

Friday, October 2

First Day

We have assembled here in the Tabernacle representatives of the Church who have come from many areas of the world. To all of those gathered here in the Tabernacle, to the overflow gathering in the Assembly Hall, the radio and television audiences, in behalf of the First Presidency, the Council of the Twelve, and other General Authorities, we extend a cordial and hearty welcome.

For the convenience of those who are unable to enter this Tabernacle which is crowded to capacity we announce that these services and all general sessions of the Conference will be seen and heard in the Assembly Hall by television. Any important messages that come to us for persons attending the Conference will be announced at the dismissal of the meeting over a public address system.

These beautiful flowers which you see on the stand have been arranged on the rostrum by our Church gardeners under the able direction of Brother Irvin T. Nelson. We thank him and them for their thoughtfulness.

We have received many messages and telegrams from various parts of the world, but time will not permit reading them. We appreciate them nonetheless. We welcome all the general and local authorities of the Church who are in attendance and trust that the Spirit of the Lord will direct all of us and especially be with our beloved President during these sessions.

We would like to recognize the presence of some United States Senators,

representatives from the House of Representatives, also the Governor, the Mayor and other officials who have honored us by being present. We acknowledge also the presence of the heads of educational institutions throughout the state and nation.

The singing for this morning's session will be furnished by the Relief Society Singing Mothers from the Juab, Sanpete and Richfield areas, with Sister Florence Jepperson Madsen conducting, Frank W. Asper at the organ.

We shall begin this session by the Relief Society Singing Mothers singing "The Twenty-Third Psalm," conducted by Sister Madsen, and the invocation will be offered by William Grant Bangerter, formerly president of the Brazilian Mission.

President Hugh B. Brown

The invocation was just offered by Elder William Grant Bangerter, formerly president of the Brazilian Mission.

The Relief Society Singing Mothers will now favor us with "O Savior of the World:"

I am very pleased to announce that there will be a message from the President of the Church, read by his son, Robert, immediately after the singing. And after his reading of the message President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Council of the Twelve, will address us.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

(Read by his son Robert McKay)

My dear brethren and sisters:

Only at the last moment have I given in to the pleas of the doctors and members of the family not to put the added strain on my heart by attempting to go over to the Tabernacle to meet with you in this conference. However, I am with you in spirit and watching the proceedings of the meeting over television.

It is over fifty-eight years ago that I stood at the pulpit in the Tabernacle for the first time as one of the General Authorities of the Church. I remember well then my trembling and humility at

facing such an audience and accepting a position as one of the General Authorities. The passing of over one half a century has made it no easier to discharge the responsibility that one holds as a General Authority. This morning, as then and during the intervening years, I ask for your sympathy and prayers.

Blessings of the Decade

Evidences of progress in the Church give us true cause for rejoicing. The Lord has blessed us with eventful and prosperous years during the past decade.

The loyalty of the members to the ideals and teachings of the Man of Galilee has been evidenced in many ways: by the response of tens of thousands to the message of the restored gospel as proclaimed by messengers at home and abroad; by ready and willing response to "calls" and "assignments"; and by increased tithes and offerings. Surely with these and other equally meritorious services the Lord is pleased, for he has said, ". . . this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (Moses 1:39.)

Eternal Vigilance and Righteous Effort the Price of Peace

But let us ever remember that peace and progress are attained only at the price of eternal vigilance and constant righteous efforts. The forces of evil and misery are still rampant in the world and must be resisted. The powers of darkness have increased in accordance with the spread of the gospel. Whole nations are declaring atheism to be the law of the land. Atheism has become the greatest weapon Satan has to use, and its evil influence is bringing degradation to millions throughout the world. Even at this moment as the sun throws warm, genial rays on snowcapped summits and frost-covered valleys of this western land, the public press tells of increasing activity on the part of the evil one. Warlike activities and international misunderstandings prevent the establishing of peace and divert man's inventive genius from the paths of science, art, and literature, and apply it to human retardation and the holocaust of war.

Peace When; . . .

The rising sun can dispel the darkness of night, but it cannot banish the blackness of malice, hatred, bigotry, and selfishness from the hearts of humanity. Happiness and peace will come to earth only as the light of love and human compassion enter the souls of men.

"With Healing In His Wings"

It was for this purpose that Christ, the Son of righteousness, "with healing in his wings," came in the Meridian of Time. Through him wickedness shall be overcome, hatred, enmity, strife, poverty,

and war abolished. This will be accomplished only by a slow but never-failing process of changing men's mental and spiritual attitude. The ways and habits of the world depend upon the thoughts and soul-convictions of men and women. If, therefore, we would change the world, we must first change people's thoughts. Only to the extent that men desire peace and brotherhood can the world be made better. No peace, even though temporarily obtained, will be permanent, whether to individuals or nations, unless it is built upon the solid foundation of eternal principles.

Men may yearn for peace, cry for peace, and work for peace, but there will be no peace until they follow the path pointed out by the Living Christ. He is the true light of men's lives.

The Mission of the Church to Establish Peace

The mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is to establish peace. The Living Christ is its head. Under him tens of thousands of men in the Church are divinely authorized to represent him in variously assigned positions. It is the duty of these representatives to manifest brotherly love, first toward one another, then toward all mankind; to seek unity, harmony, and peace in organizations within the Church, and then by precept and example extend these virtues throughout the world.

I pray that each day may find members of the Church truer, purer, nobler than the last, that they, with intellect and hearts united, may hasten the day when ". . . the Lord will bless his people with peace" (Psalm 29:11) that they may ". . . lift up an ensign of peace, and make a proclamation of peace unto the ends of the earth." (D&C 105:39.)

Blessings of Peace for the Righteous

I invoke upon the righteous everywhere our Father's blessings that peace may be in their hearts and in their homes, that unity may strengthen their ranks, that they may be blessed with the desire and means to teach others, that goodness may come into the lives of men throughout the earth, that our Father's kingdom may be enlarged and

magnified, that his sons and daughters in all the world may find fellowship with the Saints, that the designs of the wicked may be frustrated and the purposes of the sinful come to naught, that unrighteous dominion shall be broken, and that truth shall govern the earth, that God's people—those who keep his commandments—may become as a light set upon a hill, an ensign to the nations, in anticipation of the long-awaited day when the Prince of Peace shall reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Hugh B. Brown

President McKay, we have all been thrilled and inspired by this wonderful message and we thank you for the blessing you have pronounced upon us and pledge to you our continued love and support and obedience to the commandments of God.

President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Council of the Twelve will now speak to us, and he will be followed by the Patriarch to the Church, Eldred G. Smith.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I am very grateful for the message from President McKay and pray that the blessings of the Spirit of the Lord may continue with him that he may be raised and be able to meet with us again.

Father Asked Me to Read The Book of Mormon

When I was a small boy, too young to hold the Aaronic Priesthood, my father placed a copy of the Book of Mormon in my hands with the request that I read it. I received this Nephite record with thanksgiving and applied myself to the task which had been assigned to me. There are certain passages that have been stamped upon my mind, and I have never forgotten them. One of these is in the 27th chapter of 3rd Nephi, verses 19 and 20. It is the word of our Redeemer to the Nephites as he taught them after his resurrection. It is as follows:

"And no unclean thing can enter into his kingdom; therefore nothing entereth into his rest save it be those who have washed their garments in my blood, because of their faith, and the repentance of all their sins, and their faithfulness unto the end.

"Now this is the commandment: Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day."

The other passage is in the 10th verse

of chapter 41 in the book of Alma and is as follows:

"Do not suppose, because it has been spoken concerning restoration, that ye shall be restored from sin to happiness. Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness."

Fundamental Teachings of the Prophets

These two passages I have tried to follow all the days of my life, and I have felt to thank the Lord for this counsel and guidance, and I have endeavored to stamp these sayings on the minds of many others. What a wonderful guide these teachings can be to us if we can get them firmly fixed in our minds! These thoughts are of course not peculiar to the Book of Mormon. They are fundamental teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ and have been expressed many times by the prophets of old and our Redeemer when they were upon the earth. It is a fact beyond successful dispute that no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of God and obtain what is known as eternal life. This is to say that the Redeemer of this world, through the great sacrifice which he made, opened the graves and restored all mortal things, both mankind, fowls of the air, fishes of the sea, and every creature that partook of death through the "fall" of Adam. In the 5th chapter of John, verses 28 and 29, we have the definite statement of our