

tion, with reference to the faith of Daniel, of the Hebrew children, and of the prophets of old, are considered by many of our leading theologians as fables. The statement that Jesus Christ's mission was divine, and that he atoned for the sins of the world is declared to be "bunk." I thank the Lord that in the day and age in which we live a mighty prophet was raised up to implant in the hearts of the children of men faith in God and in his Son, faith in the holy scriptures, in the word of God, faith in the new volume of scripture, the Book of Mormon, faith in the covenant that God has made with Israel in the day in which we live, for he has made a new covenant with the people of this dispensation, and he has written in our hearts a testimony of its divine truth.

I rejoice in the privilege that is mine to labor in the ministry, both at home and abroad, and to declare the gospel of repentance. We are fortified as no other people in the world are fortified, because we have not only the word of God as it is contained in the scriptures, the Holy Bible, but we have these other volumes of scripture, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price, and we are enabled to present to the world evidence of their divinity, the one bearing witness of the other. It is necessary now, when you come in contact with the great majority of people, to prove to them that the word of God is true, that it is reliable, that it is authentic, that it is worth while investigating. The Latter-day Saints, as I say, are fortified with evidence that these things are true.

I see that the time I should occupy is gone. I bear you my witness, my brethren and sisters and my friends, that I do know that this is God's work, and that it is the power of God unto salvation, that the Lord did raise up the Prophet Joseph Smith, in the dispensation in which we live, to reestablish his work in the earth, and I bear witness that it will continue onward to the fulfilment of its destiny, and all the powers of earth and hell combined can never stay its progress. God bless you. Amen.

### ELDER JOSEPH W. McMURRIN

*(Of the First Council of Seventy, and President of the California Mission)*

It is certainly a very great privilege, my brethren and sisters, to be permitted to take part in a great conference gathering such as this is. I sincerely hope that during the few moments that have been allotted to me I may be prompted by that good Spirit that has been so manifest in the remarks of the brethren who have been called to occupy this position.

I am very glad to say that the work of the Lord is prospering in the California mission. You have already heard, from the opening remarks made by President Grant, and the presiding authorities re-

cently thought it advisable to establish a stake of Zion with headquarters in Los Angeles, to be known as the Los Angeles stake of Zion. Elder George W. McCune, former president of the Eastern States mission, has been called to preside as the president of the stake, and is assisted by Elders J. Muir and George F. Harding, who are his counselors, and a company of stalwart men who have been called to assist them as members of the high council. A number of bishops, all splendid men, have been selected and ordained and have chosen their counselors; while in other branches the bishops have not as yet been selected. The people hail with very great delight the action that has been taken by the presiding authorities, in the organization of the stake; and of course we cannot but believe that with the increased number of men who will feel the responsibilities that have been placed upon them, there will be a greater movement forward with the work of the Lord in that section of the country than at any time in the past. The brethren who have been selected to fill places of responsibility, all seem to sense the nature of that responsibility that has been placed upon them and to be anxious to discharge their duties to the best of their power.

So far as the missionary work is concerned, I am happy to say, my brethren and sisters, that the Spirit of the Lord is with the young men and women who have been assigned to the California mission. The only thing that we regret is that we do not have larger numbers of men and women sent to labor in that mission; and yet I realize that we have no ground to complain, or to feel that we have not been considered as favorably as any other mission in the sending of men and women to operate in the crying of repentance and in expounding the doctrines of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It has been and is a very great delight to me to have the companionship of the young elders and the young sisters who have been sent into that field. It is a source of never ending wonder to note the development that takes place on the part of these missionaries, for it is not an uncommon thing to find these young people sorely depressed in their feelings when they first attempt to stand up before the people, and they have but very little to say, and a good many of them do not feel that they can stand up and bear record that they know that they have been called to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and that they know the doctrines they have been sent to teach are the power of God unto salvation. It is a very great delight, nevertheless, my brethren and sisters, to note on the part of all of these young people that there is no disposition to be in any way hypocritical or untruthful or in any way to pretend that they are possessed of knowledge that has not been given to them.

I would like to say to the fathers and mothers who may have sons and daughters in California, that while some of them may have come into the mission field with but little understanding of the gospel, they have come with a wonderful spirit of obedience, ready and willing

to go and come as they may be directed by proper authority, and ready and anxious to do, to the very best of their power, the duties that rest upon them as preachers of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. While they may manifest in the beginning a considerable degree of timidity in their missionary labors, it has always been a source of great joy to me to discover that after they have striven to the best of their power to magnify the callings whereunto they have been called, they have been touched with the mysterious power that reveals truths, that has been spoken of in these conference meetings—the power of the Holy Ghost. If there has been doubt in their minds when they came into the mission field, it is soon banished away, and in a brief time they are not only willing to bear record to the truth of the gospel but they are very anxious to have that opportunity; and I want to say that they bear that witness under the power and inspiration of the Spirit of the living God. They bear witness in such a manner that their teachings reach the hearts of the people and bring honest hearted souls to an investigation of the message that has been committed into their hands.

I regret that sometimes there seems to be too great anxiety on the part of fathers and mothers to have their missionary sons and daughters return from the mission field earlier than is desirable. The declaration has been made again and again by the presiding authorities that there is no appointed time for a missionary to be in the mission field. President Heber J. Grant, in one of our conferences in 1921, set forth in very strong language the necessity of fathers and mothers giving their sons and daughters an opportunity to fill a well rounded out mission; and I would like to plead with fathers and mothers that they give their sons and daughters those opportunities. I am not unmindful of the fact that we have been passing through a time of serious financial distress and that many fathers and mothers have had great difficulty in obtaining the means necessary to meet the expenses of their missionary representatives in the mission field. Let me also say, my brethren and sisters, that it is a very rare thing for a missionary ever to have the opportunity of going the second time into the mission field to lift up his voice in proclamation of the truth that has been restored, and when he is baptized with the spirit of testimony and with the spirit of understanding; when his heart is in the work and when he is anxious to cry repentance among the people, it is greatly to be regretted that oftentimes fathers and mothers, even when I fear there is no very great necessity for such action, send word to their sons and daughters that the burden is more than they can bear and that because two years, forsooth, have passed away, they should now return from the mission field. I am happy to say that these missionaries, both men and women, have no desire to return. I have seen them shed tears of sorrow when the announcement has been made that they have been honorably released to return to their homes. Their hearts are in the work of God. They are anxious to magnify their callings; and I think no father or mother can spend money to any better advan-

tage than to give their sons and daughters, when they are in the field, full opportunity to labor and to deliver the message that has been committed into their hands, and to become better and better established in the things of God.

I rejoice in their companionship. I thank God for the opportunity of being with them. I rejoice in the gospel that I am seeking, with them, to promulgate in the California mission, and I know it is the power of God unto salvation; and bear witness thereto, with joy and gladness in my soul, and with understanding and knowledge that I speak the truth, in the name of Jesus Christ.. Amen.

President Grant read a telegram from President Wallace Calder of the Uintah stake of Zion asking to be excused from presence at the Conference owing to the impassability of the roads.

The choir sang, "The Lord is great, who shall not fear him?"

The choir and congregation sang the "Doxology."

The closing prayer was offered by Elder George Bowles, a recently returned missionary from the Hawaiian Islands.

The Conference adjourned until 10 a. m. Sunday.

## THIRD DAY MORNING SESSION

Sunday, April 8, 1923

At 10 o'clock President Grant announced the opening hymn. All the seats in the Tabernacle were occupied, as well as the aisles, and many stood during the services. It was announced during the session that four thousand people outdoors, near the Bureau of Information, were listening to the sermons in the Tabernacle conveyed by radio, which did away with the necessity of speakers at the Bureau of Information. An overflow meeting was held in the Assembly Hall, crowded to the doors.

The congregation and the Salt Lake Tabernacle choir sang the hymn, "Come, come, ye Saints, no toil nor labor fear."

Prayer was offered by Elder Willard Young.

The choir sang the anthem, "Let the mountains shout for joy."

### PRESIDENT ANTHONY W. IVINS

I sincerely desire, my brethren and sisters, that during the few moments which I may occupy this morning, the exercise of your faith in my behalf may enable me, through the blessings of the Lord upon whom I depend, to present properly the thought which I have in my mind at this time. I shall read first from the twelfth chapter of St. Mark, beginning at the thirteenth verse: