

walk in Thy paths, guided only by Thy commandments, that, Thy purposes accomplished, peace, Thy peace and the peace of man, may return to bless the earth.

Stay the hands, O Father, of the Destroyer. Let him not further curse the world with the slaughter of Thy children, nor pour out upon them a fuller measure of the sore afflictions of famine, plague, and pestilence. We know what Thou hast decreed against a sinning world, but we humbly bow at Thy throne and with our whole hearts we pray Thee that, as seemeth to Thee well, in Thy infinite knowledge and wisdom, Thou wilt abate Thy righteous indignation, take away from the full measure of Thy punishments, hasten the carrying out of Thy purposes, shorten these days of world tribulation.

We know how we, Thy children, have erred, we know how we have failed to live the lives Thou hast marked out for us, but at this time, O Father, we humbly pray that Thou wilt close

Thine eyes to our misdoings and recall not our frailties, nor withhold forgiveness for our transgressions, but grant us this, our prayer for the speedy fulfillment of Thy purposes, that peace may come, that the cries of a wailing world may no longer afflict Thine ears, and that Thy people may again go forward in their work of spreading Thy gospel and bringing salvation to the honest in heart.

Bless the needy, the sick, the world over; make easy the pains of the innocent and righteous ones who have been torn by war; comfort the mothers, the widows, the fatherless. Be merciful to all who suffer in mind or body or spirit.

For Thy boundless mercies to us we are humbly grateful. Lead us day by day so to live as to be more worthy of Thy manifold blessings, without which we should perish.

Grant us these blessings, O Father, for we ask them humbly in the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

*Second Counselor in the First Presidency*

We shall now hear from Elder Joseph F. Smith whom you sustained this morning as Patriarch to the Church.

For the benefit of those listening in on the air and for our further information I will repeat Elder Smith is the son of the late Hyrum M. Smith, therefore the grandson of the late President Joseph F. Smith, and a great grandson of Hyrum Smith, the Patriarch. Elder Smith's right to this office therefore is not only by lineage, but by direct inspiration to the President who holds the keys of this high Priesthood.

## ELDER JOSEPH F. SMITH

*Patriarch to the Church*

I KNOW that my Redeemer lives. Once in January of this year, and again in April, I lay in the valley of the shadow of death. I returned therefrom only by the power of the priesthood and the faith of those who love me. Let sophists scoff—let worldly learned men rationalize: I know—as I know that I stand here—that I am alive this day

by the power of the Priesthood and by the faith of my loved ones.

Many nights have I lain and pondered the Lord's goodness to me—goodness which I must confess seemed all too unmerited. There are no words for me to tell you what went on in my heart this day as I saw this great body of men holding the holy Priesthood sustain me in the

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calling to which the Prophet of God has summoned me.

I know that my Redeemer lives. I know that Heber J. Grant is His chosen and properly-ordained mouthpiece upon earth. God grant that we as a body of Priesthood, that our families, that our brethren and sisters who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints may have the wisdom and the strength to hew closely to the words

which have issued and which shall issue from the constituted authority of the Church. Only by so doing will we have the strength to face the trials that are to come. The hearts of the strongest may quail. Obedience to the word of the Lord is the only thing which will fortify us in the days to come.

God grant that we may be Latter-day Saints. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The congregation arose and sang, "We Thank Thee, O God, For A Prophet."

### ELDER JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

*Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

FIRST, I wish to endorse all that has taken place and all that we have heard this morning.

We have here assembled in this important historic building the leading men who hold the Priesthood who have been called to great responsibility. Never before in the history of the Church has the responsibility which has been given to the Priesthood been more necessary of fulfillment than today. Never before have we been under greater obligation to serve the Lord and keep His commandments, and magnify the callings which have been assigned to us.

The world today is torn asunder. Evil is rampant upon the face of the earth. The members of the Church need to be humble and prayerful and diligent. We who have been called to these positions in the Priesthood have that responsibility upon our shoulders to teach and direct the members of the Church in righteousness. I would like to read the words of John as found in the third chapter of the First Epistle of John:

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God. Therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knoweth Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, but it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall

appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is, and every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself even as He is pure.

John was speaking to the men who held the Priesthood. He calls them the sons of God. We are the sons of God. That same divine authority has been bestowed upon us. We, too, in this day should be just as grateful and just as willing to serve and keep the commandments of the Lord and magnify the callings which have been given unto us as were these men in former days who were the sons of God. I wonder if we realize the greatness of our callings—yes, all the elders in this Church—do they realize that they hold the Melchizedek Priesthood? Do they know that through their faithfulness and their obedience, according to the revelations of the Lord, they are entitled to receive all that the Father has—to become the sons of God, joint heirs with our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ, entitled to the exaltations in the celestial kingdom? Do we realize that? We, too, if we do realize it, should be like those of former days, and every man that hath this hope in him, will purify himself even as Christ is pure. Brethren, that we may do so, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.