

the human family could never have it.

But we have the revelations. We have those sacred ordinances. The revelation that places upon us the obligation for this baptism for the dead is section 128 in the Doctrine and Covenants. And I should like to read in closing two or three of the closing verses of that section.

"Brethren, shall we not go on in so great a cause? Go forward and not backward. Courage, brethren; and on, on to the victory! Let your hearts rejoice, and be exceedingly glad. Let the earth break forth into singing. Let the dead speak forth anthems of eternal praise to the King Immanuel, who hath ordained, before the world was, that which would enable us to redeem them out of their prison; . . .

"Let the mountains shout for joy, and all ye valleys cry aloud; and all ye seas and dry lands tell the wonders of your Eternal King! And ye rivers, and brooks, and rills, flow down with gladness. Let the woods and all the trees of the field praise the Lord; and ye solid rocks weep for joy! . . .

"Let us, therefore, as a church and a people, and as Latter-day Saints, offer unto the Lord an offering in righteous-

ness; and let us present in his holy temple . . . a book containing the records of our dead, which shall be worthy of all acceptance." (D&C 128:22-24.)

I bear witness that this work is true, that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that there is on this earth today a prophet of God to lead modern Israel in this great obligation. I know that the Lord lives and that He broods anxiously over the work for the redemption of the dead, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner

Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Council of the Twelve has just spoken to us.

We shall now hear from Elder George Patrick Lee, newly appointed member of the First Quorum of Seventy, and General Authority of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and president of the Arizona-Holbrook Mission.

He will be followed by Elder Rex D. Pinegar of the First Council of Seventy.

Elder George P. Lee

of the First Quorum of Seventy

Brothers and sisters, I finally realized how General Custer must have felt. . . .

I want you to know that it is a great honor and privilege to be in your presence today, and in the presence of our Prophet, and all those that assist him in the kingdom of God.

Proud of heritage

I am proud to declare to you today, brothers and sisters, that I am a descendant of Lehi, Nephi, and all the great Book of Mormon prophets. I am proud

to be a child of the Book of Mormon people. I have found my true heritage; I have found my true identity. I am a son of God, a child of God, a child of the Book of Mormon, a child of Lehi, a rich heritage that extends all the way back to my Heavenly Father, through Moses, and Abraham, and other great prophets.

I am also proud to be a descendant of great Indian chiefs of our country. I am proud to be a descendant of Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, Chief Joseph, Chee Dodge, Chief Crazy Horse and all these great Indian chiefs that did so well as leaders of their people. I want you to

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know that these men were great. I wouldn't be surprised if they are all in paradise; and I wouldn't be surprised if some of them are converted, and maybe some of them are on the fourth missionary discussion. I am proud of my rich heritage.

Testimony to Lamanites

To you my people, the Lamanite people, on Indian reservations and in the cities of our country and through the islands of the sea, I want you to know that Jesus Christ is our Elder Brother. He is our Savior. He is our Redeemer.

We have a choice heritage. I want you to know, you Lamanite people, that Heavenly Father loves you. Jesus Christ, your Elder Brother, loves you. He has died for you. He has sacrificed his life to overcome our sins. He conquered death for each of you and every man on earth. He lives and is God of this earth.

A great job to do

To you in the Church throughout the world I declare that the time has come to lay aside our differences, to join hands as children of God. We have a great job to do, to bring many more choice spirits of our Heavenly Father into his kingdom, all over the world. The time has come for all of us to be 365-days-a-year Latter-day Saints, and seven-day-a-week Latter-day Saints, and not just Saints on Sunday only. The Lord has need of every Latter-day Saint to be a missionary, to bring others into his Church.

The time has come, brothers and sisters, to realize that we have no guarantee to the celestial kingdom. Just because we are members of his Church does not give us a guarantee to the celestial kingdom—only if we endure to the end and are faithful until he comes again.

Challenges to the world

To you, my brothers and sisters in the world, who are still searching for truth, who deny the existence of God, I give you two challenges. I challenge you to find another church, another organization, another way of life that has twelve apostles, that has a prophet, that is run by revelation, that baptizes by immersion and one that has priesthood. You will find there is no other church, there is no other way that is like the church we have. We have the same church that Jesus Christ organized anciently on this very soil and also in the Bible lands.

That is my first challenge to you. My second challenge to you is to look around you. What do you see? You see a beautiful creation, the handiwork of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Divinity of Jesus Christ

He has done so many wonderful things for us. How can we deny, as intelligent as we are, the existence of a God, and Jesus Christ? The greatest witness of Jesus Christ is right before your very eyes—the trees, the grass, the universe, the moon, the sun.

Can any mortal man create human beings?

Can any mortal man create the grass, the universe, the sun, the moon, the rain, the snow, the trees, the very food we eat?

Can any mortal man create such a beautiful world as we see and live in today?

How can we as scientists and learned men deny the existence of God and Jesus Christ when right before our very eyes we see existing a beautiful creation with order, precision, and exactness? No mortal man can duplicate what we see. This is enough to tell all of us that there is a divine God, a divine Christ—even Jesus Christ. He lives! He is the Creator of this world. The gospel is his plan. This is his way of life.

Paradise

All of us must realize that when we die and go to paradise, if we make it there, that as Americans you will not find United States in paradise.

You might as well realize that we are all going to the same place. As an Indian I will not find an Indian reservation in paradise. As a Hopi, you will not find a Hopi reservation. As a Japanese you will not find Japan in paradise. As Chinese, you will not find China in paradise. Let's live together as children of God. We are all brothers and sisters. We will all go to the same place if we are righteous, and if we endure to the

end. There is no United States, there is no Navajo reservation, nor any way of life, except God's, in paradise.

God lives. Jesus Christ lives, brothers and sisters. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner

Elder George P. Lee of the First Quorum of Seventy has just spoken to us.

We shall now hear from Elder Rex D. Pinegar of the First Council of Seventy. He will be followed by Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve.

Elder Rex D. Pinegar

of the First Council of Seventy

In behalf of the First Council of the Seventy, I reiterate our gratitude to the Lord for these men who have been raised up to be called to the First Quorum of the Seventy.

Seeds of our heritage

Etched in stone at the National Archives building in Washington, D.C., is this meaningful truth: "The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future."

Two hundred years ago the seeds of our heritage were being planted by men and women of great spiritual drive and steadfastness of purpose. Seeds of devotion and willing sacrifice for a just cause, seeds of courage and loyalty, seeds of faith in God were all planted in the soil of freedom that a mightier work might come forth.

In Richard Wheeler's *Voices of 1776* we read firsthand accounts of some of those who were engaged in this "planting" process. Their expressions stir our souls to a greater appreciation of the heritage we enjoy and upon which we must build.

A young doctor of Barnstable, Massachusetts, recorded in his journal on the 21st of April, 1775, the following:

"This event seems to have electrified all classes of people . . . inspiring and rousing the people to arms! . . . Never was a cause more just, more sacred, than ours. We are commanded to defend the rich inheritance bequeathed to us by our virtuous ancestors; it is our bounden duty to transmit it uncontaminated to our posterity. We must fight valiantly." (Richard Wheeler, *Voices of 1776*, New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1972, pp. 33-34.)

From Boston, Massachusetts, a well-to-do female citizen wrote:

"Our all is at stake; and we are called upon by every tie that is dear and sacred, to exert the spirit that heaven has given us in this righteous struggle for liberty. . . . My only brother I have sent to the camp with my prayers and blessings. . . . I am confident he will behave with honor. . . . and had I twenty sons and brothers, they should go. . . . Nothing is heard now in our streets but the trumpet and drum and the universal