

to name the number of Seventies, but I have known a good many of them. I desire to bear my testimony that these men were men of God.

I should like to say a word concerning my testimony of Joseph Smith the Prophet, for I wish to challenge the world upon this proposition, that the world of unbelievers together with the believers among the Latter-day Saints, are witnesses before mankind to the fact that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. I will prove it to you. On the night of the 22nd of September, 1823, Joseph Smith appealed to God for a further revelation concerning his standing before the Almighty, and almost instantly in response to his prayer his room was lighted up by a light exceeding that of the noonday sun and within it appeared a personage. This personage spoke to him. I will quote Joseph's own words:

"He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni; that God had a work for me to do; and that my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people."

Now we say to the world, you have fulfilled your part and are fulfilling your part, and will be held responsible for it before the heavens, in traducing the name of Joseph Smith, in proclaiming him as an imposter, in speaking evil of him. We Latter-day Saints, in this volume of testimony that is broadcast from this conference, and in the action that we have taken since Joseph Smith came to his ministry, to uphold his testimony and maintain it before the world, are speaking his name for good, have been doing so in the past, and shall continue to do so in the future. And so between us we declare to mankind that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and I challenge the world to refute that statement.

The Lord bless you all. Amen.

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

I regret beyond expression that we have no more time left. We have not as yet heard from Bishop John Wells. We shall have to ask Brother Wells to speak very briefly instead of occupying the usual fifteen or twenty minutes that have been allotted to the General Authorities of the Church.

ELDER JOHN WELLS

Of the Presiding Bishopric

I have been deeply impressed with the references that have been made to the great pageant, particularly with the comments of our previous speaker, Junius F. Wells. It will serve to remind the Latter-day Saints of the program of our Father in heaven for the development and salvation of his children. The pageant gives a history of the world

that is hardly ever given in textbooks. It shows the dealings of our Father with his children through various generations.

No one could listen to the music and to the recitation, and see the marvelous presentation of the great events, without strongly feeling the power and influence of God's messengers, prophets, and representatives who have held the holy priesthood.

We speak of the great events that have transpired in this Church, the restoration of the Gospel through the medium of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I never tire of hearing it. It is always music to me. It is the greatest subject of this last dispensation. We should constantly teach to our children and to others the story of the Prophet's first vision, the coming of the Angel Moroni, the delivery of the plates, the translation of the book, the testimony of the Three Witnesses, and the organization of the Church. We should also teach the mission of John the Baptist, and the travels, labors, and miracles of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I am going to read to you a small slip that came to my attention years ago, written by a man named Francis, and which appeared in a California newspaper. It ranks very high, I believe, in current literature, and when I read it, it fills my mind with a very profound impression.

"Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of his divine manhood.

"While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. Another betrayed him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon the cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth while he was dying, and that was his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

"Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today he is the center of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has this one solitary life."

We believe in God the Eternal Father. We believe in his Son Jesus Christ, our Elder Brother and Redeemer, our Advocate with the Father, who came to redeem mankind from the fall of Adam and to lay down a code of laws known to us as the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by obedience to which we may return to our Father in heaven. After three years of missionary labor, he was crucified, and having overcome all things, all power was given unto him, both in heaven and in earth. By his sacrifice he brought to pass the resurrection and eternal life.

The Gospel he taught has been restored in these latter days through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith, who received his authority from John the Baptist, and from Peter, James and John.

I hope that some future historian of the Church (say fifty years from now) will record that as a result of this great centennial gathering there developed among the Latter-day Saints a deeper spirituality, a more sincere desire to serve the Lord our God, a truer and more friendly neighborliness and love of fellowmen than ever before.

May the blessings of the Lord be with this people, and may his special blessings rest upon those who direct the affairs of this Church, I sincerely pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

We would all be disappointed if we did not have a few words of blessing from the great grandson of the martyred Patriarch, who now stands as our Presiding Patriarch.

Brother Hyrum G. Smith has been in very poor health for some time, and at one time I felt it would hardly be fair to ask him to say anything at this conference. But he seemed to have sufficient vigor to offer a good prayer at the opening of this conference, and we shall be pleased now to have a few words of blessing and testimony from him.

ELDER HYRUM G. SMITH

Presiding Patriarch of the Church

I am very grateful, my brethren and sisters, for this important privilege, although I had thought there would not be time for me to appear the second time.

GRATEFUL FOR RETURN OF HEALTH

I am very grateful indeed for the prayers of the saints, and I testify that the Lord has heard them in my behalf.

Two of the late General Conferences of the Church I have heard over the radio from my home. I have been very grateful to be able to attend all of the sessions of this conference and am very grateful for the strength that has returned to me and that I am able to enjoy your association and presence.

A great many testimonies of my work, the work of the Lord, have come to me during this conference, and I am praying that what few words I can say will be acceptable in the time that is allotted, or left.

PARENTAGE EXPLAINED

Many people have asked me about my parentage and who I am, and in just a few words let me answer your questions thusly: I happen to be the oldest son of my father, who was Hyrum Fisher Smith, the oldest son of his father, the late Patriarch John Smith, who was the oldest son of his father, the Patriarch Hyrum Smith. My grandfather was the oldest brother of his father's children, but his younger brother