

glyph notes



Isaiah, Israel, and the Dead Sea Scrolls

By Sherrie Kline Smith

Introduction

Who could have imagined that a humble Bedouin shepherd would make the most remarkable archaeological discovery of the 20th century? But such is the stuff of archaeology—and such is the way of the Lord.

In 1947 the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls came to light. Subsequently over 900 have been discovered. The scrolls date from 250 BC to 68 AD and were written in three languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek—using four alphabets—Hebrew, Paleo-Hebrew, Greek, and a cryptographic alphabet. While the highlight of the scrolls are the religious documents—every book of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) was found except Esther—the scrolls included sectarian and other types of documents, even a list of hidden treasure!

One of the first scrolls discovered was a complete copy of the book of Isaiah.*

Surely this was significant. Additionally, of the 900 scrolls, Psalms represented the most with 36 documents, and Isaiah was second with 21 copies or portions of the book.

Isaiah

Jesus told the Nephites, “Great are the words of Isaiah.” He gave them a commandment to “search these things diligently...” (3 Nephi 10:27).

When Lehi and his family left Jerusalem taking the Brass Plates with them, the book of Isaiah was part of that record. Nephi, Lehi’s son, quoted extensive passages of Isaiah because he thought they were extremely important for his people to know. In 1 Nephi 6:4 he wrote, “But that I might more fully persuade them to believe in the Lord their Redeemer, I did read unto them that which was written by the prophet Isaiah.”

When Jesus appeared to the Nephites in Land Bountiful later in the year after his ascension into heaven, he often quoted from Isaiah to teach about the restoration and deliverance of the house of Israel.

Other Nephite prophets referred to Isaiah including

Abinadi and Moroni.

The importance of the book of Isaiah in relation to the house of Israel and the end times cannot be overestimated. It becomes even more significant when looked at through the lens of the history of the discovery of the scrolls.

Discovery of the First Scrolls

The shepherd boy, seeking lost sheep in the brown barren hills near the Dead Sea in what was in 1947 Jordan, threw a pebble into an opening in a cliff. He heard a sound of something breaking and went to investigate. He found ancient manuscripts or

scrolls, some rolled up in clay jars.

The Bedouin shepherd had no idea what he had, but took his treasures, several clay jars and seven scrolls, to a market in Bethlehem hoping for a sale. A cobbler named Kando, who also dealt in antiquities, purchased them.

Kando, hoping to make a profit, began searching for buyers. He showed fragments of the scrolls to scholars at the American Institute of Oriental Research in Jerusalem and Professor E. L. Sukenik at the Hebrew University. Questions naturally arose about their age and if they were forgeries.

Although Sukenik suspected forgery, he decided to buy them for the University. He went so far as to mortgage his home to raise the needed funds. His son, Yigael Yadin, who later became a great Israeli archaeologist, was at that time head of the Haganah, the underground shadow army of the Israeli government that was being formed.

Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review* and *Bible Review* describes it this way: “Sukenik told his son, the head of the army, that he wanted to go

every book of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) was found except Esther

to Bethlehem to acquire the scrolls. He now had the money and thought he could make a deal. His son, however, told him not to go; it was too dangerous; Bethlehem was an Arab city. But Sukenik did not listen to his son’s advice . . . He obtained a pass to go through the line to the Arab side of divided Jerusalem and he got on a bus to Bethlehem—he was the only Jew on the bus. . . .” He returned on the bus with three of the seven scrolls in a brown paper wrapper and two pottery jars.

* You can view this online at www.imj.org.il.

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Isaiah, Israel, and the Dead Sea Scrolls

From page 1.

At the same time, across the Atlantic, momentous decisions were being made in regard to the establishment of the State of Israel. Our own Harry S Truman, president of the United States who hailed from Independence, Missouri, (considered by all Latter Day Saints to be the place of the New Jerusalem,) was the first to recognize Israel as a state in May 1948. Was this a coincidence? American recognition came shortly after midnight in Palestine, just minutes after the new nation was proclaimed.

The day following Sukenik's visit to Bethlehem and purchase of the scrolls, the United Nations, by a two-thirds vote, passed the resolution creating the Jewish state. "It was almost messianic," continued Shanks. "Within a 24-hour period, the state of Israel was created and Hebrew University acquired a scroll of the prophet Isaiah that was 1,000 years older than anything that had been known up to that time."

Yigael Yadin, Sukenik's son, also believed the scrolls discovery held great significance. "I cannot avoid the feeling

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that there is something symbolic in the discovery of the scrolls and their acquisition at the moment of the creation of the State of Israel. It is as if these manuscripts had been waiting in caves for two thousand years, ever since the destruction of Israel's inde-

pendence, until the people of Israel had returned to their home and regained their freedom."

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Other Scrolls

After the initial discovery, the Bedouins
Continued on page 3.



Hidden within Cave 4 in the Qumran hills near the Dead Sea were over 15,000 scroll fragments comprising about 500 different documents. Excavators sifted through six feet of bat dung and dust deposited over 2,000 years to find the fragments. This photograph was taken from the area of the Qumran ruins looking west. The Dead Sea, the lowest point on the Earth, is to the east of the ruins.

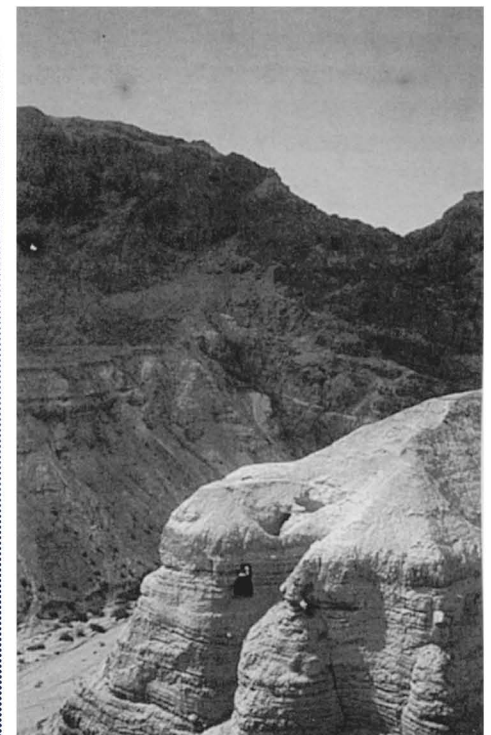
pendence, until the people of Israel had returned to their home and regained their freedom."

Sukenik was unaware of the other four scrolls. These ended up in the hands of a Syrian cleric called Metropolitan-Archbishop, Anthanasius Yeshue Samuel. After numerous attempts to sell them, the Archbishop smuggled them out of the country and put them in a bank vault in New York. As a last resort, in 1954 he placed a small classified ad in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Coincidentally, Yigael Yadin was in New York at the time. Someone called and told him about the ad. Knowing the Archbishop would not sell to a Jew, Yadin called Professor Harry Orlinsky who posed as a Mr. Green. He met with the Archbishop, examined and authenticated the scrolls and purchased them for \$250,000. One of the scrolls was a complete copy of the book of Isaiah written on vellum.

These first seven scrolls are now housed

Lyle Smith



Isaiah, Israel, and the Dead Sea Scrolls

From page 2.

and archaeologists, in unspoken competition, scrambled to find other scrolls hidden in the cliffs and caves near Qumran. The Bedouins most often won. Eventually manuscripts or material with inscriptions were found in ten other caves. The largest cache, Cave 4, had over 15,000 fragments comprising more than 500 different documents of the total of 900 found. Among the new material, from Cave 3, was the amazing copper scroll that contains a list of buried treasure in specific locations. Unfortunately, neither places nor treasures have yet been located.

These scrolls were assigned to a team of eight international scholars—although no Jews—under the auspices of the Jordanian government to edit and publish the texts. A hotbed of scandal surrounds this cadre of scholars assigned to work on the texts. While the scrolls were in hundreds of thousand pieces and fragile condition that required a lot of preservation and sorting, the scholars were notoriously slow to publish. And, according to the agreement, no one else was allowed to even see them! They held the monopoly for 40 years, and only in recent years have they been available to anyone who wants to study them.

The first seven scrolls displayed in the Shrine of the Book have been public almost from their discovery. The Archbishop Samuel gave John Trever, who was with the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem at the time, permission to photograph some of the scrolls.

Qumran Ruins

Near the area of the scrolls was a ruin called Kirbet Qumran. Was there a connection between the ruin and the scrolls? Hoping to discover who created or hid the scrolls, Father Roland de Vaux, a French biblical scholar and archaeologist, began excavating there in 1949. His excavations continued until 1958 and resulted in a theory that became the prevailing consensus. The ruins were believed to be a settlement of the celibate Essene sect during the last centuries B.C. and first of A.D. where monks copied the scrolls in a room designated the scrollery. This theory has caused much discussion about the questionable beginnings of Christianity.

Although it was the prevailing opinion, other scholars and archaeologists have questioned and challenged this theory. Two

Lyle Smith



Author is standing in front of the Shrine of the Book in Jerusalem. The design replicates the top of the clay jars that were used to store the scrolls. The museum displays the first seven scrolls discovered which include: 1) a well-preserved copy of the entire book of Isaiah—the oldest copy of an Old Testament book ever to be discovered; 2) another fragmentary scroll of Isaiah; 3) a commentary on the first two chapters of Habakkuk; 4) the “Manual of Discipline” or “Community Rule”; 5) Thanksgiving Hymns, a collection of devotional psalms of thanksgiving and praise to God; 6) an Aramaic paraphrase of the Book of Genesis; and 7) the “Rule of War” which dealt with the battle between the “Sons of Light” and the “Sons of Darkness.”

Israeli archaeologists, Yizhak Magen and Yuval Peleg, decided to extensively re-excavate the site, which they did from 1993 to 2003. Their conclusions, published in a 2006 report, proposed that Qumran was simply a pottery factory and had nothing to do with the scrolls or a Jewish sectarian community. They believed the Jews in Jerusalem hid the scrolls around 68-69 AD when they became aware that the Romans intended to invade the city.

As so often happens in archaeology, newer investigations and in-depth exploration of places and ideas bring about a greater understanding or sometimes muddy the already murky water. Debate and controversy thrive among the archaeological community.

Whatever theory proves correct, we have a yardstick or standard by which to judge—The Book of Mormon. (See Venna Stevens Johnson’s article in *The Witness*, Fall 1992.)

The lonely shepherd who sold the scrolls in Bethlehem could not have imagined what a maelstrom of events and discoveries he would set off. Yet, the Lord used a shepherd, like he did so many years ago at his birth, to call attention to Isaiah and its importance in relation to the restoration of

the house of Israel and the end times and the testimony of Isaiah that Jesus is the Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Hundreds of articles, books, reports, and presentations about the scrolls and the archaeological excavations at Qumran and surrounding area have been published over the years. The ones below were used in preparing this article.

See Codex for a list of resources at <http://biblical-studies.ca/dss/dss.html>

Burrows, Millar. *Burrows on the Dead Sea Scrolls: An Omnibus of Two Famous Volumes: The Dead Sea Scrolls; More Light on the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1978.

Johnson, Venna Stevens. “Book of Mormon Sheds Light on Dead Sea Scrolls.” *The Witness*, Fall 1992:4-7.

“Qumran—The Pottery Factory.” *Biblical Archaeology Review*. Vol. 32, No. 5: September/October 2006:26-32.

Shanks, Hershel & et. al. *The Dead Sea Scrolls after Forty Years: Symposium at the Smithsonian Institution*. Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1990.

4 *glyph* notesthe *Joy line* as shared with Joy Muir

From the Doctrine and Covenants we read, *“And again, the elders, priests, and teachers of this church shall teach the principles of my gospel which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, in which is the fullness of the gospel; Section 42 5:a.*

In 2004 Elder Randy Vick found himself stationed in the war torn country of Liberia as an International Police officer. Because of this tour of duty and Randy’s desire to serve the Lord, many doors were opened. Soon he was able to introduce the Restoration gospel to a few people in this far away land.

Since that beginning there are now branches in eleven towns and missions in three others. There are more than 300 members and two dozen priesthood. Many of the saints in this part of the vineyard have developed a great love for The Book of Mormon and are eager to learn more about it. When Randy sends out his reports about the progress of the work there, many times he mentions The Book of Mormon—I will quote now from a few of his emails.

Speaking of the pastor in Monrovia

(Elder Stephen G.) upon learning that several barrels were sent over to Liberia last month containing scriptures and lots of copies of the Book of Mormon, [Randy writes.....] “He’s in love with it. He also plans to encourage the saints to memorize the books of the Book of Mormon just like they do the books of the Bible and to memorize Book of Mormon scriptures.”

I guess this would be a good place to tell you about Bro. Stephen’s inspired idea. I told you about his desire to have a few Book of Mormon scriptures translated into Bassa and printed in a little leaflet that could be used as a missionary tool. He showed me the three scriptures last night when he was here, and they are from Moroni, about reading the Book of Mormon and asking the Lord if it’s true. Then he said what he had been thinking about doing was trying to find a series of scriptures in the Book of Mormon that could be translated into Bassa and printed in a brochure, that would tell the testimony of Jesus Christ that is in the Book of Mormon. He believes so strongly in

the Book of Mormon.”

What a joy it is to know that in a war torn country 8,000 miles away, there is a group of people who not only love this very special book but also are eager to share it with others. Randy taught them, and now they are teaching others. It is a fulfillment of the scripture we find in the Doctrine and Covenants. *“And the poor and the meek shall have the gospel preached unto them, and they shall be looking forth for the time of My coming, for it is nigh at hand.”* Section 34 4:a

Randy and his wife Donette live in Centerview, Missouri and attend the Warrensburg Restoration Branch. They have three children and one grandchild. After being home for a year Randy is now back in Liberia working for the State Department. In addition to his regular work, Randy’s biggest project is the Future Hope Orphanage in Buchanan, Liberia and working with the various branches and missions in that part of Africa.

Series of Classes: Things You Didn’t Know About The Book of Mormon

Location: South Chrysler Restoration Branch Fellowship Hall

Time: 7:00 pm

When: Tuesday evenings, beginning February 27 and running through May 29, 2007

	Date	Title	Presenter
1	2/27/07	“Evidences of Christ in America”	Don Beebe
2	3/6/07	“Arad, with Power and Great Glory”	Lyle Smith
3	3/13/07	“Criticisms Answered”	Lyle Smith
4	3/20/07	“Why Visit Palenque”	Lyle Smith
5	3/27/07	“God G1”	Sherrie Smith
6	4/3/07	“Stela 5 - Izapa”	Dennis Moe
7	4/10/07	“Archaeology—A New Perspective”	Shirley Heater
8	4/17/07	“Lehi’s Journey in the Old World”	Jennifer Raffety
9	4/24/07	“Open My Eyes”	Pat Beebe
10	5/1/07	“Time Will Tell”	Don Beebe
11	5/8/07	“Easy Assumptions”	Glenn A. Scott
12	5/15/07	“Archaeology and Hebraisms”	Tim Raffety
13	5/22/07	“Transoceanic Contact”	Glenn A. Scott
14	5/29/07	Question and Answer Period	Panel

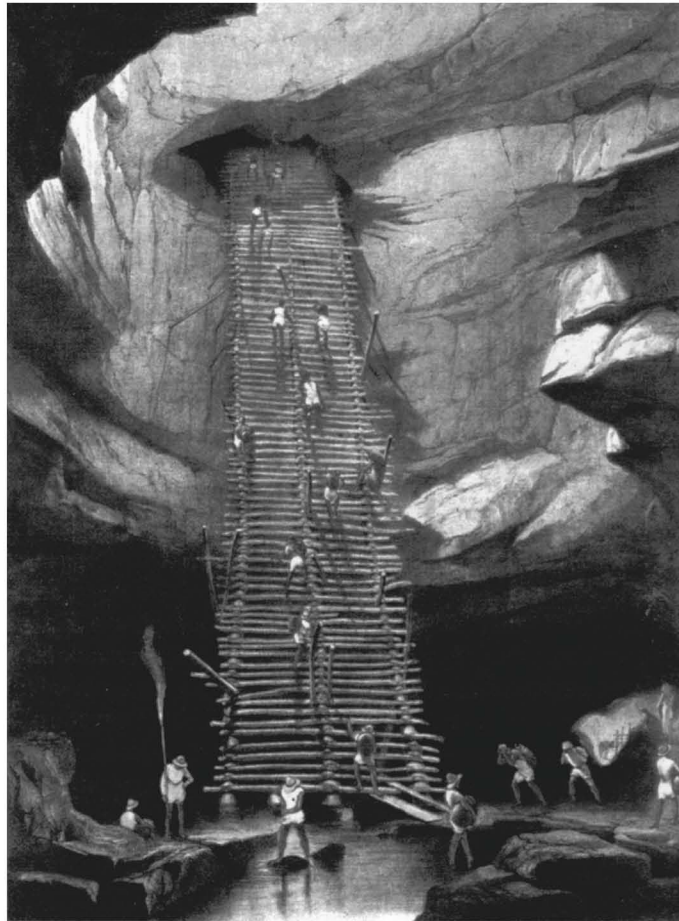
glyph clips

◆ Bolonchen Ladder Shows Maya Innovation

Stephens and Catherwood, as well as other scholars of the time, wrote about the descendants of the ancient Maya as primitive. However, this 100 meter wooden ladder shows more than a glimmer of the past. The Maya were quite capable of using raw materials in a skillful and functional manner. The ladder shows the innovative nature of the Maya in gaining access to water deeply underground.

The town of Bolonchen (“The Village of Nine Wells”) is located on the Yucatán peninsula and is known today for its magnificent caves. Bolonchen derives its name from two Maya words, *Bolon*, which signifies “nine,” and *Chen*, “wells.” It is in a desert region of Mexico, where there are no rivers and the only source of fresh water flows deep beneath limestone shelves.

Reported in the January 17, 2007 issue of the Institute of Maya Studies Newsletter.



Don Beebe

◆ Jade Artifacts Reveal Maya Trade Practice

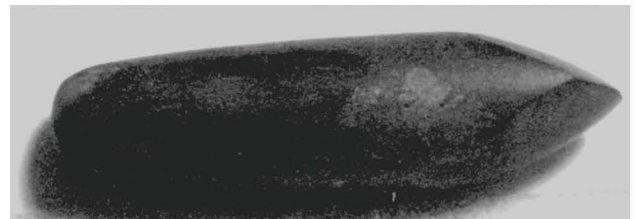
Recently posted on the National Geographic News website, New York’s American Museum of Natural History, was the discovery of ancient jade artifacts on the Caribbean island of Antigua. A jade axe blade and other items excavated have been traced to a mine in Guatemala 1,800 miles away. Analysis of jade can be traced to specific deposits known in the world—only a dozen jadeite surface deposits are known. No known deposits of jade exist in the eastern Caribbean. George Harlow, American Museum of Natural History, says “the newfound deposits and the Antigua pieces bore the same distinctive quartz grains, which so far have not been found in jade mined anywhere else.” The new find adds evidence “which suggests that organized, long-distance trade networks were based primarily on those islands.” Reg Murphy, archaeologist at the Museum of Antigua and Barbada in St. John’s, Antigua states “There has been a closed mind-set that these [ancient] people out here were primitive,

but we are learning there was a whole world out here we don’t yet fully know about.”

And the whole face of the land northward was covered with inhabitants; and they were exceeding industrious, and they did buy and sell, and traffic one with another, that they might get gain (Ether 4:70).

The jade found at Antigua is of a distinct, very hard form called jadeite matching the high-quality forms found in some Maya tombs.

Reported in the November 15, 2006 issue of the Institute of Maya Studies Newsletter.



Don Beebe

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Kukulcan Pyramid, Chichen Itza, Mexico

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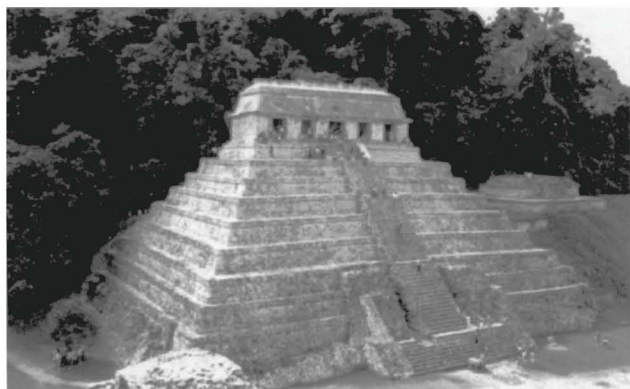
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Memories from Mesoamerica

Aaron Presler
Independence, Missouri

Excerpt from 2004 Tour Log

Day Six begins with anticipation of one of the most famous Maya sites, Palenque. But first, we begin with breakfast at the hotel...fruit, eggs and café.

As customary, once we're loaded on the bus, a word of prayer is offered for our protection and good spirit throughout the day. And also customary, Pat and Barb [our social directors] start the day bringing a smile to all.

Today we received magnets with the glyph "and it came to pass" printed on the surface. We would see this glyph several times in our ventures through Palenque today. From the hotel to the site was just a short distance. Like the popular sites we visited last year, such as Monte Alban and Teotihuacán, there were many vendors at the entrance and throughout the ruins. The vendors here didn't seem too pushy, however. So we made it through into the archaeological park easily and began the day's tour.

It seemed quite a bit more humid than on previous days, and there wasn't a cloud to be seen. Clear days make for beautiful photographs, but it's easy to get a sunburn or become dehydrated. I had worn shorts and a loose khaki shirt, but still, by the end of the day, I was sweat-soaked from head to toe.

Palenque is truly a beautiful setting and gorgeous architecturally. The city is tucked into the edge of

a mountain range that overlooks a vast plain. While it may have had some defensive advantage to be up above the plain, it is more likely that the reason was to impress. All of those people in the valley would look up and see that fabulous, golden city set on a hill. Prestige, honor, glory...the city fathers wanted that kind of reaction from the citizens and competing cities.

....It would have been a fabulous city to visit in its prime. But I'm still cognizant of the bloody rites and customs of the Maya culture in its last years. It gives me pause to consider that, with the signs and indications of Christ having been a part of their history, how many of the religious rites were evil corruptions of the pure religion taught by Christ at the time of the Children of Christ. Is the human sacrifice that is well documented simply a terribly misled understanding of the blood shed by Jesus Christ? It's so easy to understand because in Europe, the same corrupted versions of the gospel found expression in tragic consequences such as the Holy Crusades in the Middle Ages, the love of power and money that corrupted the church during the Dark Ages, and during the Inquisition at the time of the Spanish conquistadors. The Maya had no monopoly on the corruption of the sacred.

glyph calendar

FEBRUARY - MAY

**2nd
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**Feb. 27 -
May 29**

See Presenters and
Topics in this issue
(subject to change)

Contact Don Beebe at
816-796-4094,
or Lyle Smith at
816-229-5192
for more information.

Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit in Kansas City

Selected Dead Sea Scrolls will be on exhibit at the Union Station, Kansas City, Missouri, from February 8-May 13, 2007. Original scrolls and fragments to be displayed are Genesis/Exodus, Joshua, Psalms, Job, Isaiah Commentary, and book of Community Rules. Facsimiles or replicas include the book of Deuteronomy, the Aramaic Apocalypse, the Damascus Document, and the copper scroll. Kansas City is the first place where the fragments of Job will be exhibited in the United States.

The exhibit is augmented at the end with old bibles and related documents, like a page from the Gutenberg Bible and Book of Hours, from area institutions. A weekly lecture series by well-known scholars will address different topics relating to the scrolls. These are listed online at their Web page (<http://www.unionstation.org/dead-seascrolls/index.cfm>) or call for more information.

Tickets cost \$19.95 and can be purchased ahead of time in order to select the day and time you wish to see them. Allow about 90 minutes.



glyph quotes

“I would that ye should remember.” — Alma 18:5



By Sherrie Kline Smith

Alma counseled each of his three sons to remember. . . . Remember the captivity of their fathers and how the Lord freed them. Remember that those who put their trust in God will be delivered out of their trials, troubles, and afflictions.

Another exhortation to remember comes from the Lord Jesus with the institution of the Lord's Supper. One of the main purposes is to remember what the Lord did for us to bring about the atonement by allowing himself to be crucified, taking upon himself the sins of the world, and then rising from the dead so all may live again. The sacrament prayers say that when we partake of the bread and wine we do it in remembrance the Son of God. We witness to the Lord our willingness to take upon us his name, keep his commandments, and always remember him (3 Nephi 8:34-36; Moroni 4:4).

It's so easy to forget. A good example is the miracle that took place on this continent at Christ's birth. When the sun set, it remained light as if it were day. The following day at the proper time, the sun rose again. Everyone witnessed this miracle and was exceedingly astonished. Immediately, however,

“from this time forth, there began to be lyings sent forth among the people by Satan, to harden their hearts, to the intent that they might not believe in those signs and wonders which they had seen” (3 Nephi 1:13-26).

And a few years later,

“the people began to forget those signs and wonders which they had heard, and began to be less and less astonished at a sign or a wonder from heaven” (3 Nephi 1:38).

Time tends to dim our memories. That is why the Lord requests that we consciously remember.

During a difficult time in my life, I asked for administration. The elder who was the spokesman petitioned the Lord to bring to my remembrance all my former blessings. The next morning I knelt beside my bed to pray. When I finished, instead of rising, I turned around, sat on the floor and leaned back against the bed. Engulfed by a meditative spirit, I began to reflect on times when the Lord had helped me. It seemed as if the room disappeared and scenes from my life appeared. When the experience ended, I realized that the Lord had brought to my remembrance the many wonderful times in

the past he had blessed me and brought me through trials, troubles, and afflictions. And . . . I realized that my experience resulted because of the administration the evening before. I rose refreshed and ready to face the day.

The Lord calls us to remember what great things he has done for us. He wants us to remember our blessings. He wants us to remember the miracles. He wants us to remember *him!*

“It's so easy to forget.

Time tends to dim our memories.”

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