

"A witness unto all nations"

If you as a couple meet the personal qualifications, don't wait to be asked. Go to your bishop. He is probably waiting for you. Humbly and prayerfully talk about your plans and desires, even though you may not be quite ready. He will counsel and guide you.

Study the scriptures daily, take care of your health, and start your own mission savings account, just as you have encouraged your children and grandchildren to do. You might even begin learning a second language.

Eternal justice requires that all of God's children have adequate opportunity to hear and receive the gospel message. Christ taught, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

Now, my dear friends, as we near the closing moments of this historic conference and receive counsel from our prophet, I add my witness of his divine calling to lead this church as God's holy prophet upon the earth today. We sustain and love him dearly. Our philosophy of life is in accord with divine purposes and, if followed in our actions, will lead us unerringly to eternal life. I leave you this witness and my blessings as you move forward to fulfill your commitments and to live the Lord's commandments. This work is true, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

President Ezra Taft Benson

My beloved brethren and sisters, my heart is full and my feelings tender as we conclude this great general conference of the Church.

We have been richly blessed as we have listened to the counsel and testimonies of those who have spoken to us.

As a special witness of Jesus Christ, and as His humble servant, it is now my obligation and privilege, as the Spirit dictates, to bear pure testimony and witness

President Hinckley

Elder David B. Haight has just spoken to us.

Before hearing President Benson's concluding remarks, we express our sincere appreciation to the Mormon Youth Chorus, the Salt Lake Tongan Choir, and the great Tabernacle Choir and to their conductors and organists for the beautiful and inspiring music during this conference.

We thank our city officials for the cooperation given. We thank the Relief Society and the Church Health Unit nurses who have been on hand to render service, and the ushers and interpreters.

We express our appreciation to local and national press representatives for the coverage of the conference and to the owners and operators of the many radio and television stations and cable systems who have given time and made facilities available to carry sessions of this conference in many countries. We should thank also the physicians who quietly and effectively are on hand here.

We shall now be pleased to listen to President Ezra Taft Benson, our beloved prophet, after which the Tabernacle Choir will sing "Testimony." The benediction will then be offered by Elder Devere Harris of the First Quorum of the Seventy. This great conference will then stand adjourned for six months.

to that which I know to be true (see Alma 4:19). This I will do.

Premortal existence

I testify that we are the spirit offspring of a loving God, our Heavenly Father (see Acts 17:29, 1 Nephi 17:36). He has a great plan of salvation whereby His children might be perfected as He is and might have a fulness of joy as He enjoys (see 1 Nephi 10:18; 2 Nephi 2:25; Alma 24:14, 34:9; 3 Nephi 12:48, 28:10).

I testify that in our premortal state our Elder Brother in the spirit, even Jesus Christ, became our foreordained Savior in the Father's plan of salvation (see Mosiah 4:6-7, Alma 34:9). He is the captain of our salvation and the only means through whom we can return to our Father in Heaven to gain that fulness of joy (see Hebrews 2:10, Mosiah 3:17, Alma 38:9).

I testify that Lucifer was also in the council of heaven. He sought to destroy the agency of man. He rebelled (see Moses 4:3). There was a war in heaven, and a third of the hosts were cast to the earth and denied a body (see Revelation 12:7-9, D&C 29:36-37). Lucifer is the enemy of all righteousness and seeks the misery of all mankind (see 2 Nephi 2:18, 27; Mosiah 4:14).

I testify that all those who come into mortality accepted our Father's plan (see Abraham 3:26). Having proved faithful in their first estate in heaven, they are now subject to the test of mortality in this second estate. That test entails doing all things whatsoever the Lord requires (see Abraham 3:25). Those who prove faithful in this second estate will have glory added upon their heads forever and ever (see Abraham 3:26).

God guides us

I testify that God reveals His will to all men through the Light of Christ (see Moroni 7:16, D&C 93:2, John 1:9). They receive the additional light of the gift of the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands by God's authorized servants following baptism (see Articles of Faith 1:4, D&C 20:41).

I testify that throughout the ages God has spoken to His children through His prophets (see Amos 3:7, Helaman 8:13-20). Only when His children rejected the prophets were the prophets taken out of their midst, and then tragedy followed (see 1 Nephi 3:17-18, 7:14; Helaman 13:24-27).

Jesus' birth, ministry, and sacrifice

I testify that Christ was born into mortality with Mary as His mother and

our Heavenly Father as His father (see 1 Nephi 11:18-21, Mosiah 3:8). He lived a sinless life, providing us a perfect example (see D&C 45:4; 3 Nephi 12:48, 27:27). He worked out the great Atonement, which, through His grace, provides for every soul a resurrection and, for the faithful, the means to become exalted in the celestial kingdom (see Articles of Faith 1:3; 2 Nephi 25:23; Mosiah 4:6-7; Alma 11:41-45; D&C 76:50-70, 132:19).

I testify that during His mortal ministry Christ established His church on the earth (see Matthew 16:18, Acts 2:47, 3 Nephi 21:22). He called and ordained men to be Apostles and prophets with authority so that what they bound on earth would be bound in heaven (see Matthew 16:19, John 15:16). They received revelation, which provided new scripture (see 2 Peter 1:20-21, D&C 68:4).

The Apostasy and Restoration

I testify that a world so wicked that it killed the Son of God soon began killing the Apostles and prophets and so plunged itself into a spiritual dark age (see 2 Thessalonians 2:2-7). Scripture ended, apostasy spread, and the church that Christ established during His earthly ministry ceased to exist (see 2 Nephi 27:4-5).

I testify that God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph Smith in the spring of 1820, thus bringing to an end the long night of apostasy (see Joseph Smith—History 1:15-20). To Joseph Smith appeared other beings, including John the Baptist and Peter, James, and John, who ordained him with authority to act in the name of God (see Joseph Smith—History 1:68-72, D&C 27:5-13). The church and kingdom of God was restored in these latter days, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with all the gifts, rights, powers, doctrines, officers, and blessings of the former-day Church (see D&C 65, 115:3-4).

The Book of Mormon

I testify that through the Book of Mormon God has provided for our day

tangible evidence that Jesus is the Christ and that Joseph Smith is His prophet (see D&C 20:8–33). This other testament of Jesus Christ is a scriptural account of the early inhabitants of America. It was translated by Joseph Smith through the gift and power of God (see D&C 135:3). Those who will read and ponder the Book of Mormon and ask our Eternal Father in the name of Christ if it is true may know for themselves of its truthfulness through the power of the Holy Ghost, provided they will ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ (see Moroni 10:3–5).

America

I testify that America is a choice land (see 2 Nephi 1:5). God raised up the founding fathers of the United States of America and established the inspired Constitution (see D&C 101:77–80). This was the required prologue for the restoration of the gospel (see 3 Nephi 21:4). America will be a blessed land unto the righteous forever and is the base from which God will continue to direct the worldwide latter-day operations of His kingdom (see 2 Nephi 1:7).

Living prophets

I testify that there have been, and there are now, and there will be legal successors to the Prophet Joseph Smith who hold the keys of the kingdom of God on earth, even the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (see D&C 21:1–7, 107:91–92, 112:15). He receives revelation from God to direct His kingdom. Associated with him are others who are prophets, seers, and revelators, even those who make up the presiding quorums of the Church, namely the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (see D&C 112:30).

Confrontations between good and evil

I testify that wickedness is rapidly expanding in every segment of our society (see D&C 1:14–16, 84:49–53). It is more highly organized, more cleverly

disguised, and more powerfully promoted than ever before. Secret combinations lust for power, gain, and glory are flourishing. A secret combination that seeks to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries is increasing its evil influence and control over America and the entire world (see Ether 8:18–25).

I testify that the church and kingdom of God is increasing in strength. Its numbers are growing, as is the faithfulness of its faithful members. It has never been better organized or equipped to perform its divine mission.

I testify that as the forces of evil increase under Lucifer's leadership and as the forces of good increase under the leadership of Jesus Christ, there will be growing battles between the two until the final confrontation. As the issues become clearer and more obvious, all mankind will eventually be required to align themselves either for the kingdom of God or for the kingdom of the devil. As these conflicts rage, either secretly or openly, the righteous will be tested. God's wrath will soon shake the nations of the earth and will be poured out on the wicked without measure (see Joseph Smith—History 1:45, D&C 1:9). But God will provide strength for the righteous and the means of escape; and eventually and finally truth will triumph (see 1 Nephi 22:15–23).

It is time

I testify that it is time for every man to set in order his own house both temporally and spiritually. It is time for the unbeliever to learn for himself that this work is true, that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the kingdom which Daniel prophesied God would set up in the latter days, never to be destroyed, a stone that would eventually fill the whole earth and stand forever (see Daniel 2:34–45, D&C 65:2). It is time for us, as members of the Church, to walk in all the ways of the Lord, to use our influence to make popular that which is sound and to make unpopular that which is unsound. We have the scriptures, the

prophets, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Now we need eyes that will see, ears that will hear, and hearts that will hearken to God's direction.

The cleansing and Judgment

I testify that not many years hence the earth will be cleansed (see D&C 76:41). Jesus the Christ will come again, this time in power and great glory to vanquish His foes and to rule and reign on the earth (see D&C 43:26-33). In due time all men will gain a resurrection and then will face the Master in a final judgment (see 2 Nephi 9:15, 41). God will give rewards to each according to the deeds done in the flesh (see Alma 5:15).

I testify to you that a fulness of joy can only come through the atonement of Jesus Christ and by obedience to all of the laws and ordinances of the gospel, which are found only in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (see Articles of Faith 1:3).

To all these things I humbly testify and bear my solemn witness that they are true, and I do so in the name of Him who is the head of this church, even Jesus Christ, amen.

The choir sang "Testimony."

Elder Devere Harris offered the benediction.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE MUSIC

The Mormon Youth Chorus, conducted by Robert C. Bowden, furnished the choral numbers for the Saturday morning session of the conference.

Music for the Saturday afternoon session was provided by the Salt Lake Tongan Choir, conducted by Sione T. Kinikini.

At the general priesthood session, music was furnished by a combined men's choir from the Tabernacle Choir and Mormon Youth Chorus. Jerold Ottley

and Robert C. Bowden conducted the combined choir.

The Tabernacle Choir, conducted by Jerold Ottley and Donald Ripplinger, provided music for the Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon sessions.

Throughout the conference sessions, prelude, postlude, and interlude music and accompaniments on the Tabernacle organ were played by Robert Cundick, John Longhurst, and Clay Christiansen, Tabernacle organists.

F. Michael Watson

Clerk of the conference