

**The Inner Life
Of
Jesus Christ, Our Holy Savior Revealed
And Of
Our Blessed Mother Ann**

IN TWO PARTS

Glad Tidings of Great Joy to All People

**Given by Inspiration to Brother William Leonard
in the First Order of the Church at Harvard “Lovely Vineyard”**

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PART 1

JESUS CHRIST

PREFACE

For a number of weeks previous to writing the following pages, the Instrument was carried through scenes of deep tribulation and the most severe mortification of spirit he had ever experienced. After retiring to rest one night, he dreamed he was seated at the writing table with paper before him and that Mother Ann stood at his left hand instructing him to write a work consisting of two parts, at which he seemed to be engaged and saw the writing but did not understand the subject.

When he awoke, the dream was clear in his mind and strongly impressed his feelings the next day. After he retired to rest the next night, the dream continued. He seemed to be in a room with our Holy Savior and saw above him, in the liveliest motion, a company of living figures which he cannot describe, but which seemed to represent to his understanding, the sufferings of Christ.

The Divine presence of Christ, the living figures before him and the pale light which filled the room, so overpowered his feelings, that he awoke, deeply affected and was clearly moved to understand that the sufferings of Christ and Mother, was the subject of the work. For the six following days, the anguish of his spirit was such and his feelings were so unsettled that he felt no freedom to write.

But when this preparatory travel ceased, his feelings suddenly calmed and he sensed the most solemn, tender and happy state he had ever experienced. In this tranquility of mind, his subject opened before him and under the direction of his Elders, he commenced to write and the following work is the result of his inspired feelings.

Brother William Leonard

INTRODUCTION

Testimony of Jesus Christ

1 Dearly Beloved Children: The contents of this message, is the price of suffering, for be it known to you, that no soul can communicate an account of my sufferings, to my children on earth, without first coming into a state of feeling which will baptize their spirit into that degree of suffering, that will enable them to write under an influence that will clearly manifest the Divine origin of such a communication. And, dear children, this communication is a gift from your beloved Mother Ann. It has often been told you of late that your beloved Mother's tender compassion toward her dear children is boundless and before all these pages have been read in your hearing, I think you will be convinced of the truth of much you have often heard concerning our love for you.

2 Before I left my disciples to travel for themselves through sorrow and suffering, to preach my gospel to the lost children of men, I strove to soothe and comfort them by every means in my power. I could foresee in the visions of God, the toils, sufferings, persecutions and afflictions as well as the stripes and imprisonments that awaited them and knew that these things were hidden from their eyes. They had been carried and supported by a kind, loving and tender Parent and had been fed and nourished from his hand. But now they were to be deprived of his Fatherly care, his wise instruction and his protecting wings.

3 I could see them in the great labors to which they were destined, scattered over the earth, preaching the gospel of salvation, poor, despised, forsaken and at the mercy of a malicious race of hard-hearted sinners, who had often taught me what my disciples were to receive at their hands.

4 When I saw the great sufferings that awaited my true followers; when I saw them treading the wine press alone, or with but few to help them and when I looked through all their sufferings and saw death in all the frightful forms which awaited them and saw that they would seal the truth of the gospel with their blood, then was my soul rent by these scenes and my spirit was filled with that tender anguish which none but the Savior of God's dear children is capable of feeling.

5 It would have alleviated my sufferings if I could have told them of these scenes of horror, as they were shown to me. But they were not able to bear it. They would have sunk under discouragement and could not have ventured forward. They could hardly bear the idea of my separation from them nor understand the manner in which I was to be sacrificed. Among all my

afflictions, none rent my soul to such a degree as the cruel scenes of suffering that were shortly to fall on my dear children.

6 I speak of this, dear children, to enable you to understand why at this period of this great ministration of prophecies, wonderful visions, severe chastisements and heavy bearings, you are henceforth to look for much parental tenderness, precious instructions and many words of loving kindness, in the close of this manifestation, for we, your heavenly Parents can see the end of all these things, whereas you see only the beginning. You have all along looked upon this work as a punishment for your short comings, but we see the great and true intention of God's wonderful dealings with you.

7 Be it known to you then dear children, that I your Holy Savior, give in these precious pages, a staff upon which you may lean hereafter. If you ask why I venture to speak more clearly upon what you will have to pass through, than I did to my first disciples, it is because you are far more able to bear these things in your present light and understanding, than they were in the days when they were deprived of my visible presence. What would have been weakness to them in their situation, will hereafter be great strength to you, in yours.

8 God has called you together and placed you in conditions which separate you from the frowns, insults and persecution of this wicked world and has all along been preparing you for what is yet to come. Your sufferings have been great and this ministration will soon close. Your minds are now raised to the highest pitch of expectation by the many wonderful things that have been foretold to you. It seems to many of you that you will glide down the stream of time and suddenly this great work will burst upon you. This, my dear children is true, but not in the way that many look for it. God's work is often out of sight of His own people and He brings about His wonderful purposes, sometimes to the disappointment of the most discerning among His Saints, in order that no flesh shall be left to glory in His presence.

9 Let not your mortal sense of the precious gifts and prophecies of God, lead you to look for too speedy of a fulfilment of the promises, for verily I say unto you, your faith will yet be severely tried in relation to your own visions, revelations and prophecies and I your heavenly Father in the New Creation speak this to you, so that in the day of your trial, your faith fails not, for God's people must be a tried people, as you will abundantly learn from my experience which I am about to relate to you. The waiting for the fulfilment of the promises which have been given through yourselves and the manner in which they will be fulfilled will constitute no small part of your sufferings.

10 I delight in those who are laboring to gain a knowledge and substance of my gospel by a life of self-denial and feel ever anxious to administer the same to the poor lost children of men. When I was a child and throughout my youthful days, this spirit and feeling so overpowered my soul to the point that my mind was frequently taken up with heavenly visions by day and sleep departed from mine eyes, often for nights together. As I advanced to manhood, I longed for the salvation of men to that same degree and it often seemed that my anxiety would separate my soul from my body, but I had to wait for my Heavenly Father's appointed time, when the way was prepared and this I did without a murmur of discontent.

11 And this same patient submission must govern you, dear children, until the arrival of God's appointed time. For the consequences would be dreadful, of having true faith planted in the souls of men by preaching the word, before there is sufficient strength gained in the Church to gather and protect the fruit of this precious seed. Therefore remember, let your anxiety be ever so great for their salvation, the souls of men are not to be trifled with.

12 You are now in peaceful retirement under tuition of present special light from heaven, in the walks of sweet peace and in the heavenly nooks of love looking ahead with much anticipation of happiness in the opening of the gospel that seems almost within your grasp. You can see broad fields of labor opening before you and thousands knocking to hear the word of Eternal life, who will bow their necks to the gospel yoke, come out from the world, enter into the order of the gospel, consecrate their treasures and spread your borders far and wide, till earth shall resound with the praises of God and all mankind shall know there is a God that rules in the armies of heaven and has set up His kingdom on earth.

13 My dear children, these visions of happiness are still as fresh in my memory, as they were in the days of my pilgrimage on earth. I have seen many things among my inexperienced babes, during the present ministration, which have revived in memory all my former expectations of man's easy submission to the gospel. But as I learned in those days of sorrow by bitter experience, the many disappointments that lay in my path, so will the lambs of my flock, when sent forth among ravenous wolves, learn by sorrowful experience, that they have reasoned only on one side of the question and in the calm of their peaceful hours, taken only a one sided view.

14 Know then, dear children, that the next opening of my gospel will be attended with the greatest suffering and persecution that has ever attended any opening of the gospel, either in the first or second manifestation of my spirit. This I say so that you may not be disappointed in your expectations as I once was in mine, about the glorious increase of my kingdom and the gathering of many souls to my Holy and peaceful standard. For while you have been calmly viewing the bright prospect of ingathering thousands and the happiness and comfort that so many faithful souls would then be to you and the honor and glory you would then receive for your former submission to the work of God, you have neglected to notice the signs of the times.

15 Remember then in the first place, that the present ministration began with a more extensive manifestation of Divine power from the spiritual world, than was ever before known on earth. The most powerful Orders of Holy Angels and a great host of justified spirits were summoned by your Almighty Father in heaven and sent to earth to help and to hasten my dear children to prepare for what must surely come upon them. The Patriarchs and Prophets, the Ancients of God's people, together with a host of Holy Angels, have been laboriously engaged in preparing my children for those days of rejoicing, also of deep sorrow and afflictions that will surely fill all your Holy borders.

16 These things and the visitation of your Holy, Holy Mother Wisdom, have filled the Zion of God with deep sorrow and brought my dear children under the heaviest bearing that

has been experienced by the subjects of my kingdom since the Church of the latter day has been gathered into Order. These things have brought many of you into deep afflictions, cruel buffetings and dire temptations of Satan.

17 Now what do all these things mean. Do you suppose that Satan has looked on and witnessed this great gathering of the heavenly hosts and has seen them ascending and descending from heaven to earth, as an idle and uninterested spectator? Do you suppose that he has seen the Church of God purged from idols and set in Order and also seen this great preparatory work going on among the Saints of the Most High and not interpreted its meaning.

18 Verily I say to you, there is not, never was, nor ever shall be a movement made in heaven or on earth for the destruction of his kingdom, but he interprets the meaning, strengthens his fortifications and labors with all his craft and cunningness to stop the work of God in its beginning, to maintain his kingdom of darkness. What is the reason for all these cruel afflictions, dismal doubts, dreadful feelings of what is to come and frightful temptations that have been so abundant and felt so terribly among my children? Believe me your Holy Savior, these are the blackest clouds of discouragement, which Satan has long kept in store to use as his most powerful engines to overthrow the work of God, at this most wonderful period of its progress.

19 These things may teach you that Satan has become more aroused and enraged at the present prospect of God's Holy work for the redemption of a lost world, than he ever was before in any age of man's woeful existence. He is convinced of that which he never quite believed namely, that the ancient prophecies of the universal reign of righteousness and the destruction of wickedness, given through the Prophets and Martyrs and the Son of God, are about to be fulfilled and that his strongest exertions cannot hinder it and this is the cause of his great rage.

20 Millions of dark spirits from the infernal regions are sent by the Prince of darkness to watch the passing of Angels and spirits from heaven to earth and at this time all the black regions of torment are aroused with powerful excitement and wrath. It is beyond the power of Satan to so move the enemies of truth as to really harm you, before the appointed time, when God shall send forth His flaming testimonies from the kingdom of Zion. He sees with dismay, thousands and myriads of Holy Angels and ministering spirits, daily preparing many honest hearted among mankind, to enter the work of God when the vail shall be lifted and the call shall go forth to summon those prepared, to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

21 In the next opening of my gospel, many great and noble souls will be called into my fold. This will excite the enmity of Satan and will cause many great ones of the earth and their numerous connections to rage against the work of God and the progress of my kingdom to such a degree that it will seem to many both within and without Zion as though the powers of heaven itself would be shaken. But none will be called to experience greater sufferings than will the heralds of my gospel that will be sent to preach my word to the lost children of men. Let none be surprised if some should be called in the next opening, to lay down their lives in defense of my gospel and in support of the truth. I have told you these painful things with reluctance, in order that they come not unforeseen upon you.

22 This branch is called in the heavens of glory the deep valley of sufferings. It has made the Angels weep to hear your blessed Mother relate the bitter scenes of affliction she passed through in this place. And dear children, many who have ascended from this part of God's vineyard and many who will yet suffer and lay down their lives in this place, will not be considered least in the kingdom of righteousness and peace hereafter. Thus saith your heavenly Father I can look through the changing events of time and the sea of troubles that await my suffering children in this place and behold this branch of the Zion of God arise with exceeding beauty. I have reviewed again and again your toils, your sufferings and the scenes of affliction that yet await you and have rejoiced exceedingly in the glorious reward awaiting you, both in this world and that which is to come.

23 Though this branch is devoted to many trying scenes this is no cause for discouragement, but rather of glory that you are counted worthy to suffer for the increase of my kingdom. Thus ye become chosen jewels, well refined and tried in time, all beautiful and glorious, the sealed of the Lamb and of blessed Mother Ann. And remember also this promise, which shall stand as long as the pillars of heaven endure; and that is, in all your future sufferings, at home and abroad, among friends or strangers, in public and private, there will I be with you to strengthen, support and enable you to bear them.

24 And when you arrive home in the mansions of Eternal rest, you will learn that my arm of power has always been stretched forth over this part of God's vineyard. You will find that the members of this toiling, suffering branch of the Lord's vineyard, will claim by rightful inheritance, a meek and lowly station and near relation to my first Church on earth and through that, to the foundation Pillars of the New Creation. And I am sure dear children that if you could now see and know what is seen and known by your heavenly Parents and all the hosts of heaven, you would rejoice and give thanks that your lot has been cast in this low valley.

Chapter 1

Our Savior's Travel from Birth to the Commencement of His Divine Mission.

1 Dearly beloved children, to convince you that I am no stranger to the pleasing anticipations in the prospect that lies before you, of the further opening of the gospel, I will in this Chapter cause to be written by the pen of inspiration, my hopes of happiness, my early acquaintance with the Angels of heaven and how the work of God opened to my understanding as I advanced to manhood, up to the period when I was anointed to go forth as a Preacher of righteousness upon that great mission which God my heavenly Father sent me into the world to perform.

2 Mankind, in reflecting upon my character as the Son of God and their Savior, has been greatly deceived in their reasoning and conclusions with regard thereto. Although I was always perfectly obedient to the will of my heavenly Father, yet they attach too much perfection

to my early life. Although the fountain of all true heavenly knowledge lay open before me and though I began in the very morning of my existence to drink of the pure celestial stream which flows from that fountain of Divine wisdom, yet the children of men and even my own dear children, ascribe far too much Divine and heavenly wisdom to my early years.

3 If I had possessed the perfection, knowledge and pure Divine wisdom, which many suppose I had in possession from the beginning, a little reflection will show you, that I would never have had to learn perfect knowledge by experience, nor that true wisdom which cometh down from heaven, by the many things I was called in my future life experiences to suffer. If I had known but a small part of what many have imagined I did, I could have prepared myself in my early years to have escaped many scenes of affliction and dreadful disappointments through which I was called to pass in later days and which were to me, more bitter than death. But my heavenly Father hid this knowledge and wisdom from my view for wise purposes.

4 To me was given power in the early part of my life, to render perfect obedience to God's Holy will. To me was given an understanding of the nature of my Holy mission in this world, the true design of my existence and sure and certain knowledge that I was the long promised Son of God. All the rest was hidden from my understanding and my heavenly Father left me to learn by sorrowful experience what I am about to relate, that I might thereby know how to feel tender charity and fatherly compassion for the inexperience and infirmities of His poor afflicted Saints through the many ages that lay before me.

5 My dear children, it is true I was the Son of God, the delight of Angels, the safest pattern of true faith and perfect obedience that ever dwelt in a body of flesh and blood. I performed the greatest miracle in withstanding the hosts of Satan and overcoming man's fallen nature that ever was or will be performed by any soul of mortal birth. Still, while I sojourned below, I was a poor, despised, forsaken wanderer, having no abiding city, few friends and nowhere to lay my weary head.

6 When you attach ideas of greatness to my character, think not that I was great in the eyes of the world, for none ever suffered greater scorn and contempt than I suffered at the hands of cruel unbelievers. And when you attach ideas of power to my person, think not that this power belonged to me, for in my own power and strength I could have done nothing and would have certainly fallen as a victim to the power of Satan.

7 By the Almighty Power of my heavenly Father I was begotten, brought into existence, instructed in the true nature of my calling, led on from one stage of life to another and made able to surmount each obstacle that arose, until I completed my redemption, laid a sure foundation for the salvation of the fallen race and was crucified on Mount Calvary. Thus you see that I was a poor dependent mortal, from the time I was brought forth and laid in a manger, until by wicked hands I was slain. By the power of the Almighty I stood, by His power I performed my great mission and to Him belongs all of the honor and the glory.

8 The earliest impression I recollect, was my sense of duty, respect and perfect obedience to the will of my parents, who were chosen and Anointed with the Spirit and wisdom of God, to teach me my duty as a child in nature; and teach me to live free from every impurity,

falsehood and guile. They taught me to walk in that obedience which was well pleasing in the sight of my heavenly Father. The Holy Angels ministered to me strength to perform this duty to that degree that I always stood faultless in the sight of God and His Holy Angels. As a reward of my diligence and perfect subjection, I was a constant recipient of heavenly visions, Divine revelations and many precious, heavenly gifts.

9 From earliest childhood I was as subject to impressions from heaven as from earth. I had as free and open intercourse with Angels as with men. I was many times awakened by the melodious songs of Angels, praising God. My dreams were continually of heavenly scenery in the delightful regions of the just and the glorious appearance of the heavenly order. Many happy spirits and Angels of love were daily sent to strengthen my spirit and to guard and guide my infant feet through the tender years of childhood.

10 I was very early, strongly impressed to believe, that there was something miraculous in my very being, but what it was I could not comprehend, until just before I was nine years of age, in a wonderful interview with the Angels of heaven, it was revealed to me that I was the Son of the Most High God. This important revelation, started a host of queries in my infant mind, as to what my heavenly Father had designed, the relation in which I stood to the children of men, the part I was destined to act in later years, my future calling among the children of men and what would finally result from my introduction into this world. And though I felt great anxiety and had many inquiries to make of the Holy Angels concerning these things, I could only learn them from time to time as they were commissioned to instruct me. For I had to wait until the appointed times and seasons and receive all my light and information in a proper line of order, by special direction of my Eternal Parents.

11 From the time it was clearly announced to me that I was the Son of God, I was fully impressed that there was something terrible attached to the children of men about which, in some future time, I should become deeply concerned, but what it was, I could not then comprehend. In my interviews with the Jewish Doctors and Lawyers in the temple at the feast of the Passover and in my opportunities from time to time to mingle and converse with the multitude, I found that my knowledge and ideas were different from their knowledge and ideas, both of heaven and earth, of Angels and men.

12 Though they had arrived at the age of maturity and many of them were far advanced in knowledge of the Jewish nation, yet I easily comprehended them all and could reason more deeply than they and soon confound them. But instead of feeling exalted by such results, these things filled me with far more astonishment than it did the many who were often delighted to hear me. The reason for their great deficiency in the true knowledge of the spiritual things of God and the superior kind of knowledge with which I spoke and the mighty power with which I reasoned, I did not then fully understand. I believed that the hand of my heavenly Father was in it and that at some future time I should know more concerning it and on this ground, rested my childish speculations and imaginations.

13 At the proper age, I entered the synagogue, to hear the Law of Moses read and expounded. This was a new and striking era of my life, which I long remembered with much

pleasure and pain, for I had now arrived at that age which required a severe cross against that fallen nature which I received with my mortal existence. The reading and expounding of the Law and my own light and conviction, received from my heavenly Father through the medium of Angels, opened two distinct paths in life, before my young mind. One, was the flowery path of nature presented to me under the Law, the other was the path of perfect purity marked out before me by my own light and conviction.

14 I soon became as familiar with the Law, its ordinances and sacrifices, its requirements and duties, its restrictions and indulgences and with the writings of the Ancient Prophets, as was the High Priest himself and nature with all its powerful charms and pleasing allurements, gave every possible invitation to take that path. The ministration of Angels ceased for a season and I was left as if I was alone and with none to help me, in order to prove my obedience to the light of God that had been kindled within me. This was my first great struggle and the first ground on which I was left entirely to decide and make my own choice.

15 I cautiously viewed the path of nature and its cravings and indulgences and carefully investigated the reason for all of the restraints imposed thereon by the Law of Moses. From my inward feelings and from the restraints of the Law, I saw there was something powerfully tyrannical and very offensive to my heavenly Father, attached to the nature of man, for the Law seemed to bind that nature down with great severity and it seemed that those restraints would need to be carried but very little further to doom that nature to Eternal destruction.

16 I plainly saw that if I chose the flowery self-indulgent path of nature, which I could do under the Law, I must sacrifice my former purity and perfect justification, the society of Angels and my union to God my heavenly Father. But my dear children, the cross then appeared as great and as terrible to me, as it possibly can to any of you now, for remember, God had given me no positive command to travel in this path of perfect purity. The precepts and examples of Priests and Levites and of the whole Jewish nation who were called the chosen people of God and of mankind through all ages before me, favored the way of self-indulgence and what made my way still straighter; and my duty less clear, I could learn of none who had travelled the pure and self-sacrificing path to complete perfection before me.

17 To decide this choice brought my soul into great tribulation and I cried to my heavenly Father day and night, for some manifestation that would clearly reveal my duty, for I was too young and inexperienced to know from my own intelligence what was to be gained by a cross of perfect self-denial.

18 At length, again through the ministration of Angels, my duty as the Son of God and the first foundation pillar of the New Creation, together with the knowledge of the fall of man and what it consisted of, was clearly opened before me. Among all the great manifestations of God that I afterward experienced in abundance, I always prized this manifestation as the highest, because it laid the broadest and surest foundation for my Eternal happiness. And among all the wonderful displays of heavenly light which afterward beamed upon me, none ever filled me with that astonishment and true thankfulness that this did. For by its light, I saw clearly that

my own selfish nature was doomed to Eternal destruction. I saw the loss of man in all its terrible forms. I saw where and how the serpent first entered the groves of Eden and destroyed man's obedience and ruined his honor and happiness. I clearly saw that the work appointed for me was to slay this nature and thereby destroy the works of the devil and become the Chief Captain of the salvation of the souls of men.

19 In compliance with my duty which had now been made plain, I didn't hesitate for one moment to take up a full cross and enter joyfully into the great work that lay before me. I fulfilled all the requirements of the Mosaic Law, which my heavenly Father enjoined upon me and for a time, kept my superior light, knowledge and obedience, as secret as possible. I was wonderfully blessed with Divine gifts and manifestations, far beyond your comprehension, as a reward for my faithfulness and I now saw beyond the possibility of a doubt, that I was to become the leading Agent in opening a new and glorious dispensation to mankind, but was still ignorant of how it was to begin and be completed.

20 I fondly imagined a thousand things at this early period, which bitter experience taught me later, were but golden dreams of fancy. I was often occupied for days and nights together picturing in fond imagination the rise, setting up and progress of a new and glorious dispensation among the children of men. I really believed that I should witness the subjection of tens of thousands of my people, to the gospel which God had committed to my trust, though I was sensible from the writings of the Prophets and from the revelation of God, that the work would cost me many painful labors and extreme sufferings, yet I knew not in what manner they would take place.

21 The next degree of travel and one of great importance, was to discern between natural and spiritual relations. I was surrounded by natural relations, friends and a race of men, that with all their pretensions to godliness were living in practices directly opposed to the light of God in my own spirit. They were living in impurity and all manner of deception. My faith and understanding required me to live Holy, pure and undefiled. They were living in carnal indulgences and sinful pleasures, my heavenly Father had taught me by experience and through the medium of Angels, to practice all reasonable self-denial.

22 The question arose in my mind, how in the existing state of things I could own this sinful generation for my relations. For I found on examination that friends and relations, acquaintances and strangers, the whole Jewish nation and every other nation, were all included in one common mass of uncleanness and here was the veil that was not yet lifted. And if I made this great sacrifice, what was I to receive in return. For I was taught by the events of my life, it was inconsistent with man's creation and useful existence, to live without union, friendship and society.

23 I knew not then, the true meaning of this labor that my spirit was brought into, but learned by later experience, that my heavenly Father was thereby preparing my mind for a full understanding of the way in which I was to receive my true disciples and associate with them in toils and sufferings and trials and persecutions and thereby lay a foundation for the first opening of the gospel. Nothing could exceed my joy, when after a long period of painful travel through

gloomy years of darkness, this knowledge was communicated to me by a Divine revelation from heaven.

24 I could now clearly see how the gospel was to open among the people of my own nation. I could picture in my innocent imagination, our travels and wanderings among mankind, preaching the words of Eternal Life, healing the sick of all manner of disease, casting out devils, washing away every degree of uncleanness and even raising the dead, for a knowledge of this power was given to me at this time, by the revelation of Angels. I could picture in my busy imagination how this powerful preaching, new light from heaven and these wonderful miracles would prove me to be the Son of God, introduce the gospel of salvation among men and set up God's everlasting kingdom of righteousness and peace which should never have an end.

25 Notwithstanding all the mortification I had then to bear and all the deep anxiety I had to experience before I could obtain permission of my heavenly Father to begin this great and glorious work, I am conscious that this was the happiest period of my existence on earth. I had yet to be taught by bitter experience about the deep seated wickedness, cruel and malignant revenge, abominable deceit and hypocrisy and above all that open and willful rebellion which is so deeply planted in the nature of fallen man.

26 As I had always yielded the most perfect submission to the will of my heavenly Father, I could not conceive at that early age, how there could be so much stubbornness and determined opposition to the will of God in the human heart. Of all the enthusiastic hopes I once fondly cherished and of all the painful scenes of bitter disappointment which I met in my sorrowful experience, my mistake in relation to believing in man's happy and willing subjection and final obedience to the requirements of God, in His merciful offers of salvation, was the greatest. It was the most painful of disappointments and caused the bitterest sorrow that most often interfered with my joy during the remainder of my pilgrimage on earth. Not that I sought my own glory in the least, but man's Eternal happiness.

CHAPTER 2

From the beginning of Christ's Public Ministry to its close.

1 At that important period, when by the law of my nation I had completed my years of subjection to my parents, I was visited by the most powerful host of Angels that I had ever beheld. From them I received my Anointing and full permission to enter into the work designed by the will of heaven from the foundation of the world, that I should perform. During this interview my soul was filled with love and heavenly joy to a far greater degree than I had ever before experienced. My mind was enraptured to witness the joy of this wonderful assembly of the heavenly orders in the glorious object of sending me forth in my pure, upright and innocent state, to preach the glad tidings of free salvation.

2 They baptized me with the mighty power of God and poured out the wisdom of the Most High, until I was astonished at the rich abundance and the inexhaustible fullness of God's Pure Spirit that was showered upon me. And to strengthen my hands to take hold joyfully and fervently of the great work that lay before me, they sang my praises, which echoed through the heavenly arches and cheered me on in my glorious undertaking, with their wise instructions and smiles of delight. They related to me the rejoicing that took place on earth and in heaven and the marvels that are recorded and others that were not recorded that occurred on the occasion of my mortal birth.

3 They conveyed a special message to me from my Almighty Parents, which instructed me how to commence my mission and where I should find my loving disciples who were to be my companions in joy and in tribulation. What seemed to me more precious than all the rest, was when my heavenly Mother instructed me that I had well-earned my glorious station among the sons of men by my faithful obedience to Her Holy will and that I was then to be crowned as the true and worthy Son of God for my willing obedience to His Holy laws through all the trying incidents of my life (See Luke 7:35).

4 My heavenly Parents informed me, that heaven could do no more to honor me at that time and that I was more than worthy of all the honor and glory that was then conferred upon me. My dear children, never was any but a true Son of God, able to bear such marvelous treatment. It seemed that nothing in heaven could be greater. But I afterwards passed through scenes of trials which enabled me to see the great wisdom and kindness of my Eternal Parents, in giving me this sure staff to lean upon. Although I was created the greatest, strongest and noblest of the sons of men, yet I have been called to pass through scenes of horror and of heart rending anguish, where this staff was no more than sufficient to support me.

5 When the heavenly host withdrew, I was lost in complete astonishment for many hours and when I awoke to sense the conditions around me, a solemn gloom attended with deep reflections which were painful in the extreme settled upon my feelings. I now began to contemplate my call, my station and the vast responsibility that rested upon me more deeply than ever. I saw that the prophecies within the Law of Moses with its mysterious types and shadows of good things to come and all the promises of God to a lost world were to be fulfilled through me.

6 I saw that I was designed to be a pattern for all of mankind to follow. They were to be saved through my faithfulness, if they would harken to the voice of God and follow my example. It seemed to me that if I failed in my obedience to the righteous will of Heaven, their certain and Eternal destruction was inevitable. These reflections brought me into an agony of soul and mortification of spirit that even the Son of God, at this moment is unable to describe. This gloomy season lasted for a few weeks and was highly beneficial, in shaping the subsequent course of my life.

7 If the joy and consolation was a great gift of heaven, this I also esteemed as great, for before it ended, I formed the most rigid determination of obedience to the will of God and to improve all the treasures of knowledge and heavenly wisdom that were stored in my soul. I

formed the deepest, firmest and unbending resolution, to benefit a lost world in my day and generation and this resolution I kept ever after, with reliable exactness. Throughout my mission on earth when I had learned the will of my heavenly Father, I was sure to obey, even if the loss of my own life, the lives of all mankind and the sacrifice of the whole Creation had been the consequence.

8 During this stage of my travel, I passed through the most attractive temptations of Satan, for forty days and nights. Through the whole fallen nature of the flesh with which I was clothed, through the lusts of man and his ambition for power and greatness, was I now put to the severest test. All the charms of nature — all the prospects of worldly honor, fame, pleasure and ease and of earthly happiness and dazzling majesty, were presented to me in their most attractive forms; but the firmness and resolution of my soul could not be shaken by all the powers of darkness.

9 Mankind is greatly mistaken respecting my true state in this trying season. When they hear the account of this part of my experience, they imagine that the Angels of God were with me, or that the Power of the Most High overshadowed me through these trying moments. But my dear children, this is not the way that the Son of God was supported in the hour of trial. You will readily conclude, that the great ministration I have spoken of would support me in all I could possibly be called to pass through. In a certain sense this is true, but God's ways are often mysterious and to be found out only by experience.

10 When a soul has been carried to the highest point of happiness by a great and powerful ministration, God takes deep and wise measures to test the improvement he will make of these heavenly blessings. In the reaction, when his sense is again returning to the scenes of time, he will often be called to pass through clouds of gloom and trials that will for a season, overbalance the heavenly joy and blessings he has so abundantly experienced. This is Satan's chosen time; in this dark and trying hour, he will cast in his strongest, hellish temptations to lead the soul astray from God. He is not displeased for the Saints to receive their heavenly portion, if he can find access to them, when the reaction takes place and the God of heaven puts their soul to the test.

11 In my forty days of affliction, severe temptations and long fasting, my soul often felt as if in the agonies of death, struggling for deliverance from the vengeful grasp of the adversary. On me centered his most powerful efforts to arrest my mission among the children of men, in its very commencement. His most flattering charms having failed to swerve me from the path of duty, nothing could exceed the revenge, hatred and malignant opposition which I felt from him. Through all this severe trial I was left alone, with neither Angels nor men to help me.

12 When this season of suffering ended, the Angels of God descended to comfort and revive my drooping spirit and during this ministration, I chose my loving and faithful disciples and sent them forth to preach the gospel. Exceeding bright was the heavenly prospect that opened before me when I began my mission to preach the everlasting gospel to the children of men. I saw the great harvest of souls to be gathered into the heavenly harvest and the joyful deliverance about to be granted to the suffering children of men and was perfectly lost to every

other consideration. No merchant in quest of temporal gain could possibly be inspired with that energy of spirit in his calling that I was in mine.

13 No earthly Prince about to ascend the throne of state could be a thousandth part as anxious to benefit his subjects, as I was to proceed with perfect caution, in the true fear of God and with heavenly wisdom, to benefit the souls of men. I adorned my testimony, which they were unable to bear in all its plainness, in most pleasing metaphors and instructive parables and the greater part of the Jewish nation, especially men of power and influence, still rejected it. I walked in all meekness and humility before them, but they accused me of pride and ambition.

14 I proved daily before their eyes that I was sent of God, by healing the sick of all manner of disease, by casting out devils and even by raising the dead and other marvelous miracles. Still they closed their eyes, stopped their ears, hardened their hearts and refused to believe and obey my word and finally rejected and cried out against me throughout the nation. I was daily with them in the temple, taught in their synagogues and my example was continually before their eyes, yet they rejected me as an impostor, accused me of hypocrisy, crime and leaguings with devils and unclean spirits.

15 This was far different from the reception I expected in the beginning of my mission. I tried all the arts of persuasion, every form of reproof and every other fair means, but they daily grew more hardened against the God of heaven, more determined in their opposition to His Holy laws and finally to my complete horror and amazement, they began to seek the life of the Son of God, whom the heavenly Father and all the heavenly hosts had Anointed, commissioned and sent among them as the only Savior of the world.

16 These things caused me at times, to almost lament my existence and to wish for the annihilation of the transgressors, for their spirits are Eternal and I knew that the reward of their works would be given them, and when I perceived the reality of this, in its full force, it rent my soul with indescribable anguish [**Note:** Jesus foresaw how extremely terrible the punishments would be for their Eternal spirits and mercifully wished they would be completely destroyed instead, though he knew it could not be done and they would have to reap what they sowed].

17 Up until these scenes burst upon me in all their frightful realities I had fondly cherished the flattering hope, that at least tens of thousands of my own nation would embrace the gospel of Eternal salvation, during the time allotted me to dwell on earth. When I saw that they had joined with Satan to reject the merciful offers of salvation, I often prayed for them in secret, whole nights together and often wept bitterly, over their perishing state and the certain destruction that awaited their beloved city Jerusalem. This subject is painful to my feelings, even at this distance of time and I will here close this part of my narrative and enter more deeply, into a portrayal of my severest sufferings.

CHAPTER 3

Christ's true sufferings, continued until he expired.

1 My dear children, I had been so familiar with the writings of the Prophets and so much under the influence of the immediate revelation of God, that I was persuaded an awful scene of sufferings awaited me in the course of my earthly pilgrimage. Yet as I look back and compare my experience with your present state of feeling, I see that I was then, such as some of you are now, looking for much happiness while God had designed that I should be perfected through sufferings. This is strictly true of me, although I was the Son of God and although in me dwelt the greatest fullness of wisdom, knowledge and deep understanding of the things of God, of any being ever created on earth, I still experienced great sufferings.

2 I speak this for your reflection, as a kind and tender parent to your deathless souls and as one who desires to guide your feet in the road to Eternal happiness. By what I learned from the Prophets and especially from the Holy Angels who often attended me, I had long foreseen that I should have to suffer death in some frightful form and seal the truth of my testimony with my blood. As soon as the God of heaven suffered me to fall into the blood thirsty hands of the cruel, unbelieving Jews, I learned by their malice and rage, their threats and incurable enmity to me and my testimony, the form of that death afterwards suffered and that on Mount Calvary I should be left to drink the dregs of my cup of sufferings.

3 But dear children, my death upon the cross and the cruel and shameful abuse thrust upon me by wicked men, were not the real or the deepest sufferings of him whom you, by the choice you have made, prove that you own as your Lord and Teacher. I shall now speak of that fallen nature of man which I took upon me. As it was designed for me by the will of my heavenly Father, to open the way of redemption for the great human family, it was necessary that I should be created with the strongest passions, the greatest ambition and the most powerful inclinations to follow an evil influence, of any one that ever existed in time.

4 It was also necessary that these passions, ambitions and evil inclinations be strongly appealed to, in order to test and develop my power to resist and to overcome them and to prove my faithfulness and to render me perfect through sufferings, in order that I might be able through coming ages, to know how to succor and administer help in all kinds of infirmities — to consider all kinds of personalities — to understand all kinds of temptations and to become the Savior of souls in all states and conditions. It may be truly said I was tempted of Satan, for he knew well that if he could induce me to commit a single sin, the foundation of man's true happiness and complete deliverance, would be ruined (for a season). This caused the Adversary to put forth his most powerful efforts to overcome me in early life.

5 I have often spent weeks together under the most severe temptations and trials, in which I had to guard every action, word and thought, day and night. It seemed in these times,

that the slightest deviation from the Eternal light of heaven would plunge my soul to the bottom of the gulf of perdition. At such times, the Tempter stood over me with his yawning jaws ready to devour me in every passion of my nature, in every faculty of my soul, in every appetite of my body. For every act of my life, whether joyful or sorrowful, cheerful and happy or grave and solemn, he afflicted my soul until my tormenting anguish was inexpressible.

6 For all words I spoke at this early period, for all objects beheld, for all sounds listened to, for all I tasted, felt, smelled or handled, I was severely afflicted by Satan, in order that every faculty of my soul should be purified and that every appetite, passion and sense of my nature, should be brought under the severest mortification. What rendered my state more distressing was that I had been created in that order that could behold the spiritual world in open vision and often saw Satan and his hellish hosts around me.

7 In those times dear children, I had no kind Elders and no spiritual guides to go to for release, but I had to stem the flow of evil in myself, withstand every bad example around me and bear what Satan and his dark hosts imposed upon me, with none to teach, protect or lead me, or even to administer a ray of comfort to me, after I began to travel in the work of redemption. Now you may understand the meaning of that passage of Scripture "I have trodden the wine press alone and of the people there were none with me." Also the meaning of that passage "He learned obedience by the things he suffered."

8 The temptations of evil were so numerous and my struggles to resist them so fervent and my afflictions so many and painful, that at times with deepest feelings of anguish and horror, have I feared that I had committed some act of offense against my heavenly Father of which I could not comprehend and thus joined with Satan, sinned against heaven and lost my noble birthright.

9 And many times after such severe scourgings and tormenting anguish the good Angels have suddenly appeared for my relief and found me almost smothered with tears of repentance, completely broken down in agony and despair and have comforted my weary soul and driven back the Adversary with his black clouds of deception and enabled me again to lay hold of that pure justification, which I never lost by unfaithfulness. Scores of times have they kneeled around and wept over me in the midst of my joy and release.

10 My dear children, it was very far from pleasing to my heavenly Father or my Eternal Mother that I should thus have to suffer. But mankind had plunged so deep into sin and their lost state was so dreadful, that God in His Infinite knowledge and wisdom, saw that the only way for their deliverance was to create such a being as I was, who should have such a travel as I had, pass through such temptations as I did and finally gain such a victory as I gained, in order to open for them, the door of Eternal salvation, through which they might enter and travel from their lost state. So instead of there being anything hard or unfeeling in this, it was the greatest mercy and kindness that God ever bestowed on a lost world that I was thus created and called to suffer.

11 By entering into this work in early childhood, I learned to combat the nature of man and all the powers of darkness, through every stage of man's painful existence. I learned to

resist and conquer the most ferocious, ambitious and filthy passions that ever existed in the sons of men. I learned to overrule and bring into subjection to the pure and living truth of God, the most deceptive, dishonest and crooked inclinations that have existed in the human family. And this work was given me by my heavenly Father to do, before He entrusted to my care the souls of men, for as I have already told you, the souls of men are not to be trifled with.

12 Not that I had gained complete redemption, when I began to preach the gospel of salvation, but when God sent me forth as the great Shepherd of Israel, He saw that through faithfulness and extreme suffering, my feet were unalterably placed on that foundation which could never be shaken by all the powers of darkness. And on this foundation I had to prove myself firm as the everlasting hills, before I could receive authority to teach, or even know who would become the companions of my toils and future sufferings.

13 Before I close this part of my subject, let me invite the young and innocent lambs of my flock, to contrast their condition in these happy days, with mine when in my youthful state and see if they cannot discover enough difference in their favor, to fill their souls with thankfulness to God for their present advantages. I had to travel alone, combat the strongest passions of nature alone, fight the whole hosts of Satan and bear my sorrow and extreme suffering, having none to help or associate with, none to cheer or comfort me.

14 You have good and experienced Elders to watch over and protect you, to teach you the difference between truth and error, light and darkness. If you are truly honest and obedient, when you are tempted, they will not suffer Satan to carry that matter far, for to your beloved Elders is given authority to say, when Satan approaches to afflict such souls, "No further shalt thou come." His painful temptations, tormenting fears and cruel buffetings can be driven back by the faithful Shepherds, who are placed to watch over the lambs of my flock.

15 I do not always strictly examine to learn how you feel in this matter, but on my own part often have I retired from among the hosts of heaven and shed tears of gratitude for the compassion of my heavenly Father, when I have seen your beloved Leaders delivering my dear and tender lambs from the tormenting fangs of the Serpent and setting them at perfect liberty from the scourging afflictions of Satan that I once suffered so intensely and was only made able by the miraculous power of the Almighty to bear. Learn, dear children, when you have heard this part of my experience, to be thankful for your great privilege.

16 You are not required to be so faithful as I was, in order to keep your justification, nor to travel the thorny path that I traveled, in so trying and humble a manner to enable you to find heaven. You are not required to feel but a small part of my sufferings to enable you to gain salvation. For though you sin through inexperience a lot of times, you may find charity and be forgiven, when one of those sins would have sunk my soul from the God of heaven, into the regions of tormenting anguish, to the endless ages of Eternity. But dear children, what feelings of love and gratitude, are due from you to your heavenly Father, for the heavenly favors so bountifully bestowed upon you. For you have as great of a light, as ever was revealed from heaven to earth and as great of protection as ever was extended to mortals and the greatest ministration of Angels and justified spirits that ever was known on earth among the Saints of

God. I will now relate to you something further concerning my fond hopes and the pleasing imaginations of my early days respecting the happiness of my own nation.

17 At a certain stage of my life, it was revealed to me in a heavenly vision, the exact kind of submission God would require of the Jews, to enable them to enter the gospel of salvation and the exact order, honor, glory and beauty which their submission would bestow upon them. And my heavenly Father assured me, through the medium of Angels, that this submission was altogether in their power, if they chose to render it. I saw in the vision of God, the Church that might be established in Jerusalem, if they would embrace the offers of the gospel. I saw the brightness and glory that Church would stand in and the exceeding honor and glory it would be to the nation. I saw that if even a part of the nation would embrace the gospel, God would extend protection and blessings for a season, to the whole nation on that account.

18 Through this, I saw the way in which they would become the chief delight of Angels and of the God of heaven and earth and the excellent and honorable standing they would take among the nations of the earth. I saw in the visions of God, that they were as a nation, by far the most noble race of men under heaven and that God had designed in creating them, to form a grade of noble spirits worthy to receive the first offers of the gospel, to take the lead in the work of Eternal salvation and forever stand first in the order of redemption. I saw the many noble spirits created, exactly suitable to receive the light of the gospel and become ministering spirits to the rest of their nation, if they would humble themselves and receive the long promised Son of God in his lowly capacity and acknowledge his chosen disciples.

19 I saw that in the way God had laid out to send to the Jews by me and my true disciples, the offer of Eternal salvation, He designed to prove the submission and obedience of the whole Jewish nation. I saw in the heavenly visions that often inspired my soul, the help they would be to me in placing the gospel in the earth while it was God's will to continue it in the first Dispensation and the powerful Ministers that thousands of them would make, to carry the offers of Eternal happiness to those unenlightened nations lost in heathenish darkness, in remotest parts of the earth.

20 These impressions I often received in heavenly visions, were the foundation of my fond hope that the Jews would very extensively receive the offers of the gospel. And though my reason and the testimony of the Prophets operated in a degree to check my overly hopeful expectations, I had not yet experienced enough to believe it possible that men could stand so much opposed to their own best interest and real happiness. In all my visions, I plainly saw that the Jews and all the rest of mankind would be left free to act upon their own, independent choice. And when I saw the door to Eternal happiness opening before them so plainly and that by the mighty power of God they would be taught this wonderful reality so clearly, I could not persuade myself that they would so extensively reject the only means of happiness. With these hopes, which nothing but the painful reality afterward experienced could destroy, I set out to perform the great undertaking that lay before me.

21 Now dear children, with this revelation of the wise choice they might have made and the honorable stance they would have taken, if they had wisely listened and yielded

obedience, can you not see that I was every way prepared to feel their horrible state and to be rent with bitter anguish for the dreadful choice they made and by the open rebellion of many of the Jewish nation. When I saw the awful gulf that was fast opening before them, into which they were hastening to sure and Eternal destruction, was there not ample cause for my tears of anguish and my bitter lamentation over the devoted city of Jerusalem. [Note: Eternal destruction here means the irrecoverable loss to the disobedient, of losing their birthright and the destruction of their happiness in a state wherein souls cannot measure time and which therefore, seems Eternal. There is always hope that a Merciful God will reach out His hand but they must firstly reap what they sow in full and shall never have another chance to win their Eternal birthright.]

22 I saw thousands around me who might have been foremost in redeeming the souls of their brethren, disdainfully reject those merciful offers of Eternal Life and happiness which had cost me such indescribable anguish, toil and suffering to gain. And worse still, they were using every art of deception and open falsehood, to blind the eyes of their brethren, to annul the effect of my testimony and to suppress God's Holy work throughout the Jewish nation. Though many had taken this opposite stand in darkness, yet tens of thousands did it with their eyes wide open.

23 In the second year of my mission, I meditated more upon the persecution that the Prophets had received at their hands, even to the taking of their lives. In considering the cruel whippings, banishments, fiery tortures and dreadful deaths that many had suffered by their cruelty, when these things opened to me their horrid reality and in contemplating my own painful experience among them, I often felt as though I had been cast out of heaven and the bowers of Paradise, into the very belly of hell. In those days of dismal anguish I began to seriously consider what I was to expect from their cruel hands. But their malignant looks and threats and the secret bribes that were offered for my life, soon taught me this lesson.

24 These things brought me into a deep labor of soul, not for the preservation of my life, for this did not appear to me of great value. But I weighed the sins of this greatly favored yet rebellious nation. I saw that from their beginning they had been remarkable in their abundant sinning, as a fountain of iniquity and open rebellion against the God of heaven. There was the blood of Prophets and Holy men of God which they had shed. I saw as clearly as in the visions of God, the just amount of all their transgressions against His Holy laws and their disobedience to the Sacred light of heaven. Added to this, their last and the greatest sin they could commit — that of rejecting the offers of Eternal happiness which God had so graciously extended to them.

25 I compared this with what I have before described, the honor, glory and Eternal happiness which they had so willingly Eternally forfeited, and at such times, in retired and secret places, have I cried aloud in my dreadful anguish of sorrow and despair, O heavenly Father and all the hosts of heaven, will these thy rebellious people yet add to all the rest of their woeful crimes, the cold blooded wickedness of crucifying the Son of God, who was sent to them with the merciful offers of life and salvation?

26 In some of these painful moments, it was revealed to me by the ministering Angels who sought by every means in their power to comfort me, that this was certainly to be

added to my cup of affliction. I had not feared the death which they were fast preparing to inflict upon me, if every other consideration could have been left out. I would have willingly suffered all I then suffered and would have borne all I then bore for the Jewish nation and I would have felt the same Fatherly compassion, love, charity and tenderness of spirit, which I ever manifested towards them and would have willingly received as a reward for my labors that which I was about to receive from their hands, if it would have restored to them their birthright and lifted them above the fearful consequences sure to follow the loss of it. But all I could suffer could never pay the dreadful debt they were contracting. [Note: Jesus could not save them from their own choices and consequences as much as he desired to. He can only show the way of God as he did for us all and Shakers who completely follow his gospel way shall reign with him forever and ever. Amen]

27 After this sorrowful revelation, I resigned myself to my lot, with that patience and fortitude which befitted the situation and though dangers thickened around me, I did not deviate even slightly from my path of duty. Many times, when I saw situations which I knew were formed to bring about my death, have I gone when the Spirit of God impressed me so to do, boldly into the midst of them, to convey the light of heaven to the multitude and I have openly rebuked their ungodly counsels and shamed them for their murderous designs. I taught in their synagogues and daily preached the gospel among them, which I loved above all things and for which I was soon to lay down my life. I worked signs, healed the sick and even raised the dead to life in the midst of my bitterest enemies. I did not retire from this public ministration until warned of my heavenly Father to walk more secluded and to teach my doctrines more privately.

28 At this period of my life, nothing rested with a greater weight on my feelings, than the thoughts of leaving my loving and suffering disciples. I labored to prepare their minds for the dreadful shock they were to receive, as tenderly and wisely as possible. I had spoken of these things in their hearing before, yet they were too innocent to expect such cruelty at the hands of their own nation. Having impressed their feelings with what was about to come to pass, with great carefulness, I began to prepare them for my departure by administering to their souls such consolation and encouragement as they were able to receive.

29 In my cries and prayers to God for them, I received Divine assurance that after my conclusion they should be baptized with the Holy Spirit and do a mighty work on earth, frustrating the opposition of men and devils and that they should stand as the firm supporters of my precious gospel. It was also revealed to me that these dreadful calamities should not come upon me until I had completed my redemption. I continued teaching my doctrine until that memorable night when I ate the last Passover with my disciples and exposed before them who it was that would betray me. When supper ended, Judas having departed, my sufferings began to come upon me. We all retired to Gethsemane, where I experienced their greatest intensity.

30 My keen sufferings, aggravated by the thoughts of separation from my dear followers, the fall of one of my disciples and the evil deed he was about to commit, the lost state of mankind, the great wickedness of the Jews and the Divine Judgments which I saw would overtake them and the vengeance of the powers of darkness settled down upon me causing such a

weight of sorrow as tested my strength and courage to the utmost and I prayed to my heavenly Father that if it were possible, this cup might pass from me, feeling at the same time submissive to do His will. The agonies of that moment, the bloody sweat, the death that overshadowed my disciples, are as fresh in my memory as on that fateful night.

31 After I was bound and taken before their judgment seat, my soul was chilled with horror at the prospect of the awful judgments that awaited God's disobedient people. I saw the fearful calamities which befell the city of Jerusalem, as clearly as when they afterwards took place. I saw their enemies encamp around the city, break down its walls and prevail against it. I saw their stubborn opposition, their dreadful famine and their hardness and blindness of heart, while their sufferings increased in proportion to the great crimes they had committed. I saw every good spirit and guardian Angel depart from among them and leave them a prey to beastly men and devils, with none to shield them and no mighty arm stretched out for their deliverance. I saw their temple destroyed, their city levelled to the dust and the remnant who were not slain by the sword nor by famine scattered abroad among nations, a disgrace in the earth, a striking memorial of God's judgment and the effects of willful rebellion in persistent transgression of His laws and commandments. Thus I saw them sunk in disgrace and held in contempt by those nations, which God had designed they should lead, if they would have proven themselves worthy, in the work of redemption.

32 My dear children, I always considered my physical suffering by death on the cross, as the least part of my real sufferings and but little needs to be said of them.

33 The hill of Calvary, with its dismal scenes, my parching thirst and mangled limbs, the mocking insults of Jews and Romans, extended between two thieves before heaven and earth, the lingering death and the bloody spear, are registered in heaven and by me remembered. It is true that towards the close of my sufferings, on the return of all those painful recollections, I felt as though God, Angels and Men had forsaken me. But I had experienced nearly the same before, though not under such painful circumstances.

34 At every return of calm, collected reason, even in view of the great crimes of the Nation and amid all their mocking and unfeeling insults, I could with heartfelt emotion pray for the Jews, towards whom I always felt the tenderest love, though in return they proved themselves by their rage and madness, my bitterest enemies. Amid the severe sufferings of the last hour, one consoling reflection I had was this; though thousands were sinning with their eyes wide open, yet tens of thousands more, who were urged on by the fury of Satan and the madness of others, knew not the nature of the awful crime they were committing.

35 For while many would be doomed to suffer in the world of spirits the penalty of willful transgression, I could extend charity and God could bestow His pardoning mercy easily on all who assisted in the great transgression, in the blindness of ignorance. The last agonies, of which I retain distinct recollection, were my struggles in the moments of death and resigning my spirit to my heavenly Father. After passing out, my soul was wafted by millions of Angels from mortal sight. For all the heavenly orders of every rank and description had assembled to witness this horrid spectacle.

36 Thus dear children, have I given you as a gift, through the intercession of your blessed Mother Ann, the fullest, clearest and truest account of my real sufferings that was ever revealed to mortals on earth. Receive this, my dear children, as sure evidence that you as a people are held very near to the Lord Jesus, your heavenly Father. I have long watched over this place and can come very near to and find a glad reception among you, because you are a poor suffering group of my dear children, who are as near to me as the apple of my eye, or the happiness of my own spirit.

37 I have dictated every sentence of this account of my life and you may receive it as the clear genuine truth from the memory of your blessed Lord and Teacher. In coming ages, it will not be ranked among the least of your honors, that on this humble spot and among this suffering people was given by Christ the Savior, this heart stirring account of his life and sufferings on earth, in the days of his extreme humility.

38 I am sensible that I can bestow no treasures upon you that will be esteemed so valuable — I can reveal nothing to you that will be held so Sacred and can leave no memorial among you that will be so long remembered as the contents of this little book. For every soul who listens to these words from the lips of a Holy Savior, may know that my warmest love and surest Eternal blessings are extended to my children for whose benefit it is given, in every page, in every line and in every word that is uttered in my part of this book.

39 While inspiring the Instrument who has written this account, my spirit has glowed with most tender love, Fatherly compassion and warmest affection for my children here and be assured I have taken as much satisfaction in communicating this little gift to you as you can possibly take in receiving it. In it is mingled no stripes of reproof, because at this time you do not need them and they shall not fall upon you for you have had your full share for the present.

40 Dear Children, compare this record with the many volumes that have been written and the sermons preached and the many things that have been said by false Christians and see the miserable mistake they have made concerning my true character and real sufferings. They have placed them altogether in outward things and circumstances and have painted in glaring colors the agonies of physical death and have in a great measure overlooked my suffering in spirit and humiliating travel of soul.

41 Look not to the children of this world for happiness nor for light to guide you on your heavenly journey — look not to an increase of numbers for enjoyment, but always stand ready to step forward into this glorious work, though you are called to the ends of the earth and are required like your Lord and Teacher to seal with your blood the truth of the gospel of salvation. Place your dependence on the God of heaven, in a meek, humble spirit and be ready to pass through trials sufferings, afflictions, stripes, imprisonments and death and instead of fretting at your lot, labor to feel thankful to your heavenly Father for your call and privilege to suffer for your Holy Savior.

PART 2

The Life and Sufferings of Our Blessed Mother Ann

CHAPTER 1

Visions and Exercises of Mind and Why She Married.

1 My dear children, to some of you it may seem needless that more be said or written about my life and character than has already been. But your blessed Savior designed to reveal to this little flock a clear and true account of his sufferings, together with many things of his early life not known on earth and has conferred on me the favor of bestowing this gift, though he himself made the revelation and inspired the writer. It was also the will and request of my Lord and Teacher, that an account of my early life and painful travel and sufferings should form a second part to this little gift that hereafter you may be able to compare the lives of your heavenly Parents and thereby learn that both drank of the same, bitter cup of sufferings — worked out the same deliverance from the nature of evil — opened to fallen man the same prospects of everlasting salvation and thereby united two dispensations of the everlasting gospel in one and thus laid the sure and final foundation of human happiness upon that rock which never can be shaken by all the powers of darkness.

2 When I requested of my Lord and Teacher to bestow this token of tender love upon my dear children, he was pleased to grant my request. And when I told him that this account would delight your spirits and be handed down by you to many generations, he smiled and asked me if it would not be a far richer gift if a similar account of the life and sufferings of their loving and tender Mother should form the second part to this book. He said that as dutiful children always love their Mother, at least as well as they do their Father it seemed as though the joy of his children could not be complete with the account of his life and sufferings only and that when this work should be handed forth to future generations, something would always seem to be lacking and that thousands when they heard the sufferings of Christ the Savior, would regret that they could not hear the sufferings and painful travel of the Mother of their redemption also.

3 This taught me that this second part was as necessary as the first. So you see it was not your Savior *alone* nor yet your beloved Mother *alone* who gave you this little book, but both, united in one degree of love, blessing and fervent desire for your Eternal welfare.

4 Know then dear children, that when I awoke to a knowledge of my existence on earth, I learned that I was born in the midst of English people and was a native of the land of Britain. I found as I grew older that I was under the care and guardianship of tender, moral and

pious parents who were very watchful for my protection, careful to instruct me in the fear of God and to inspire my tender mind with love for Sacred and heavenly things. From my earliest recollection I was blessed with heavenly visions, except at some particular seasons of my life and as soon as I was able to comprehend in a small degree, the true meaning of such Divine manifestations, the spiritual world began to open before me.

5 Before I was nine years of age, I saw in the visions of God, the Patriarchs, Prophets and the Holy men of God who died in former ages of the world. I saw the state of the happy ones, who knew not that they could ever attain to a higher degree of joy, comfort and purity. I also saw the black prisons of darkness and millions of souls in these regions of torment, but knew not the dreadful nature of their transgressions.

6 I saw the souls of the female part of humanity both in the mansions of the justified and in the regions of darkness and despair. In the former, they were clothed in sackcloth and mourning. In the latter they were agonizing in torment, among the wretched and unclean. I comprehended in a measure the meaning of the suffering of the inhabitants in the regions of darkness, but could not understand why there should be heard the voice of mourning and woe in the midst of what seemed to me the very kingdom of heaven. I often saw among females in the mansions of happiness, those who while on earth had been blessed with visions and prophecies and had the true gifts of God. I noticed that they looked upon me with much secret joy and pleasure, which I plainly saw in their countenances, but knew not why. Also when my soul was wafted into those heavenly regions, I was beheld with pleasure by many of the ancient Prophets and wise men of old, who were remarkable when on earth for the purity of their lives and the Divine revelations made through them and for many things I learned they had foretold which were yet to be fulfilled.

7 When I was but a child, not twelve years of age, suffering and in passing the prison doors, I noticed that many of the suffering souls in those realms of torment would look at me, until I thought I could see a degree of hope beam from their faces of sorrow and despair.

8 In those early days, I often saw, when in the visions of God, the souls of the Martyrs who were killed in ages past for supporting the testimony of truth. Though these sons and daughters of sorrow seemed like most striking examples of patience and virtue and seemed to enjoy a singular kind of happiness and justification; yet there was a cloud of gloom and feeling of sadness saturating their mansions of promise that often made my tender spirit feel exceedingly sorrowful and unhappy. Many of these noble spirits, frequently testified of their joy at my coming to their mansions, equal to any spirits I recollect seeing in these early visions.

9 There was one very long, deep, dark and lofty range of prisons, which I often passed, when I entered the Eternal world. Their walls appeared exceedingly strong and terrible and their black gates, dreadful. The gloom and terror around these hellish abodes of misery and torment inspired the beholder with fear and chilled the soul with horror. Through those gates I was never permitted to pass, or to cast a look within. On the outside in large black letters was the information, **"Enclosed within these walls, in gloomy cells of torment, dwell the persecutors who have afflicted, scourged, tortured and killed God's people in all ages of the world."**

10 I afterwards learned why neither I nor any other soul in a state of justification was permitted to gaze into these abodes. It was not that we should not see them, but because they were not permitted to see us, their punishment being of the most dreadful kind. In these frightful abodes dwelt the most hellish spirits whose business it was to torment these unhappy wretches, who were not permitted to gaze upon any spirit possessing happiness that could extend to them a gleam of hope, or quiet for a moment the ceaseless torment of their agony and despair.

11 So many precious gifts of God and heavenly visions while I was yet a child in nature and often under condemnation for small offences and seldom without great conviction on account of a sinful nature which I found daily growing stronger within me, often filled my mind with wonder and astonishment. In relating these visions to my parents, I found they did not seem to understand their meaning. I conversed with other children concerning many of these things, but they treated them as idle dreams of fancy and I found they were total strangers to these exercises of mind and these wonderful gifts of heaven.

12 Then the inquiry arose in my mind as to the meaning of these things. They seemed peculiar to me alone and I felt anxious to know the reason. I could not think it was because I was better than others, for I found very few who seemed to feel more trouble on account of inward guilt and painful conviction than I at times experienced. At the same time I began to be impressed that there was something very mysterious in my existence, that I was born for some wonderful purpose and to answer some great end in the providence of God. I kept these thoughts to myself, feeling suspicious that they were the offspring of an ambitious and vain imagination.

13 At this period of my life, as I lived among a throng of wicked people, whose children were running into many evil ways, I began to observe in their conduct and conversation what kind of evil practices they were most inclined to and, I inquired of them their motives for doing so. Possessing strong powers of mind and deep penetration of spirit, I could see, when they told me, the exact motives which induced them to sin. Also having clear reasoning powers and sound judgment, I could weigh them in a correct balance and thus determine the exact strength of their inclinations. I often compared these with my own infirmities and wonderful to relate, found that my own inclinations to sin were at least ten fold stronger than the worst that I thus examined in them. This gave rise to another important query in my mind. Why was I able to withstand the stronger force of evil inclinations, while they were running into all manner of excess in wrong doing? The contrast between the protection I was under and the dreadful loose evil state they were falling into was to me a matter of surprise and wonder.

14 In all my visionary experiences, though I saw all ranks and conditions of other spirits, I have no recollection of ever seeing in my childhood and youth, Christ, nor any of the Holy Angels and often wondered why, for no other being was so much the delight of my reflections by day and by night, as the Savior of mankind. I often longed to see the Holy Angels, but was not at that stage of my life, permitted to see them.

15 Though not at this period, enlightened to know it, I was afterwards informed by the blessed Savior, that I was the object of his peculiar care, from my earliest infancy, until I had

completed my redemption and that from the earliest days of childhood to the close of my existence on earth, I was the delight of Angels who foresaw the great station I was destined by the God of heaven to fill. This explained to me, the mystery of the wonderful strength I received to fight against my strong inclinations to sin, while others of weaker feelings and inclinations to sin were loosely indulging in many sins and covering themselves with shame. It all came from my Holy Savior and his lovely Angels, who foresaw that if I was left to grow up in sinful indulgences, I would never be able to rise from my lost state and stand in that lot which the God of heaven designed me to fill.

16 On arriving at the age when my evil passions tempted me most strongly to the paths of sin, the visions of God left me and my strength began to fail me. As I saw that my soul was growing weaker and my passions becoming stronger, it brought me into exceedingly deep tribulation and I often cried aloud in private, in bitter sorrow and in passionate prayers to God, to my blessed Savior and all the Holy Angels to strengthen my soul against sinful temptations and inclinations to depart from the path of purity.

17 I led a most temperate life and was chaste and upright. I implored on my bended knees, the protection of my Mother, so that I might be kept from that awful guilt, which seemed daily approaching. I was always impressed from my childhood that there was something atrocious and extremely offensive in the corrupt nature of the flesh to the God of heaven and all of the heavenly hosts. But not withstanding my fervent cries and appeals to the Powers above to support my efforts to stand my ground and gain perfect purity, the Spirit of the Lord seemed to have departed from me and my strength failed. Overcome by the influences within and around me which banished all conviction, I fell under the power of the Adversary for a time and entered the marriage state.

18 In this very contract, I wondered exceedingly that I was thus left and suffered to commit what appeared to me a great transgression against the light of heaven. Although I received the kindest of treatment, I never could reconcile my soul to my fallen condition. I kept this feeling, until by the light of God, my convictions returned upon me and my suffering became so extreme and my light so exceedingly clear, that I set out with a firm resolution to deny myself and take up my cross though death should be the consequence.

19 Even after I had thus set out to abstain from every act of uncleanness the buffetings of Satan were continuous and extremely severe upon me. He strove by all the powers of his hellish arts to entice me back to my former sinful life and by every stratagem he could devise, he endeavored to make me believe that I had fallen so far from my former purity and had departed so far from the Divine will of heaven, that I could never return.

20 This was a severe trial which I suffered under, until it was clearly revealed to me by the Lord and Savior that it was the purpose of God that I should thus descend into the depths of the fallen state of the female part of humanity, in order that I might learn how to feel for the daughters of men in their deplorable condition and also learn by my painful, travail of soul, how to lead their souls to God.

21 Then I was delivered from all afflictions on account of my departure from the light of heaven. Then I plainly saw why the Spirit of God seemed to leave me, why my heavenly gifts ceased and why my inclinations which prompted to this downward course, having been restrained in my youthful days, now prevailed against me and why my natural kindred united in their efforts against me, until I was bound down in this loathsome degraded state.

CHAPTER 2

Mother Ann's preparatory travel, until the opening of the gospel in America.

1 In this chapter shall I relate some new things to my children and some that have been before related in substance, though in a different manner. I now began to travel in the spirit of perfect obedience to those faithful Witnesses whom God had raised up to prepare the way for my coming. To every degree of purity, honesty, open confession, temperance and sobriety which their light and Divine revelation required, did I render obedience with that unceasing diligence which obtained complete justification for me. This I did with a feeling of delight not to be described and in a degree of submission that nothing could exceed, for I felt like a soul just let loose from the dungeons of hell, that had to travel day and night in tears and perpetual cries to God for a complete and final deliverance from a sinful nature.

2 About this time, I began to be more seriously impressed concerning the true intent for which I was born and the great end of my creation. The visions of the Almighty returned and I began again to explore the states of suffering souls in the world of spirits. In these visions I was brought into extreme sorrow and sufferings of soul, for I saw the same orders of spirits, both in their justified and in their most unhappy states and began to learn by their cries, their sorrowful appearance and their regard for me, that they were looking to me for deliverance.

3 At such times I sensed my great loss from God in so clear of a manner, that it seemed as though I could not with the most severe mortification and dreadful suffering, deliver my own soul from the reigning power of sin, much less to open the way for the perfect and final purification of all these orders of justified and unhappy souls, who, I began to learn, were waiting in patient yet longing desire for the way to open for them, to complete their perfect and Eternal happiness.

4 These experiences brought my soul into exceeding heavy labor and painful travel, for now it became clearly manifested to my understanding, that the work which God had laid out for me to perform, was, by working out my own salvation and complete redemption in this world, thus to open the way to perfect happiness, not only for all the lost sons and daughters of men in this world, but to open the way to the Holy City of Eternal rest and peace, for all the fallen race of Adam. The undoubted knowledge I now received of the truth of these impressions, which were daily confirmed to me by immediate revelation from heaven and the most

astonishing visions of God, brought me into a state of the deepest suffering my soul was able to endure.

5 I now began to see the nature of God's wonderful dealings with me from my early childhood. I could now look over and see the true meaning of all my early visions and revelations. I could see the meaning of my wonderful protection, through my youthful days and even began to learn the true intention of my being suffered to fathom man's miserable and exceeding lost state by my own sorrowful and heart rending experience.

6 I now had such a convincing amount of evidence concerning my mission into this world, that with every faculty of my soul, I strove to serve God with the utmost exactness and therefore called into exercise all my power and fortitude of mind and body to enter into and complete the work that God was fast opening before me. At this stage of my travel, I was brought into the most severe labor my soul ever experienced. I had to learn by the revelation of God, the depth of man's loss from God and the real nature of his first departure from the path of obedience.

7 My own conviction, the cross which I had long borne, the abhorrent state of the world around me and the degraded and awful state of millions in the world of spirits and the cause of the lamentation and mourning of the spirits of the just, concurred in giving me strong suspicion of the nature of man's offence in the groves of Eden. But like an honest soul who wishes to become a skillful pilot, or a sure guide to lead the souls of men to the streams of Eternal purity and Fountain of all true happiness, I longed to know the clear and naked truth with a degree of anxiety beyond any way I can express to mortals.

8 This inquiry seemed to me not only proper and rational, but I asked my heavenly Father in the deepest feelings of humility, how could I ever complete my own redemption and become the spiritual Mother of the great human family without this knowledge. In answer to my fervent appeal, my soul was wafted for the first time into the *Holy Selan* which is the pure abode of millions of Holy Angels. I was there made acquainted with the nature of man's first transgression and the very cause of his disobedience to the law of God and the light of heaven. I there saw the very Angels who drove him out of paradise and they revealed to me the whole of that misery making transaction. This gave me a clearer view of the duty which lay before me and the broad field of labor upon which I was to enter.

9 It was not only necessary that I should know the exact nature of my calling, but that I should also in this wonderful interview with the Angels, learn the lot in which God designed to place me. Accordingly I was conducted by a host of Angels to the Holy mansions inhabited by Christ, the Savior of the world. There the Savior instructed me concerning the station I should afterwards fill.

10 To alleviate my sorrow and banish for the time being my extreme mortification, he told me with what Fatherly care he had watched over me from my earliest infancy. He assured me that it had always been the design of his heavenly Father and Mother that at the proper time and season of my life, I should have the interview I was then enjoying and enter into that heavenly relation, for which I was about to begin my travel. He instructed me how or in what

way, every event of my life had been preparing me to enter the work I was about to undertake for the salvation and Eternal deliverance of the great human family. He acknowledged all my former obedience to the light of heaven and assured me that he would ever after be my sure protector and at times I should be admitted to his Holy mansion, to receive strength of soul and enjoy seasons of rest from my painful labors and extreme sufferings in spirit, during my earthly pilgrimage.

11 He assured me that though the undertaking before me was exceedingly great and extremely painful and laborious, that I had nothing to fear, for he would be my companion in my hours of severest trial and in my seasons of deepest mortification. He assured me that he had been informed by his heavenly Parents that I should be made able to go through and complete my redemption and become the spiritual Mother of all in the New Creation. Here I saw the Disciples of Christ and a host of Angels, who bowed and acknowledged me as the spiritual Mother of all in the New Creation of God. Through the high arches of heaven, I heard the Saints of old, the Prophets of God, the daughters of Zion, the Holy Martyrs and all the heavenly hosts, singing praises to God for the glorious prospect and happy day that was opening before them.

12 Having thus learned the true character of my work and the station I was to fill in the New Creation of God and having been strengthened by the hosts of heaven and by the love and blessing of Christ my Lord and Savior, I returned from my vision and prepared with more diligence than ever to open this New and Second gospel dispensation of God's grace to fallen man. An invincible fortitude, deep penetration of mind and strong reasoning powers, always stood by me, as firm as the pillars of heaven, in my deepest sufferings and mortification of spirit, to assist me over life's sea of trouble, or to conduct me along the thorny path which I had to travel to complete my redemption.

13 In these powers of my soul, God had planted at the commencement of my travel in His Holy work, so great a degree of His sure Strength and Holy Power, that through all the abundant and bitter persecution directed against me, my presence of mind, courage and resolution, never forsook me for a moment. Under my most severe bodily mortifications, when my flesh wasted away from my bones and when bloody sweat pressed through the pores of my skin, my soul rose triumphantly over all of my sufferings and I rejoiced in my Holy Savior. In my sleepless nights of bitter cries and groans for complete deliverance from the nature of sin and also when imprisoned, my courage never forsook me and my faith and resolution remained steadfast.

14 When my work in England was done and I was warned in the visions of God by my Lord and Savior, to leave my native land and embark for America, it was this Holy power that enabled me to comply and cross the foaming ocean. Though I well knew that fresh scenes of trials and bitter persecution there awaited me, still my obedience to the light of heaven was unalterable and my love to the Holy Son of God was firm and Eternal so I willingly obeyed. It was the love I cherished to the cause of God and my strong love and attachment to the Savior of mankind and my love for the suffering souls in the spirit world and the love and pity I felt for the

lost and perishing souls in the world around me, that enabled me to bear my sufferings after I landed in America until after I was settled in the wilderness.

15 In this secluded spot, on which early scenes are often celebrated in heaven, I was to complete the trial of my faith and obedience, before the gospel of salvation could open a second time to a perishing world. Here in this Valley of Wisdom, my faith was put to the severest trial, in order that I might learn that degree of patience and forbearance that would enable me to bear up under the great weight of the first opening of the gospel. Here the faithful souls, who had early embraced the gospel with me, were tried, afflicted and most severely tempted. Here it may be truly said that with my Lord and Master, I trod the wine press of suffering alone.

16 The seclusion of the place, the dreariness and the small number of inhabitants, placed the prospect of another opening of the gospel, out of the sight of all who had not the strength of insight and the deep rooted faith that dwelt in my soul only. These things at times weighed so heavily upon my spirit, that only the love of Christ, communion with the Angels and the strength and power of Almighty God enabled me to bear up under the painful travel of those days of trial, for it seemed many times that my body and soul would part asunder.

17 While passing through this barrier of trials, I often felt melted down in thankfulness and gratitude for my unconquerable faith, deep insight and invincible strength of soul. These were as firm as the everlasting hills of God's Righteousness and Holiness. These rendered me invincible in the darkest hours of trial and formed a sure wall of protection against the buffetings of Satan, which through this period of my travel were many and each affliction was designed to destroy my faith in the work of God.

18 Here then, in this Valley of Wisdom, I learned that true wisdom which cometh down from heaven which can only be learned in the degree that I learned it, by an equal degree of suffering. Through all these trying scenes, I found my blessed Savior true to the promise he gave me in the *Holy Selan*, the abode of the Angels, where the beautiful mansions are built that are inhabited by Christ and his followers. In my hours of suffering and sorrow, I ever found him with me to share my afflictions and toils and in my seasons of heavenly joy, he with the Holy Angels, often brought me the fruits of the tree of life. He sent his Holy Angels, who plucked for me beautiful and sweet smelling flowers in the richest gardens of God and would thereby delight and refresh my drooping soul and strengthen my spirit to go on in the work of my heavenly calling. In the later days of my retirement in the peaceful Valley of Wisdom, I was warned abundantly in the visions of God, to prepare for the great opening of the gospel that was to suddenly break upon us.

19 I could see the Angels who were sent forth to prepare the way for the glad tidings of salvation to be proclaimed. From them I learned the nature of the work, in what manner it would take place and from what quarter to expect souls who would come and gladly embrace the offers of salvation. And when I had given sufficient information of this to my co-laborers and followers and we were abundantly prepared to receive them, the increase of the gospel broke upon us like a visitation of the Day Spring from on high.

CHAPTER 3

Opening of the gospel in America. Labors and travels.

1 Dearly beloved children, this is a subject with which most of my children have grown quite familiar, nevertheless, as it is needed to complete the design of this little book, I think it will be interesting to many.

2 Know then that this gospel manifestation began to open on earth, amid the songs of an innumerable host of Angels in the presence of Kings, Prophets and Wise men of old, as well as the multitude of Martyrs and above all, amid the songs and tears of rejoicing of all the Daughters of Zion, who had assembled to witness the beginning of God's complete and greatest Dispensation of mercy to poor, lost, fallen man.

3 When this door of hope was set widely open, after I had completed my own redemption, how different was the scene witnessed by the Angels among spirits in heaven than among mortals on earth, yea what a great contrast there was between the two. When this great door of deliverance was opened in the Eternal world and the merciful offer of the finishing work of salvation was made by our heavenly Father, to the millions of souls who were resting or expectantly waiting for a privilege to complete their redemption, the extensive movement that simultaneously began, toward the open entrance to the New Paradise of God, was astonishing to the Angels and very pleasing to their heavenly Father and Holy Mother.

4 Immense crowds were seen flocking from all quarters of the heavens and very soon, all the prepared mansions were filled to overflowing, with the vast multitudes of the children of hope who had waited with long suffering patience for this great privilege. Myriads of Angels and a numerous host of spirits, were now sent forth to enlarge the borders of the New Jerusalem, or the Paradise of God, to erect new cities of refuge to prepare new mansions of rest as habitations for these needy children so that all might be supplied with the offers of the gospel.

5 These were ready to enter this work thus early without persuasion, without any doubts or criticizing, opposition or complaints, respecting the terms of salvation and Eternal Life. While this was going on among the Saints of rest in the spirit world, yea, while millions were changing their abodes and moving to and fro to their various allotments, the dwellers in the regions of darkness were suddenly awakened by the great sound that was made in heaven. They listened eagerly to the shouts of joy — they were visited with pleasing rays of hope by listening to songs of rejoicing and millions inquired to learn the cause of all this joy flowing out from the mansions of promise. When they learned the glad news that the children of light had found the

Mother of their redemption and were entering their different cities of refuge to realize the promises God had so often made them by the mouths of Prophets and Martyrs of old and when they came to understand that this last assembly of Saints was about to enter the long promised Eternal Rest which remains for the people of God, though many stood opposed, yet thousands broke forth in bitter lamentation and sorrowful cries for deliverance.

6 This awakened the tender compassion of Angels and opened the Sacred arches of heaven to these souls. This new opening for souls caused the Angels of God and ministering spirits to have no rest until by the Almighty power of God, they could help the willing souls who gladly accepted the gospel on God's terms to escape their torments. But the process was painful for many of the great, the learned and the wise and mortifying in the extreme for them.

7 While such was the reception of the glad tidings in heaven and in the regions of despair, what was witnessed on earth? None of the alleged great, wise and the learned of this world would listen to the call of the gospel. Myriads who professed to be waiting and wishing for this day to open and ready to meet the judgment, at the tender call of a merciful and loving Savior, when it came, utterly rejected it and cried it down as dangerous delusion, with as much contempt and disdain as did the ancient Jews, to the merciful offers of a loving Savior.

8 Christ had forewarned me of this, which he had so abundantly learned by his bitter experience. So also had the Holy Angels, even the same powerful ministering Angels, who administered strength and consolation to the compassionate Son of God, through his sufferings on earth. Christ and the Holy Angels saw that I would have enough to bear with the experience of but a small part of his sufferings, to prepare my soul for this bitter disappointment. But I had often been assured by my Lord and Teacher, that he would send forth his Angels and prepare a chosen few, who would be conducted through a preparatory travel of soul that would wean them from the pleasures of nature and make them ready to receive my testimony.

9 This chosen few, tired of placing their hopes of happiness in the passing and perishing enjoyments of this life, would receive the gospel, place the Church of God on a sure and Eternal foundation and hand the fruits of my painful labors down to future generations. You can see that this promise is now being fulfilled. Living among you are many worthy and beloved souls, who have taught you of my sufferings and zealous labors and persecutions, while planting the gospel among them and their toiling companions, who have done their work on earth and gone home to the mansions of Eternal rest.

10 My own experiences of man's miserable fall and strong attachment to earthly objects, have taught me to feel that charitable spirit of compassion which dwelt in the soul of the Savior when he was on earth and which he ever exercised toward those who rejected the gospel and also toward those who crucified and slew him. You will discover a ground for true charity in the contrast I will now present.

11 Those Saints and Ancients of the people, who were ready to embrace the gospel on any terms when it was opened in the world of spirits, had lived thousands of years before my existence in time. Many of them were thankful to be released from this world when they departed from it and I found very few among them who had any desire to retain recollections

concerning it when I first became acquainted with them, only as they called those former scenes to mind under sense of duty. Therefore, they were weaned from the world and thankful for the gospel. The Daughters of Zion especially, were thankful to rise from their former despised and depressed state into God's ocean of Eternal purity. They had already experienced the hateful enticements of the carnal state and nothing was more painful to them, than the remembrance of those scenes.

12 The true Martyrs, were all ready to embrace the gospel, because in ages of darkness they had sacrificed their lives in defense of the truth, hoping finally to enter into that gospel which God through me, now opened among them. The suffering spirits in the regions of darkness were thankful to embrace the gospel and to be delivered from their torment. Now compare these conditions with that of the poor deluded children of men, who are following as eagerly as though their very salvation depended upon it, those very vanities and deceptive lures which the others had proven beyond a possibility of a doubt, to be of no worth, producing nothing but misery and no abiding happiness.

13 How then in their dark and inexperienced state, can they know the things belonging to their peace and Eternal happiness until they are awakened and illuminated by the light of God. Consider this and learn to extend to them, true charity. I do not wish you to consider those souls innocent, who reject the light of heaven, neither those who reject it before, nor those who reject it after they enter the Gospel of Christ. Still you have nothing to do with their sins; they are in the hands of a just and righteous God and will have their reward.

14 Many in this world are bound down, under the dominion of an evil nature and under the delusion of false religion, they vainly hope and expect to be saved body and soul, in the very sins they are committing against God. And so long as they are bound by the strong fetters of Satan, it is impossible for men or Angels to administer the gospel to them. In the spiritual world, these delusions are far more easily taken away. They are more easily led to see the inconsistency of their false ideas of salvation, because thousands of them have been left to prove that all their professions of faith and hopes of happiness based thereon, have done nothing for them and gained nothing for them but sorrowful disappointment. Souls under the influence of false religion, must be very dishonest or much inclined to impurity and strongly bound in fetters of darkness, who do not wake up to sense their state in one year as you reckon time, after offers of the gospel have been made to them.

15 Concerning my sufferings during the opening and for the increase of the gospel, it is extensively known that I suffered severe personal abuse and imprisonments, cold, hunger and fatigue. I journeyed night and day in all kinds of weather and when driven out from one place, I had to take refuge in another. I sometimes enjoyed precious seasons with my dear children and at times when pursued and abused by the wicked, I narrowly escaped the death they designed for me, by the miracles of God. I journeyed among my children and daily walked before them as a shining example, administering the precious gifts of God. All my days through, I stood as a wall of protection between their souls and the snares of the Adversary and ended my life in sufferings for the support of the gospel.

16 I do not give this account of myself as thinking that my life and death will compare with the extreme sufferings of the Son of God, who bore his trials and keen afflictions alone and was able and willing to be a sharer with me in all my sufferings and a firm supporter in all my burdens. But I give you these three chapters hoping they will interest and instruct you, stimulate your zeal and increase your love to your heavenly Parents, who love you tenderly and are ever attentive to your cries for help and who delight to assist you in all times of need. I give you this account of my singular feelings in my early as well as later years, to render obedience to our Holy Savior, to show you that your heavenly Parents both travelled the same narrow path of self-denial. Both trod the wine press of sorrow and by their lives, their sufferings and their deaths, laid a sure and everlasting foundation for the Eternal happiness of all souls who will follow their example and obey their instructions.

17 I will here give you a brief yet comprehensive account of what I saw before the close of my life on earth, concerning the prosperity of the Church of God. It is given to strengthen your faith in case you are called hereafter to pass through very trying scenes. Know then, that before I left the earth, I saw in the visions of God, the Glory, beauty and the increase of the Church of God to a hundred generations. I saw the different places where branches would be established, the number that would inhabit them and the exact order in which they would stand.

18 I received this great and sure knowledge in a large roll of heavenly and Divine Love, from the Lord Jesus, in one of my most trying hours. It was a great strength and comfort to me and I reveal it to you to strengthen your faith against trying days which are surely coming upon you. If any of you waver in the least in your faith respecting the present ministration, then learn from me, that your Mother saw before I left the earth, the exact time when this ministration would open.

19 At a time when I was meditating on the future travel of the Church, after the gathering of the second generation and perceiving a great lack of true gospel faith among them, it brought my soul into deep tribulation, to witness the apparent decline. At length, the bright Angel of Love appeared before me with a message from the Holy Savior, which revealed to me the time and work of this ministration, when it would begin and its progress until the sanctuary would be cleansed and Zion be restored to her glory and beauty, with a wonderful degree of purity and great increase.

20 I saw the great opening of the gospel that will follow, how it will begin and how it will proceed until it enters into its highest and purest degree. So you that are strong in this revelation keep your confidence in the gift that is leading you and lay up a great store of the true gospel riches, against the time of need, when they will be called for. And you that need more strength, believe ye this my communication and be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might, until your own souls receive and are established in that faith which will enable you to remove mountains.

21 And now, dear children, one more little gift which I had before the opening of the gospel. I saw your present beloved Elder Grove in a night vision, gathered among my people and prepared by faith and true obedience to step forward and re-establish this Church and people in

the true order of the gospel and conduct them wisely and safely through the great work of the present ministration. For this end he was born and for this work he was gathered into this part of my fold. I likewise saw many souls that are now under his care and saw him and them and the little flock in this place arise to a great degree of prosperity. Our Lord and Savior revealed these things to me in the silent watches of night.

22 I make this little gift to my faithful children in this place because I love them and because this branch has been one of my peculiar care and in behalf of which, I deeply suffered. Farewell, from Mother Ann.

Note: Elder Grove Blanchard, who was gifted with Seership, and perceiving, related to me (Elder Alonzo G. Holister) that when 15 years old (I think it was), he prayed that he might know which denomination of people was the nearest to the right and the true way of happiness. An inward voice told him, that if he would promise to accept it, it should be made known to him. He promised he would and felt no more concern, until he sometime afterward went to see a Shaker meeting. As he sat among the spectators viewing the exercises, the voice said "This is the way and these are the people". He felt right away that he could not come to this level. But he was reminded of his promise and he had to yield, with the result that he became for many years the honored and trusted Leader of Believers in Harvard and Shirley.

Shaker Communities

THE PROPHECY

A Worldwide Kingdom of God and Zion of His Likeness on Earth (Daniel 2:44).

FOUNDER

Ann Lee, the Bride of Christ (1736-1784) of Manchester, England.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Virgin Purity, Peace, Justice and Love

Expressed Through: Celibate Life, Complete Confession and Forsaking of all Sin,
Non Resistance, Community of Goods and Divine Order.

BELIEFS

Duality of the Deity, Father and Mother God (Power and Wisdom). The Mighty Dual Spirit,
Creator of Life, Light, Truth and Love. Duality of the Christ Spirit, as manifested by Jesus Christ
and Ann Lee, Immortal Life, Progress of the Soul, Faithfulness, Lawfulness,
Equality of the Genders, Equality in Labor, Equality in Property, Temperance in all things,
Justice and Kindness to all Living Beings.

GOVERNMENT

The Head of the Shaker Order is Christ.
Represented in a Dual Order of Leaders, Ministry Elders and Trustees.

COMMUNITY

Serious Minded and Competent individuals who vow to never deny
the Father God, the Mother Wisdom, the Son Jesus Christ or the Daughter Ann Lee.

SHAKER MOTTO

Hands to work, and Hearts to God.—ANN LEE

Zion's Center Of Union

