

Sunday, April 7

Third Day

### Zion shall flourish

Listen to the words of the Master:

"Wherefore, as ye are agents, ye are on the Lord's errand; and whatsoever ye do according to the will of the Lord is the Lord's business.

"Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.

"Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days.

"And the rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the land.

"For, verily I say that the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim, wherefore they shall be plucked out.

"Behold, I, the Lord, have made my church in these last days like unto a judge sitting on a hill, or in a high place, to judge the nations.

"For it shall come to pass that the inhabitants of Zion shall judge all things pertaining to Zion.

"And liars and hypocrites shall be proved by them, and they who are not apostles and prophets shall be known.

"And even the bishop, who is a judge, and his counselors, if they are not faithful in their stewardships shall be condemned, and others shall be planted in their stead.

"For, behold, I say unto you that

Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her;

"And she shall be an ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven.

"And the day shall come when the nations of the earth shall tremble because of her, and shall fear because of her terrible ones. The Lord hath spoken it. Amen. (D&C 64:29, 33-43.)

### Obedience

Does that sound like a loser to you? I tell you it doesn't. And those who are converted, who can follow the Lord and his anointed servants, these are they who will bring to pass the purposes of God. Before you can be a great leader in the kingdom of God, you must first be a great follower. Obedience is still better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams. (See 1 Sam. 15:22.)

May the Lord bless us to hold fast and remain faithful as we follow the Lord's anointed servants, and may we feel good about it. I pray that we will, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### President Spencer W. Kimball

We have just heard Elder Hartman Rector, Jr. of the First Council of Seventy.

We shall now hear from Elder Neal A. Maxwell, newly sustained Assistant to the Twelve.

## Elder Neal A. Maxwell

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

Brothers and sisters, my verba moment is not for sermons but for appreciation, not for doctrine but for testimony.

### Appreciation

Appreciation for the Lord's call through President Kimball.

Appreciation for your sustaining vote which was not vindication but an invitation—an invitation for me to be and to do better.

Appreciation for humble parents who both told and showed me that the gospel and Church are true.

Appreciation for a splendid wom-

an, Colleen, a wife for all seasons, who has made our home a haven.

Appreciation for a missionary son in Germany and three daughters and a son-in-law in whose behalf, as a father, I deeply wish to succeed and whose vote to sustain me must count double in the days that lie ahead.

Appreciation to President Kimball for his example not only as a bold prophet but for his and Sister Kimball's tireless practicing of "pure religion, undefiled." (James 1:27.) The President's greatness is the kind which is not conscious of itself. He truly desires not our adulation but our affirmation by how we live.

Appreciation for the tender tutoring of President Harold B. Lee.

Appreciation for Presidents Tanner and Romney and Benson and the Twelve, whom I hope to assist, and each of whose lives reflects divine design that prepared them for their appointed place, for God is never surprised.

Appreciation to all the General Authorities who travel so tirelessly to teach us all, leaving their families without complaint. This reality was summarized well by the wit that was also wisdom of Richard L. Evans; who, one day on the way to another plane and another weekend of conferences, said gently, "Have you ever gotten homesick on the way to the airport?"

Appreciation to the members of the Church who have helped me in the Tremonton, Ogden, and Reno regions, and to my sweet colleagues, the Regional Representatives of the Twelve, especially those whom the Lord has raised up in other nations of the world.

Appreciation to the devoted colleagues and students in the Church Educational System in 50 countries who number one-third million.

Endless appreciation to Jesus Christ for his atonement, realizing that included in the awful arithmetic of that atonement are my sins, and for the eloquence of his example, and for the witness he has given me which I

have happily borne in about 35 countries, for when one sees life and people through the lens of His gospel, then one can see forever.

Endless appreciation to my Father in heaven whose blessings depend upon our obedience, but whose ratio of blessings to obedience makes him a generous God!

### **Celestial criteria**

I know the celestial criteria measure service, not status; the use of our talents, not the relative size of our talent inventories. I know that Church membership is not passive security but continuing opportunity.

Finally I testify that what a wise man wrote is true: "If you have not chosen the kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead." Having so chosen, may God bless us all to move the kingdom along, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **President Spencer W. Kimball**

Elder Neal A. Maxwell, newly sustained Assistant to the Twelve, has just spoken to us.

The congregation and choir will now join in singing the stirring hymn by Ebenezer Beesley, "High on the Mountain Top."

After the singing, Elder Bernard P. Brockbank, Assistant to the Twelve, will address us.

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The congregation sang the hymn, "High on the Mountain Top."

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### **President Kimball**

Elder Bernard P. Brockbank, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve, will be our next speaker.