

sacred to us as a result of those who have worked here and served here and who have passed to the other side. I am sure that if they can see us this morning they will be happy that there are so many people coming to Conference when the world is in such distress.

President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., will conduct the services of the morning session.

President J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

This is the third session of the 117th Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are convened in the Tabernacle on Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah.

There are on the stand this morning all of the General Authorities of the Church, except Elder Stephen L Richards of the Council of the Twelve, who is detained at home by his doctor's orders; Elder Ezra Taft Benson, also of the Council of the Twelve, who is in Europe in charge of the European Mission; and the Patriarch to the Church, also absent on account of illness.

The proceedings of this session will be broadcast over KSL at Salt Lake City, KSUB at Cedar City and KID at Idaho Falls.

We will begin the morning services by the Richfield Combined Choruses singing: "How Excellent is Thy Name." Elder Arden Peterson is the director and Elder Frank W. Asper is the organist.

The opening prayer will be offered by President Edgar B. Brossard of the Washington Stake.

The Richfield Combined Choruses sang: "How Excellent Is Thy Name."

Elder Edgar B. Brossard, President of the Washington Stake, offered the invocation.

The Richfield Combined Choruses sang: "Beside Still Waters," by Hamblen.

PRESIDENT LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

In connection with the voices of the servants of the Lord at this conference, the fundamental to be established in the hearts of humanity for the return of the world to God is the fact that the gospel of Jesus Christ is not a system of thought but a true revelation of God. God makes one man the channel of communication to other men. This channel is never closed.

Three things have the servants of God emphasized in this day: the immortal appeal to fortitude and faith; the returning to God through repentance; and holy baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

... Go ye into all the world, [said Jesus our Redeemer] and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16: 15.)

A century ago, the most majestic character of history gave us with other scriptures, the Doctrine and Covenants. In that book, man is carried to his high destiny. Man is divine. He is in the image of God. He has endless spiritual power and grace. Herein is the Prophet Joseph Smith's masterful idea. The soul's relationship to God. His was a sorrowful life, but he nurtured through all hazards the divine truths God revealed to him, and finally came triumphant when he left us these immortal words:

And now, remember the words of him who is the life and light of the world, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God. (D. & C. 10:70.)

His teachings lead us to the dominion of joy, as witnessed here today.

And so my brethren of the Holy Priesthood, go forth and remember:

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:8.)

ELDER SPENCER W. KIMBALL

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

My brothers and sisters: To preface my remarks may I quote Paul:

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (I Cor. 2:1-2.)

Today I wish to bear witness of Jesus the Christ and to quote the word of the Lord.

I read recently in a local paper of a pastor of a church in Illinois, who said that he felt the same reverence for Santa Claus that he did for Jesus Christ. He said:

I consider both of them to be folk tales, but in different categories.

He finds one difference, however; he does not question the fact that "a man named Jesus" did exist, and he regards Santa Claus as a "figure of the imagination."

In the magazine, *Time*, in a recent issue, a noted professor emeritus in one of our largest universities, was quoted at length on his rationalizing. To Jesus of Nazareth he gives human warmth; a great capacity for love; unusual understanding. He calls him a great humanist, a great teacher, a great dramatist. As a typical rationalization, he explains that Lazarus was not dead, but was merely

... brought "back to health" by Jesus, the power of mind and learning, and by the "therapy of his own abundant vitality!"