

And, in the words of Isaiah, "Many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths." (Isa. 2:3.)

We need not compromise. We must not compromise.

The candle which the Lord has lighted in this dispensation can become as a light unto the whole world, and others seeing our good works may be led to glorify our Father in heaven and emulate in their own lives the examples they may have observed in ours.

Symbol of virtues

Said one of the leaders of our nation as he left the Washington Temple the other evening and looked up to its spires, "This beautiful structure is a symbol of those virtues which have made of us a great nation and a great people. We need such symbols."

There can be many more such

symbols than the temple in Washington and even more impressive ones. Beginning with you and me, there can be an entire people who by the virtue of our lives in our homes, in our vocations, even in our amusements, can become as a city upon a hill to which men may look and learn, and an ensign to the nations from which the people of the earth may gather strength. I bear witness of him who is our living God. I bear testimony of him who is our Savior and Redeemer. I bear witness of the truth of this, their work, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner

Elder Gordon B. Hinckley of the Council of the Twelve has just spoken to us.

We shall now hear from Elder Joseph Anderson, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve. He will be followed by Bishop Victor L. Brown, Presiding Bishop of the Church.

Elder Joseph Anderson

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

Mankind's greatest need today is a sincere conviction that Jesus Christ was and is in very deed the Savior and Redeemer of the world; that he is the Son of the Father, the firstborn in the spirit and the Only Begotten in the flesh; that it was necessary and a part of God's plan before the world was created, that he should come to earth and take upon himself mortality, mend the law broken by Adam and Eve, and provide for us the plan whereby we might resurrect from the grave and return into the presence of our Heavenly Father from whence we came.

We read in the first chapter of the gospel according to John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

(John 1:1-2.) This would indicate that Christ, Jehovah, the Great I Am, was with the Father in that early state of existence; he was the firstborn of his spirit children. He was taught by the Father during that incalculable time.

The spirit state

Before we came here we lived in the heavens in the spirit state as children of our Heavenly Father. The poet Wordsworth caught a flash from the eternal semaphore when he wrote:

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:
The soul that rises with us, our life's star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar:

Not in entire forgetfulness.
 And not in utter nakedness.
 But trailing clouds of glory do we come
 From God, who is our home.

"Ode: Intimations of Immortality
 from Recollections of Early Childhood"

We knew the Father of our spirits
 as well as we know our earthly father
 here. We knew our elder brother
 Jehovah and we also knew Lucifer,
 who too was a son of the morning.
 We lived by sight at that time.
 That visual knowledge, the remembrance
 of that estate, has been taken from
 our minds, and we are now required
 to live by faith. As stated in the hymn:

For a wise and glorious purpose
 Thou hast placed us here on earth
 And withheld the recollection
 Of our former friends and birth.

Hymns, no. 138

It is a glorious program and plan,
 instituted in the councils of heaven,
 whereby we might have the blessed
 privilege of taking upon us mortality,
 its challenges and its experiences.

An unselfish plan

In that previous existence we had
 our free agency. In the councils where
 consideration was given to the matter
 of the creation and the peopling of
 this earth, the Father presented an
 unselfish plan. It had been used in
 other worlds. Jehovah said: "Father,
 thy will be done, and the glory be
 thine forever." (Moses 4:2.)

Lucifer, however, contended for an
 amendment to the plan whereby we
 would all be saved by compulsion.
 This was contrary to free agency.
 His was an ambitious proposal and
 one which involved granting to
 him, Lucifer, the honor that belongs
 to the Father. The scriptures tell
 us he said: "Behold, here am I,
 send me, I will be thy son, and I
 will redeem all mankind, that one
 soul shall not be lost, and surely
 I will do it; wherefore give me
 thine honor." (Moses

4:1.) This would destroy the right
 to free agency and the opportunity
 for growth and development.
 It would be contrary to the
 Father's purpose in giving his
 children the opportunity to become
 like unto him through their own
 faithfulness and efforts. It was
 a selfish and presumptuous
 proposal.

Degrees of obedience

We are given to understand that
 whereas in the preexistence, in
 that spiritual estate, the spirits
 had their free agency, there were
 different degrees of obedience,
 various grades of righteousness.
 Lucifer exercised his free agency
 when he rebelled against the
 Father, but he had to pay the
 penalty for that rebellion and
 is still doing so, as are those
 spirits who followed him. They
 were denied the privilege of
 taking upon themselves mortality,
 and this has been a great curse
 and disappointment to them.

"How art thou fallen from heaven,
 O Lucifer, son of the morning! . . .

"For thou hast said in thine heart,
 I will ascend into heaven. I will
 exalt my throne above the stars
 of God: . . .

"I will ascend above the heights
 of the clouds: I will be like the
 most High.

"Yet thou shalt be brought down
 to hell, to the sides of the pit."
 (Isa. 14:12-15.)

Earth-life experience

When those spirits who followed
 Jehovah were sent to earth to
 take upon themselves mortality,
 they were by no means of equal
 capacity nor similar in dispositions.
 There were different degrees
 of faithfulness among those
 who were given the opportunity
 and blessing of taking upon
 themselves mortal life. They
 were, however, considered
 sufficiently worthy to receive
 this earth-life experience in
 order that they might prove
 whether they would do all things
 whatsoever the Lord their
 God should command them.
 By so doing, by rendering
 obedience to the

plan of life and salvation, they would receive life eternal, they would return into the presence of their Heavenly Father and receive his plaudit and the reward of the faithful.

God, with his foreknowledge and his acquaintance with his children in their premortal state, knew that some would succumb to the wiles and temptations of Lucifer, that many would fall by the wayside. It was also known by the Father before they came here that of their own free will and choice Adam and Eve would partake of the forbidden fruit, which would open the way for God's spirit children to take upon themselves mortality. Accordingly, the necessity for a Redeemer and a redemption was understood.

Christ's atonement

It was necessary that an atonement be made for the transgression of Adam, that mankind might not be required to suffer for Adam's transgression, for which they, Adam's posterity, were in no way responsible. Adam's disobedience was a transgression inasmuch as he had broken a law, but it became a great blessing in that it opened the way whereby man could be, could partake of earth-life privilege, and, in connection therewith, exercise his free agency and work out his salvation.

God was willing that his Beloved Son should take upon himself the responsibility of that mission, namely, to atone for the sin of Adam and Eve which brought about the fall, and, also, that mankind might receive forgiveness for their individual sins, provided they would keep the commandments upon which salvation and exaltation were based.

When Jesus was upon the earth in the meridian of time, very few recognized him as the Creator of heaven and earth and the Savior and Redeemer of mankind. Even his disciples did not fully appreciate his mission and—though he told them that

he would lay down his life for the salvation of mankind, that he was and is the author of salvation unto all them that obey him, that he would come forth unto newness of life from the tomb, a resurrected being—it was difficult for them to grasp these things.

Book of Mormon record

We are not dependent alone upon the account given by his apostles and others in the New Testament. We have other records and testimonies. We have the Book of Mormon, which, according to the foreword in that account, was given "to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever—and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations." (Book of Mormon title page.)

An account is given in this record of the appearance of the Savior after his resurrection to his people upon this continent, at which time he taught them the gospel, the plan of life and salvation, similar to that which he gave to the people on the eastern continent. The Book of Mormon record also relates the conditions that existed upon this hemisphere at the time of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and at the time of his death.

Upon his appearance to the Nephites, he stretched forth his hand and spoke unto the people saying:

"Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world.

"And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning." (3 Ne. 11:10-11.)

Latter-day testimony

The Church has the further scripture about the Only Begotten and his mission as contained in the Pearl of Great Price. How fortunate we are that we have the biblical account, the Book of Mormon account, and the accounts given to Abraham and Enoch and Moses as related in the Pearl of Great Price regarding the birth and death of the Savior and his great mission.

This same Jesus, the resurrected Christ, has appeared to man in this dispensation on various occasions.

We have the further testimony of the truth of these manifestations and of the restored gospel in its fullness by virtue of the whisperings and promptings of the Holy Ghost, for the gift of the Holy Ghost has been conferred upon us by authority restored from heaven by those who held that power and authority in the meridian of time—namely, Peter, James, and John—and that knowledge is certain and cannot be successfully refuted.

The living Christ

In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints we worship the living Christ. We know that he came forth from the tomb, that he is a resurrected being, that he is our advocate with the Father, that only through him and by obedience to the gospel he has given us can we return into his presence and that of the Father.

Jesus Christ is our Redeemer and Savior. He was begotten of the Father in the spirit, the Firstborn of the Father, and is the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh. He is our elder brother. He is the second member of the Godhead. He was the Creator of heaven and earth under the direction of the Father. He is the Jehovah of the Old Testament. He is Jesus of Nazareth.

He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the Light of the world. He is the Author of our salvation. He was chosen before the foundation of the

world to be the Lamb slain as an offering for our sins. Ultimately every knee must bow and every tongue confess that he is the Christ. He died on the cross to atone for the sin of Adam, that we might receive forgiveness for our sins if we would accept him and keep the commandments that he has given us, the plan of life and salvation. He arose from the tomb, the first fruits of the resurrection, thereby making possible that all mankind may live again in a resurrected state after mortal death. Yes, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.)

It is his work and his glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man, which is salvation and exaltation in the presence of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. (See Moses 1:39.)

Message to the world

It is our mission and our responsibility to carry this message to the world. It is our work and our glory to assist our Savior in the accomplishment of the mission that he accepted in the council of the heavens before the earth was created.

He will come to earth again, as foretold by the prophets, this time in power and great glory, to reign and rule a thousand years in peace and righteousness.

I testify to the truth of these things. I know that our Redeemer lives, and I bear this testimony in faith and in all sincerity, in the name of our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner

He to whom we have just listened is Elder Joseph Anderson, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

Bishop Victor L. Brown, Presiding Bishop of the Church, will now address us.