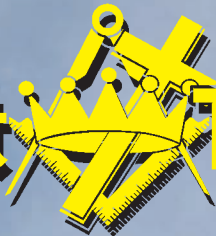


Knight Templar



VOLUME LXV

August 2019

NUMBER 8



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**Address changes or corrections
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**Cover photo of the famous
Crusader castle at Al-Karak in
Jordan. Photo by the editor.**

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Grand Encampment web site: www.knightstemplar.org

www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/archive

Grand Master's Message

We have completed the 2018-19 cycle of Department Conferences and are finalizing the content for the 2019-20 conferences. Membership will continue to be one of the focal points of the conferences. Each year, the officers attempt to provide a balance between new information and programs accompanied by a review of essential information that each grand and constituent Commandery officer should possess to be effective. Remember that in addition to those officers required by Grand Encampment law to attend the department conference annually, all Sir Knights are welcome and will find something of benefit. Also remember that the only requirement for those of you that must attend a department conference is that you attend "a" department conference. Thus, if you are unable to attend your "home" department conference, please make arrangements to attend one of the other United States conferences.



Leadership 401 – "Communication Skills," has proven to be extremely popular. Even if you "completed" the York Rite Leadership Program some time ago, you are encouraged to return and take the communication skills component. Even a leader possessing the best leadership skills will be unsuccessful if that person is unable to communicate effectively.

We are also pleased to announce that we are putting the final touches on a number of exciting new programs that will be released throughout the fall. These include a correspondence Templar education and development course; release of the Order of the Temple DVD and revised clear-text ritual; release of redesigned jewels for Grand Encampment honors that more accurately incorporate heraldic principles; a Templar 900th Anniversary European Tour, tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2020; and a newly-designed membership patent that will be included in the membership packet sent to each new Sir Knight.

The Grand Encampment officers continue to explore new opportunities to ensure that you are able to provide the best experience possible for your members. As we have said before, a member will invest his most valuable asset with us, his time, only if we provide him with something of equal or greater value. Stay tuned!

Courteously,

Jeffrey N. Nelson, GCT

Grand Master

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Subscriptions to the *Knight Templar* magazine are available from the Grand Encampment office at a rate of \$15.00 per year. Individual issues in quantities of less than ten can be obtained for \$1.50 each from the office of the managing editor if available. Inquire via e-mail to the managing editor for quantities in excess of ten. Some past issues are archived on our web site. www.knightstemplar.org.

IN MEMORIAM



Harold Hill Young
Louisiana
Grand Commander 1991
Born: July 20, 1924
Died: May 11, 2019

James Sherwood Blanteno
Alabama
Grand Commander 2013
Born: October 29, 1941
Died: April 30, 2019

Archived issues of the *Knight Templar* magazine can be accessed on the web at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/>. Then click on the button "Knight Templar" at the bottom of the page and select "Archives." The archives include an index.

Prelate's Apartment

by

Reverend Arthur F. Hebbeler, III,
right eminent grand prelate of the Grand Encampment

And [Jesus] said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:19-20, English Standard Version)

We talk a lot about membership and recruitment as Freemasons in general and as Templars in particular. Handing a man a petition and asking him to complete it and return it with a check is easy. Then, over the course of a few nights or a one-day class, the man sees the ritual work, receives a hearty welcome along with a bad cup of coffee and (too many times) a ritual book and appointment to an open chair. Welcome to the fraternity. Now, get to work.

We create a lot of members, but are we creating Knights? How might we learn from the call of Jesus to his disciples? After all, Jesus simply said, "Follow me," not "Join me, take a job, and you are on your own." Jesus taught, encouraged, and even admonished the disciples. It wasn't until the latter part of his ministry that he sent them off in pairs to work together in spreading the Good News and the call to followership to others, and at that point, he had taught them a lot, and they had observed a great deal as well.

Perhaps we can do a better job at equipping our Knights—new and old—for the call we have extended to them to be soldiers of the cross and defenders of the Christian faith. Instead of placing Knights in stations or worse, alone on the sidelines, we pair them up and teach them about the fraternity, the order in particular, and the Christian faith. Regular, substantial instruction in all three, and then, after a time of preparation, we send them out in pairs, each according to their own skills and gifts, into the world to "fish for men" not by simply handing petitions and taking checks but by example and action. Some may travel to Lodges, Chapters, and Councils to share the story of Templary. Others may come to the assistance of widows, orphans, and those in need. Some may tend to the needs of the Commandery through administration, teaching, mentoring, and yes, ritual.

Let us follow the example of the Captain of our Salvation and be leaders and teachers, so that those who choose to take up the sword and join us are truly prepared for service.

William Bromwell Melish

A Forceful Voice for Masonry

By
Sir Knight James A. Marples

I must say at the outset of this article, that it is not intended to be an all-encompassing biography of Brother, Companion, and M.: E.: Sir Knight William B. Melish but rather an article which showcases his inner strength and his public love of Masonry that few Masons (even Masonic historians) fully capture. Melish was truly a man who loved Masonry from youth to his old age.

William Bromwell Melish was one of the most prominent voices in all of Masonry during the late 1800's and early 1900's. He was a hard-headed, no-nonsense businessman who literally brought the Mystic Shriners out of bankruptcy at the national level in the mid 1890's. He also served The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of The United States of America as our Most Eminent Grand



Above: Photo of a white horse pulling a carriage carrying M.E. Grand Master William B. Melish in a parade during the Denver, Colorado Triennial Conclave of Knights Templar. Please notice that M.E. Sir Knight Melish's surname is misspelled as "Mellish" on this card.

Master. In short, he was the exemplification of what a Mason, Knight Templar, and Shriner should be. When he served as imperial potentate of Shrine, he deplored those who joined Shrinedom purely to engage in what he termed a “drunken debauch.” It was Melish who coined the phrase: “Pleasure without intemperance, hospitality without rudeness, and jollity without coarseness.”

It is one thing for a man to preside over an international Masonic-related group, as William B. Melish did as imperial potentate of the Shriners of North America. It gave him invaluable experience when he later presided over all Templars in the United States. Few photographs of him exist, but those which do exist show a man of upstanding virtue and determined leadership.

If you look really close at the preceding photograph, you can see that M.E. William B. Melish was carrying his sword at all times while Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America — even while sitting in

a horse-drawn carriage.

William Bromwell Melish, in his professional life, was President of Bromwell Brush and Wire Goods. As one might suspect, it was a business started by his family. It was Jacob Bromwell who started the first wire-weaving and housewares business. That man should not be confused with Jacob Henry Bromwell, his grandson, who was a former United States representative in Congress from Ohio.

The products of The Bromwell Brush and Wire Goods Company included, but was not limited to shoe and scrub brushes, leather and wood horse shiners, dusting and window brushes, mops, rat traps, sand screens, corn poppers, and sifters. It has been one of the anchor businesses in the greater Cincinnati, Ohio, area for over 100 years.

William B. Melish was described as a man of “strong mental powers, invincible courage, and a determined purpose that cannot easily be defined.” He was a deeply devout religious man, who came



Above: Photo of Commemorative coin of the Feb. 22-25 Reunion of the A.A.S.R. of Cincinnati which regarded Ill.: Bro.: William B. Melish 33° with such high esteem that his image appears on the front side of the medal.

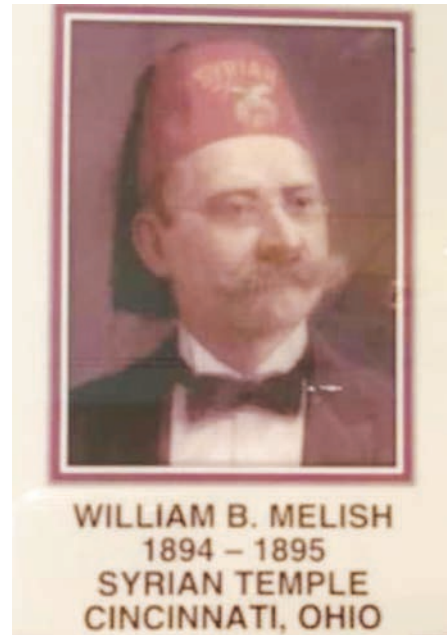
by it naturally when he was born July 28, 1852, to the Reverend Thomas Jefferson Melish, D.D., an Episcopal Clergyman, and Sarah (Bromwell) Melish.

At the minimum age possible, William B. Melish received the 33rd of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. He served in many capacities in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America including Commander-in-Chief for the Cincinnati Valley.

At that time, one prerequisite to join the Shrine and retain membership as a Shriner was a man previously becoming (and maintaining) his membership as a 32nd Scottish Rite Mason or a Knight Templar York Rite Mason. Melish probably did more to attempt to prompt a more wholesome image by his form statement: "I hold that no man has a right to commit acts in his capacity as a Shriner which would reflect upon his character or subject him to discipline as a 32nd or a Knight Templar."

Melish's Masonic career is too extensive to list in full. He was made a Mason in Milford Lodge 54 at Milford, Ohio on October 21, 1873, later affiliating elsewhere. He was grand master of Ohio in 1895.

He became a Knight Templar in 1874; grand commander of Ohio Templars in 1890; and was elected grand master of the Grand Encampment governing all Templars nationwide from 1910 to 1913. It is erroneous that he resigned as potentate to become imperial potentate of the international body, the Imperial Council for all of North America. Actually, Melish held the office of imperial potentate during two non-consecutive terms. He fell out of grace with one of the co-founders of the Shriners, Dr. Walter M. Fleming, and his successor, Sam Briggs. Melish was ousted as imperial knight templar



Above: Photo of William B. Melish wearing his Syrian Shrine Center red fez. Notice: No adornment of any titles or rank below the crescent & scimitar emblem.

potentate in 1893, only to regain the office of imperial potentate. In 1894, Melish called the condition of the imperial treasury "bankrupt." He didn't mince words. Melish organized a campaign to try again and defeated Charles L. Field of San Francisco to regain the high office of imperial potentate of the Shrine. Banners were hung on walls of buildings and newspaper pamphlets printed which said: "Melish, first, last, and always."

William B. Melish served simultaneously as potentate of the local Syrian Shrine Temple in Cincinnati, Ohio; and as imperial potentate of Shriners in North America. A red Shrine fez was meant to be plain, akin to a pure white apron of a Master Mason. It wasn't until after

Melish's death that the words "imperial potentate" were hand stitched upon the red fez of those few select individuals elected to that office, and only in the late 1930's or early 1940's were the "three upright stars" used for imperial divan members, and the prestigious five upright stars were allowed on a Shrine fez to denote the exalted office of an "imperial potentate." The connotation was clear: An imperial potentate of the

Shrine of North America was as rare and as exclusive as a five star general in the military.

Sir Knight James Marples is a life member of Mt. Olivet Commandery 12 in Wichita, Kansas, and currently resides in Texas. He can be contacted at rosehillks@yahoo.com or 1300 Greenbriar Drive, Longview, TX 75604.

Sources and Recommended Readings

- *Parade To Glory. The Story of The Shriners and their Caravan to Destiny.* Authored by Fred Van Deventer. 1967 issue. Pyramid Books.
- *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences* by Sir Knight and Dr. Albert G. Mackey, M.D.
- *Biography of William B. Melish.* Published by Ohio Biographies , pages 403-406. webpage: http://www.genealogybug.net/oh_biographies/melish.shtml
- *The History of The Shrine for North America* by William B. Melish. First Edition published 1920 by William B. Melish in conjunction with the Imperial Council Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Melish was chairman of the History Committee of the Imperial Council of the Shrine at the time. He was the senior living past imperial potentate. Page 137.
- The Bromwell Company. *History of Our Founder, Jacob Bromwell* .
- Archives of the Grand Encampment and the *Knight Templar* Magazine. webpage: <http://www.knightstemplar.org/pgeo/mepgm/22.html>
- *The American Tyler-keystone : Devoted to Masonry.* Volume 8. Published year 1894.
- *Parade To Glory, a more expansive History of the Shriners.* 1959 version. Page 69. webpage: http://campbellmgold.com/archive_general/parade_to_glory_de-venter_1959.pdf
- Archives of Syrian Shrine Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. Personal electronic mail transmission of Sir Knight and Noble William B. Melish's photograph among the Syrian Shrine Center records, showing him wearing his "Syrian Shriners fez." Transmission date: 05 July 2018.

The Laws of God as Given to Mankind

By

Sir Knight John R. Dinkel

It is indisputable that the two most important requirements for membership in Freemasonry are a belief in a Supreme Being and integrity of character. As each new candidate undergoes his interview with a committee of examination, these two characteristics are most earnestly inquired after as the necessary indicators of his fitness to become a Mason. Anyone who does not possess them cannot be expected to honor an obligation at the altar of Freemasonry, or to have the conscience of mind and heart to understand what lies at the core of our Masonic beliefs: good men willing to live a virtuous life of constant improvement, based on the laws of God as given to mankind.

What are these moral imperatives — how did they originate? Surely any man who possesses a desire to lead a good and virtuous life will follow the dictates of his conscience, that monitor of good versus evil that exists in every man. Is your brother's conscience the same as yours? Perhaps, but perhaps not; so we now comprehend the need for a better set of instructions regarding our behavior, and we find them in the laws given to man by his Creator.

The very first laws handed down from God to man are found in the book of *Genesis* in God's holy word. After the seven days of creation, God instructed Adam and Eve to possess the Garden of Eden as caretakers of that perfect place, and to be fruitful and multiply after their own kind.¹ There are few other laws in evidence except to forbid consuming the fruit of just two trees of all those found in the garden,

the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life or immortality.

The sages of the Jewish faith believe and teach that there were also other laws given to Adam and Eve that mirror those given to Noah after the deluge, but these are not specifically listed until sin and death fatally damaged the perfect plan for the earth under the stewardship of mankind. Unfortunately, we all know the outcome of the story of Eden — sin enters the world through disobedience and pride. The chief of the fallen angels who had rebelled against the Lord God beguiled Adam and Eve into disobeying God's will; endowed with free will, they chose to follow their own desires and in shame were expelled from Eden forever to dwell in the outer world.

As a further punishment, God called down wrathful curses which became laws which are still in force today. First and foremost, Adam, Eve, and all mankind born of them must now experience death without exception, as warned by God to Adam prior to his sin of disobedience. He was no longer a caretaker of the world but a laborer instead, needing to work incessantly to live by the toil of his hands. The soil is cursed to him as well, no longer yielding its abundance without constant toil, and perhaps not even then.

The heinous sin of murder enters the world with the death of Adam's son Abel at the hands of Cain, his brother, along with the sin of falsehood, and Cain was banished to yet another part of the world, even further from Eden. The laws of God are immutable and remain in force for all mankind, regardless of where they live

upon the earth. From this time forward, the echoes of God's will and precepts became forever present in mankind in what we call our conscience, that sense of right and wrong that resides within the human mind and heart.

The consciences of men proved to be inadequate as a curb to their emotions, and evil filled the earth, prompting God to again show his righteous wrath in destroying the whole earth and everyone in it by means of a great worldwide flood. Only Noah, a man who was righteous before God in his generation,² along with his wife and family were saved from the deluge to repopulate the world. After leaving the ark, Noah and his family were given a new set of laws by God, which are to remain in force upon all humankind going forward. These seven Noachide laws are:

1. Do not worship idols. Acknowledge that there is only one God who is infinite and immortal, supreme above all things.
2. Do not profane the name of God. Respect your Creator in all things and at all times.
3. Do not commit murder. Respect all human life and help others to live.
4. Do not commit adultery. The marriage of a man and a woman is a divine act and a reflection of God within his creation.
5. Do not steal. Respect the rights and property of others, relying on God for our sustenance, and be honest in all our dealings with others.
6. Do not eat flesh torn from a living animal or cause unnecessary suffering to any other liv-

ing creature.³

7. Establish courts of justice in the world, enforcing necessary laws and righting wrongs for the good of all mankind.

God then commanded Noah and his family to be fruitful and multiply, reproducing after their own kind and to once again fill the earth while passing on the laws of God to all generations.

Willful once again, however, mankind chose to ignore the voice of God and their conscience, yet withholding His righteous anger, the Creator decided to turn to a completely different method of lawgiving. In choosing the Hebrew people as His own, God gave mankind not merely a set of laws but rather a personal example of how to live in harmony with their Creator on the earth.⁴

The Hebrews themselves were given the *Decalogue* or *Ten Commandments*, which were to be their own laws going forward under the Mosaic covenant. These *Ten Commandments* are:

1. Do not have any other god before the Lord God.
2. Do not make for yourself any idol.
3. Do not take God's name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not testify or bear false witness.
10. Do not covet.

It may be noted that the *Ten Commandments* mirror the seven *Noahide Laws*, with the addition of several strong admonitions regarding God Himself and

what is due to Him from his creatures.⁵ A case could be made that the *Decalogue* was to be binding only upon the Hebrews, their servants, and all those who would live among them but not to the rest of the world at large. Instead, the example of how these people lived successfully with the one true God was meant to speak of God's will for all mankind throughout the world. We also see that God had not given up on His original method of holding mankind accountable, man's own universal conscience, the knowledge of good and evil.

It would be only with the advent of the Savior of the world, to whom all Knights Templar owe undying allegiance and love, that the final set of laws would be given by God to all mankind. Jesus himself would summarize both the Noachide and Sinai laws of God in a way that would be unmistakable. In the *Holy Gospel according to Matthew* 22: 34-40, when asked what is the greatest of God's commandments, Jesus responded in this way: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it

— you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Returning to our original question regarding the moral imperatives of the laws of God, we can now readily see that the belief in our Creator, as well as conscience and moral integrity have been the sum of God's laws from first to last, whether given to Adam or Noah or Moses or to the Hebrews and all the world by the Messiah Himself.

We, as Knights Templar, follow these two final laws because we have the very voice of God in our own conscience within us and because they have been commanded of us by Jesus our Savior, who died that we might live and who lives so we will never die. His words are written upon our hearts, our minds, and upon our very souls, into the joy of a boundless eternity.

Sir Knight J. R. Dinkel is past commander of Beaver Valley Commandery 84 in Beaver County Pennsylvania. He resides in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania and can be contacted at jdcommander@comcast.net.

Notes

1. *Genesis* 1:28 KJV
2. *Genesis* 6:9 NIV
3. Before the Great Flood, man was forbidden meat but after the deluge was permitted to eat meat with the caveat to respect all of God's living creatures.
4. The word Hebrew is considered by some historians to derive from the word Habiru, found in Egyptian writings of the 13th and 12th centuries BC and is used synonymously with Israelite to describe the Jewish people.
5. Masonically, it can be no coincidence that the first four commandments speak of the belief in a Supreme Being, while the last six speak about personal and moral integrity.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation 2019 Travel Grants

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) has awarded ninety-five travel grants this year to help student/trainee members attend the 2019 annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada, thanks to a grant to the ARVO Foundation for Eye Research from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. (KTEF)

These funds from the KTEF represent 27% of the total travel grants awarded by ARVO and the ARVO Foundation annually. In total, ARVO and the ARVO Foundation supported 351 travel grants in 2019.

As the KTEF has grown since its 1955 inception, we have expanded the number and size of our grants, and we have commenced new initiatives in ophthalmology research and education. Our research grants are targeted to new research by those in the early stages of their careers.

After years of funding and observing the ARVO program we have dramatically increased over the years our initial funding. We believe that this is an ideal expansion of our funding concept. By stretching out a helping hand to those just starting their careers, we hope to encourage and expedite successful careers.

For these Ph.D. and M.D. students, travel grants can make all the difference in whether they can attend and present their research.



Representing the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. at this year's ARVO Annual meeting pictured above with the travel grant recipients was Michael B. Johnson, vice president and trustee.



NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

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Bruce L. Downs.....	AK	Thomas W. Marschall.....	FL
Kevin J. Nickelson	FL	Robert T. Ryan.....	FL
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Fernando DaFonte.....	MA/RI	Ronald P. Haley, Jr.	MA/RI
Ronald E. Howland	MA/RI	Thomas M. Parente	MA/RI
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Douglas E. Pamp	MN	Jeffrey A. Bolstad	MT
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John S. Ranck.....	OH	Martin R. Trent.....	OH
Kimberly J. Burnett	OH	Trasen S. Akers.....	OK
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Mark H. Whited.....	PA	Michael M. Williamson	PA
William S. Ghent.....	SC	Daylen K. Fisher	TN
Kristopher M. Fisher	TN	Marvin E. Johnson	TN
Grant T. Medeiros.....	TN	Timothy M. Rubel	TN
Robert B. Cook.....	TX	Mark S. Chapman	VA
Matthew J. Vepraskas.....	VA	James E. Nero	WA
John S. Ranck.....	WA	Joseph E. Reese.....	WA
Philip G. Buchholz.....	WY	Robert O. Finley	WY

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Steven L. Henderson	NV	Mark N. Bagley	NC
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Trasen S. Akers.....	OK	John K. March	PA
Marty T. Maynard.....	TN	Robert B. Cook.....	TX
Adam L. Buffington	VA	James E. Nero	WA
Joseph E. Reese.....	WA	Philip G. Buchholz	WY
Norman C. Duncan.....	WY	Robert O. Finley	WY
Gregory K. Shiek.....	WY		

51st Annual Voluntary Campaign Final Report

July 1, 2018 - May 15, 2019

Contributions Only - used for awards										Contributions + Trusts + Wills	
State	Total	Cumulative		Total		Active		Active		Per Capita \$	Rank
		Total	Rank	\$	Rank	Members	as of:	Member	Per Capita Average		
<i>Knights Templar</i>		\$1,065,463.11	77,690								
Alabama		\$22,800.44	31	1,141						\$8.64	38
Alaska		\$9,852.63	46	360						\$10.28	34
Arizona		\$3,700.00	30	583						\$17.83	14
Arkansas		\$10,394.50	41	778						\$8.32	40
Austria		\$6,469.56								\$0.00	
Brasil		\$0.00		14						\$0.00	
		\$0.00		645						\$0.00	
California		\$46,888.50	7	2,538						\$18.47	13
Colorado		\$15,941.00	22	774						\$20.60	11
Connecticut		\$12,162.93	27	687						\$17.70	15
Croatia		\$0.00		48						\$0.00	
Delaware		\$2,504.00	50	239						\$10.48	33
District of Columbia		\$6,890.00	40	224						\$30.76	8
Florida		\$42,001.00	9	2,997						\$14.01	24
GE Subordinate - Asia Pacific		\$360.00	53	142						\$2.54	53
GE Subordinate - European & Africa		\$805.00	52	270						\$2.98	52
GE Subordinate - Latin America & Caribbean		\$340.00	54	278						\$1.22	54
Georgia		\$51,216.98	5	2,290						\$22.37	10
Hawaii		\$2,565.00	49	378						\$6.79	48
Idaho		\$7,889.00	37	238						\$33.15	7
Illinois		\$43,605.87	8	3,315						\$13.15	26
Indiana		\$22,043.92	17	2,874						\$7.67	43
Iowa		\$15,705.00	23	1,277						\$12.30	27
Italy		\$0.00		659						\$0.00	
Kansas		\$7,434.85	39	999						\$7.44	44
Kentucky		\$30,200.00	14	2,293						\$13.17	25

Louisiana	24	1,132	\$13,116.00	\$11.59	30	\$13,116.00	26
Maine	29	1,330	\$10,771.00	\$8.10	42	\$11,648.37	31
Maryland	10	1,036	\$34,435.75	\$33.24	6	\$34,435.75	13
Mass/Rhode Island	11	2,085	\$33,708.05	\$16.17	17	\$33,708.05	16
Mexico		77	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Michigan	16	1,637	\$24,674.25	\$15.07	21	\$120,324.47	4
Minnesota	19	1,077	\$17,830.00	\$16.56	16	\$17,830.00	23
Mississippi	35	1,507	\$8,890.00	\$5.90	50	\$8,890.00	36
Missouri	21	1,901	\$16,106.09	\$8.47	39	\$17,448.81	24
Montana	42	604	\$5,825.00	\$9.64	36	\$5,825.00	42
Nebraska	36	621	\$8,732.00	\$14.06	23	\$8,732.00	37
Nevada	33	355	\$9,293.75	\$26.18	9	\$9,293.75	34
New Hampshire	25	353	\$12,865.00	\$6.44	4	\$12,865.00	27
New Jersey	28	734	\$11,745.00	\$16.00	18	\$11,745.00	30
New Mexico	47	329	\$3,463.00	\$10.53	32	\$3,463.00	47
New York	12	1,561	\$31,777.97	\$20.36	12	\$33,833.83	15
North Carolina	15	2,563	\$25,158.89	\$9.82	35	\$34,158.89	14
North Dakota	32	235	\$9,625.00	\$40.96	2	\$9,625.00	33
Ohio	1	6,768	\$81,754.20	\$12.08	28	\$98,067.75	5
Oklahoma	34	1,288	\$9,285.50	\$7.21	46	\$9,285.50	35
Oregon	44	540	\$3,931.00	\$7.28	45	\$3,931.00	44
Panama	56	139	\$35.00	\$0.25	56	\$35.00	56
Pennsylvania	2	4,146	\$63,934.83	\$15.42	19	\$66,605.03	8
Philippines	51	513	\$2,010.00	\$3.92	51	\$2,010.00	51
Portugal	55	202	\$100.00	\$0.50	55	\$100.00	55
Romania		491	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
South Carolina	18	2,649	\$21,986.58	\$8.30	41	\$21,986.58	20
South Dakota	48	431	\$2,948.00	\$6.84	47	\$2,948.00	48
Tennessee	6	3,260	\$49,405.05	\$15.15	20	\$50,140.11	11
Texas	4	6,071	\$52,840.82	\$8.70	37	\$152,184.07	2
Togo		116	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Utah	43	292	\$4,387.00	\$15.02	22	\$4,387.00	43
Vermont	45	322	\$3,774.35	\$11.72	29	\$3,774.35	45
Virginia	3	1,617	\$61,347.11	\$37.94	3	\$61,347.11	9
Washington	13	628	\$31,481.74	\$0.13	1	\$31,481.74	17
West Virginia	26	1,910	\$12,504.00	\$6.55	49	\$12,504.00	28
Wisconsin	38	644	\$7,445.00	\$11.56	31	\$7,531.56	39
Wyoming	20	485	\$16,506.00	\$34.03	5	\$16,506.00	25

General Supplement

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdictions on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you the information below. – The Ed.



Famous Crusader castle at Al-Karak in Jordan. Photo by the editor.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

How to join the Grand Commander's or the Grand Master's Clubs

Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make annual contributions of \$100 or more. Once contributions total \$1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and Commandery Credit is given for participation.

Qualified Charitable Distributions Can Yield Big Tax Savings

Congress has now made the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) option permanent for those who wish to make direct contributions from their IRA to charity. The tax law allows individuals age 70 ½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 a year from their IRA to a qualified charity. This distribution counts toward their required minimum distribution but isn't added to their adjusted gross income the way a normal IRA distribution is. This can provide a tax savings of up to 40% depending upon an individual's tax situation.

Planned Giving – Create a Charitable Legacy

Your Foundation now has a full web site dedicated to Planned Giving which you can access from our web site, shown at the bottom of this page. So if you're thinking of ways to make a lasting legacy for yourself please check out the tab on the home page that says "Planned Giving". Leaving your mark on the future is so simple with a gift in your will. To leave a gift in your Will or Trust it is as easy as asking your attorney to include a sentence that says:

I bequeath (lump sum) or (%) of my estate to:

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. (address shown below)

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5
Flower Mound, TX 75022**

**Telephone: 214-888-0220
Fax: 214-888-0230
Email: manager@ktef.us**



www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/

Jesus – The Missing Years

Second in a Series of Two

by

Sir Knight Jeffrey Kuntz

Continued from July issue 2019

In his book, *The Secret Doctrines of Jesus*, Dr. H. Spencer Lewis, who was a modern mystic and the first imperator of what is called the present active cycle of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, wrote: "...not all of mankind is prepared or ready or qualified in any sense to receive or comprehend and use the higher truths of life and the miraculous power that comes from such knowledge." This is at least part of the reasoning for the ancient creation of an esoteric initiatory system.

The truth is that there are records of Jesus having gone through an initiatory process. During the first few decades of the twentieth century, H. Spencer Lewis, often with the help of assistants, painstakingly carried out vast research into the Essene brotherhood and the association Jesus had with it. The long and grueling journey took them to such places as Palestine, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece.

Dr. Lewis assembled his findings in another book, *The Mystical Life of Jesus*, published in 1929. He explained that the Essenes had communities set up in different places other than Khirbet Qumran, such as Egypt, Tibet, and India, and that this brotherhood was actually a branch of a larger organization which he called the Great White Lodge or the Great White Brotherhood who were guardians of the Ancient Mysteries. He even went as far as to mention that they were very possibly descended from the mystery schools of the so-called lost continent of Atlantis

that was to have existed several thousand years before the Qumran community.

According to Rosicrucian records, the Essene brotherhood or a branch thereof, established a secluded secret school of mystical learning in the area of Mount Carmel just southwest of what is now the Israeli city of Haifa. From the findings, Dr. Lewis indicated that Jesus had instruction there as early as age six, which could explain, at least in part, the knowledge and wisdom He displayed for the temple leadership.

As a sidelight, but an interesting and relevant one, H. Spencer Lewis wrote about the Essenes having existed around 850 B.C. at the time of Elijah, who was supposedly a member. They had mutual interests with another esoteric society of that time known as the Nazarites, of which Elijah was also a member. Dr. Lewis claimed all this is also found in old Jewish and Roman Catholic records. We know that Samson was a Nazarite, as written in the book of Judges. Lewis wrote that both the Essenes and the Nazarites, back in that time, made visits to the school and monastery at Mount Carmel.

The word Nazarite means separated, implying that the brotherhood distanced themselves from profane society. The word Nazarene also, by the way, means separated, as any *Bible* dictionary indicates. The Nazarites are mentioned in the sixth chapter of the book of *Numbers* where it is implied that they were a devout secretive organization. Jesus was called the Nazarene. Of course, this is be-



Mt. Carmel in northern Israel. Photo by the editor.

cause He was to have come from Nazareth. It is interesting to note, however, that the town of Nazareth is never mentioned in any writings made prior to *New Testament* times and, in fact, is not shown on any maps of pre-Christian times.

It is important to point out that other books have been written about Jesus' association with the Essenes, such as *Jesus and the Essenes* by Dolores Cannon and one entitled *The Secret Initiation of Jesus at Qumran* by Robert Feather. More information on these books can be found on the internet through which they can be purchased. The internet can also provide much additional information on the subject by way of various websites, YouTube, etc., demonstrating that the "unknown" years of Jesus are not really all that unknown. For our purposes, however, we will use H. Spencer Lewis' *The Mystical Life of Jesus* to relate the story of Jesus' esoteric training journey as a young man, since that book offers a well-written and concise survey of it.

As we begin the story of Jesus' training, it is interesting to share another sidelight that may raise eyebrows even higher. Dr. Lewis wrote that according

to Essene records, Jesus was enrolled in the school at Mt. Carmel under the name Joseph, rather than Jesus. We know it is written in the first chapters of both the Gospels of *Matthew* and *Luke* that an angel told Mary that she would call her child Jesus. This biblical event became known as the Feast of the Annunciation in the Christian Church. Lewis asserted that the announcement by the angel Gabriel was a prophecy. Of course, the child did later become known as Jesus, which means Savior.

It is also interesting to note, however, that in all four of the gospels, Jesus was never addressed as Jesus. He was addressed usually as Lord, sometimes Master or Rabbi. We are familiar with the passage in the sixteenth chapter of *Matthew* when Jesus asked His disciples whom men say He is, Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ," which means Messiah or anointed one, and is not a proper name. Dr. Lewis continued to use the name Joseph in his narrative, but we will use the name Jesus.

Dr. Lewis wrote that, according to Essene records, Jesus finished His schooling at Mt. Carmel in His thirteenth year.

Despite His precociousness, Jesus was obligated to complete all studies at Carmel, as was any other aspirant of such religious and spiritual training.

These studies included those of ancient religions, from those of a heathen nature to those of the higher principles and the mystery schools. As are seminary students today, Jesus was required to take a kind of comparative religions course. In Jesus' time, however, it was necessary to actually visit the lands where the various religions were predominate, since textbooks, as we know them, were not available.

To accompany Jesus on the traveling portions of His training, a couple of mentors, which we could appropriately call magi, were assigned to Him. According to Lewis' narrative, He was first escorted to Jagannath, a city on the eastern coast of India, now called Peri, where a Buddhist monastery was located. There Jesus studied the writings and teachings of Buddhist philosophy. His main instructor there was one known as Lamaas, with whom He became very close friends. In fact, Jesus later invited Lamaas to join Him in the Essene community.

After His time in Jagannath, Jesus and the magi moved on to Benares, India, better known today as Varanasi. It was a renown center of culture and learning where Jesus studied such fields as natural law, ethics, and languages. Perhaps most importantly, He also studied Hindu principles, with a strong interest in the principles of healing, under a teacher known as Udraka.

Jesus continued to travel throughout India for some time and learned much about the art, law, and culture of the people. Quite interestingly, at one point, He spent some time in a town called

Katak, where He studied parables and the art of the instruction of them.

As a result of His learning and mental and spiritual development, Jesus had already acquired quite a reputation. He was visited by a prominent high priest from Lahore, which is now the capital city of the Pakistani province of Punjab. Jesus was doing some teaching of His own among those of lower castes and of younger ages.

A great Buddhist sage in Lassa, Tibet, known as Meng-tse, sent some manuscripts to Jesus by way of a messenger. According to records, there were plans for Jesus to go to Tibet, but for some unknown reason, He proceeded west to Persepolis, Persia, to further continue His studies. This was the home of the wise and learned magi. In fact, records indicate that one of the older of them was one of those who visited Jesus at His birth.

Jesus was now developing spiritually by way of inspiration through prayer and meditation to a point where He was explaining to the elders how some of the principles that He was studying worked. He created His own system of mystical meditation He called "Entering the Silence." His powers of healing were also increasing. Jesus explained how the faith and attitude of a sick person aides in the healing process, which of course, He later taught during His ministry as written in the Gospels.

After about a year in Persia, Jesus moved on to the Tigris-Euphrates region. He not only met up with great sages of Assyria and Chaldea but also with other magi-like personages who traveled there to see Him and hear Him speak as He was becoming more skilled in expounding upon the more mystically spiritual laws. His reputation was growing

even more as His healing powers were increasing. Jesus had been informed by His guides that His power to heal would be a measure of His worthiness to complete His training and initiatory process.

Jesus then traveled on to Greece where He was hosted by Apollonius and other learned Athenian philosophers of that time who shared with Him ancient writings of Grecian lore. The adepts and learned men there implored Jesus to remain in that area longer, but it was time for Him and His companions to move on to Egypt.

In those days, there were basically two main separate mystical priesthoods in Egypt — the branch there of the so-called Great White Brotherhood and a pagan counterpart. Jesus was accosted by members of the pagan priesthood, who criticized some of His teachings, giving Him a taste of what such resistance would be like later on in His ministry. The time was approaching for Jesus' induction into the higher degrees to fully prepare for this ministry.

Some helpful insight into Jesus' train-

ing can be provided if we, for a moment at this point, take a look back about another 1300 years when Moses and the Israelites were under the rule of the pharaoh in Egypt, as told in the *Old Testament* book of *Exodus*. The *Bible* never mentions the actual names of the pharaohs, but from various records, it is known that Amenhotep IV was pharaoh at that time. Taking the story of Moses and his people at face value as we read in *Exodus*, we would have to say the Israelites experienced harsh oppression under the Egyptian leader.

Let us go back now even a little further to the great grandfather of Amenhotep IV, Thothmes III. He was instrumental in establishing a school in Egypt based on the regulations and teachings of the Great White Brotherhood. The son and grandson of Thothmes III continued to build this school of the Ancient Mysteries of the secret brotherhood. It was Amenhotep IV, however, who greatly reformed it. He is credited by some historians and scholars of religions for establishing the first school of monotheism. We almost have to assume, however, that Abraham was a monotheist and that the belief goes back even further. It is stated in writings of Egyptian history that Amenhotep IV established the worship of the one god, Aton, the sun god. It is important to clarify that to many members of the ancient arcane brotherhood, the sun was considered a symbol of the omnipotence of God, and not worshipped as a god.

Amenhotep IV changed his name to Akhnaton or Ikhnaton as he is commonly called by those more philosophically or mystically inclined. As a result of his research, H. Spencer Lewis was convinced that Ikhnaton was the one



The Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt, taken at a distance of about a half mile. Photo by the editor.



The Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt, taken at a distance of about one hundred yards. Photo by the editor.

to whom Moses appealed to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt, but that it was there, under that Pharaoh's leadership where some, including Moses, received initiatory rites into the Ancient Mysteries. In fact, as some would be surprised to read, in verse 22 of the seventh chapter of the *New Testament* book of *Acts* it clearly states, "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds." It was in Egypt, at Heliopolis, not far from Cairo, that a great center of the mystery schools was located for many centuries.

Nearing the end of His long journey, Jesus was now at this marvelous seat of the lofty mystic brotherhood. He was about to experience His final initiatory tests, trials, and ceremonies of the first three degrees in preparation for His admission into the fourth degree of the brotherhood to which Josephus referred in his writings.

Perhaps it should be mentioned here, as Dr. Lewis explained in his book, that those in the leadership positions that accompanied or visited with Jesus during His journey were well aware of His being divinely ordained, conceived, and born to be the Son of God and great Messiah, and that they were inferior to Him. Nevertheless, in His saintly humility, Jesus quite willingly received all studies, training, rites, and ceremonies required of Him.

Dr. Lewis also outlined the very elaborate final initiatory ritual that Jesus underwent. Many would be amazed to know that, again according to Lewis' findings, the ceremony that bestowed Christhood to Jesus was performed inside the Great Pyramid at Giza. In a chamber near the very center of that pyramid sits an empty stone sarcophagus like an altar. At the conclusion of the rite, which may have taken place at that

spot, Jesus the Christ was proclaimed to be the Word incarnate, the Living Logos alluded to in the first chapter of the *Gospel of John*.

The nineteenth chapter of *Isaiah* contains a rather curious passage: "In that day there shall be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord.

And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the Lord... and he shall send them a savior, ...and the Egyptians shall know the Lord and that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the Lord, and perform it." (vss. 19-21)

If for nothing but food for thought,



there is another interesting reference to Egypt in the beloved Christmas story according to the *Gospel of Matthew*. In verse 15 of the second chapter, concerning the exile of the Christ child and his parents in Egypt due to Herod's death threat and their return after that king's death, it states, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." The Gospel writer explains that was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet. That prophet was Hosea who told that prophecy in the first verse of the eleventh chapter of his *Old Testament* writing.

Upon reading verses both preceding and following that one in *Hosea*, it seems to give no allusion to the Holy Family's sojourn in Egypt or necessarily any reference at all to Jesus. In fact, according to that verse, the son called out of Egypt was Israel, the name later given to Jacob. Like a number of passages in the Old Testament, these verses seem rather desultory. It should be kept in mind that biblical scholars agree there is recondite, cryptic, and even seemingly discursive language in both *Old* and *New Testaments*, and that some passages have a double meaning. Perhaps a more familiar passage we could rightfully use as an example is the story of the wise men or magi following the star to find the Christ child after his birth. It is a commonly accepted belief even among theologians that these highly learned men were astrologers.

It might seem like we have digressed a bit here, but again, the reader should consider these somewhat strange biblical passages that, in all likelihood, have some esoteric or hidden meaning. In fact, some biblical scholars believe that Matthew's gospel has a rather strong mystical element. Like it or not, the mystically spiritual

nature of Jesus Christ is what we must mainly be concerned with when examining the commonly known parts of Jesus' life, as well the "unknown" parts.

Born in the second century A. D., the great Alexandrian Christian writer, philosopher, and teacher, Origen, wrote in his massive work, *De Principiis*, that scriptures have a three-fold meaning: literal, moral, and mystical. He wrote that writers of ancient philosophical and sacred works used incongruous expressions and ideas in order to "arouse an intelligent reader and compel him to search for a deeper explanation while simpler people would read on without appreciating the greater and concealed depths of the message." This could also be an explanation for the seeming contradictions in the *Bible*, such as the number of each animal in Noah's ark in the book of Genesis, to name one example.

So now, Jesus the Christ, at around the age of thirty, is officially and fully prepared to begin the greatest of all missions. As H. Spencer Lewis continued to write, several representatives of the mystical brotherhood who were in attendance at the conferral of Jesus' final anointing ceremony were dispatched to convey the news to other branches of the brotherhood. One of those became known as John the Baptist.

Before concluding, let us consider another source regarding the so-called "unknown" years of Jesus' life, which could possibly be considered even more controversial, despite the fact that a plethora of websites and writings are available with information about it. Levi H. Dowling, the son of a pastor of a Disciples of Christ church was born in 1844 in Belleville, Ohio. Levi was interested in spiritual matters starting at a rather

young age. Being quite precocious, he gave his first sermon at age sixteen, and was pastor of a small church at eighteen. He served as an army chaplain during the Civil War.

After studying at Northwestern Christian University, Dowling published a variety of Sunday School materials. He then graduated from two medical schools. After practicing medicine for a number of years, he decided to pursue a literary career. He spent many hours all through his life in prayer, study, and meditation.

As the story goes, while still quite young, Dowling had a vision in which he was told to “build a white city.” This “white city” was a book called *The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ*. The work covers the entire life of Jesus including the eighteen years of which most people know nothing. *The Aquarian Gospel* is divided into twenty-two sections each of which is headed, in order, by one of the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew Alphabet, starting with aleph and ending with tau. Interestingly, it is in that same manner that Psalm 119 in the *King James Bible* is divided, except it is divided into twenty-two groups of eight verses, with a Hebrew letter, in order, heading each group.

The reader is again exhorted to be of an open mind. *The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ* was to have been created by Levi Dowling while being in complete attunement with what is known in the realm of metaphysics as the Akashic Records. Every action, every utterance, and every thought by every human being is impressed upon the eternal ether of the infinite universe. Some people throughout history have developed the ability to tap into the Akashic Records. You might have heard or read about

some people who claim to have had a “near death” experience and seeing their life flash before them. Could these experiences have been a brief contact with the Akashic Records?

Upon reading *The Aquarian Gospel*, one would be surprised to find that the itinerary of Jesus’ travels in that book very closely resembles that of H. Spencer Lewis. Many of the same personages and places are mentioned in both works. There is no known source to indicate H. Spencer Lewis ever read *The Aquarian Gospel*, but it is likely he knew of it.

Both narratives strangely contain what appears to be a gross discrepancy. Both tell of Meng-tse, the Buddhist sage, who was to have sent Jesus manuscripts. However, according to most historic writings, Meng-tse lived a few hundred years before that time. Also, *The Aquarian Gospel* states the Jesus did visit Meng-tse at the temple in Tibet, whereas Lewis writes that He did not. Why these flagrant discrepancies? Could it be, for whatever reason, these non-scriptural writings also have seemingly contradictory and incongruous passages?

The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ is in the public domain and is currently produced by different publishing houses, so it is readily available to the general public. In the introduction of the 1907 edition by DeVorss & Co., Dowling’s wife, Eva, explained that he attained a high level of consciousness through many hours of meditation over a good many years. The reader of the Akashic Records must be in perfect spiritual and mental attunement with them. The publishers of DeVorss & Co. stated, “This book was transcribed between the early morning hours of two to six—the absolutely ‘quiet hours.’” Followers of

the modern Spiritualist movement use *The Aquarian Gospel*, as well as the *Bible*.

This is somewhat reminiscent of the *Book of Mormon* written some thirty years earlier when Joseph Smith was to have seen a vision of an angel called Moroni who revealed to him hidden tablets in rural New York southeast of Rochester. Rather than through the akashic records, Smith was to have written the *Book of Mormon* by translating from sacred texts on those golden plates. Mormons, also known as Latter Day Saints, believe that Jesus visited the western hemisphere after His resurrection. Of course, there are no known records giving any evidence of that amazing claim, although there are orally preserved legends about a Christ-like figure among various Indian tribes in both North and South America. Joseph Smith, by the way, was a Freemason.

One may understandably ask why the knowledge of the Essenes and Jesus' possible involvement with them should be pursued, especially if they were a secret esoteric brotherhood which possessed special knowledge that is to be passed on to only a relative few. What, if anything, does it mean for us today?

The prophetic and apocalyptic book of *Revelation* states at the beginning and near the end of its text that "The time is at hand." John the Divine might have been writing to those of his time, but perhaps the time is at hand for us in our day. As Freemasons, as Knights Templar, and as Christians, we, as are all good philosophers and leaders within all religions, are in search of truth. Reverend Dr. Robert Norwood spoke at a conclave of Episcopal clergy way back in the early twentieth century: "The greatest need of the Christian Church today is to return to the mystical teach-

ings and mystery revelations of the genuine Christian foundation."

As recorded in the twelfth chapter of the *Gospel of Luke*, Jesus said, "For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known." (vs.2) We should be reminded that Jesus did not have a monopoly on healing and so-called miracles. He taught these things to His disciples, as we read in the *Acts of the Apostles*. The day may very well be coming when this loftier knowledge will be commonly inculcated.

Many Christians today believe that we are now living in what scriptures call the "last days" or in what some passages of certain versions of the *Bible* state: "the end of the age." There are certain biblical passages that seem to suggest this, in *Daniel*, the gospels of *Matthew* and *Mark*, and *Second Timothy*. It is believed that this will be in conjunction with what is called the Second Coming. Staunch biblical literalists believe that Jesus will come back, appearing just as He did when He left the earth. Some of the more mystically inclined say that it will be more of a new spiritual awakening. The scary thing is that Jesus prophesied that various bad things will happen before that event, involving both ill behavior of men and cataclysmic geological and astronomical disruptions. There certainly seems to be a growing tendency toward these things in our present day.

Of course, we do not know when the Second Coming or "end of days" will happen, although amazingly, within the last couple of hundred years, there have been preachers and false prophets who have actually set an exact time for it and have been wrong, naturally. Jesus clearly admonished His followers against speculating upon such things. He did, however,

warn them and us to be ready and not to be weary of waiting, lest we backslide and end up like the evil servant.

What you have read herein is largely a nonsectarian view of Jesus Christ, which may appeal to Catholics as well as Protestants, Jews as well as Gentiles. In this day of diminishing interest in religious and spiritual matters, it is hoped that this writing will help to create a renewed interest in some to regenerate their faith through biblical study and church attendance. It is suggested also to consider Dr. Norwood's approach of a more mystical viewpoint as part of one's own devotional system.

Yes, perhaps the time is at hand. So, in closing, perhaps one more very essential matter should be addressed. Jesus was called the Son of God and He claimed that He was one with the Father. Some interpret that as saying He was equal with God, others that He was in complete spiritual and mental attunement with God the Father. A study

of the four Gospels will show that, although Jesus was the Son of God, He still felt the need to pray. Sometimes He prayed for hours at a time, whether it be in the garden or in the wilderness.

Prayer and meditation were a very major part of Jesus' upbringing and ministry, and surely they were very important activities among the Essenes and other branches of the secret brotherhood. It is through prayer that our faith grows as a mustard seed. It is by faith that we become in attunement with God and thereby overcome senseless hustle and bustle of a materialistic world.

It is then when, as the Nazarene promised, we "shall know the truth, and the truth shall make us free."

Sir Knight Jeffrey L. Kuntz is past commander of Baldwin II Commandery 22 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He resides at 1610 Comly Road, Turbotville, PA 17772 and can be contacted at jeffkuntz5@windstream.net.

Source notes

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Jerash, Jordan, photo by the editor.



Beauceant News



This picture was taken just prior to the start of the 94th Annual Knights Templar Association Easter Sunrise Service and 9th Annual Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Western States Easter Observance in Denver. The service was held at the Denver Consistory, across the street from the Colorado State Capitol. (Mrs. Joe) Debby Kier, president of Denver Assembly 1, SOOB, stands to the right of Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson, GCT, most eminent grand master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. Past supreme worthy presidents (Mrs. Thomas) Lynda Derby and (Mrs. Dean) Edie Rein were in attendance, along with SOOB members from Denver Assembly 1 and other Assemblies.



Elizabethtown Assembly 265 held their May meeting at the annual Grand Commandery Conference on Saturday, May 18. Guests from the Carnegie Assembly 80 were also in attendance.



Knights



at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC, KGC

Sharan Newman, *Defending the City of God: A Medieval Queen, The First Crusades, and the Quest for Peace in Jerusalem*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-137-27865-4.

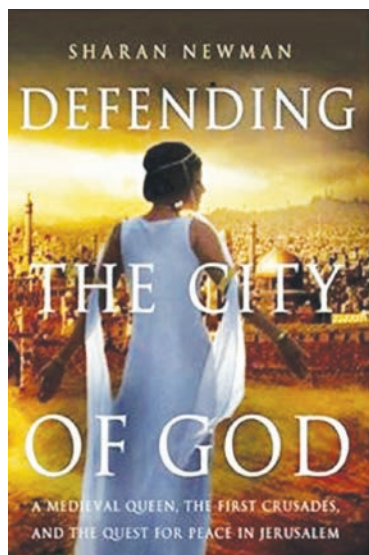
It is likely apparent to most of you who have read my articles in this magazine that my special interest is Medieval history, particularly covering the years 1000-1400 A.D. When I first saw the title of this book, I immediately thought it was a novel based on a historical queen of Jerusalem, but when I began reading it, I realized it was not a novel but a fascinating biography of Melisende, wife of Fulk of Anjou and subsequently queen of Jerusalem.

The book covers events in the Holy Land during Melisende's lifetime, 1105-1161 A.D. The book was interesting in that the life and actions of Melisende and her family are interwoven with the battles, cities, personalities, and politics of Outremer during this period. The book is thus more than just a biography—it is a very good recounting of what was happening in the Holy Land during this remarkable woman's lifetime.

The author draws on primary sources by period authors who witnessed many of these events. Where she is speculating on what may have been Melisende's feelings or opinions on these events or the people involved, she freely indicates. She also describes what the roles of the Knights Templar and Knights Hospitalier were in the political intrigues and conflicts that occurred as well as presenting the Muslim viewpoint and activities where appropriate.

The book is quite readable and informative. Footnotes occurring in each chapter are detailed in a notes section at the end of the book, which is followed by a bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

It is a lively story of a Queen who ruled the Holy City of Jerusalem, told on the basis of thorough and up-to-date research.



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*“As for man, his
days are as grass;
as a flower of the
field, he flourisheth.”*
Psalms 103:15

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