

Doctrinal References For

The Articles Of
Faith And Practice

Of
The Church Of Christ

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Church of Christ

With Headquarters on the Temple Lot
Independence, Missouri

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ARTICLE # 1 God the Father

A) We believe in God the Eternal Father, who only is supreme;

- 1) Jn. 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing"
- 2) Jn. 6:38 "the will of him that sent me."
- 3) Jn. 8:29 "I do always those things that please him."
- 4) Jn 14: 28 Father greater than I.
- 5) Jn 17: 1 Father the hour is come.
- 6) 1 Cor 8:6 There is but one God, the Father.
- 7) 1 Cor 15: 24-28 deliver up the kingdom.
- 8) Mrni 8: 3 God the father.

B) Creator of the universe;

- 1) Alma 16: 54-55 There is a supreme creator.
- 2) Eph 3: 9 Who created all things by Jesus Christ.
- 3) Col 1: 15-19 He is the image of God, By Him were all things created and for Him.
- 4) Heb 1: 1-3 By whom also he made the worlds.
- 5) Rev 3:14 "the beginning of the creation of God" (the Son)

C) Ruler and judge of all;

- 1) Rom 2: 16 God shall judge...by Jesus Christ.
- 2) John 5: 22 all judgment unto the son.
- 3) Acts 17: 30-31 Judge to world...by that man.
- 4) Rev 20:11-13 dead before him...books opened.
- 5) Mos 8: 83-84 Bar of God.
- 6) Alma 8: 104 Judgment bar of Son, Father.
- 7) 2 Ne 6: 36-37 Holy judgment of God.

D) Unchangeable and without respect of persons:

- 1) Mal 3: 6 I change not.
- 2) Acts 10: 34 No respect of persons.
- 3) Jam 1: 17 No variableness.
- 4) Alma 5: 35 Neither doth he vary.
- 5) 2 Ne 11: 112-115 all alike unto God.
- 6) Mor 4: 68, 82 yesterday, today and forever.
- 7) Moroni 8:19 not a changeable being.

ARTICLE # 2 Jesus Christ the Son

A) We believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God

- 1) John 3:16-18 God sent His Son.
- 2) Acts 13:32-33 "...Thou art my Son..."
- 3) Alma 3:83 "...Jesus Christ...the Son, the only begotten of the Father..."
- 4) Luke 4:41 "Thou art Christ the Son of God"
- 5) 2 Peter 1:17-18 "This is my beloved Son"
- 6) Alma 7:40-42 "the Only Begotten of the Father"
- 7) Alma 9:54-55 "mine only begotten Son"

B) The manifestation of God in flesh

- 1) John 1:1 & 14 "...the Word was with God...the Word was made flesh..."
- 2) Alma 5:22-23 "...the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh..."
- 3) [Rom 8:3] "...God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh..."
- 4) 2 Cor 4:4-6 "...who is the image of God..."
- 5) 2 Ne 11:21 "...shall manifest himself unto them in the flesh..."
- 6) Ether 1:69-82 "...I shall take upon me flesh and blood..."

C) Who lived, suffered, and died for all mankind

- 1) Luke 24:44-47 "it behoved Christ to suffer"
- 2) Alma 5:17-23 "...he shall go forth, suffering pains, and afflictions, and temptations of every kind...He will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people; and he will take upon him death...take upon him their infirmities...the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh..."
- 3) Romans 5:6-17 "...we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..."
- 4) Hebrews 2:9 "...Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death...taste death for every man"
- 5) 2 Ne 1:66-79 "...offereth himself a sacrifice for sin..."
- 6) Helaman 5:68-71 "...it behooveth him, and becometh expedient that he dieth..."

D) Whom we own as our only Leader, Witness and Commander.

- 1) John 10:7-16 "...I am the good shepherd..."
- 2) Heb 13:20 "...our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep..."
- 3) 1 Peter 5:3-5 "...the chief Shepherd..."
- 4) Rev 1:5 "Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness... prince of the kings of the earth"
- 5) Rev. 3:14 "the Amen, the faithful and true witness"
- 6) Ether 1:31-35 "...serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ..."

ARTICLE # 3 The Holy Ghost**A) We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter**

- 1) John 14:15-17 "...another Comforter...the Spirit of truth..."
- 2) John 15:26 "...Comforter...the Spirit of truth..."
- 3) Jac 3:19 "for the Spirit speaketh the truth, and lieth not..."
- 4) Alma 16:57 "the spirit of the truth"
- 5) Alma 20:2 "the truth, according to the spirit of prophecy and revelation"
- 6) Moroni 8:29 "visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter"

B) Which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, reveals things to come

- 1) John 16:13-14 "...he will guide you into all truth...he will shew you things to come...for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."
- 2) Rom. 8:26-27 "searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit"
- 3) 1 Cor 2:10-14 "...God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God..."
- 4) 1 Ne 3:26-32 "...the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in this time as in times of old..."

- 5) John 14:21 "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them... loveth me"
- 6) 1 Ne 3:193-195 "come according to the words... establish by the mouth of the Lamb"
- 7) Hel 2:71-72 "...the Lord...not come to redeem them in their sins, but...from their sins."
- 8) 3 Ne 5: 68 "...except ye shall keep my commandments..."
- 9) 3 Ne 7:2 "...whoso remembereth these sayings of mine, and doeth them..."
- 10) 3 Ne 10: 31 "...hearken unto my words..."

B) Faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ

- 1) Mark 11:22-23 Have faith in God.
- 2) John 3:15-17 "...whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
- 3) Rom 14: 23 Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.
- 4) Heb 11: 6 Without faith it is impossible to please God.
- 5) Mrni 7: 24-25 By faith men are saved.
- 6) Mrni 10: 15-17 Not able to be saved without faith.

C) Repentance:

- 1) Matt 3: 1-2 Preached by John. (Mark 1:15)
- 2) Matt 4: 17 Preached by Jesus.
- 3) Mark 1:15 "kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye"
- 4) Mark 6: 12 Preached by the disciples.
- 5) 2 Ne 6: 48-49 Commandeth all men to repent.
- 6) Mos 2: 16-17 Must repent of your sins.
- 7) Hel. 5:69-72 "conditions of repentance"
- 8) III Ne. 12:33 "Repent, all ye ends of the earth"
- 9) Mrni 8: 11 Teach parents they must repent.

D) And baptism

- 1) Matt 3: 13-16 "Then cometh Jesus... to be baptized"
- 2) Mt. 28:19 "baptizing them"
- 3) Mr. 16:16 "baptized shall be saved"
- 4) Acts 8:12 "they believed Philip... they were baptized, both men and women."
- 5) Acts 10:48 "And he commanded them to be baptized"
- 6) 2 Ne. 13:12-17 Jesus said, "Follow thou me"
- 7) 3 Ne 5:34; 40 "whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved"
- 8) 3 Ne. 10:31 "baptized, the same shall be saved"
- 9) Mrmn 4:86 "baptized, shall be saved"

E) by immersion.

- 1) John 3:5 Must be born of water
- 2) John 3:23 Much water
- 3) Acts 8:38-39 Down into, up out of the water
- 4) Rom 6:4-5 Buried in baptism
- 5) Matt 3:16 Jesus went up out of the water
- 6) 3 Ne 5:23-26 prescribed method of baptism
- 7) Mos 9:43-45 "stood forth in the water... buried in the water... arose and came forth out of the water"

F) for the remission of sins

C) And is the medium by which we receive the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- 1) Mat 16:13-17 "...flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee..."
- 2) Acts 13:1-3 "...the Holy Ghost said..."
- 3) 1 Cor 12:3 "...no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost"
- 4) Eph 1:17 "...the spirit of wisdom and revelation"
- 5) Eth 1:105-106 "...him will I visit with the manifestations of my Spirit..."
- 6) Mor 6:9 "...after the manner of the workings of the Spirit..."
- 7) Mor 10:3-7 "...he will manifest the truth... by the power of the Holy Ghost..."

ARTICLE # 4 Adam's Sin, Judged by Works, Little Children

A) We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression

- 1) Rom 2:1-13 "Who will render to every man according to his deeds"
- 2) 2 Cor 5:10 "...that every one may receive the things done in his body..."
- 3) Rev 20:12 "...the dead were judged...according to their works."
- 4) 2 Ne 12:65-66 "...I will judge the world, every man according to his works..."
- 5) Mos 1:125-126 "Whereof, they shall be judged, every man, according to his works, whether they be good, or whether they be evil"
- 6) Rom 5:12-19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
- 7) Gen 3:17-19 the curse of Adam, death.

B) And that as a consequence of the atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the law. For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, can not repent; and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:25-26)

- 1) Mat. 18:3 "be converted, and become as little children"
- 2) Mark 10:13-16 "...for of such is the kingdom of God."
- 3) John 15:22-24 "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."
- 4) Acts 17:29-30 "...the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent"
- 5) Rom 5:13 For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
- 6) 2 Ne 6:51-56 "Wherefore he hath given a law; and where there is no law given there is no punishment"
- 7) Mos 1:107 "...his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam...not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned.

ARTICLE # 5 Atonement, Obedience, Principles, Ordinances

A) We believe that through the atonement of Christ all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel; viz.:

- 1) Matt 7: 21-27 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord...but he that doeth the will of my Father."
- 2) Mat 28:20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you"
- 3) Luke 6: 46-49 He that hears and does not.
- 4) John 12:48 "the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him"

- 5) Heb 2:4 God bears witness with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?
- 6) 3 Ne 13:59-60 wo unto him that shall deny the revelations, prophecy, gifts, tongues, healings, and the power of the Holy Ghost.
- 7) Mormon 1:15 no gifts because wickedness and unbelief.
- 8) Mormon 4:66-68 He that denieth these things, knoweth not the gospel of Christ.
- 9) Mor 10:20 For if there be one among you that doeth good, he shall work by the power and gifts of God.

B) The word of wisdom; the word of knowledge; the gift of faith; the gift of healing; working of miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits; divers kinds of tongues; interpretation of tongues.

- 1) Acts 2:4-11 The disciples spoken in tongues.
- 2) Acts 2:17-18 The last days: visions and dreams.
- 3) 1 Cor 12:1-11 Gifts of the Spirit listed.
- 4) Alma 7:31 prophecy, revelation, many gifts; speaking with tongues, the gift of preaching, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and the gift of translation.
- 5) Moroni 10:8-14, 18 gifts given to promote the ministry of Christ.

ARTICLE # 8 Fruits of the Spirit

We believe the fruit of the spirit to be love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

- 1) Mat 5:43-44 love your enemies.
- 2) Mat 22:37-40 the two great commandments.
- 3) Gal 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
- 4) Galatians 5:22-23 fruits of the Spirit.
- 5) Eph 5:9 fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth.
- 6) 2 Ne 14:11 the spirit teacheth a man to pray.
- 7) Mos 3:3 Spirit wrought a mighty change in us, to do good continually.
- 8) Mor 7:10-11 that which is of God, inviteth and enticeth to do good continually.

ARTICLE # 9 Bible, Book of Mormon, Fullness of Gospel

A) We believe that in the Bible is contained the word of God

- 1) Psalms 33:11 "The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever"
- 2) Hosea 12:9-10 "I have also spoken by the prophets"
- 3) John 12:47-50 "I know that his commandment is life everlasting"
- 4) 2 Pet 1:19-21 "...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."
- 5) 1 Ne 3:161-166 "these things go...according to the truth which is in God"
- 6) 1 Ne 3:238-248 "Lord God hath ordained the apostle of the Lamb of God that he should write them."

B) that the Book of Mormon is an added witness for Christ

- 1) Psalms 85:10-11 "Truth shall spring out of the earth"
- 2) Isaiah 29:1-14 "speak from the dust."
- 3) Ezek 37:15-20 "Two sticks"
- 4) John 10:16 Other Sheep

- 1) Mark 1:4 "baptized...confessing their sins."
- 2) Luke 3:3 "baptism of repentance for the remission of sins"
- 3) Acts 2:38 "baptized... for the remission of sins"
- 4) 2 Ne 13:24 "baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins"
- 5) 3 Ne 1:27 "baptizing unto repentance... remission of sins"
- 6) 3 Ne 3:69 "baptized with water... and received a remission of their sins"
- 7) 3 Ne 5:49 "baptized... remission of their sins"
- 8) 3 Ne 14:3 "baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins"
- 9) Mrni 8:12 "baptism is unto repentance... unto the remission of sins"
- 10) Mrni 8:29 "baptism cometh by faith... bringeth remission of sins"

G) Laying on of hands for

- 1) **Ordination:** Deut 34:9; Acts 6:6, 13:3; Alma 4:1; 3 Ne 8:70-71; Mrni 3:1-3.
- 2) **Blessing of children:** Gen 48:14; Matt 19:14-15; Mark 10:16; Luke 2:27-40; Luke 18:15; 3 Ne 8:23.
- 3) **Confirmation and the Gift of the Holy Ghost:** Acts 8:17, 19:6; 1 Tim 4:14; Mor 3:2; Mrni 2:1-2.
- 4) **Healing of the sick:** Matt 8:1-3; Mark 5:23; 6:5;16:18; Luke 13:13; Acts 28:8; Jam 5:14; Mor 4: 87.

ARTICLE # 6 The 2nd Coming, Millennium, Resurrection, Judgement

A) We believe in the literal Second Coming

Job 19:25; Mat 16:27; Mat 24:3-51; Acts 1:11; Rev 16:15; 22:12-13; 3 Nephi 11:30; 13:18

B) And millennial reign of Jesus Christ

Isaiah 11:1-16; Rev 11:15; 20:1-8; 1 Ne 7:47-62; 3 Ne 11:19-24

C) In the resurrection of the Dead

John 5:28-29; 11:24-27; 1 Cor 15:20-21; Job 19:25-27; 2 Ne 6:11-16; 28-32; Mosiah 8:53-60; 81-91; Alma 8:99-107; Hel 5:68-74; Mormon 4:72

D) And in Eternal Judgment

John 12:48; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 14:10-12; Rev 20:12-15; 2 Ne 6:36-37; 11:30; Mosiah 11:197-199; Alma 8:98-104; 19:26-30; Mormon 1:86-87

E) That men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.

1 Cor 3:8; 2 Cor 5:10; Rev 20:12; 22:12; Mosiah 1:126; Alma 3:31; 16:197; 19:66-71; 3 Ne 11:32-33; 12:26-30; Mormon 1:86-87

ARTICLE # 7 Gifts of the Spirit

A) We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting Gospel; viz.:

- 1) 1 Thes 1:5 Gospel came in power.
- 2) Rom 11:29 Gifts of God are without repentance.
- 3) 1 Cor 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts.
- 4) 1 Cor 12:28 God put in the church miracles & gifts.

- 5) 1 Ne 3:191-194 last records will establish the truth of the first
- 6) 2 Ne 11:39; 48 we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophecy of Christ
- 7) 2 Ne 12:60-62 the testimony of the two nations shall run together
- 8) 3 Ne 5:3-12 Behold I am Jesus Christ

C) and that these contain the “fullness of the gospel.” (BC 44:13)

- 1) Romans 11:13-26 until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.
- 2) 1 Ne 4:14-18 “...the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles...”
- 3) BC 44:13 the Bible, and the book of Mormon, in the which is the fullness of the gospel

ARTICLE # 10 Continuous Revelation, Canon

A) We believe in the principle of continuous revelation

- 1) Daniel 2:28 “...there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets...”
- 2) Amos 3:7 “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”
- 3) 1 Cor 2:7-13 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit...”
- 4) 1 Cor 12:3-11 “there are diversities of gifts”
- 5) James 1:17 “no variableness, neither shadow of turning”
- 6) 1 Ne 1:82-83 “...since the world began, even down unto this present time.”
- 7) Jac 3:9-11 “...despise not the revelations of God.”
- 8) Mormon 4:66-68 “...you, who deny the revelations of God”
- 9) Mor 10:9-14 “...all these gifts... never will be done away”

B) That the canon of scripture is not full

- 1) John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.
- 2) Col 4:16 missing epistle of the Laodiceans
- 3) 1 Co 5:9 first letter to the Corinthians missing
- 4) Luke 1:1-4 many have written of Jesus
- 5) 1 Chron 29:29; 2 Chron 9:29 lost scripture
- 6) 1 Ne 3:190-196 “I beheld other books which came forth by the power of the Lamb”
- 7) 1 Ne 5:218-224 “...these plates... upon the first plates”
- 8) 2 Ne 12:55-73 “...I command all men...they shall write the words which I speak unto them”
- 9) 3 Ne 12:1-5 “...the greater things be made manifest unto them.”
- 10) Ether 1:98-113 “...I will shew unto you the greater things”

C) That God inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom He may choose.

- 1) Acts 2:17-18 our sons and daughters prophesy.
- 2) 1 Cor 12:10-11 “...to another prophecy...dividing to every man severally as he will.”
- 3) Eph 3:5 “as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit”
- 4) Alma 12:4-5 “they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation”
- 5) Alma 16:145-146 “...he imparteth his word...unto men...women...little children...”

ARTICLE # 11 Local Church Organization

We believe that where there are six or more regularly baptized members, one of whom is an elder, there the Church exists with full power of church extension when acting in harmony with the law of God.

- 1) Acts 14:23 "...they had ordained them elders in every church..."
- 2) Titus 1:5 "...ordain elders in every city..."
- 3) Alma 2:11 Elders over the church.
- 4) Alma 2:23 Some accepted by the voice of the people.
- 5) Alma 4:1 Elders were in the church to watch over it.
- 6) Mrni. 3:1; 6:7 The church needs ministry to perform the ordinances and administer the law of God.
- 7) Outline History page 37 "six in number" and the ordination of the first elders.
- 8) Referendum Bill No. 2, 1935
- 9) Referendum Bill No. 1, 1960

ARTICLE # 12 Callings and Authority

A) We believe that a man must be called of God by revelation

- 1) Matt 9:37-38 pray that the father will send workers
- 2) Matt 10:1-4 Jesus called twelve disciples
- 3) Mark 3:13-15 "...calleth unto him whom he would..."
- 4) Luke 6:12-16 He called his disciples
- 5) John. 15:16 "I have chosen you, and ordained you"
- 6) Acts 13:1-3 "...the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work..."
- 7) Rom 10:14-15 "...how shall they preach, except they be sent?"
- 8) Hebrews 5:4-6 called as was Aaron
(*Exodus 28:1 Aaron called by revelation*)
- 9) 2 Ne 5:2-3 "...I, Jacob, having been called of God, and ordained after the manner..."
- 10) 3 Ne 9:4 "...the disciples whom Jesus had chosen."

B) And ordained by those having authority, to enable him to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances thereof.

- 1) Numbers 27:18-20 laying on of hands
- 2) John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you..."
- 3) Acts 13:3-4 prayed and laid their hands on them
- 4) 1 Timothy 4:14 by the laying on of hands
- 5) 2 Ne 5:2-3 ordained after a holy order
- 6) Jacob 1:18 consecrated priests and teachers
- 7) Mosiah 9:51 Alma, having authority, ordained
- 8) Alma 9:72 "...ordained with an holy ordinance..."
- 9) 3 Ne 5:21-22 Christ gave power to baptize
- 10) Moroni 2:1-3 "...ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your hands..."
- 11) Moroni 3:1-3 the manner of ordaining

ARTICLE # 13 Church Structure Apostolic

A) We believe in the same church organization as existed in the time of Christ and His Apostles.

- 1) 1 Cor 12:27-31 "God hath set some in the church"
- 2) Efe 2:19-22 "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets"
- 3) Efe 4:11-16 "Till we all come in the unity of the faith"
- 4) 3 Ne 12:19-23 "then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel."
- 5) 3 Ne. 12:34-35 "ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do, that shall ye also do;"
- 6) BC 4:5 "I will establish my church"
- 7) BC 23:4 "this church to be built up unto me, even as in days of old"

B) The highest office in the church is that of an apostle, of whom there are twelve, who constitute special witnesses for Jesus Christ.

- 1) Mat 10:1-15 "These twelve Jesus sent forth..."
- 2) Mat 28:18-20 "Go ye...and teach all nations..."
- 3) Mark 16:14-15 "Go ye into all the world..."
- 4) Acts 1:21-22 "...must one be ordained to be a witness with us..."
- 5) Acts 2:38-42 "...did he testify and exhort..."
- 6) Acts 9:13-16 "...he is a chosen vessel unto me..."
- 7) 1 Cor 12:27-31 "...first apostles..."
- 8) 1 Ne 3:165-167 "...the twelve apostles bear record"

C) They have the missionary supervision and the general watch care of all the churches.

- 1) Acts 2:42 "they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship"
- 2) Acts 8:14-17 "...the apostles...they sent unto them Peter and John"
- 3) Acts 15:2-22 "...apostles and elders came together for to consider..."
- 4) 3 Ne 5:45 "...Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve..."
- 5) 3 Ne 12:14-16 "it came to pass that the disciples were gathered together"
- 6) BC 24:32-34 "...watch over the church..."
- 7) Bill No. 2, 1935 "...the Quorum of twelve, in having the general oversight of the whole church..."

ARTICLE # 14 Mission of the Church

The primary function of the general church, of which each local church is a component part, is missionary and the building up and extension the Kingdom of God in all the world.

- 1) Mat 24:14 "...this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world..."
- 2) Mat 28:18-20 "...Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..."
- 3) Mark 16:15-16 "...Go ye into all the world..."
- 4) Rev 14:6 "...the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people"
- 5) Mosiah 1:121 "...the knowledge of a Savior shall spread throughout every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."
- 6) 3 Ne 5:43 "...declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth."
- 7) 3 Ne 12:33-35 "...this is the commandment, Repent, all ye ends of the earth..."
- 8) Mormon 4:86 "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature..."

ARTICLE # 15 Local Church Government, Articles

A) We believe that local churches should govern their own affairs

- 1) Acts 20:28-30 "...the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers..."
- 2) Moroni 6:9 "...conducted by the church, after the manner of the workings of the Spirit..."
- 3) Bill No. 2, 1935, Paragraph 4 & 8

B) And that general church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to the Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby. Bill No. 2, 1935, Para. 4 & 8

- 1) Mos. 11:99-100 Alma instructed the priests. "notwithstanding there being many churches they were all one church"
- 2) Mos. 11:112 "those who committed sin that were in the church, should be admonished by the church"
- 3) Mos. 11:142 & 146 "Alma did regulate all the affairs of the church". (See also: Alma 1:15 & 42; Alma 2:4 & 11)
- 4) Alma 2:23 Alma selected a man and gave him "power according to the voice of the people"
- 5) Alma 4:1-4 "priests and elders... to preside and watch over the church... they began to establish the order of the church"
- 6) Alma 21:24-25 & 73; Alma 29:54-56 "Helaman and the high priests did also maintain order in the church."
- 7) 3 Ne 5:45 "Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve"
- 8) 4 Ne 1:1 "the disciples of Jesus had formed a church of Christ in all the lands"
- 9) Mrni 6:7-8 The elders maintained order in the church.
- 10) Mrni 6:9 "meetings were conducted by the church"
- 11) Mat. 18:17 There was discipline in the church.
- 12) Acts 14:23 "elders in every church"
- 13) Acts 14:27 "And when they... had gathered the church together"
- 14) Acts 15:6 & 22 "And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter."
- 15) Acts 20:17 Paul "called the elders of the church" together.
- 16) Acts 20:28 To the elders Paul said "the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God."
- 17) 1 Co. 6:4 Said of the elders, "set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church."
- 18) 1 Co. 11:34 Paul said, "And the rest will I set in order when I come."
- 19) Titus 1:5 Paul left Titus in Crete to put the church in order. "thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting"

ARTICLE # 16 Equality Among Men

A) We believe the Church of Christ comprehends the true brotherhood of man

- 1) Mat 22:36-40 "...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."
- 2) John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples..."
- 3) Gal 5:14 "For all the law is fulfilled in one word..."
- 4) 1 John 4:7-21 "He that loveth not knoweth not God..."
- 5) Jacob 2:22-28 "Think of your brethren, like unto yourselves..."
- 6) Mosiah 1:48-51 "...when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God."
- 7) Alma 1:39-42 "...the priest, not esteeming himself above his hearers..."

B) where each esteems his brother as himself

- 1) Dt. 10:17-19 "Love ye therefore the stranger"
- 2) Acts 10:34-35 "God is no respecter of persons... in every nation"
- 3) Acts 17:26 "of one blood all nations of men"
- 4) Rom. 2:11 "For there is no respect of persons with God." (See also Rom. 3:29-30; 10:12-13)
- 5) Gal 3:28 "for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."
- 6) Col. 3:11 "Christ is all, and in all."
- 7) 2 Ne 11:103 "free for all men; and he hath commanded his people that they should persuade all men to repentance."
- 8) 2 Ne 11:112-115 "inviteth them all to come unto him... he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female"
- 9) Jacob 2:27-28 "all flesh is of the dust; and for the self-same end hath he created them, that they should keep his commandments, and glorify him for ever."
- 10) 3 Ne 5:33 "the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me"

C) And wherein the divine command to "love your neighbor as yourself" is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.

- 1) Hch. 2:42-47 "all that believed were together, and had all things common"
- 2) Acts 4:31-35 "...they had all things common."
- 3) Mosiah 11:151-155 "...there should be an equality among all men..."
- 4) Mosiah 13:44-45 "...every man may enjoy his rights and privileges alike..."
- 5) 3 Ne 12:11 "...they had all things common among them, every man dealing justly, one with another."

ARTICLE # 17 Stewardship

A) We believe that all men are stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth

- 1) Mat 5:31-46 "I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat..."
- 2) Luke 12:42-48 "Who then is that faithful and wise steward..."
- 3) Luke 16:1-2 "...give an account of thy stewardship..."
- 4) Rom 14:12 "...every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

B) But for the manner in which such wealth is secured.

- 1) Lev 19:11-13 "Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour..."
- 2) Deut 23:18-19 "Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother..."
- 3) Rom 13:13 "Let us walk honestly, as in the day..."
- 4) 1 Thes 4:11-12 "...do your own business..."
- 5) 2 Ne 4:26 "...be industrious, and to labor..."
- 6) Mos 11:5 "...they were industrious and did labor exceedingly."

C) The primary purpose of stewardship is not the increase of church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of the common fatherhood of God

- 1) Mat 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven..."
- 2) Rom 14:17-21 "...follow after the things which make for peace..."
- 3) 2 Cor 5:20 "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ"

- 4) Eph 4:6 "One God and Father of all..."
- 5) 1 Tim 4:10 "...who is the Saviour of all men..."
- 6) 1 Pet 1:17 "...the Father, who without respect of persons..."
- 7) 2 Ne 1:120 "the great mediation of all men"
- 8) 2 Ne 6:45 "he cometh into the world that he may save all men, if they will hearken unto his voice"
- 9) 2 Ne 13:29 "having... a love of God and of all men."
- 10) Alma 15:44 "the Redeemer of all men"
- 11) Mormon 3:29 "he hath brought to pass the redemption of the world"

D) And the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life

- 1) Rom 12:3-13 "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."
- 2) Rom. 15:1-3 "every one of us please his neighbour"
- 3) Gal 6:10 "...let us do good unto all men..."
- 4) Phil 2:2-4 "...let each esteem other better than themselves."
- 5) 1 John 2:8-11 "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light..."
- 6) Mos 1:50 "...ye ought to labor to serve one another?"
- 7) Mos 11:152-154 "...every man should esteem his neighbor as himself..."
- 8) Alma 1:39-46 "...they were all equal..."

E) And to maintain such social adjustment that each may enjoy the bounty and gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.

- 1) Acts 2:42-47 "had all things common"
- 2) Acts 4:32-37 "...they had all things common."
- 3) 1 Cor 16:1-3 "...bring your liberality unto Jerusalem."
- 4) 1 Pet 4:10-11 "...good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
- 5) Mos 9:60-64 "...should impart of their substance..."
- 6) 4 Ne 1:3-4 "...they had all things common among them..."

ARTICLE # 18 Labor and Paid Ministry

A) We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents.

- 1) Gen 3:17-19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread..."
- 2) Exodus 20:8-10 "Six days shalt thou labour..."
- 3) 2 Thes 3:10 "...if any would not work, neither should eat."
- 4) 1 Tim 5:8 "...if any provide not for his own..."
- 5) Mos 1:46 & 50 "...labored with mine own hands..."
- 6) Mos 11:4-5 "...they were industrious and did labor exceedingly."

B) Ministers of the gospel are not absolved from this responsibility

- 1) Acts 18:1-3 "...he abode with them, and wrought..."
- 2) Acts 20:33-35 "...these hands have ministered unto my necessities..."
- 3) 2 Thes 3:7-10 "...wrought with labour and travail..."
- 4) 1 Pet 5:2-3 "...not for filthy lucre..."
- 5) Mos 9:57-59 "...priests...should labor..."
- 6) Alma 1:37-39 "...priest...returned again diligently unto their labors"

C) But when chosen or appointed by the church to devote their entire time to missionary work, their families are to be provided for out of the general church funds.

- 1) 1 Co. 9:6-14 Paul and Barnabas "have not we power to forbear working?."
- 2) 1 Tim 5:18 "The labourer is worthy of his reward."
- 3) 2 Tim 2:4-6 "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life"
- 4) 2 Th 3:8-9 They worked without obligation "Not because we have not power."
- 5) Mos 9:62 "...those priests that stood in need..."
- 6) Mos 11:153-155 "...in all cases save...in much want..."

D) The admonition of Christ that the ministry should not provide purse of scrip for their journey, but go trusting in God and the people is applicable. Mat 10:9-10

- 1) Mat 10:9-10 Provide neither gold... for the workman is worthy of his meat."
- 2) Luke 22:35-36 "But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it"
- 3) 3 Ne 6:1-12 "Jesus... looked upon the twelve whom he had chosen... But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

ARTICLE # 19 The General Bishopric, Temporal Affairs

A) We believe that the temporal affairs of the general church are to be administered by the general bishopric under the direction of the general conferences of the church and under the supervision of the Council of Twelve.

- 1) Acts 6:2-6 "...seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."
- 2) 1 Cor. 12:28 "helps, governments"
- 3) This is not to say that in biblical times the first group of seven men were called by the name of "bishops", because in the scriptures the word bishops refers to an elder in the church. The church today uses the name to refer to the seven ministers that have the responsibility over the temporal business.
- 4) Bill No. 3, 1931 Duties of Bishops

B) The temporal affairs of the local churches shall be administered by local bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.

- 1) This last phrase means that the General Church will not interject itself into the affairs of local congregations. The funds and collections of the local congregation are to be administered by the local ministers and committees, en conjunction with the local treasurer as decided by the voice of the congregation.
- 2) 1 Cor. 16:1-4 "gatherings (collections)... whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters"
- 3) 2 Cor. 8:1-6 "they were willing of themselves"
- 4) 2 Cor. 9:12-15 "your liberal distribution unto them"
- 5) 3 Ne 12:11 "all things common... every man dealing justly, one with another."
- 6) 4 Ne 1:3-4 "but they were all made free"

ARTICLE # 20 Marriage and Divorce

A) We believe that marriage is ordained of God

- 1) Gen 2:18 "...not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."
- 2) Mat 19:3-6 "...God hath joined together..."
- 3) 1 Tim 4:1-3 "Forbidding to marry..."

- 4) Heb 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all..."
- 5) 3 Ne 8:52 "Pray in your families unto the Father...that your wives...may be blessed."
- 6) 4 Ne 1:12 "...they were married, and given in marriage, and were blessed..."
- 7) BC 52:16 "...for marriage is ordained of God unto man"

B) And that the law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman.

- 1) Rom 7:2-3 "...bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth..."
- 2) 1 Cor 7:1-3 "...let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."
- 3) 1 Tim 3:2 & 12 "...husband of one wife..."
- 4) Titus 1:6 "...husband of one wife..."
- 5) Jacob 2:36 "...have save it be one wife..."
- 6) Ether 4:48 "...did not do that which was right in the sight of the Lord, for he did have many wives..."
- 7) BC 44:22 "...love thy wife with all thy heart, and shall cleave unto her and none else..."
- 8) BC 52:17 "...should have one wife..."

C) In case of a breach of this covenant by adultery

- 1) Ex. 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (See also Mosiah 7:121)
- 2) Lev. 20:10 "adultery with another man's wife"
- 3) Lev. 20:15 "man lie with a beast"
- 4) Prov. 6:32 "But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul."
- 5) Mat. 5:27-30 "committed adultery with her already in his heart" (3 Ne. 5:76-80)
- 6) Rom. 1:26-27 "women did change the natural use... likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman"
- 7) 1 Cor. 5:1 "...that one should have his father's wife."
- 8) 1 Cor. 6:15 "shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot?"

D) The innocent one may remarry.

- 1) Mat 5:32 "...saving for the cause of fornication..."
- 2) Mat 19:9 "...Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication..."
- 3) 3 Ne 5:80 "...saving for the cause of fornication..."
- 4) Priesthood Guide, Page 65; 71; 75

ARTICLE # 21 War and Self Defense

A) We are opposed to war.

- 1) Ps 68:30 "...scatter thou the people that delight in war."
- 2) Ps 120:6-7 "I am for peace..."
- 3) Matt 26: 50-52 Peter uses a sword and Jesus' response.
- 4) Rev 13: 10 Law of God against bloodshed.
- 5) Alma 19: 7-9 Shedding of innocent blood next to unforgivable sin.
- 6) 3 Ne 2: 22-28 Gidgiddoni would not attack Gadiantons.
- 7) Ether 3: 93 The shedding of blood forbidden.
- 8) Mor 1: 70-81 Mormon would not lead Nephites in battle.
- 9) Bill No. 1, 1951

10) Bill No. 2, 1998

B) Men are not justified in taking up arms against their fellows

- 1) Mt 5:38-39 Turn the other cheek
- 2) Rom 12:17-21 "...avenge not yourselves..."
- 3) Heb 10:30 God will repay vengeance
- 4) Mormon 1:80 Revenge is God's
- 5) Mormon 4:25 "...Man shall not smite..."

C) except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.

- 1) Gen 9: 6 Man, the right of self government.
- 2) Deut 20: 1-20 Law of warfare.
- 3) Jos 6: 17-21 Battle of Jericho
 - a) 8: 18-29 Battle for Ai
 - b) 10: 29-43 Southern Palestinian campaign.
 - c) 11: 1-15 Northern Palestinian campaign.
 - d) 11: 16-23 Summary of battles.
- 4) 1 Sam 17: 1-58 David and Goliath, (v 26, 36, 37, 45-47, 51)
- 5) 2 Sam 22:35 "He teacheth my hands to war..." (Ps 144:1)
- 6) Matt 8: 5-13, Luke 7: 1-10 Centurion (captain of 100 soldiers) had greater faith than Israel.
- 7) Matt 27: 54; Mark 15: 39; Luke 23: 47 Centurion glorified God. "this was the Son of God"
- 8) Luke 22: 35-38 He that has no sword sell his garment and buy one.
- 9) Acts 10: 1-8 A centurion, devout, feared God, First Gentile convert
- 10) Rom 12:18 Peace, if it is possible
- 11) Rom 13: 1-7 Rulers not a terror, he is the minister of God, he beareth not the sword in vain.
- 12) 1 Ne 1: 103-120 Nephi commanded to slay
- 13) 1 Ne 3: 152-156 Gentiles fight for freedom
- 14) 2 Ne 7: 17-25 Lord will fortify this land
- 15) Alma 20: 3-16 The desires of Amelekites & Zoramites vs. Nephites.
- 16) 20: 33-34 Moroni's reasons for defense.
 - a) 20: 47-52 Inasmuch as you are not guilty of the first and second offense
 - b) 20: 60-73 Moroni speaks of his reasons for defense.
 - c) 20: 78-97 Lamanites forced into peace covenant.
 - d) 21: 37-71 The story of the title of liberty.
 - e) 21: 132-141 The faith of Moroni the captain of the Nephite army.
 - f) 23: 1-26 Kingmen forced to fight for liberty.
- 17) 3 Ne 2:22-28 "...he will deliver them into our hands."
- 18) 3 Ne 2: 29-87 Gidgiddoni's victory and strategy over Gadiantons.

ARTICLE # 22 Gathering and Restoration of Israel

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, and in the restoration of the ten lost tribes.

A) The Re-gathering of Israel

- 1) Isa 11:10-16 "...Lord shall set his hand again the second time...shall assemble the outcasts of Israel..."
- 2) Isa 49:9-23 "...shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders..."

- 3) Jer 31:10-14 "...He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock."
- 4) Eze 36:16-24 "gather you out of all countries"
- 5) 1 Ne 3:16-19 "...they should be gathered together again..."
- 6) 2 Ne 7:13-15 "...they shall be gathered in from their long dispersion..."
- 7) 2 Ne 11:20 "...possess the land of Jerusalem..."
- 8) 3 Ne 10:5-8 "...the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people..."
- 9) BC 41:10 "Thou shalt preach the fullness of my gospel which I have sent forth in these last days; the covenant which I have sent forth to recover my people, which are of the house of Israel.
- 10) BC 48:21-25 "...they shall be gathered again..."

B) Jerusalem will be restored again

- 1) Isa 24:23 "...the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem..."
- 2) Isa 65:18-19 "...I will rejoice in Jerusalem..."
- 3) Jer 3:14-17 "...they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord..."
- 4) Joel 3:14-17 "...then shall Jerusalem be holy..."
- 5) Zac 2:10-12 "...shall choose Jerusalem again."
- 6) Zac 8:20-23 "...seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem..."
- 7) Luke 21:20-24 "...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."
- 8) 3 Ne 9:85 "...and then shall Jerusalem be inhabited again with my people..."
- 9) Ether 6:11 "...cometh the Jerusalem of old..."

C) Israel will hear and believe the gospel

- 1) Eze 36:24-28 "...will put my spirit within you..."
- 2) Rom 11:25-27 "...all Israel shall be saved..."
- 3) 1 Ne 3:205 "And the house of Israel shall no more be confounded"
- 4) Mormon 2:39-42 "...unto the unbelieving of the Jews...for this intent...they may be persuaded that Jesus is the Christ..."

D) Christ will be the redeemer of Israel

- 1) Eze 37:21-25 "...one king shall be king to them all..."
- 2) Zec 12:10 "...and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced..."
- 3) 1 Ne 7:22-25 "...shall know that the Lord is their Savior..."
- 4) 2 Ne 7:4 "...our children shall be restored...the true knowledge of their Redeemer."
- 5) 2 Ne 11:24-28 "...shall be persuaded to believe in Christ..."

E) America is the land of the inheritance of the house of Joseph

- 1) Gen 49:22-26 "...unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills..."
- 2) Deut 33:13 "of Joseph...Blessed of the Lord be his land..."
- 3) 2 Ne 7:17 "...this land, saith God, shall be a land of thine inheritance..."
- 4) 3 Ne 7:14 "...this is the land of your inheritance..."
- 5) 3 Ne 9:50; 58-59 "...this people will I establish in this land..."

ARTICLE # 23 Later Day Temple

A) We believe a temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri,

- 1) Firstly, we know there are prophecies, which teach us that a temple will be built once again in Jerusalem in the last days. Ezekiel, chapters 40 thru 49 give us a description of a temple in Jerusalem during the millennium. [Ezek 43:10] Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern. [Ezek 43:11] And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.
- 2) Verse 12 teaches us something very important. It says "This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house." At the present, every part of this mount, where the house of the Lord will be, is occupied by the "sacred enclosure" of the Muslims, and their holy temple, called "Dome Of The Rock." Only Muslims can enter the area.
- 3) The temple of Ezekiel is the same as seen by the prophet Haggai. In Hag 2:6-9 we read, "For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations (description of the tribulation, dem), and the desire of all nations shall come (the coming of Christ, dem): and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.] The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former."
- 4) The day of tribulation shall be a "even the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer 30:7). The Jews will have problems and continual battles, making it impossible to construct the house of the Lord on Mount Moriah until the time when they shall be delivered by the coming of Jesus Christ, as we read in Zechariah 12:1-9 & 14:1-4. For this reason the prophet Zechariah said, "And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord." [Zec 6:12]
- 5) B o C P.83, 48:19, 21 "in Jerusalem of old."
- 6) We believe that among the house of Jacob, here in the America's, another temple will be built to the Lord.
 - a) Isa 2:2, 3 The mountain of the Lord's House.
 - b) Micah 4:1 But in the last days ... the house of the Lord shall be established.
 - c) Mal 3:1-4 suddenly come to his Temple.
 - d) 3 Ne 10:1-4 The Lord will be in the midst.
 - e) Ether 6:4-8 N J like unto Jerusalem of Old.
 - f) Isa 66:1, 5, 6 a voice from the Temple.
 - g) 3 Ne 11: 4; 29 "come to his temple" for future generations.
 - h) B o C P.110, 59:70 "Sidney to dedicate spot."
 - i) Note: *generation*: Webster's Unabridged # 8, *a family; a race; a class; any allied group of persons*. (Obsolete term used by historians to refer to a nation, or empire, etc. ajm). Thus in the sense of Daniel 2:44 "not be left to other people", would apply.

B) Wherein Christ will reveal himself and endow his servants whom he chooses with power to preach the gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue and people, that the promises of God to Israel may be fulfilled.

- 1) Micah 4:1-2 "he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."
- 2) Malachi 3:1-4 "he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness."
- 3) 3 Nephi 9:57-59 "And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you.
- 4) 3 Nephi 10:1-8 "the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst."

- 5) 3 Nephi 11:4; 29 “suddenly come to his temple.” “These scriptures ... be given unto future generations.”
- 6) B o C P.62, 38: 6 “suddenly come to his temple.”
- 7) B o C P.73, 44:29 “I shall come to my temple.”
- 8) B o C P.106, 59:13-16 “And that the testimony might go forth from Zion.”

ARTICLE # 24 The City of New Jerusalem

We believe that a New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land "unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot.

A) First we want to establish our belief that the scriptures speak about two places which will be sanctified by the Lord en the last days:

- 1) [Isa 2:3] “for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”
- 2) [Joel 3:16] The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem.”
- 3) [Zec 1:17] “the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.”
- 4) [Eth 6:6-11] “the house of Joseph shall be built up upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old.”

B) Next, we want to establish our belief that many times the terms Zion and New Jerusalem are the same:

- 1) B o C, P.87, 48:59-63 “...It shall be called the New Jerusalem, and a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the most high God...it shall be called Zion.”
- 2) [2 Ne 7:17-20] “...he that fighteth against Zion.” Verse 20 calls this land Zion and we know that 3 Nephi 10:1-4 talks of the New Jerusalem being built on this land.

C) We believe that a New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land “unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph...”

- 1) 3 Nephi 9:57-59 “...this people will I establish in this land...” “...it shall be a new Jerusalem”
- 2) 3 Nephi 10:1-3 “...then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.”
- 3) Ether 6:6-8 “...a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph.”
- 4) B o C, P.98, 54:1 “...Missouri, upon the land which I will consecrate unto my people, which are a remnant of Jacob, and them who are heirs according to the covenant.”

D) “...which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot.”

- 1) B o C, P.53, 30:8-9 “...the city shall be built...it shall be on the borders of the Lamanites.” (Missouri)
- 2) B o C, P.75, 44:47“...it shall be revealed unto you in my own due time where the New Jerusalem shall be built.”
- 3) B o C, P.87, 48:59-67 “Go ye forth into the western countries...” (Missouri during those times)
- 4) B o C, 106, 59:
 - a) V.8 The elders were in Missouri to be witnesses of the land of Zion.
 - b) V.16 “And that the testimony might go forth from Zion...”
 - c) V.48 They were commanded to purchase lands in Independence.

- d) Vv.62-70 Elder Sidney Rigdon dedicated the region and the site of the temple.
- 5) The Millennial Star, P.77 (1831) *The word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his Saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem.*

E) Possible reasons why the Lord has chosen this area for the New Jerusalem:

- 1) This nation was the first to be established in the last days as a nation of religious liberty and a land of abundance.
- 2) The United States has traditionally been a place of refuge and people from all nations live here.
- 3) Missouri is more or less in the center of the nation and far from the borders of any potential enemy.
- 4) The Missouri River valley is one of the most fertile areas in the world.
- 5) There is usually not a scarcity of rain and therefore no need of irrigation.
- 6) The Temple Lot has been known as an area sacred to Native Americans.

ARTICLE # 25 Tobacco, Liquor, Drugs, Secret Societies

A) We believe that ministry and membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics,

- 1) Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker.
- 2) Proverbs 23:29-32 "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.
- 3) Isaiah 5:11; 22 Woes pronounced on drinkers.
- 4) Luke 21:34-35 Warnings from Jesus about the last days, "surfeiting, and drunkenness".
- 5) 1 Cor 3:16-17 The body is the temple.
- 6) 1 Cor 6:10 Drunkards not saved.
- 7) 1 Cor 6:19-20 Your body the temple.
- 8) 2 Cor 6:14-17 temple of the living God.
- 9) 2 Cor 7:1 Cleanse ourselves of all filthiness.
- 10) 1 Thes 5:4-8 We are of the day, be sober.
- 11) Rev. 9:21 & 18:23 "for by thy **sorceries** were all nations deceived." *Sorceries* in verse 21 is translated from the Greek word *pharmakeia* from which we get our English word "pharmacist" and refers to drug use.
- 12) 2 Nephi 8:80-81 "...wine inflame them."
- 13) Mosiah 1:82 "he dwelleth not in unholy temples." (see also Alma 16:235; Hel 2:59)

B) and should not affiliate with any society which administers oaths of covenants in conflict with the law of God, or which interferes with their duties as free men and citizens.

- 1) Isaiah 45:19 "I have not spoken in secret"
- 2) 1 Nephi 6:22-23 "I have not spoken in secret from the beginning"
- 3) 2 Nephi 6:20-23 "...secret combinations of murder, and all manner of secret works of darkness..."
- 4) 2 Ne 11:95-96 "...the Lord God worketh not in darkness."
- 5) 2 Nephi 11:112-115 "he doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men." No one is excluded.

- 6) Helaman 2:145-149 "...they did unite... covenants... oaths... murders... plunderings... stealings... signs... secret signs... secret words... whoredoms... contrary to the laws of their country and also the laws of their God... secret oaths and covenants... a means of bringing down the people unto destruction."
- 7) Ether 3:80-81; 86-90 "...secret plans...they all swear unto him...administer unto them the oaths...they were kept up by the power of the devil to administer these oaths."

References by Donald McIndoo and Alvin Moser
February, 02