

Saturday, April 4

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to marry in the temple," she answered, "Well, my patriarchal blessing promised me that I would be married in the temple, so I guess I will someday."

We must serve the Lord diligently and intelligently, keeping all his commandments, if we expect to receive his blessings.

When the question arises if the blessings come from our efforts in righteousness in fulfilling the law upon which the blessing is predicated, why have patriarchal blessings? We will get our blessings anyway, if we live for them. And that is very true, because "we must live for our blessings if we get them, but there comes great comfort and consolation from having our blessings both promised and sealed upon us by authorized servants of the Lord in obedience to his word and law, for the Lord has placed authorized agents on the earth to bear his power and his authority, not only to pronounce, but to seal these blessings, that the Lord may have an anchor upon the souls of men and women forever, for neither death nor the destroyer will end these blessings, but the receiver will possess and enjoy them forever and ever."

A patriarchal blessing gives us courage to live as we know we should live.

It helps to keep us from yielding to temptation, to do the things we have been taught to do.

Quoting James again,

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. (*Ibid.*, 4:17.)

After he has received a patriarchal blessing, after he has been taught the Word of Wisdom, the law of tithing, been taught to attend sacrament and priesthood meetings, and been taught the law of celestial sealings, and then he does contrary to those teachings, to him it is sin. After he has been taught honesty, and there is no truth in him, for him it is sin. If he has been taught charity, and he has no charity in his heart, to him it is sin. He who has covenanted to devote his time and talents to the service of the Lord and does not do it, to him it is sin. He who has the gospel and teaches it not to others by example as well as by precept, to him it is sin.

Let us live worthy of the blessings of the Lord, by living the gospel every day. Let us show our faith by our works, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

MAN'S ENDOWMENT

The Lord created man of the earth,
He endued them with strength by themselves,

And made them according to his image,
And put the fear of man upon all flesh,
And gave him dominion over beasts and fowls.

Counsel, and tongue, and eyes,
Ears, and a heart, gave he them to understand.

Withal he filled them with the knowledge of understanding.

And shewed them good and evil.
He set his eye upon their hearts,
That he might shew them the greatness of his works,

He gave them to glory in his marvellous acts for ever,

That they might declare his works with understanding.

Beside this he gave them knowledge,
And law of life for an heritage,
He made an everlasting covenant with them,
And shewed them his judgments.
Their ways are ever before him;
And shall not be hid from his eyes.
(Ecclesiasticus 17:1,3,4,6-9,11,12,15.)

SO MANY words in holy writ will create within us the Spirit of the Lord as we hear them today, for it is the Easter time. All of the Evangelists write beautifully of the resurrection. We read the words of Mark:

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James

and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

And he said unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. (Mark 16:1-6.)

Every year at Easter time, our hearts are gladdened by the commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Jesus died that we might by our faith be accounted worthy to attain eternal life. "It must needs be," he said, "that the Son of man should suffer and be put to death and rise again." (See Luke 24:7.) "Because I live, ye shall also live" is the divine message that has brought heavenly solace to millions of souls who have come to the knowledge that death is but the beginning of the greater and truer life.

An ancient prophet, Isaiah, in speaking of the resurrection of the Savior in language, poetic and lofty, says:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation: that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! (Isa. 52:7.)

This knowledge is the deepest need of mankind today, for while we honor his name and his call, we test our lives by other times and by other peoples, never allowing ourselves the one thing we need most of all—vision of the kingdom of God. The last words of Jesus from the cross were: "Father, into thy hands, I commend my spirit. . . ." (Luke 23:46), words of perfect trust and confidence. In all his life, there was that

divine knowledge that from God he came and to God he would return. This is why the outward incidents of his life were vested with the splendor of eternity. When he died upon the cross, he assured us of the greater life beyond the grave.

The Spirit of the Lord has been in the hearts of the people who are assembled in this holy house. The lessons of the meaning of life which we will take home will long remain with us. Our minds may be open to the truths of the gospel. We cannot listen to the brethren who speak without being impressed with a new sense of power and a new source of comfort, because we have come to know God through the life of the Master: the Savior of the world. What could be more divine than to turn our thoughts to Jesus Christ our Savior at Easter time? The learned British author, Lord Erle, has written:

The belief in immortality rests on the belief in the government of the universe by one supreme, moral, and spiritual being. Happy are those whose faith on this point has survived the shock of recent years, and not the least part of their happiness lies in the sure and certain hope of a future life.

From the days of father Adam down through all centuries, God has made manifest his truths to his children. The divine light has ever shown forth to inspire the sacred teachings which will bring the children of God back to his holy throne. In Homer's *Odyssey* we have the religious beliefs of the Greeks of ancient Athens. "Men and gods are divine," says Homer. "In this life the spirit and body are one, and to escape worldly influence we must become purified by denying ourselves certain kinds of foods and dress and avoid contact with impurities. One must become as near to God as possible, and that means to become righteous and holy with the help of wisdom." Concerning the Hindus, their philosophy of life is found in their Bible, the *Rigveda*, which says: "All children are and have been of heaven and earth. All souls in time

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can be gods. Their highest ethical figure is Varuna, who is unified with a glorified body."

Then comes the conception of the ancient Hebrews. Job shows not only his belief in immortality, but also in the resurrection of the body when he gives utterance to the noble words:

For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. (Job 19:25-26.)

How beautifully Daniel has written:

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

And they that be wise shall shine in the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. (Daniel 12:2-3.)

How beautiful and with what deep humility the American Indians in the past have spoken words of faith in the Great Spirit. In Francis Parkman's biography of the celebrated Indian Chief Pontiac, we have a statement concerning the Indian's faith, which was uttered when he surrendered to the English in 1765. He spoke in behalf of the several nations assembled at the council of the English warriors and the Indians, and said:

Father, we have all smoked out of this pipe of peace. It is your children's pipe; and as the war is all over, and the Great Spirit and Giver of Light who has made the earth and everything therein, has brought us all together this day for our mutual good, I declare to all nations that I have settled my peace with you before I came here. And now deliver my pipe to Sir William Johnson, that he may know that I have made peace and have taken the King of England for my father, in the presence of all the nations now assembled. Father, we are thankful to you for lighting our council fire for us, and desiring us to return to it.

Every group of people in all history has looked to God and has known of

the "life beyond." A shrine, a temple, or a church is a part of the great picture book of humanity and testifies alike to the goodness and beauty of human life.

Centuries ago, God gave the children of Israel through the Prophet Moses, the Ten Commandments, in which are written sublime truths:

I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. . . .

Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. (Exodus 20:2, 8, 12.)

The Ten Commandments became the constitution of the Holy Land, and they have influenced the civic and political life of all civilization since that time.

All through the ages, since God sent his servant Adam to this earth, a divine power has ever directed mankind and given him a knowledge that God lives. The holy Bible is the product of men inspired of God, covering a period of four thousand years. The holy book shows that the Hebrew prophets gave their lives to the service of God. They wrote by the power of the Holy Ghost. God directed them.

The life of Christ our Savior, as given in the New Testament, is to old and young alike the most moving and convincing truth that he came from some higher sphere into our earthly history with the mission to reveal God and save man. He preached the gospel of the kingdom; and forever even until all the aeons have been closed, and earth itself, with the heavens that now are, have passed away, shall every one of his true and faithful children find peace and hope and forgiveness and his name shall be called Emmanuel or God with us.

We always keep in mind that in the great literature of the world's history, writers have extolled the powers of the mind and intelligences of mankind. Ever since the recording of history be-

gan, the divine power of man has been made manifest. "No other single force has entered so widely, so powerfully, so continuously into the renewal of the mortal spirit of man, into the shaping of men's ultimate ideals, and into the formation of personal character, as the sense of contact between the human and the divine." One of the old Hebrew singers—possibly David—summed up the lesson of Judah in these words: "They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." (Ps. 125:1.)

Today as we look forward to the time ahead, our vision will be clear if we have prayed and worked to have a testimony of the word of God among his children. We know of the truth that God lives and that Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world, will come again. With understanding hearts, we recall the words of Isocrates, an Athenian philosopher of the fifth century, B.C.:

The age in which we live should be distinguished by some glorious enterprise . . . Let the leaders contrive to put an end to our present troubles. The treaties of peace are insufficient for their purpose; they may retard but they cannot prevent our misfortunes. We stand in need of some more endurable plan, which will forever put to an end our hostilities, and unite us by the lasting ties of mutual fidelity and affection.

The writer of the Acts of the Apostles gives an account of the last meeting of the risen Messiah with his disciples in Palestine, and his last words to them:

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:9-11.)

Mosiah writes gloriously in the Book of Mormon:

But there is a resurrection, therefore the grave hath no victory, and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ.

He is the light and the life of the world; yea, a light that is endless, that can never be darkened; yea, and also a life which is endless, that there can be no more death.

Even this mortal shall put on immortality, and this corruption shall put on incorruption, and shall be brought to stand before the bar of God, to be judged of him according to their works whether they be good or whether they be evil. (Mosiah 16:8-10.)

God the Father and Jesus Christ came to this earth and restored the gospel to Joseph Smith, and the Church of Jesus Christ was organized. Through the years the Prophet's life was filled with sorrow and bitter struggle to have men understand. A few came with him—men of great character and women of great souls, "That faith might increase in the earth, and that mine everlasting covenant might be established and proclaimed unto the end of the world." The world is weary of the religion about Christ. What it wants is the religion of Jesus Christ. To follow Jesus Christ means to have a part in the building of his kingdom on earth. Here we merge into the sunshine of a great experience.

In words that are forceful and clear, we have our tenth Article of Faith as written by the Prophet Joseph Smith:

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion will be built upon this [the American] continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.

When Jesus Christ gave his holy prayer in speaking to the people on the mount, he uttered words which to this day are given by the millions of people who hold him as the Savior of the world. He said:

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

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Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil: For thine is the king-
dom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen. (Matt. 6:9-13.)

And so we await his kingdom. We
live day by day in preparation of his
coming, for *Christ will come again*.

It was John Fiske, the historian at
Harvard fifty years ago, who wrote:

The future is lighted for us with the
radiant colors of hope. Strife and sorrow
shall disappear. Peace and love shall reign
supreme. The dream of poets, the lesson
of priest and prophet, the inspiration of

the great musician, is confirmed in the
light of modern knowledge and as we gird
ourselves up for the work of life, we may
look forward to the time when in the truest
sense, the kingdoms of this world shall
become the kingdom of Christ, and he shall
reign forever and ever, the King of kings
and the Lord of lords.

President David O. McKay:

President Levi Edgar Young, senior
president of the First Council of the
Seventy has just addressed us.

Elder ElRay L. Christiansen, As-
sistant to the Twelve, will now speak
to us.

ELDER ELRAY L. CHRISTIANSEN

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

HOW BEAUTIFUL it is, my brothers and
sisters, and how satisfying to the
soul that hungers and thirsts after
righteousness to sit here and listen to
the voices of these inspired leaders as
they teach us and expound the truths
of the gospel, unadulterated, and un-
changed, and everlasting! I have been
thrilled with the proceedings of the
meetings so far in this conference, and
I am grateful to these brethren who
are so firm and steadfast, so unassum-
ing, and yet so vigorous in the defense
of the truth.

I hope that you will bear with me,
brothers and sisters, for a few minutes.
I should like to talk about a virtue,
which I think becomes all of those who
claim to be the children of God, the
Saints of the Lord, his followers. I
concluded to do this after listening yester-
day to the mission presidents as they
reported their labors, their successes,
and the success of the missionaries. They
did it so humbly that I concluded that
humility must be one of the great vir-
tues that helps to bring about success
in doing the work of the Lord.

As I sat in that meeting, I turned to
the songbook that was there and found
a song, the words of which were writ-

ten by Eliza R. Snow. I had never
before noticed it. I should like to read
two stanzas.

The trials of the present day
Require the Saints to watch and pray
That they may keep the narrow way
To celestial glory.
For even Saints may turn aside
For fear of ill that may betide
Or else induced by worldly pride
And lose celestial glory.

If we examine the history of the na-
tions of the past that have been great
and powerful but that have fallen, we
will find nothing in them, I am sure,
that would lead us to believe that any
nation, or any civilization, or any peo-
ple can find security merely in its own
power and its own self-sufficiency.

The facts of history remind us that
where nations and peoples continue to
ignore the principles of justice and of
right in regard to their peoples and
the peoples of other nations, and where
they put aside the teachings of God,
they experience difficulties, hardships,
calamities, and, in the due time of the
Lord, history has proved that many of
them have been destroyed.

A love of power and personal ambi-

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