

the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Then, our Lord and Savior, when talking to the lawyer, made two definite propositions: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

I hope we shall all go home, thankful to the Lord for the abundant harvest, for the way the land has been blessed, for the opportunity that has come to the people of the Lord to get out of debt; and with all these blessings we shall not forget the poor, the sick, and the afflicted. If only our people could remember that even ten cents a day each month would do so much and if each church member would give this amount, the bishops would have in their hands each month \$50,000. Then widows could be provided with homes and some of the comforts of life, and we could give more intelligent service to the sick, the afflicted, and all those who need our help. We are not doing enough of this.

May the Lord bless us and help us to remember our responsibilities to live up to our privileges and to keep his commandments, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

#### INTRODUCING ELDER REY L. PRATT

If this were a picture show or some silly thing we could laugh at, we could stand it for two hours and a half and perhaps three, but if we should run ten or fifteen minutes over the time today I expect many of you would get up and go out.

Before the close of this conference I desire to hear the testimony of Brother Rey L. Pratt. I desire this grandson of Parley P. Pratt who was one of the greatest of all the great writers of inspired hymns in our Church, and one of the great preachers, to bear testimony to us before departing upon his mission to South America. And if there is anybody who cannot stay until Brother Pratt gets through, I would be much obliged to them if they would leave now.

### ELDER REY L. PRATT

#### *Of the First Council of Seventy and President of the Mexican Mission*

I am very happy, my brethren and sisters, to have the opportunity this afternoon of standing before you here and bearing my testimony concerning the divinity of the gospel of our Lord and Savior, which has been restored to this day and age in which we live. I am indeed happy to have been deemed worthy to be the least of the three chosen to go into the land of South America for the purpose of establishing a mission there, and opening up in that land the work of the Lord for the preaching of the gospel to our Father's children who reside there. Particularly am I happy, my

brethren and sisters, in the thought that the gospel is to be carried to more of our Father's children in the house of Israel, verily the Lamanite people, who reside upon this land of America; and my heart has been thrilled, my brethren and sisters, with the sure and faithful teachings of this conference.

I realize that I am going into a southland, that I shall pass over the tropics, that I shall go through the lands where monkeys dwell, and I rejoice in the testimony that has been given unto me that I do not have to consider them the cousins that I am going to preach the gospel to. I am of the house of Israel through Ephraim, according to the patriarchal blessing that I have received, in which I believe implicitly. The people that we go to preach to are of the house of Israel, of Joseph, through Manasseh principally, also with a sprinkling of the blood of Ephraim among them. They are our brethren and sisters, they are our blood relatives, they have an inheritance upon this land, they are heirs to the gospel. The Lord has foretold in words of plainness this day that has now dawned upon us, and for which I do most truly thank him.

If I may impose upon your time just a moment or two I should like to read from the Book of Mormon a number of predictions that to me seem to be fulfilled now. Of course, the work is all before us, and I do not undertake this work with my brethren in the thought that we are going down there to have particularly a good time, in the sense in which many deem it a good time, but I realize fully the responsibility of our call and the enormous amount of work that it will take to bring about the prophecies of the Lord that I should like to refer to here this afternoon. If you will turn to the first chapter of the 2nd Book of Nephi, you will find recorded the following:

"And now it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had made an end of teaching my brethren, our father, Lehi, also spake many things unto them—how great things the Lord had done for them in bringing them out of the land of Jerusalem.

"And he spake unto them concerning their rebellions upon the waters, and the mercies of God in sparing their lives, that they were not swallowed up in the sea.

"And he also spake unto them concerning the land of promise, which they had obtained—how merciful the Lord had been in warning us that we should flee out of the land of Jerusalem.

"For, behold, said he, I have seen a vision, in which I know that Jerusalem is destroyed; and had we remained in Jerusalem we should also have perished.

"But, said he, notwithstanding our afflictions, we have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands; a land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord.

"Wherefore, I Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord.

"Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which

he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity; if so, it shall be because of iniquity; for if iniquity shall abound cursed shall be the land for their sakes, but unto the righteous it shall be blessed forever.

"And behold, it is wisdom that this land should be kept as yet from the knowledge of other nations; for behold, many nations would overrun the land, that there would be no place for an inheritance.

"Wherefore, I Lehi, have obtained a promise, that inasmuch as those whom the Lord God shall bring out of the land of Jerusalem shall keep his commandments, they shall prosper upon the face of this land, and they shall be kept from all other nations, that they may possess this land unto themselves. And if it so be that they shall keep his commandments they shall be blessed upon the face of this land, and there shall be none to molest them, nor to take away the land of their inheritance and they shall dwell safely forever.

"But behold, when the time cometh that they shall dwindle in unbelief, after they have received so great blessings from the hand of the Lord—having a knowledge of the creation of the earth, and all men, knowing the great and marvelous works of the Lord from the creation of the world; having power given them to do all things by faith; having all the commandments from the beginning, and having been brought by his infinite goodness into this precious land of promise—behold, I say, if the day shall come that they will reject the Holy One of Israel, the true Messiah, their Redeemer of their God, behold, the judgments of him that is just shall rest upon them.

"Yea, he will bring other nations unto them, and he will give unto them power, and he will take away from them the lands of their possessions, and he will cause them to be scattered and smitten."

My brethren and sisters, Lehi foresaw what would be the condition among his children if they would live in harmony with the commandments of the Lord that he had received for his children upon this land—that it should always be for them a land of security, the land of their inheritance, and that they should possess it unmolested by other people. But when they should turn away the reverse would be the case. History tells us that they turned away from the God of the land. They rejected Jesus Christ after his kingdom had been set up here, and behold the curse of the Lord has rested upon the land. I was in company with Elder Richard R. Lyman and Dr. George W. Middleton, only recently traversing the parts of Mexico where many important ruined cities lie, and it is marvelous to note the wonderful civilization that has once lived there, and it is marvelous to note how completely even the memory of them has been wiped out, and they are nowhere to be found. Were it not for the sacred volume of history from which I have read there would be no answer to the great riddle of those wonderful cities that were builded with such wonderful architecture in that land. Huge stones that we measured and calculated would weigh more than twenty tons, fitted closely together, having been brought a distance of three miles, and the joints fitted without mortar. So close are they fitted that the pen knife which we carried with us could not be inserted between the joints. This bespeaks a people who were mighty. It bespeaks also the fulfilment of the word of the Lord in regard to the destruction of this people. Prophets of that time, particularly Nephi the son of Lehi, foresaw

all these things as a consequence of neglect among the people. What greater fulfilment of the word of the Lord could we desire?

These prophets stated that they should be scattered and smitten by other people. Other prophecies in the book state that it should be the Gentile nations that should come in among them, that they should reduce this people to a remnant. The descendants of the builders of those mighty cities, my brethren and sisters, have verily been reduced to a remnant. Statistics given out by Jauregue, a statistician and historian of Guatemala, are to the effect that of all the native tribes south of the Rio Grande, since the coming of the Spaniards they have been reduced nine-tenths. They have become a hiss and a by-word, they have become the hewers of wood and drawers of water for the Gentile oppressors who have come in amongst them.

But I rejoice, my brethren and sisters, in the prophecy that I shall not take time to read, but merely to refer to, the word of the Lord that came to Nephi; you will find it recorded in I Nephi 13, wherein he saw all these terrible things that should befall his people, but he said that he saw that in the providences of the Lord he would not permit the Gentile nations to utterly overcome and wipe out the remnant of his seed, that should be among his brethren the Lamanites. Neither would he permit them to utterly overcome the seed of his brethren and wipe them out from the face of the land. If you will turn then to II Nephi 30, you will find wherein the Lord said that there should be a church established among the Gentile people, and a book should come forth. Many among the Gentiles should believe the words of the Book that was to be written, and they should carry it back to the descendants of those who wrote it, for their redemption, for it should contain the fulness of the Everlasting Gospel, and it should be preached among the descendants of those who wrote the book, and not many generations should pass away save they should become a white and a delightful people again.

Then if you will turn to III Nephi 21, you will find recorded there the time when we might look for the beginning of this wonderful work of restoration and redemption among that people who have been cursed of the Lord, and who have suffered so much and so long. Only those who have become intimately associated with them, my brethren and sisters, and have been touched by the ages of sorrow that they have wallowed through, know how they have suffered. And the Lord said that when these things should begin to come forth unto the seed of Lehi from the Gentiles to whom these things should be committed, and the seed of Lehi should begin to believe, then the Church, then the world, then all men might know that the Lord had set his hand to establish his work among that people, and to bring to pass his promises, and the great redemption that he had prepared for that people.

I bear you my witness, my brethren and sisters, this afternoon

in all solemnity, that I know that this is the work of the Lord, and for nineteen years have I labored in the land of Mexico and we have hundreds and thousands of valiant, true, faithful Latter-day Saints who believe the message of the gospel as it has been restored. They have not only begun to receive it, but they are now receiving it in considerable number. I wish to call your attention to the fact that so far this year already in the Mexican mission many pure-blooded Lamanites have been baptized. Yes, even more than were baptized during the ministration of Moses Thatcher, as president of the Mexican mission, with those who succeeded him; namely, August Wilson, Anthony W. Ivins, Heleman Pratt, Horace H. Cummings, and Henry Eyring. More have been baptized this year than were baptized during the ministry of all those men.

So I have faith, my brethren and sisters, that the time has come, and I feel that our leader, under the inspiration of the Lord, has made no mistake in opening up the work in that land. I hope to play my part well. I have no desire other than to serve God by serving his children who need my services in that land or in any other land. I have dedicated my life to this work, I have given all upon the altar, and I have had to make sacrifices. As President Ivins said last night, we labor and we do sacrifice, and I have had it brought home to me that the Lord sometimes takes us at our word when we say we are willing to make sacrifices. I have cast my lot in that foreign land to sacrifice for this work, and I wish to continue faithful, my brethren and sisters, I wish to go with the faith and the prayers and the good will of my brethren. I know, as I stated in the beginning, that I only go as a helper. I am contented, I am proud, I am willing to go as an assistant in this great work of the Lord in that land. Oh, how my heart rejoices to think, as I picture now those great buildings that we visited the other day, that those who built them might now be smiling, they might now be rejoicing in the fact that God has moved upon his servants to call some others of his servants to go and bring the truth to their descendants, to call them out of their lethargy, out of their superstitions, out of the traditions through which they have wallowed all these generations, that there might come to them that faith, the greatest thing in all the world, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, upon which this work is builded, that it may be kindled in their hearts and burst into a flame, that they may become workers of righteousness.

I rejoice in this great work. I pray for the blessings of the Lord to be upon the Saints at home and to be upon us who shall go so far away. I have brethren come to me and congratulate me upon my call, which I accept gladly, and they have said: "I wish that I could go. I wish I were numbered among those who are going to that land." Let me give you just one little hint. If you really and truly mean it, prepare yourselves for the work, for I think I can see, as this work begins to open up, the necessity for

the calling, not of one thousand men, but of ten times one thousand men, to reach all of our Father's children who yet need the blessings of the gospel. Prepare yourselves by study. Prepare yourselves by getting out of debt. Prepare yourselves by shaping your financial affairs so that when the time comes you can answer, "Aye, Lord, I am ready, take me, and do with me as thou wilt, in the consummation of thy great work among thy children here upon the earth."

May the Lord bless you, my brethren and sisters, and bless us all in his service. My testimony to you is that God lives, that I know he lives, and that Jesus Christ is his Son, and that I, even I, in company with all of you, am made in his image and in his likeness. Oh, how I rejoice to know these things; oh, how I desire to keep alive in myself the faith that I have in Him, and how I anguish and how I grieve when I think of the possibility of that faith being destroyed in my children whom I am obliged to leave to the mercies of the schools of the age, the Church schools and otherwise, and know that there are conditions and that there are men who, if it were possible, are anxious to destroy that faith in my children. I love them as I love my life, but more than anything else, I desire that they shall keep alive the faith that is the foundation of eternal life, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I bear you this testimony and invoke the blessings of the Lord upon us all, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

#### TESTIMONY OF MILANDO PRATT

"President Heber J. Grant, Beloved President: My bosom has swelled with exceeding joy in listening to the most interesting conference services over the radio, from my bedroom, where I have spent most of the time for the past nearly ten years, through a severe operation, followed by a prolonged, painful illness. I have heard distinctly all the tabernacle services, about three miles distant from my home. I am quite sure all the speakers were greatly inspired. Your brother in the Gospel,

"MILANDO PRATT."

Milando Pratt is a cousin of our last speaker, and a son of Orson Pratt who was one of the greatest writers and defenders of the truth that the Church has ever had.

Brother Roberts reminds me that way in the 50's the grandfather of Brother Rey L. Pratt, namely, Parley P. Pratt, first carried the gospel to the land of Chile, in South America.

#### ELDER JOSEPH BARLOW DEAD

I overlooked announcing that Brother Joseph Barlow, counselor to the President of the Raft River stake, has passed away since our last conference. We extend to the family our sympathy.

#### MISSIONS ESTABLISHED SINCE LAST CONFERENCE

There have been established since our last conference the North Central States mission, with John G. Allred as President;