with

others in our Lives by being Examples of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57, *'But Thanks be to God! He Gives us The Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.'*

2 Corinthians 2:14, *'But Thanks be to God, who Always Leads us in Triumphant Procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere The Fragrance of The Knowledge of Him.'*

Ephesians 5:19-21, *'Speak to one another with Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs. Sing and make Music in your Heart to The Lord, always giving Thanks to God The Father for everything, in The Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of Reverence for Christ.'*

Philippians 4:6, *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by Prayer and Petition, with Thanksgiving, Present your Requests to God.'*

Colossians 3:17, *'And whatever you do, whether in Word or Deed, do it all in The Name of The Lord Jesus, giving Thanks to God The Father through Him.'*

All these Verses show The Ways that we can Express our Gratitude and our Thanks to The Lord for all the things that He has Blessed us with in our Lives.

I am wanting all of us to always remember to be Grateful for The Great Blessings that we have in our Lives. We need to Remember to be an Example to others and to Reflect God's Goodness through our Actions. We are always wanting to Represent Christ in everything that we do. Let us Remember to Always be Thankful to God and to be an Example to others.

God Bless!

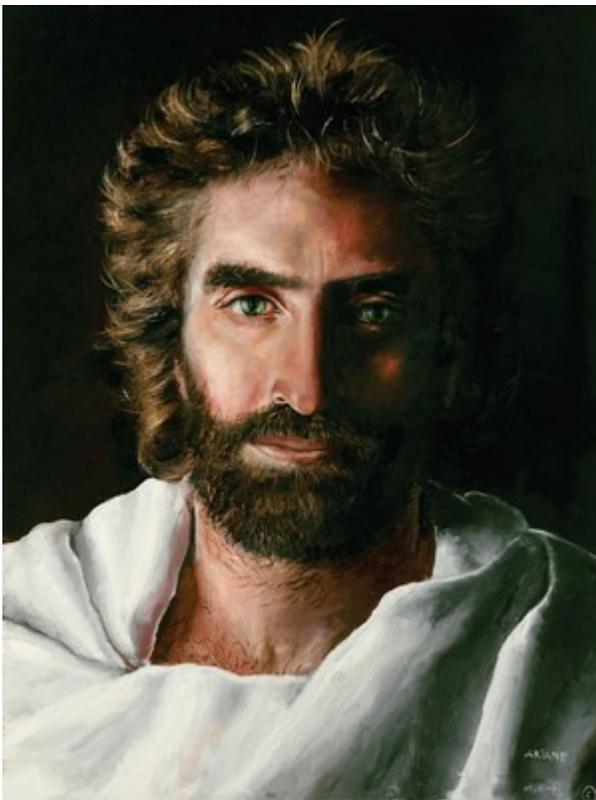
## ***Special Notices***

*The staff of 'The Greater Light' would like to dedicate This Issue of our Paper to our Dear Sister Karla Gentry and family of California. We send our Love, Cares and Prayers to you all. May God Bless!*

The Editor

*The Church has a CD available of 'The Testimony of William A. Draves' spoken by himself, for \$5.00. Please contact The General Headquarters Office.*

### ***Prince of Peace***



*Painted by Akiane Kramarik*

***God Bless Our  
Military Women  
And Men.***



## **My Wish For You At Christmas**

*By Grace E. Easley*

**My wish for you this Christmas,  
From deep down in my heart,  
Is for all Good and Happy Things  
Such Holidays impart.**

**I wish you Peace, and Hope, and  
Love,  
And Health, and Happiness,  
Prosperity, and close to you, The  
Ones you Love the best.**

**My wish for you this Christmas  
Is most Sincere and True,  
And it has a Special Meaning  
Because it's just for you.**

**And you'll always be remembered  
For the Friendship that you give,  
In all my Prayers at Christmas time  
And every day I love.**

## A Christmas Wish

By Virginia Luers,  
Submitted by Editor

May all the days of all the years  
That God may have in store  
Be filled with Joy and Peace  
To Bless you more and more.  
May The Happiness of Christmas  
Be in your Heart to stay,  
And to Brighten all your Moments  
Long after Christmas Day.

## Jesus Child

By Dona M. Maroney,  
Submitted by Editor

Joy Bells Ringing, Angels Singing,  
Heralding *The Newborn King*.  
Shepherds Searching, Three Kings  
Traveling With their Gifts to bring.  
Come adore Him, God's Own Chosen,  
Infant Meek and Mild.  
The world's Rejoicing At His Birth of our  
Precious Jesus Child.

## T'was The Night Before Christmas

Apostle Donald Thompson

'T'was the night before Christmas and all  
through the town Not a sign of Baby Jesus  
was anywhere to be found.

The people were all busy with Christmas  
time chores like decorating, and baking, and  
shopping in stores.

No one say, Away in a Manger, no crib  
for a bed'. Instead, they say of Santa  
dressed-up in bright red.

Mama watched Martha Stewart, Papa  
drank beer from a tap. As hour upon hour  
the presents they'd wrap.

Then what from the T.V. did they  
suddenly hear? 'Crept an ad. . . which told

of a big sale at Sears.

So away to the mall they all flew like a  
flash. . .buying things on credit. . .and others  
with cash!

And, as they made their way home from  
their trip to the mall, did they think about  
Jesus? Oh, no . . . not at all.

Their lives were so busy with their  
Christmas time things, no time to remember,  
Christ Jesus, The King. There were presents  
to wrap and cookies to bake. How could  
they stop and remember who died for their  
sake?

To pray to The Savior. . .they had no  
time to stop. Because they needed more time  
to 'Shop till they dropped!'

On Wal-mart! On K-Mart! On Target!  
On Penney's! On Hallmark! On Zales! A  
quick lunch at Denny's.

From the big stores downtown to the  
stores at the mall, they would dash away,  
dash away, and visit them all!

And up on the roof, there arose such a  
clatter, as grandpa hung icicle lights up on  
his brand new step ladder.

He hung lights that would flash. He hung  
lights what would twirl. Yet, he never once  
prayed to Jesus. . . Light of the World.

Christ's Eyes. . .how they twinkle!  
Christ's Spirit. . .how merry! Christ's Love  
. . .how enormous! All our burdens. . . He'll  
carry! So instead of being busy, overworked,  
and uptight. Let's put Christ back in  
Christmas and enjoy some good nights!

Merry Christmas my friends!

## Notice

**'The Greater Light' will no longer  
mail papers as of January, 2013.  
Readers will have to make their own  
copies from web-site or pay \$10.00.**

# The Greater Light

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