

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.”
Message 53:3

In This Issue

Message 60	5
From the Apostles	6
Why We Read The Record of Nephites & NOT The Book of Mormon - Adam Stokes	6
The Christmas Star - Richard Johnson	8
Articles	12
The Kingdom of God, Part 3	12
One Mighty & Strong, A Fountain of Truth	16
Young Adults	17
- Karen Wilkin	
Junior	19
- Thresa Ray	
Primary	20
- Joy Draves-Dreher	

Happy New Year & Valentine’s Day

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”

- 1 John 4:7



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 of persons.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ the manifestation of God in flesh, who lived, suffered, and died for all mankind; whom we own as our only 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 this to come, and is the medium by which we receive the 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 the added witness for Christ; and 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 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 Watchcare 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 the General Church fund. The admonition of Christ that ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but good 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 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 a breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.
21. We believe oppose to war. Men are not justified in taking up of 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 New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land "unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, (Ether 6:6-8; III Nephi 10.1-4), which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot."
25. We believe that 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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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

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 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 history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The Native Americans. 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: 11-13). 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 Judgement* has come. Awake those 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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Thank you.

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

Sixtieth Message

The Messenger came to me at my home, 122 West Sea Avenue, Independence, Missouri, May 9, 1943, just after 5 p.m. I was wrapping some Messages to fill an order when he touched me on the shoulder. He said he had come to bring comfort. He sat on the sofa and we talked on many subjects. He finally instructed me to get paper and write. Here is what he said. He left at 7:30,

-W. A. Draves

1. "Behold, write the Message I will give you! I am the Messenger, the forerunner of Christ, and I am sent to bring the instruction for the Church. This is my mission. I am sent from God to prepare the Way as in the days when Christ came among men. My work and mission has begun and shall not be destroyed, but the works of satan shall be destroyed. Thus for that Work came I into the world that the Way of the Christ shall be prepared that He may destroy the works of satan.

2. I am the Elias and my name is John, even John the Baptist, the Messenger to come before the Face of the Lord.

3. Teach the Way of the Lord that the Millennium may come. Many are honest of heart and some you think to be against this Work will be those to labor to the end. Think not that you can labor without faith or the love of God in your hearts for this is a just Work of Love.

4. The Lord has heard the prayers of His people and has sent me to bring them comfort when hearts are sad, and when satan has brought much distress, trials and temptations upon the just for he will deceive them if they will not watch and pray.

5. Remember the instructions I have brought. Teach them to all men. All those

that are humble and full of love will help, for the Lord will bless them. There are many who yet will carry the Message of Life to the ends of the earth. Teach faith in the words of the Lord and the prophets, for satan shall not have hold on all such. There are those that have been true and will not be shaken by satan's powers in the evils of men. There are those whose hearts are filled with selfishness and greed and who seek to overthrow the Message the Lord has sent.

6. But fear not men, nor what they may say of this Work, for in their hearts is selfishness and hate. They are carnally minded and cannot see the Lord's Hand move, but seek their own glory and not the Glory of the Lord.

7. The authority and trust that was placed upon you has not been taken from you, and will not be taken from you unless you deny the Lord God and my coming. For this Work were you born. Be true and the Lord will bless you.

8. I bring the warning that mankind cannot say the Lord has not spoken, for the works of satan must be destroyed. My message is one of love to all those who will heed it and obey, enduring unto the end. For the same shall be counted His Bride at His appearing. The time has come, let the evil be destroyed. That the faithful may arise and that Israel may be gathered.

9. The harvest is on. The Lord has spoken and long plead that mankind will obey and fully set their hearts to do His Will, for the sheaves are ungathered. The wheat and the tared have grown together. Now the cleansing shall be among men. Be humble that your lives may be full of the Love of God, for He will deliver.

10. All those that do not heed and obey not the instructions I bring, will not be of the Bride of Christ when He comes; for I come to point the Way to the Christ that repentance may be taught. That a people may

be prepared to proclaim the acceptable Way of the Lord to all mankind. Will they heed it that the Spirit of God may come and work with man when he is humble before the Lord!

11. Let those that reject the Message I bring be released from their trust and responsibility, for they deny my coming, and the Lord rejects them. Therefore let them have no part in this Work, for their hearts are not true and not in the Lord's Will. All those that oppose and fight against this Work, except they repent, their end will be sad. They cannot overthrow the Lord's Work.

12. Gather in the Assembly and cry unto the Lord. Let no evil come among you. The Lord will hear all those that repent and obey His Will. Let your prayers be of the heart. Let not contention be found among you.

13. Heed the instructions I have given in the past and let these be set apart as apostles, that I shall give, as the vacancies will come: Frederick Vowles, Marion R. Hopkins, James Beld, and let Luther Levell also prepare; for the time will come when he will take his place in the quorum. Let Roy Loughheed be added to the bishops. Let Melvin Mallory prepare that he may take his place as a bishop when the vacancy occurs. Let R. H. Hutchinson be set apart as an evangelist. Let all be in the field as they way opens. Fear not man but do the Lord's bidding. He will provide. Let Earl W. Baggerly be set apart as an elder. Let him be humble. Let none contend over points of Doctrine, for the Lord will make bare His arm and reveal much, for great shall be the joy of all those that prepare for they shall have power to proclaim the Mysteries of the Kingdom.

14. Let the faithful continue on and let the Voice of Warning go in peace. The Lord accepts those that obey the Message. Let them continue on.

15. The Lord has sent me unto you at this time. He will bless you if you will be humble. The Lord knows your prayer and those you love. The Lord has allowed that to come that your pride may be destroyed, for ye cannot seek the praise of men and be pleasing in the Lord's sight. There are those that love you and will yet love you if you will be humble and be at peace. Be pleasant in your work and speak the truth in humility and you will find favor with God and man.

16. I will come again until the Work is finished and Christ comes to make His abode among men, that all the earth shall obey Him. I leave peace with you and to the Church. Give this to the Church that the faithful may know the Lord has sent me.

17. Publish this Message with the rest. Let them go to the ends of the earth. Take it to the isles of the sea. Let justice and peace follow you wherever you go. As I speak to you, I speak to all. Let the Lord's Word be taught that it might be obeyed, for there is safety in the words I bring. Amen."

From The Apostles Why we read The Record of the Nephites and NOT The Book of Mormon

Adam Stokes

God's word is of central importance in our lives. It is the guide by which we know that we are following His commandments and doing His will. Because of this, it is equally important that we have God's word in its most correct form. In ancient times, God spoke to the heroes and the prophets of the Bible who had these sayings recorded and preserved in what are now the Old and New Testaments. The authors of the Old Testament wrote in Hebrew and Ara-

maic while the Apostles who gave us the Gospels and letters of the New Testament wrote in Greek.

In modern times most of us read English translations of these ancient records of God's word. These are fine when the translators are persons guided by the Holy Spirit. Take, for example, the King James Version. There is a reason why this version is the official Bible of our church. The translators were spirit-filled, pious men of God who took great care to use the best manuscripts and who were highly educated in ancient languages. For the New Testament, they used an edition of the Greek text known as the Textus Receptus or TR based on the earliest and most doctrinally accurate manuscripts.

Contrast this with the Greek text used by many modern Bible translations based on the teachings of an ancient heretic named Arius. Arius denied that Jesus was God and this is seen in his New Testament. In many modern Bibles, many verses found in the KJV and in reference to Jesus as God have been removed. Hence the importance of having a correct translation of God's word.

The same applies to God's testament in the New World which our church refers to as the Record of the Nephites. At first glance, one might think that the Record is exactly the same as the Book of Mormon with the only difference being the title. However, there is much more to it than that. While the present day edition of the Book of Mormon used by other restoration traditions has been heavily edited and changed over time, the text of the Record of the Nephites is based directly on the original 1830 edition printed in Palmyra, New York. You can see this on the opening page of the Record where the book is referred to as the "restored Palmyra edition."

Why is this important? The Palmyra text is the closest we come to the original

manuscript written down by Joseph Smith, the prophet, and translated directly from the Golden Plates he received from the angel Nephi. In fact, in the 1830 edition, the last chapters of Helaman all the way to the end of Mormon are taken directly from the original manuscript. So, as with the King James Version, we have a text that goes back further than other versions do to the earliest record of God's word.

But that is not all. Remember that when we have the most correct copy of God's word we also have the most correct doctrines about who God is and what His will is for us. When we look at how Jesus is presented in the Record of the Nephites we see a considerable difference from the way our Lord is depicted in the Book of Mormon. Take the following verses for example:

1 Nephi 11:21

Record of the Nephites: "...Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even **the Eternal Father!**"

Current edition of the Book of Mormon: "...Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even **the Son of the Eternal Father.**"

1 Nephi 11:32

Record of the Nephites: "...yea, **the Everlasting God** was judged of the world..."

Current edition of the Book of Mormon: "...yea, **the Son of the everlasting God** was judged of the world..."

Notice any differences? The Record makes it clear that Jesus is God and the same as the Father. This is what our church teaches (Articles of Faith #2) and what the New Testament teaches. We see this in John 14:9 when Jesus tells Philip that "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (KJV). This has been changed in later editions to make Jesus distinct from the Father. What was the reason for this

change? Later in life Joseph Smith moved away from biblical teachings and taught that Jesus and the Father are two separate, distinct persons and so he edited later editions of the Book of Mormon to fit this view.

In these later years, Joseph Smith started to sound a lot like Arius, the heretic mentioned earlier, but we know from the Messages that he repented and is counted among the prophets of the Lord (Message 6:2). Thanks be to God, we know what the correct doctrine of the godhead is when we read the original 1830 edition and, consequently, the Record of the Nephites that uses the original 1830 edition as its text. Moreover, we can have faith in the many precious truths of the Gospel in our assurance that we are indeed reading God's word.

The Christmas Star

Richard Johnson

The celebration or festival of Christmas takes place on 25th December, every year to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is not found in the bible but the birth of Jesus is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John. Mark skips the birth of Jesus and begins with John the Baptist preparing the Way to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:2. "As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee."

John is the short version with only two verses but straight out tells us who Jesus is. Not only who He is but also the Way of our own rebirth of water to become the children of God and enter His Kingdom.

John 1:1 & 14, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and

the Word was God.

14. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

John 3:6-7, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

Luke is the most often read story of Jesus' birth that I also used last year. In his account we encounter Mary and Joseph, the trip to Bethlehem, the manger scene, and the angels and shepherds.

The writings of Paul includes more emphasis on the significance of Christ's death and resurrection. His only mention of the birth is in Galatians 4: 4-5, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Matthew chapter one and two is where we find the record of the Magi who followed the star. So today I want to include that and about the star and how it may have happened to come to pass at the time of His birth.

The story begins with a genealogy that places Jesus in the line of descent from Abraham and David. It is Joseph in this birth story who is told by an angel in a dream that Mary's surprising pregnancy is the work of the Lord. Matthew's Gospel is placed at the beginning of the New Testament, not because it was the first of the New Testament's books to be written, but because it is the gospel in which we find the fullest exposition of his teaching and the only references to the Church in all the gospels and this likely because it had become a reality by that time.

The Birth of Jesus:

Mathew 1:18-25, “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25. And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”

The Wise Men and the Star:

Mathew 2:1-12, “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2. Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people to-

gether, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6. And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

7. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.”

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Credit to Star of Bethlehem documentary and Frederick A Larson Exploring the evidence about the star that marked history (bethlehemstar.com)

In the Book of Luke 21:25, Jesus tells us: “...there will be signs in the sun, and in the moon and in the stars...”

We may look to the stars for signs from God, but we are not to revere the stars themselves.

The Book of Deuteronomy warns in Chapter 4:19, “And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heave, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the Lord thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven,”

Psalms 19 David wrote “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night shewest knowledge.

3. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

4. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world...”

WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE STAR:

- It signified birth.
- It signified kingship.
- It had a connection with the Jewish nation.
- It rose in the east, like other stars.
- It appeared at a precise time.
- Herod didn't know when it appeared.
- It endured over time.
- It was ahead of the Magi as they went south from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.
- stopped over Bethlehem.

Did anything interesting happen in the ordinary night skies over the Middle East in 3 or 2 BC? Many have tried to discover the answer to the Star of Bethlehem particularly since the technology to recreate the movement of the stars and where they would be at any given time in the past or in the future. For most it has been a calendar problem of looking at the right dates to determine when Herod the Great was King and when he died. It was believed He died in 4-3 BC. Better evidence today supports

2-1 BC.

There is Jupiter known from ages-old to the present as the King Planet. To be Matthew's Star, Jupiter as viewed from Earth would have to do peculiar things. More precisely, as considered by a magus viewing from the Middle East during the years 3 and 2 BC, Jupiter's movements would have to satisfy all nine identifying characteristics of the Star. (Magus a member of a priestly caste of ancient Persia, the Magi). In September of 3 BC at the time of the Jewish New Year, Rosh ha-Shanah, Jupiter began to do just that. A magus watching Jupiter that September saw two objects moving so close that they appeared to touch. This close approach of celestial bodies is sometimes called a 'conjunction.' Our Middle Eastern viewer saw Jupiter coming into a close conjunction with the star, Regulus. Regulus takes its name from the root word which yields our word 'regal.' The Babylonians called Regulus Sharu, which means 'king.' The Romans called Regulus Rex, which means 'king.' So to start things, at the beginning of the new Jewish year, the Planet of Kings met the Star of Kings. Jupiter's orbit wobbles relative to Regulus, so not every conjunction is as close as the one he saw in 3 BC. Each night Jupiter rises in the east (satisfying a second Star qualification). Each night it appears to be slightly farther east in the field of fixed stars. All of the planets move like this. Periodically, they appear to reverse course and move backward through the other stars. This may seem odd, but the reason is simple enough: we watch the planets from a moving platform—Earth—hurtling around the Sun in its own orbit. When you pass a car on the freeway, it appears to go backward as it drops behind. For similar reasons, when the Earth in its orbit swings past another planet, that planet appears to move backward against the starry field. Astronomers call this optical effect retrograde motion. In 3/2

BC, Jupiter's retrograde wandering would have called for our magus' full attention. After Jupiter and Regulus had their kingly encounter, Jupiter continued on its path through the star field. But then it entered retrograde. It "changed its mind" and headed back to Regulus for a second conjunction. After this second pass it reversed course again for yet a third rendezvous with Regulus, a triple conjunction. A triple pass like this is more rare. Over a period of months, our watching magus would have seen the Planet of Kings dance out a halo above the Star of Kings. A coronation.

The Jewish nation is composed of twelve ancient tribes. Jewish prophecy states that a particular tribe will bring forth the Messiah: the tribe of Judah. The symbol of Judah's tribe is the lion. You can see these connections in an ancient prediction of Messiah's coming found in the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis, Chapter 49:9-10, "Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he crouched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?"

10. The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

This association of Messiah with the tribe of Judah and with the lion is a productive clue. It clarifies the connection between Jupiter's behavior and the Jewish nation, because the starry coronation—the triple conjunction—occurred within the constellation of Leo, The Lion. Ancient stargazers, particularly if they were interested in things Jewish, may well have concluded they were seeing signs of a Jewish king.

By the following June, Jupiter had finished crowning Regulus. The Planet of Kings traveled on through the star field toward another spectacular rendezvous, this time with Venus, the Mother Planet. This conjunction was so close and so bright that

it is today displayed in hundreds of planetaria around the world by scientists who may know nothing of Messiah. They do it because what Jupiter did makes such a great planetarium show. Jupiter appeared to join Venus. The planets could not be distinguished with the naked eye. If our magus had a telescope, he could have seen that the planets sat one atop the other, like a figure eight. Each contributed its full brightness to what became the most brilliant star our man had ever seen. Jupiter completed this step of the starry dance as it was setting in the west. That evening, our Babylonian magus would have seen the spectacle of his career while facing toward Judea.

No one alive had ever seen such a conjunction. If the Magi only began their travel plans in September, when they saw this sight nine months later, someone may have shouted "What are we waiting for? Mount up!" At the end of their travel, which may have taken weeks or months, these experts arrived in Jerusalem. They told their tale, and "all Jerusalem was disturbed." Herod wanted to know two things: when the Star had appeared, and where this baby was. The Magi presumably described the timing of events starting in September of 3 BC and continuing through June of 2 BC. Herod sent them to Bethlehem in search of the child with orders that they return to tell where he was.

To qualify as the Star, Jupiter would have to have been ahead of the Magi as they trekked South from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Sure enough, in December of 2 BC if the Magi looked south in the wee hours, there hung the Planet of Kings over the city of Messiah's birth.

All but one of the nine Biblical qualifications for the Star have now been plausibly satisfied:

The first conjunction signified birth by its association to the day with Virgo "birthing" the new moon. Some might ar-

gue that the unusual triple conjunction by itself could be taken to indicate a new king.

The Planet of King's coronation of the Star of Kings signified kingship.

The triple conjunction began with the Jewish New Year and took place within Leo, showing a connection with the Jewish tribe of Judah (and prophecies of the Jewish Messiah).

Jupiter rises in the east. The conjunctions appeared at precise, identifiable times.

Herod was unaware of these things; they were astronomical events which had significance only when explained by experts.

The events took place over a span of time sufficient for the Magi to see them both from the East and upon their arrival in Jerusalem. Jupiter was ahead of the Magi as they traveled south from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

But the ninth qualification would require that Jupiter stop over Bethlehem. How could a planet do that? And did Jupiter do it?

Next: To stop a star

The problem with a planet stopping is not what you might think. The problem is not that planets can't stop. Just the opposite. The problem is that all planets are always stopped to the eye of a human observer. The sky moves above Earth at half the speed of the hour hand on a common clock. Its movement is imperceptible to the naked eye. So, if all stars are always stopped, what can Matthew have meant?

Perhaps you have already anticipated the key to this final mystery: retrograde motion. An astronomer tracking the movement of planets through the star field watches not so much on the scale of minutes, but on the longer scale of days, weeks and months.

On this scale of time, Jupiter did stop.

On December 25 of 2 BC as it entered

retrograde, Jupiter reached full stop in its travel through the fixed stars. Magi viewing from Jerusalem would have seen it stopped in the sky above the little town of Bethlehem.

Articles

The Kingdom of God, Part 3

The following study is an excerpt from the *Light at Evening Time: The Gospel Restored* by Maggie Macgregor, pages 26-33.

The Advantages of Citizenship in the Kingdom of God

Let us take under consideration the opportunities within the church, and we shall see what it was that confirmed the faith of those early saints, who so willingly sacrificed their lives, rather than surrender the treasures of knowledge divinely received.

This knowledge was received through the channel of revelation- that enriching legacy of the people of God. It was theirs in fee simple and had remained in the family of the church for four thousand years. It followed them from Genesis to Revelation.

At times the Lord revealed his will by personal appearance or angel ministration. On other occasions he spake through the prophets and the seers, and voiced his counsellings through visions and dreams.

Thus were the children of the church counselled and corrected. They were God's peculiar people. And as such, they had certain privileges which those who had formed no relationship could not claim.

And so it was that Adam was instructed, Noah warned, Moses directed, and Israel delivered; Naaman was led to a fountain of health, Joseph liberated from an Egyptian prison, and Elijah saved from starvation. Through it Paul was restrained from

preaching in Bithynia and admonished to go into Macedonia; advised to tarry at Corinth and again commanded to depart from Jerusalem. (Genesis 6; Exodus 3; 2 Kings 5; Genesis 41; 2 Kings 18; Acts 16, 18, 22).

Indeed in all the movements of the church it was directed by Christ, its head, and in the shadow of impending trial was duly apprised.

The revelation announcing a coming dearth undoubtedly saved the church much commiseration, while the repeated warnings of approaching impostors tended to fortify the faithful against deception and fraud. (Acts 11:28; 20:29, 30; 2 Timothy 2:3-5; 4:3,4).

Continued Revelation

The glory of the kingdom of God consisted in the perpetuation of her powers. There was nothing transitory. It was impossible to exhaust her treasury and so that un-failing Fountain of Revelation must forever flow.

The doctrine of continued revelation is supported by the same necessities which gave it origin. Whatever the cause necessitating revelation in other days, causes equally important exist now.

Did the church need forewarning of approaching trouble in former years? How much more, then, does she need it now, when the world is beset by evils such as never were.

In olden days the ministry were directed in their work. Each and every man had his distinctive duty, and all of them received revelation extraordinary, pointing out their particular fields of labor.

Noah was told to build an ark and Moses to lead the children of Israel. John the Baptist was sent to preach in the wilderness and Paul to go into Macedonia. Why should it be otherwise to-day? Who but God can give directions, and who will dare usurp his place?

Not must it be overlooked that the calling of the ministry depends upon an open channel of revelation. No one should assume the ministerial office, save God hath called.

“And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.”- Hebrews 5:4.

Unlike other vocations, the office of the ministry is closed except unto those whom heaven calls; and pray tell us how can God call unless he speaks? And when he speaks, it becomes a revelation.

The Holy Spirit a Revealing Power

The Holy Spirit, as the great intelligent force that proceeds from the Father and the Son, 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. The one is an eternal attribute of the other. They co-exist and are coextensive. And it would be as rational to speak of the existence of the sun without light as it would be to talk about God without revelation.

Its power is portrayed in the epistle of Paul:

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kind of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.”- 1 Corinthians 12: 7-10.

Thus does it appear that there are nine stupendous gifts credited to the Holy Spirit; and out of that nine, for of them, viz, knowledge, prophecy, tongues, and interpretations, are the very embodiment of rev-

elation itself.

We have only to inform ourselves of what the Master himself has said concerning the Holy Spirit and we shall be assured of its revealing power,

“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.”- John 16:13.

It was never intended that the future should be sealed to the children of the church: “Ask and ye shall receive,” said Christ; and, “If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God,” enjoined James, “and it shall be given him.” (Matthew 7:7; James 1:5).

Surely, then, in the light of these promises none will doubt the revealing powers of the Holy Spirit.

Revelations to Be Given in the Last Days

However much men may oppose this blessed doctrine of continued revelation, God will, nevertheless continue to reveal his mind. He has decreed it long ago and the word of God is irresistible: “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away,” and unto us the promise comes as well as unto them; Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth (present tense) out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 24:35; 4:4).

“At evening time, it shall be light,” said the prophet, and the western skies of latter days shall glow with the refulgent light of revelation, even though the clouds of unbelief obscure the rays of a shining sun.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young

men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”- Acts 2:17,18.

An Elijah will be sent with important instruction before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord, and witnesses charged with prophecy will yet stand in the streets of Jerusalem, proclaiming their message with unusual power. In the days of their prophecy it will not rain, and the earth will be smitten with pestilence at the bidding of these men of God. Finishing their testimony, they shall be slain, and in three days and a half shall ascend in the sight of men. Then will the Lord let loose his fury, and earthquakes shall do their deadly work. (Malachi 4:5.6; Revelation 11:3-13).

Now, when these prophets shall come they will bring a message; and that message will be a revelation. Thus will the latter days bring to us revelations from almighty God.

Spiritual Gifts

Each and every nation has its advantages. Some are more generous than others. If their dominions are large enough they are willing to bestow a land inheritance of 160 acres to all who will become citizens.

But the kingdom of God is richer than all these. Its endowments are of greater service and are everlasting in duration. Its ministry are entitled to “power from on high,” “the Lord working with them, confirming the word with signs following.” (Luke 24:48; Mark 16:20).

That is what made the ministry of long ago truly great. Unlearned and even unlettered, they were unafraid to meet the scholastic minds of the age, who “were not able to resist the Spirit and wisdom by which they spake.” (Acts 6:10).

Mantled with the Holy Spirit, and endowed with gifts which no college could impart, they rightly divided the word of truth, for theirs was as the sword of the Spirit.

Nor were these gifts confined to the elders. Each and all who entered the church were entitled to their share of divine endowment:

“How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation.”- 1 Corinthians 14:26.

“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another diverse kind of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.”- 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10.

So profuse was the outpouring of spiritual power that there is not a page of the New Testament lore but what is radiant in its record of some marvelous manifestation expressed in angel visitation, spiritual dream, prophecy, miracle, or unusual sign following the believer.

The following will instance:

“And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.”- Luke 9:2.

“And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.”- Mark 6:13.

“God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will.”- Hebrews 2:4.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”- Acts 2:4.

“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”- Acts 19:6.

Spiritual Gifts to Continue

And the best of it all is that these wondrous gifts were not to be done away, God intended they should remain. He is “no respecter of persons” and will therefore be impartial in the giving of his bounties.

And for our encouragement we are exhorted to “desire spiritual gifts.” Yes; even to “covet” them:

“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.”- 1 Corinthians 14:1.

“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied.”- 1 Corinthians 14:5.

“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.”- 1 Corinthians 14:39

Signs to Follow Believers

There was one way in which the saints of former days were distinguished from all other people, and that was by the miraculous “signs” in their midst.

They were not distinguished by dress, nor did they have any temples of stone. Thiers was a poor man’s religion, yet were they rich in the enjoyment of those gifts that made for their endurance unto death.

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: in my names shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and shall recover.”- Mark 16:15-18.

This was the last legacy of our Lord to his church. It was hers by inheritance, and who shall protest the validity of her claim?

The estate at all events is surely sufficient to cover the bequests, and there is no question as to the soundness of mind of the Testator at the time of drawing up the testament.

Why, then, should not this rich estate be divided amongst the legatees?

But who are the legatees? Answer: "Them that believe." In other words, we will know who are the true believers by the "signs" attending their ministrations.

Peoples and churches may make loud professions of faith and great sacrifices as displayed in beautiful houses of worship and the payment of large salaries, but if God does not honor them with the signs he has promised, it is time for them to inquire, 'Are we the true believers?' for the signs were to follow "them that believe."

Some excuse themselves by saying, 'These signs are not for our day.' If that be true, then salvation is not for our day, for inseparably incorporated into this last legacy is found the promise of salvation. If one part of that bequest is not for us neither is the other. Where one is permissible so is the other and where one is restricted so is the other.

If, therefore, "the signs" were confined to ancient days, salvation is also, and we are still in our sins and without hope.

The fact that these **signs** do not follow in other churches is no evidence that such were not intended for our day. It is true that the signs failed to continue, but that was the fault of the people. They ceased believing. They turned heathen again and went into a general apostasy, as the following will show:

"It does not appear that these extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost were common in the church for more than two or three centuries... The cause was not as has been vulgarly supposed- because there was

no more occasion for them by reason of the world becoming Christian, for this ideas is a miserable mistake, as not one twentieth part was at that time even nominally Christian... the real cause why the gifts of the Holy Spirit were no longer to be found in the Christian church was because the Christians were turned heathen again and had only a dead form left." - John Wesley, Sermon 94.

Thanks be to God, the hour has struck for a revival of those signs. The Old Jerusalem Gospel is being preached once more; and in fulfillment of that promise, the signs do follow.

You will find them in The Church of Christ, whose members are ever ready to testify that God does reveal his mind to them in the olden way, by prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues, dreams, visions and angel ministration, and heals their sick as in days of old.

Moreover, they are blessed with that wonderful spirit of peace which Jesus left as a benediction upon his people. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance are the characteristics manifest in their public gatherings, in their homes and in their private lives, as a body.

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, and in all the churches of the saints." (1 Corinthians 14:33).

One Mighty and Strong A Fountain Of Truth: John The Baptist

Message 39:9, "Floods, wars, pestilence and plagues shall come, and many things that will cause the Hearts of men to fail them, For I send One Mighty and Strong and unto him have I given Power to utter words-Eternal Words-and Light is his covering, to set in Order My House. From his

bowels gushes forth TRUTH, a Fountain of Truth, to speak My Words, for I have Spoken. In Me is The Light that Shineth in Darkness and by My Servant I give these Words unto you. I send a Great Light, and few there be that perceive it because of the precepts and commandments of men.”

Message 70:2, “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.

Message 84:2, “I am The Servant of The Lord. I am The Forerunner of The Christ. I am he to Prepare The Way. I give The Word in due season. I speak in The Spirit and Power of God, of The Elias, The Assured Way, A Fountain of Truth. I am clothed with Light for a covering. The Words I speak are Eternal Words. I speak The Words of Christ, The Living God. His Words shall Judge you in the last day. Shape your Lives by The Words I bring and it will be Well with you. This is The Assured Way of The Lord.”

Message 103:3, “I bring The Priesthood Authority, I speak as a Fountain Of Truth, and with Power and Authority.”

Message 114:11, “You Believe in God, believe also in my Coming to Prepare The Way. I speak Eternal Words. I am Clothed with Light for a Covering, gushing forth as A Fountain Of Truth.”

Young Adults

Karen Wilkin

Alma 37:33-35, “Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; teach them to humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ;

34. Teach them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart: for such shall find rest to their souls.

35. Oh remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth: yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God;”

Do you understand why your parents/grandparents have taught you from birth to learn how to trust in the Lord? Do you understand why even on days you wanted to just sleep in they drug you out of bed and took you to Church Services? Do you understand why they spend hours teaching you right from wrong and reading the scriptures to you? Do you understand why they lecture you when you disobey or do things that are not in accordance with the word of God? Do you understand why they spend time praying with you and seeking God's protection over you? Do you understand why they spend hours of their time leading you in the right direction, keeping you on the straight and narrow path? Do you understand why they fight hard the daily battles against the wiles of the devil throwing fiery darts at you and they risk their own peace to just make sure they can help get you through the rough trials in life and always have your back?

As you read these verses in Alma 37 do you understand these are the very things your parents are trying to do for you? Let's read a bit further.

Alma 37:36-37. “Yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord: yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever;

37. Counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning,

let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.”

WOW: What an awesome loving God we serve!! What beautiful counsel of the Lord for us to live by, go by, follow and what a wonderful reason to be in tune with the Holy Spirit. I am sure your parents have taught you each and every one of these attributes haven't they? These attributes are there to lead, guide and direct you in the path God would have you go.

Proverbs 22:6 7 & 15, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

15. Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it from him.”

See, when your parents correct you in something you have done wrong, it isn't for their own pleasure of just chastising you, but rather they are "Training you up in the way you should go", a commandment of the Lord. They love you so much they discipline you so you might understand that with sin and disobedience also comes consequences.

Alma 38: 9, 11-12, 14, “And now, my son, I have told you this that ye may learn wisdom, that ye may learn of me that there is no other way or means whereby man can be saved, only in and through Christ. *Behold, he is the life and the light of the world.* Behold, he is the word of truth and righteousness.

11. See that ye are not lifted up unto pride: yea, see that ye do not boast in your own wisdom, nor of your much strength;

12. *Use boldness, but not overbearance;* and also see that ye bridle all your passions, that ye may be filled with love; see that ye refrain from idleness;

14. Do not say, O God, I thank thee that we are better than our brethren; but rather say, O Lord, forgive my unworthiness, and remember my brethren in mercy; yea, acknowledge your unworthiness before

God at all times.”

This is a very difficult time for all youth. There are so many diverse things being taught that are not of God, even in the schools. Your parents want to teach you what the WORD says about these things so you can have that solid and firm mind set as to what is true and what is not. If you don't know what the Word says, then you can't know if what is being taught is true or false. There are many things coming to pass that have been prophesied in the Holy Bible, The Record of the Nephites and The Word of the Lord. We can see prophecy being fulfilled right before our eyes, can't we? So, young people, when your parents make you get out of bed to go to church, thank them! When your parents won't let you go to that wild party out in the woods, thank them!! When your parents discipline you for disrespect, disobedience and going against the Godly principles, thank them! They are trying to Bring You Up In The Way You Should Go! and pray you will never turn from it, but rather follow through in those teachings and become good citizens not only in your community, but in Christ.

There is so much stress to deal with almost on a daily basis and the Word of God is what can help get you through it all. If you know the truth, if you know what God says about the topic, if you have learned how to trust in God and go to Him in prayer and seek Him in all things then you cannot be led astray. Be thankful you have parents who love you so much they are sacrificing in this life, giving their best to raise you In The Way You Should Go, so you can become the person God would have you to be.

God bless you in your daily walk with Him. Give Him your time each day in prayer and study of His word. It will be well with your soul. I pray you have a most wonderful year filled with love, joy, peace,

happiness, good health and growing in the Lord.

Junior

Thresa Ray

Dear Youth,

Do you ever feel like you do not matter to God? Do you ever feel like you are not important to God? Do ever feel like God does not hear you?

Psalm 147:4, “He (God) telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them by their names.”

Matthew 6:26 (Jesus is talking), “Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”

Luke 12:7 (Jesus is speaking), “But even the very hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.”

If God knows every star, every bird, and all the hairs on your head, He certainly knows you! You matter to God! You are important to God!

Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee...”

God knew you, He knew each of us before we were even born and He loves us and has a plan for us.

God also knows all the sand on the seashores! David tells us that God’s thoughts about us are more in number than the sands of the seashores!

Psalm 139:17 & 18, “How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

18. If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand...”

I read that there are more than 7 quintillion, 5 quadrillion grains of sand on the beaches of the world. That is

7,500,000,000,000,000,000 good thoughts that God has about you! You matter to God! You are important to God!

God wants us to be happy.

2 Nephi 2:25, “Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.”

God does not force Himself on us. He gives us freedom of choice. We must choose God. He will be there for us!

Matthew 7:7-8 (Jesus is talking), “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.”

All we have to do is ask God, talk to God, invite Him into our hearts and our life, and tell Him our desires and needs. He will be there for us. He wants us to give our troubles and burdens to him.

Matthew 11:28-30 (Jesus is speaking), “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest upon your souls.

30. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

God wants us to give our troubles or burdens to Him. He will carry the load, and make the burden or trial we are going through light for us. He will help and guide us through our problems. God is there for you- there for each of us because He loves us so much and wants us to reach out to Him and invite Him into our hearts!

Our prayers matter!

James 5:16. “...The effectual fervent (unceasing, sincere) prayer of a righteous man availeth (accomplishes) much.”

So ask God into your heart daily! Tell Him your joys – tell Him your troubles! Tell Him how much you love Him! Pray for yourself and others! God is there for you in your happy times, sad times, and

hard times. He will make your joy more abundant, give you comfort in your sorrow, and guide you in times of need or trouble!

Why? Because You matter to God! You are important to God! God is always there for you!

There is a song called "His Eye is on the Sparrow," words and music by Civilla D. Martin and Charles H. Gabriel, that is very beautiful. I'm going to quote just the first verse.

*"Why should I feel discouraged.
Why should the shadows come,
Why should by heart be lonely
And long for Heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow and I know
He watches me.
I sing because I'm happy
I sing because I'm free
For His eye is on the sparrow and I
know He watches me."*

Remember, God even knows all the sparrows, all the sands of the sea, all the stars in the sky, all the hairs on your head---He knows YOU and He loves YOU ! YOU are important to Him!

Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray

Primary

Joy Ellen Draves

Loving God's Way

God's Love is so different from our Love. We often don't feel Love or express Love. God always feels Love toward us--for He is Love.

1 John 4:7-8, "Beloved, let us Love one another: for Love is of God; and every one that Loveth is Born of God, and Knoweth God.

8. He that Loveth not Knoweth not God; for God is Love."

His Love is Unconditional, which means, He will Always Love despite what we do or say. God can never stop Loving us. It's in His very Nature to Love. Even when we say and do wrong things, He still keeps on Loving us. We need to Build God's Love into our Lives, so we may Love as He does. Let God Fill you with His Love.

Ask Him to Help you Love people and see them through His Eyes. As we continue to Walk with Jesus, and choose to Respond with Love, the more God's Love Grows in us. So Choose today to Love God's Way. *But how do we Love God's Way?*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; Charity envieth not; Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not Her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6. Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but Rejoiceth in The Truth;

7. Beareth all things, Believeth all things, Hopeth all things, Endureth all things.

8. Charity never faileth: but whether there be Prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be Tongues, they shall cease; whether there be Knowledge, it shall vanish away'.

But what does this all mean? To understand how we are to Love, we must first realize that Charity is Love. So know-ing that Charity is Love, then we can Learn that Love is Kind. Love is not proud. Love is Patient. It does not envy. Love does not dishonor others. It is not easily angered, and it does not keep a record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but Rejoices with The truth. Love always protects, always Trust, and always Hopes. Love never Fails.

Wow! Love does a lot. It is Amazing. These are The Things God wants us to Show when we Love. After all, this is The Way He Loves us!