

**SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
APOSTACY AND RESTORATION
OF
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**

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Preface

This booklet has been prepared at the request of the October 1965 General Church Conference to present a brief and pertinent collection of scriptural references and related information on three vital subjects:

- The Establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ during the Apostolic Era
- The Apostasy, or Falling Away
- The Restoration of the Gospel

No attempt has been made to fully explain the scriptures except where the compilers have felt that brief comments were necessary to offer continuity to the chapters.

The material has been written to serve as a ready reference by our ministers in their private study, for course contents in Sunday School, Ladies' Uplift Circle, and MBA classes, and for explanations to individuals who are interested in knowing about The Church of Jesus Christ.

The compilers are indebted to Bro. V. James Lovalvo for his outline of these events and to Bro. Joseph Lovalvo who made available many of the scriptural references used in this work.

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

The scriptures clearly set forth the fact that Jesus Christ established His Church during the days of His earthly Ministry. It is known through divine revelation (Matthew 16:17) that the Church was established, that Jesus Christ was the "Chief Corner Stone" (Mark 12: 10) and that the Apostles were installed as the pillars of the Church.

The Saviour distinctly said: "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Despite this statement by Christ Himself, men often say that He did not establish His Church as a real and visible organization. They claim that the Church exists invisibly in the hearts of believers. The aforementioned text states unquestionably that Christ would build a church and that it would be HIS CHURCH.

The following biblical excerpts verify that the Church was established as a real and tangible organization being composed of a body of believers who were baptized into the one and only Church started by the Saviour. These scriptures also show their spiritual and physical unity by which they adhered to the principles of Christ, and they describe the Church: as a building and a body showing how the various parts fit together

. . . ye are God's Building (I Cor. 3:9).

In whom all the building fitly formed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together . . . (Eph. 2:21,22).

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ (I Peter 2:5).

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular (I Cor. 12:27).

. . . gave Him to be the head over all things to the church (Eph. 1 :22).

From whom the whole body fitly joined together ... (Eph. 4: 16).

Another illustration showing that the Church was an actual physical institution is found in the Book of Mormon. The disciples wanted to know from the Saviour the name which should be given to the Church:

And how be it my church it be called in my name? For if a church is called in Moses' name then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel (III Nephi 27:8).

THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus began the work of establishing His Church by choosing twelve men to help His Ministry. The twelve were called Apostles. Shortly thereafter, He also appointed seventy others to assist in the evangelizing of His Gospel. The scriptures which follow illustrate the various callings and their purposes:

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbeus, whose surname was Thaddeus: Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him (Matthew 10:2-4),

After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come (Luke 10:1).

The work of the Church was further expanded by the calling of Elders, Teachers, Deacons, and helps to various positions, as verified by the following passages:

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-12).

. . . and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee (Titus 1 :5).

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ...

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock (I Peter 5:1-3).

. . . and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them (Acts 6:5-6).

ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH AS INSTITUTED BY CHRIST

Having presented scriptural references which indicate generally the nature of the Church or Kingdom of God and the type of officers required, our attention is drawn next to the various ordinances which the Saviour commanded His Disciples to observe. The purpose of each and the manner of performing such ordinances are outlined in the scriptures which follow:

Baptism

Jesus Christ instituted baptism as the only way of entry into the Church, and in His last commission to His Disciples He ordered its observance.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:15-16).

The fact that He Himself was baptized shows that baptism is mandatory, and salvation cannot be received without it:

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straight way out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:13-17).

The Saviour made it clear to Nicodemus that baptism was a requirement for gaining the Kingdom of God.

. . . Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again (John 3:3-7).

On the day of Pentecost, Peter's answer to the multitude that baptism was required was

clear.

Now, when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:37-38).

The Apostle Paul further explained why baptism by immersion was required. He made it clear that the only mode of baptism was by immersion. Note that he said: " ... we are buried with him by baptism . . . "

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin (Romans 6:3-6).

The Book of Mormon likewise explains the importance of baptism and the fact that it was administered to all repentant believers on this land.

. . . the disciples whom Jesus had chosen began from that time forth to baptize and to teach as many as did come unto them; and as many as were baptized in the name of Jesus were filled with the Holy Ghost (Ill Nephi 26:17).

Bestowal of the Holy Ghost

As illustrated below, the Holy Ghost was bestowed by the "Laying on of Hands," only after the exercising of faith, repentance, and baptism, as shown in the following passages. The Holy Ghost, the mind of God and Christ, was to abide with the new converts so long as they lived righteously.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them, only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Then laid they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:14-17).

...while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is on Christ Jesus.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

And all the men were about twelve (Acts 19:1- 7).

Bestowal of the Holy Ghost by the Nephite Twelve is narrated in Moroni 2. Christ instructed them as indicated.

The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples the twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands upon them-

And he called them by name, saying: ye shall call on the Father in my name in mighty prayer; and after ye have done this ye shall have power that upon whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles.

Now Christ spake these words unto them at the time of his first appearing; and the multitude heard it not, but the disciples heard it; and on as many as they laid their hands, fell the Holy Ghost.

The Lord's Supper

The scriptures reveal the following points about the Lord's Supper as administered in the Primitive Church:

1. Sacrament consisted of bread and wine.
2. It was administered to only dutiful members of the Church.

3. Members were not to partake of it unworthily.
4. It was administered often while the Church met.

Why bread and wine was used is taught.

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

But I say unto you I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom (Matthew 26:26-29).

Also compare Mark 14:22-24 and Luke 22:19-20.

Sacrament was definitely administered by the disciples after His death to fulfill His command. Brother Paul warned of the danger involved in partaking unworthily.

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

And when he had given thanks, and brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body (I Cor. 11:23-29).

Sacrament was administered on this land by Jesus Christ, and the same commandment

regarding its administration which He gave to the apostles in Jerusalem was give to the Nephites.

...Jesus commanded his disciples that they should bring forth some bread and wine unto him.

And when the disciples had come with bread and wine, he took of the bread and brake and blessed it; and he gave unto the disciples and commanded that they should eat.

And when they had eaten and were filled, he commanded that they should give unto the multitude.

And when the multitude had eaten and were filled, he said unto the disciples: Behold there shall one be ordained among you, and to him will I give power that he shall break bread and bless it and give it unto the people of my church, unto all those who shall believe and be baptized in my name.

And this shall ye always observe to do, even as I have done, even as I have broken bread and blessed it and given it unto you.

And this shall ye do in remembrance of my body, which I have shown unto you. And it shall be a testimony unto the Father that ye do always remember me. And if ye do always remember me ye shall have my Spirit to be with you.

And it came to pass that when he said these words, he commanded his disciples that they should take of the wine of the cup and drink of it, and they they should also give unto the multitude that they might drink of it.

And it came to pass that they did so, and did drink of it and were filled; and they gave unto the multitude, and they did drink, and they were filled.

And when the disciples had done this, Jesus said unto them: Blessed are ye for this thing which ye have don, for this is fulfilling my commandments, and this doth witness unto the Father that ye are willing to do that which I have commanded you (III Nephi 18:1,3-10).

The Book of Mormon also explains the exact method of administering the Lord's Supper as well as giving a suggested prayer.

Blessing of Bread

The manner of their elders and priests administering the flesh and blood of Christ unto the church; and they administered it according to the commandments of Christ; wherefore we know the manner to be true; and the elder of priest did minister it-

And they did kneel down with the church, and pray to the Father in the name of

Christ, saying:

O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it; that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he hath given them, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen (Moroni 4).

Blessing of Wine

The manner of administering the wine- Behold, they took the cup, and said:

O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee, in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son, which was shed for them; that they may witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen (Moroni 5).

It is interesting to note that the New Testament states that Jesus first blessed the bread and then broke it. The Book of Mormon explains that Christ did it just the opposite. The reason for this difference is explained by the fact that, when He administered the Sacrament in Jerusalem, it was prior to His death; therefore, His Body had not as yet been broken. His visit among the Nephites took place after His death and resurrection.

Feet Washing

The subsequent scripture shows that Feet Washing was instituted by Christ as an ordinance to be observed by His followers. Some claim that Jesus was merely following an Old Testament tradition in washing feet since they wore sandals at that period of time. It must be noted, however, that this custom was observed upon entering a home, not after supper was ended, which was when the Master gave the Feet Washing commandment.

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments: and took a towel, and girded Himself.

After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, And to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Then cometh he to Simon Peter; and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou Shalt know hereafter.

Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee no, thou hast no part with me.

Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

Jesus saith to him He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit; and ye are clean, but not all.

For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well; for so I am.

If then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you (John 13:4-15).

Blessing Little Children

Listed below are Bible and Book of Mormon references showing that little children are without sin and should not be baptized. Note, Christ did not baptize them-He BLESSED them.

Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on Them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence (Matthew 19:13-15).

Also compare Mark 10:13-16:

Behold I say unto you that this thing shall ye teach-repentance and baptism unto those who are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children.

And their little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins.

But little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world; if not

so, God is a partial God, and also a changeable God, and is a respecter to persons; for how many little children have died without baptism! (Moroni 8:10-12).

Anointing the Sick

Anointing the Sick was installed as another important ordinance of the Church. As quoted, faith is the key to this:

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him (James 5:14-15).

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2).

And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them (Mark 6:12-13).

In His last Commission to the disciples, Jesus commanded that all of the preceding ordinances were to be practiced in the Church without exception or variation.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen (Matthew 28:19-20).

From passages cited in this section, there can be no doubt that precise ordinances of the Church were distinctly pointed out as being proper and necessary. Further, it has been shown that these ordinances were observed during the days of the Apostles after the death of Christ.

Divine Gifts to the Church

The scriptures show that the Church which Jesus Christ established was endowed with diverse gifts which were manifested through the Holy Spirit in the Church. The passages which follow show that some of these heavenly gifts included healing, dreams, prophecy, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, and many others. The Apostle Paul explained the gifts in the following words:

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will (I Corinthians 12:4-11).

The scriptures which follow serve to illustrate that the Church did enjoy the promised gifts and blessings.

The Gift of Tongues

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

The Gift of Healing

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Who seeking Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us:

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet

and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping and praising God (Acts 3:2-8).

Angel Administration

For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and who I serve,

Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee (Acts 27:23-24).

Heavenly Visions

Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision...(Acts 18:9).

Discernment of Spirits

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? (Acts 5:3).

Space will not, of course, permit the listing of the other texts attesting to the manifestation of many other gifts, experienced by the believers. The examples presented show that the Church enjoyed the presence of these gifts during the Apostolic Era.

COMMANDMENTS AND TEACHINGS BY CHRIST AND HIS APOSTLES

To complete the establishment of the Church, Christ issued commandments and teachings which were reiterated by His Apostles.

Love

One of the most important commandments given to the Church was the command to love one another;

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you (John 15:12).

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also (I John 4:20-21).

Let brotherly love continue (Hebrews 13:1).

For a comprehensive study on the subject of charity, the pure love of God, read Paul's writings to the Corinthians found in I Corinthians, 13th Chapter and Moroni's teachings found in Moroni 7:44-48.

Prayer

Jesus Christ taught His disciples to pray for all their needs, both temporal and spiritual.

Prayer is the means of communicating with God. Jesus made this communication possible through His death on the cross; therefore, we must pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus, our Intercessor.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. They will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen (Matthew 6:9-13).

Also compare III Nephi 13:9-13:

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him knocketh it shall be opened (Luke 11:9-10).

And the twelve did teach the multitude; and behold, they did cause that the multitude should kneel down upon the face of the earth, and should pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus.

And the disciples did pray unto the Father, also in the name of Jesus. And it came to pass that they arose and ministered unto the people (III Nephi 19:6-7).

And it came to pass that when they had all knelt down upon the earth, he commanded his disciples that they should pray.

And behold, they began to pray, and they did pray unto Jesus, calling him their Lord and their God (III Nephi 19:17-18).

And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into

temptation (Luke 22:40).

Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always lest ye enter into temptation; for Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.

Therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name;

And whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you.

Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that you wives and your children may be blessed.

And behold, ye shall meet together oft; and ye shall not forbid any man from coming unto you when ye shall meet together, but suffer them that they may come unto you and forbid them not;

But ye shall pray for them, and shall cast them out; and if it so be that they come unto you oft ye shall pray for them unto the Father, in my name (III Nephi 18:18-23).

Fasting

There were times when prayer alone did not obtain satisfaction for the spiritual and temporal needs of the disciples. In such situations Jesus taught them to fast.

When entering a period of fasting, of course, they were not to partake of food or drink. Also, they were to give themselves wholly unto the Lord by not indulging in anything which would disturb their attitude of solemn prayer, devotion, and mediation.

The act of fasting, however, was to be performed as inconspicuously as possible for Jesus said:

Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of sad countenance; for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head and wash thy face;

That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret; shall reward thee openly (Matthew 6:16-18).

And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. (Matthew 4:2).

Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt

you not for your incontinency (I Corinthians 7:5).

Forgiving (Laws of Offense)

Jesus Christ gave His Church a clear explanation regarding the “Laws of Offense.” He made it clear that His followers should not attempt to worship or fellowship if they were offended with any other brothers or sisters. Reconciling of any differences or ill feelings were taught as being essential.

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican (Matthew 18:15-17).

Therefore if thou bring thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; First be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift (Matthew 5:21-24).

Also compare III Nephi 12:21-34.

The Apostle Paul instructed the Church at Corinth regarding offense in the following words:

Dare any of you, have a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?

If then ye have judgements of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? No, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? (I Corinthians 6:1-7).

Studying the Scriptures

Jesus taught His disciples to search the Scriptures because reading the Word of God provides insight into God's Will, strengthens the desire of believers to serve God, and offers enlightenment on the plan of salvation.

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they which testify of me (John 5:39).

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15).

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

Caring for Others

The Scriptures specify that individuals must care for others. Examples of some of the ways this can be done are as follows:

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee and hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me (Matthew 25:34-40).

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world (James 1:27).

Living Apart from Sin

Members of the Church were instructed to stay away from sin and live a virtuous life, so far as was humanly possible. This would be difficult, but there was the satisfying realization that Christ had shown them how this should be done.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world (John 17:16).

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not (1 John 3:1).

Marriage and Divorce

According to the Saviour, the marriage covenant was sacred, binding a man and woman for this life. Christ emphasized this in His teaching and He said it could only be dissolved when adultery was involved. Also, other scripture explain the proper husband-wife relationship and how it should be viewed.

And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.

And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?

And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of you heart he wrote you this precept.

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter.

And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.

And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery (Mark 10:2-12).

It hath been said, Whosoever, shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery (Matthew 5:31-32).

It hath been written, that whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement.

Verily, verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whoso shall marry her who is divorced committeth adultery (III Nephi 12:31-32).

Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband (I Corinthians 7:2).

Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none (Jacob 2:27).

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body (Ephesians 5:22-23).

It would be almost impossible to list all the teachings of Christ and His disciples. Enough facts have been documented however, to show that the Church established by Christ was given laws and commandments for all the members to obey.

SUMMARY

The primary purpose of this chapter has been to point out that Jesus Christ definitely established His Church physically. He designed the organizational structure for His Church, and he filled the various positions with capable individuals whom He knew would live up to the principles He specified. Also, He pointed out distinctly that this format was to be continued after His death and resurrection.

Besides specifically setting up the structure, Christ gave definite instructions as to how the officials, as well as the members, were to act, live, and propagate the Gospel. His ordinances, commandments, teachings, and promises prove that He completely fashioned His Church so that men should have no alternative in their behavior and interpretation of what should be done.

THE DECLINE AND APOSTASY OF THE CHURCH

The previous chapter documents the fundamental belief that the Church founded by Christ was a visible organization. The Church represented the Kingdom of God. An earthly kingdom is composed of the following features:

- A King
- The subjects of that kingdom
- The dominion
- The Laws and Ordinances governing the subjects
- Authorized officers responsible for administering the laws

The Church established by Christ contained all of the physical features necessary in an earthly kingdom. Jesus Christ was the King, and the Saints were the subjects. The dominion was wherever the Saints resided. The commandments and teachings of Christ were laws of the Kingdom. Finally, the Priesthood, composed of Apostles, Evangelists, and Elders comprised the officers of the Kingdom or The Church of Jesus Christ.

Presented in this chapter, are references which indicate that the Kingdom or the Church, would “fall away,” or apostatize from the true and basic organization as established by Christ. The principles would soon be tainted, rearranged, and definitely altered. The changes would eventually accompany the devastating damage wrought from outside the Church. When this situation would occur, The Church of Jesus Christ would cease to exist. History has proven that this deplorable decay occurred. Understandably, the Spirit was withdrawn from the fallen Church. Only a complete restoration, outlined in the next chapter, could remedy the situation.

The following scriptures are Old Prophet predictions about the impending Great Apostasy.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it (Amos 8:11-12).

Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision, and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.

Thenshall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer of God.

But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD and of judgment, and of might , to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity.

They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity.

They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity.

The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? None evil can come upon us (Micah 3:4-11).

BEHOLD, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.

The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoke this word.

The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and faded away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.

The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left (Isaiah 24:1-6).

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee (Isaiah 60:2).

I beheld, the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.
(Daniel 7:21-25).

And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.

And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.

Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered
(Daniel 8:9-12).

COMPLETE APOSTASY PASSAGES

The passages which follow serve to show that the Apostasy would be complete. They leave no doubt that people would depart so far from the Faith that there would be no remaining resemblance to the Church Christ established.

But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness so that there is no place clean
(Isaiah 28:7-8).

Now therefore be ye not mockers, let your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the

whole earth (Isaiah 28:22).

We see not our signs: there is not more any prophet: neither is there among us That knoweth how long.

O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? Shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever? (Psalms 74:9-10).

Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.

Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? When I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering (Isaiah 50:1-3).

And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him (Isaiah 59:16).

My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my clock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock; but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock (Ezekiel 34:6-8).

CHRIST'S WARNINGS ON IMPENDING APOSTASY

Jesus likewise forewarned His disciples about the "Falling Away." He told them about false prophets which would arise and how the Saints would be subjected to severe and bitter persecutions. Case histories and eyewitness accounts relate how these predictions were fulfilled. The parallel between the way Christ was treated and the way the Saints would be treated is clear.

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

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many (Matthew 24:4-5).

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold (Matthew 24:11-12).

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Behold, I have told you before.

Wherefore if they shall say unto you, behold he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not (Matthew 24:23-26).

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world (John 9:4-5).

Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them (John 12:35-36).

These things I command you, that ye love one another.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord, If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me (John 15:17-21).

NEW TESTAMENT PREDICTIONS

The following New Testament passages show that the Apostasy actually commenced during the days of the Apostles and that great concern was shown by the writers over what was to come.

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received from thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving (I Timothy 4:1-4).

That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes (II Timothy 1:13-15).

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.

Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away.

For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was (II Timothy 3:1-9).

I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry (II Timothy 4:1-5).

(II Peter, Chapter 2. Read the entire chapter.)

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ (Colossians 2:8).

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

For there were certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ (Jude 1:3-4).

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (Jude 1:17-21).

But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began (Acts 3:18-21).

The second and third chapters of Revelation provide ample proof that the Apostasy was widespread and affected nearly every branch of the Church.

In the 12th Chapter of Revelation, John beheld, in vision, the Church exalted and surrounded by the bright lights of heaven; but he also saw Her enemies and how she would be forced to flee into the wilderness, or into a barren state.

In this vision, the following characterizations are made:

Woman - the Church
Sun - the Gospel
Moon - Mosaical Law
Stars - Glory of Apostolic Authority
Man Child - the Priesthood
Rod of Iron - the Word of God

The sequence of events of this chapter can be more easily understood when the identities indicated are substituted for the symbols, such as the Woman for the Church, which are used.

APOSTASY IN AMERICA

The Apostasy also affected the Church on this land. The Nephite Prophets had likewise predicted its coming and had forewarned of its results.

And while the angel spake these words, I beheld and saw that the seed of that the seed of my brethren did contend against my seed, according to the word of the angel; and because of the pride of my seed, and the temptations of the devil, I beheld that the see of my brethren did overpower the people of my seed (1 Nephi 12:19).

(Read II Nephi 26:1-15)

And these are the words: Behold, I perceive that this very people, the Nephites, according to the spirit of revelation which is in me, in four hundred years from the time that Jesus Christ shall manifest himself unto them, shall dwindle in unbelief.

Yea, and then shall they see wars and pestilences, yea, famines and bloodshed, even until the people of Nephi shall become extinct-

Yea, and this because they shall dwindle in unbelief and fall into the works of darkness, and lasciviousness, and all manner of iniquities; yea I say unto you, that because they shall sin against so great light and knowledge, yea, I say unto you, that from that day, even the fourth generation shall not all pass away before this great iniquity shall come (Alma 45:10-12).

And he said unto them: Behold, I, Samuel, a Lamanite, do speak the words of the Lord which he doth put into my heart to say unto this people that the sword of justice hangeth over this people; and four hundred years pass not away save the sword of justice falleth upon this people.

Yea, heavy destruction awaiteth this people, and it surely cometh unto this people, and nothing can save this people save it be repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ, who surely shall come into the world, and shall suffer many things and shall be slain for his people.

And behold, an angel of the Lord hath declared it unto me and he did bring glad tidings to my soul. And behold, I was sent unto you to declare it unto you also, that ye might have glad tidings: but behold ye would not receive me.

Therefore, thus saith the Lord: Because of the hardness of the hearts of the people of the Nephites, except they repent I will take away my word from them, and I will withdraw my Spirit from them, and I will suffer them no longer, and I will turn the hearts of their brethren against them.

And four hundred years shall not pass away before I will cause that they shall be smitten; yea, I will visit them with the sword and with famine and with pestilence.

Yea, I will visit them in my fierce anger, and there shall be those of the fourth generation who shall live, of your enemies, to behold your utter destruction; and this shall surely come except ye repent, saith the Lord; and those of the fourth generation shall visit your destruction (Helaman 13:5-10).

But behold, it sorroweth me because of the fourth generation from this generation, for they are led away captive by him even as was the son of perdition; for they will sell me for silver and for gold, and for that which moth doth corrupt and which thieves can break through and steal. An in that day will I visit them, even in turning their works upon their own heads (III Nephi 27:32).

(Read IV Nephi 1:24-35)

And it came to pass that the wicked part of the people began again to build up the secret oaths and combinations of Gadianton.

And also the people who were called the people of Nephi began to be proud in their hearts, because of their exceeding riches, and become vain like unto their brethren, the Lamanites.

And from this time the disciples began to sorrow for the sins of the world.

And it came to pass that when three hundred years had passed away, both the people of Nephi and the Lamanites had become exceeding wicked one like unto another (IV Nephi 1:42-45).

O then ye unbelieving, turn ye unto the Lord; cry mightily unto the Father in the name of Jesus, that perhaps ye may be found spotless, pure, fair, and white, having been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, at that great and last day.

And again I speak unto you who deny the revelations of God, and say that they are done away, that there are no revelations, nor prophecies, nor gifts, nor healing, nor speaking with tongues, and the interpretation of tongues;

Behold I say unto you, he that denieth these things knoweth not the gospel of Christ; yea he has not read the scriptures; if so, he does not understand them.

For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing?

And now, if ye have imagined up unto yourselves a god who doth vary, and in whom there is shadow of changing, then have ye imagined up unto yourselves a god who is not a God of miracles (Mormon 9:6-10).

(Moroni, Chapter 9. Read entire chapter).

The preceding scriptures adequately show that the “Falling Away” was predicted by the ancient Prophets, foretold by Christ, and actually during the Apostolic period. Many of the New Testament epistles and religious historians explain that these predictions met with literal and speedy fulfillment.

CAUSES OF THE APOSTASY

This section now will consider briefly some of the causes responsible for this great catastrophe in the events of the Church.

History explains that the Church met with violent persecution from forces outside of the Church, while false teachers introduced evil doctrines which contributed to much internal strife. The causes were thus twofold: external and internal.

Judaism, the religious system based on the law of Moses, was Christianity’s greatest enemy. The defenders of Judaism were opposed to the spreading of the Gospel because they felt duty bound to uphold the Law. In their zeal to follow the precepts of the Law, the Jews persecuted the Christians, causing many to be put to death and others to suffer hunger, nakedness, and imprisonment.

The pagans or heathens likewise rebelled, adding more persecutions upon the Saints, because the Gospel was converting many from pagan beliefs and idol worship. The violent persecutions were responsible for the death of many of the Gospel's ablest advocates, starting with the death of Stephen and extending into the very life stream of the Church. These incidents drained the Ministry of some of the most able leaders, including men such as Peter and Paul.

At first the persecutions worked in favor of the Church. It united the Saints, increasing their zeal to spread the Gospel. Their courage in the face of violence caused many unbelievers to reexamine the Gospel message and subsequently join the ranks of the redeemed.

Unfortunately, the power of the persecutions did not relent, except for brief periods. With the passing years and changing Emperors, persecutions reached intolerable proportions. Under the reigns of Emperors such as Nero, Diocletians, and Trajan, the Church underwent great changes. Many false church leaders began to seek ways of appeasing the pagans and thus reduce or eliminate the persecutions. In so doing, many false doctrines were introduced, affecting all the sacred laws and ordinances set forth by Christ and taught by the early Apostles.

It can thus be seen that Paul's prediction regarding the rise of false teachers was literally fulfilled. With the death and imprisonment of the beloved Apostles, these false teachers found it easy to infiltrate the ranks of the Saints, and their evil tares, finding fertile ground, grew rapidly and choked the few remaining blades of wheat; and they turned the vineyard of the Lord into a wasteland. The result was complete internal deterioration, corrupting the simple Gospel principles by making unauthorized changes in the ordinances and government of the Church. It was during this critical period in the affairs of the Church that God was compelled to withdraw His Power and Spirit, leaving the world in total darkness and causing the period of time men have called the "Dark Ages."

PROPHECY ON CATHOLICISM AND PROTESTANTISM

With the gradual decline of the Church and the introduction of false doctrines, an apostate church was formed. She likewise was seen in a vision and identified. Later, this impure church became divided into many groups.

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither, I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornications, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

So he carried me away in the spirit unto the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads

and ten horns.

And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having the golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration (Revelation 17:1-6: also read balance of chapter).

For a very comprehensive treatment of this subject, read the 13th and 14th chapters of 1 Nephi. Note how clearly Nephi was shown the rise of the Catholic church, her daughters, Protestantism, the coming of Christopher Columbus, and the landing of the Pilgrims.

The Apostle John also saw the great power which the apostate church would one day possess.

And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forth and two months.

And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

If any man have an ear, let him hear (Revelation 13:4-9).

THE ACTUAL APOSTASY

The most important point to be remembered is that all of the prophecies on the Apostasy were fulfilled. The “falling away” did take place, starting shortly after the death of Christ, when changes were made in the Church, and becoming complete about 560 A.D.

At first, changes in the Church were small; but, as time went on these small alterations became larger and more basic until major departures from the Faith were witnessed. As predicted, some of these changes were made by people from within the Church, while others were made by people from outside the Church. Proof of how the changes from the opposite directions eventually became welded together was evidenced when Christianity was declared the religion of the state by Constantine in 313 A.D. When this happened, the church and state became one, and all the armies of Rome marched under the sign of the cross. What had been a pure, delicate, and sincere Church of Jesus Christ was, thus, used to serve the means of the state rather than to do God's service. In effect, it cannot be reasoned that that organization from thenceforth could possibly be identified or called "The Church of Jesus Christ."

Perhaps one of the most vivid and dramatic examples which can be offered to substantiate the claims that the Apostasy occurred is in tracing the different mode of baptism which was introduced into the Church. During the Third Century, the form of baptism was so changed that its symbolism was destroyed. Immersion was no longer required, and sprinkling with water was allowed. This is alarming when it is analyzed that the word "baptism" is translated from the Greek word, "baptiso," which means to bury, to cover, to plunge, or to immerse. When these meanings, which are the only one possible for the word "baptiso," are seriously considered, it is inconceivable that either sprinkling or pouring could be substituted for it. In other words, it is impossible to translate the word "baptiso" as meaning anything other than immersion, burying in water, plunging in water, or covering completely with water to discard one's sins.

A history of how the change was made in Christ's baptismal ordinance, as well as alterations to other definitely described procedures, is offered by Thurman S. Furnier in his presentations in the *Book of Sermons*, pages 49, 79-85. Significantly, ordinances and beliefs were changed in all major areas of the Church. These included new practices and ideas about adult and child baptism, methods of administering and representing the bread and wine, introduction of newly-created offices and officers in the Church, and the misconception of just how the Church officials were to "feed the flock." In the case of this last example, the flock fed the officials and actually worshipped them and pagan-type idols in ways certainly not wanted by God and Christ.

The Dark Ages are definite proof that the Apostasy occurred. During this period of time, the Authority of the Gospel was removed from the earth, as previously stated: The Woman (the Church) departed into the wilderness for 1260 days (1260 years by Bible interpretation), taking the Priesthood Authority with Her. This segment of time, therefore, from roughly 560 to 1820 was infested with deprived people who were kept purposely uninformed by the clergy. Under this atmosphere, the people were left to the whims and wishes of church officials who were primarily interested in keeping the people subjected to them for much of their existence. Gross abuses and the spiritual weakening of the masses were widely manifested. The real sanctity of the Church, the ordinances, and everything that was holy and meaningful were destroyed. Among other things, people could pay to sin, even before they could commit the sin, or sins. Is it any wonder then that, under these circumstances and conditions, the only manner in which the Priesthood Authority and the Restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ could

be accomplished was through heavenly action? The Authority had been carried away, so, thus, it had to be returned. The following chapter illustrates how this Restoration was prophesied and actually realized.

SUMMARY

This chapter has shown how, after Christ had physically established His Church, man destroyed all resemblance to the one and only Church of Jesus Christ. That this would happen had been prophesied; and the manner in which this was to take place was also specified. Historical facts have proven that the events occurred just as predicted. No student or follower of the history can refute the statement that, during the period of time characterized as engulfing the Apostasy, learning ceased, advances were not made in any field, and in fact, a retrogression or a “falling behind” or “falling backward” in all phases of life was experienced.

Leaders of the church in command during this period did not stimulate adherence to the principles of Christ, but, instead, they fostered unspiritual, unhumanitarian, and unchristian like behavior. Understandably, God would not entrust His Gospel to these individuals. As a result, the Priesthood Authority was completely withdrawn. It was to only return and accompany the Restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ which came about as narrated in the next chapter.

THE RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

The preceding section has shown how the Apostasy plunged the world into great darkness, despair, and human failure. The authority and power of the Gospel had been removed from the earth, and there was no basic spiritual joy in the hearts of man. The only way in which this sad situation could be corrected was for the Gospel to be returned to the earth in all its full glory. When this Restoration became a reality, light hope and human progress were immediately experienced. It is no wonder, therefore, that there is no subject more dear to the hearts of the members of The Church of Jesus Christ than the account of the Restoration of the Gospel. To more fully understand the prophecies, events, and results of the Restoration, this chapter deals with the various aspects of this memorable event.

The Prophets foretold of the day when God would restore the Gospel and that The Book of Mormon would be brought forth. Centuries before the birth of Christ, Old Testament prophets were given the spiritual sight to prophesy not only about the impending Apostasy but also the eventual Restoration which would bring back the Gospel. Some of these prophecies about the Restoration are as follows:

And it shall come to pass in the day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

And he shall set up an ensign for the nations and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth (Isaiah 11:11-12).

Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? And who knoweth us?

Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? Or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had not understanding?

Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?

And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 29:14-19); also read the entire chapter).

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap (Malachi 3:1-2).

Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven (Psalms 85:11).

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway, gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.

Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and work before him.

And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out. A city not forsaken (Isaiah 62:10-12).

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the King Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and shall stand for ever (Daniel 2:28-44).

The Apostle John saw the day when the Angel of God would bring the Everlasting Gospel to earth again.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water (Revelation 14:6-7).

COMING OF THE BOOK OF MORMON PREDICTED

The Book of Mormon also stated that the Gospel would be restored. Nephi devotes an entire chapter (II Nephi 29) to describe latter-day conditions among the Gentiles, the coming forth of The Book of Mormon, and the eventual gathering of Israel. Study of this chapter will reveal that the Gentiles would reject The Book of Mormon, emphasizing that they would say that the Bible was all that they required and that any further enlightenment was impossible and unnecessary. The attitude of many towards The Book of Mormon has verified that this prediction has come to pass. They have rejected this book, stating, as Nephi had prophesied, they would, "...A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible" (Verse 3). Nephi, however, made it plain that God would produce records, covering His dealings with other people and nations.

Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.

And I do this that I may prove unto many that I am the same yesterday, today and forever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. And because that I have spoke one word ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be until the end of

man, neither from that time henceforth and forever.

Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written (II Nephi 29:8-10).

For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them (III Nephi 21:9).

The Prophet Ezekiel had similarly expressed the fact that God would preserve and provide the histories of other people and other nations. In effect, he said that the Bible was the stick, or history, of Judah and The Book of Mormon was the stick, or history, of Joseph.

Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions.

And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.

And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?

Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows; and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes (Ezekiel 37:16-20).

NOTE: The aforementioned scripture mentions the method of writing and preserving records in ancient times. This method involved the usage of an animal skin, containing written information, which would be rolled between two sticks and would then become a scroll. This scroll was described as a "stick."

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

The discussion up to this point of the chapter has outlined and pointed out the prophecies and areas of fulfillment on the Restoration of the Gospel and coming forth of The Book of Mormon. Now to be considered are the results and future expectations which can be realized because of the Restoration. The Gospel's return to the earth has

made it possible for the promises and blessings to be attained in this day and age. The earliest scriptures have elaborated on the blessings promised to the seed of Joseph in these latter days.

Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall (Genesis 49:22).

And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be this land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,

And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon,

And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills,

And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush; let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren,

His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns; with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth; and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh (Deuteronomy 33:13-17).

THE CHOICE SEER

Another belief of The Church of Jesus Christ is that a Choice Seer shall come forth from among the seed of Joseph as described in the following text:

For Joseph truly testified, saying: a seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of my loins.

Yea, Joseph truly said: Thus saith the Lord unto me: A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins. And unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of my loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers.

And I will give unto him a commandment that he shall do none other work, save the work which I shall command him. And I will make him great in mine eyes; for he shall do my work.

And he shall be great like unto Moses, whom I have said I would raise up unto you, to deliver my people, O house of Israel.

And Moses will I raise up, to deliver thy people out of the land of Egypt.

But a seer will I raise up out of the fruit to thy loins; and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins-and not to the bringing forth of my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them.

Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days, and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord.

And out of weakness he shall be made strong, in that day when my work shall commence among all my people, unto the restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord.

And thus prophesied Joseph, saying: Behold that seer will the Lord bless; and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise, which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of my loins, shall be fulfilled. Behold, I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise;

And his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father. And he shall be like unto me; for the thing, which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, by the power of the Lord shall bring my people unto salvation.

Yea, thus prophesied Joseph: I am sure of this thing, even as I am sure of the promise of Moses: for the Lord hath said unto me, I will preserve they seed forever.

And the Lord hath said: I will raise up a Moses; and I will give power unto him in a rod; and I will give judgment unto him in writing. Yet I will not loose his tongue, that he shall speak much, for I will not make him mighty in speaking. But I will write unto him my law, by the finger of mine own hand; and I will make a spokesman for him (II Nephi 3:6-17).

ISRAEL'S RETURN FORETOLD

The Restoration of the Gospel to the Gentiles makes them responsible for carrying its message to the House of Israel, commencing with the seed of Joseph, the American Indians. This is of the greatest importance because, through the preaching of the Everlasting Gospel, the House of Israel is to be restored to the land of its inheritance. The Prophets foretold of the regrouping and the "in-gathering" of the House of Israel

and how they would result in a “Peaceful Reign” and the building of a New Jerusalem among the seed of Joseph. (*The Seventh Day of Rest* by Alma B. Cadman and *The Jew and the American Indian* by Timothy D. Bucci give views on some of these points and other related matters. They discuss scriptural expectations and who shall fulfill them; thus, they should be studied to gain further enlightenment on these topics.) The following scriptures are typical of what can be expected in the future.

(Read Isaiah, Chapter 35 completely.)

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD (Isaiah 2:1-5).

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the sucking child shall play on the hold of the asp and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:5-9).

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being

an hundred years old shall be accursed.

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD (Isaiah 65:19-25).

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree: and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoke in (Micah 4:1-4).

Christ Himself indicated when He was teaching His disciples how to pray that this New Jerusalem would be established. The implication in His prayer was that, through diligence and prayer, a fulfillment of this condition would be realized.

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in the earth (Luke 11:2).

The Prophet Ether beheld the day when the seed of Joseph would be restored to the knowledge of God and would build a Holy City on this land.

Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning a New Jerusalem upon this land.

And he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come-after it should be destroyed it should be built up again, a holy city unto the Lord; wherefore, it could not be a new Jerusalem for it had been in a time of old; but it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord; and it should be built unto the house of Israel.

And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for which things there has been a type.

For as Joseph brought his father down into the land of Egypt, even so he died there; wherefore, the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the land of Jerusalem, that he might be merciful unto the seed of Joseph that they should perish not, even as he was merciful unto the father of Joseph that he should perish not.

Wherefore, the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built upon this land: and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old: and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come when the earth shall pass away (Ether 13:4-8).

The American Indian plays an important, if not the most important, role in the future activity of The Church of Jesus Christ, if the scriptures are to be interpreted to their fullest extent. Of course, there are many other scriptures describing the glorious results of the return of Israel and the establishment of God's Kingdom in the latter days. Further study and meditation will enable the full impact to be realized when it is understood that many promises must be fulfilled and that the Church is now at the brink of seeing and taking part in these wonderful and completely edifying situations. In total, only when the events of the past can be related to the promises and blessings of the future can a more complete awareness of the delicacy and yet sturdiness of the Gospel and all its various offices and duties be more fully appreciated.

SUMMARY

The Restoration of the Gospel is the main theme of The Church of Jesus Christ today. On it hinges the basis for the claim that the present Church has the power and authority to act on behalf of Our Creator. As previously narrated, because the Apostasy, or complete "falling away" from the Gospel, had taken place and the power of the Gospel had been removed from the earth, the only way in which this power could be reactivated was by a complete Restoration, or by putting it back just as it was before the Apostasy.

Prophecies foretold of the Restoration, which occurred when the Gospel was returned in all its power and glory through Joseph Smith. Analysis of this event reveals that this

was not a haphazard return or consignment. Scriptures had stated the Gospel would be restored by an angel; and this is the way it happened. From then on, mankind has prospered and has again been invigorated with the potential and manifestations of the Gospel of Christ.

Now, the Church and all associated with Her must look to the future, confident that there is much to do to make certain that prophecies for the future will be carried out through the present and unadulterated organization entitled The Church of Jesus Christ. To do this, all individuals, regardless of position, must work toward helping all parties intimately involved in carrying on "The Lord's Work," whether they be Jew, Indian, or Gentile.