

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

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Happy Easter

“Let mankind respect the Lord Christ, and honor Him; His Sacrifice on the Cross and Resurrection, bearing the sins of all that will come unto Him and receive deliverance and salvation.”

- Message 108:8



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

Fifty-Ninth Message

On Wednesday morning, January 27, 1943, the Messenger John, appeared in my room at 1:15 a.m. and said "Fear not, I will come again." In a few seconds he was gone, and again on January 29, 1943, John the Baptist, the same Messenger of the Lord, appeared to me at my room, 520 West Lexington Avenues, Independence, Missouri, and gave the following Message. He spoke slowly and distinctly. I wrote as he gave it. He left at 2:30 a.m.

-W.A. Draves

1. "Behold I come to you again. Arise and take the Message I will give you.

2. I am your fellow servant, and my name is John. I am the Messenger of the Lord. I have come in the past, and I shall come to you in the future. Fear not, for this is the Lord's Work, and I have come at His appointing. I have come to you and not to others, this is your calling. Therefore, be faithful and true, and deny not my coming.

3. I have brought a warning of Christ's soon coming, and the authority that the Church may be established as the Lord would have it, that mankind might find a Way of Redemption. For salvation only comes to those that are humble and full of love and obey the Will of the Lord. My message is one of love to those that heed and obey it.

4. I cried repentance in the days that are past, my message is repentance today. Let all men repent of their sins and selfish ways, for sin cannot receive the Glory of God nor the Power of the Lamb slain. Except they repent they cannot be redeemed from that awful state. For the Lord has prepared the Way of Redemption and He has spoken. It is Christ's Words that shall judge all men, Therefore, He cannot use man of His own way, for

man's heart is filled with selfishness.

5. Preach repentance and baptism, that the honest of heart come unto the Lord. This Message is to all nations. Contend not over the evils of man, but send the Message I bring to the ends of the earth. Many shall yet turn to serve the Lord with full purpose of heart.

6. I have warned you, that you have no part in contention, for contention will darken the mind. Heed the instructions I bring and it will be well with you. As I speak to you I speak to all.

7. There are those that have prayed that I come. In the anguish and distress of their souls the Lord has heard their cry for He knows the prayers that are of the heart. Man cannot glory of himself in this Work.

8. There are those that have been true and will yet be true. The Lord will bless them greatly in His sight and in this Work. There are those that betray one another and have not been true. Their hearts are filled with selfishness, greed, jealousy and hate. They despise you and the message I bring.

9. While there are those that are true much has not been done that I have instructed. Let them speedily carry on the instructions I have brought and bring from time to time from the Lord God. For I speak His Words and His Will and it shall be done.

10. 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.

11. Send the Message to the Church and to all. This is the Way for mankind to find eternal peace, to endure to the end.

12. There are those you love who will turn against you and make offense for a word. Some will repent, others will go to destruction; some their end will be sad. Yet the Work of the Lord shall go on for they must know the Lord has spoken.

13. Let the Messages I bring be published. Let them go to all the world. Fear not man, nor his ways. Some the Lord has entrusted with responsibility, know not His Spirit nor His goodness. Have no part with those that oppose and deny my coming for they deny the authority and trust the Lord has given them and the Lord will call others to take their places that the Work may go on.

14. Let those that oppose and hinder have no part in this Work for they are not of the faithful and will not be of the Bride of Christ.

15. The Lord has spoken and plead with many but there are those in their selfish way who set themselves up and seek to destroy the truth and the good of this Work. While others heed and obey and work with all their might to carry on the Lord's Work. Let them be not discouraged, but let them continue and the Spirit shall comfort them and bring the greater peace, for the Lord knows the hearts that are honest. Though you may be hated by loved ones and those you labor among, deny not this Work nor the Message I bring for it is to all mankind in all the world, and those that heed and obey, enduring unto the end the same shall be the Bride of Christ.

16. Teach men everywhere faith, repentance, and baptisms. Let the hands be laid on all that the Plan of God may be complete and that they may be fit and worthy for the Spirit to dwell with them.

17. Fear not what men may say of you, but be true and humble and the faithful will uphold you.

18. 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?

19. 'Hear ye! And let humility be your

mantle and ye shall no more be confounded, for I come,' saith the Lord, 'that deliverance might be.'

20. Publish this Message with the rest. Withhold them not.

21. I will come again and direct in this Work. Be humble, be at peace, let love fill your lives and humility be the mantle for all.

22. To you my fellow servant, the Lord knows your heart, and repentance. Be not deceived by man, be obedient, trusting the Lord and He shall be your strength. I speak to you, and for all that mankind may know the Lord has spoken.

23. The days of judgments are upon all men and a Way of Deliverance for the just shall be. Watch against the days to come. Pray always. Amen"

From The Apostles

The Old Covenant Marriage Pattern for God and Israel

Richard Johnson

There were about five common customs involved in every ancient Jewish marriage¹. There were:

1. The arrangement of marriage;
2. The betrothal;
3. The undefined time of preparation between the betrothal and the wedding;
4. The marriage ceremony; & finally,
5. The marriage feast.

First the marriage was arranged between the heads of both families.

In the Bible several passages refer to the negotiations requisite for the arranging of a marriage which were conducted by members of the two families involved, or their deputies, and required usually the consent of the prospective bride (if of age); but when the agreement had been entered into, it was definite and binding upon both groom and bride, who were considered as man and wife in all

legal and religious aspects, except that of actual cohabitation.

Genesis 24:2-3, "And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

3. And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son (Issac) of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:"

Nevertheless, although the marriage was arranged between the heads of both families, the bride-to-be seems to have had the right of rejection, if the arrangement wasn't to her liking.

Genesis 24:5, "And the servant said unto him (Abraham), Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest?"

Abraham said no because God had promised him this land and the servant then went to Mesopotamia and the city of Nahor where he found Rebekah.

Genesis 24:58, "And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. "

Rebekah is said to be a type for the Church, meaning "called-out" or "assembly." The called out Bride of Christ. Note that the classical Greek usage of Ekklesia included all the citizens of Athens. (*a city of people.*)

According to Jeremiah, the Mosaic Covenant was a marriage contract and idolatry was considered playing the harlot. Therefore, the agreement made in Exodus 19:3-8 was that of a marriage covenant,

God said to Moses in Exodus 19:4-8, "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

6. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of

priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

7. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

8. And all *the people* answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of *the people* unto the LORD."

Which was broken later through their worship of idols of other God's. Note that Moses was the servant the Lord had sent to arrange His Marriage with the fathers for the children of the House of Israel to be His Bride and *His people.* (a marriage covenant with natural Israel)

Jeremiah 2:29 & 32, "Wherefore will ye plead with me? ye all have transgressed against me, saith the LORD.

32. Can a maid forget her ornaments, **or a bride her attire?** yet *my people* have forgotten me days without number."

Jeremiah 3:1, "They say, If a man put away *his wife*, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou (Israel) hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD." (This because since there was a Israel there shall always be a remnant of the seed of Jacob that will return to the Mighty God. Isaiah 10: 20, 21.)

Jeremiah 31:31-32, "*Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:*

32. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:"

God through His prophet has just called natural Israel a woman and the wife of God. The metaphorical physical wife of God. His covenant was with the fathers of the family.

When He took her by the hand as in a wedding proposal he makes clear the covenant was a marriage saying I was their husband.

33. "But this shall be the (*New*) covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be *my people*." (meaning a future marriage covenant of God with the indwelling of His Spirit. A Spiritual marriage.)

Ezekiel 36:26, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."

I will digress a little more here briefly to put the things we need to know in context for us of the new spiritual marriage with the future bride of the Lamb of God. (If marriage is a covenant, then a covenant is a marriage. If A equals B, then B equals A.)

We need to remember that God's Everlasting covenant included His promise to Abraham that even though Israel would break it, God would remember His part of the promise and with the Remnant restore Judah and Joseph through His Son. The Jews to their inheritance and Joseph gathered to this Land for theirs. This was one of the questions his followers kept asking Jesus about. When He would restore the Kingdom of Israel or when would He come again into His Kingdom after His resurrection.

The Law and the prophets spoke of this day until John as Jesus told the disciples. Now God has remembered and sent John to restore the promises to children that God made with their fathers. This for the reason that there were no servants with God's Authority to perform the Holy Rites of the marriage covenant between the Lamb of God and His People, His Bride, the Church and Body of Christ.

Matthew 11:12, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

His coming has precipitated God's gathering of the desolate nation of Israel from their dispersion in the wilderness with His New Covenant for the cleansing of their idolatry. Now cometh the Old Jerusalem. The deliverance of Judah through the blood of their Redeemer and His name is Jesus Christ. For He is the God of the whole Earth who promised Abraham His seed would fill the borders of Israel that must be extended to contain them. (Galatians chapter 4.)

Isaiah 54:5, "For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall He be called." (Isaiah 9:6 .)

Message 63:10, "The Lord has remembered Israel and His loving kindness is for them that hear. Let those that rebel have no part in this work. Let Zion arise out of the wilderness and a people awaken from the desolations and slumberings, for there shall be brought forth those that shall inherit. The elect shall inherit it, and the Lord's servants shall dwell safely."

Remember again what Jesus told the disciples In Mathew 17:10-12. What they actually were asking him was the same question they would ask of Him again later in Acts 1:5-8 after His resurrection. "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel"? (Acts1:6) They would ask him because of what He had told them before that John shall first come. They now understood that John was the Elias that must first come. Jesus had told them in Matthew even though John was beheaded *he truly shall first come and restore all things*. His Authority to do this would be the Spirit and power of God like Elijah the prophet had in his day to restore the true worship of the one true God. If you will ask Google you shall find the words "shall or will" according to at least four sources are verbs used to form a future tense. Thus understand Jesus is saying "Indeed John is coming first and will restore all things."

They surely must have been asking about

John again in Acts because Jesus told them that even though John had baptized them with water before they would yet receive the power of the Holy Ghost for them to witness to the world in their day about His resurrection. Understand that He was telling them it was not for them to know the times or the season when John shall first come as the Elias with his power to restore the natural Kingdom of Israel or when the Lord would come. The Kingdom refers to the seed of Jacob called Joseph and Judah with the true worship of God as in days of old and the restoring of their inheritance of the lands God promised to them. (2 Nephi 30:7-8, Ether 13:4-8, and III Nephi 10:17; Hosea 1:11; Isaiah 11:12; Jeremiah 3:18; Ezekiel 39:27-28; Message 7/8:5, 36:3, 45:34-35, 47:3, 10, 22:5,14, 24:4, 110:8-9,

The second custom observed was the betrothal itself. To prepare for this, the bride and groom would take part separately in a ritual immersion in water, which symbolized a spiritual cleansing. The betrothal was a legal marriage, although the couple lived apart. The root ("to betroth"), from which the Talmudic abstract ("betrothal") here is to contract an actual though incomplete marriage. *In two passages in which it occurs the betrothed woman is directly designated as "wife"* (II Sam. 3:14), *"my wife whom I have betrothed."* During the betrothal ceremony, the groom would often say to his bride that you are mekudeshet (**consecrated**) unto me. Therefore, the bride made sure that **she was totally set apart from all other relationships and activities** and that she was completely separated for her groom.

In strict accordance with this sense the rabbinical law declares that the betrothal is equivalent to an actual marriage and only to be dissolved by a formal bill of divorce. *The betrothal was ratified with the giving of gifts to the bride and to her father's house.*

Isaiah 62:5, "For as a young man marryeth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee."

Genesis 24:51-53, "Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken. (Rebekah said "I will go" being said a type for the Church.)

52. And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

53. And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things."

The third custom observed in the ancient Jewish wedding was that of the preparation period, during which the bride and groom (though legally married) lived apart. It was a time when the bride prepared herself and her wedding garments for the coming of the groom, and the groom prepared a place for his bride. The period of time was at least a year to prove the bride was a virgin, but the exact length of the period was known only to the groom's father, which is exactly what Jesus claimed concerning his coming (Mark 13:32.) When the bridegroom was asked the date of the wedding, he could only say something like, "No man knows except my father."

John 14:1-4, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2. 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.

3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

Toward the end of the yearlong betrothal period, the bride waited with great expectancy for the groom to come and for the ceremony to take place. Even late in the evening, the bride and her wedding party would keep their oil lamps burning in case it was time for the wedding to take place. (Matthew 25.)

As he came, the friend of the bridegroom

went before him and shouted, “Behold, the bridegroom comes.” This shout would be accompanied by the blowing of a shofar, a trumpet made from a ram’s horn.

Message 3:3, “Behold the church has slept and slumbered, but now let the wise trim their lamps, that the Spirit of God may be as oil to their lamps, for **behold, the Bridegroom is coming**. Prepare ye the way for His coming. Behold the Temple must be built.”

1 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 shall rise first:

17. 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.”

The fourth custom in an ancient Jewish wedding was the wedding itself. The vows made during the betrothal ceremony were completed in the marriage ceremony. The ceremony was once again sealed with a cup of wine to indicate the great joy that would accompany the festive celebration.

The marriage supper or feast was the celebration afterward, but there was no ceremony like we have today where the two would exchange vows in a church or a synagogue. Rather, the groom simply took his bride into his tent and consummated the marriage (Genesis 29:15-23.)

Message 114:7 “There cometh a day when the open door before you will close. Are you ready for the consummation of all things; bringing in the Lord’s jewels, His elect ones—the honest in heart—making ready the Bride of Christ, His Church, His Zion? (Message 53:8-9.)

The fifth and final custom in the ancient Jewish marriage was the marriage supper or feast. It was a celebratory occasion, but its application in the New Testament may be surprising. After Christ’s return and his bride had made herself ready (Revelation 19:7-9), the marriage supper took place. Following

the wedding feast, the bridegroom and the bride would live together as husband and wife for the remainder of their lives.

1 Thessalonians 4:17, “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.”

Amen

Endnotes

¹Credit to research on Jewish wedding customs that are found in the Scriptures.

Articles

Holy Week

Ellen Draves

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which is marked on Good Friday. Christ rose three days later. These three days are known by Christians as the Easter Triduum.

The Easter season begins on Ash Wednesday. This is the first day of Lent which lasts 40 days. This is a time when some Christians fast or give up a particular food or vice. The fasting period is to remember when Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted 40 days despite being tempted.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, which may also be known as Passion Sunday in some denominations. Traditionally, Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus entry into Jerusalem. Jesus's entry into Jerusalem was noted by the crowds present who shouted praises and waved palm branches. Jesus rode into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey, reminiscent of a Davidic victory procession, and how people placed palms on the ground in front of him. Immediately following this great time of celebration over the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, He begins his journey to the cross. The blessing is thus followed by a procession or solemn entrance into the church, with the participants holding the blessed branches in their hands.

Ash Wednesday takes place after Shrove Tuesday. Some people call this Pancake Day because rich food like eggs were used up before Lent and the fasting period begins.

We have Maundy Thursday which marks the Last Supper Jesus had with his twelve disciples. In Jesus time it was the time of Passover which was a Jewish celebration. It was because of Passover that the disciples and Jesus were sharing a meal together. The tradition was to have roast lamb, bread and wine. This was Jesus last meal before he was killed which is why we now call it the Last Supper.

Jesus' actions during the dinner have a crucial role in Christianity. During the meal he is said to have taken the bread and wine and offered them to the disciples saying they were his body and blood. This is now emulated in Sacrament services today in remembrance of what happened.

The word Maundy comes from Latin and means 'to command' - this is because Jesus 'commanded' them to think of him when they broke bread and wine together after he was killed.

Also on Maundy Thursday we have the washing of the feet. Jesus is reported to have washed his disciples' feet to show how he served. Washing feet was normally done by the lowest servants, as people wore sandals and could end up with very dirty feet, so Jesus' action would have been very symbolic.

This is the same day that Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemene to pray knowing what would happen to him the next day. It is here he was betrayed by Judas and taken by the guards. He was arrested and taken to trial.

Good Friday is what Lent has been building up to – Jesus' death. It may seem strange to call a day someone died as 'good' but at the time it really meant 'holy'. Christians remember how Jesus was flogged and taken, as he carried the cross, to the hillside where he was crucified with two criminals, even though he had done nothing wrong.

He was nailed to the cross there and left

to die. This is why a cross is used as a symbol of the Christian faith.

The day before Easter Sunday, is called Easter Saturday. The day between Good Friday and the Sunday is known as Holy Saturday and it still has a role in the weekend. Most churches won't have a service, but have a vigil instead - this used to be at midnight, but many churches now hold them earlier, in the evening. The idea was to hold a service that would end by welcoming in Easter - and Jesus rising from the death with the dawn.

It is the most important day of the church year for Christians. It is when Jesus rose from the dead three days after he was killed. It is called the 'resurrection'. The Bible says the women returned to the tomb and found it open. They were told to go and tell the disciples 'He is Risen'. It is only later, when Jesus is on the road and joins the disciples walking that he shows himself again. The Bible says when they were all gathered Jesus revealed himself to them, and doubting Thomas touches his wounds as proof of who he was.

Easter Sunday is also the end of Lent. That means the end of whatever has been given up and eggs. Eggs are often associated with Easter because they are a symbol of new life and fertility. Some Christians believe that the opening of the egg represents the opening of the tomb. They can also be seen to represent Spring and celebrate rebirth and reinvigoration after the harshness of winter.

Young Adults

Karen Wilkin

Everyone is so tired of the snow, ice and cold weather that it is such a welcome change to see more sunshine and warmer temperatures. It is also a season of reflecting on the events that led up to the Greatest Story Ever Told.

Mosiah 3:4-11, "For the Lord hath heard

thy prayers, and hath judged of thy righteousness, and hath sent me to declare unto thee that thou mayest rejoice; and that thou mayest declare unto they people, that they may also be filled with great joy.

5. For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, which was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay, and shall go forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all manner of diseases.

6. And he shall cast out devils, or the evil spirits which dwelleth in the hearts of the children of men.

7. And lo, he shall suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death; for behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be his anguish for the wickedness and the abominations of his people.

8. And he shall be called **JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary.**

9. **And lo, he cometh unto his own, that salvation might come unto the children of men, even through faith on his name; and even after this, they shall consider him a man, and say that he hath a devil, and shall scourge him, and shall crucify him.**

10. **And he shall rise the third day from the dead; and behold, he standeth to judge the world; and behold, all these things shall be done, that a righteous judgment might come upon the children of men.**

11. **For behold, and also his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who hath died, not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned."**

The people must have been in awe of this prophetic message they were receiving. This prophecy foretells exactly what was going to take place and happen, starting with His birth and ending with His death on the cross and His resurrection. Everything that was prophesied came to pass. He did cast out devils, He did heal the sick, He did suffer hunger and thirst, He did heal the blind and the deaf. He did suffer temptations, He did raise the dead and He did suffer great anguish so much that blood did come out of every pore. He did suffer horrible anguish before even going to the cross.

Jesus' journey here was not easy and that isn't why He came. He could have been born in a mansion and had the best of everything. Why do you think He chose to be born in a stable where the animals lived? Jesus didn't come to put on a show like a King would be received. He didn't come to have wealth and be famous. He came in a humble way as God had a plan from the beginning and He did not come to be popular and draw attention to himself as something great, be praised by men or to live in a comfortable and fine dwelling. That would have defeated His purpose.

Jesus chose to come as a very low key, humble man as His lot was to serve others and bring people to Christ. He had only one goal in mind and He never got off course. He never got distracted from His plan and He followed through with that plan right up to His resurrection. I believe Jesus knew joy as he grew up and in His priesthood work with His disciples. However, His form of joy is probably classified differently than what we know as joy. His joy came from seeing people healed, the blind made to see, the lame made to walk, a soul saved from the wiles of the devil. Those were the things that brought him much joy. I'm sure He laughed and had a good time in life also, but it wasn't the same kind of laughter and good times you and I might consider it to be. He didn't come here to party and live it up. He didn't come here to have Fun! Jesus came because He loved us

so much He was willing to sacrifice His life, and die on that old rugged cross for you and me. Now that's a Savior!!

Mosiah 15:2-4, "And because he dwelleth in flesh, he shall be called the Son of God: and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son;

3. The Father, because He was conceived by the power of God; and the Son, because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and the Son;

4. And they are one GOD, yea, the very Eternal Father of heaven and earth."

He had a plan from the beginning. He lived his life to fulfill those prophecies. What an incredible God we have to open the way for mankind to be saved and live with Him throughout eternity.

Let's go on and read 5-8. "And thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, being one God, suffereth temptation, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked, and scourged, and cast out, and disowned by his people."

See He knew from the beginning what was going to happen and He still was willing to go through it all so that His plan could come to pass and He knew there would be victory when it was all done.

6. "And after all of this, and after working many mighty miracles among the children of men, he shall be led, yea, even as Isaiah said, As a sheep before the shearer is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.

7. Yea, even so He shall be led, crucified, and slain, the flesh becoming subject unto death, the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father.

8. And thus God breaketh the bands of death, having gained victory over death; giving the Son power to make intercession for the children of men;"

Let's skip over to verse 19, "For were it not for the redemption which he hath made for his people, which was prepared from the foundation of the world; I say unto you, were

it for this, that all mankind must have perished."

Yes, God had a marvelous plan. His plan worked just as it was supposed to. His plan was right on time. Everything came to pass just as He planned it to. He left nothing out, He didn't skip anything or take the easy way out. You know He could have called 10,000 angels to set Him free and He could have at any time called for His angels to come to His rescue and save Him from all the suffering and agony He went through. But then prophecy would not have been fulfilled as He intended and He knew what had to take place and happen to accomplish His mission.

Luke 24:25-26 & 44-46, "Then he said unto them, **O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:**

26. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

44. And he said unto them, **These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

45. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46. And he said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.

We serve a risen Savior. We serve a mighty God. He is the Alpha, the Omega, the beginning and the end. Because He lives, we can face today and tomorrow, knowing He had a plan for His life, and He has a plan for your life. He died that we might live. God loves you so much He had you on His mind when He went to the cross. Give Him your best each day. You may not know what His plan is yet for your life, but be assured, if you seek Him, He will show you the way, the path He would have you take and it will come to pass exactly as He planned it to.

Have a blessed Easter as you ponder on what Jesus really did and why He did it. God bless you.

Junior

Thresa Ray

Dear Youth,

Message 102:11, “Knowledge cometh from the study of the books, grace from much prayer, salvation by obedience and deliverance by endurance.”

2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to show thyself approved unto God...”

God wants us to read and study the scriptures – to know them, to put them in our mind and heart, so that they may become part of us! When we are happy, sad, sick, or have problems we can know God’s word and call upon it to direct and to help us. But what scriptures should we study? We need to study ‘The Holy Bible’, ‘The Record of The Nephites,’ and ‘The Word of The Lord, Brought to Mankind by an Angel’. In these are the fullness of the gospel – the three measures of meal – the full meal.

Message 102:18, “Prove all things by the words of truth in the ‘Bible’, ‘Record of Nephites’ and ‘The Word of the Lord’. All this is established for mankind, the guidelines of hope and deliverance. Man’s idealisms shall come to naught.”

Message 102:52, “I speak that all Christendom may flow together and abide by the ‘Bible’ revealing great truths; the coming forth of ‘The record of The Nephites’, the Book, and ‘The Word of the Lord’: Behold the books that will lead all mankind to eternal hope and salvation, deliverance in the Lord.”

Message 106:17, “I bring the authority, the everlasting Gospel. Heed it and the Words of Life and Truth as taught in the Bible and The Record of the Nephites with my words.”

Message 86:60, “In the ‘Bible’ and ‘Record of the Nephites’ contains teachings and pattern of the Fullness of the Gospel in its plain and precious parts. But my words and authority gives the right to set the Church in order –The Church of Christ with

the Holy Priesthood authority and power to act in establishing the Kingdom of God on earth and bringing in the Zion of the Lord. The Kingdom and dominion shall be for the saints of the Most High.”

You can see that we need to read and know ‘all three books’. The words from these will guide and direct us in the path God wants us to follow.

When Jesus was explaining to His disciples that He would be leaving them, He told them that He would send the Comforter, the Holy spirit, to help them—to help all of us.

Matthew 14:16-17 & 26, “And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;

17. Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

26. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit), whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said unto you.”

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

We have the scriptures and the Holy Spirit to guide us. We must study All Three Books- to please God, to know all of God’s word.

In John 14:6, “Jesus saith unto him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”

We must accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior and follow Him.

John 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17. For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Jesus loves us so much that He suffered and died on the cross for our sins – taking upon himself the sins of the world- your sins and my sins—so that by belief in Him, we might receive everlasting life! It is not just a one day commitment. We must live our life following Jesus, striving to do God’s will in all things.

Jesus said in Revelation 2:10, “...Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.”

James 1:12, “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.”

After Jesus died on the cross, was resurrected and ascended into heaven, He visited ancient America and He taught His followers there about many things: the beautitudes, the Lord’s Prayer, baptism of water and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Sacrament. He chose 12 disciples in Ancient America, and He prayed for, blessed and healed the people of their infirmities. He taught and prayed many things that could not even be written down in ‘The Record of the Nephites’.

3 Nephi 11:10-17 & 36, “Behold, I am Jesus Christ, of which the prophets testified shall come into the world:

11. And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drank out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning.

12. And it came to pass that when Jesus had spake these words, the whole multitude fell to the earth, for they remembered that it had been prophesied among them that Christ should shew himself unto them after His ascension into heaven.

13. And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them saying,

14. Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also the we may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know

that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world.

15. And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into His side, and did feel the prints of the nails in His hands and in His feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one, until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes, and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety, and did bear record, that it was He of whom it was written by the prophets that should come.

16. And it came to pass that when they had all gone forth and witnessed for themselves, they did cry out with one accord saying,

17. Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship Him.

36. And Thus will the Father bear record of Me, and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and Me; for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost are one.”

We are so blessed to have a Savior that loves us so much that He suffered and died for us – that we can receive eternal life. You can read all about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, His trial, His carrying the heavy cross, His death, beautiful Resurrection, and breathtaking ascension in ‘The Holy Bible’, Matthew chapters 26-28, Mark chapters 14-26, Luke chapters 22-24, and John Chapters 14-21. You can read about Jesus visiting His followers in Ancient America in ‘The Record of The Nephites’ in 3 Nephi chapters 6-28. There are so many beautiful things in those chapters and so much for us to learn. Remember, God wants us to study and learn the scriptures and put the words in our minds and heart.

Message 9:1, “...There are those who read the Words of the Lord and the prophets and have faith therein. Upon these satan has no power...”

Satan has no power because you will be armed with the Word of God. The Scriptures will help you to stand firm for what is right

and to resist temptations of man and the devil. Satan will have no power when you arm your self with the truth from the scriptures!

Keep sweet in the Lord and take time to read and study the scriptures – all three books!

Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray

Primary

Joy Ellen Draves

What Does Easter Mean?

Matthew 27:33-39, “And when they were come unto a place called Golgotgha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

34. They gave him vinegar to drink, mingled with gall; and when he had tasted there of, he would not drink.

35. And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

36. And sitting down they watched him there.

37. And set up over His head his accusation written, This Is Jesus, The King of the Jews.

38. Then were two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

39. And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads.”

Matthew 28:1-11, "In the end of the Sabbath as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchuer.

2. and, behold, there was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow;

4. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

5. And the angel answered and said unto the women, fear not ye; for I know that ye seek

Jesus, which was crucified.

6. He is not here; for he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him; low, I have told you.

8. And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9. And they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying All Hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

11. Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and showed it to the chief priests all the things that were done."

It would be good to read all of chapter 27 if you have time to do so. It speaks of Jesus trial and ridicule and abusive treatment from the soldiers.

Jesus had to die and shed His blood so we could be brought back into relationship with God. He was the final sacrifice. It is by Jesus blood our sins have been washed away. Then through His resurrection (coming back to life), we too can be risen to new life in Him. When we come to the Lord, we are new creations. We have Jesus resurrected life in us.

Easter isn't at all about Easter bunnies and Easter eggs as such, though these things are nice to have at Easter time. I've heard it said that the Easter egg represents new life – as a chicken hatches from an egg. It is okay to enjoy chocolate bunnies and Easter eggs at Easter time, but let us not forget the real meaning of Easter.

* * *

John 11: 25, “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

Jesus, I thank you that you died. Your spilled blood was for me. Death could not hold you in the grave. But you rose victoriously.