

## LETTERS

## Elder Joseph F. Burton's Vision of the Seven Prophets of the Last Days

Since more than one have written me of late relative to the above-named vision, each making the mistake in accepting the term of *presidents* instead of *prophets*, I think it will be well to refresh the memory of all who may be making that mistake. The term *may* mean presidents, and it may not. According to Joseph's words, and as he wrote it, the voice said *prophets*.

The vision was given him in answer to prayer, as to there being prophets in our day. It was early after he came into the church and he had not at that time accepted that part of the latter-day message. Remember he had not so much as heard of such a people, or their teachings until the gospel came to us at San Benito in 1873, and he was baptized in about two weeks after hearing it, so all the doctrine was very new to him.

I do not think it necessary to reproduce the whole vision; only the part that speaks of the prophets.

In his dream or vision he thought he was sitting up in the bed. He says, "I found myself holding my hands together, and opening them—as one would open a book—found I was holding a spearhead. It dropped into seven pieces lengthwise—the first piece off one side, the second piece was the full length from the tip of the spearhead to the end of the staff. The other side fell into five pieces.

"As I sat examining these, the man who had spoken before said, 'These are the seven prophets of the last days, two have been; i. e., one was, and one is.' I then thought this, Joseph was, and Joseph is. It is forty years since Joseph came; if the other five have forty years each, it will be two hundred years yet before Christ comes, and that is too far off. The man answered my thoughts by saying, 'Why do you murmur, and wonder in your thoughts? Behold, the other five come quickly.'

"I awoke; the day was just dawning. . . ."

The reader will see that there is nothing to indicate the duration of any of these five, nor that they would be succeeding presidents of the church. We read that there are to be two prophets in Jerusalem just prior to the end, who shall be slain, and also read that a prophet shall lead the lost tribes down from the north country. These may be included,

But it does indicate the length of time that the five will cover, or nearly so, which would be a little less time than from 1830 to the death of the second Joseph, since we see that "the prophet that *was* and the prophet that *is*—at that time—took the spearhead from the base to top, and the other five were all from the other side, but did not change the dimensions of the spearhead. Therefore the five would cover about the same time that the first two did, which would be eighty-four years.

The terrible war that he beheld in the vision given him in Sacramento, May 26, 1878—whose smoke darkened all Europe, and rolled to America, was doubtless the recent "World War." It was so unparalleled in its dreadfulness he may have *thought* that it was the last war; but in the vision it does not say so.

The war was followed by famine, plagues, floods, fires, and all evils ever spoken of; but through it all, the servant of God passed unharmed, and calm as a child shouting his message of "bind up the law, and seal up the testimony."

This evidently referred to all the true servants of God. Could not have been personal because he passed away before the great war, and is a word of encouragement truly to the missionaries.

E. B. BURTON.

We regret to learn that Elder S. B. Kibler, an old-time resident of Woodbine, Iowa, who has been in California for some time, died November 7 and the body was to be interred at Woodbine on the 14th.

## Leadership

We find that our people as a whole are a very responsive and lovable body. If we were to answer this question, "What is the greatest need of our people to-day?" my answer would be, Leadership. A leadership among our locals that could constantly radiate into the hearts of our membership the fact that God is love. A leadership that would constantly manifest the true shepherd or pastoral-like spirit, the sweet and noncoercive, and yet ever-affirming spirit of Jesus.

(From a letter of John L. Cooper, DeKalb, Illinois, November 2, 1920.)

## Leaders and Teachers

In church, home, and community life, efficient and consecrated men and women are being qualified and trained in child welfare, relief and service work, and in the education of both old and young.

At the council meeting of the Women's Department, yesterday, Pastor Roy V. Hopkins spoke of the fine opportunities presented to the Saints on these lines of service, urging all to be diligent at this special time of need for earnest workers.

Also at the annual convention of Jackson County Sunday school delegates, there were several enthusiastic speakers on this line of work.

Professor C. H. Nowlin, of the Northeast High School, Kansas City, in addressing them on the subject of "efficient teachers" said: "We need leaders as well as teachers," and Mr. Sterling L. Williams, after "treating" in a royal manner the subject of "the vim, and enthusiasm and go-ahead" of the Latter Day Saints of Independence, gladly listened to an appreciative thank-you speech from a humble visitor of that persuasion, who happened to be present, and whom they decorated with a badge. Mr. William's subject was "leaders of boys and girls," as in the printed program.

We must have leaders and teachers right away, while the presidency and hundreds of the priesthood and laity, in turning their thoughts to a Zion redeemed are engaged, heart and mind, might and strength, toward education in its various phases, and as President Elbert terms it, "the development and cultivation of Christian characteristics that will enable the people to work together."

ABBIE A. HORTON.

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

## News From Philadelphia

On Monday evening we have our Oriole circles. We have quite a number of circles, and one night they will cook, another play, and sometimes have a prayer meeting. Altogether they have very good times.

Tuesday night is Religio night and here is where we receive knowledge. On the Tuesday night before Halloween we had a masquerade party and it was lots of fun helping Brother Osler duck for apples.

Wednesday evening belongs to Temple Builders, and Thursday is our prayer meeting night. Here is where we receive many wonderful blessings and also at the young people's prayer meeting, which is held at eight o'clock Sunday morning. One Sunday it is at the First Church and the next at the Second Branch.

Friday night is for the Boy Scouts, and we now have a full organized and registered troop.

On Sunday the 14th we are to have Consecration Day. At 4 p. m. we are to have a prayer meeting, which is for consecration of self for the success of the campaign now being held for the building of the auditorium. At the close of the meeting, which is for the entire Philadelphia District, lunch will be served by the First Branch, after which we will have a rousing song service.

At the evening service we shall have the pleasure of hearing Brother C. Ed. Miller address us. At this meeting the amount pledged for the building of the auditorium will be announced. Philadelphia pledges up to date amount to \$11,000 which