

# The Divine Commission

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Edited by The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

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## Dedication

Dedicated to my wife Sarah and my children Elaine, Judy and Larry, who along with their companions, have captured the vision of this "Devine Commission."

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## INTRODUCTION

The Mission of the Church is a matter which requires our constant attention. Joseph Smith was told by the angel, "...to remember that it (the restoration of the Gospel) was the work of the Lord to fulfill certain promises previously made to a branch of the house of Israel of the tribe of Joseph, and when it would be brought forth, it must be done expressly with an eye single to the glory of God and the welfare and restoration of the house of Israel." Letters of Oliver Cowdery, No. 7: page 29. The fulfillment of the covenants were "To prepare the way for the second advent of the Messiah when he comes in the glory of the Father with the Holy Angels."

In the divine process of selection, god chose Israel to be a special people. Moses speaks of this selection:

"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God:

The Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because He would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh King of Egypt." Deuteronomy 7:6-8

The relationship between God and Israel is described in vivid terms by Jeremiah:

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion." Jeremiah 3:14

The fulfillment of the covenants to Israel will have an impact on the entire world and will be accompanied by the power of God as He promised Abraham, "In thee shall all of the families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:3

We must understand that the restoration of Israel, God's people, is imminent:

"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord they God. Amos 9:14-15

When Joseph Smith received the gold plates, he was told they were brought forth: "...to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great thing the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever - and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ..." *Preface - the Book of Mormon*. While the climax of the latter day work will be the gathering of Israel, the Gentiles will share in this great work and will become an integral part of it:

"And behold I say unto you that as many of the Gentiles as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord; and as many of the Jews as will not repent shall be cast off; for the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in his Son, who is the Holy One of Israel." II Nephi 30:2

Concerning our work as Gentiles and the importance of taking the message to Israel, Nephi states:

“An this is what our father meaneth; and he meaneth that it will not come to pass until after they are scattered by the Gentiles; and he meaneth that it shall come by way of the Gentiles, for the very cause that he shall be rejected of the Jews, or of the house of Israel. Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying: In they seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.” I Nephi 15:1-18

The angel told Joseph Smith that the aborigines of this land were literal descendants of Abraham.

Nephi also declared:

“And after our seed is scattered the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles which shall be of great worth unto our seed, wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles and being carried in their arms and upon their shoulders.”

II Nephi 22:8

In the Book of Ether, we also read concerning the house of Israel:

“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; 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 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 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 Covenants of God to Israel will be remembered by God when the Gentiles shall sin against his gospel:

“And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do

all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them. And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people. O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them. And I will show unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you; but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fullness of my gospel. But if the Gentiles will repent and turn unto me, saith the Father, behold they shall be numbered among my people, O House of Israel. And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father.” III Nephi 16:10-14

This land was given to Joseph’s seed and will be returned to them:

“And behold, this is the land of your inheritance; and the Father hath given it unto you.” III Nephi 15:13

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, thus hath the Father commanded me - that I should give unto this people this land for their inheritance.” III Nephi 16:16

## HAVE WE FULFILLED OUR COMMISSION?

Having identified the commission given to the Church in this, the latter day dispensation, how ell has the Church been implementing it?

A revelation was given to Joseph Smith in September 1830, that a perfect society would be built on the borders of the Lamanites. Also in 1830, a revelation was given through Joseph Smith to Parley Pratt and others directing them to go west to preach to the Indians, and to locate the site for the city of Zion. In 1831, Joseph Smith sent Parley Pratt, Oliver Cowdery, and Peter Whitmer to establish the Church among the Lamanites; but the on the way they stopped to see Sidney Rigdon, and never fulfilled their original mission. *History of the early Church, John Whitmer, page 1.*

The Church is built on revelation and must rely on continuing revelation to proceed with its work. On November 8, 1861, approximately one year before the incorporation of The Church of Jesus Christ, Headquarters in Monongahela, Pa., the following revelation was received:

“Thus saith the Lord, I will purify my Church and my servants shall go and preach the Gospel to the Indians of America. Go, saith the Lord, and I will go with you and they shall humble themselves before you. When you go to the Indians tell them that Jesus died to save them. Tell them they are the seed of Abraham. Tell them what I did for their forefathers when they were carried away into Babylon; how that I brought them again into their own land and tell them that I will again gather them to their own lands for I the Lord have spoken it.”

This revelation coincides with the preface in the *Book of Mormon*. The Church was told in January 1863, to begin this great work on this continent:

“Thus saith the Lord unto my servants, go ye forth and preach the Gospel unto all this continent and when you

return, I will give you power to preach my Gospel unto all nations. And the records which I have given are to be preached unto them for there are no other records to be given unto the Gentiles. The records which are hid, are for my covenant people which I will give unto you to gather them from **all nations** for my word is yea and amen.”

The word of the Lord was also given to William Bickerton in the April conference of 1868:

“Verily, verily, saith the Lord God, the time has come that salvation shall go to the Lamanites and it shall be laid before our next conference.”

In the pamphlet, *Religious Experiences and Expectations*, it is recorded that Brothers William Bickerton, William Cadman, and Benjamin Meadowcroft went to the Cherokee Nation in 1868. God revealed to Brother William Cadman, that he would provide the Church a home in the Indian territory by the preaching of the Gospel. This was unanimously accepted as a revelation of God; however, the 1868 mission to the Cherokee Indians was not pursued to its logical conclusion. Brother Cadman stated that, “When our brothers returned home very sick, our people got faithless and laid the Indian mission to one side. Soon after, Brother Charles Brown had a stirring experience regarding the condition of the Indians. He saw some miners who were trapped in a mine. They had the appearance of Indians. This experience concurred with Brother Cadman’s position that the work among the Indians was abandoned. Brother Cadman stated that he fought against this move, but was overwhelmingly defeated. This drifting away from the Indian work, was caused primarily, by putting the temporal things ahead of the spiritual.

## **ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LIMITED ACTIVITY: 1869-1969**

From the year 1869, when the Indian work was virtually abandoned, to the year of 1969, the Church made sporadic efforts to respond to its original commission, but these efforts met with limited success. Some of the attempts which were made are described in the examples which follow.

In 1874, Brother William Cadman was inspired to warn the Church that we are not Israel in the sense of being beneficiaries under the covenants made to Israel, and that we would not be incorporated with Israel until we had carried the Gospel to them.

The Church had an encouraging experience at a conference in Lucyville, Pa., October 1894, that God would have none other than the true Gospel go to the seed of Joseph, and that we had the Gospel purer than any other people and that He would employ this people for this work.

The work among the seed of Joseph was again emphasized in July, 1900, by a communication from the Lucyville Branch. The conference passed the following resolution:

“Resolved that we do not consider ourselves safe in not making more efforts than we have in the past in the spreading of the Gospel, and that each elder put forth greater efforts in the future. It was further resolved that we should not consider it safe if greater efforts were not put forth in carrying the Gospel to the Indians.”

In the July conference of 1904, the Quorum of Twelve Apostles was refilled and some evangelists were ordained. The blessings of God rested upon the priesthood, and another mission was sent to the Lamanite people. But little or nothing was accomplished. It appears that the lack of accomplishment was due in large part to the fact that many who were on this mission were not in the spirit of the Indian work, and did not preach the message as restored in the years 1829 and 1830.

Brother Cadman, in describing the relationship of the gathering to the Indian mission, points out that the *Book of Mormon* teaches that the work among the seed of Joseph precedes the gathering. He also indicated that the Gentiles must get themselves into the proper condition before God to carry the Gospel to the seed of Joseph. He explained that God will perform His work even if He has to reduce His Church to one

man. The word of God states that the Gentiles are to carry the Gospel to the Lamanites and His word cannot be broken, as declared by Nephi:

“And when these things come to pass that this seed shall begin to know these things-it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel.” III Nephi 21:7

The work among the seed of Joseph prior to the nineteen seventies, has had limited success. Missions were established at Muncey and Six Nations, Canada in the early nineteen thirties; in South Dakota in the nineteen fifties and later at San Carlos and White River, Arizona in the nineteen sixties.

### **IMPORTANCE OF LATTER DAY REVELATION**

Revelation has always played a major role in the work of the restoration and its necessity was emphasized by Moroni:

“Behold, look ye unto the revelations of God; for behold, the time cometh at that day when all these things must be fulfilled.” Mormon 8:33

The Gentiles are also challenged by Moroni to cleanse themselves from all iniquity for in that day God shall unfold unto them all of his revelations:

“For the Lord said unto me: They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord. And in that

day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are.” Ether 4:6-7

God has spoken through dreams and revelations in the past few years concerning the Indian work. Revelations are given to the Church, not only to be recorded, but also to guide the Church. We must be willing to obey the revelations of God, as given in the past, if we are to expect further revelation. This was revealed to the Church in a dream had by Sis Florence Tonachella in 1964. She found herself in a field where there were fruit trees. She wished to pick the fruit on the trees, but she was told that it was not quite ripe, and that she should gather the fruit at the base of the tree which was covered with leaves. She thought that fruit would be wormy, but it was perfect. The Church interpreted this dream to mean that the fruit covered with leaves, represents the dreams and revelations that have been recorded by the General Church, but which are seldom used.

Let us look at some excerpts from these experiences, represented by the fruit, as they relate to our mission of working with the seed of Joseph. They come from all parts of the Church.

In a dream had by Brother Joseph Lovalvo in April, 1966, he noticed the Indian people present were disturbed during a General Church Conference. Their distress was explained by Sister Maness, an Indian from Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, who said, “Brother Joe, you brothers have left us out of your preaching. We are not represented in your preaching anymore.”

It is not enough, however, just to preach about Israel, as Sister Eva Moore’s dream, submitted in 1946, reveals:

“I dreamed I was called into a large semi-dark room by a woman. As I entered the room I heard a child cry; and in the center of the room I saw n Indian boy. I

asked him why he was crying. He said he was hungry. As he said this, other Indian children came forth out of other parts of this semi-dark room. I looked up at the clock and it read on o' clock. In my mind, I thought these children are under the care of the brothers and sisters who had failed to given them their lunch meal and it would be four or five o'clock before these children would be fed, because the brothers and sisters were gathered at Church. Then the dream changed, and I saw Brother William Cadman carrying an American flag. Wondering what he was going to do with it, I followed him. He came to a pulpit, and draped the flag over it and proceeded to walk away, saying, "It's time to go and quote the scripture."

From this dream, it can be seen that the Indian boy and the other Indian children in the semi-dark room were supposed to be fed by the brothers and sisters, but they were left hungry. The admonition given by Brother William Cadman, to go and quote scripture, means that the Church must go beyond its local branches to preach the gospel. The Church should do as the *Book of Mormon* plainly states on the title page, go to the house of Israel and tell them what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers. They must be told concerning the covenants of the Lord, and that they are not cast off forever. The message of the Church must convince the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the eternal God manifesting Himself unto all nations.

In 1952, Sister Raffaella DeFalco saw a group of brothers and sisters standing along the shore of a river watching a boat being boarded by a group of our elders. The boat departed, but the brother were not aware that the boat had lost it s course. Then it crashed into a building. The brothers tried to free the boat. When the boat was finally freed, they were asked where they were going. Someone replied they were going among the Indian people.

Sister Ruby Kinser from Ohio, in a dream on September 1, 1973, saw an Indian man come to her back door. He was very tired. She asked hime in and offered him food and drink. As they sat at her table, he told her to go and be anointed, and after she was anointed to go and tell her people to be anointed, so they well be able to face tomorrow.

Brother Anthony Lovalvo from Detroit, Michigan had a dream on April 19, 1975 in which he was walking down a road on a reservation. He saw five men walking toward him. He spoke to one of them saying:

“Joseph, Joseph, how long we have waited for you.”

The man spoke saying, “I know, but you tell our people to be patient, it won’t be too long. But before I come, there will be a great destruction on this land.”

Sister Elaine Jordan of Redlake, Arizona was awakened one night in March, 1963, hearing the following words:

“Tell you mother and your father prepare yourselves for Joseph is coming.”

In a dream had by Brother Michael McGuire in 1969 from Lorain, Ohio Branch, we were told the time is short, there is little remaining. We must draw closer to the Lord and prepare for what is ahead. Brother McGuire saw Brother William Cadman who said, “Soon the Indian will be our brother, and the young people will help to teach them.” He admonished the Church to fast and pray for strength and unity.

The urgency of preaching the Gospel to the Indians has been reiterated in our present day, I quote from an experience submitted by the Pennsylvania District:

“On January 21, 1976, I dreamed I was led into a large room by a man. I do not know who he was. In the room was a rectangular table where I saw seven Indians sitting and talking. Their conversation and laughing seemed to present an air of happiness. There was nothing on the table. Of the seven, there was one woman. We walked up to the table, and the man who led me in, introduced me to the

first two to my right. I greeted each with a holy kiss and felt a good spirit. One of the two asked me why I wanted to help them. With tears in my eyes, I answered, "Because if I don't , I will be in great danger when I would stand at the judgment bar of God." The main thing I remember about this dream is the spirit I felt when I greeted the two men and when I gave my reply. I knew very positively it was the spirit of God."

The answer the dreamer gave to the question, why do you want to help us (meaning the Indian people) is worthy of serious attention: "Because if I don't, I will be in great danger when I would stand at the judgment bar of God." Brother John Griffith had a similar experience while attending the American Indian Committee meeting in Mexico (March, 1976). He arose under the influence of the spirit and said, "Brothers, I feel that God is instructing us what to do. If I fail to perform this work, I would fear for the loss of my soul."

The awareness of spiritual danger was spoken of many years ago by Moroni:

"And he that shall breathe out wrath and strifes against the work of the Lord, and against the covenant people of the Lord who are the house of Israel, and shall say: We will destroy the work of the Lord, and the Lord will remember his covenant which he hath made unto the house of Israel-the same is in danger to be hewn down and cast into the fire." Mormon 8:21

Upon discussing this dream in the Pennsylvania District, Brother Fred Olexa had a strong witness of the spirit relative to the necessity of the Indian work.

There are at least thirty more experiences accepted by the Church relating to the great work among the seed of Joseph.

## **SANCTIFICATION FIRST**

The great work of restoring Israel, as Brother William Cadman, Sr. pointed out, is a prelude to the gathering. The gathering will not take place until we purify and sanctify ourselves. In the days of Joshua, the children of Israel were told:

“Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Joshua 3:5

Brother Ether Furnier had an experience in 1973 relative to the fact that the time had come for the Joshuas to stand up. This experience was accepted by the Church as indicative of our present day. If this is true, we must follow through with the sanctification process.

From time to time the Lord has admonished the Church to continually strive to cleanse and purify itself. Two experiences are presented to illustrate this spiritual requirement of the Church.

Brother Joe Piacentino had an experience where he was taken to a valley where a group of Indians dwelled. They had jars partially filled with medicine. The medicine was not from herbs or leaves, but from the altar of pure honest hearts. A sound of Gentile voices were heard saying that when we fill the jars by our pureness as they (the Indians) had done, the Church would have the power to heal and we would go to the Indians to prove our authority.

The Church was exhorted through a dream had by Brother Al DeCaro, in October, 1972, that in order to move forward, such things as hate, envy, jealousy, pride, and murmuring must be removed. Of his experience, Brother DeCaro wrote:

“On the weekend of March 10-12, our California conference was held in the Bell Branch. On Saturday evening, my wife and I were invited to spend the night at the home of Pete and Sister Mary Krasnaski of the San Fernando Valley Branch and the Lord blessed us in our stay at their home.

Before retiring for the night, I knelt beside the bed and thanked the Lord for all the love and blessings of our recent past and asked that He would bless our Sunday conference that we might all rejoice together. At about 4:00 a.m. Sunday morning, I had the following dream:

It seemed as though I was in our San Diego Branch and all the brothers and sisters were standing in single file, one behind the other in the middle aisle and Brother Tom Liberto, who is our Presiding Elder, was standing in front of the Sacrament table. Along the back wall of the rostrum were five or six metal containers measuring in size about three or four feet square.

The brothers and sisters would walk up to Brother Tom one by one and they would say something to him and Brother Tom would point to one or more of the containers and the brother or sister would walk up to the container, and with their hand, they would pull something out from within their chest and discard it into the container, and when they would turn around to face the brothers to take their seats, their faces were radiant, and they all wore a beautiful smile.

Some of the brothers and sisters were directed to go to only one container to discard this thing and others were directed to go to two or more. I, myself, remember

going to three different containers. When all the brothers and sisters had taken their seats, it was a beautiful sight to see all the radiant smiling faces and the blessings of God were all around us.

Then Brother Tom began to exhort to us and he said, "The reason God was blessing our Branch is because we're getting rid of the things that are keeping us from serving God and keeping God from blessing us."

In the dream, I was given to understand that these things that we were pulling out of our chest were hate, envy, jealousy, pride, murmuring, etc., and each container was used for these things. Then the power of God fell upon Brother Tom and he cried out, "This, my beloved brothers and sisters, is what it's going to take to make our Church go forward. We have to rid ourselves of the things that are keeping God's blessings from us."

Then I awoke so filled with His spirit that I could hardly contain it, and I woke my wife to tell her of this beautiful dream the Lord gave to me. Our Sunday conference was truly a blessed one, inasmuch that four more young converts dedicated their lives to the Lord. I thank God for his love, His wonderful mercy, and His spirit.

## **1970: THE USHERING IN OF THE PEACEFUL REIGN**

It has been revealed to the Church that the great work of the restoration requires an awareness that Israel will not accept anything but the unadulterated Gospel, therefore the Church must seek to cleanse and purify itself. The scripture also teaches us that the earth, including the animals and the human family will undergo a change during the time of the gathering of Israel. How can this great miracle take place? Brother Alma Cadman introduced the Church to the concept of the Peaceful Reign and pointed out that in 1970 we would experience the ushering of that era of time. The concept of the Peaceful Reign makes clear that a condition of peace will precede the millennium. We have had verifying experiences within the Church that Brother Alma's inspiration was from God.

In a dream had by Brother Joseph Ciotti in July, 1939, he found himself in a place where the word of God was being preached by Brothers Fred Fair and Alma Cadman. Brother Cadman said to Brother Fair:

“Thirty more years remain and all that the prophets  
said must come to pass.” Brother Cadman also said,  
“We must believe the scriptures.”

As we add thirty years to 1939, it brings us to the year 1969, or to the beginning of the Peaceful Reign.

Brother Fred Fair had a dream on August 5, 1933, in which he was in conversation with Brother Anthony Todaro concerning the Peaceful Reign. In the dream, he saw himself in an open field where everything was green. He was digging and came across a cabbage stalk that had many heads. As he stooped down to get one of the heads, he asked Brother Todaro if this was the Peaceful Reign. A man appeared and said to them, “The Peaceful Reign will take place when Brother Fred reached the age of 84 years.”

Brother Fair's age at the beginning of the Peaceful Reign	84
His age at the time of the dream	<u>-47</u>
Years required to fulfill the dream	37
Date of Brother Fair's dream	1933
Number of years required to fulfill the dream	<u>+ 37</u>
Therefore the date of the beginning of the Peaceful Reign	1970

Sister Virginia Sorton from Greensburg, Pa., in a dream accepted by the Church in April, 1959, saw Brother Alma appear to her and say:

“All my life I have worked and written down the way for them.  
All they have to do is follow it.”

At the time of this experience, she did not know that Alma Cadman had written the pamphlet, *The Seventh Day of Rest*, an explanation of the Peaceful Reign.

Brother Mario Milano presented the following experience to the Church in August, 1967. He dreamed that he was attending a General Church Conference. He saw Brother Alma Cadman sitting among the twelve apostles. Brother Milano was filled with the spirit and arose upon his feet and looking at Alma Cadman said:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, everything that Brother Alma prophesied that would take place will surely come to pass.”

There are many scriptures in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* that relate to this peaceful condition, some of which are: Isaiah 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter, Isaiah 2:1-5, Micah 4:1-8, Nephi 22:24-28, and Isaiah 66:8. In this last reference, Isaiah speaks of Zion travailing to bring forth her children. The prophet then says, shall Zion give birth and not come forth from the womb? The year 1970 was as the prophet declared, a time of travailing. This travailing of Zion is much like the travailing period of a woman before giving birth to a child. Life begins as conception but the actual birth does not take place until the child comes forth. In this decade of the seventies, the world has been going through the travailing period. While the Zionie conception has taken place, the period just prior to the actual birth is just beginning. We can take heart in the prophecy of Isaiah:

“For Zion’s sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.”

Isaiah 62:1

The Church is in the second verse that the Gentiles shall see Israel’s righteousness. The prophet also declares that Israel shall “no more be termed forsaken” neither shall her land be desolate for the Lord delighteth in her. God then speaks:

“I have set watchmen upon they walls O Jerusalem which shall never hold their peace day or night.” The Church is advised, “Ye that make mention of the Lord keep not silence, and give Him no rest till he establish and til He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” Isaiah 62:6-7

## **SIGNIFICANT STEPPING STONES TOWARD ZION**

In 1970, when the apostles and others met in fasting and prayer at the San Carlos Indian Reservation in Arizona, they had an experience similar to the foregoing prophecy, wherein Isaiah declares that Israel will “no more be termed Forsaken.” The word of the Lord was given:

“This day have I accepted you as the trues sons of Levi, for you have entered within the tabernacles to purify and to cleanse yourselves. And to Joseph, my beloved Joseph, this know, thus said the Spirit, from this day on, you shall no longer be called forsaken. But from henceforth you shall be known as my begotten.”

This experience brought about an end to the draught of one hundred years. We had now entered a new era of time, one in which we are moving toward Zion.

This experience also resulted in another outpouring of God’s spirit in April, 1972, General Church Conference during an address by Brother Peter Capone to the Priesthood. As he was speaking about the significance of the above mentioned fast at San Carlos, and that the Priesthood had not been preaching concerning the Peaceful Reign with power and the spirit to our people, Brother James Lovalvo spoke in the spirit saying:

“Hear ye the word of the Lord, take heed to what my servant is saying for I have placed these words in his mouth.”

Brother Capone concluded his remarks with a personal experience which answered a question he had asked the Lord regarding what we as a people should be doing in our day relative to the work of the restoration. He said that he heard a knock at his door and as he went to investigate who was there, the voice of the Lord said: “Knock a little harder and a little clearer.”

The next action taken by the General Preisthood relative to the gathering of Israel was the selection of a committee known as the American Indian Committee on October 17, 1975. This committee was charged with the responsibility of mobilizing the efforts of the

Church towards the taking of the Gospel to the seed of Joseph. The committee met in Phoenix, Arizona on January 24, 1976. During this meeting Brother Larry Watson brought forth the scripture in Joel regarding the calling of a solemn fast, the same scripture mentioned by Brother Peter Capone in the 1972 conference. While this was being discussed, Brother Isaac Smith spoke in tongues. He then interpreted the tongues:

“Brothers, we should meet in Mexico, and the Lord will be with us.”

As directed by this message, the committee met in Mexico on March 5 and 6, 1976. Prior to this meeting, Sister Davidson, Brother William H. Cadman’s sister, was told about the brothers gathering in Mexico, and she said that this was the same spirit of gathering and preaching of Israel that Brother William Cadman, Sr. and Brother Alexander Cherry prayed about years ago. Sister Davidson was 104 years old at the time of this meeting in Mexico.

The gathering in Mexico was greatly blessed with visions and powerful manifestations of God’s spirit. Brother Joseph Lovalvo spoke the word of the Lord on Saturday, saying, “How long I have waited for my people to humble themselves.” On Sunday morning, Brother Isaac Smith spoke the word of the Lord saying, “Follow my spirit, and it will lead you to Israel.” The meeting concluded with the following analysis:

“Do not be concerned with the past. Look only to the future without fear, for God will prepare the hearts of the seed of Joseph. Take that which we already have and proceed realizing that God will lead us. We must sanctify ourselves and be united in spirit. This can only be maintained through fasting and prayer. Be thankful in the knowledge that in our day, God is working to restore His people. Above all, we are God’s people and we are equal to the task.” (from AIC Committee)

The next step in the movement towards our goal was taken at the October, 176 conference when the priesthood declared its missionary priorities for the Church. The resolution reads as follows:

**THE GENERAL CHURCH PRIESTHOOD HAS BECOME UNIFIED ON THE FOLLOWING CONCEPTS:**

1. The Church recognized that in our day the Gospel has been restored, first to the Gentiles, and that we must continue to preach it to all who will listen and accept it.
2. The Board of Missions' responsibility to carry out a missionary program at home, abroad, and to the seed of Joseph requires the setting of priorities. Based on the accepted doctrine of the Church, the restoration of Israel, commencing with the seed of Joseph, has the highest priority and should be reflected in the missionary plans and programs of the Church. This does not preclude the continuation of our foreign missionary programs. This work must continue to be implemented in as fine a manner as we know how.
3. Furthermore, the work among our branches and missions must not be diminished, but rather this effort must be accelerated and enlarged.
4. All board committees must pledge their total support of each other for attaining the success of the Church's missionary responsibility to the world.
5. Therefore, be it resolved that the priesthood of the Church accepts the foregoing statements as the basis for implementing a total missionary effort throughout the Church and in all of our General Church Missionary Programs.

Perhaps one of the most significant steps taken by the Church through perhaps overlooked, as with acceptance of the following revelation presented by Brother Virgil Link, an Indian brother from Redlake. After fasting and praying, he was awakened from his sleep hearing the audible words:

“Come unto me, O my people. It is time to build Zion.”

By accepting this revelation, the Church is committed to the commencement of the building of Zion.

I again refer to my previous remarks concerning the traveling process prior to the birth of a child. In building, there is a time of conceptualization, which takes shape in the form of a set of blueprints. This is the first form of life. It expresses the dimensions, the material, and it also provides the directions to follow to complete the structure. The Church must proceed to find out the extent of its commitment to Zion. Each member must evaluate the material or talents God has given him or her for this great work. The Church has been provided the direction to go to Israel. The implementation of this

directive will result in the opening of new vistas that will lead to the complete unfolding of God's great master plan. Nephi predicted:

“There is nothing which is secret save it shall be revealed; there is no work of darkness save it shall be made manifest in the light; and there is nothing which is sealed upon the earth save it shall be loosed. Wherefore, all things which have been revealed unto the children of men shall at that day be revealed; and Satan shall have power over the hearts of the children of men no more, for a long time.” II Nephi 30:17-18

### **THE SERIES OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE NEW JERUSALEM**

The building of a city called the New Jerusalem upon this land is related to the gathering of Israel generally and the seed of Joseph specifically. This important gathering, in fulfillment of the covenants made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, must take place fore Christ returns. We are told:

“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 3:20-21

While many in the world today are in a countdown to the rapture, the Church should be on a countdown of God's latter day events that will eventually lead to the resurrection. Many books are being written on the rapture. They, however, leave out the most important events that will precede Christ's second coming: The gathering of Israel home

to the lands of their inheritance, the building of the New Jerusalem and the establishment of Zion.

In III Nephi 21, the Saviour presented the sequence of events of the latter day glory. He promised that He would give a sign so that the Church would know when the gathering of Israel from their long dispersion and the establishment of Zion should take place. Prior to the giving of this sign, the Gentiles would be brought to this land and established as a free people to show them His great power and to allow them to come under the covenants of Israel, Jesus went on to say that when the seed of Joseph are told of the things that He revealed to their ancestors at the time of His appearance in this land, it would be a sign unto them that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of His covenants. Sometime during this period, the Choice Seer will come forth. he will be marred, but will not be destroyed. The Gentiles who will not repent and believe will be cut off.

The seed of Joseph will then rise up as a young lion and will destroy their adversaries. The Gentiles will lose their mobility, their war power will diminish, their cities will be destroyed. Witchcraft, idolatry, lying, envying, strife, deception, priestcraft and whoredoms will be done away with. God will execute vengeance upon the unbelieving Gentiles.

The Church, however, during all of this calamity will begin to grow and this land which was promised to the seed of Joseph will be given back to them for their inheritance. The believing Gentiles will then come under the covenant and will begin to assist the seed of Joseph in the building of a city called the New Jerusalem. This is the commencement of the great work of the Lord, relative to the establishment of Zion. The call will go out to all the seed of Joseph in North, South and Central America to come and enjoy the New Jerusalem. Great power shall be given, and Christ will make his appearance among them.

This great work will continue to spread even to the gathering of the lost tribes of Israel. Then the work of God will begin with all nations so that God's people will be set free to return home to the lands of their inheritance.

## A PARALLEL INDIAN MOVEMENT

In the building of Zion, as is recorded in III Nephi 21:23, the Gentiles will assist the seed of Joseph in the building of the New Jerusalem. As the young Joshuas of the Church stand up, there should also be a parallel movement among the young people of the seed of Joseph. In a recent quote from the Navajo Times, it was stated that seventy-five percent of the Navajo population, which numbers 160,000 people, is under thirty years of age. Many of them are acquiring degrees in education, business, economics and medicine.

In a dream had by Sister Mabel Bickerton on April 8, 1948, she saw that she was in a large meeting of the saints. She was seated near the front of the room with her mother. She saw many afflicted people asking for prayer and being anointed. She turned to her mother and said, "If only our brothers had the power that was manifested on the day of Pentecost. Brother William Cadman then went to where Sister Mabel and her mother were sitting and introduced them to many young Indian people. She said she never had seen so many Indians in the Church before. While Sister Mabel was relating this dream, she was inspired with the thought that as the Indians come into the Church and the work progresses among them, the power that disciples experienced on the day of Pentecost would be with our Church.

Recently, an Indian caravan traveled over 157,000 miles throughout the United States, warning the people of impending destruction. Men such as Thomas Banyacya, a Hopi, and Mad Bear Anderson, a Tuscarora Indian, accompanied this entourage. Both had an urgent message to relate to whomever would listen. Thomas Banyacya stated that although the Indians represent one-half of one percent of the nation's population yet they are rich in spirit and heart and will stand as a might nation. He proclaimed:

"We will speak one language after the purification. We will all be one people; everything will become new, no more money systems, we will exchange everything freely, we won't need fences. We need to revive the spirit of our people."

Mad Bear Anderson declared:

"Many of our people have had dreams and visions that

the time is short (referring to the fulfillment of prophesy) you (addressing a Gentile audience) must straighten it out with my people. Day and night cannot dwell together. (He meant that the Gentiles would have to straighten it out with the Indians). He then said, again referring to the Gentiles, "You must get your people together or earth will be destroyed as it happened in the other worlds." He stated it would take four days to give all the prophecies. He warned, "Don't participate in programs that will destroy my people."

Vine DeLoria, Jr., a Sioux Indian leader, commented:

"Of all the groups in the modern world, the Indians are best able to cope with the modern situation. The flexibility of the tribal viewpoint enables Indians to meet devastating situations and survive."

The Hopi leaders, in a letter written to President Truman, on March 28, 1949, from Oraibi, Arizona, wrote:

"The judgment day will soon be upon us. Let us make haste, and set our houses in order before it is too late."

"The Lost Brother," an Iroquois prophecy as retold by Mad Bear Anderson states:

"They will be waiting for a young leader, as Indian boy possibly in his teens, who would be a choice seer. Nobody knows who he is or where he will come from, but he will

be given great power and will be heard by thousands.”

An experience had at Pinetop, Arizona, coincides with this prophesy.

On Sunday, May 20, 1973, while Brother Joseph Calabrese was preaching, he asked, “How should the seed of Joseph be delivered?” It’s revealed in the record that we have one (referring to the Choice Seer), whoever he is and wherever he is no one knows, onl God knows as he knew Moses. While Brother Joe was saying this, Brother Thurman Furnier arose in spirit and said:

“I know, I shall reveal in my own due time, thus saith the Lord, where he is and who he is and what work he shall do in great power to bring the children of Israel out of bondage and unto salvation. Thus saith the Lord.”

Thomas Banyacya made this appeal:

“The time has come fro meaningful action. Destruction of all land is taking place and accelerating at a rapid pace. The time of purification is near according to many prophecies. This means that human life has to be purified or punished, by certain acts of the Great Spirit due mainly to corruption, greed and turning away from the Great Spirit.”

He recalled that in the year 1948, the Hopi leaders met in their sacred kivas for many days, to remind themselves of their ancient knowledge. After the meeting, they felt to tell their people and also the whole world about some of these things.

The following prophecies, many of which have been fulfilled, and some of which will be fulfilled in the near future, were revealed on stone tablets which the Hopis have in their possession. This was taken from an address to the Chairman and members of the United Nations assembled in Vancouver, Canada, on June 11, 1976:

1. Carriages would go across the land that would look like many houses connected together with smoke coming out of the first one (thus referring to the coming of the train).
2. Carriage flying through the sky with nothing pulling them (this referring to the airplanes).
3. Many roads in Hopi land and from a distance it would look like running water. (The Hopi wondered what this meant until they discovered that as pavement is viewed from a distance, it looks like water).
4. A house of glass would be built on this land and all nations of the world would go there to air their grievances. (They were told that whoever would be their religious leaders at that time must go to the tall glass house and warn the world of the Day of Purification. If the people do not repent, they will be destroyed. The Hopi have attempted to do this).
5. A gourd of ashes will be dropped from the sky and would destroy everything in sight. (This could refer to the atomic bomb dropping on Japan).
6. There will be tornadoes. At first there will be warnings. If the people do not repent, they will get worse and deaths will result.
7. A series of earthquakes would be felt throughout the land, and would come as warnings to the people to repent. If they do not repent, a devastating earthquake will strike many cities and will result in the death of large masses of people.
8. Floods would be seen in places where they have never been seen.
9. There would be great climate changes worldwide-hot, cold, dry and wet. In each case, it would be the worst reported in history.
10. There would be famine, pestilence, disease and plagues throughout the land.
11. They were warned against lightning coming into their homes (meaning electricity). They were told that if they depended on this, it would be cut off and the people would panic.
12. They were warned against running water in their homes. It would become polluted.
13. There would be terrible fighting all over the land. The Hopi were warned to stay on their reservation and they would avoid this trouble.
14. The moon will turn to blood and the sun will hide its face with shame.

Dan Katchonva said in 1959 that the time is about up, the prophecies have about been fulfilled.

## **WARNINGS TO THE CHURCH**

Has the Church been warned concerning some of these conditions? As far back as 1939, Sister Sarah Watson presented a dream to the Church in which she found herself in a meeting with Brother Furnier in charge. He said at the close of the meeting:

“Brothers and sisters, remain seated. There is a sister who has had a dream that contains prophecy.” She said, “Dear brothers and sisters, the time is coming when some people of this Church will seek divorces and separations from their husbands and wives, and there shall be murmurings, and in the world there shall be wars and rumors of wars and destruction. Woe, woe, be unto these (meaning those who seek divorces, etc.), for in that day they shall be found without a house, suffering along with the world.”

This dream points out, being members of the Church does not necessarily make us immune to temptations nor exempt from the consequences of sin. The scripture says that judgment will begin at the house of the Lord. Sister DeMelis of Detroit, Michigan, saw in a dream (February, 1940) that Brother William Cadman sent a letter to all the brothers and sisters saying, “I want all the branches and missions to gather together next Sunday in a certain place.” The meeting place was like a large field and all the apostles, evangelists and elders were sitting in rows. A man in white appeared, and the brothers and sisters asked him, “Why was there murmuring, death and sickness among His people.’ This man said, “Woe unto you that do not my will for you have not seen anything yet.” Then he turned to the apostles and the rest of the priesthood and said, “You too will be punished if you do not do my will.”

The impending destruction that is coming to this land has been told to us many times. In October, 1943, Sister Schooster of the Rock Run Branch heard God tell her in a dream to warn the people of The Church of Jesus Christ to prepare for destruction is coming on this land. He said to be faithful and true to the Church and to broadcast to all that would hear the glad tidings of the Restored Gospel.

In a vision that was had in Lorain, Ohio, September 5, 1976 by Frank Altomare, he said:

“I see a man standing by the door. It is that great man John Divine. Oh, John, John, what are they words, what are the words that you are speaking to thy people.” And these are the words he spoke, “I have come to comfort my people and the Lord is going to show many miracles in The Church of Jesus Christ. We shall see even the dead arise. I am your servant. I am of God and I shall bless my people and will be with them. Continue to pray, fast and pray. **This nation** is going to come to the dust of this earth...”

With all the warnings of impending destruction, we can take heart in an experience presented to the Church on January 27, 1976, from Florida in which the dreamer saw an apostle addressing the whole Church, which appeared to be gathered in a large circle. She said that she knew that he had waited a long long time to be able to say the following, "Brothers and sisters, we are beginning to see the word of God commence."

## **THE WORK AT HAND**

The Church as been warned. It is now time for God's people to remove all obstacles and begin to mobilize all her strength and power to bring Israel back home to her rightful inheritance.

This great work of gathering and the ultimate building of Zion will require the help of both the young and old. The Church needs the strength of the youth and the guiding wisdom of the old. It is my personal belief and hope that some of this present living generation will live to see the building of Zion change from its present embryonic state to its actual birth. It must be remembered however, that the birth of an infant is the culmination of a maturation process which began with an embryo and ends with the infant.

There is a strong movement among the young people to become totally involved in the missionary program of the Church. A young minister from a branch in California made the following statement: "If you are to blame us for anything, then blame us for believing in your words enough to want to do something about it." He was referring to the many times he had heard the elder brothers preaching about the promises to Israel and the building of Zion.

The work of the young people in this great latter day work in part was revealed to us in the dream of Brother Michael McGuire in which he saw Brother William Cadman exhorting the young people saying, "Prepare yourselves for what is ahead." He then related the future work of the Church to the young people telling them to stay close to the Church and to follow in the steps of their parents and forefathers. He also said, "Soon the Indian will be our brother and the young will help to teach them."

At the time of this dream, there were no young people from the Church living on the Indian reservations. At the present time, there are 35 adults residing on reservations. Many of them have been instrumental in setting up various types of educational programs. The Church is well represented by young brothers and sisters in many top administrative positions on various reservation. The potential for teaching Indians is presently reaching great proportions.

In a dream had by a young sister in California in the year 1966, she saw Brother William Cadman in a dream. He told her and her sister, along with their husbands, that they had a work to do, and he gave them a message to encourage their husbands to continue their educations, that God would use their education in His work. He also told them to gain as much training as they could. He concluded his remarks by saying, “**Go and tell others this message.**”

The young people, however, are going to need the help of the older brothers and sisters in this great work. A dream had recently in Ohio (accepted by the Church at the October, 1976, conference) points this out very vividly. The dreamer, being inspired by Brother Dominic Thomas speaking about the Church today being on the threshold of a new era, had the following dream:

“All the young people of the Church were marching in perfect formation, and were uniformly arrayed. The young people marching in symmetrical formation and enveloped in brilliant rays of the sun. In the rear of them was an evangelist.”

This dream points out that the young people have captured the evangelistic spirit of the Church and will require the assistance of the priesthood authority as a strong support in this march towards the fulfillment of God’s promise.

An example of this support was experienced in California and reported to the General Church Conference of April, 1972. A young brother told of a dream in which he was driving his car along the highway. His left hand was on the steering wheel and his right hand was on the *Book of Mormon*. He heard a voice saying: “To the right is the land of the Lamanites and to the left is the land of the Jews. Soon they will come together.”

As this dream was being told at conference, Brother Joseph Lovalvo spoke in the spirit saying: “Hearken unto me, oh my people, draw near unto me, and I will take you sons and you daughters and bring them among the Lamanites and make them nursing

fathers and mothers unto them.” (These two experiences were accepted by the General Church).

The work at hand in our generation is vividly portrayed by an experience of Brother Ether Furnier, accepted by the Church in 1973.

“The night after my father passed away I was up all night along with my companion and my mother. It was about 9:00 a.m. in the morning. The voice of the spirit spoke to me saying, “The last of the Moses era is dead, and it is time for the Joshua’s to stand up.” My mind was taken to the scripture where the Lord spoke words of encouragement to Joshua, to be not afraid but to go forth in the strength of the Lord. The spirit was so overwhelming that it well nigh consumed me in a blanket of blessing.”

It is interesting to note the General Church conference remarks on this experience: “We must be strong and of good courage even as God told the people after the death of Moses. We must now unite ourselves so that we may go forth and enter into Zion.”

This experience also indicates the beginning of a new era. It states that the time has come for the Joshuas to stand up. We are now living in the Joshua era. We, both old and young, must marshal all of our available resources and begin the march into the latter day promised land.

We are truly living in a momentous age, one which the prophets longed to see. It has been referred to as the latter dispensation of time. Yes, all the other dispensations from the beginning of time will find their consummation in this great end of time dispensation. The battle lines have been drawn. Satan with all his mighty host has declared war against the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot draw back and wait for time to catch up to us. We must catch up to the time in which we live.

We know from the many experiences that have been given to us, that we are entering into a time of the fulfillment of prophesy. The gathering of Israel and the building of the New Jerusalem are very close at hand. There is a strong possibility that this could take place in our day or our children’s day. In a dream had by Brother Sam Randazzo of Detroit, Michigan many years ago, he saw his grandchildren (who are now presently

adults) playing with wild animals. Someone spoke to him and said, "Aren't you afraid that they will be hurt by those wild animals?" He replied, "No, don't you know we are living in the Peaceful Reign?"

Sister Sarah Watson, the daughter of Brother Sam Sandazzo, had a corresponding dream in July, 1978, wherein she saw her grandchildren coming from a new city that was located on an Indian reservation, behind a huge rock. She was told that it was the beginning of a beautiful new city.

The *Book of Mormon* states that the Indian people will be used to build a beautiful city on this land called the New Jerusalem. A few years ago, this would have been considered an impossible task. We have, however, in the past few years, seen a tremendous change taking place among the Indian people, which has been likened unto the awakening of a sleeping giant. It has been proven that the land where they dwell is rich in minerals and raw materials. This untapped wealth exists not only in North America, but also in Central and South America, where rich deposits of oil exist that could affect the balance of world power. It is not coincidental that the work of the Church is now prospering in Mexico. At the 1978 NATRO (Native American Treaty Rights Organization) conference held in Window Rock, Arizona, one of the Indian leaders expressed a feeling prevalent among many Indians: "We will not be complete without our brothers south of the border."

It appears that everything is being done to get into a state of readiness for the mighty latter day thrust that will rock the nations and will once again elevate God's covenant people to their rightful place. Isaiah saw this great miracle:

"Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things?  
Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall  
a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she  
brought forth her children." Isaiah 66:8

It is my sincere belief that as a Church, we will not find completeness until we are fully committed to the gathering Israel. If God's casting away of Israel because of transgression brought about the turning of God to the Gentiles, what shall their return be? Paul says:

"For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of  
the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life

from the dead?" Romans 11:15

The work of this divine commission is going to take dedicated and fully committed lives. We may even be called upon to make supreme sacrifices. On May 15, 1967, Sister Angeline Biscotti had a dream in which there was great trouble in the world. As she stood in the doorway of her home, a group of horsemen all dressed in white shining armor riding pure white horses rode up to her and her husband and said, "Tell the people to get ready and be ready for further instructions." She said in her dream, she felt that we would be sent some place away from their home. When this dream was presented to the General Church, the General Priesthood felt that God was pleased with the action in authorizing the Quorum of Twelve to visit throughout the Church to warn and exhort our people.

In order to help us fulfill this commission, the Lord has repeatedly told us that we are His Church. We may have some weaknesses that need to be overcome or some commitments that need to be met, but as Sister Connie Moraco saw in a dream submitted to the General Church in April, 1958: a personage spoke to her concerning some of the things we needed to correct, but he said, "Remember you belong to the true Church."

I would conclude that because God has given us many experiences and considerable knowledge about our commission as a Church, the spiritual responsibility, the blood of this generation may be in our hands. The seriousness of our plight is expressed by Ezekiel:

"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die;  
and thou givest him not warning nor speakest to warn  
the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the  
same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood  
will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the  
wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from  
his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity: but thou has  
delivered thy soul." Ezekiel 3:18-19

Are we equal to the task? I say we are!