

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'

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At Christmas

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

The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message

THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.

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

Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God The Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the Universe; Ruler and Judge of all; Unchangeable and without Respect to persons.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ The Manifestation of God in the flesh, who lived, suffered and died for all mankind; whom we own as our Leader, Witness and Commander.
3. We believe in The Holy Ghost, The Spirit of Truth, The Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, Reveals things to come, and is the medium by which we Receive Revelation of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of The Atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without The Law. For The Power of Redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)
5. We believe that through The Atonement of Christ all men may be Saved by Obedience to The Laws and Ordinances of The Gospel; viz. : Faith in God and in The Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination, (b) Blessing of Children, (c) Confirmation and The Gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17), (d) Healing of the sick.
6. We believe in the literal second coming and Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ; in The Resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.
7. We believe in The Powers and Gifts of The Everlasting Gospel: viz: The Word of Wisdom; The Word of Knowledge; The Gift of Faith; The Gift of Healing; Working of Miracles; Prophecy; Discerning of Spirits; Divers kinds of Tongues; Interpretation of Tongues.
8. We believe The Fruits of The Spirit to be Love, Joy, Peace, Long Suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance.
9. We believe that in The Bible is contained The Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is an added Witness for Christ, and that these contain 'The Fullness of The Gospel.'
10. We believe in the principle of Continuous Revelation; that The Canon of Scripture is not full, that God Inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom he may choose.
11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly Baptized members, one of whom is an Elder, there The Church exists with Full Power of Church extension when acting in Harmony with The Law of God.
12. We believe that a man must be Called of God by Revelation and Ordained by those having Authority, to enable him to Preach The Gospel and Administer The Ordinances thereof.
13. We believe in the same Church Organization as existed in the time of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in The Church is that of an Apostle, of whom there are Twelve, who constitute Special Witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have The Missionary Supervision and The General Watch care of all The Churches.
14. The primary function of The General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is Missionary and the building up and extension of The Kingdom of God in all the world.
15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to The Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.
16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends The True Brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein The Divine Command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.
17. We believe that all men are Stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of Stewardship is not the increase of Church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of The Common Fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy The Bounty and Gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.
18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of The Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when Chosen or Appointed by The Church to devote their entire time to Missionary Work, their families are to be provided for out of General Church fund. The Admonition of Christ that The Ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but go Trusting in God and the people, is applicable.
19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by The General Bishopric under the supervision and direction of the general conferences of The Church. The temporal affairs of The Local Churches shall be Administered by local Bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.
20. We believe that marriage is Ordained of God, and that The Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.
21. We are opposed to war. Men are not justified in taking up arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.
22. We believe in The Literal gathering of Israel, and in The Restoration of The Ten Lost Tribes.
23. We believe a Temple will be Built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will Reveal Himself and Endow His Servants whom He Chooses with Power to Preach The Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue and people, that The Promise of God to Israel may be Fulfilled.
24. We believe that a New Jerusalem shall be Built upon this land 'unto The Remnant' of The Seed of Joseph. (Ether 6:6-8; III Nephi 10:17), which city be Built, beginning at The Temple Lot.
25. We believe The Ministry and Membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics and should not affiliate with any society which administer Oaths or Covenants in conflict with The Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

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

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

Message 53:10, 'Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that

offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men.'

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

Faith and Practice.

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

Secretary For The Twelve

FOREWORD

THE GREATER LIGHT, the official publication of *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of the Hope we have in Christ.

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

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

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work given to him of God; that of Restoring all things (Matthew 17:11-13). 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 Judgment* has come. Awake thou that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

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

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Thank You!

Seventy-First Message

During my stay in Wichita, Kansas, at the Broadview Hotel, the Messenger of the Lord appeared to me on three successive nights, that the last of which, on the morning of August 13, 1948, at 3:30 a.m., He gave the following message.

W. A. Draves

1. "Arise and take the words I will give you.

2. I am your fellow servant; I am the servant of the Lord; I am he who sits and refines. Of ancient days it has been my mission, and my name is John. I preached repentance and baptism before the Christ – and again I preach and prophesy before his coming. I come to bring his word that a bride might be prepared and a people that is his church in very deed – the Church of Christ. I have come in the past and I will come in the future until the work is finished, and the Christ sits in the right hand of our when Satan's rules are put down. Then will be rejoicing, for the millennium shall break forth, and all nations that live and dwell in the lands come up to worship the Lord their God.

3. Fear not, for the Lord is mindful of his people. The church shall see his hand and his power. Heed not that which does not calm the soul – it is of the evil and seeks to destroy. Be not moved any motion, for Satan takes hold of mankind and entices evil that they may gain prominence – and speaks in confusion and untruths.

4. There are those that cannot be trusted; they have and will deceive. Be calm – even all. Let peace rule your lives. My message is one piece and security to all who humble themselves and obey, for this is the assured way of the Lord and the Elijah message so many look for.

5. I come not to bruise; I come not to quench the smoking flax; but to bring peace, and let the people choose the way to eternity and live with the Lord, or go down to darkness and that awful rejection of their choice.

6. Let the assembly meet in peace and hold to the way of the Lord. Let man deny himself and seek not for the praise of men.

7. Let the work continue in all parts of this plan and the foreign fields. Up, ye servants of the Lord, live and speak the truth, and more light and joy will come to you as you prepare; and the greater your faith the greater your work and responsibilities will be.

8. Let the Lord's voice be heard. Let the translations continue. Let the message go to the Jew and Gentile, bond and free, the dispersed and outcast, to Israel, that all may have a chance to hear the warning word.

9. Thus saith the Lord, 'Let my servant Allsworth, whom I have led and preserved for a great work, be set apart as an evangelist, and take his calling and mission, that salvation and life may be carried through the gospel teaching to many. I will lead him by my Spirit, for his faith hath been heard,' saith your Lord.

10. Teach the whole truth and let not man have his way, except it be the way of the Lord. Worry not over things you have no control.

11. Let all pay their obligations to the Lord and send the word to the end of the earth.

12. I speak light to the world, and my mission is the designed of the Lord and shall have it effect, for the word

shall fill the whole earth and men will know the truth and be abundantly free. Satan has bound mankind with soothing ways and words and enticed in sin, until the Spirit of the Lord cannot work with them, except they repent. Let repentance be taught. Faith in God's word must be heard and the baptisms, that men may be born again of the water and Holy Spirit, with fire from the Lord – and peace will rule and Satan have no power on those who heed and obey, having strong faith.

13. I leave peace with you and all who heed.”

From the Apostles

Mike Greenwell

Dear brothers and sisters, members of The Church of Christ With the Elijah Message, the Assured Way of the Lord,

Greetings in the name of the Lord.

This is just to let you know that I, Apostle Mike Greenwell, do not believe, and do reject the so called 121st and the 122nd messages given by Norman Lyles.

In order to accept these messages one will have to reject that God used the late Mervyn Johnson to call new men into the ministry and into the apostleship.

Brother Mervyn publicly stood fast to his testimony of the Lord speaking to him concerning these things until his recent passing.

I am not without testimony of the truthfulness of the prophecy he received from the Lord myself and will never be untrue to it.

Besides this, if you look closely at the messages Norman delivered it is not hard to notice passages that are in contradiction to

statements that were given by John the Baptist in the Word of the Lord, Brought to Mankind by an Angel.

One time during my driving career I was given an address to pick up a load and I had to hurry to get there. It was before the days of navigational systems. It was late in the afternoon, and I mistakenly made a wrong turn on my way to the shipper. But I didn't realize it. I thought I was doing fine. I drove for twenty miles before I realized I was wrong. I was driving on a two lane country road with a seventy five foot rig so I had to drive twenty more miles before I could get turned around.

This is Norman Lyles In regards to the Church work. In 2003 Norman, Larry Gosier, Darrell Bellamy, Alan Crownover and Terry Laws voted to remove Mervyn Johnson, Richard Johnson, and Leonard Draves, "from the Church, and from the ministry."

The same men they sought to remove just before Message 118. Message 118:9 "Take your place as an apostle, likewise Leonard H. Draves and Mervyn Johnson. Let Leonard H. Draves keep the records as he has been told to do and other works instructed in the office."

My prayer is that all will know the simple truth.

My prayer for Norman is that he will be able to "get his truck turned around in time" and come home.

God bless all.

October 28, 2018

Testimony

Mervyn Johnson

I will never deny the Revelation. I know it was from the Lord. After returning

home from the hospital, Tuesday, February 18, 2003, and reviewing the events of the last several weeks, the Holy Spirit spoke expressively to me. Then the Scripture came to me of John 3:8 **“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.”** I remembered thinking, *“The harvest is ripe and laborers are few.”* Then I was given names to be called into service of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. As the spirit spoke to me, I wrote down what was given to me. Between each name given to me I wept.

To the **Twelve:** Donald Thompson, Gary Doughty and Scott Lyles. To the **Bishops:** Reece Johnson, Matt Thompson, Brad K. Evans, Kent Johnson, Darren Bellamy, Jim Naslund and B. J. Ray. To **Elders and Evangelist:** Laurence Thomas Jones, Gary Rountree, William Holden and Brian Ramey. To the **Elders:** Tim Gosier, Kory Johnson, Colton Greenwell, Chris Laws, Jeremy Laws, and Jacob William Ray.

I praise the Lord in his wonder – working power and made a peace of our Lord rests with these men is my prayer.

My brother in law, Laurence Thomas Jones, was in our house that night, and when it came time for him to go to bed, it came by our room and commented that he had never felt such peace as he did this night, not yet knowing that he was one that was called of the Lord in the Revelation God had just given to me.

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September/October 2005, Page 109.

Letter

Richard A. Johnson

Dear brothers and sisters and members of The Church of Christ With the Elijah Message, the Assured Way of the Lord and all those concerned to follow the Way of Truth.

I wish to greet you in the Name of the Lord and add my testimony and witness to those of my brothers and sisters for Christ and His Church.

I do not believe that the so called messages 121 and 122 were given by the Messenger of the Lord John the Baptist and reject them and their being placed in the Book the Word of the Lord. The messenger has said **“I speak the Truth”** His instructions to the servants and the former scribes of the Lord was to **“speak the Truth”**. **“The Lord does not change His Mind or Plans, and is no respecter of persons- Message 106:25 “... He will not forget His Promises, nor will He alter His Standard or Ways of values... The Standard and Values of the Lord requires His Chosen Servant John the Baptist to speak only His Words of Truth to men and requires the Truthfulness of the men that can receive them.”**

When I read the words of 121 they appeared to be written in the context of 1994, yet I found them lacking in historical completeness and honesty of the events in 2003 by the omission of the former Word’s and instructions of the Lord and empty to me of the Spirit of Truth.

I have read and studied them and have seen that they are from Norman Lyles who had been seeking previously to 2003 to remove Brother Leonard aggressively from the office and work the Lord had previously assigned to him in numerous messages. Brothers Mervyn, Mike and

myself would not accept his efforts just as happened in 1994 by other men with W. A. Draves, Mervyn Johnson and Leonard Draves. The messenger said those that would stand with them were the Church of Christ in deeds and works. The church with the Elijah message, set in 1829 by my hands when the holy priesthood authority was restored and kept sacred through the branch and remnant on the temple lot and reaffirmed upon Otto Fetting in his day - and I continue to come.

These new so called messages are intended to cover the errors he precipitated and participated in with the removal from the church of the brethren in 2003 except Apostle Mike Greenwell who refused to go along with him. These were his brothers who held the Words and Spirit of the Lord in such high regard that they stood up for their Truth by being obedient and ordaining those called by the Spirit *with many witnesses that included myself*. We were removed not by God's Authority for denying Him or His Word's but by men not following the instructions of God or His Will.

Message 86:56-60 with verse 57) *"Let those the Spirit calls be set apart in this work. Send them forth to do the Lord's Will. Withal proclaiming the message I bring. 58) Harken! Hasten! Obey! Be about the fathers business"*.

At the very front of the list of those the Lord sends forth into the world are His Apostles.

The names of those called by the Holy Spirit were given to Apostle Mervyn Johnson who testified until his passing to us. Quote "I will never deny The Revelation. I know it was from the Lord. After returning home from the hospital,

Tuesday, February 18, 2003, and reviewing the events of the last several weeks, the Holy Spirit spoke expressively to me". Then the Scripture came to me of John 3:8, *"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it Goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit"* causing me to think *"The Harvest is ripe and laborers are few"*. "Then I was given names to the Twelve, Elders and Evangelists and Elders to be called into service of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. As the Spirit spoke to me, I wrote down what was given to me. Between each name given to me I wept. He recorded the names and closed his testimony with " I praise the Lord in His wonder-working Power and may the Peace of our Lord rest with these men is my prayer". Those that were in the home and that later visited testified of the great peace felt by them there.

Those of us they removed would never deny the Lord's Words or the Authority and Trust that has been given and is among men. The witness we and many others had received of their Truth of those called by the Holy Spirit was in agreement with the acceptable manner of the callings found in the Words and instructions of the Messenger.

Message 82:2 "...I have brought the authority and it is among men. Some accept it, others reject it - nevertheless it is given, that the servants of the Lord may be filled with the Spirit of God that they may take the message of the gospel to the nations of the earth. Keep it pure and holy."

There was and is no guile or prominence seeking in any of the hearts of my brothers and sisters but there was much

given to us to help us hold fast the good and to prove all things.

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 idealism's shall come to naught.' I Thessalonians 5:21-23 tells us to prove and hold fast the good given.

Message 1:1 "Don't change The Articles of Faith and Practice, because *the Lord inspired the men that wrote them*. See to it that they are not changed."

Article 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, that He speaks when, where, and through whom he may choose."

Article 12 "We believe that a man must be called of God by revelation and ordained by those having authority, to enable him to preach the Gospel and administer the Ordinances thereof."

Message 81:20 "*Let the words I bring be the rule and guide with the Articles of Faith and Practice, for upon all the Lord's words, will and planning shall this work be built*"

Message 117:4 "Heed the instructions I bring, establish justice in the gates. Let your hearts be filled with peace. Choose the upright and the faithful. Those who qualify is given power to carry the word onward. The Lord gives as mankind prepares."

Message 116:6 "The image of the Church is set in pace. The authority established, the power given; let it develop and progress the Lord's way. He will provide and show His hand."

The Lord with His Messenger has sought to prepare men he can trust with His Holy Priesthood Authority and Power with the Holy Uncion and the gift enlarged that the day may come that the servants with the fullness of Christ will complete the Great Plan of God.

I have given my testimony and I ask all that seek the Truth to study deeply the Word's of the Messenger and Prophet of the Lord, John the Baptist. My love and prayer is also that all including Norman Lyles will turn and discern and know and obey the simple truth that will bring together in one fold those that serve the Lord - God's people speaking oft one to another in Love and Peace. Amen.

October 30, 2018

A Letter to the Members

Jairus Yates

To The Church of Christ With the Elijah Message, the Assured Way of the Lord and all those who love Truth.

If I was a lawyer and wanted to make a case on how God speaks to man or how God calls men into the ministry, I would establish precedent based on Church history and the Word.

My first evidence is found in the Articles of Faith and Practice Number 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."

I also submit verse 12 "We believe that a man must be called of God by revelation, and ordained by those having Authority, to enable him to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances there of."

We can also find evidence in the year 1926. In that year several men were ordained as Apostles. Their callings did not come through the Angel Messenger. They came through dreams, visions, and prophecy with many witnesses. These men were ordained on April 10th and 11th of 1926. They are listed here Daniel McGregor, Hiram E. Moler, Samuel Wood, Clarence L. Wheaton, Frank Wipper, and Otto Fetting. Norris Headding was ordained later that same year.

By 1929 men tried to remove Otto Fetting from the Ministry. He remained faithful to his Calling as an Apostle and was sustained by the Lord with The Messenger coming to him for many years.

The Lord sent His messenger with the fifth message in 1928 and gave his stamp of approval on these callings. 5:2) “Again in 1926, you, with your brethern, we’re set apart as members of the Twelve to represent Christ and his Church, with the same authority as the Apostles of old. Many are representing Christ but not Christ and his Church, but you Men have been chosen to represent Christ and his Church as He established it when he was here.”

Showing consistency with His pattern the Lord spoke again in 2003 through His Apostle Mervyn Johnson and called men into the ministry and Apostleship. Mervyn stood by his testimony until his death.

Men claimed that the Lord could not call apostles in any other way than through the Angel Messenger and tried to remove Mervyn and others.

More evidence is found in the fact that Jesus went to the cross and died for our sins and the veil of the temple was rent in twain making access where we can go into The holy of holies to the father ourselves and

receive word directly from Him.

We see in the word that God spoke to Moses through a burning bush he spoke to Job in a whirlwind he spoke to Daniel in dreams, The prophets spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost and yes he spoke many times through angels.

God is the same yesterday today and forever. He has a consistent pattern in how he speaks to mankind and how he calls men into the ministry. We cannot put limits on God.

The Lord continues his pattern in Joel 2:28. “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.”

I believe the Lord has sent his messenger giving us 120 messages that are consistent with his pattern. All other messages and the men they come to are not consistent with the Lords pattern.

I believe the Angel Messenger will come again to those who shape their lives by the words and pattern he brings. This is the assured way of the Lord. This is the evidence I submit to you in Jesus name.

November 3, 2018

Young Adults

Karen Wilkin

Christmas season is known as the most wonderful time of the year. It is a very joyous, fun and inspirational time of the year. As Christians we look at it in a much different way than those who don't celebrate it in memory of Christ's birth. There are so many wonderful scripture references prophesying about the Coming

of the Messiah (Jesus) that I cannot write out everyone of them in this article. But I will give you the references and you can read through them. As you can see, there are many and much given about Jesus and His Birth long before it took place. I hope you will enjoy this study.

In The Record of the Nephites and The Holy Bible prophecy was given about Jesus's birth. Many longed to see the Birth of the Messiah come true, prophecy fulfilled. The first one we will talk about is found in the First book of Nephi 11:13-24 (600-592 B.C.); Second Book of Nephi 25:19 (559-545 B.C; 26:3; Book of Mosiah 3:8-11 (124 B.C.; First book of Nephi 10:7-11 (this was 600-592 B.C.) Alma 5:48 (83 B.C.) Book of Jacob 4:4 (544-421 B.C.)

Holy Bible: Isa 7:14-15; Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38 (also 39-56 tells the story of Mary's visit with Elisabeth, also pregnant with John, and the experiences they encountered during her visit. It is a very beautiful story)

This is such a beautiful vision Nephi had, so I chose to type it out for you.

First book of Nephi 11:13-24; (13) And it came to pass that I looked and behold the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth; and the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white. (14) And it came to pass that I saw the heaven open and an angel came down and stood before me; and he saith unto me, Nephi, what beholdest thou? (15) And I saith unto him, A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins. (16) And he saith unto me, knowest thou the condescension of God? (17) And I said unto him, I know that he loveth his

children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things. (18) And he said unto me, Behold the virgin which thou seest, is the mother of God, after the manner of the flesh. (19) And it came to pass that I beheld tht she was carried away in the Spirit; and after that she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time, the angel spake unto me saying, Look! (20) And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms. (21) And the angel said unto me, Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Eternal Father! Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which they father saw? (22) And I answered him saying, Yea, it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore it is the most desirable above all things. (23) And he spake unto me saying, Yea, and the most joyous to the soul. (24) And after that he had said these words, he said unto me, Look! And I looked, and I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men; and I saw man fall down at his feet and worship him.

Prophecy was fulfilled. Jesus was born to the Virgin Mary just as the Holy Bible Prophesied it would happen. Jesus could have chosen to be born in a Temple, He could have chosen wealthy parents, but He chose to be born to Humble folks, in a humble setting of a stable, with animals surrounding Him. He chose to live a life of humility by being raised in a humble home, among Middle Class people. Jesus came to teach, preach and go to the cross. His mission was one of prophecy being fulfilled. At 33 years of age the prophecy of his death on the cross was fulfilled. The 26th through the 28th chapters of Matthew tells the story of the time leading up to the

death of Jesus to His resurrection. From the cradle to the grave, prophecy has been fulfilled just as scriptures predicted.

Christmas is a time of reflecting on the Birth of Jesus right up through His life while on earth up to the end of His life, His death on the cross and His resurrection. So, at this special time, keep in mind what it is really all about and Remember Jesus is the Reason for the Season. Have a most wonderful Christmas and a very blessed New Year. Remember to give Him all Praise, Honor and Glory, for He is worthy to be Praised!

Your Friend in Christ,
Karen Wilkin, Preston, MO.

Junior

Thresa Ray

Dear Youth,

November is the month we have our 'Thanksgiving Day' holiday. Our country has celebrated Thanksgiving for many years. It started in the 1600's when the Pilgrims came to America to be free to worship God the way they pleased.

The first winter the Pilgrims were here was very hard with very little food. Many people died that winter. The following spring friendly Indians taught them to grow corn. They harvested the corn in the fall. Our forefathers were so happy and thankful to have food stored for the following winter. The Pilgrims and Indians celebrated for three days!

The Pilgrims gave thanks to God for their blessings. This is how our tradition started for us to celebrate Thanksgiving Day each November. I'm glad we have this

day set aside as a nation to remember our forefathers and to thank the Lord for all our blessings. Even though this is something we should do daily – this holiday seems to make us stop and really count our blessings.

We have so much more to be thankful for. Who were those friendly Indians that helped the Pilgrims? Remember the story of God leading Lehi and Sarah and their family away from Jerusalem, 600 years B.C.? They came to the "Land of Promise"- what is now America. The Indians were descendants of Lehi and Sarah. We need to thank God for guiding and helping these forefathers, also.

So today, you and I live in this great country; The United States of America. Our country is not perfect, but it is a great country. We have many freedoms that other countries do not allow their people to enjoy. We have the freedom of worship – so we can worship our Lord the way we feel is right – not the way someone else tells us. We have the freedom of assembly – we can meet with whoever we please, with only a few people or a group. We have the freedom of speech and press. We can say the things we feel and write the things we feel. These are wonderful freedoms we take for granted. Think of how awful it would be if we did not have these freedoms.

I know you could write long list of all the things you are 'thankful' for.

In December we celebrate a very blessed event that I am sure we are all thankful for- the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The story of Jesus' birth is so beautiful. You can read the story in your Bible: Matthew chapters 1 and 2 and Luke chapter 2.

Luke 2:10 – And the angel said unto them (the shepherds), “Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

11. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”

12. “And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

13. “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Even on this continent, the people saw the signs of Jesus birth.

III Nephi 1:12 - And it came to pass that he (Nephi) cried mightily unto the Lord, all the day (regarding the birth of Jesus); and behold the voice of the Lord came unto him, saying,

13. “Lift up your head and be of good cheer, for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow I come into the world, to shew unto the world that I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets.”

14. “Behold, I come unto my own, to fulfill all things which I have made known unto the children of men, from the foundation of the world, and do the will, both of the Father, and of the son: of the Father because of me; and of the son because of my flesh. And behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given.”

15. And it came to pass that the words which came unto Nephi was fulfilled, according as they had been spoken; for behold at the going down of the sun, there

was no darkness; and the people began to be astonished, because there was no darkness when the night came.

19. And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as thought it was mid-day. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they knew that it was the day that the Lord should be born, because of the sign which had been given.

20. And it came to pass also, yea, all things, every whit, according to the words or the prophets.

21. And it came to pass also, that a new star did appear, according to the word.

God loves us so much that He gave us the most precious gift of all. He manifested himself in the flesh, giving us His son Jesus, to be our Redeemer and Savior. What do you think would be the most precious gift we could give to Jesus this Christmas?

I Cor. 12:1-13 tells us that **love is the supreme gift**. How can we give this “supreme” gift of love to Jesus? We can show love to Jesus in many ways: by loving and showing kindness to all people, by obeying God’s commandments, and by trying to follow in Jesus footsteps. We can help someone in need, someone who is sick, blind, crippled, lonely, afraid, or discouraged. We can do a good deed, send a card, give a flower, give a hug, a good word, or just give a smile to encourage someone.

We do not have to have money or go shopping to give gifts to Jesus. We just need to do good to others, and to do our best to serve the Lord. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus said, “Inasmuch as ye have done it

unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Let us give a gift of love this Christmas and a gift of love – everyday of our life. Let us always show God how thankful we are for the great gift He gave us! Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray

Primary

Joy Draves-Dreher

Putting on God's Armor

Read: Ephesians 6:10-18.

What are we fighting against? What do we need for protection?

We are fighting the devil – Satan. We are not fighting people, but the powers of darkness in this world – which is Satan and his helpers. The protection we need is the armour of God.

What is the armour of God, and how can we clothe ourselves in it? Let's look at each piece.

Belt of truth – Standing firm in truth. Living our lives by the truth of God's word.

Breastplate of Righteousness – Walking uprightly before God. Aligning our lives to His standards.

Shod Feet – Standing with firm footed stability, being ready.

Shield of Faith – Standing firm in our faith. This will squash all the fiery darts Satan sends.

Helmet of Salvation – Protection for our minds. Satan attacks us here more than anywhere. We need to be sure of our

Salvation and not waver or doubt.

All of these pieces are for protecting us and need to be put on daily.

There is still one other piece we need to be armed with. This piece is not for protecting us, but for fighting with.

The sword of the Spirit – which is the word of God.

We cannot fight the enemy if we don't know the word of God. It is vital for how effective we are when we use the sword, and how effective the rest of the armour is that protects us. No soldier goes to war with faulty weapons, or with faulty protection. Neither should we. The key here is to learn God's word. Hide it in your heart. Then you can put on God's armour and be able to stand firm.

* * *

So be subject to
God. Resist the
devil [stand firm
against him], and
he will flee from
you. –

James 4: 7

Put on the armour that God supplies
And be ready to wage war
Keep standing firm on the word of God
For the Victory will be yours.

At Christmas

Edgar Guest

A man is at his finest
towards the finish of the year;

He is almost what he should be
 when the Christmas season is here;
 Then he's thinking more of others
 than he's thought the months before,
 And the laughter of his children
 is a joy worth toiling for.
 He is less a selfish creature than
 at any other time;
 When the Christmas spirit rules him
 he comes close to the sublime.
 When it's Christmas man is bigger
 and is better in his part;
 He is keener for the service
 that is prompted by the heart.
 All the petty thoughts and narrow
 seem to vanish for awhile
 And the true reward he's seeking
 is the glory of a smile.
 Then for others he is toiling and
 somehow it seems to me
 That at Christmas he is almost
 what God wanted him to be.
 If I had to paint a picture of a man
 I think I'd wait
 Till he'd fought his selfish battles
 and had put aside his hate.
 I'd not catch him at his labors
 when his thoughts are all of self,
 On the long days and the dreary
 when he's striving for himself.
 I'd not take him when he's sneering,
 when he's scornful or depressed,
 But I'd look for him at Christmas
 when he's shining at his best.
 Man is ever in a struggle
 and he's oft misunderstood;
 There are days the worst that's in him
 is the master of the good,
 But at Christmas kindness rules him
 and he puts himself aside
 And his petty hates are vanquished
 and his heart is opened wide.

Oh, I don't know how to say it,
 but somehow it seems to me
 That at Christmas man is almost
 what God sent him here to be.

Announcement

Handmaidens of the Lord

Children's Christmas Program & Dinner

Please join us Sunday, December 9 at
 2:00pm for our Children's Christmas
 Program and Pot Luck Dinner. The program
 and dinner will be held at the Community of
 Christ Church- 1316 S. Osage Street,
 Independence, MO 64055.

* * *

Build the Temple

B- UILD the Temple, strong and graceful
U- NTO Him who dwells on high.
I- N the sacred sanctuary
L- IGH and truth will sanctify
D- EEDS of love and sacrifice.

T- HEN will those who keep the covenant
H- EAR the Savior's gentle voice:
E- NTER into life eternal;

T- HOU didst make a timely choice.
E- VERMORE will joy and gladness
M- AKE the heavenly welkin ring,
P- RAISING Him who paid the ransom,
L- IFE and righteousness to bring.
E- XIT those who criticize.