

feelings and back-biting, of establishing unity, love and strength, and keeping the commandments of God, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

### ELDER JOSEPH W. McMURRIN

*of the First Council of Seventy, and President of the California Mission*

I esteem this a very great privilege, my brethren and sisters, and at the same time, at this moment, it is a very great surprise. I am thankful, however, that I feel in my soul that I am in harmony with the counsels that have already been imparted in this conference and that I believe most sincerely in the doctrines that have been presented for our consideration.

I come up, my brethren and sisters, from the mission field in California, where I have had the privilege of laboring for some time in seeking to spread the truth as it has been revealed in the dispensation in which we live. I am happy to be associated with the young men and women who have been assigned to that field of labor. Generally speaking, the missionaries are all young men, or young women. Occasionally, through the system that has been introduced during recent years, a few men of experience and one or two women of experience have come into the California Mission, as short term missionaries. We have rejoiced very greatly in the companionship of these men and women who have had development and experience for a goodly period of time in the work of the Lord.

You have just learned from the remarks made by President Heber J. Grant that California has been blessed with his presence and with his ministry, both in the stakes that have been established in that great state, and in the branches that belong to the California Mission. The people are always glad in their hearts when they have the privilege of meeting with the President of the Church, and of listening to his testimony which has always been so strong and sure that the work which is under his direction as the President of the Church has been revealed and established by the Lord our God.

We have been blessed just recently, for about five months, with the presence of Doctor James E. Talmage, who has been giving some very remarkable and inspiring discourses over the radio in Los Angeles; and many people, we have discovered, who are not of our faith, have been giving attention to those discourses. We have not only rejoiced in his ministry, as he has delivered the word of the Lord and the doctrines of the gospel over the radio, but we have rejoiced also in his companionship in the wards, and in the branches, that he has visited quite thoroughly throughout the state of California. We feel that we have been very greatly blessed by his presence, by his counsel, and by the doctrines that he has presented for the consideration of the people, both members and non-members of the Church.

We have been blessed also with the ministry of Brother George

Albert Smith, of the Council of the Apostles, who was appointed in the early part of the year to visit the California Mission. He gave counsel that was very greatly to the advantage of the people who make up the membership of the Church in the mission.

I am glad, my brethren and sisters, that our faith in the work of God remains unshaken, and we feel from our experiences that we receive constantly renewed evidences confirming the truth as it has been revealed. I was impressed with the wonderful character of the work established in this dispensation, in reading in the editorial column of the Los Angeles Examiner of Sunday, September 29th,

"The great majority of preachers no longer teach that the earth as we know it, was created merely by the expression of Divine Will in a period of six days. Practically all religious teachers now interpret the six days to mean six PERIODS OF TIME, six 'geological ages' reaching over periods inconceivable to our mind."

When I read this, my brethren and sisters, I could not but feel how wonderful are the inspired teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, who in no way professed to have scientific information, but who always taught that he delivered the word of the Lord as that word was given to him. It surely is wonderful that he should have declared almost at the very opening of this dispensation, that which is now beginning to dawn upon the minds of men in relation to the creation of the world. The Prophet taught this doctrine very clearly, as you can read in the Pearl of Great Price. I do not know just how long ago the Book of Abraham was translated. I have in my possession a copy of that work that I believe was published in Liverpool in 1851, so it has been in print for a long period of time. Surely the lad Joseph Smith, the farmer's youth, the man without scholastic attainment, could not have conceived of the great truth to which I have referred, and taught it so correctly, had it not been impressed upon him by the inspiration and revelation of the Lord our God.

I am happy to say, my brethren and sisters, that we are endeavoring to the best of our ability to declare the glad tidings of great joy that have been revealed for the salvation of the human family. We believe most devoutly in the mission of the Redeemer of the world; that he is the very Son of God; that he in his time, chose mortal men and conferred upon them the authority of priesthood, the power to minister in his own great name and in the name of the Eternal Father. He sent those men forth to preach the gospel, gave them commandment to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, and made the promise that every soul who would hearken, who would accept of the message, should find salvation in the presence of God; and of course, those who would not accept would take the consequences of condemnation. We believe, and we teach to our fellow men, that in this last dispensation, in fulfillment of the promises that have been made by the mouths of holy prophets, that same Eternal Father, that same Redeemer of the world, have sent holy messengers to confer upon mortal men the authority of priesthood; and by that authority, it having been

given to us by new revelation in the dispensation of the fulness of times, we go out among the people, not because of the commission given to the apostles in the meridian of time, but because the Lord God of heaven has said to men in this dispensation, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." I am very happy to say the missionaries so teach, although it may be at times in halting words, and in fear and trembling. Men and women are delivering this message and are bearing witness that through the power of God, through the inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord, they know whereof they speak. I thank the Lord that I have the confidence in my own soul that I am not preaching the doctrine of men. I am not laboring for the glory of man nor for the plaudits of men. I am laboring in the fear of God, because upon me that divine authority has been conferred, and I am under obligation to cry repentance, to the best of my power, among the children of men and to help lead men, if possible, from the darkness that is in the world, to the truth that has been revealed. In doing that, with my companions, I have partaken of that joy with them that passeth understanding, and we do know that we are trying to bring to mankind a glorious message that is for their benefit and salvation.

May God help us all to love the truth, believe in it and maintain it in our conduct here and in our speech before the people for ever and ever, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

#### ELDER REY L. PRATT

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

I sincerely trust, my brethren and sisters, that I may have the benefit of your faith and prayers and that the Spirit of the Lord may actuate me while I shall speak to you for a few moments this morning. Sometimes we are so taken by surprise that our breath nearly leaves us; but I have an implicit and abiding faith in the Lord that if we put our trust in him and labor to the best of our ability he will prepare the way for us whereby we may accomplish the things that he commands us to do.

I take it, my brethren and sisters, that, as people having the gospel of Jesus Christ and a testimony of it, the Lord calls upon us to bear that testimony and make known his word to the world, and to bear testimony one to another of the inspiration of the Lord and the knowledge that has come to us concerning this great gospel plan that is instituted in the world for the salvation of men.

During the past six months my mind has been centered very much upon the Book of Mormon. It has fallen to my lot to publish an edition of that book in the Spanish language. Our work is now completed, so far as the printing of the book is concerned. I think the last form was printed yesterday, and we have now only the binding to attend to. We shall soon have in circulation the third edition of the Book of Mormon in the Spanish language. My hope and desire is that this