

President Rudolph L. VanKampen of the Riverdale Stake offered the opening prayer.

### President David O. McKay:

The invocation was just offered by President Rudolph L. Van Kampen of the Riverdale Stake. The University of Utah Institute of Religion Chorus will now sing, "Resurrection Morning," arranged by B. Cecil Gates, conducted by David Austin Shand. Following this, President Joseph Fielding Smith will speak to us.

We have, as you know, the Chorus accompanied by the Bonneville Strings, and we appreciate their music.

Singing, "Resurrection Morning," by the Chorus.

### President David O. McKay:

Our first speaker this afternoon will be President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Twelve Apostles. He will be followed by Elder ElRay L. Christiansen, one of the Assistants to the Twelve.

## PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

### *Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

**I**N HIS REMARKS this morning President Clark stated that there are those who would destroy the Constitution of the United States, and there are those who would destroy the Decalogue, or the Ten Commandments. I would like to speak on the Ten Commandments, if time would permit, but since it will not I shall center on one of them—that of keeping the Sabbath day holy.

These commandments have not been abrogated nor annulled, and they are in force as much today, although not observed, as they were when they were thundered from Mount Sinai. The Sabbath day has become a day of pleasure, of revelry, anything but a day of worship, from one border of the country to the other; and I regret to say that too many—one would be too many—members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have joined that procession, and the Sabbath day to some members of the Church is looked upon as a day of revelry, of pleasure, rather than one in which we can serve the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our might, mind, and strength.

The Lord cannot forgive us when we know better and we violate his commandments. He has given unto us a law, a commandment, saying that we are to accept the words of the Lord as he has revealed them unto us. We have no right to transgress this law or any one of the other laws that are so funda-

mental to our exaltation, and how can the members of the Church expect to receive salvation and exaltation in the celestial kingdom of God, and show contempt for his sacred commandments?

Now, I will hurry as fast as I can, but I want to read to you a condemnation that the Lord pronounced upon Israel because they refused to keep this commandment.

"Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness.

"And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

"Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.

"But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

"But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out.

"Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would

not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands;

"Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.

"Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness.

"But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols:

"I am the Lord your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;

"And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." (Ezek. 20:10-20.)

Those are the words of the Lord to Ezekiel. Notwithstanding all their backsliding and their wickedness and their violation of his commandments, the Lord still pleaded with them; and in the days of Ezekiel, after the greatest number of the tribes of Israel had been carried off because of their rebellion, the Lord pleaded with those who still remained to keep his sabbaths, to walk in his statutes—and even then they refused. Yet he said if they would do these things, it was a covenant with him, and by keeping that covenant he would bless them.

Now, this is the law to the Church today just as it was the law to ancient Israel, and some of our people get rather disturbed because they feel that observing the Sabbath day curtails their activities. So I want to read to you now the commandment the Lord has given to modern Israel, and this we ought to learn to keep.

"Wherefore, I give unto them a commandment, saying thus: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy might, mind, and strength; and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt serve him.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Thou shalt not steal; neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do anything like unto it.

"Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things.

"Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness, even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

"And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day;

"For verily this is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High;

"Nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days and at all times;

"But remember that on this, the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord.

"And on this day thou shalt do none other thing, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart that thy fasting may be perfect, or, in other words, that thy joy may be full.

"Verily, this is fasting and prayer, or in other words, rejoicing and prayer.

"And inasmuch as ye do these things with thanksgiving, with cheerful hearts and countenances, not with much laughter, for this is sin, but with a glad heart and a cheerful countenance—

"Verily I say, that inasmuch as ye do this, the fulness of the earth is yours, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and that which climbeth upon the trees and walketh upon the earth;

"Yea, and the herb, and the good things which come of the earth, whether for food or for raiment, or for houses, or for barns, or for orchards, or for gardens, or for vineyards.

"Yea, all things which come of the earth, in the season thereof, are made for the benefit and the use of man, both to please the eye and to gladden the heart;

"Yea, for food and for raiment, for taste and for smell, to strengthen the body and to enliven the soul.

"And it pleaseth God that he hath given all these things unto man; for unto this end were they made to be used, with judgment, not to excess, neither by extortion.

"And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments." (D & C 59:5-21.)

Now, my good brethren and sisters, when you go home from this conference, you cannot go home and say, "The Brethren have praised us for our well-doing; they have commended us because we have come into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." We cannot say this when we remember our shortcomings in regard to the keeping of some of these commandments which the Lord has given us, and which pertain to his celestial kingdom.

We must stop violating the Sabbath day. We must stop the violation of other commandments, should we be violating them, and I promise you that if you will observe the Sabbath day,

you who are opening your stores on the Sabbath day, if you will close them and tend to the duties that the Lord has given to you, and keep his commandments, that you will prosper and he will bless you more abundantly, for he has made that promise, than you will be blessed by showing your contempt for the commandments which he has given unto us.

May the Lord bless you one and all, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### President David O. McKay:

President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Council of the Twelve, has just concluded speaking. Elder El Ray L. Christiansen, Assistant to the Twelve, will now address us. He will be followed by Elder Antoine R. Ivins.

### ELDER EL RAY L. CHRISTIANSEN

#### *Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

**I** PRAY HUMBLY that the few things that I might say will be acceptable to my Heavenly Father and that they might be helpful to someone.

We live in a wonderful world, a wonderful era, and I can say in a wonderful area. In this world there are lovely things, and things much to be desired, but along with the desirable there are also those things which are not to be desired. While I would much rather speak of the things which are desirable, I feel impelled to speak of some things that we would rather not recognize as existing.

We are living in a day when prophecy is being fulfilled among the nations of the earth—a time when many things which have long been stable are no longer to be depended upon—a time when the integrity of men and of nations (at least some of the leaders of some of the nations) is too often questioned.

It is as if the words of the Savior (through his prophets) are being fulfilled: Luke speaks of the time when there should be upon the earth "... distress of nations, with perplexity; . . ."

(Luke 21:25.) And through the Prophet Joseph Smith the Lord speaks of a time when there shall be

... wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth.

And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound. (D & C 45:26-27.)

Rumors of wars and uprisings are a daily diet to the reader and the listener of news. Severe crises the world over are arising one after another, and they come to no satisfactory conclusion. (And, for peculiar reasons, our great nation becomes involved in most of them.)

While tensions and uprisings continue throughout the world there is in our own country, it seems to me, an ever-increasing trend toward lawlessness, and, on the part of some, a seeming disregard and even contempt for the law.

There are many, too, while holding places of trust, who are suspected of collusion or bribery or of making "deals." A constant flow of reports comes of investigations of misconduct