**GATHERING OF ISRAEL**

"At the Mexico City Area Conference last August, Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Council of the Twelve, in a thought-provoking address, made some comments pertinent to this subject, and I quote a few sentences from his address:

"'Of this glorious day of restoration and gathering, another Nephite prophet said: "The Lord....has covenanted with all the house of Israel," that "the time comes that they shall be restored to the true church and fold of God;" and that "they shall be gathered home to the lands of their inheritance, and shall be established in all their lands of promise." (2N9:1-2.)

"'Now I call your attention to the facts, set forth in these scriptures; that the gathering of Israel consists of joining the true church; of coming to a knowledge of the true God and of his saving truths; and of worshiping him in the congregations of the Saints in all nations and among all peoples. Please note that these revealed words speak of the folds of the Lord; of Israel being gathered to the lands of their inheritance; of Israel being established in all their lands of promise; and of there being congregations of the covenant people of the Lord in every nation, speaking every tongue, and among every people when the Lord comes again.'

"Elder McConkie then concluded with this statement, which certainly emphasizes the great need for the teaching and training of local leadership in order to build up the church within their own native countries:

"'The place of gathering for the Mexican Saints is in Mexico; the place of gathering for the Guatemalan Saints is in Guatemala; the place of gathering for the Brazilian Saints is in Brazil; and so it goes throughout the length and breadth of the whole earth. Japan is for the Japanese; Korea is for the Koreans; Australia is for the Australians; every nation is the gathering place for its own people.'" - Harold B. Lee, CR, Apr. 1973, pp. 6-7.

"....**The Lord has placed the responsibility for directing the work of gathering in the hands of the leaders of the Church** **to whom he** **will reveal his will where and when such gatherings** (note plural) **would take place** in the future. It would be well - before the frightening events concerning the fulfilment of all God's promises and predictions are upon us, that the Saints in every land prepare themselves and look forward to the instruction that shall come to them from the First Presidency of this Church as to where they shall be gathered and not be disturbed in their feelings until such instruction is given to them as it is revealed by the Lord to the proper authority." - Harold B. Lee, CR, Apr. 1948, p. 55.

"But in the main they will gather to Jerusalem in their unbelief; the gospel will be preached to them; some of them will believe. Not all of the Gentiles have believed when the gospel has been proclaimed to them, but the great body of the Jews who are there assembled will not receive Christ as their Redeemer until he comes himself and makes himself manifest unto them." - Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, 3:9.

"In November, 1917, Lord Balfour declared that the British government would look with favor upon the restoration of Palestine as the Jewish homeland, a declaration that was ratified later by a conference of statesmen at San Remo, and, on July 22, 1922, by the League of Nations, when that world organization assigned to Great Britain the mandate for the country." - Reynolds and Sjodahl, Commentary on the Book of Mormon, 1:281.

Note: During the early years when the Jews were moving into Palestine, Great Britain's military presence somewhat guaranteed Jewish safety. In addition, England and the United States spent much money to assist the Jews to gather in and establish themselves upon the land.

"To return to the saying that the Gentiles should be nursing fathers to the Jews, do you know that Great Britain has spent - well, I do not know how much, but up until some ten years ago, that nation had spent upwards of 50,000,000 pounds. A pound is about five dollars. [This was the approximate exchange rate in 1942 when this article was written. It has changed considerably since that time.] I have here the official report of the Palestine Royal Commission. It is filled with interesting information. Great Britain has spent millions in rehabilitating Palestine, making farms, planting vineyards, orchards, building canals, reservoirs, hydro-electric plants all over the country and establishing industries. Other forces have also been at work. The ships of Great Britain and the United States have carried these people back to their ancient home....

"So we see that since the armistice in 1918, the Jews have been returning in great numbers, encouraged by both the United States and the nation of Great Britain, the latter taking over the great responsibility in this gathering movement. The prophecies are rapidly being fulfilled." - Smith, Signs of the Times, pp. 67-69.

In 1946, Great Britain surrendered her mandate over Palestine to the newly-formed United Nations. In November of 1947, the latter body partitioned off the Holy Land into two parts, one for Arabs and one for Jews. Surprisingly, the vote to give the Jewish people their own independent nation was supported and fostered by both the United States and Russia, two powerful "gentile" nations. The modern state of Israel was born on May 15, 1948. Once again a nursing father appeared, this time in the form of many gentile nations. The Lord's promise had once again seen literal fulfillment.

(Isaiah 5:26-29.)"Since there were neither trains nor airplanes in that day, Isaiah could hardly have mentioned them by name. However, he seems to have described them in unmistakable words. How better could 'their horses' hoofs be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind' than in the modern train? How better could 'their roaring...be like a lion' than in the roar of the airplane? Trains and airplanes do not stop for night. Therefore, was not Isaiah justified in saying: 'none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken'? With this manner of transportation the Lord can really 'hiss unto them from the end of the earth,' that 'they shall come with speed swiftly.' Indicating that Isaiah must have foreseen the airplane, he stated: 'Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?' (Isaiah 60:8.)" - LeGrand Richards, Israel! Do You Know?, p. 182.