

EVIDENCES THAT JOSEPH SMITH, THE MARTYR, WAS A PROPHET OF GOD.

BY ZENOS H. GURLEY AND ISAAC SHEEN,

A COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY A SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH
OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS' FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS.

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."—*Amos 3 : 7.*

The *Pearl of Great Price*, which was printed in Liverpool, England, in 1851, contains the following prophesy, which is now being fulfilled :

A REVELATION AND PROPHECY BY THE PROPHET, SEER, AND REVE- LATOR, JOSEPH SMITH.

Given December 25, 1832.

"VERILY thus saith the Lord, concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls. The days will come that war will be poured out upon all nations, beginning at that place; for behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; and thus war shall be poured out upon all nations. And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshalled and disciplined for war. And it shall come to pass also, that the remnants who are left of the land will marshal themselves, and shall become exceeding angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation; and thus, with the sword, and by bloodshed, the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn; and with famine, and plague, and earthquakes, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath and indignation, and chastening hand of an almighty God, until the consumption decreed, hath made a full end of all nations; that the cry of the saints, and of the blood of the saints, shall cease to come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, from the earth, to be avenged of their enemies. Wherefore, stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold it cometh quickly, saith the Lord. Amen."

The *Pearl of Great Price* which contains this revelation is yet in our possession, and

can be seen by any person who desires to see it. It is also in the possession of many persons to this day. The revelation was kept in manuscript by Joseph the Martyr, and often read to brethren who are witnesses of the fact to this day. It was re-published in *The True Latter-Day Saints' Herald*, in November, 1860, which was also before the rebellion of South Carolina commenced. The rebellion which *had commenced* in South Carolina when this revelation was given, was not that which was referred to in this revelation, but "the wars that *will shortly come to pass*, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina," are there foretold. It was thus shown that at a future time, which would "shortly come," the wars upon all nations would commence with a rebellion of South Carolina, and that the Southern States would *then* be divided against the Northern States. They were not thus divided when this revelation was given. In no State except South Carolina were a majority of the people in favor of rebellion, or nullification as it was called. The plea, or excuse for that rebellion, was not in reference to slavery in the least, but in reference to the tariff. The anti-slavery party was then very small, and very unpopular in every Northern State. There was then scarcely a man to be found anywhere (except a few Latter-Day Saints) who believed that the time would come when the Southern States would be divided against the Northern States, much less that the commencement of it would be by the "rebellion of South Carolina," and that then the Southern States would call upon Great Britain and other nations, and that slaves would then rise up against their masters, who would be marshalled and disciplined for war. These events have all transpired precisely as they were foretold in this revelation. Why have they transpired? The revelation shows why these events would transpire, and why war upon all nations, and famine, plague and earthquakes, &c., will make a full end of all nations. This is the purpose of God in bringing these judgments upon the nations, as this revelation

shows: "that the cry of the saints, and of the blood of the saints, shall cease to come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, from the earth, to be avenged of their enemies." When this revelation was given, there had not been any saints in our day whose blood had been shed, that we have any account of, but in less than a year afterward the blood of saints began to be shed, and from time to time afterward, and these judgments are being poured out, that at the end thereof the cry of the saints, and of the blood of the saints may cease to come up into the ears of the Lord.

Joseph the Martyr received a revelation in October, 1833, in Perrysburgh, N. Y., in which the Lord said:

"Now I give unto you a word concerning Zion: Zion shall be redeemed, although she is chastened for a little season. Therefore, let your hearts be comforted, for all things shall work together for good to them that walk uprightly, and to the sanctification of the church; for I will raise up unto myself a pure people, that will serve me in righteousness." B. of C. 97: (95) 4.*

It was not until more than a month after this revelation was given, that the saints were driven from Zion, but in this revelation it was shown that this event would transpire, for Zion could not "be redeemed" if the saints had not been driven from Zion, but in these words it was foretold that Zion would be chastened for a little season, but that she will be redeemed. The chastening came suddenly and unexpectedly in the following month, when the saints were driven out of the centre place of Zion, which was Jackson Co., Mo. It was shown in the foregoing quotation that the church was not then sanctified, but that all things should work together for good, to sanctify the church, that the Lord might raise up unto himself a pure people. It was thus shown that the church was not then sanctified, and that the Lord had not then raised up a pure people. The chastisements which the saints have experienced, have been in accordance with this prophesy. The saints were driven out of Jackson Co. Mo., in November, 1833, and in the following month the Prophet Joseph received a revelation, in which the Lord said:

"Verily I say unto you, concerning your brethren who have been afflicted, and persecuted, and cast out from the land of their inheritance, I, the Lord, have suffered the affliction to come upon them wherewith they have been afflicted, in consequence of

their transgressions; yet, I will own them; and they shall be mine in that day when I shall come to make up my jewels.

"Therefore, they must needs be chastened, and tried, even as Abraham, who was commanded to offer up his only son; for all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me, can not be sanctified.

"Verily I say unto you, notwithstanding their sins, my bowels are filled with compassion toward them; I will not utterly cast them off; and in the day of wrath I will remember mercy. *I have sworn, and the decree hath gone forth by a former commandment which I have given unto you, that I would let fall the sword of mine indignation in the behalf of my people: and even as I have said, it shall come to pass.* Mine indignation is soon to be poured out without measure upon all nations, and this will I do when the cup of their iniquity is full. And in that day, all who are found upon the watch tower, or in other words, all mine Israel shall be saved. And they that have been scattered shall be gathered; and all they who have mourned shall be comforted; and all they who have given their lives for my name shall be crowned. Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion; for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God. Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered, they that remain and are pure in heart, shall return and come to their inheritances; they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to build up the waste places of Zion. And all these things, that the prophets might be fulfilled." B. of C. 98: 1, 2, 4.

The sword of God's indignation has fallen and is yet falling heavily upon the enemies of Zion. Notwithstanding the proximity of Jackson Co., Mo., to free States, it is nearly desolated by this rebellion, and the adjacent counties, where the saints were driven from, have been desolated in like manner. The enemies of Zion did not believe that this prophesy would be fulfilled, and although the sword of God's indignation has fallen, and is yet falling upon them, they do not consider that they are now being punished for exiling and persecuting the saints. When they were engaged in this wicked work, they would not believe that they would ever be driven into exile, and afflicted, as they were driving and afflicting the saints; but these judgments have come upon them, and the end is not yet. These afflictions were allowed to come upon the saints because there were transgressors among them, but an awful judgment has come upon those who afflicted the saints, and the worst is yet to come. Afterward the children of Zion who have been scattered, and those who remain

* References in this tract to the "B. of C.," mean the Book of Doctrine and Covenants of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

alive, and are pure in heart, shall return and come to their inheritances, they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to build up the waste places of Zion.

In the same revelation the Lord also says: "I say unto you, those who have been scattered by their enemies, it is my will that they should continue to importune for redress, and redemption, by the hands of those who are placed as rulers, and are in authority over you, according to the laws and constitution of the people, which I have suffered to be established, and should be maintained for the rights and protection of all flesh, according to just and holy principles, that every man may act in doctrine and principle pertaining to futurity, according to the moral agency which I have given unto them, that every man may be accountable for his own sins in the day of judgment. Therefore, it is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another. And for this purpose have I established the constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men, whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood.

"Now, unto what shall I liken the children of Zion? I will liken them unto the parable of the woman and the unjust judge. * * Thus will I liken the children of Zion.

"Let them importune at the feet of the judge; and if he heed them not, let them importune at the feet of the governor; and if the governor heed them not, let them importune at the feet of the President; and if the President heed them not, then will the Lord arise and come forth out of his hiding place, and in his fury vex the nation, and in his hot displeasure, and in his fierce anger, in His time, will cut off those wicked, unfaithful, and unjust stewards, and appoint them their portion among hypocrites and unbelievers; even in outer darkness, where there is weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Pray ye, therefore, that their ears may be opened unto your cries, that I may be merciful unto them, that these things may not come upon them. What I have said unto you, must needs be, that all men may be left without excuse; that wise men and rulers may hear and know that which they have never considered; that I may proceed to bring to pass my act, my strange act, and perform my work, my strange work. That men may discern between the righteous and the wicked, saith your God." B. of C. 98: 10-12.

The saints did as the Lord commanded them. They importuned at the feet of the Judge at Independence, Jackson, Co., Mo., and at the feet of the Governor of Missouri, and at the feet of Martin Van Buren, the President of the United States, and they all

heeded them not, therefore did "the Lord arise and come forth out of His hiding place, and in His fury vex the nation, and in His fierce anger," in this "His time," he is cutting off those wicked, unfaithful and unjust stewards, who persecuted, drove and killed His saints, just precisely as He said that He would in this revelation. These things are coming to pass that all men may be left without excuse, and wise men and rulers do now hear and know that which they never considered until this rebellion began to be developed. These things were to come to pass, and they have come to pass, that the Lord may bring to pass His act, His strange act, and these events are a part of His strange act, and He is now performing His "strange work," "that men may discern between the righteous and the wicked."

The Lord is pouring out His wrath without measure upon those who have smitten and driven His saints, precisely as He said that He would, in a revelation which was given in February, 1834, in which the Lord said:

"Verily I say unto you, my friends, behold, I will give unto you a revelation and commandment, that you may know how to act in the discharge of your duties concerning the salvation and redemption of your brethren, who have been scattered on the land of Zion, being driven and smitten by the hands of mine enemies; on whom I will pour out my wrath without measure in mine own time; for I have suffered them thus far, that they might fill up the measure of their iniquities, that their cup might be full." B. of C. 100: (101) 1.

A revelation which was "given on Fishing River, Missouri, June 22, 1834," contains the following prediction, which is now being fulfilled:

"Behold, the destroyer I have sent forth to destroy and lay waste mine enemies; and not many years hence, they shall not be left to pollute mine heritage, and to blaspheme my name upon the lands which I have consecrated for the gathering together of my saints." B. of C. 102: 4.

There are now very few of the Lord's enemies left to pollute His heritage, and to blaspheme His name, upon the lands which He had consecrated for the gathering together of His saints. The fulfillment of this prophesy is therefore nearly completed.

The next prophesy which we will examine, and which has been in part fulfilled, is the following, given July 23, 1837:

"Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth—a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation—and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.

"And upon my house shall it begin, and

from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord. First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name, and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord." B. of C. 105: (104) 9, 10.

The calamities which are here spoken of, commenced first upon the Church of J. C. of L.-D. S. in the following year, (1838) as it is shown in the History of the Persecutions of the Latter-Day Saints, (page 56) and in the Times and Seasons, vol. 1, p. 2. In the year 1839, the saints were driven from Missouri. June 27, 1844, the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum, were martyred at Carthage, Ill., and in 1846 the saints were driven from Illinois. Thus judgment begun at the house of God, as it was foretold in the prophesy we have quoted, and as Peter prophesied. See 1 Pet. 4: 17. Thus "a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping and of lamentation" commenced, first among those who were among the saints, but who were not saints. These calamities were judgments upon them, and chastisements upon the saints. Afterward vengeance came speedily upon this nation, and now there are fearful apprehensions that it will soon come upon the world generally.

This prophesy was confirmed by another, which is in a revelation which was given Jan. 19, 1841, as follows:

"The day of my visitation cometh speedily, in an hour when ye think not of, and where shall be the safety of my people, and refuge for those who shall be left of them?" B. of C. 107: (103) 2.

It was here shown that when the day of God's visitation should come, only a remnant of His people should be left of them. So it has come to pass, and the day of His visitation has come.

That which was foretold in paragraph 14 of the same revelation, has also come to pass. There the Lord said:

"If you build an house unto my name, and do not do the things that I say, I will not perform the oath which I make unto you, neither fulfill the promises which ye expect at my hands, saith the Lord; for instead of blessings, ye, by your own works, bring cursings, wrath, indignation and judgments upon your own heads, by your follies, and by all your abominations, which you practice before me, saith the Lord." B. of C. 107: (103) 14.

The saints did not do the things which the Lord commanded, in all things, therefore these calamities came upon them. Nevertheless the Lord accepted the offerings of those who labored with all their might to do the work which the Lord commanded them, as the next paragraph shows, as follows:

"Verily, verily I say unto you, that when I give a commandment to any of the sons of men, to do a work unto my name, and those sons of men go with all their mights, and with all they have, to perform that work, and cease not their diligence, and their enemies come upon them, and hinder them performing that work; behold, it behooveth me to require that work no more at the hands of those sons of men, but to accept of their offerings; and the iniquity and transgression of my holy laws and commandments, I will visit upon the heads of those who hindered my work, unto the third and fourth generation, so long as they repent not, and hate me, saith the Lord God. Therefore, for this cause have I accepted the offerings of those whom I commanded to build up a city and an house unto my name, in Jackson Co., Mo., and were hindered by their enemies, saith the Lord your God; and I will answer judgment, wrath and indignation, weeping and anguish, and gnashing of teeth, upon their heads, unto the third and fourth generation, so long as they repent not, and hate me, saith the Lord your God." B. of C. 107: (103) 15.

"Judgment, wrath and indignation," has not only come upon those who hindered the Lord's work in Jackson Co., Mo., but it has come upon their children, and their children's children, unto the third and fourth generation, as it was foretold in this revelation.

In a revelation which was given to Joseph Smith, the Martyr, in March, 1829, the Lord said:

"A desolating scourge shall go forth among the inhabitants of the earth, and shall continue to be poured out, from time to time, if they repent not, until the earth is empty, and the inhabitants thereof are consumed away, and utterly destroyed by the brightness of my coming. Behold I tell you these things even as I told the people of the destruction of Jerusalem, and my word shall be verified as it hath hitherto been verified." B. of C. 4: (32) 3.

The cholera was "a desolating scourge," and the *Evening and Morning Star* of July, 1832, contains an extract from the London *Quarterly Review*, which says: "It was introduced into Europe at the mouth of the Volga, on the Caspian Sea, in 1830." In the following month, the *Star* said, "this desolating sickness is spreading steadily over the United States." At that time cholera was "a desolating scourge." At this time the rebellion in this country is "a desolating scourge;" so it continues "to be poured out from time to time," as the Lord foretold in this revelation.

We will now direct the attention of our readers to the following prophecy, which is

now being fulfilled:

"You are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts; wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father, that they shall be gathered in unto one place, upon the face of this land, to prepare their hearts, and be prepared in all things, against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked; for the hour is nigh, and the day soon at hand, when the earth is ripe." B. of C. 28: (69) 2.

Tribulation and desolation are now sent forth upon the wicked, as it was foretold in this prophesy. When it was given (Sept. 1830,) this nation was in great prosperity, and there were scarcely any persons in the nation who expected that such calamities would befall it as those which we now experience.

Another prophesy which is now fulfilling was given in December, 1830, and is in the B. of C. 34: (11) 3, as follows: "There shall be a great work in the land even among the Gentiles, for their folly and their abominations shall be made manifest in the eyes of all people."

The folly and abominations of the Gentiles in the land, (this land,) has brought forth a great war—a great war—a great destruction of life, and great distress upon the land.

Another fulfilled prophesy is in par. 4 of the same revelation, in which the Lord said: "I have called upon the weak things of the world, those who are unlearned and despised, to thresh the nations by the power of my Spirit; and their arm shall be my arm, and I will be their shield and their buckler, and I will gird up their loins, and they shall fight manfully for me; and their enemies shall be under their feet; and I will let fall the sword in their behalf; and by the fire of mine indignation will I preserve them." "Unlearned and despised" men, by the power of the Holy Spirit have fought spiritually, and their enemies have been confounded by their words. The Lord has let fall the sword in behalf of His people as He promised in this revelation, but when it was given, who could see how it would be done, or what need there would be of it? There had then been no revelations given concerning Zion in Missouri, and all the persecutions which the saints endured afterwards, were hid from them. Notwithstanding there was no visible probability that this event would transpire, yet it is now transpiring. In the same revelation the Lord said, "Zion shall rejoice upon the hills and flourish." Par. 6. In the prosperity of the cause of Zion which ensued after this promise was given, the fulfillment of it was realized.

In January, 1831, the Lord forewarned the saints as follows:

"Now I show unto you a mystery, a thing which is had in secret chambers to bring to pass even your destruction, in process of time, and ye knew it not, but now I tell it unto you." B. of C. 38: (12) 4. In par. 6 of the same revelation, the Lord also said: "again I say unto you that the enemy in the secret chambers, seeketh your lives. Ye hear of wars in far countries, and you say that there will soon be great wars in far countries, but ye know not the hearts of men in your own land. I tell you these things because of your prayers: wherefore, treasure up wisdom in your bosoms, lest the wickedness of men reveal these things unto you, by their wickedness, in a manner that shall speak in your ears, with a voice louder than that which shall shake the earth; but if ye are prepared, ye shall not fear."

There were secret plottings against the saints at that time which they knew not of, but subsequent experience demonstrated the truth of this revelation, and the wisdom of God in giving this warning, both in reference to His saints, and, in reference to this nation.

Another fulfilled prophesy is in the B. of C. 39: (59) 4, as follows: "Inasmuch as my people shall assemble themselves to the Ohio, I have kept in store a blessing such as is not known among the children of men, and it shall be poured forth upon their heads."

The blessing which was promised in these words, was realized in the endowment which many of the elders received in the temple in Kirtland, and the blessing consisted in a great outpouring of the Holy Ghost, and an additional qualification to preach the gospel, and there are many witnesses to the fact that they did receive these blessings. In par. 6 the Lord said:

"It shall come to pass, that on as many as ye shall baptize with water, ye shall lay your hands, and they shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and shall be looking forth for the signs of my coming, and shall know me."

Many thousands have testified that they have received the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands of the elders, and the evidence of their reception of it is in every place and at every time where the saints testify by the power and demonstration of the Spirit, and this has been done in many nations and in the presence of hundreds of thousands of people.

The next fulfilled prophesy which we will examine, was given March 7, 1831, and in it the Lord said:

"Verily I say unto you, that great things await you; ye hear of wars in foreign lands, but behold I say unto you, they are nigh,

even at your doors, and not many years hence ye shall hear of wars in your own lands." B. of C. 45: (15) 11.

When this revelation was given, nullification was becoming prevalent in South Carolina, but in this revelation it was shown that war in the United States need not then be expected, but that not many years hence they would hear of wars in their own lands. This is the day of "great things," which was spoken of in this revelation. It was shown in this revelation that the wars which were to be in this land, would not be common wars, but that great things would be connected with them.

In the B. of C. 50: (17) 2, 3, there is another prophecy which is being fulfilled. It reads as follows:

"Behold, I the Lord have looked upon you, and have seen abominations in the church, that profess my name; but blessed are they who are faithful and endure, whether in life or in death, for they shall inherit eternal life. But wo unto them that are deceivers, and hypocrites, for thus saith the Lord, I will bring them to judgment.

"Behold, verily I say unto you, there are hypocrites among you, and have deceived some, which has given the adversary power, but behold such shall be reclaimed; but the hypocrites shall be detected, and shall be cut off, either in life or in death, even as I will, and wo unto them who are cut off from my church, for the same are overcome of the world; wherefore, let every man beware lest he do that which is not in truth and righteousness before me."

When this revelation was given, very little was known, either by the saints or the world, concerning abominations in the church of the saints, and we believe that the general moral character of the church, was at least as good as that of any church in the land, but the unseen germs of iniquity were then seen by God's all-seeing eye, and were then revealed through the prophet, and this was a strong evidence that he was a true prophet, and a teacher of righteousness. Since that day the prophecy has been fulfilled, for "deceivers and hypocrites" have been brought to judgment. Many have suffered much from the judgments of God, which they brought upon themselves; many have been "cut off" by premature deaths, and many have cut themselves off from the true church, and have been "overcome of the world." The Lord said, "hypocrites shall be detected, and shall be cut off, either in life or in death," and so it has come to pass, and terrible has been the judgment of the Most High upon them.

The next fulfilled prophecy which we will examine, is one which was given in August, 1831, in these words:

"There were among you adulterers and adulteresses; some of whom have turned away from you, and others remain with you that hereafter shall be revealed. Let such beware and repent speedily, lest judgment shall come upon them as a snare, and their folly shall be made manifest, and their works shall follow them in the eyes of the people." B. of C. 63: (20) 4.

When such transgressors became numerous in the church, judgment came upon them, and their folly has been made manifest, and their works have followed them in the eyes of all people, therefore the prophesy has been fulfilled.

In par. 9 of the same Sec. the Lord said:

"I, the Lord, am angry with the wicked; I am holding my Spirit from the inhabitants of the earth. I have sworn in my wrath, and decreed wars upon the face of the earth, and the wicked shall slay the wicked, and fear shall come upon every man, and the saints also shall hardly escape; nevertheless, I, the Lord, am with them, and will come down in heaven from the presence of my Father, and consume the wicked with unquenchable fire. And behold this is not yet, but by and by; wherefore, seeing that I, the Lord, have decreed all these things upon the face of the earth, I willet that my saints should be assembled upon the land of Zion; and that every man should take righteousness in his hands, and faithfulness upon his loins, and lift a warning voice unto the inhabitants of the earth; and declare both, by word and by flight, that desolation shall come upon the wicked."

The time has come which was here foretold, that the wicked should slay the wicked, and fear has come upon every man, and the saints hardly escape. Truly desolation has come upon the wicked, as it was foretold in this prophesy.

In par. 15 the Lord said:

"Let all men beware how they take my name in their lips; for, behold, verily I say, that many there be who are under this condemnation; who use the name of the Lord, and use it in vain, having not authority. Wherefore let the church repent of their sins, and I, the Lord, will own them, otherwise they shall be cut off."

Because many in the church did not repent of their sins, the church was cut off, as they were forewarned in this revelation. At the death of Joseph the Martyr, the church was "cut off" by being disorganized.

In September, 1831, a revelation was given, in which was a prophesy which was to be, and was fulfilled in five years afterwards. The Lord said:

"I, the Lord, willet to retain a strong hold in the land of Kirtland, for the space of five years, in the which I will not over-

throw the wicked, that thereby I may save some; and after that day, I, the Lord, will not hold any guilty that shall go, with an open heart, up to the land of Zion." B. of C. 64: (21) 4.

After five years had passed away, Kirtland ceased to be "a stronghold" of the church. Persecution and apostacy greatly reduced the number of the saints in that place, so that the prophesy was fulfilled.

In par. 7 of the same revelation, is the following fulfilled prophesy:

"Behold, the Lord requireth the heart, and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days; and the rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion, and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the land; for, verily, I say that the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim, wherefore they shall be plucked out. Behold, I, the Lord, have made my church in these last days, like unto a judge sitting on a hill, or in a high place, to judge the nations; for it shall come to pass, that the inhabitants of Zion shall judge all things pertaining to Zion; and liars, and hypocrites shall be proved by them, and they who are not apostles and prophets shall be known."

As it was foretold in this prophesy, the rebellious have been cut off out of the land of Zion, and they have been sent away. When this revelation was given, there was no visible probability that such an event would transpire. It was only about three or four months before it was given that the saints began to gather to Missouri. See Evening and Morning Star, p. 24. On Feb. 4, 1831, it had not been revealed where Zion, the New Jerusalem would be built. In a revelation which was then given, the Lord said, "thou shalt ask, and it shall be revealed unto you in mine own due time, where the New Jerusalem shall be built." B. of C. 42: (13) 17. As only three or four months had passed away after the commencement of the gathering to Missouri, when the Lord said that the rebellious should be cut off out of the land of Zion, and that they should be sent away, and as the saints in Zion were living in peace, there were no visible indications that this prophesy would be fulfilled, therefore the revelation could not have been the work of a man, or of men, but it contained the word of the Lord concerning the rebellious in Zion, and it contained a prophesy of an event, which to outward observers was an unexpected event, but it has been fulfilled. Liars and hypocrites have been proved by those who are striving, by keeping the commandments of God, to become inhabitants of Zion. Those only who keep the commandments will be inhabitants of Zion. The Lord said in this prophesy,

"liars and hypocrites shall be proved by them, and they who are *not apostles and prophets* shall be known." It was here foretold that there would not only be liars and hypocrites among the saints, but that there would be false apostles and false prophets among them, for the evident meaning of the prophesy is, that men would arise among the saints who would say that they were apostles and prophets, and that the saints would know that they were not, but that they were liars and hypocrites.

In B. of C. 85: (7) 21, it is shown that the Lord would send laborers into the ministry "again." They were there commanded as follows:

"Teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom; teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that is expedient for you to understand; of things both in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth; things which have been; things which are; things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home; things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations; and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries, and of kingdoms, that ye may be prepared in all things when I shall send you *again*, to magnify the calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with which I have commissioned you."

We hold, that it is here shown that the laborers in the ministry would cease to be sent for a season, and that "again" they would be sent. There is therefore here a foreshadowing of the apostacy and the disorganization of the church, and of its reorganization, when laborers would be sent forth "again."

This apostacy is also foretold in B. of C. 87: (85) 2, in these words, which were given in March 1833:

"Verily I say unto you, (t)Joseph, the keys of this kingdom shall never be taken from you, while thou art in the world, neither in the world to come; nevertheless, through you shall the oracles be given to another; yea, even unto the church. And all they who receive the oracles of God, let them beware how they hold them, lest they are accounted as a light thing, and are brought under condemnation thereby; *and stumble and fall, when the storms descend, and the winds blow, and the rains descend, and beat upon their house.*"

It was here foretold that storms would descend upon the Church of Jesus Christ of L.-D. S., and that the winds of adversity would blow upon it, and that the rains would descend, and beat upon it, and the saints were forewarned that they should not

account the oracles of God, a light thing, lest they should "stumble and fall" when that time should come. The "house" spoken of here is evidently the church, for the church is spoken of in this paragraph.

In B. of C. 92: (96) 1, the apostacy of "many" who had been ordained among the saints, before the revelation was given, which was in June, 1833, was foretold in these words:

"Verily, I say unto you, there are many who have been ordained among you, whom I have called, but few of them are chosen: they who are not chosen have sinned a very grievous sin, in that they are walking in darkness at noonday."

Many have fallen away, as it was foretold in this revelation, and yet it is a prevalent opinion that this general apostacy shows that the Church of Latter-Day Saints was not the Church of Christ. If many had not, or should not fall away, this revelation would be false, consequently this great apostacy of many who were called but not chosen, is an evidence in favor of the faith from which they have fallen.

The prophesy in B. of C. 94: (82) 5, is being fulfilled; it was given in Aug. 1833. In it the Lord said:

"Behold and lo, vengeance cometh speedily upon the ungodly, as the whirlwind, and who shall escape it; the Lord's scourge shall pass over by night and by day; and the report thereof shall vex all people; yet, it shall not be staid until the Lord come; for the indignation of the Lord is kindled against their abominations, and all their wicked works; nevertheless Zion shall escape if she observe to do all things whatsoever I have commanded her, but if she observe not to do whatsoever I have commanded her, I will visit her according to all her works, with sore affliction, with pestilence, with plague, with sword, with vengeance, with devouring fire; nevertheless, let it be read this once in their ears, that I, the Lord, have accepted of their offering; and if she sin no more, none of these things shall come upon her, and I will bless her with blessings, and multiply a multiplicity of blessings upon her, and upon her generations, forever and ever, saith the Lord your God. Amen."

Vengeance has come upon the ungodly in this land by this war, and upon other lands there is great distress in consequence of it, and from other causes, and Zion has not escaped, because she did not observe to do all things whatsoever the Lord commanded her, therefore she has been visited with sore affliction, and with sword, and vengeance. These chastisements came upon Zion in about three months after this revelation was given, and from time to time since then, and

all these chastisements will yet come upon her, if she does not observe to do all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded her. The speedy and unexpected fulfillment of these words of the Lord, is an evidence of the truth of this prophesy.

In B. of C. 61: (72) 1, which was given in August, 1831, the Lord says:

"Behold, there are many dangers upon the waters, and more especially hereafter, for I, the Lord, have decreed in mine anger, many destructions upon the waters; yea, and especially upon these waters; nevertheless, all flesh is in mine hand, and he that is faithful among you, shall not perish by the waters."

This revelation was given on the bank of the Missouri River, (see Times and Seasons vol. 5, p. 464.) therefore the waters spoken of as "these waters," is the Missouri, and perhaps the Mississippi and its tributaries, and "especially upon these waters" there are now "many destructions."

In all the revelations which we have examined, Joseph the Seer spoke the word of the Lord, which has come to pass, and we have not heard or read of any prophet who prophesied of so many wonderful events which transpired in so short a time. We can not find one revelation which has been given to the church through Joseph, which has been proved to be false, so that the words of Moses have no reference unto him, which he spoke saying:

"And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." Deut. 18: 21, 22.

According to this rule you can not say that the Lord hath not spoken by Joseph the Choice Seer, for he prophesied of many unprecedented events which did "follow" the predictions. These prophesies were not spoken presumptuously, but daily we behold a fulfillment of many of his prophesies, and the commencement *emphatically* of that which was prophesied of concerning him in the Book of Mormon, in these words:

"It shall come to pass, that whatsoever will not believe in my words, whom Jesus Christ, whom the Father shall cause *him*, (Joseph the Choice Seer,) to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto *him*, power that *he* shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant." B. of Nephi, 9: 9.

Many who would not believe have already been cut off by this rebellion.