

Behold, Saith the Lord.

~~JOSEPH LUFF~~

The communication is as follows:

Behold, saith the Lord, I have heard and do hear the petitions of those who are called my people. My ear is not heavy, neither is my arm short. My covenant with Israel is not forgotten, nor is my will slow to perform; But to whom shall I speak, and by whom shall my council be observed? Behold, I am wedded to my covenant and am jealous of my agreement with those who are thereunder; Once I have spoken! yea, twice have I declared that the set time to favor Zion has come; but my army is not yet very great, and their weapons, many of them, are yet carnal. Nevertheless my word shall not fail, neither shall my purpose be changed, notwithstanding my people are slow to perceive and the confidence of some has failed.

Dig ye deep into the mountains which centuries have formed and into which my providences are interwoven, and bring forth the witnesses of my forgetfulness or the testimonies of my failure. Reveal unto me wherein the generations have made frail the texture of my ordinances or dissolved the integrity of my promises. Speak! and I will hearken unto you! Declare! and I will give audience! Who hath been able to stand in the way of my accomplishment, or hath put fetters upon my hands? Are not cities and nations and villages but as pebbles in my hands? For, behold, on yesterday their magnitude was thine amazement, and tomorrow thou shalt ask: "where are they," and shalt declare "surely the Lord's hand is in this thing."

Remember, therefore, that I change not, neither in my power nor my purpose, and what I have designed I will execute, and naught shall stay my hand, and my heritage shall not fail.

But who shall be called my Zion?—my habitation? and through whom shall I execute my purpose? where shall my hand find its weapons of execution and its instruments of performance? Shall it not be among those whose hearts are found pure and whose eyes shall be single? Yea, verily! Stand ye, therefore in holy places, and if ye will enjoy my intelligence be ye mine and mine only, for such is your agreement!

But ye say "wherein have we failed and in what is our infidelity revealed?" Listen! and I will give answer, and then shall ye reply whether ye have been silent when evil has been present among you, and whether ye have consented thereby to a defilement of mine heritage. For, behold, houses have been builded unto me and have been, nevertheless, reserved for pleasures which do not enrich the soul.

Altars have been dedicated unto me and have been shared with other gods. The mammon of this world hath been sought by guile and oppression and unseemly desire by some, and because a portion thereof has been given as a tithe or an offering unto me, it hath been imagined that I will wink at these things. Some have declared themselves separated unto me and I have chosen them out of the world and made them to be agents unto me; but they have sought out other shrines and made covenant in secret places in which I have no delight.

Behold, and consider: If my weapons are not sufficient for your faith shall these things give them increase? Or shall ye add that which is carnal to make effective the work for which my spirit hath been given? Shall I be content while this evil doth pollute my estate? Behold the brick that is not burned and the mortar which is not tempered; Yea and the material which I have not selected shall not find permanent place with that of my choosing; for my fires shall consume and my floods shall overwhelm, and men within and without my church shall yet learn that but one pattern hath been given by which ye shall build, if I shall accept your labor; and but one line hath been given by which to measure; and whosoever shall not gauge himself thereby and crucify himself to the world, shall yet be gauged thereby and shall lose his all; for "Whosoever shall fall upon this stone shall be broken, but upon whomsoever it shall fall it shall grind him to powder."

Live ye, therefore, and labor in love, not so much that ye may obtain, but that ye may make effective my law and exemplify my life. In this ye shall find riches and your peace shall not fail, and thus I shall have delight in those who not only say but do according to the purpose of my gospel.

Independence, Mo., May 31, 1906.

Song of Admonition.

March 28, 1907

Oh, my people, saith the Spirit,
Hear the word of God today:
Be not slothful, but obedient;
'Tis the world's momentous day!
Unto honor I have called you—
Honor great as angels know;
Heed ye, then, a Father's counsel,
And by deeds your purpose show.

Be ye not deceived! Remember,
I have sworn to execute,
All my purpose—naught can hinder—
Vain what man may institute.
Take ye, then, my hand extended—
Let me lead you where I will;
Peace and safety, light and glory,
Crown the crest of Zion's hill.

I have spoken, few have heeded!
What remains for me to do?
Warnings old wait vindication!
Man must learn that God is true.
The restraining gates my mercy
Led me off to interpose,
Shall the devastating currents,
Fraught with woe—no more oppose.

Time is ripe! my work must hasten!
Whoso will may bide the hour.
Naught can harm whom God protecteth—
Elements confess his power.
Up ye then, to the high places
I have bid you occupy!
Peril waits upon the heedless!
Grace upon the souls who try.

Whoso lusteth after pleasure,
High estate or mammon's store—
Envious or proud remaineth—
Though he gain the world, is poor.
If you would be rich, be holy!
Would you dwell all heights above?
Heed ye, then, this admonition:
Climb to atmosphere of love.

Love ye me and love all people—
Love as I have loved you;
This your calling—this my purpose—
Thus be my disciples true.
Then in this exalted station
Your companion I will be;
Every promise of my Scriptures
Will be verified in thee.

Get ye up, then, to your mountain!
Zion of this closing day!
For the glory of my coming
Waits to break upon your way!
Forth from thence your testimony
Shall to trembling nations go,
And the world confess that with you
God has residence below.