

that this messenger sent of God really came with a message from God.

When I was in the mission field, I read an article that appeared under the Associated Press of a man who came to California by the name of William A. Kennedy from Lima, Peru. He was gathering money to set up an institute or college there to study the history of the early inhabitants of the land of South America, including the Mayan and the Inca civilizations, and he had the promise when matched by the small Americas of some thirty million dollars, and President Hoover had agreed to serve on that board. I never heard of what became of it, but the statement went further to say that within ten years that amount would increase to seventy million dollars.

Just think of their being willing to spend seventy million dollars to learn something of the history of the early inhabitants of America, when we could give them a copy of the Book of Mormon for fifty cents, and if they did not have the fifty cents, we would give it to them for nothing, because it would not only tell about the artifacts they are finding as they dig into the depths of the earth, but it contains the words of the holy prophets and the promise of the Lord to this land, which is a land choice above all other lands, the promise that the Christ should be the God of this land, that he would fight the battles of this land, that the New Jerusalem would be built upon this land, and they will not get that when they will have spent their seventy million dollars.

Just think of what the Lord has given us in this record to show us the things that he has in mind to accomplish. We have many other testimonies of men as to the value of the Book of Mormon.

ELDER HENRY D. TAYLOR

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

When the Psalmist was meditating upon the beauties of creation, he exclaimed with awe and amazement:

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

I bear you my witness that I know that book is true. Sister Richards and I read it last year as the priesthood were asked to do, and we would keep saying as we would read, "Isn't that wonderful? Isn't that wonderful? How could Joseph Smith at his age have written anything like that except by the inspiration of the Almighty?"

It reminded us of when we attended a course given by Dr. Widtsoe here some time ago in the Barratt Hall on the Doctrine and Covenants. He had Sister Inez Witbeck read. He would say, "Now read section so-and-so," and then he would pause and say, "Now, you college professors and you college students, could you write anything like that?" He would say, "I wish I could," and there he had been president of two universities, but the things of God are understood by the Spirit of God, and the testimony of those three witnesses that an angel of God came down from heaven and showed them the plates with the engravings thereon, and bore testimony that it was by the power of God, is a testimony to all the world.

That is my testimony to you here today, and I pray God to bless us all that we may realize what we have by the opening of the heavens and the restoration of the gospel, and leave you my blessing in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We have just listened to Elder Le-Grand Richards of the Council of the Twelve. Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Twelve, will now speak to us. He will be followed by Elder Franklin D. Richards.

"What is man, that thou are mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

"For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Sunday, April 7

Third Day

"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet": (Psalm 8:3-6.)

How comforting it is to note the esteem and concern the Lord has for his children.

What is man? As Latter-day Saints we believe that man is the spiritual offspring of God our Heavenly Father, created in his image and after his likeness. We further believe that man once dwelt in the presence of deity and came from a heavenly home to this earth.

The poet Wordsworth, in a flash of inspiration, referred to this transition when he penned these beautiful lines:

"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:

The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,

Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar:

Not in entire forgetfulness,

And not in utter nakedness,

But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home":

In that far distant past when plans for the creation of the earth were discussed, it was proposed that those who would be privileged to come here to inhabit the earth must be tested and tried to prove whether they would do all things that the Lord would command them to do. The faithful were to "... have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever." (See Abraham 3:25-26.)

It is our conviction that we were present at that great council and had a voice in the decisions that were made. The Lord once asked the Prophet Job some pertinent questions pertaining to those important events, when he inquired: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? . . ."

"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4, 7.)

Because of faithfulness in that former estate, we have been born into this world, blessed with mortal bodies which house eternal spirits. Here we have opportunities to grow, progress, and gain experience in mortal and earthly things.

The divinely inspired Declaration of

Independence proclaims that every citizen of this glorious country is entitled to enjoy "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The attainment of happiness has become a desired goal of most individuals; but there are those who oftentimes mistake pleasure for happiness, not realizing that pleasure can be of a temporary or passing nature only, while happiness and joy are permanent and enduring.

An ancient prophet declared: "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." (2 Nephi 2:25.)

As man travels down the pathway of this mortal life, trusting that his course will be such as to produce joy and happiness, he becomes aware of many obstacles in the road that interfere with his progress. The Lord designed this to be so, for he did not intend that this earthly existence should be easy. Adam was advised: "... cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

"Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat of the herb of the field.

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread. . . ." (Gen. 3:17-19.)

The pathway was to be strewn with temptations and trials. Man was also to know good and evil and be allowed his free agency in choosing between the two. He was to learn the law of opposites: that there is sorrow as there is joy, pain as contrasted to pleasure, sickness as opposed to health; he was to taste the bitter as well as the sweet.

From this testing process would come benefits, for the Lord has promised "... after much tribulation come the blessings." The poet Kilmer has expressed the same thought in the words:

"They say that life is a highway,

And its milestones are the years;

And now and then there is a toll gate,

Where you buy your way with your tears.

"It's a rough road and a steep road,

And it stretches broad and far,

But at last it leads to a golden town

Where the golden houses are."

Perhaps during our lives we have

been, or will be, required to gaze on the face of a loved one for the last time in mortality. In this hour of sorrow, the following appropriate words of the poet might well come as a message of comfort to us:

"Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining:

Thy fate is the common fate of all:
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and dreary."
("The Rainy Day"—Longfellow)

The Savior had his dark and dreary days, and in Gethsemane's garden he suffered untold agony as he contemplated the events that confronted him while fulfilling his exalted mission.

We, too, will have our dark and dreary days in our search for that which brings joy and happiness. But always there is the assurance and promise that "every cloud has its silver lining."

As the Latter-day Saints toiled westward across the trackless plains, leading from Nauvoo to the valleys here in the mountains, they suffered and endured many privations and hardships, but they were comforted and cheered as they sang at the close of the day these inspiring words:

"Why should we mourn or think our lot is hard?
'Tis not so; all is right!
Why should we think to earn a great reward,
If we now shun the fight?"

"Gird up your loins, fresh courage take,
Our God will never us forsake.
And soon we'll have this truth to tell—
All is well! All is well!"

("Come, Come, Ye Saints," William Clayton.)

The gospel of Jesus Christ offers peace and comfort in times of illness, trouble, and sorrow. The Redeemer comforted his listeners with this beautiful and assuring admonition: "Come unto me,

all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30.)

As we go to the house of worship each Sabbath day and partake of the Sacrament, we covenant with our Heavenly Father that we will take upon us the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and by remembering him and keeping his commandments, we may always have his Spirit to be with us.

Keeping the commandments and living in harmony with the teachings of the Master will result in assurances of a righteous life, and a righteous life will bring joy and happiness to our souls. Then, even though "into each life some rain must fall," into each life also will come peace and contentment.

From what has been said, my dear brothers and sisters, we can see how interested in and concerned about life people of every age and clime have been. They have struggled to analyze it, to understand it, to evaluate it. But its full meaning and purpose and duration cannot be comprehended except through the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. With the gospel to comfort, to assist, to inspire us, let us meet life head on; courageously, sincerely, and prayerfully, meet its joys, its sorrows, its rains and sunshine with full determination to keep all of God's commandments, which by so doing we know will bring us back into his presence to partake of that eternal joy he has in store for all his faithful children, for which I humbly pray, bearing you my testimony that I know that God lives, that the gospel is true, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

He to whom you have just listened is Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Twelve. Elder Franklin D. Richards, Assistant to the Twelve, will now address us.