

under God, directs the destinies of the Church. I pray for him, I uphold him, and I sustain him, and I know that God gives his word through him. I testify to this, and I appeal, my brethren and sisters, for your undivided support, your devotion, your whole-souled loyalty to the great institutions of the Church and of our beloved Country, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ELDER SEYMOUR B. YOUNG

*President of the First Council of Seventy*

*My Brethren and Sisters:* I heartily endorse the remarks that have been made at this conference. The speakers have given to the congregation ideas of helpfulness and encouragement, and with all my heart, I echo the sentiments of the last speaker in regard to the President of the Church and those associated with him.

Today we see evidence of the truth of that prophetic utterance made by the prophet Joseph Smith on the 12th day of August, 1842, on the banks of the Mississippi river, in the little town of Montrose,—that the Saints would finally be driven from city to city, from state to state, and finally from the United States into the midst of the Rocky Mountains where they would become a great people. I am sure today that this prophecy is being fulfilled; that is, the clause referring to the greatness of the people. There is no evidence of lack of loyalty to the cause of truth by many thousands and tens of thousands of Latter-day Saints. The testimonies received when the door of baptism was entered seems to have been lasting, and to have increased in power from the time of the faithful seekers after truth joining the Church until the present day.

The prophet himself desired to know of his relationship with the heavenly Father. He went to the Lord, as the scripture designated to him, and prayed for light and knowledge and for wisdom; and in response to his prayer, the Father and the Son appeared to him and gave to him knowledge of their personality; and his vision and the testimony of it has never been successfully contradicted, although for fourteen years after the call came to him as a prophet of God, he saw nothing but tribulations and trials. There were in conflict with him many leading religious men, men of influence, seemingly, with the world at large. He had all this to face. Finally, as the end drew near, his faith did not fail him, but when he bade farewell to his family and to his friends as he met them on that memorable 23rd day of June, on his way to Carthage, he exclaimed, and it was an exclamation that came from a full heart: "I am going like a lamb to the slaughter, yet I have a conscience void of offense towards God and man." We are the recipients of blessings through the evidence and call given to the Prophet Joseph Smith. We are in receipt today of all the great prospects that he predicted, and realizing that in the near future

there are many more blessings for the Latter-day Saints, that we still have a controversy with the world, and that we must maintain our position as a religious body, led by the inspiration of the Lord through his prophets. All these considerations should not be taken from our minds and memories, but we should be in deep consideration how each individual can lift himself out of any slough of unbelief, of carelessness or neglect of duty, and how, at the same time, we can uplift our fellow men. The gospel has to be preached to the ends of the earth, to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, that all may hear the glorious sound that shall bring to them redemption from sin, redemption from darkness, redemption from ignorance, and place in their hearts and in their minds a knowledge of God, a knowledge of his gospel, and a realizing sense of the weight of truth that shall bring them not only salvation here in time, but salvation and exaltation in all eternity.

My brethren and sisters, I rejoice today to stand before you and bear my testimony. Joseph Smith was indeed a prophet of God; and since his day there have stood in his place prophets led and inspired by the spirit and power that characterized his leadership in the fourteen short years of his ministry as a prophet of God. I say fourteen short years, because he accomplished so much during that little time that it would have needed in some persons more than double the time to accomplish what he accomplished, excepting they were like him, inspired by the Spirit and power of God. After his call came, he devoted his life, his time, and his energy to the organization of the Priesthood and the quorums of the Priesthood, and when he saw a time approach that there was a necessity for organizing again other quorums, after the Church was organized some five years, the quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the quorum of the Seventies were chosen and ordained under the supervision and under the hands of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I look over the quorums of the priesthood and study them somewhat, and I am satisfied that he performed a perfect work in his ministry in organizing these quorums, and others of the priesthood, as has been remarked here today. The Saints are governed and directed and held together by these organized quorums, and by the power of God which attends their administration.

I testify to you today of the clean life and elegant conduct of my brethren who preside over the Church. I have known them all since they were boys, and I testify that no better men can ever live upon the face of the earth, no better Church organization has ever existed in the Church, than exists today.

May the Lord continue to bless his people and give them a desire to be more perfect and more willing and constant in their service to him and to the world at large, and I pray that the blessing of life and the blessing of health and peace may be upon all, and upon your loved ones at home, those who have come from distances; and when the conference is closed, I pray the Lord to see you safely home without accident or hurt, and the blessing of peace to rest upon us all, and the

Spirit of God to move upon us in directing our labors. I ask and pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### ELDER JONATHAN G. KIMBALL

#### *Of the First Council of Seventy*

In the words of an old prophet: "I will say of Jehovah, he is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." I have that feeling, that conviction burning within me. I have faith in God the eternal Father, and in his Son, Jesus Christ. I have been taught these things all my life, from my earliest childhood; and for forty years nearly, including my foreign service, I have been teaching that God is our Father, that we are the offspring of the living God; and I believe it.

I met a Gentile friend—I suppose he is my friend, he has always been friendly—a business man, the other day. He said very pleasantly to me: "Kimball, I do not believe you have got any religion. I do not think you believe what you preach." And I laughed. I learned afterwards that he was a Catholic, and I guess he judged me by himself, because I do not think he is a good Catholic, so he hasn't got any the best of me. How could he tell from the outside of a man whether he has religion, or, call it faith in God and in the gospel of Jesus Christ? That can only be discovered by the life we lead and by the spirit that is within us.

If there is anything in the world that I appreciate, it is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I have no desire to live with any other people. I occasionally go away with the consent of the brethren, but I am always anxious to come back. In March of this year I was in San Francisco, and I became lonesome and homesick. I think it was on the 6th of March that I preached to the people of the Latter-day Saint branch in San Francisco. When I finished, the presiding officer said: "Brother Kimball, if you preach another sermon like that about Utah, all the people will leave." That makes clear how much I think of Utah and her people. "I am not given to flattery, when I do not mean it, and I do not simulate an affection that I do not honestly feel."

As far as the brethren of the authorities are concerned, there has been no president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that I have known so thoroughly and well as President Heber J. Grant. I have traveled with him through the Southern States, all through the south to Mexico. It took us two months before we returned. I have slept with him. We were on very friendly terms in those days. There were not so many stakes, and we became very well acquainted. I have known President Grant and heard about him from his earliest childhood, for my mother was a very dear