

Wednesday, April 6

Fourth Day

and sisters, that Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of the world, the Son of the Living God. We cannot partly accept him—as a philosopher, as merely the most perfect man who ever lived. When we do that we reject him. We reject his sovereignty and his divinity. He is the God of Israel, and the God of the whole world. He is Jehovah of the ancient scriptures, and God, the Savior of the new scriptures. Into his hands God has placed all things, and given him power over the nations—all flesh, and he is exercising that power.

Things seem to us, in our short-sightedness, all confusion, but a clear pattern is marked out that we can discern. These three things have been accomplished that he told his disciples would happen, as he sat with them on the Mount of Olives, and he is to accomplish all other things. We see now another rebellion like that which occurred at the planning of the world, when Lucifer stood up and impudently proposed that he should be the Savior, and attempted to dethrone God and Jesus Christ, and subject the world to slavery.

Now these issues are drawn again—the same evil power has declared that

they are to conquer the world. God has declared that his kingdom is to consume all the nations of the world. The issues are now clearly drawn, and the time will come when Satan, again, by the power of the Only Begotten, shall be cast down, and Jesus Christ will reign supreme, and all those who believe and accept the fulness of his gospel and devote themselves with all their hearts to the building up of his kingdom will be saved and honored with him. Those who will not must of necessity be cast out.

I bear witness that this is the Church and kingdom of God established by him, and it is never to be thrown down; that Joseph Smith is a prophet of the Living God; that David O. McKay is a prophet of God to this world this day. I bear this witness in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder George Q. Morris of the Council of the Twelve has just spoken to us. He will be followed by Elder Marion D. Hanks of the First Council of the Seventy. Elder LeGrand Richards will follow Brother Hanks.

ELDER MARION D. HANKS

Of the First Council of the Seventy

There are three matters which I would mention this morning in brief headlines, leaving to your judgment and experience the fleshing in of the story.

First, I express deep appreciation for the clear and forthright and courageous expressions of conviction which have come from this pulpit at this great conference. They have not been intemperate nor unloving, but they have been firm and understandable and impressive. I mention this because there are those who seem to believe it unfashionable or even unChristian to have unconditional convictions, really to believe in something and to devote one's life and energy to those convictions. As this conference has proceeded, I have been increasingly grateful to belong to a Church, the position of which is clear and the spokesmen for which are convinced and courageous.

At a recent meeting I attended, a talk was given which seemed to be lacking in real conviction. At its conclusion the chairman of the day characterized the experience as "the bland leading the bland."

There is none of this in those who speak here for the Lord.

A statement of Paul to the Corinthians has been widely quoted recently. It seems applicable. He said:

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Cor. 14:8.)

Thank God for the unwavering note.

On the first day of May two important events will be celebrated in the United States in which Latter-day Saints should have special interest. While communist-controlled countries are using May Day to demonstrate their military might and their philosophy of rule by force and

fear, the United States of America will be celebrating "Law Day" under proclamation of the President. Its objectives are:

(1) "To foster increased respect for law, enabling the nation to grow in moral strength as it grows in population, resources and world leadership.

(2) "To provide an occasion for the American people to rededicate themselves to freedom for the individual under just laws . . . and to emphasize before the world the contrast between the rule of law in the U.S., and the system of totalitarian lands."

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are committed to obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law. We are under obligation to obey the law, and more—to honor and sustain it.

I count it one of the great privileges of my life to have been a student of the law for some years and to have acquired through that experience a great respect, as my father had before me, for the system of justice and the body of law which we enjoy in this land. This is not to suppose that every decision, judgment, interpretation, or application of law is good and just altogether. The workings of our appellate system, the initiation, revision, and abrogation of laws, testify that this is not so. It is to suggest that freedom and liberty rest on law, that our laws are rooted deeply in religious principles and rest on the moral law, and ultimately on the law of God, and that it is our responsibility at the ballot box, in the jury box, in civic responsibility and political leadership, in our homes and on the highways, to obey, honor, and sustain the law of the land, and to teach our children to do likewise.

Also on the first day of May there will be celebrated the beginning of National Youth Fitness Week, and again

no people in all the world should be more concerned with the implications of that day, because God has blessed us with the principles, the programs, and the inspired leadership which can lead the young, if they are willing, to the physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual readiness which will equip them for the great adventure ahead.

Recently I had occasion to ponder the wonderful blessing of organization and leadership opportunities which the Lord has given us, and to consider what might happen if every Latter-day Saint, called to a position of responsibility relevant to the young, would accept the full implications of his stewardship. Think of the wonderful work being done for our children by faithful workers in Primary and Sunday School and MIA, in scouting and exploring, in Aaronic Priesthood work, and in seminaries. Think of the human resources available to the bishop and stake president, and to their counterparts in the missionary field, to reach out for the young and to give them what they need of love, personal interest, visiting, good teaching, recreation, friendship, testimony, and example. There is no program for youth in all the world in any sense comparable. What great things we could do!

God bless us to have a sense of our responsibility and our opportunity in this Church to provide the leadership for our young people which help equip them to be fit for the great days ahead.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

He to whom you have just listened is Elder Marion D. Hanks of the First Council of the Seventy. Elder LeGrand Richards, a member of the Council of the Twelve, will be the concluding speaker.

ELDER LEGRAND RICHARDS

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I am happy, brothers and sisters, to have the privilege of attending this great conference with you, and I have been thrilled with the wonderful messages we have heard. During the conference great stress has been laid upon the great

missionary program of the Church, a subject dear to my heart, having been a missionary most all of my life and having had a desire to be a missionary long before I was old enough to go on a mission, particularly when I read the