**The Story of the Church of Christ**

**II. The Righteous Ones**

 One of the righteous ones was Enoch, who lived many lifetimes after the days of Adam. We are told Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him. (Genesis 5:24)

 In time the wickedness of mankind became so great that “it repented the Lord that he had made man on earth and it grieved him at his heart.” (Genesis 6:6) There was, however, a man named Noah who found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Noah was a “Just man” who walked with God “. (Genesis 6:8-9) When God cleansed the earth with a great flood, He saved Noah and his family.

 At the time of Noah all the people on earth spoke one language. The people decided to build a tall tower to reach to heaven. God would not permit this to happen. He caused the people to speak many languages and scattered them upon all the face of the earth. They were never able to finish the tower. Even today the people on earth speak many languages and often fail to understand each other.

 Another righteous one was a man called Abraham. God led him from his own country to another land. God said to Abraham “I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee.... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

 In Genesis 14: 18,19, we read “And Melchizadik, King of Salem brought forth bread and wine;’ and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him and said “Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth.” We’ll hear more about Melchizadik.

 God made another agreement with Abraham’s son, Isaac to bless him too. The Lord continued to bless the people through Isaac’s son Jacob, whose name was changed by God to Israel. God’s people came to be known as the children of Israel. Jacob (Israel) had twelve sons, one of whom was Joseph. Joseph’s older brothers became angry and jealous of him. They caused him to be sold as a slave, and he was taken to the land of Egypt. God’s protection was with Joseph, who because a great man in Egypt. He was able to bring his father Isaac and all of his brothers’ families to Egypt when there was no food in their land. The families of Israel lived in Egypt four hundred years. During this time all of them became slaves of the Egyptians. Life was very hard for them, but God had not forgotten them nor the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Righteous Ones (Cont)

 In time, God chose a man names Moses to lead the people out of the land of Egypt and back to Canaan, the land from which they had come---the land promised them by God. After Moses died a good man named Joshua led the people into the promised land. Men called judges were chosen to rule over the people. The men God had chosen were not perfect, but they loved Him and He was able to use them for his purposes.

 The first five books in the Old Testament are sometime called the books of Moses. In them, we find the stories from the Garden of Eden to the end of the life of Moses. Moses, who had once taken credit for something God did, was not allowed to enter the “promised land” with the rest of the people. God expects His people to obey Him. When they don’t, there is always a price to pay.