

Saturday, April 6

Second Day

also shall be gathered into one." (*Ibid.*, 29:13-14.)

We seem to hear the Almighty warn: "Fools mock, and they shall mourn," and, "Woe be unto him that rejecteth the word of God." One prophet wrote: ". . . And if ye shall believe in Christ ye will believe in these words, for they are the words of Christ, . . ." (*Ibid.*, 33:10.)

In the final chapter of the book is the never-failing promise that every person who will read the book with a sincere, prayerful desire to know of its divinity shall have the assurance.

The book of which I speak is the key-stone of true religion, the ladder by which one may get near to God by

abiding its precepts. It has been named, "The most correct of any book on earth."

My beloved friends, I give to you the Book of Mormon. May you read it prayerfully, study it carefully, and receive for yourselves the testimony of its divinity. This, I pray in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President David O. McKay:

The speaker to whom we have just listened is Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve.

Elder ElRay L. Christiansen, Assistant to the Twelve, will now speak to us.

### ELDER ELRAY L. CHRISTIANSEN

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

My beloved brethren and sisters, with you I have been edified by all that has taken place in the various sessions of this great conference—the music, the wonderful discourses, the prayers, and your presence here. I think I have never been so pleased and thrilled to see the great sea of hands raised in unanimously sustaining those whose names were presented a few minutes ago, indicating that there is unity in the Church.

I come to you in humility this afternoon and with a firm conviction that God lives; that this is not just another Church which we represent, but it is The Church of Jesus Christ; that sitting on this rostrum is the prophet of this day, surrounded by just and wholesome men who are each endowed with the authority and the power to act in the name of God and direct the work of the Lord in all the world in preparation for his coming to receive his kingdom.

I come to you with the assurance that this Church was established, not to fail, but to continue, never to be destroyed nor left to another people; for the Lord has said:

"The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught.

"Remember, remember that it is not

the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men"; (D&C 3:1, 3.)

I have no doubt that his promises to all people will be fulfilled in his own due time and in his own way, both to the righteous and to the wicked. We are living in a day foretold by the Savior as a time of wars and rumors of wars, of famines and of pestilences and of earthquakes. A day when, in a supposedly cultured society, greed and lust for power, subterfuge and cruelty are seen at their worst. This day was described by Paul in these words:

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

"Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God"; (2 Tim. 3:2-4.)

Now, thank goodness, that doesn't include everybody, but there are many I am sure who fit into some of those categories. If there are any into which we fit, or if any of us have these blemishes upon us, I hope that we will go from these meetings with the determination to throw them off.

Now, despite these conditions that

Paul described, this is a favored time and a favored day of the Lord. We ought to be thankful that we live in this particular day, notwithstanding all the fears and the troubles and the anxieties which come upon us because of unsettled conditions that prevail in the world. Our gratitude comes mainly because we are the glad recipients of the restored gospel brought back to earth in the fulfilment of prophecy, in its fulness as a prescription for successful living and for salvation. There is no need to walk in darkness or in uncertainty. In our day the Church has the vision and the inspiration and the word of the Lord to give to the people to keep them from the pitfalls of life, from sorrow, regret, and failure. In this day of the Church there has been a great expanse of the Church itself. The gospel is being widely preached; buildings are being constructed; temples have been and are being erected; work for the dead is increasing; and people are accepting the gospel, all of these in an unprecedented way.

Now, while we see the Church moving on unflinchingly toward its decreed destiny, we must remember that salvation for each of us must be worked out on an individual basis. For a few moments let us draw our world into the range of my voice while we consider two or three principles which are indispensable to individual and even collective salvation.

How about the Sabbath day, which was discussed so eloquently by President Joseph Fielding Smith yesterday? Is it observed as the Lord's day? Are you and your family found where you ought to be and doing what you ought to be doing on that day? I recently learned of a father who habitually took his wife and children to the mountains or to various other places on the Sabbath day rather than taking them to church where they belonged. As he was hurrying them to get ready one Sunday morning, his smallest boy said, "Daddy, why can't we stay home and go to church like the other kids do?" "Oh, come along," said the father, "we can sing and pray together in the mountains." The little boy said rather sadly,

"I know we can, but we won't, will we, Daddy?"

"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"; (D&C 59:9.)

To me that makes it clear and understandable as to where I ought to be and what I ought to do among other things that are approved of the Lord on that holy day.

Another matter: How completely do you love your neighbor? The Savior has said that not only should we love our neighbors as ourselves, but that we should also even love our enemies. One man said, "It's a difficult enough thing to love a neighbor whom he likes to be classed as his neighbor, but to reach out and love his enemy is almost beyond reasonable expectation." Nevertheless, it is a method which the Lord has of preparing, of sanctifying, and of perfecting those whom he has called his Saints. Further than that, he requires that we bless those that curse us, and that we do good unto them that hate us, and that we pray for them who spitefully use us and persecute us. How can we love our neighbor? I think one of the best ways would be to help him to learn the truth, to accept the restored gospel and to find in it the power of God unto salvation for them and their families, and by defending him against danger or slander or mistreatment by others. I think we could show a love of our neighbors on the highways and in traffic congestions by being courteous and by giving them the right of way once in a while even though we may have rightful claim to it. There are innumerable ways in which love may be extended to one's neighbor.

It was James Russell Lowell who said, "They who love the Lord and their neighbors are but one step from heaven."

I'd like to include with these neighbors, whom we must love and for whom we must be concerned, those who have passed on, especially our own progenitors to whom we have the inescapable obligation to bring salvation and exaltation through vicarious service. What are we doing about them on an individual family basis?

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How about tithing? Are we as individuals placing ourselves in a position to receive the glorious promises given of the Lord for those who consistently observe this law? He offered a challenge to be proved if he would not open the windows of heaven and pour out upon us a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive, and then he said:

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts." (Mal. 3:11.)

What a promise that is to those of us who are willing to keep the law! Can any of us justify withholding or skimping on that which really belongs to the Lord?

The voice of President Heber C. Kimball (I was pleased to hear this beautiful exposition by Spencer W. Kimball on the Book of Mormon making it so vivid before us) rang out in this very building concerning the matter of tithing when he said:

"You have nothing except what you have received from the Almighty. Where do you get your water, your meat, your bread and the luxuries of life? Did he not create them? Were not the elements thereof placed upon the earth before you came here? If you do not pay one dime in tithing, it will not impoverish the Lord, but I tell you where the effect will lie. It will affect yourselves, your own salvation."

And I should like to add and that of your children most likely for "like father, like son" is an old but true adage.

My brothers and sisters, the commandments of the Lord are not dictums, they are principles given by a Merciful Father to keep us and all mankind who will follow him from sin, sorrow, and regret. We talk a good deal these days about security. One of the best formulas of security that I have ever known is given in the words of Helaman in the Book of Mormon:

"And now, my sons, remember, re-

member that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall." (Hel. 5:12.)

I like that, and I have taken it to heart. I advocate it to the young and to the old and to all of us, in fact, to all mankind, for it is true as true can be.

May we, my brothers and sisters, stand firm upon this sure foundation and thereby contribute to the progress of the Church as it moves on to the completion of its divine destiny, and at the same time secure our individual and collective salvation and perhaps exaltation, I pray, testifying again that the Savior lives and that this is his work, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Master. Amen.

#### President David O. McKay:

Elder ElRay L. Christiansen has just spoken to us.

The congregation and chorus will now join in singing "We Thank Thee, O God, For A Prophet," conducted by Brother Kurt Weinzinger.

After the singing Bishop Victor L. Brown will speak to us.

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The Congregation joined with the Chorus in singing the hymn, "We Thank Thee, O God, For A Prophet."

#### President David O. McKay:

Bishop Victor L. Brown of the Presiding Bishopric will now speak to us. He will be followed by Elder S. Dilworth Young.