



The IRON ROD



OUR CHARGE AS MISSIONARIES IS TO TEACH AND TESTIFY OF CHRIST AND THE RESTORATION AND INVITE ALL TO COME AND BE BAPTIZED UNTO REPENTANCE THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE PARTAKERS OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF LIFE.

President's Message

October 1992

Remember to Remember

The scriptures as Alma taught, "enlarge the memory of this people." (Alma 37:8.) In an attempt to stir them up in remembrance of their duty, Book of Mormon prophets often reminded the people of how merciful the Lord had been to their fathers (see Alma 4:19, 5:6.)

As we stir ourselves to a remembrance of our duty we might ask, "have we sufficiently retained in remembrance our spiritual heritage pertaining to this great latter-day restoration?" The work of the Lord in the latter days is an epic of unprecedented proportions. **The Prologue:**

Five hundred years ago Columbus arrived in the new world. This promised land had been kept in reserve from the knowledge of other nations so that a land of liberty could be "discovered" in preparation for the restoration. We learn from the Book of Mormon and latter-day prophets that the work of Columbus and the Founding Fathers were preliminary steps, a Great Prologue, leading up to the fulfillment of the covenants the Lord made with Abraham.

A Latter-Day Prophet Like Unto Moses:

The opening sentence of the Restoration Story was spoken by the Father himself as He introduced His Beloved Son to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Subsequently, through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, the priesthood and all of its keys were restored, the Book of Mormon published, the Church organized, missionaries sent out, and the gathering commenced.

The Gathering and Restoration of Israel:

We learn from the title page of the Book of Mormon that one of the primary purposes of the book "is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel the great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that we may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever" but will be gathered in the latter days. The covenant referred to is the Abrahamic Covenant which includes the promise that Abraham and his posterity through Isaac and Jacob are entitled to all of the blessings of the gospel. Our part of the covenant includes the need for personal righteousness and the responsibility to offer the gospel to others. It has been Abraham's seed that has carried out missionary activity in all dispensations since Abraham's day. In the latter days it is at the hand of Joseph, primarily Ephraim, and by the record of Joseph, the Book of Mormon, that missionary work will be done and Israel will be gathered.

The Lord speaks of the coming forth of the Book of

Mormon as a sign when the gathering shall be about to take place. When people begin to know and believe the Book of Mormon, it is a sign that the work of the Father has already commenced unto the fulfilling of His covenant to gather the House of Israel. (see 3 Nephi 21:1-7.) In our day Satan will have dominion over all the earth among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people. The covenant people of the Lord, relatively few in numbers, will be upon all of the face of the earth and will be armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory. (see 1 Nephi 14:11-17.)

The restoration which is taking place, is first and foremost a spiritual gathering. This spiritual gathering happens when a person becomes a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which is the kingdom of God on the earth. The same covenants given to Abraham are made available to us. This includes the covenant of salvation which is given at baptism and the covenant of exaltation which is given in the temple.

A close reading of the promise in Moroni 10:3-4 about how we may know the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon reveals that as we ponder what we have read we must also "remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things..." This remembrance is an important part of what we are to ponder in our hearts. As we ask our prayers will certainly be answered and we will be reminded again of the love and mercy of the Lord.

The Epilogue:

The final part of this marvelous work and a wonder is yet to be written, but we know the outcome of the story. It will be as Joseph Smith prophesied:

The Standard of Truth has been erected; no unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done.

With Love,

President Lunt