

## THIRD DAY

## AFTERNOON MEETING

The concluding session of the Conference was held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, April 6th, with President David O. McKay presiding and President Hugh B. Brown conducting.

The Brigham Young University Chorale furnished the choral music for this session. Kurt Weinzinger conducted, Frank W. Asper was at the organ.

President Brown opened the meeting with the following introductory remarks:

**President Hugh B. Brown:**

Members of the Church are convened in the Tabernacle on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah, in the seventh and concluding session of the one hundred and thirty-fourth Annual Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

This afternoon many television and radio stations throughout the western part of the United States will carry the proceedings of this concluding session.

We wish to extend a cordial welcome to all present this afternoon—to special guests, educational leaders, stake presidencies, bishoprics and members of general auxiliary boards, and to those listening in.

The music for this session will be rendered by the Brigham Young University Chorale, with Kurt Weinzinger

conducting. Frank W. Asper is at the organ. We shall begin this service by the Choir singing, "Pilgrim's Chorus," after which the invocation will be offered by Elder Clifford O. Gledhill, formerly president of the Great Lakes Mission.

The opening selection by the Brigham Young University Chorale was "Pilgrim's Chorus."

Elder Clifford O. Gledhill, formerly President of the Great Lakes Mission, offered the opening prayer.

**President Hugh B. Brown:**

The Brigham Young University Chorale will now sing, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives." After the singing Elder Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve will address us.

The Chorale sang the hymn, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives."

**President Hugh B. Brown:**

Elder Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve and President of the European Mission will be our first speaker this afternoon. He will be followed by Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve.

**ELDER EZRA TAFT BENSON***Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

Humbly and gratefully I approach this sacred assignment.

As the ancient Apostle declared on the Mount of Transfiguration: ". . . it is good for us to be here: . . ." (Matt. 17:4.)

I am grateful to President David O. McKay, whom I sustain as a prophet of God, for inviting Sister Benson and me to attend this great conference, even though we had not expected it, and even though it is not easy to leave the mission field.

Have you ever attended a mission-wide conference of more than two hundred devoted, enthusiastic, wonderful missionaries? We were in the midst of a series of such inspiring meetings when President McKay's cablegram arrived. In fact, we concluded one of these missionary conferences in Dusseldorf, Germany, only Wednesday, April 1. It was, I believe, the best April First Day I have ever spent.

We bring you the love and greetings of 2100 of some of the finest young

men and women to be found anywhere, your sons and daughters. They are not perfect, but I say to you, they are a credit to their loved ones, their communities, and the Church. I know the Lord loves them and is magnifying them, at times even beyond their natural abilities, which is one of the most soul-satisfying experiences that can come to man.

We bring you warm greetings from twelve dedicated mission presidents and their devoted companions.

We also bring you the love and fellowship of tens of thousands of faithful members—many of them new in the Church—from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany, who love the Lord and his work and rejoice in the brotherhood they enjoy in the Church.

It is a high and sacred honor to bear witness to the divine mission of Jesus Christ; to represent his great Church; to be an ambassador of truth to our Father's children; to be called by a prophet of the Lord to go into the world and proclaim the glad tidings that God has again spoken from the heavens; that the heavens are not sealed, that God still communicates with men on the earth, and that the pure gospel of Jesus Christ has again been restored to the earth in its fulness.

I rejoice in this glorious privilege, thank the Lord for this rich opportunity and blessing, and bear solemn witness to the truth of these things.

We meet here in this great conference with a prayer of gratitude in our hearts and on our lips for the privilege of living in this choice period when the light of truth has burst forth. We meet in a great Christian nation—a nation with a solid spiritual foundation—a nation departing from its basic concepts.

As a people we have just joined with others of the Christian world in the celebration of Easter. Today flags are at half mast as we mourn the passing of a great patriot, General Douglas MacArthur, and the sweet wife of our beloved Brother S. Dilworth Young. It is, therefore, most fitting that we consider together that most glorious

event, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Testimony: Jesus Is the Christ

I bear witness to you that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of the world—the very Son of God.

He was *born* the babe of Bethlehem.

He *lived* and ministered among men.

He was *crucified* on Calvary.

His friends *deserted* him.

His closest associates did not fully *understand* his mission, and they *doubted*. One of the most trusted *denied* knowing him.

A pagan governor, struggling with his conscience after consenting to Jesus' death, caused a sign to be erected over the cross proclaiming him "JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS." (John 19:19.)

He asked *forgiveness* for his tormentors and then willingly gave up his life.

His body was *laid* in a borrowed tomb.

An immense stone was placed over the opening.

In the minds of his stunned followers over and over echoed some of his last words, ". . . be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (*Ibid.*, 16:33.)

On the third day there was a great earthquake. The stone was rolled back from the door of the tomb. Some of the women, among the most devoted of his followers, came to the place with spices "and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." (Luke 24:3.)

Angels appeared and said simply, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

"He is not here, but is risen." (*Ibid.*, 24:5-6.)

There is nothing in history to equal that dramatic announcement: "He is not here, but is risen."

### "He is Risen"

The greatest events of history are those which affect the greatest number for the longest periods. By this standard, no event could be more important to individuals or nations than the resurrection of the Master. The eventual resurrection of every soul who has lived and died on earth is a scriptural

Monday, April 6

Third Day

certainty, and surely there is no event for which one should make more careful preparation. Nothing is more absolutely universal than the resurrection. Every living being will be resurrected. ". . . as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor. 15:22.)

There are those, however, who act as though they do not believe in eternity or a resurrection. They cower at the thought of nuclear war, and to save their own bodies they would have peace at any price. Yet the best assurance of peace and life is to be strong morally and militarily. But they want life at the sacrifice of principles. Rather than choose liberty or death, they prefer life with slavery. But they overlook a crucial scripture ". . . fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matt. 10:28.) The Lord could, I suppose, have avoided the war in heaven over free agency. All he needed to do was to compromise with the devil, but had he done so he would have ceased to be God.

While it is more difficult to live the truth, such as standing for free agency, some of us may in the not-too-distant future be required to die for the truth. But the best preparation for eternal life is to be prepared at all times to die—fully prepared by a valiant fight for right.

Let us act like men, men who are sons of God, men with a sure knowledge that there will be a resurrection and a final judgment.

Yes, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a glorious reality. He became the first fruits of them that slept. He truly rose from the tomb the third day, as he and his prophets foretold, and became in very deed "the resurrection and the life." He broke the bonds of death for all of us. We, too, will be resurrected. Our spirits will be reunited with our bodies.

Later the Risen Lord appeared to other women, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, to Peter, to the Apostles, and "after that," as reported by Paul, "he was seen of about five hundred brethren at once."

"And last of all," continued Paul,

"he was seen of me also." (1 Cor. 15:6, 8.)

### Resurrection, A Glorious Reality

Yes, Christ's resurrection was abundantly verified. The witnesses are many. Throughout the forty days following his resurrection the Lord manifested himself at intervals and gave instructions in the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Much that he said and did is not written, but such things as are of record, John assures us, ". . . are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:31.)

He had told his followers that he must soon ascend unto his Father in heaven. And as the time of his ascension drew nigh, the Lord in that last solemn interview gave his parting instructions to his disciples.

And when Christ and the disciples had gone, "as far as to Bethany" where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived, the Lord lifted his hands and blessed them. And while he yet spoke he rose from their midst until a cloud received him from out of their sight. As the Apostles stood gazing steadfastly upward, two personages clothed in white apparel appeared by them. They spoke unto the eleven saying, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11, also Luke 24:50-51.)

Worshipfully, and with great joy the Apostles returned to Jerusalem. The Lord's ascension was accomplished. It was truly a literal departure of a material being, as his resurrection had been an actual return of his spirit to his own physical body. Now the disciples began to comprehend more fully that he had truly overcome the world. Not that he had displaced Caesar or even Pilate who ruled over Judea. The great majority of the world's people had still not even heard of him. Not that man's inhumanity to man was suddenly wiped out. But there was victory over the

grave, always, until then, the final conqueror of all men.

### His Kingdom Not of This World

Then the realization began to dawn on his faithful followers that his kingdom was not of this world. He had overcome the world of hate, envy, greed, and lust. He had shown the way for man to break the chains of selfishness and vengeance which had bound him, doomed him to mediocrity, a prisoner of his own misconceptions. His disciples were quickened with a realization that this was what he had been teaching them. This was what his life had spelled out to them. More clear became his ringing words, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." (Matt. 5:43-44.)

Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ liberated man from the world by the pure gospel of love. He demonstrated that man through the love of God and through kindness and charity to his fellows could achieve his highest potential. He lived the plain and sure doctrine of service, of doing good to all men, friends and enemies alike. His charge to return good for evil is still the greatest challenge to the mind of man. At the same time it is man's greatest weapon.

### Impact of His Life

No other single influence has had so great an impact on this earth as the life of Jesus the Christ. We cannot conceive of our lives without his teachings. Without him we would be lost in a mirage of beliefs and worships, born in fear and darkness where the sensual and materialistic hold sway. We are far short of the goal he set for us, but we must never lose sight of it; nor must we forget that our great climb toward the light, toward perfection, would not be possible except for his teachings, his life, his death, and his resurrection.

May God hasten the day when people everywhere will accept his teachings, his example, and his divinity, yes, when

they will accept as a reality his glorious resurrection which broke the bonds of death for all of us.

Yes, we must learn and learn again that only through accepting and living the gospel of love as taught by the Master, and only through doing his will can we break the bonds of ignorance and doubt that bind us. We must learn this simple, glorious truth so that we can experience the sweet joys of the spirit now and eternally. We must lose ourselves in doing his will. We must place him first in our lives. Yes, our blessings multiply as we share his love with our neighbor.

To the extent that we stray from the path marked out for us by the Man of Galilee, to that extent we are failing in our individual battles to overcome our worlds. But we are not without his help. Again and again he told his disciples, and all of us, "Let not your heart be troubled: . . ." (John 14:1.)

"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." (*Ibid.*, 14:14.)

"I will not leave you comfortless: . . ." (*Ibid.*, 14:18.)

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you": (*Ibid.*, 14:27.)

### His Comforting Spirit

We feel his comforting spirit in the sweet prayer of a child and the quiet abiding faith of all who have let his gospel permeate their lives. What a priceless gift it is that we can know him through our own prayers and through the sacred and solemn testimonies of those that have seen him, known him, felt his presence.

On this spring day more than 1900 years after his resurrection, I give you my solemn witness and testimony that I know that Jesus the Christ lives. He was in very deed raised from the dead as we shall be. He is "the resurrection and the life: . . ." He appeared unto many in the Old World after his resurrection and according to modern scriptures, sacred to me and to Latter-day Saints everywhere, he spent three glorious days before his final ascension with his "other sheep" here in America, the new world.

Monday, April 6

Third Day

By him and through him and his gospel, God the Father has made it possible for you and me to overcome the world.

Yes, my friends, Jesus is the Christ. He lives. He did break the bonds of death. He is more than "a great moral teacher." He is our Savior and Redeemer, the very Son of God. And he will come again. ". . . this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11.)

### His Church Restored

Yes, this same Jesus has already come to earth in our day. The Resurrected Christ—glorified, exalted, the God of this world under the Father—appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in 1820. This same Jesus who was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Moses, the Creator of this earth, has come in our day. He was introduced by the Father to Joseph Smith in these words:

*"This Is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!"*  
(Joseph Smith 2:17.)

The appearance of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ to the boy Prophet is the greatest event that has occurred in this world since the resurrection of the Master. As the restored Church of Jesus Christ we humbly and

gratefully bear this witness to all men. This message is a world message. It is the truth. More than two million members of the Church throughout the world bear this solemn testimony.

Today thousands of faithful missionaries at home and abroad freely carry this all-important message to the world. Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of mankind, the Redeemer of the world, the very Son of God. He is the God of this world, our advocate with the Father.

Today 16,000 missionary-messengers of truth, and the more than two million members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—the Mormon Church—bear witness that God has again spoken from the heavens, that Jesus Christ has appeared again unto man, that the resurrection is a reality.

Today I testify to the truth of the message which they bear and add my solemn witness, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President Hugh B. Brown:

The moving testimony to which we have just listened was given by Elder Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve and President of the European Mission.

Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve will now speak to us. He will be followed by Richard L. Evans of the same Council.

## ELDER MARION G. ROMNEY

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

I would like to say a few things this afternoon about revelation, which underlies all that God has done in the earth with his children. I invite you to join your prayers with mine that while I speak, you and I may both enjoy the spirit of inspiration. That we do so is imperative, because to talk about revelation without the spirit of inspiration would be futile.

### God Communicates with Men

First, as to the Principle:

Prayer is the means by which men

communicate with God. Revelation is the means by which God communicates with men. Revelation is indispensable to an understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The very nature of the gospel is such that without the active and constant operation of the principle of revelation, it could not be understood nor could it be had.

The gospel deals with total truth—". . . knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come." (D&C 93:24.) Such truth is not to be had through man's ordinary learning processes. His sensory powers