

THE ZION BANNER

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DECLARATION OF FIRST APOSTLE

God Begins the Restoration to His Church of the Apostolic Office, with Apostolic Power.

GOD GAVE DESIGN OF ROBES

Worn by the First Apostle on this Occasion— Epoch Marked in History of Church and of Humanity.

Go is at work!

He has put forth the might of His holy arm.

He who create the universe with His Word has sent forth His Spirit with omnipotent power to do His Will.

The time is fulfilled.

The long, dark ages of preparation have passed away.

The milleniums of sin and disease, war and bloodshed, poverty, misery, tears and death are drawing to their close, and the time is at had when all God's precious promises will be redeemed; when the final conflicts will be over; when God shall rule throughout all His infinite universe, throughout a glorious eternity of life, and light, and peace, and joy.

Holy men of old, kings, prophets, and apostles have longed to see this time

All through the long ages, men of God have prayed for it.

Ever since the "former rain" fell upon the earth at the time of Pentecost, those whose spiritual eyes could pierce the gloom of apostasy and error have been imploring God for the "latter rain."

And in these times the Almighty has heard prayer.

He has shown in the heavens the "promised sign" and the clouds have gathered, big with blessing.

"The sound of abundance of rain" has filled the whole earth.

Weary, dying humanity is beginning to hear the grateful music of the showers and to feel the refreshing, invigorating breezes of spiritual renewing that tell that the long drouth is broken.

Songs of praises fill all the lands of the earth, for "redemption draweth nigh."

As in all the ages, God has chosen a man as the instrument in His hands for this work.

Through many years of toil, and trial, and suffering, God has trained him and led him on, step by step.

He save him spirit, soul and body, and filled him with His Holy Spirit.

He made him a Teacher, and clothed him with Prophetic and Apostolic Power.

He led him on in the reorganization of His Church upon its true basis, "upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Chief Corner-Stone."

He made him the Messenger of His Covenant and confirmed his office with the works that He did through him.

He led him, by His Spirit, to the Declaration of his prophetic office as Elijah the Restorer of All Things.

His Spirit had already revealed the truth to thousands of His true people, and they praised Him as they saw the dawn of the Times of the Restoration.

The world and the church, sunk in folly, and blinded by the darkness of error, had hated, reviled, persecuted, and attempted, again and again, to kill this mighty man of God.

When this Declaration was made, all these enemies burst into triumphant, scornful laughter.

He, whom they hated, had killed himself by the presumption and folly of his assumption!

It was supremely ridiculous!

But the laughter died on their lips.

The mirth went out of it before it went out of their throats.

God was working.

His mighty arm had been made bare.

It was no time to laugh.

Men everywhere had begun to realize that, whether they liked it or not, whether they would obey or not, God was working out His purposes, in these times, through the man whom He had chosen.

So the momentous Declaration of John Alexander, First Apostle of the Lord Jesus, the Christ, I the Christian Catholic and Apostolic Church in Zion, Elijah the Restorer, an epoch-making event in the Times of the Restoration of All Things, was received with the most intense, earnest, and respectful interest by practically all the world; for the eyes of the world were on the apostle.

This declaration was made last Lord's Day afternoon, in Shiloh Tabernacle, in the presence of 7,200 people.

The service was also the commemoration of the second anniversary of Zion Restoration Host.

Under a dull, gray sky, with the first bracing coolness of the early autumn quickening their steps, four thousand members of the Host marched in long lines under th trees of Shiloh Park and into the great Tabernacle.

The scene was one never to be forgotten.

Far off to the west circled one long line, glowing with the beauty of the three Zion colors, gold, white, and blue, which the Restoration

But another step was to be

taken.

The Church which had been restored to its primitive pattern, must receive its apostles, that the primitive power might return, in even greater measure, "the later rain."

The time was ready.

God was ready with His man, who was to be the First Apostle, and form the Apostolic College, as led by His Spirit.

Once more this same man was led to make the declaration.

Once, more, his people were ready for it; they were eager. They would have proclaimed him an Apostle years before; but the time was not ready.

This time the world did not laugh.

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Far off to the west circled one long line, glowing with the beauty of the three Zion colors, gold, white, and blue, which the Restorationists wore as scarfs.

Another line, fully as long, twisted and turned through the oaks to the east until it reached the limits of the park.

Both lines led to the door of the Tabernacle.

Out from the rear of the Tabernacle came two great companies of singers, a striking contrast, in their fluttering robes of white, to the compact masses of ordained officers in robes of black.

Above them all the banners of Zion and the flags of a score of nations waved in the fresh breezes.

After escorting the First Apostle and his family from Shiloh House to the Tabernacle, Zion City Band and Colonel Carl F. Stern and his staff of the first regiment of Zion Guard, took up their positions at the door of the Tabernacle.

Then the crisp, vigorous music of the band floated out through the park, bringing all steps into unity, and the great company moved forward.

Eight abreast, they marched up the broad walk to the door of the Tabernacle and entered, singing the praises of God.

Section after section of the huge auditorium was filled, and still the tread of thousands of feet was heard.

Zion Guard, Zion City Band, Zion Junior Restoration Host, Zion Restoration Hosts, Zion White-robed Choir, Officers of the Church and members of the Church not members of the Host, all marched in and took the places reserved for them.

Then thousands of the general public poured into the building, filling every desirable seat and standing in hundreds until 7,200 people had entered the place.

Then the music and singing ceased.

The great throng was standing expectant, noting the change appearance of the platform.

There was the chair for the Apostle in the middle.

At each end there was a chair for a deacon-attendant. These were occupied by Deacons William S. Peckham and Richard H. Harper.

At one side of the Apostle's chair was a lectern of polished brass

surmounted by a eagle.

At the other side was a small altar, a replica of the Altar of Incense of the Ancient Temple of God.

In front of the high platform was a lower stage, upon which were seated Overseers Jane Dowie, John G. Excell, and Harvey D. Brasefield, and Teachers Daniel Sloan and Visscher V. Bares, in the robes and hoods of their respective offices.

All these took their places.

Then the First Apostle of the Restored Church came upon the platform.

He was no longer the General Overseer in his episcopal robes.

The robes that he wore were designed by God Himself for His ministers in the Ancient Temple of God.

The apostleship included the priesthood, and they were priestly robes that the man of God wore.

On his head was a mitre of white, gold and purple. The robe that came to his feet was of pure white. A sleeveless tunic of purple, with a fringe of gold, came to the knees.

Over that, and covering the trunk of the body, was a sleeveless coat of white, richly embroidered with gold, scarlet and purple, in geometric designs.

Instead of the breast plate of twelve precious stones, was a crimson cross edged with gold.

About the waist was a girdle of white

Although the robes were robes of glory in their color, there was nothing theatrical about the appearance of their wearer.

They befitted him as did the offices which they symbolized.

The service that followed was the old familiar service of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion, but it had a new power.

Then followed the Declaration, based on the Word of God and most simply and humbly made—yet without the slightest trace of fear or doubt.

The people had already accepted their First Apostle, but they reaffirmed that acceptance with a prayerful, yet joyous solemnity that

showed how deeply they felt its significance.

During the service, Zion White-robed Choir rendered two beautiful and appropriate anthems: "King of Kings" and "Unfold Ye Portals Everlasting."

The intensity of interest in this Declaration was shown by the fact that it took twenty-five extra railway cars to bring the visitors from Chicago. Besides these several hundred came on the regular trains. Over thirteen hundred people were thus brought out from Chicago to Zion City, and hundreds more came from other places, some from long distances. Now Zion prays for the revealing of the rest of the Apostolic College and the outpouring of the "latter rain." God is working.

All the earth shall see His glory in His time.

His time is come, The King is at hand! N.