

living oracle, a legal administrator, so that we can know what the Lord wants us to do today. Under his direction we have the legal right to act in the name of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ is a living, viable influence built on current revelation.

Oh, truly we thank thee, oh God, for a prophet, to lead us in these latter days.

I bear you my witness that that prophet today is Spencer W. Kimball. I know that God our Father lives, and that Jesus the Christ is his son. I know

this. I bear you that witness. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Spencer W. Kimball

Elder Loren C. Dunn of the First Council of Seventy has just addressed us. We shall now be pleased to hear from Elder Eldred G. Smith, Patriarch to the Church. He will be followed by Elder W. Grant Bangerter, Assistant to the Twelve.

Elder Eldred G. Smith

Patriarch to the Church

Who is he who is called Jesus the Christ? Do you know him?

When he was praying to the Father, just prior to his crucifixion, he said:

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3.)

Christ the Creator

In that council in heaven, the plan and purpose of this earth life was explained to all the spirits, and then "the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first." (Abr. 3:27.)

He who was selected was Jehovah, the oldest, who had promised that in going he would honor the Father and give him all the glory.

The Father has declared: "This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (Moses 1:39.)

Jehovah was, then, under the direction of the Father, the creator of this earth and many other worlds. Moses was shown in vision "many lands; and each land was called earth, and there were inhabitants on the face thereof." (Moses 1:29.) God declared to Moses: "By the word of my power, have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth.

"And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten." (Moses 1:32-33.)

To get some idea of the magnitude of these creations: President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., said, "Astronomers now yield what they did not formerly yield, that there may have been many, and probably were, many worlds like ours. Some say there were in this galaxy perhaps from its beginning, one million worlds like unto this one.

"'Worlds without number have I created,' through 'mine Only Begotten Son.' I repeat, our Lord is not a novice, he is not an amateur; he has been over

this course time and time and time again.

"And if you think of this galaxy of ours having within it from the beginning perhaps until now, one million worlds, and multiply that by the number of millions of galaxies, one hundred million galaxies, that surround us, you will then get some view of who this Man we worship is." (J. Reuben Clark, Jr., *Behold the Lamb of God*, Deseret Book Company, 1962, pp. 16-17.)

He was truly no novice, no amateur, in the art or skill of a creator. "Worlds without number" he has created.

The Only Begotten Son

It was he, then, who came to this earth in the meridian of time, born of the virgin Mary—the literal Son of God the Father, "the Only Begotten Son."

He declared who he was. Throughout his life on earth, he repeatedly declared that he was the Son of God. At the age of twelve, he was found "in the temple" conversing with the "doctors." In answer to his mother's reproof, he said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49.)

At the baptism of Jesus by John, as also at the transfiguration of Jesus, a voice from heaven declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:17, 17:5.)

When Jesus was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, "Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

"She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son

of God, which should come into the world." (John 11:24-27.)

On another occasion, when Jesus stopped at Jacob's well, he asked a Samaritan woman to draw water for him, and, in the conversation that followed, the Samaritan woman said to Jesus, "I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

"Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he." (John 4:25-26.)

Then again:

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

"And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

"And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 16:13-17.)

On numerous occasions, he declared that he was the Christ, the Son of God.

Christ's power and miracles

Is it any wonder then that he, the Son of God, the great Creator, had power over the *elements* of this earth, even to violate the law of gravity by walking on the water?

I suppose it was quite simple for him, the Creator, when obligated to provide wine at the wedding feast to change the water to wine.

Nor was it a trick of the imagination when he fed five thousand plus the women and children with a few loaves and fishes, and on another occasion, four thousand plus the women and children. (See Matt. 14:16-21, 15:32-38.)

He also showed his power over the

elements when at his command to “be still,” the stormy sea was calmed. (Mark 4:39.)

He demonstrated his power over the *animal* kingdom; on two separate occasions, at his command, a great catch of fish was made when they had had no success before. (See Matt. 14:16-21, 15:32-38.)

He showed his power over the *vegetable* kingdom when he cursed the fig tree. (See Matt. 21:19.)

On each occasion, he was declared to be the Christ, the literal Son of God.

He healed all manner of illness or disease. At his command, the evil spirits departed, they, too, declaring who he was. He made the blind to see, the lame to walk. Yes, he even controlled life itself, for he restored Lazarus to life, who had been declared dead for four days. There were others, too.

Yes, “the earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof.” (1 Cor. 10:26.) He had dominion over all the kingdoms of the earth—in the earth, on the earth, and in the heaven above the earth.

A life of service

All he did was for others—his was a life of service. There was not one selfish act.

Approaching the finish of his mission here, he prayed to the Father: “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” (John 17:4-5.)

He took upon himself the sins of all who shall repent, and gave his life that all might live. He brought about the resurrection for all. Do you realize that the creation of this earth, and all the work of Jesus and the prophets since the very beginning, was for *you*—that you might have immortality and eternal life—just as much as for anyone else?

Repent

Finally, in preparation for the restoration of his kingdom on the earth, in these the last days, he said: “Therefore I command you to repent—repent, lest I smite you by the rod of my mouth, and by my wrath, and by my anger, and your sufferings be sore—how sore you know not, how exquisite you know not, yea, how hard to bear you know not.

“For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer *if they would repent*;

But if they would *not* repent they *must suffer even as I*;

“Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—

“Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men.

“Wherefore, I *command you again to repent*, lest I humble you with my almighty power.” (D&C 19:15-20; italics added.)

Testimony of Jesus Christ

Do you so think of him when partaking of the sacrament, and covenant to keep his commandments? To *know him is to keep* his commandments. Do you know him who was called Jesus?

Yes, this is he whom we worship. He is the Son of God; the Great Creator. He is our Savior and Redeemer. He is our advocate with the Father. It was he who made possible and brought about the universal resurrection. It was he, with his Father, who appeared to Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove.

And after a marvelous revelation given to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, they testified, “And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last

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Second Day

of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

"For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

"That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God." (D&C 76:22-24.)

I testify that God lives and that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that it was under his direction that the

gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored in this dispensation for the last time. I so testify to these truths in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Spencer W. Kimball

He to whom we have just listened is Elder Eldred G. Smith, Patriarch to the Church.

Elder William Grant Bangerter, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve, will now address us.

Elder William Grant Bangerter

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

My brethren and sisters, like many of you I was surprised after my marriage to discover the extent of my wife's relatives. Having come from an extensive family myself, it was nothing new to me to be surrounded by a large family. Nevertheless, as I became acquainted with the connections into which I had married, I had my eyes opened.

Extensive relationships

I served as a Regional Representative in Wyoming. Her parents grew up there and it seemed that everyone was her relative. The same thing was evident when I was transferred to southern Utah. Her family connections are everywhere. I find them in Texas and in Arizona. We even found them in Egypt and in Saudi Arabia when we visited there two months ago. I have found myself in constant competition to find relatives of my own. I don't know whether I should say this, but I've always laid a certain claim to fame from the fact that Sister LaVern Parmley, who was president of the Primary, was

my cousin. But you know, Sister Bangerter arranged to have her released. And then she had Sister Barbara Smith, who is *her* cousin, sustained as president of the Relief Society.

Several years ago while I was conversing with a man from southern California who was visiting for the first time in Salt Lake City, he commented that the members of this Church seem to be a unified people. He mentioned that this was foreign to his experience. Even though he was a member of a church in Los Angeles and attended regularly, he rarely did more than greet the man who sat behind him and speak "good morning" to the one in front. He said, "I have no close friends in a congregation of 1,200 people."

I responded that while I had been to Los Angeles only two or three times, I was sure that if I were to visit any one of the fifty or hundred congregations of our Church in that city, within twenty minutes I would find someone I knew or someone who was acquainted with friends of mine, or perhaps even a relative. If not that, certainly one of my wife's relatives.