

nal which persists always and everlastingly. That, of course, we knew by other witnesses. Life is everlasting, and the motive we know, and the purposes of our Father we know. His plans we know in sufficient amount to help us to realize them in their fullest and highest if we will, and I leave my witness with you as to the truth of the counsel which has been given in this conference, as to the prophetic leadership which we are privileged in this day and generation to have, and as to the great motive which supersedes all the transitory things of life, to the realization of which I pray God we may leave here and rededicate ourselves and teach our children, and devote all the effort and earnestness we have within us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### ELDER ALVIN R. DYER

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

I have learned a little more realistically what is meant by the scripture, "he that endureth to the end." Brother Hinckley says it is "the survival of the fittest." I do not know what that means, but I do know this, that what has been said at this conference has greatly increased my faith and testimony and desire to serve the Lord.

In the few minutes that I shall occupy I should like to testify of the prophets and read to you from section one of the Doctrine and Covenants these words:

"Wherefore, I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments." (D&C 1:17.)

I had an experience some few months before I left the mission field, of a ministerial association from one of the states in our mission, writing a letter and saying that they were receiving ever-increasing inquiries about the Mormon Church and would we please supply them with literature and information. We did this, and I had occasion also to visit the headquarters of this association. And there in the

#### President David O. McKay:

Elder Richard L. Evans of the Council of the Twelve has just spoken to us. Under the direction of Chester W. Hill, the Choir of Ricks College and the Congregation will now sing, "Now Let Us Rejoice in the Day of Salvation." Brother Alvin Dyer will follow the singing.

The Ricks College Choir and the congregation joined in singing the hymn, "Now Let Us Rejoice In The Day of Salvation."

#### President David O. McKay:

Elder Alvin R. Dyer, Assistant to the Twelve, will now speak to us. He will be followed by Elder Bruce R. McConkie.

presence of a number of these men, and some of them were ministers, had the opportunity of explaining to them the premise under which the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had been organized.

I took occasion at that time to read to them from section twenty of the Doctrine and Covenants, and I would like to read to you what I read to them, beginning with verse 7:

"And gave unto him [meaning Joseph Smith] commandments which inspired him;

"And gave him power from on high, by the means which were before prepared, to translate the Book of Mormon;

"Which contains a record of a fallen people, and the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and to the Jews also;

"Which was given by inspiration, and is confirmed to others by the ministering of angels, and is declared unto the world by them—

"Proving to the world that the holy scriptures are true, and that God does inspire men and call them to his holy work in this age and generation, as well as in generations of old;

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"Thereby showing that he is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

"Therefore, having so great witnesses, by them shall the world be judged, even as many as shall hereafter come to a knowledge of this work.

"And those who receive it in faith, and work righteousness, shall receive a crown of eternal life;

"But those who harden their hearts in unbelief, and reject it, it shall turn to their own condemnation—

"For the Lord God has spoken it; and we, the elders of the church, have heard and bear witness to the words of the glorious Majesty on high, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (*Ibid.*, 20:7-16.)

This had a profound effect upon these men, and I was grateful to leave my witness with them as to the premise for the organization of God's Church upon the earth in this day and time.

Some years ago there appeared an article in *Fortune* magazine, which had to do with the failure, according to the editors and authors of this article, of the Christian churches of America to supply the needed inspiration for the direction of the Christian churches in this land. This article has very recently been referred to by one of our noted educators from the West Coast, Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, president of the University of California. I read from this article, which stresses the need of divine direction in the Christian churches of America. I quote:

"We have the peculiar spectacle of a nation which, to a limited extent, practices Christianity without actively believing in Christianity. We are asked to turn to the Church for our enlightenment, but when we do this we find that the voice of the Church is not inspired. The voice of the Church today is the echo of our own voices. And the result of this experience, already manifest is disillusionment. . . .

"The way out," continues Dr. Sproul, "is the sound of a voice, not our voice, but a voice coming from somewhere not ourselves, in the existence of which we cannot disbelieve.

"It is the task of the pastors to hear this voice, cause us to hear it, and to tell us what it says. If they cannot hear

it, or if they fail to tell us what it says, we, as laymen, are wholly lost.

"Without it we are no more capable of saving the world, than we were capable of creating it in the first place."

I think one of the great messages of this Church is to declare unto the world that God has raised up a prophet and that there is a need for a prophet of God in this day and age. We go to the ends of the earth to proclaim this unto the children of men and if they will but listen to the direction and the inspiration of the prophets of God we could be led from our dilemma and from the disillusionment that settles over the earth today.

I read recently of a statement of Winston Churchill which gives some evidence of the need of inspired direction in the earth today, for said he, "As the years go by, the process of government—I suppose in every modern country and certainly in our own—grows ever more complicated and burdensome. . . .

"I have perhaps a longer experience than almost anyone, and I have never brooded over a situation which demanded more patience, composure, courage and perseverance than that which unfolds itself before us today."

Is there a need for a prophet of God? The answer is yes. Look at the evidences of this. The world of politics and relationships between nations is not improving since that statement was made, in fact they have grown worse. There is a world-wide lack of trust between peoples. We stand each dawn, as it were, on the brink of open hostilities.

Atomic and hydrogen power, with their many implements of destruction, serve only to add to the menace of our way of living. The pressure conditions under which we live today are taking a tremendous toll in heart and mental disturbances. The status of home life, spiraling trends of drunkenness, surging infidelity in the home of husband and wife, with an over-all laxity of morals among both young and old, increased personal and community delinquencies all pointing to a growing disregard for the worth of the individual. One would have to be blind not to recognize these disastrous trends and

the need of divine direction to save those who will hear, understand, and follow the truth. The ancient Prophet Amos declared, that God would do nothing, save he reveal his mind and will to his servants the prophets. (See Amos 3:7.) The need of the mind and will of our Heavenly Father, through his servant, a prophet, is greatly in evidence.

I want to leave my testimony, my brethren and sisters, that God does live and that he and his Son, Jesus Christ, are at the helm, and that prophets have been raised up from the very inception of this Church, commencing with Joseph Smith and others who have followed him, and that we are blessed

to have standing at the head of the Church today and directing us, a prophet of God, and if the children of men would but listen to the voice of that prophet we all could be led away from the difficulties that are oppressing us this very day. I bear this record in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### President David O. McKay:

Elder Alvin R. Dyer, Assistant to the Twelve, has just spoken to us. Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the First Council of Seventy will now speak to us. He will be followed by Brother Hinckley.

### ELDER BRUCE R. McCONKIE

#### *Of the First Council of the Seventy*

May I call attention to the great gospel truth that salvation is a family affair, that it is attained in and through, by and because of families.

For a text, may I read the words quoted by Moroni to Joseph Smith on the evening of September 21, 1823:

"Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

"And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers.

"If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming." (D&C 2:1-3.)

Now, what were the promises made to the fathers? Since the coming of Elijah, on April 3, 1836, in what way have these promises been planted in the hearts of the children?

In answer, and by way of illustration, may I read one of the greatest promises ever made to the fathers, one which is perhaps pre-eminent above all others. To Abraham the Lord said:

". . . I am the Lord thy God; . . .

"My name is Jehovah, and I know the end from the beginning; . . .

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee above measure, and make thy name great among all nations, and thou shalt be a

blessing unto thy seed after thee, that in their hands they shall bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations;

"And I will bless them through thy name; for as many as receive this Gospel shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as their father;

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee; and in thee (that is, in thy Priesthood) and in thy seed (that is, thy Priesthood)" and now note particularly what follows; it is the heart and core of all the promises made to the fathers—"for I give unto thee a promise that this right shall continue in thee, and in thy seed after thee (that is to say, the literal seed, or the seed of the body) shall all the families of the earth be blessed, even with the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessings of salvation, even of life eternal." (Abraham 2:7-11.)

In the nearly four thousand years since Abraham, uncounted millions of his literal seed have lived in the world, most of them in a day when the gospel, with its saving ordinances and truths, was not found among men. Yet the Lord promised Abraham, their father, that these millions who have sprung from him, these millions who are his literal seed, these hosts of his posterity who comprise a major portion of a multitude of nations, that all these are