

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

## TABERNACLE CHOIR

Isaac M. Stewart, President  
 Richard P. Condie, Conductor  
 Jay E. Welch, Assistant Conductor

## TABERNACLE ORGANISTS

Alexander Schreiner, Chief Organist  
 Robert N. Cundick  
 Roy M. Darley  
 Frank W. Asper, Organist Emeritus

**President Tanner**

I can see no opposing vote, so the vote is unanimous, President Smith.

**President Harold B. Lee**

Thank you, President Tanner. Will Bishop Peterson and Bishop Featherstone now come to their places, and will you Assistants to the Twelve, please take your places, and the other brethren will shift accordingly. We will demonstrate to the Church just how this takes place, as you make the change.

So that you will know something about the identity of these new brethren, Brother Peterson has been a regional representative of the Twelve, and formerly president of the Phoenix North Stake. Bishop Featherstone has been presiding and is now presiding over the Boise North Stake. This, I am sure, will bring joy to the hearts of the folks whom they have served and who love them so well.

It will now be our privilege to hear from our beloved President Joseph Fielding Smith.

**President Joseph Fielding Smith**

My dear brethren and sisters: We bid you welcome once again to a general conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

These conference sessions are solemn and sacred occasions on which we come together to wait upon the Lord, to seek his Spirit, and to be renewed in our desires to serve him and keep his commandments.

**Open to truth**

It is our prayer that all those who are present, and all those who hear the broadcasts, and all those who read the conference messages will have their hearts open to the great truths which will be presented and

the words of wise counsel which will fall from the lips of those who shall speak to us.

All of our Church conferences are occasions to teach one another the doctrines of the gospel; to testify of the truth and divinity of those things which have come to us by the opening of the heavens; and to counsel together, and with the Lord, as to the things we should all do to fill the full measure of our creation.

We are the servants of the Lord. We have received light and truth and revelation from him. He has commanded us to proclaim his truths and live his laws. And so now, in harmony with his mind and will,

and as guided by his Holy Spirit, we give counsel and direction to the Saints and to the world.

### The last days

To the world I say: These are the last days. They are days of trouble and sorrow and desolation. They are days when Satan dwells in the hearts of ungodly men, when iniquity abounds, and when the signs of the times are being shown forth.

And there is no cure for the ills of the world except the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our hope for peace, for temporal and spiritual prosperity, and for an eventual inheritance in the kingdom of God is found only in and through the restored gospel. There is no work that any of us can engage in that is as important as preaching the gospel and building up the Church and kingdom of God on earth.

### Invitation to all

And so we invite all our Father's children, everywhere, to believe in Christ, to receive him as he is revealed by living prophets, and to join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We call upon the world to repent, to worship that God who made them, and to believe the words of those whom he hath sent in this day to proclaim his gospel.

To the honest in heart in all nations we say: The Lord loves you. He wants you to receive the full blessings of the gospel. He is now inviting you to believe the Book of Mormon, to accept Joseph Smith as a prophet, and to come into his earthly kingdom and thereby become heirs of eternal life in his heavenly kingdom.

To those who have received the gospel we say: Keep the commandments. Walk in the light. Endure to the end. Be true to every covenant and obligation, and the Lord will bless you beyond your fondest dreams. As it was said by one of old: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole

matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Eccles. 12:13.)

### Importance of family

To all the families in Israel we say: The family is the most important organization in time or in eternity. Our purpose in life is to create for ourselves eternal family units. There is nothing that will ever come into your family life that is as important as the sealing blessings of the temple and then keeping the covenants made in connection with this order of celestial marriage.

To parents in the Church we say: Love each other with all your hearts. Keep the moral law and live the gospel. Bring up your children in light and truth; teach them the saving truths of the gospel; and make your home a heaven on earth, a place where the Spirit of the Lord may dwell and where righteousness may be enthroned in the heart of each member.

### Successful parents

It is the will of the Lord to strengthen and preserve the family unit. We plead with fathers to take their rightful place as the head of the house. We ask mothers to sustain and support their husbands and to be lights to their children.

President Joseph F. Smith said: "Motherhood lies at the foundation of happiness in the home, and of prosperity in the nation. God has laid upon men and women very sacred obligations with respect to motherhood, and they are obligations that cannot be disregarded without invoking divine displeasure." (*Gospel Doctrine* [Deseret Book, 1939], p. 288.) Also, "To be a successful father or a successful mother is greater than to be a successful general or a successful statesman." (*Ibid.*, p. 285.)

### Counsel to youth

To the youth of Zion we say: The Lord bless you and keep you, which

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most assuredly will be so as you learn his laws and live in harmony with them. Be true to every trust. Honor thy father and thy mother. Dwell together in love and conformity. Be modest in your dress. Overcome the world, and do not be led astray by the fashions and practices of those whose interests are centered upon the things of this world.

Marry in the temple, and live joyous and righteous lives. Remember the words of Alma: "Wickedness never was happiness." (Al. 41:10.) Remember also that our hope for the future and the destiny of the Church and the cause of righteousness rest in your hands.

### Service in Church

To those who are called to positions of trust and responsibility in the Church we say: Preach the gospel in plainness and simplicity as it is found in the standard works of the Church. Testify of the truth of the work and the doctrines revealed anew in our day.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "I am among you as he that serveth" (Luke 22:27), and choose to serve with an eye single to the glory of God. Visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and keep yourself unspotted from the sins of the world.

Now there is much more that the Lord would have us hear and know and do, and I shall rely upon President Lee and President Tanner, upon the members of the Council of the Twelve and the other General Authorities to counsel further with you by the power of the Spirit about these things.

### Personal testimony

May I conclude by bearing personal testimony of the truth and divinity of the Lord's work on earth and of the

eternal verity of those doctrines he has revealed through Joseph Smith and his associates.

I know by the revelations of the Holy Ghost to my soul that God our Heavenly Father lives; that he sent his Only Begotten Son into the world to work out the infinite and eternal atonement; and that he has restored in these last days the fullness of his everlasting gospel.

I know and testify that the Lord's purposes on earth shall prevail. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is here to stay. The Lord's work shall triumph. No power on earth can prevent the spread of truth and the preaching of the gospel in every nation.

I feel to thank the Lord for his goodness and grace, for all the blessings he has showered upon us so abundantly; and I pray that we may all be worthy to receive the eternal fullness which he offers his saints through the gospel of his Son, and I do this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. □

### President Harold B. Lee

Thank you, President Smith, for that powerful message, which will certainly be a keynote for this great conference.

We will now invite the congregation to stand and join with the Combined Choruses in singing, "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet."

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The congregation sang the hymn, "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet."

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### President Lee

It will now be our pleasure to hear from Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Council of the Twelve Apostles. He will be followed by Elder Loren C. Dunn of the First Council of Seventy.