

sisters, that we will be faithful and true to our trusts, walking always in obedience to the commandments. I know The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true. I know the gospel is true. I know that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. I know that we are divinely led today and that the Church invites sincere, faithful children of God of all ages and nationalities to come unto Christ and

prepare themselves worthily to enter his kingdom. May we all have a desire to do so, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ○

#### President Harold B. Lee

Elder Hugh B. Brown of the Council of the Twelve Apostles will be our concluding speaker.

### Elder Hugh B. Brown

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

● My brethren and sisters, it is a joy to be home again. After a globe-encircling journey, which results often in a better understanding of the peoples of other lands and cultures, I return with an increased appreciation of our own beloved America, its freedoms, and its opportunities.

#### Hunger for truth

It is my impression also that people of all lands and cultures have an increasing hunger for truth and an open-minded attitude toward new truths. Thinking men everywhere are seeking for light. There is, in fact, a world-wide quest for truth.

Leaders in both religious and scientific fields are asking for a revival of learning and a broad-minded attitude toward truth—wherever it may be found. Let me remind you, however, that broad-mindedness too often is nothing but a flattening out of high-mindedness!

The good life is a life that is pursued intelligently, toward the cultivation of genuine spirituality that is grounded in faith and knowledge, that is dedicated to truth.

#### The glory of God

Faith is the ground of all religion, but there is no special virtue in blind faith. Only faith that is grounded in a courageous search for truth is worthy of the student. We should reject every temptation to irrationality, overcome

every inclination to disregard or distort the facts, avoid the extremes of fanaticism, and above all else, demand the truth. Here is the firm foundation for our religion—a religion that describes the glory of God as intelligence and proclaims that man is saved no faster than he gains knowledge.

Just as the truths of science must be tested and verified by reason and factual investigation, so the moral and spiritual truths which the world is seeking from its prophets must be proved and validated in the experience of men. In his search for truth, every man must be true to himself. He must answer to his own reason and to his own moral conscience. Anything less than this would betray his dignity as a human being and a child of God. True dignity is never won by place, and it is never lost when honors are withdrawn.

#### Endurance of truth

Especially in the realms of spiritual and religious endeavor where faith ventures into untried fields, truth must meet the test of unbelief and endure the fires of persecution, opposition, rejection, and hatred. Truth crushed to earth shall rise again.

Perhaps it was this thought of the permanence and eternal endurance of truth which prompted Oliver Wendell Holmes to write his illuminating poetic essay on "The Battle for Survival of Newborn Truths." He said:

Sunday, April 5

Second Day

"The time is wracked with birth pangs,  
Every hour brings forth some gasping  
truth,  
And truth, newborn, looks a misshapen  
and untimely growth,  
The terror of the household, and its  
shame,  
A monster coiling in its nurse's lap  
That some would strangle, some would  
only starve,  
But still it breathes, and passed from  
hand to hand,  
And suckled at a hundred half-clad  
breasts,  
Comes slowly to its stature and its  
form,  
Calms the rough ridges of its dragon  
scales,  
Changes to shining locks its snaky  
hair,  
And moves transfigured into angel  
guise,  
Welcomed by all who cursed its hour  
of birth  
And folded in the same encircling arms  
That cast it like a serpent from their  
hold."

### Newly revealed truth

Let us discuss some newly revealed truth—truth that has had just such a reception and experience as the poet mentions, for it was thought to be "a misshapen and an untimely growth." Yet it is coming to its stature and its form, and its truth will move transfigured yet into angel guise.

The somewhat melancholy history of the past seems to have been a necessary forerunner to those great events which we now proclaim. The passing of the sun of time beyond the meridian, after the crucifixion of Christ, was followed by the twilight and the sunset, and then centuries of darkness, after which the signs of dawn appear. The morning breaks, the shadows flee.

How gloriously the Lord has kept his promise that in the latter days he would pour out his Spirit upon all flesh!

### A marvelous age

What a marvelous age is this in which we live! What tremendous advancement has been made within the last 150 years!

In the fields of communication and transportation alone, we have made such strides as would cause our ancestors, if they could come and see us, to say that we were gods. They would be stunned by radio and television and the marvelous achievements of science, the harnessing of electricity and other powers by which we bring to servitude the great forces of nature which in their day men feared and were wont to worship.

But lest we be given to boasting of these great events and achievements, we should be reminded of how they are being used, and of what is happening in this world of ours by the very things which our civilization has produced. Hunger and want, misery and woe seem to be spreading through the world, threatening the very civilization that has made these things possible. It seems that God's great plan included work for a wrecking crew, to tear down the old structure and make room for that which is to come. But let not those who are responsible for these things be comforted in this thought, for God has said: "It is impossible but that offenses will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!" (Luke 17:1.)

### Spiritual enlightenment

But are we to look for great advancement in these fields of human thought and activity alone, where material things seemingly are glorified and the spiritual things forgotten? Or may we expect in fields of moral growth and spiritual enlightenment to find new truth and revelation from God? When he said he would pour out his Spirit upon all flesh, I think he did not intend to limit his inspiration to those who are working with material things alone, for in the spiritual realm, too, there is need for something new.

### Restitution of all things

You will remember when Peter and John went up to the temple at Jerusalem and came to the gate called beautiful; the man who was lame, sitting there, asked alms of them; and Peter, turning to him, said: "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I

have, give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6.)

The scriptures tell us he was healed, and he leaped and he shouted for joy at his deliverance. Then a crowd gathered in wonder and amazement, and Peter told them that what was done was not of their own power or holiness, but it was done in the name of Jesus Christ. Then he said to the multitude:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

"Whom the heaven must receive until the times of the restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:19-21.)

#### Dispensation of fulness of times

The apostle Paul said that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he would gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are in the earth, even in him.

You will remember, too, as the eleven stood with the Master out near Bethany where they saw a cloud envelope him and take him into heaven, two angels stood by in white apparel and said to those who were assembled: "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 1:11.)

#### Vision of John

We refer again to that marvelous prediction of John, who, while banished on the Isle of Patmos, had a vision and said: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.

"Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last; and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia. . . .

"And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

"And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about . . . with a golden girdle.

"His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

"And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

"And he had in his right hand seven stars; and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword; and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

"And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. . . .

"Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." (Rev. 1:10-19.)

Thus spake the Son of God to John the apostle.

#### God revealed to man

In the spring of 1820, concerning which you have heard something this morning already, just 150 years ago, God, our Father, revealed himself to man. He considered the occasion and the message of such great importance that he came personally from the heavens and brought with him his Only Begotten Son, and together they spoke to this young man and to all of us. Since that time others have come, other revelations have been given. The Angel Moroni and Moses and Elias came. Peter, James, and John, John the Baptist, Elijah, and others. They have spoken to men and commissioned them, and men are again communing with God.

Now, I am not unmindful of the fact that such a declaration as this is met not only with incredulity and disbelief, but also with antagonism and anger. Men have employed against this truth the self-same weapons as the adversary has always used in his battle against the truth.

### God speaks to men

Here again was truth looked upon as a misshapen and untimely growth. And yet, I ask all Christians who believe the Bible, do you doubt the words of Saul of Tarsus, who said that on his way to Damascus to persecute the saints, he saw a light which blinded him, and he heard a voice? He asked, "Who art thou, Lord?" And the voice replied: "I am Jesus Christ whom thou persecutest." (See Acts 9:5.)

I say Christians believe that record, and yet they say God cannot speak to men. They who believe the Bible accept the record which tells us of the appearance of Moses and Elias on the Mount of Transfiguration and that Peter, James, and John were there and saw them in the presence of the Master. Moses and Elias, mind you, had lived hundreds of years before that time, and yet men say: "Yes, we believe the Bible where it tells of that. It was done once, but it can't be done again."

I repeat: Why should men think it a thing incredible that God should speak to men? Has not that been his method throughout the ages? Do we not need him? Have our civilization, our science, and our boasted learning made us independent of him?

### Introduction to future events

Our declaration to you today is but introductory, and though he came, and with him God the Father, and following them these others whom I have briefly mentioned—all of this is but an introduction to what is yet to come.

In the afterglow of Easter, listen to the Lord's promise: "For I will reveal myself from heaven with power and glory, with all the hosts thereof, and dwell in righteousness with men on earth a thousand years, and the wicked shall not stand." (D&C 29:11.)

And again from Matthew: "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." (Matt. 16:27.)

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the

trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first." (1 Thess. 4:16.)

### A glorious promise

This declaration that the Savior will come again is made to you, my brothers and sisters and friends, in the spirit and by the power which gave these truths to man, and in his name I declare to you that I know, as I know I live, that this is true. It is the most hopeful and the most glorious announcement and promise that has been made in all the history of the world, save only that which was made by the angels to the shepherds on the hills of Galilee when Christ was born.

Let us continue to search for truth in all fields of human interest and endeavor—"Till the war drums throb no longer and the battle flags are furled in the parliament of man, the federation of the world"; till the Prince of Peace shall come and assume his rightful place as King of kings, and there will be universal peace for 1,000 years.

I pray that we may be individually preparing ourselves to meet him when he comes, for come he will, and that much sooner than we think. Of this truth I testify to you in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ○

### President Harold B. Lee

We have just listened to Elder Hugh B. Brown of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

We express our thanks and appreciation to the General Authorities who have spoken to us, and to the Tabernacle Choir for their inspirational music.

This session has been broadcast by many radio and television stations in the Western United States, and short-waved in English over Radio New York Worldwide to Europe, South America, Mexico, Africa and parts of Asia.

This session has also been carried by direct wire from the Tabernacle over direct oceanic cables to a large number of members and friends assembled in chapels throughout Great Britain, Germany, France, Austria and Japan.

Direct circuits will also carry this session to members and friends assembled in chapels throughout Eastern Canada.

We shall conclude this fourth session of the conference with the Tabernacle Choir singing "Worthy Is The Lamb," after which the benediction will be pronounced by Elder Keith Romney, former president of the Southeast Mexican Mission, and this con-

ference will then be adjourned until 2:00 this afternoon.

The Tabernacle Choir sang "Worthy Is the Lamb."

Elder Keith Romney, former president of the Southeast Mexican Mission, offered the closing prayer.

The conference was adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m.

## SECOND DAY

### AFTERNOON MEETING

#### FIFTH SESSION

The fifth session of the conference convened on Sunday, April 5, 1970, at 2 o'clock p.m.

President Joseph Fielding Smith presided and conducted the meeting.

The Tabernacle Choir sang the choral numbers for this session, with Jay E. Welch conducting. Robert Cundick served as organist.

At the beginning of this session, President Smith made an introductory statement as follows:

#### President Joseph Fielding Smith

Members of the Church are convened in the Tabernacle on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah in the fifth session of the 140th 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 session of the conference.

Sessions of this conference have been televised in color and received by millions in the United States and Canada over most of those stations cooperating to provide the extensive coverage of this conference. The full proceedings of both sessions today will be rebroad-

cast to far-distant places by Radio Stations KSL, KIRO at Seattle, KMBZ at Kansas City, and WRFM at New York City. This will begin tonight at midnight.

Saturday evening an inspirational meeting of the Priesthood of the Church was held in the Tabernacle. The proceedings of this meeting were relayed by closed-circuit broadcast, originating in the Tabernacle, to members of the Priesthood assembled in approximately 620 separate locations in all parts of the United States and Canada. Approximately 150,000 holders of the priesthood participated in this meeting.

We extend a cordial welcome to all present this afternoon,—special guests, educational leaders, our regional representatives and stake presidencies from near and far, temple presidencies, bishoprics, members of the general auxiliary boards, and thousands of members of the Church, and many friends everywhere who are listening in by radio and television.

The music for this session will be rendered by the Tabernacle Choir, with Jay E. Welch conducting. Robert Cundick is at the organ.

We shall begin this service by the choir singing, "Lovely Appear," after which the invocation will be offered by Elder Glen L. Rudd, former president of the Florida Mission.