# Sermons of
# President Leroy S. Johnson

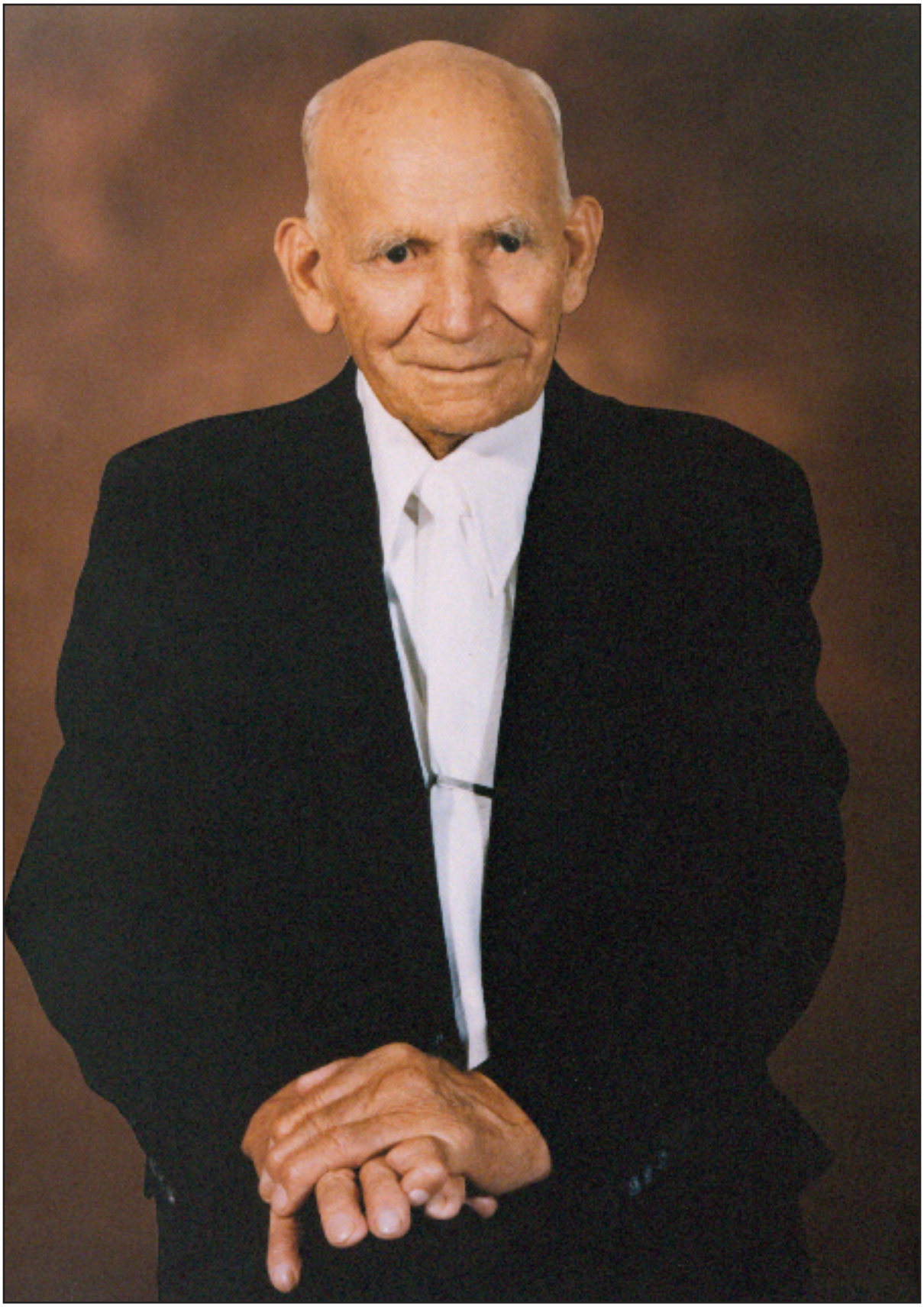
## Volume One

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Leroy S. Johnson

# Sermons of President Leroy S. Johnson
## Volume One
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EXCERPTS FROM A SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JOHN Y. BARLOW,
IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, AT LINCOLN STREET, DECEMBER 12, 1943

There have been many thoughts go through my mind in the last few moments. We are sorrowful of what has happened. The world is trying to stop us from keeping the commandments of God--from having eternal increase--the world is trying to, the Church is trying to. In other days when we have been persecuted, we have had the Church at our backs, but today we have only our God. He will see us through if we will get ourselves in order. If we would live right, we would be happy and free and be a most wonderfully blessed people, but on the other hand, if we do not live right, what a sorrow it will be to us. We find out that the servants of God have told us to do certain things and we failed to do them; then we didn't get the blessing.

Nothing less than eternal salvation will satisfy the immortal soul. We were put on this earth to live a Celestial law. If we fail to live these commandments, then we will be thrown back. How will we feel when we think that we might have gone on? It is this law that is going to exalt us.

We heard in our Sunday School class a short time ago the law that made us free. Everything is predicated upon law. If we live the law, we obtain the blessing. I have heard it said of men, "That is a good man." But what is he good for? Is he good enough to become a God? to go on into exaltation? Are we living the law that will take us there? It is time that we got down on our knees and asked our Heavenly Father to bless us. He is the best help there is.

I felt like I would like to say to the people here today, if we leave this world and haven't lived as we ought to, when we get on the other side, we have rejected our salvation. Where in the scriptures does the Lord say He will give us another chance? Woe unto those who have had the Gospel and rejected it.

Let us renew our faith, renew our thinking, get in and study and find out the truth and get the Spirit of God to stay with us, and when we know a thing is right and true, stand by it even though all hell should rage against us.

Brigham Young once said, “When I find a truth, let the heaven fall, let everything go, but I will stick to the truth.” That is the only thing that will lead us into exaltation.

Don’t forget our brothers who are now on trial and in trouble. Let us get down on our knees humbly and ask God to help us in all these things, I ask in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT JOHN Y. BARLOW, JULY 12, 1947, WIDTSOE, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I am glad to be here today. I am glad for the words that our brothers have given us.

What sort of people should we be? One of the servants of God said that there was a certain people going to come out of the Church, and they would be the nucleus of the great Millennium. That people would live all the laws of God. There would be two processes going on, one would draw those people out, the other would be the destroying of all those who rejected the Gospel. It was already started in a very small way at that time, but it would keep on and keep on until it affected the whole world. Now, we as a people have been, as you would say, cast out. Yes, in a way we have been cast out. It is our own faults. We cast ourselves out. They wouldn't let us live the fullness of the Gospel, and we want to live it.

I want to say a few words to you, brothers and sisters, about the men here that have been called. I know that these man have been called under the inspiration of God. I know that every one of them has been called as was Aaron. That being the case, have we got anything to say to them? Let me read just a little in the 132nd Section of the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Verses 59-60)

> "Verily, if a man be called of my Father, as was Aaron, by mine own voice, and by the voice of him that sent me, and I have endowed him with the keys of the power of the Priesthood, if he do anything in my name, and according to my law, and by my word, he will not commit sin, and I will justify him.
>
> Let no one, therefore, set on my servant Joseph; for I will justify him; for he shall do the sacrifice which I require at his hands, for his transgressions saith the Lord your God."

The Lord took him out of the hands of the people, and he has got to do the sacrifice of God himself. That is what the Lord says about this. But what do we hear today? We hear a man get up here and say he is giving constructive criticism. Why, I have got so

tired hearing them talk about constructive criticism. Do you realize that Lucifer used constructive criticism on God? What was the result? It was not for lying, stealing, immorality, etc., but for that very thing that Lucifer was cast out of heaven. Brothers and sisters, we have a lot of that. We have it over there (Short Creek) practically every morning. In our Priesthood meetings men get up and tell us we ought to do things this way and that way instead of the way we are doing. As President Taylor said, "I would gladly take your advice if you had the right to give the advice, but if you haven't the right, why should I take it? If it is counsel and it is good, I would take it from a child." A short time ago, one of my little boys asked my wife, "Who sent the brethren to prison?" She said, "The judge did." He said, "Mama, isn't God greater than the judge?" There was a lesson to me--isn't God greater than the judge? He sure is greater than any judge, but why is He doing this? He is doing it either to try us or because we deserve it.

The Prophet Joseph sometimes would put up a black-leg to try the people, to see if they knew the difference between a servant of God and a black-leg. Brothers and sisters, if we have the Spirit of God and can keep it, we know in a minute whether a man is speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit of God or under the inspiration of enthusiasm. We have lots of men here, and yet at the same time we have got to be careful. We must not condemn a man. I will tell you a little story that came to me about Abraham:

> There was an old man came to Abraham's home to stay all night. When the time came for prayers, that old man refused to kneel down. Abraham told him to get out if he wouldn't pray with him. After the old man had gone, the Lord came to Abraham and said, "Where is that man?" Abraham said, "I told him to go because he wouldn't pray with me." God said, "I have put up with that man for seventy-five years now, couldn't you put up with him for one night?"

We have got to be careful, I often think of the song, "Speak Gently of the Erring One." There are so many things coming up today. The Church is against us. The state is against us. The government is against us. We can't expect anything else. It is a great deal

like in the mission field. I was in a debate with a minister. He proved that this nation wouldn't accept us at all. They cast B. H. Roberts out of the Senate, but they would accept heathens and all the other churches. When I got up, I said I wanted to thank the gentleman that he had proven very conclusively that we weren't of the world. Of course, they wouldn't accept us. They would accept the heathens and all the other churches--everybody except us. Today they allow ministers of different organizations to come into the Church and lecture to the people, and God has told Joseph Smith that they worship idols. We are told in the very first communication of God to Joseph Smith that they were an abomination in His sight, and they preach for doctrine the commandments of men. Today the Church takes them in their arms. At the same time, they will cast men out that are living the fullness of the Gospel. The adversary is very cunning. He knows very well if we don't live the fullness of the Gospel, we cannot go on to our exaltation. For the Lord has said, "If you live all these laws and reject one of them, you have failed."

The prophets have told us that the United Order and Plural Marriage are the fullness of the Gospel. Do we believe them? No, we do not. That is what is the matter with a good many of these people. They say they believe, but they do not. That makes them liars, and the truth isn't in them. If the cap fits you, I want you to wear it. If not, it is all right.

The Lord has said in very plain words that you must have a testimony. The main thing here is that they don't believe in the Priesthood. Some men say, "We believe you are all right to seal us, but that is as far as you go. You have no right to administer in temporal things." It is like a man building a house and starting at the roof first. He will have hard work to keep it off the ground; it is liable to come down on him. I want to tell you that these men who have been called have got that authority, and they are called of God. And any man you hear talking and saying anything against those men, walk up to him and say, "Brother, do you know you are talking about the Lord's anointed? You better be careful, for the Lord surely will take such men in hand."

I want to tell you one thing. We have got what the rest haven't got. God has given us the true plan, and He has given us the right to go on and have eternal increase. It is up to us whether we do or whether we don't. If we believe it and live up to it, we will get the blessing of it. But if we don't, we will get the cursings of it.

We are having quite a hard time getting along at present, but that will clear up. We can't expect to live the United Order all at once. "We know in part; we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." As President Taylor said, "Let us do the best we can with the ways the people have been trained and taught, and in time we will be able to live the fullness of the United Order. We are not prepared to live it now, but let us go on and on till we are." That is the way we learn the Gospel--step by step. We never will be able to jump right into the fullness of God's laws until we get prepared for them.

I ask God to bless you all and give you of His Spirit that you might know of these things, and I do it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JOHN Y. BARLOW, AUGUST 31, 1947,
WIDTSOE, UTAH
AT SUNDAY SCHOOL HELD AT THE RANCH OF ELDER NEWEL STEED

Church History, what is it? What church are we talking about? The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? You want to know for sure what church we belong to. Do you folks here belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? There was a church organized in New York--the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Later on, a Church of the First Born was organized in Kirtland, Ohio. President Young, President Kimball and a great many of them belonged to that Church, and it has worked here on earth. It was organized after the pattern that was organized in the heavens before we came here. It wasn't a church to hold a corporation, to hold things of that kind, to hold property and things, but it was a Church of the First Born.

How many of us here today belong to the Church of the First Born? Do you ever stop to think of that? When we talk of history of the Church, we want to get down to the real essence of it and find out what it is. Every man that fulfills his calling, if he doesn't belong to that Church, will belong to it someday if he magnifies his calling as he should; the Priesthood will give him the honor of being a member of the Church of the First Born. It is just as necessary for a man that is an elder to magnify his calling, or a deacon to magnify his calling as it is for an apostle. Paul likens the organization unto the body of a man to show what a perfect organization it should be. Any member that is not there leaves a schism in the body. If we take the Seventies out, we cut off an arm. We cannot take the lesser ones out because the legs and feet are just as necessary as the head, because the head can't move without the feet. All things belonging to the Kingdom or the Church must be there.

I don't know how many of you had the TRUTH last month. How many of you carefully read it and saw the difference between the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Church of the First Born? There is going to be a wide difference. That is why Joseph Fielding Smith said that there had been many people that

belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that didn't belong to the Church of the First Born. Brothers and sisters, keep on and work until we get where we belong--to the Church of the First Born. I hope that we will, someday, all of us, belong to that Church.

(Uncle John asked Brother Newel Steed) Are you having the Sacrament here? I can't see any reason why a bunch of people like you who are trying to live the laws of God cannot have the Sacrament every Sunday. I say, have the Sacrament, and I am sure it will help you. Keep on as you are doing now. We are having a time down there in Short Creek right now. I don't know hardly how it will come out. Yes, I do know. Some will leave, some have already left, some will stay and go on, others will leave. We have got some right good men down there. We have all of the Brother Jessops that are solid, all of the Brother Johnsons that are solid. We have got the young men, and you can depend on nearly every one of them. There is hardly any of the young men but what you can depend on. Some of the older ones got on the rampage again yesterday.

My brothers and sisters, my hands are tied; they are tied right now, but if I could get out like I used to, I don't think we would have any trouble. If we can't raise crops, let us raise houses. If we can do that, we can build some good houses down there. President Young said, "I have built a number of houses and I never had five dollars in my life to start with; I have built houses worth five thousand dollars." I saw his houses in Kirtland, in Nauvoo, etc. He was driven out of them. We, as a people, cannot expect the blessings of God without going through the trials. We have got to go through the trials. Sacrifices bring forth the blessings. If we can't do these things, we can't get the blessings either.

We all understand and know that when the Edmunds Law came out it was in opposition to the laws of God so it made every man, woman, and child in the Church a defier of the law--some defied the laws of the land and others defied the laws of God. If you defy the laws of

the land, you will go to jail, but if you defy the laws of God--in the Celestial Kingdom there are three heavens or degrees and in order to obtain the highest you must live that law--you may enter into the other, but that is the end of your kingdom, you cannot have an increase. When we get as high as we can get, ceasing to go up, we have got to go down, we can't stand still. Those who deny the laws of God start to go back. If that is an end of their kingdom, they are through advancing. Where do they go? We are told by President Young that they go into oblivion, to dissolution. We go back to our native element from whence we were taken.

You can't destroy anything. You can change it, but you can't destroy it. It all goes back into native element. You take your forests here, the trees will grow on to a certain time when they quit growing, and you will find them starting to go back. Pretty quick they decay; then you see nothing. It has all gone back into native element. That is the way we will be. We may come forth again in trillions of years. It may be that long before that dust is awakened again. The intelligence we had is still there, but that part which was created and made, such as our spiritual bodies and temporal bodies must go back into native element. The intelligences will go back where they started from. Whether we lose what we have learned or not is just a question. What light and knowledge we learn in this life, we will always have. Then that makes us wonder if this is the first time we have tried it, if some spirits are more intelligent than others. Abraham was shown the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these, there were many of the noble and great ones, he said. Where did they get it? You take all through life, there are some intelligences greater than others. Why? It is very evident. If we went right now and there were a bunch of Indians out here, we might just as well shut up. The intelligence isn't there. When they are taught and brought around, they may understand us. Whenever the Lord speaks to a people, He has to come down to their level to get them to understand anything. If we talk to Indians, we have to go down to their level.

Now, we heard today about Elijah. I believe that is in Church History. When the Kirtland Temple was dedicated, who came? Elias came and gave his dispensation. Who is Elias? I will tell you. Elias is Noah. Noah came down and gave his dispensation, then Moses came and gave them the dispensation of the gathering. This people here can thank the Lord that Moses came because it is through Moses that we have the power and authority to go forth and preach the Gospel to the nations of the earth and bring them here. Then, a little further on, a great and glorious vision burst upon Joseph--Elijah came and gave them the sealing blessing, gave them the power to seal men on earth.

Now for Elijah. What do we understand by Elijah? If you have the power and authority of Elijah, there isn't a thing in the Melchizedek Priesthood that can't be done. All the keys are included in the power and authority of Elijah. Read on page 338 in the sayings of Joseph Smith and see. Now what did he say? Joseph, in speaking, said, "Let us take a case. Here is old Brother Cutler. Suppose he was given the authority and told, "Whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth is loosed in heaven." That is the way we are carried on to our exaltation. Everyone of us that gains our exaltation gains it through covenants. And if we break those covenants, we go down; if we live those covenants, we are exalted.

We spoke of Elijah. He came and gave Joseph Smith that authority of the sealing power. After Elijah had come and given that authority--he was the last prophet that lived who held all the keys--and after he had come here and delivered those keys to us, then we were able to go ahead and perform these things.

I just thought, sitting here today, I am quite proud--maybe I hadn't ought to say this--but I am proud of the way you people have been carrying on. I can't see one better reason why a people would come out from the heart's core of the Church than to live all the laws of God. You came out, everyone of you; it was hard work. I know how church-bound I was. I didn't understand or know then, but

after seeing these things, He says it very plain in the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants that the time would come when they would change the ordinances and break the everlasting covenants. He said we would come from among them. How are we going to stay out? How many of you today know where the Priesthood is? Some people get down upon their knees and find out, and they know where the Priesthood is, and you can't fool them. Others will say, I don't know about this and that, and almost invariably, you will see them go backwards. We want to get a thorough understanding of these things. Someday you will read about some that have come out from among the people. You will read of such things again before you get through, and we are keeping a history of it. I hope we are keeping minutes here of everything that goes on. Sooner or later, they will be called in.

What is going to become of us? Do you mean to tell me that my parents are all wrong? No, I don't mean to tell you anything about it. A Methodist said, "Do you mean to say that my father is wrong? Why, he is a good man. My parents are good people." Yes, they sure are, and so were Cain's. His Father was, at least. Here is the thing--there is a law on which every blessing is predicated, and when we get the blessing, it is by obedience to that law. How can God give us that blessing without obedience to the law? If we didn't have to obey, God wouldn't be God. We will admit there are hundreds of good men, thousands of them in the Church. Our parents and grandparents and relations, we feel for them; they think we have all apostatized and gone. When my folks joined the Church in England, people just thought they had gone to the bad. They came out here. I have met hundreds of people in the world that have said, "I don't know what we will do, some of our children believe in Mormonism."

President Young said, "I invite you to take excursions. I will take excursions, but I am not going to take all my wives. I remember one fellow came and told me that I had twenty wives. I said, "That is fine, but I don't know them, I wish you would name them." President Young said when the brethren talked about him in Texas, "You go back and tell the Texas people that when I get on the other

side, I expect to have thousands of wives." Maybe he will if he has kingdoms enough, but today I don't know about taking these thousands of wives. Probably your hair would go grayer than mine is now; you can't tell. Thank the Lord I am what President Young said, anyway. He said that if you have your hair left on your head, you can consider that you have some blessed good wives. I haven't lost my hair. I think some of the brethren are getting quite a ways back, though.

Well, let me tell you brethren, this thing is true. It isn't to be monkeyed with either. When the adversary saw that we started to live the two laws, then he started to work. He didn't care if we just lived one law. Why? Though you keep all the laws and offend in one, then you are guilty of the whole. If you have something you have got to be punished for, you can't get into the Celestial Kingdom. I have heard women say, "When I get on the other side, I don't want to have to live with that man," etc. If ever you have a man that is worthy of the Celestial Kingdom of God, you will be mighty glad to have him, for when we get on the other side, we are told, if you will read Parley P. Pratt and others, they won't be old and crabby and crippled up, but they will be in their full bloom of life. They will be young and fresh. That is what the resurrection is going to do. We are going to have this body renewed. We want to thank the Lord that we have got a good, healthy body, and thank the Lord that we have good honorable parents, that the disease that is in the world today isn't in our bodies. This is all Church History.

We can go ahead and study the Church History and see what happens here and there, but what we want to know is what is going to happen to us. Like I told Brother Darter when he was telling me about the white Indian prophet, I said, "How close does that get you to the Celestial Kingdom of God?" If we are living a law that will put us in the Celestial Kingdom of God, that is what we are after. Be perfect in our sphere. We can be as perfect in our sphere as God is in His sphere. He says, "Be ye perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect."

Brothers and sisters, I love to see people united. I love the people that are united, and would to God that I could get out and talk to you more than I do. But everything I say down there is taken right up to the probation officer. There isn't anything that they don't hear about. Last time I went up there, he said, "I understand that Esther had a baby." I said, "What of that?" He said, "You broke your parole." I said, "How did I break my parole? Didn't you hear the Board of Pardons say, 'Go down and take care of your wives and children.'? Would you call it taking care of them by just giving them something to eat? Then how have I broke my parole?" I never denied it or confirmed it. I know this law is true and these other laws are true. If we live them, we will get the blessing, and if we don't, we won't get the blessing. God will bless us when we bless ourselves. God helps those who help themselves. If we want help from God, we do it ourselves. We grow in knowledge, faith, and understanding only as we apply for it. Very few there will be that will be virtuous, honest and straight forward in all things, but those few will hold the Priesthood and will be the few that will be saved. Godliness must be acquired; it won't be forced on us. You must get it yourselves.

I hope you just keep on the way you are going. I will say again that you can start in anytime, and I would like you to do it all the time, as long as the people are doing right like they are doing here, they deserve the Sacrament, and it will help you.

God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 22, 1952, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I trust that the few moments I speak this afternoon the Spirit of God will rest upon me that I might be able to say something that will tend to build up your faith. Those who have been called to lead us at this time have been trying to get us to call our families around us and teach them the principles of the Gospel. I find what has been said to us this afternoon is true in some respects regarding our children. Some of us are allowing our children to grow up in ignorance of the first principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We fail to teach them what the Gospel is. We fail to teach them what faith is, what repentance is, the reason for baptism. They look forward to being baptized because of the experience more than the knowledge of what it means to them. One of the greatest responsibilities that has ever been put upon a people is to teach their children correct principles. There are some of our older people, boys and girls, who cannot give a reason for the faith that is in them. They believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They believe that the fullness of the Gospel is true and that we live and obey it, but that is as far as they can explain these principles. We have been trying to get literature in the hands of your children. We bring in books, buy the best we know how to buy, for the building up of the faith of the young and rising generation, and it is the duty of every father and mother to call their children around them and sit down and teach them the principles of salvation.

We are asked sometimes what it is that we believe in? Why do we isolate ourselves from the rest of the world and claim to be above those who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? For some reason or another, they think we are starting a new church and are trying to build up something that hasn’t been given to the people before, that we are trying to advance new ideas and to bring honor upon ourselves for advancing something new in the world, but we are only contending, my brothers and sisters, for the faith that was once delivered to the Saints.

> "We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost."

Is that something different than what the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believes? If it is, wherein is it different? That is one of the beliefs of this people. We believe that Christ came to this earth and established His Kingdom, suffered persecution, and was crucified upon the cross for the sins of the world.

> "We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgressions."

Is that anything different from the Article of Faith given to the Latter-day Saints? If it is, wherein is it different? We believe that every man, as has been told you this afternoon, will have to have a testimony of his own, and he will have to answer for the sins he commits. I can't answer for them, for him; neither can you for someone else.

> "We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel."

Another article of our faith. Is it different from the Articles of Faith given to the Latter-day Saints, or believed in by those who profess to believe in Joseph Smith and his mission here upon this earth? If it is, wherein is it different? Take these Articles of Faith one by one, my dear brothers and sisters, and analyze them and lay them before those who believe they are the followers of the Prophet Joseph, and see wherein we differ from them.

There is only one thing in which we differ from those who profess to be Latter-day Saints today, and that is in the living of the higher principles of the Gospel as they were revealed to the Prophet Joseph and given to him. Because they conflict with the laws of the land seemingly, they have been abandoned and laid on the shelf. Because we contend that they are as true today as they were the day they were given to the Prophet Joseph, we are condemned,

and they say we are trying to establish something new and advance new ideas in the earth.

There is a great responsibility upon this people. A greater responsibility than is upon any other people upon the earth today. Why? Because we have taken upon us a responsibility that is greater than any other people have taken upon themselves. The Lord expects more of you and of me than He does of any other people. For that reason, my dear brothers and sisters, we should gather our children around us and teach them correct principles, teach them the principle of salvation that the Spirit of God may be pleased in our homes. The Spirit of God cannot be pleased there if we are letting our children grow up in ignorance. The glory of God is intelligence, and no people can grow up in ignorance and say that they have the Spirit of God with them. Uncle John pleaded with us time after time to get the Spirit of God and keep it. How can you get the Spirit of God in your homes and keep it there if you do not teach your children how to honor their father and their mother and those who are over them in the Priesthood or those who have been called to lead them in any Church capacity?

> "We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are; first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
>
> We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands, by those who are in authority to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.
>
> We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, viz., apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangalists, etc.
>
> We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion will be built upon this (the American) continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.

We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul--We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things."

These are the articles of our faith. They are the same articles of faith that all Latter-day Saints believe in. We don't claim we have added anything to them, except that we believe that when we say we believe Jesus is the Christ, we believe every principle He has revealed to man upon the earth, and we believe He expects us to live and obey them.

These are some of the things that have been weighing upon our minds. We have been asked for many years now to get the Spirit of God in our homes and keep it there. I know unless we teach our children correct principles we cannot do it--we cannot have the Spirit of God in our homes. We will have less trouble with our children in other lines if we can get them to believe and to understand the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel. I dare say, my brothers and sisters, if we will commence now, if every family here will commence to gather their children around them, and when they begin to get old enough to learn to recite or store up knowledge, to begin to teach them these things, teach them the Articles of Faith and have every member of our families memorize them, we will begin to get the Spirit of God in our homes.

I pray that the spirit of peace will continue to be with us, that we will strive harder to get that Spirit with us and keep it, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 19, 1968, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here and enjoying this beautiful day. It is a beautiful day in which we live; yet, it is a fearful day. It is fearful because we know that God is pouring out His judgments upon those who have rejected the testimony of Jesus. They have a form of godliness but they deny the power thereof. This has been the case for many generations, especially upon this land--this goodly land which the Lord promised to the faithful for their inheritance, where He has said time and again that those who possess this land shall be a God-fearing people and a people that will serve the God of the land. This earth belongs to the Lord, and all that is in it belongs to Him. When He places a portion of it in our hands, we should regard it as a sacred possession and do all that we can to sanctify it and make it produce in its strength, and this, the Lord can do.

A man may be called to till a part of this earth, but unless he is connected with the people of God and believes that Joseph Smith was a prophet and that this work has continued from that day to this, unless he takes the Lord into his confidence and makes Him his friend, he is in a precarious situation because the Lord can take away from us that which we seem to have and discomfort us. And if we are not careful, we will complain about His taking away from us that which we had in our hands. But, on the other hand, if we will take Him into our confidence and be earnest in our efforts to make the earth produce, it will produce for us. That goes for every enterprise that we undertake to do. Unless we make the Lord our friend, we are riding a mighty shaky ship.

So let us take to heart the counsel that the Lord gives to us from time to time and let us hasten to prepare ourselves against that day when the Lord is pouring out His judgments upon those who have forgotten Him. For He has uttered great curses upon the ungodly, and we must first become godly in order to become ungodly.

These are the instructions that were given to us as far back in this work as I can remember. I remember Brother Barlow giving it to us time and again. He said, “In order to become ungodly, we must first become godly.” And in this particular day in which we live, the Lord came in person and visited a witness upon the land and commanded him to go forth and bear that testimony; and all who would believe his testimony would be saved, and those who would not would be damned. This nation has rejected the testimony of the elders. A few have said they believed and have been baptized, but when the fullness of the Gospel reaches their ears, they don’t know what it is.

So we are a blessed people. We are blessed to have the privilege in this day of having the testimony of Joseph explained to us by men who hold the authority to do so, men who have been called of God in this day to lay before the believing members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints the principles of salvation, that they might do something about saving their souls and helping to bring about the words of the Savior when He laid His hands upon the Prophet Joseph Smith and said, “This Gospel of the Kingdom shall not be taken away nor given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.”

This is what we are trying to keep alive--a Gospel of repentance, a Gospel of preparation, that all men may see our good works and want to flow to it. I thought I would like to read just a little of Section 104, to show you how sacred the things that we are dabbling in are to the Lord. We should study these words we are about to read here. The Lord gave a former commandment, He says, regarding the United Order. And this revelation was given April 23, 1834. If you remember, 1831 was when the first revelation was given to the Prophet on the people living the United Order. A year later He placed the whole Church under condemnation because they treated lightly the things they had received.

(D & C Section 104:1-6)

> “Verily I say unto you, my friends, I give unto you counsel and a commandment, concerning all the properties

> which belong to the order which I commanded to be organized and established, to be a united order, and an everlasting order for the benefit of my church, and for the salvation of men until I come--
>
> With promise immutable and unchangeable, that inasmuch as those whom I commanded were faithful they should be blessed with a multiplicity of blessings;
>
> But inasmuch as they were not faithful they were nigh unto cursing.
>
> Therefore, inasmuch as some of my servants have not kept the commandment, but have broken the covenant through covetousness, and with feigned words, I have cursed them with a very sore and grievous curse.
>
> For I, the Lord, have decreed in my heart, that inasmuch as any man belonging to the order shall be found a transgressor, or, in other words, shall break the covenant with which ye are bound, he shall be cursed in his life, and shall be trodden down by whom I will;
>
> For I, the Lord, am not to be mocked in these things."

The thing I would like to see most is this people bringing themselves out from under this condition that the Lord placed upon the whole Church, although there were a few among them that were living according to the commandment which He had given. But there were those among us who were continually saying that they belonged to the order, but they had broken their covenants. We have had this all the way along. It has been the downfall of every venture that the Priesthood has made to try to establish the United Order. We have had people come in among us and work their way in as believers. They have found confidence with their leaders and then broken their confidence. It has caused the Order to be dissolved in almost every instance.

Let us see to it, brothers and sisters, that we stay faithful and true to the covenants we have made; and that we do not let

anybody come in to our lives and persuade us against that testimony which the Lord has given us that this Priesthood is proper, and that we are trying to do the will of God. Let us step up to our post and be faithful and true to the covenants that we have made, not only between ourselves, but with our God. Let us go to and dedicate all that we have and are to the building up and establishing of the Kingdom of God. And let us live according to the testimony that we have.

Now, I pray the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will hasten to prepare ourselves against this great day in which we live, for we are going to see great things and trying circumstances. And unless we have the Lord on our side and we take Him into our confidence and give Him a chance to bless us, we are skating on thin ice.

May God bless us all that we might catch the vision and live according to the teachings we have received, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

EXCERPTS FROM A SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON,
IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, AT LINCOLN STREET, DECEMBER 12, 1943

My brothers and sisters, I can say that I am pleased to be here again today. I am glad to have the opportunity of coming here once in a while and visiting with you people. There have been many reflections go through my mind today, and sometimes I wonder just how I stand before the Lord. I have been trying to live the best that I know how and conform my life to the teachings the Lord has given us. Yet, when I look around and see the things that I have done and the mistakes I make, it makes me wonder whether I am making any headway or not.

We come to these meetings and hear the sermons that are preached. The brethren plead with us to do better and live so that the Lord can work with us; and then we go out and go about our everyday labors, and we forget most of the things that we have heard. They don't enter our minds any more until the next meeting. I catch myself, every once in a while, going along giving no thought to what I am doing other than the work that I am performing. Then I stop and think whether I am doing the right thing or not.

The Lord said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness and all these other things will be added to you." That is a wonderful truth. If we would put it to the test, we would find our lives would be more happy. At times we feel like we are in the company of the angels. If we could only keep that thought in our minds in our daily labors--the thought of serving God and keeping His commandments. When we arise in the mornings, while our family is around us, ask the Lord for His blessings during the day. Don't forget to thank Him for the food we eat and the clothes we wear. Teach our children to pray. That is one thing we don't do enough of--praying.

Brother Brigham Young, in talking upon this subject one time, said that when he didn't feel like praying, he would labor with himself first, get this man to pray even if he didn't feel like getting on his knees. Get one knee down and keep it there until you have both knees down. Then pour out your soul to the Lord. Learn to pray. I find that it helps. It helps to give us that light feeling

during our work and during the day. Pray for the things that we want. If we are in the line of our duty, we want the things that will exalt us. Uncle John has told us, time and again, to get the Spirit of God and keep it. There is no other way to get the Spirit of God and keep it but through prayer.

We who hold the Priesthood have the right to bless our families. In cases of sickness, we have the right to lay our hands upon their heads and bless them. We have seen much good done through this practice. We have seen our children healed and our neighbors' children healed. When we have sealed the anointing upon their heads, the Lord has healed them up. But we must learn to give the credit to the Lord. The Lord has said that if there is any sick among you, let them call in the elders.

The Gospel is true, and we are living in a time when we must humble ourselves if we expect to escape the judgments of God. We have been told that this people will barely escape the judgments of the Lord.

May God bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## BENEDICTION BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DATE UNKNOWN

Our Father, who art in Heaven, we approach thee at the close of these services with thankfulness in our hearts for the blessings which Thou hast offered to us. We are grateful for the life and labors of our elder brother, Jesus Christ, and for the Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr., who came to the earth and established Thy Kingdom in the latter days under Thy direction. Now, we pray, Father, that you would convey our thanks and gratitude for the blessings that they have offered to the human family, all who would remember His name and keep His commandments. We are grateful for all these blessings that Thou hast placed upon us and offered to us in these the latter days.

We are grateful for the testimony you have given us, each and all of us and ask you to strengthen our testimonies from day to day that we might be able to withstand the temptations that come to us, that we might be able to work out our salvation in fear and trembling before thee. We pray that you will hasten the day when Thy Kingdom shall rise in the earth, and that all things may be done according to Thy will.

We are grateful for those who have gathered around Thy Priesthood and ask you to bless them with determination to serve you and keep your commandments and to clean up their lives so that you can have timber to work with when you send the One Mighty and Strong to set in order your house.

Now, we dedicate ourselves into your hands, and ask you to forgive us of our sins and short-comings and help us to overcome them. These and all other blessings we pray for in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 17, 1950,
RELIEF SOCIETY PROGRAM - SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, this is a privilege to occupy this position tonight. I am thankful for it. This little play that has just been presented before us is a picture of what has transpired and what will transpire. This Gospel is spreading. This work will roll faster than it ever has, from now on. We may see more persecution, but out of the persecution we receive, we will see greater and nobler spirits come out of it. Truly the words of Brother Kimball ring in our ears when he said, “Every time they try to pull us down, they kick us up hill--we grow bigger.”

For many years it seems as though we have been undercover. We have had to go undercover; but through persecution, our names and works have come out publicly--not only in this nation but other nations. Wherever we go, people know us. All they need to do is hear our name and they know all about us. So we are known far and wide, and from now on we will be known more, and our good works will carry us through.

There is one thing we must keep in mind, my brothers and sisters, and that is this: We must not be boastful in our doings, in our actions. We must step up to the line, take our place there and be firm and be humble and prayerful, get the Spirit of God around us and keep it.

There is no power on earth that can stop the rolling forth of this work. Not only this body of people, but there are other bodies who assemble themselves together under just such circumstances as we are gathered tonight, not only in this nation, but other nations. We will see the spreading of this work in which we are engaged--spreading the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. People are seeking for it. Young men and young women want to know about it. I want to tell you we little realize this work. Our enemies may be allowed to come in upon us and disturb our peace, but it won’t be for long. And if we are humble and prayerful, if we can get the Spirit of God among us, they won’t be permitted to molest us.

I am thankful for the work of these good women. I am thankful for the faith that has been exhibited among this people.

Keep it up, brothers and sisters, and the Lord will bless us. There has never been a time in the history of the Church when the Lord has allowed those who are keeping His commandments to starve to death or go without clothes to wear. He will not let this people down if we will remember Him. He has told us time and again that He will forgive us as many times as we will repent and show by our works that we have repented.

There is only one avenue of safety under the present conditions of the world today, and that is to keep the commandments of God. That is the message I want to leave with you tonight. Be humble and prayerful, seek God in humility, and exercise your faith, that when the trials that have been told would come upon this nation--when other nations come, they will pass by us. It is the only avenue of safety. God bless you, amen.

FROM REMARKS BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 30, 1950, SUNDAY SCHOOL, IN SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

Pray unceasingly. I find if I don’t call upon the Lord more than once or twice during the day, the Spirit of God leaves me. I have got to call upon Him hourly if I want to keep His Spirit around me. We have been told time and time again to get God’s Spirit and keep it or we will never know His servants--or we will never learn how to serve God and keep His commandments. Call upon God often in your work. If it is our job to plant seed in the ground, we should never drop a seed in the ground until we ask the blessings of God upon it--or any other work. It is a serious situation, more serious than people realize. I have found by experience that if I want the blessings of the Lord, I have got to petition for them.

Joseph Smith would never have received revelation if he hadn’t got down on his knees and asked for it. I don’t care how simple your work is, you will find you will do it better if you ask God to help you. It isn’t hard to call upon Him. He was once a man like us. He knows our thoughts and actions. We can call upon Him in the simplest language if we are humble about it. It is the only way this people will ever succeed--be humble in our work. Before we go to lay a log for the foundation of a house, we should go to God to invoke His blessings upon us.

* * *

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 2, 1951, CONFERENCE AT SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

I feel like we have come to the end of a perfect day, my dear brothers and sisters, and have been fed the fruits of life. We have just listened to a sermon that beats anything that has been spoken since the surrender of the Priesthood to the government of the United States, as Brother Guy has told us. (See TRUTH, Vol. 17, p. 325) Never before has a greater discourse from the heavens been transmitted to a people. A tape recording has been made, and if you don't quite agree with what I say, listen to it again and analyze it. You will find there every truth that is needed for the salvation of your souls and mine.

I don't feel to say very much this evening, only to encourage you to go on and live so that you can face your Maker and say that you have done the best you could. Those are great words because it is within the power of man to overcome evil and to place himself in a position where he can stand pure in the sight of God.

Whatever you do, don't give way to complaining. Whatever your situation is, do not complain of it, or against those with whom you have to live. Cease to complain against the servants of God, especially, that you might overcome one of the evils that keeps you from getting the Spirit of God and keeping it.

Now, I pray that God will bless you and instill into your hearts a firmer determination to serve Him and keep His commandments until we call another Conference. This, I deem, has been the greatest day in your lives of instruction from the heavens, because you have received nothing but truth. If you will put into practice the things that you have heard, you can get the Spirit of God and keep it. God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 10, 1952, SUNDAY IN SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

It is pleasing to us, my brothers and sisters, to see so many out in this meeting. The building is pretty well filled. This is also pleasing unto the Lord because it proves to Him that we are interested in His work. I pray that the few words that I might say this afternoon may be dictated by His Holy Spirit, for I want to say nothing that will displease the Spirit of God or in any way bring distress to the minds of this people. The Lord is very mindful of us because of the degree of peace that we enjoy after having some little noise of persecution come to us. We are thankful that the Lord has over-ruled thus far and given us another week of peace. It has been three weeks since I was privileged to stand before you. And since that time we have had some experience at seeing the action of the Holy Spirit resting upon those who would bring persecution upon us if they could.

We had the privilege of attending the trial in Mesa of the six Dutson women. And we are pleased to note the turn of affairs in that trial. Bishop Davis, the complaining witness, the one who hoped to bring these good women before the courts and commit them to jail, was very much disappointed in that the court wouldn’t accept his testimony. The people of the state of Arizona are taking upon themselves a great responsibility when they undertake to prosecute the servants of God, especially those who are striving in their weakness to keep the commandments of God and who love and obey His law.

I never had the privilege before of meeting with Brother Dutson, but my impression of him when I saw him and shook his hand was that he has the spirit of the Gospel at heart. And what little testimony was given in the court bore out that conviction. He is a man that has tried to provide for his family, and he has been very successful. The Lord has blessed him wonderfully. He has two wonderful homes in Mesa. The Lord must have blessed him pretty well or he wouldn’t be able to take care of the family he has. He has upwards of twenty children, and they are well cared for and getting a pretty good education. Above all, they are respected among their

associates. The children all bore testimony that in the schools where they were going (the next morning after their mothers were arrested)--their school-mates wanted to know if they were any relation to them. When they told them they were their mothers, they very deeply sympathized with them and respected them, and in no case was there any sign of ridicule because of the great esteem that people have for the children and for those people. The witnesses they called upon the stand and tried to testify as to the immoral conduct of that family all bore testimony that they saw nothing that was out of the way or that was shocking to them. They all testified that they were good people. So, we can see what the Lord can do for us if we are in the line of our duty, if we are doing the best we can.

We can say the same relative to this people in this place. It is true that some of us have had to go to the penitentiary in the past for the testimony that we bore, but I want to testify to you that the Lord is ready to fight our battles if we will do our part.

There is a great responsibility resting upon us, each and everyone. And it is my opinion that our greatest persecution, our greatest test rather, will not be from the outside people prosecuting or persecuting us, but our great test will come from within our own ranks. You can follow it throughout the history of the Church, and the great persecutions that came upon the saints in Missouri were agitated and caused more by those who had an insight into the Gospel of Jesus Christ and then apostatized. And those who were the cause of the Prophet’s death were men who had stood by his side in the presidency and had walked with him in the Priesthood capacity, then left the Church and apostatized. The Spirit of God had left them and the spirit of persecution, of evil, took possession of their bodies. And that is what is going to happen in the future. The greatest persecution and the greatest test that will come to this people will be from those who have drawn away from the true line of Priesthood and accepted the priesthood of Satan as their guide and companion. Now, we will be tested beyond all comprehension. At the present time our minds cannot conceive of the delusion that will be brought to

cloud our minds of the testimony which we have of the true way of living.

We are living in one of the greatest times that has ever been in the history of God's work, when He is trying to establish His Priesthood in the earth for the last time, to bring about the redemption of Zion and the building up of the center stake of Zion, and the ushering in of the Millennial Reign. Which, if we could look down through the time that is ahead of us and see what is going to happen, we could see that that work has commenced, and it did commence with the first vision of the Prophet Joseph Smith. It has been going on although Satan has tried to destroy it and bring about the destruction of God's work. Yet, at the present time, it is beginning to grow, and it will continue to grow from now on.

I am reminded now of the remark of one of the attorneys for the defense in the Dutson trial. He made this remark, that the United States and the Church have waited too long to stamp out plural marriage. The time they should have stamped it out was in 1890 when President Woodruff signed the Manifesto. Right then, the government and the Church should have taken steps to completely stamp out the law of plural marriage. He says, now it is too late, it has too big a start, and if they ever handle the people for living that law, they will have to amend the laws that are now against it. These people are not Latter-day Saints. I doubt if they ever took much notice of Mormonism until they had to fight that case for the Dutsons, and began to dig into it and found what it meant. We know they don't realize the full extent of the Law, but they did get a slight insight into it, enough so that they could see that the State and the Church have a job on their hands when they undertake to stamp out polygamy.

I pray that the Spirit of the Gospel will rest upon us, that we will take to heart the counsel that is given us from day to day, so we will humble ourselves before the Lord that He might be willing to bless us.

I am reminded of the counsel of Alma to his son after Alma had gone forth from persecuting the saints--the Church of God. I don't think it will hurt to read some of it. This is Alma's counsel to his son, Corianton.

(Alma, Chapter 41)

> "And now, my son, I have somewhat to say concerning the restoration of which has been spoken; for behold, some have wrested the scriptures, and have gone far astray because of this thing. And I perceive that thy mind has been worried also concerning this thing. But behold, I will explain it unto thee.
>
> I say unto thee, my son, that the plan of restoration is requisite with the justice of God; for it is requisite that all things should be restored to their proper order. Behold, it is requisite and just, according to the power and resurrection of Christ, that the soul of man should be restored to its body, and that every part of the body should be restored to itself.
>
> And it is requisite with the justice of God that men should be judged according to their works; and if their works were good in this life, and the desires of their hearts were good, that they should also, at the last day, be restored unto that which is good.
>
> And if their works are evil they shall be restored unto them for evil. Therefore, all things shall be restored to their proper order, everything to its natural frame--mortality raised to immortality, corruption to incorruption--raised to endless happiness to inherit the Kingdom of God, or to endless misery to inherit the kingdom of the devil, the one on one hand, the other on the other--
>
> The one raised to happiness according to his desires of happiness, or good according to his desires of good; and the other to evil according to his desires of evil; for as he has desired to do evil all the day long even so shall he have his reward of evil when the night cometh."

We are living in a time, my brothers and sisters, when the Lord is causing a great delusion to come upon the minds of the people. And those who have it in their hearts to do good and to bring about their eternal salvation must know for themselves the way that they should go, or be left. And those who are slothful and who don't care as to whether the Lord establishes His work in the earth or not--those who are dilatory in keeping the commandments of God will be gathered on one side; and those who are determined to keep the commandments of God will be gathered on the other. The minds of those who will not follow the true line of Priesthood will be arrayed against those who do. And the time will come, my brothers and sisters, when we will wish that we had been more faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord.

(Alma, Chapter 41 cont.)

> "And so it is on the other hand. If he hath repented of his sins, and desired righteousness until the end of his day, even so he shall be rewarded unto righteousness.
>
> These are they that are redeemed of the Lord; yea, these are they that are taken out, that are delivered from that endless night of darkness; and they stand or fall; for behold, they are their own judges, whether to do good or do evil.
>
> Now, the decrees of God are unalterable; therefore, the way is prepared that whosoever will may walk therein and be saved.
>
> And now behold, my son, do not risk one more offense against your God upon those points of doctrine, which ye have hitherto risked to commit sin.
>
> Do not suppose, because it has been spoken concerning restoration, that ye shall be restored from sin to happiness. Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness."

> "And now, my son, all men that are in a state of nature, or I would say, in a carnal state, are in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity; they are without God in the world, and they have gone contrary to the nature of God; therefore, they are in a state contrary to the nature of happiness.
>
> And now behold, is the meaning of the word restoration to take a thing of a natural state and place it in an unnatural state, or to place it in a state opposite to its nature?
>
> O, my son, this is not the case; but the meaning of the word restoration is to bring back again evil for evil, or carnal for carnal, or devilish for devilish--good for that which is good; righteous for that which is righteous; just for that which is just; merciful for that which is merciful.
>
> Therefore, my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward; yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again; ye shall have justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; and ye shall have good rewarded unto you again.
>
> For that which ye do send out shall return unto you again, and be restored; therefore, the word restoration more fully condemneth the sinner, and justifieth him not at all."

These words can be applied to our lives, my dear brothers and sisters, with great advantage at the present time. Let us see to it that we return good for good, that we might get the Spirit of God around us, and let us continue to overcome those evil ways that we have and apply to our lives, or put in their place, the deeds of good, that we might bring about the great and glorious day of the redemption of Zion, that we might be able to partake of that glorious time which is before us; that we might be able to establish ourselves

on the side of righteousness, that evil might be overcome, and that we might go on and fill the measure of our creation and be counted among those who are worthy to inherit the Celestial Kingdom of our God.

I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon us, that we might be rewarded good for that which we undertake to do, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 19, 1952,
AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR GERTRUDE ANNIE MARIOTT JESSOP,
WIFE OF GRANDFATHER JOSEPH SMITH JESSOP, SR.,
HELD AT SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I trust that the few words I speak may be dictated by the Spirit of God, as has been given to those who have preceded me this afternoon. I heartily endorse the remarks that have been made here regarding the principles of salvation and the life of this dear sister in whose honor we have met this afternoon.

I would like to draw a little comparison if the Lord will dictate to me and help me out. I would like to compare the life of man to the great Continental Divide that reaches from the north end of the North American Continent to the southern point of the South American Continent. I would like to compare the great oceans to the eternities. We have the great Pacific Ocean on the west of us and the great Atlantic Ocean on the east of us. I would like to compare the great rivers that feed those oceans to time, if I can. These great storms that we have been reading about that have been filling these mountains with snow the past winter help to feed the great rivers that flow into these oceans that fill the immensity of space that the oceans occupy. The water that comes from the melting snows that swell these rivers help to keep these oceans fed. So freely do we breathe the air around us, likewise, so free is the time unto us--it comes and goes and every moment of it is precious. And whether we have thought of it or not, every individual will have to account for every moment of time that passes him or her in which way they have utilized that time.

The Lord has given unto us a commandment, and He has taught us the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These great rivers of time flow into the eternities, one on the right hand and one on the left hand--one to eternal life and the other to eternal damnation, according to the way we have utilized the time that has come to us and that we have so freely partaken of. My brothers and sisters, these are only thoughts for us to think upon and to take advantage of, and see to it that we utilize the time that we have in the right way that it might bring us

back into the presence of our Father in Heaven, that our lives may not be wasted, but that we might be permitted to go on throughout the eternities and partake of the great blessings of eternal salvation.

This dear sister whose body lies before us today has utilized the time that has come her way to the very best of her knowledge. She has obeyed the first commandment of God to His children upon this earth to multiply and replenish the earth. She has brought forth a goodly number of children, spirits from the eternal worlds. She has done the best she could in teaching them how to live, how to utilize the time that they have in order to take them back into the presence of their Father in Heaven. She has gone Home now, not to be idle, as has been said here this afternoon, but she will continue to dictate to these children from time to time that they might continue to utilize the time that comes their way in such a way that it will take them back into the great ocean of eternity which will give them a right to eternal increase.

Too much cannot be said of the life of this dear sister. There have been a great many good things said of her this afternoon, and a great many truths have been told to us which will help us to utilize the time that comes our way if we will only heed them. And, as has been said, they will help us to get the Spirit of God around us and keep it.

Now, I pray that the spirit of peace will rest upon us, and especially upon this dear family of Brother Jessop's. I pray that the spirit of peace will rest upon him and that God will add to his years that he might live until he is satisfied with life. He is getting a great deal of joy out of the association of his family, this great posterity of his. He rejoices in mingling with them, and the only wish I have for him is that he may live as long as he desires to before he is called home because his joy is full wherever he is. He will be just as joyful on the other side, and maybe more so than he is here because he will be beyond temptation. But I know he enjoys this life, or he wouldn't live like he does.

I pray that his children will follow the example that he has set them and that they will go down in history as being stalwart in the establishment of the Priesthood of God in the earth.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon Sister Barlow. This is one of her daughters; she raised her, she taught her the way to live; she saw her grow up. She has helped her out in her life, and she is here to see her laid away. She can say, “Well done, my good and faithful daughter.” What greater blessing can we receive? I pray the blessings of God upon you all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 27, 1952, SUNDAY, IN SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I have been greatly edified this afternoon by the testimonies of those who have spoken to us, and I am reminded of what the Savior said upon one occasion, “I come not into the world to do my will, but to do the will of Him who sent me.” If we will think upon that statement, we will soon find out that the idea of being curtailed in our lives, or the thought of having our agency taken away from us when we do the will of God is not so. Two opposite conditions exist. One is to fill the measure of our creation and fulfill the covenants we made before we came here, and the other is the opposite, to do the will of him whose mission it is to destroy the agency of man. I trust that the same spirit that has actuated the testimonies of these young men this afternoon will continue while I speak because I feel my great weakness in attempting to address you people.

I was impressed with the first song we sang this afternoon, “The Time is Far Spent.” “The time is far spent, There is little remaining to publish glad tidings by sea and by land. Then hasten, ye elders, go forward proclaiming, Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.” This is the mission that was given to the latter-day Saints in the very early days of the Church. That great inspired writer, Eliza R. Snow, writing under the dictation of the Holy Spirit gave these few words to the world. “Shrink not from your duty however unpleasant, But follow the Savior, our Pattern and Friend. Our little afflictions, though painful at present, ere long with the righteous in glory will end.” What a wonderful sermon. Enough to reflect upon for a good long while. And if applied to our lives, will bring us great and glorious rewards.

When I think upon the statement of the old Prophet Nephi, the son of Helaman, the man who was the head of God’s work upon the earth when the Savior visited this continent--what a glorious day he lived in. And what a wonderful and great prophet he was when he told the people that they were nothing so far as standing before the

judgments of God was concerned. And how well we see that verified from time to time in our day. We had an example just during the last week or so in that terrible earthquake in California, the second worst in the history of this nation. Since earthquakes have been recorded, this earthquake is the second worst. The worst was in 1906 when the great city of San Francisco was leveled and so many people were killed. This earthquake the other day was right next to it. Two towns were fully leveled to the ground. One of the cities had a population of something over 5,000 people. So you can imagine what kind of buildings they had and how insignificant they were when God saw fit to chastise them for their wickedness.

We are living in a day when these judgments of the Lord are passing over the earth. We will hear of earthquakes, great winds, disasters of every kind, and they will grow worse from now on. The inhabitants of the earth are in a serious condition because they have rejected the testimonies of the servants of God. And when they reject the testimonies of the servants of God, they then walk upon thin ice, and sooner or later, the ice breaks and they drop in. History has told us time and again of the conditions that existed with men when they disobeyed the commandments of God.

I don’t believe any time in the history of the world has there been any demonstration of more faith before the Lord than has been delivered here this afternoon. There is faith in the testimonies of these young men. They were not idle words. They have not been spoken in vain. For I believe that this people is on the verge of a time that has never been equaled before in the history of this world, although we are only a handful of people. We are only a very few as compared with the many millions that are on the earth today, and the many thousands that could be in the same condition that we are. For that reason, I believe that the Priesthood of God has had representatives here in this meeting today and recorded the testimonies of these young men. What for? To prepare this people against the day of persecution. We are situated in a place here in

these valleys of the mountains where God can put a fortification around us that no power upon earth nor in heaven can penetrate if we will carry out and continue to exhibit the faith that has been exhibited here this afternoon. If this people will go from this meeting with a determination to do the things that we have heard these young men say this afternoon, we will never be molested here. The enemies of this work may come in and think they are going to destroy us, but we will see the demonstration of the power of God in our defense. Why do I say these words? Because God has spoken it. He has told us that He would stretch forth His hand in defense of His people. If we don't think He will do it, let us put Him to the test.

I am going to read a little. (12th Chapter of Helaman.)

> "And thus we can behold how false, and also the unsteadiness of the hearts of the children of men; yea, we can see that the Lord in his great infinite goodness doth bless and prosper those who put their trust in him.
>
> Yea, and we may see at the very time when he doth prosper his people, yea, in the increase of their fields, their flocks and their herds, and in gold, and in silver, and in all manner of precious things of every kind and art; sparing their lives, and delivering them out of the hands of their enemies; softening the hearts of their enemies that they should not declare wars against them; yea, and in fine, doing all things for the welfare and happiness of his people; yea, then is the time that they do harden their hearts, and do forget the Lord their God, and do trample under their feet the Holy One--yea, and this because of their ease, and their exceedingly great prosperity."

Here we see one of the causes of the great troubles that came upon the Nephite nation because when people commence to prosper after having had the Spirit of God upon them, and He has blessed them beyond measure, and they begin to fall away, to go back into the old way of forgetting their God, then is when great trouble comes upon them. But when they have kept the commandments of God, gone along

and done their duty, have followed the instructions of their leaders, and become great and mighty in the sight of God, the Lord has blessed them beyond measure. But when they have begun to prosper this way, they begin to forget the Lord, forget the things God has given them. I hope that thing never comes to this people. I hope we will get grounded upon the rock of revelation to that extent that we will be immovable, that we can go on and perfect the Kingdom of God and see it established in the earth, and the Priesthood of God established here forever.

(Heleman 12:3-26)

> "And thus we see that except the Lord doth chasten his people with many afflictions, yea, except he doth visit them with death and with terror, and with famine and with all manner of pestilence, they will not remember him.
>
> O how foolish, and how vain, and how evil, and devilish, and how quick to do iniquity, and how slow to do good, are the children of men; yea, how quick to harken unto the words of the evil one, and to set their hearts upon the vain things of the world!
>
> Yea, how quick to be lifted up in pride; yea, how quick to boast, and do all manner of that which is iniquity; and how slow are they to remember the Lord their God, and to give ear unto his counsels, yea, how slow to walk in wisdom's paths!
>
> Behold, they do not desire that the Lord their God, who hath created them, should rule and reign over them; not-withstanding his great goodness and his mercy towards them, they do set at naught his counsels, and they will not that he should be their guide.
>
> O how great is the nothingness of the children of men; yea, even they are less than the dust of the earth.

For behold, the dust of the earth moveth hither and thither, to the dividing asunder, at the command of our great and everlasting God.

Yea, behold at his voice do the hills and the mountains tremble and quake.

And by the power of his voice they are broken up, and become smooth, yea, even like unto a valley.

Yea, by the power of his voice doth the whole earth shake;

Yea, by the power of his voice, do the foundations rock, even to the very center.

Yea, and if he say unto the earth--Move--it is moved.

Yea, if he say unto the earth--Thou shalt go back, that it lengthen out the day for many hours--it is done;

And thus, according to his word the earth goeth back, and it appeareth unto man that the sun standeth still; yea, and behold, this is so; for surely it is the earth that moveth and not the sun.

And behold, also, if he say unto the waters of the great deep--Be thou dried up--it is done.

Behold, if he say unto this mountain--Be thou raised up and come over and fall upon that city, that it be buried up--behold it is done.

And behold, if a man hide up a treasure in the earth, and the Lord shall say--Let it be accursed, because of the iniquity of him who hath hid it up--behold, it shall be accursed.

And if the Lord shall say--Be thou accursed, that no man shall find thee from this time henceforth and forever--behold, no man getteth it henceforth and forever.

> And behold, if the Lord shall say unto a man--Because of thine iniquities, thou shalt be accursed forever--it shall be done.
>
> And if the Lord shall say--Because of thine iniquities thou shalt be cut off from my presence--he will cause that it shall be so.
>
> And wo unto him to whom he shall say this, for it shall be unto him that will do iniquity, and he cannot be saved; therefore, for this cause, that men might be saved, hath repentance been declared.
>
> Therefore, blessed are they who will repent and hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; for these are they that shall be saved.
>
> And may God grant, in his great fulness, that men might be brought unto repentance and good works, that they might be restored unto grace for grace, according to their works.
>
> And I would that all men might be saved. But we read that in the great and last day there are some who shall be cast out, yea, who shall be cast off from the presence of the Lord;
>
> Yea, who shall be consigned to a state of endless misery, fulfilling the words which say: They that have done good shall have everlasting life; and they that have done evil shall have everlasting damnation. And thus it is. Amen."

We can see by this, my brothers and sisters, the great responsibility that rests upon this people. And I hope and trust that the Spirit of God will rest upon us to that extent that we will heed the counsel of those whom the Lord has set to guide us at this time, that our footsteps might be guided in the right way, that we might be able to perfect our salvation, and that we might be able to

become that people who will eventually redeem Zion and bring to pass the great and glorious condition of the Millennium. It is within our reach, and let us not let it slip by.

Now, I hope that the spirit of peace will continue with us, that we will know and realize the condition we live in, and that we will be humble and seek the Lord in mighty prayer that we might continue to be the best people upon the earth, as has been said here this afternoon. God bless you. Amen.

EXCERPTS FROM A SERMON BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON,
GIVEN ON SUNDAY, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA, NOVEMBER 16, 1952

My dear brothers and sisters, I have listened with interest to the testimonies that have been borne. I pray that the Spirit of God will direct what few remarks I make that they may not detract from the line of thought that has been given.

We are enjoying peace again and beautiful weather. This wonderful storm we are having is a great blessing to this people at this time of year in cleaning the air of the impurities of the long dry spell we have had. It is one of the great blessings that the Lord is pouring out upon us.

In our Sunday School this morning, in listening to the lesson that was given reminding us of the trials and the hardships of our ancestors in the early rise of the Church when our people were being persecuted and driven and that great and noted march across the plains and the sufferings of the Saints, my mind went back over the history of God's dealings with His people throughout the history of the world. There has never been a time when the Lord has tried to establish His work in the earth but what persecutions have followed upon the trails of His people. I wondered why it was that this should be the case. Why is it that we don't learn through the experience of others? When the Lord sends His servants among us and explains the Gospel to us, why don't we take hold of it and walk off with the Kingdom of God without so much persecution?

You take the Nephite people that came upon this continent, and in all God's dealings with that people, the righteous among them were persecuted from time to time to keep them humble. I wondered why it was. I wondered why the children of Israel, after they were brought out of bondage from Egypt, weren't permitted to enter into the promised land. We remember that they wandered in the wilderness for forty years, or until the generation that was brought out of Egypt passed away, or at least the older part of them. Even Moses himself was not permitted to enjoy the blessings of the promised land.

In reflecting upon these situations, I could see no other reason than disobedience and people complaining of their conditions

that caused these things to come upon them. We can trace it through the history of the people throughout the history of the world. Whenever the Lord's people have been persecuted and driven, it has been because they have been disobedient. They have complained of the situations in which they lived; they weren't satisfied. The Lord has tried to teach them the great lesson of being obedient to His word.

There is no reason for this people to be molested by the enemies of righteousness if we will but adhere to the principles of righteousness. If we can take our condition and our position in life peaceably, without complaining, the Lord will soon shower down blessings upon us that we will not be able to receive. We would walk off with the Kingdom that God established, the Priesthood of God in the earth; the Millennium would be started. And when that day comes, you will find that class of people marching forward. It won't make any difference what the conditions are, they will take them sweetly, as those people Uncle Rich read to us about this morning did in that great preparation to march across the plains. It didn't make any difference what their hardships were, they had time to smile, sing, and rejoice over any of the conditions they had. Those were the days the Lord blessed them.

This people today is in the situation that the spirit of complaining could be great among us, and I wouldn't blame you for complaining over some of the conditions you are living in. This great storm coming upon us at this time will catch some of our people in conditions that will not be very nice. Some of your houses are leaking, some of you can't keep warm. But one of the reasons we are in this condition is because we haven't been able to take our situations without complaining about them.

I know from experience that the spirit of complaining is in this place, and there isn't much we can do about it, only to listen to what Uncle Rich told us at the commencement of this meeting. Brother Louis and Brother Clyde mentioned it. Let us listen to the things that are given to us, and more especially among the women folks, the wives of this people. How can the Priesthood go on and accomplish their labors with a woman that is continually teasing them

about the conditions of the home, that they are not what they should be. Oh, how sweet it would be if every man could go home from his work and be greeted with a smile instead of a frown. Maybe some of us are. Maybe some of us can go home and be treated that way. I hope that the time will soon come when every woman here can stand up by the side of her husband and tell him, "Go on and do your work. We are with you." Try it and see how quick the conditions of this people will improve. Help them to make your quarters better. If you will put your trust in the Lord and help the Priesthood accomplish the labors that are upon their shoulders, your living quarters will be happy instead of unpleasant, and this work will grow. The Millennium will start here, and from this place it will spread throughout this nation and the world. And those who are not in harmony with us and do not look at this Gospel as we do will wonder at the progress this people is making, and they will be amazed as the prophets of God have told us before.

Now, I pray that the spirit of peace will settle down upon us and that our living will be such that the Lord will not be able to withhold blessings because you and I can command the blessings of God. If we keep His commandments, He is bound to bless us, and there is no other way out, but it is when we are disobedient and don't keep His commandments that we have no promise of His blessings. He is not pleased to see this people living today in some of our homes. He is not at all pleased. His Spirit couldn't dwell there. Why? It is nobody's fault but yours and mine. I am as much at fault as you are because I don't get the support I should get in the position that I hold. Uncle Rich doesn't get the support that he should, neither does Uncle Carl, nor the other brethren. If they did, the Lord's work would be rolling so fast we could not catch up with it. The Lord can see the condition of this people, and He is not altogether pleased. I would like to see the time when this people could command those blessings that they so much need at the present time. We have had a period of dry weather when we could have had roofs put on some of these homes, but we weren't able to do it. For some reason or other we held back. No other reason in the world but the slothfulness of this people. * * * * * * * * *

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 28, 1959,
FUNERAL SERVICES FOR EDWARD CHRISTENSEN,
HELD IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, having been honored this afternoon by being one of the speakers, I sincerely desire an interest in your faith and prayers that I, too, may be actuated by the same spirit that has actuated the speakers this afternoon.

I have been acquainted with this good man, Edward Christensen, since 1933, when I first met him. I know him today the same Edward as I found him in 1933. He is not a man that has been swayed by every wind of doctrine that he has heard. When he was convinced of the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that was it. The Lord said, “They who love me know my voice, and none other will they follow.” This has been the life of Edward Christensen. He is not alone in passing. He has lived all the laws that God has given us for our salvation, as far as he has understood them; and in passing, he goes home to another good family. He has representatives here of that family today, and I want to say to them that their father has reported to their mother the condition of his life.

I would like to draw just a little comparison here this afternoon. We have heard much said lately about preparing ourselves to meet our God. We have quoted many times the saying of the old Prophet Alma when he said, “This is the day in which to prepare to meet our God,” meaning the life in which we live. The principles of salvation have been the same all down through the history of time, from the days of our Father Adam until now. The same principles that placed Adam at the head of the human family will place a man in this day in the same position if he will prepare himself for it. In order to get the Spirit of God and keep it, or in others words, get possession of the gifts of the Holy Ghost, we must cleanse ourselves from all impurity. The Lord has commanded that we go down into the waters of baptism and have our sins remitted that we might stand pure in His sight. And in order to get and hold the gifts of the Holy Ghost, we must be free and keep ourselves clean from the sins of the world after we make that covenant with the Lord.

We have before us here today a little machine that is recording the proceedings of this meeting. After the meeting is over you can go and hear over again what has been said here. They can put this little piece of tape through a certain ordeal and wipe it clean, and then it is usable again; you can put it back on the machine and record another proceeding. When you go down into the waters of baptism you have the little reels that are in your mind or brain, or whatever you call it wiped clean. Let me compare the brain with this little recorder. This is the work of man, but God has made one and placed it in our heads that is far superior to this. It is made up of thousands of little reels and recordings.

We have heard the expression that we will be our own accusers when we stand before the judgment seat of God. How can we be our own accusers? The Lord will have a little machine there that will unwind the recordings of our brains. We have said quite a bit lately about people preparing themselves to become like our Father in Heaven--or assimilating ourselves into the character of God--purifying our lives and getting ourselves into a position so that when we present these bodies again to our Father in Heaven they will be in a condition so that He can celestialize them, and He can use them throughout the eternities. There is a process through which we can take ourselves and assimilate ourselves into the likeness of our Father in Heaven, and that is by wiping clean the little recordings we have made upon our brain that are not acceptable unto the Lord and place within instead of them the things that will take us into the presence of our Father in Heaven and give us eternal life.

Brother Edward Christensen went down into the waters of baptism, a convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has labored all his life to wipe clean the recordings in his life that would be a disgrace to him when they are unreeled before our Father in Heaven, and in the stead thereof, he has tried to make recordings of things that will carry him through and give him life eternal, and a pure and undefiled body before his Maker. It has

been said he is not a perfect man. There are none of us perfect. But he has gone through the process as far as he has understood, and as far as he has been able to control this body by bringing it into subjection to the spirit that possessed him.

I want to say to his family that they can rest assured that Brother Edward is in just the same labor today that he was a week ago. He is going on with his work. He is serving God to the best of his ability. He is preparing a mansion for those he has left here. He is preparing a place that will be comfortable for them as far as it is in his power to do so, but they have a labor to perform that is just as great--it is their duty to prepare their minds that they might receive a like blessing when they go over there.

Now, I don't feel, my brothers and sisters, to prolong my remarks, but I ask the blessings of our Father in Heaven to rest upon this dear family--Sister Irene and her son and the daughters of Ed and his sons, and may they understand, as Ed has understood, the principle of salvation and apply them to their lives.

I pray the blessings of God upon this audience and upon all those who seek and strive to serve the Lord and keep His commandments. God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 4, 1959,
AT THE ZITTING HOME, OUTSIDE ON THE LAWN, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Again, my brothers and sisters, I am happy to be here to enjoy this wonderful afternoon with you this late in the season. I trust that the few words that I say may be dictated by the Spirit of God. My heart is overflowing with thanksgiving for the response of this people in the past month. About a month ago I made the remark to one of the brethren that if we were going to be able to pay our taxes this year, the Lord would have to perform a miracle--the miracle has been performed! We have been able to retain that which the Lord gave us in the form of United Effort property.

Since the raid in 1953, the state of Arizona has been trying to freeze out the Fundamentalists from the Short Creek area. Governor Pyle made the remark on the morning of the raid that taxes would be heaped upon this people until they wouldn't be able to pay. It seems as though the county tried to do that thing to us, but I was quite pleased to note that the taxes for 1958 were something like a thousand dollars less than they were in 1957. So, I think they are getting tired of trying to tax us to death. We went into the office to pay our taxes, and the lady that carried the responsibility of collecting the taxes for the county stepped into an adjoining room to get some of the data she needed for us. I overheard her tell one of her co-workers, "I told you not to underestimate these people. They are here to pay their taxes again." I am glad, my brothers and sisters, that that part of our debt is behind us. I feel grateful to you people for your support. I will be grateful when the rest of our creditors are satisfied with our settlement with them.

Nevertheless, my brothers and sisters, we can't help but give the Lord credit for being lenient to this people. During the days of the raid, and for three years immediately after the raid, we were required to raise thirty dollars a head for all the women that were taken in the raid--and that was something like a thousand a month. For a people that were broke, who couldn't raise the bond money to bail themselves out of prison and had to depend on their

friends to do that for them, we were still required to raise a thousand dollars a month to help support that people.

While we were in the midst of it, a court order came to me one day to appear in court and show cause why I shouldn't pay all the expenses of the women and children that were in that raid and take the load off the back of the Arizona Welfare. The reason for that was that Mr. Johnson was visiting these people without permits and against the law. Then I received another court order to appear and show cause why I shouldn't be restrained from visiting these people. The Spirit of the Lord said to me, "Why are you going to the Welfare to get a permit every time you go down? Try going in and seeing them without a permit." So I did just that. I stuck my neck out and they would have cut it off if they had known it, but I went in and saw the people without a permit.

The police followed me around whenever I left Short Creek to go down to that part of the country. A message went ahead of me and the policemen would meet me outside the city. A car would slide in behind mine and follow me to see where I was going. When I got into the center of town, he would turn off onto another street and another police car would follow me on in. They did that for a time or two, and I drove up to one of the rest homes, stopped my car and went into the house. A police car pulled up right beside me and stopped. I walked back out there and said, "Were you looking for me?" He choked up a little and said, "Well, I was just--no, I guess not, Mr. Johnson." And he got in his car and drove off, but I wasn't bothered with policemen anymore. I don't know why. (A voice: You are hard to bother.)

The next time I came home I had another letter from the judge, and it had a release. They were releasing me from the order of appearing and showing cause why I shouldn't be restrained from visiting these people. It said, "It appears that Mr. Johnson has refrained from visiting these people anymore, so we withdraw the order." I took the two orders down and showed them to the lawyers.

They said, “Well, you are getting to be a pretty good man then, aren’t you?” I said, “Yes, since I quit visiting the State Welfare.” So I visited our people regularly and was never bothered anymore by policemen, and the court left me alone.

The reason I was down there, my brothers and sisters, was because President Zitting placed that charge upon me. He said, “Roy, it will be your duty to visit these people and see that they are taken care of.” That is the reason I was there, but I knew the Lord would take care of me. Every time I went to the Welfare to get a permit to see our people, (which was the rule they required) I had an argument with the head man of the Welfare. He always had tried to persuade me that I was a bad man, but it didn’t sink in very far. But that is behind us now also. Those days are over, and I thank the Lord for them because it gave this people a boost that they never would have got any other way.

The Lord moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. But that, along with other experiences we passed through, left us in destitute circumstances. But we were determined that our people should not starve, they should not go destitute for something to wear, and in doing this, we over-ran our credit. That is the reason we are in this position. We know that the Lord can open the way, some way, for us to take care of our people and sustain us in it. He is doing it the same way that He has always taken care of His people in times gone by.

The Lord has always required His people to sacrifice in order to establish His work. He called upon the people when they first commenced to build up this stake to sacrifice their crops. He sent in the crickets and took their crops. They had to establish a work by sacrifice. The greatest sacrifice He has ever called upon a people to give was their feelings. I think that is the thing that is holding this people back today--their feelings. When we get to a point where we can sacrifice our feelings for this work, then it will begin to grow.

I am very much pleased with the response of this people to the call that has been made of them to help square us with the world because I feel that we need to get ourselves in a condition so that the Lord can put a protecting hand over us. He can't protect us if we are owing our fellowmen--something that we justly owe them. I feel like we justly owe a few debts that are hanging over us, and it is not going to hurt this people to pay them off.

There are many blessings in store for this people now if they will seize upon them. One of them is protection that the Lord is bound to give us if we will rally around Him and support His work. He has told us that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. The principles of the Celestial Kingdom are what we are standing out for. He has also said, "Stand ye in holy places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest." Now, if we will do that, if we will make our homes holy places to live in while we are supporting His work, the judgments of God will pass over us as they did the children of Israel, and we will come out of this thing a victorious people.

We have the opportunity, my brothers and sisters, of taking part in the redemption of Zion, in the building of the City and the New Jerusalem, that wonderful temple that we have been promised in the latter days. We are living in the latter end of the time that the Prophet spoke of when he said, "There are those now living upon the earth whose eyes shall not close in death until all these things I have told you shall come to pass." There are many here today that will live to see the City built. There are a great many more of you than you think if you will continue to show forth the determination to serve the Lord and keep His commandments that you have shown in the last month.

There were two calls made, and both of them have been accomplished with great success. A call was made for the brethren to go down and assist in some work--labor in Short Creek. One hundred and thirty-five men worked for two days down there. They did a good

work, my brothers and sisters. The spirit that prevailed there was wonderful. The spirit of unity cannot be beat. If you want to get the Spirit of God, just participate in one of these events. The other call was to assist with your means to get this people out of debt, and the response has been something great. I want to tell you, the Lord is ready to bless this people when they show forth that kind of faith. We don't need to worry about the state, the county, or anyone else moving in on us if we will get close to the Lord and take Him into our confidence. He might allow them to push us into a close corner, but He will provide an escape.

He has always done it for those who have shown forth a determination to do what He has commanded us to do. You can go clear back to the beginning of time and come right on down through, and you will find the same thing exhibited among the people, and He has not changed at this day. He helped Abraham out and He helped Nephi out, and He has helped His servants in this day. He has brought them through pretty tight circumstances and established His people. Now, if we want the blessing, we can gain it. If we don't, all we need to do is refuse to do that which He has told us to do.

I don't feel to speak longer to this people. I pray the blessings of God will rest upon you and protect you from the evil hand of those who seek to destroy you or destroy this work, and I do it in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 22, 1959,
AT THE FISCHER HOME, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Once more, I want to say, my brothers and sisters, that I am pleased to be here and enjoy with you the great blessings of this meeting. It is a wonderful thing to know that so many are supporting this work. We greatly feel the weight that rests upon our shoulders in this day because of the great responsibility that has been so beautifully portrayed to you from these brethren this evening. I desire that the few words I speak may be dictated by the Spirit of God because I know and realize that unless we can command His Spirit to dictate our remarks, it is useless for us to stand here and try to edify you and build you up. So, I desire an interest in your faith and prayers.

I heard a man make this remark a short time ago, “If you have anything new to give to us, I would like to go to your meeting.” So, I immediately began to reflect back over the short time I have been here upon this earth to see how many times I have gone to meeting and listened to something new and interesting. There has never been a time in my life when I went to meeting and listened to the servants of God when I haven’t gone away and felt that I had been greatly blessed through going to that meeting. Yet, when I contemplate upon the words that were spoken, they were not new. We can go back to the very beginning and come on down to now, and we will find that the same words have been spoken over and over again. They are still music to our ears. They are spoken for the express purpose of building up the faith of the people and helping them to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections in order to perfect their lives to a point where the Lord can use them. We can labor all the days of our lives, and unless we begin to apply to our lives the teachings that we hear, they are of no avail to us. But if we will do something about it, that is when good comes from coming to these meetings, whether we feel like there is something new being given or whether we don’t. If we will come here with the spirit of wanting to know how God feels towards us, we will be built up in our feelings.

Every once in a while someone asks me why I feel so sad, so weighed down in my feelings and thoughts, and I suppose in my actions. I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, that we feel the great weight that is upon our shoulders. This is quite a heavy old world we are living in. We realize that there are billions of people in it, and God loves them all. I don't think He could pick out one and say, "I love this soul more than I do that one," if they would do something about saving their own souls. When we realize this and we know it is our responsibility to set an example before them all, that their souls might be saved if they would do something about it, we have need to be concerned about the responsibility that is upon us.

Let us, each one that is here tonight and heard the sermons, the words of the servants of the Lord, do something about our own preparation and try to take at least our part of the responsibility off the shoulders of these men. I have heard Uncle John say time and time again, "I am tired. The weight is more than I can stand." The closer a man gets to our Father in Heaven and understands the responsibility that is upon our shoulders, the greater the heavy load weighs upon him. It has broken the back of many a man since the beginning of time, to try to carry this weight, and sooner or later we feel it. It weighs us down and we can't stand it any longer. So, let us go from this meeting, my brothers and sisters, with a firmer determination to bring ourselves into a position where you, too, can help to carry this great load that is upon our shoulders, and help us to walk off with this great responsibility that is upon us.

I have never felt better in my life than I do tonight regarding the condition of our people; for, I rejoice, my brothers and sisters, in the support that is being given us. At the same time, we realize the condition of this work, this Church, this state, and this nation, who have been so greatly favored of the Lord to receive the revelations of Heaven and the spirit to gather to Him.

For He has said time and again, “How oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathers her chickens under her wing, but ye would not.” So, the same responsibility rests upon the servants of God today that rested upon Christ and His apostles in His day and upon Joseph in his day and his apostles. The responsibility hasn’t ceased or dwindled in any way whatsoever. We still have the responsibility of setting the example before the world that there is a way to get back into the presence of our Father in Heaven.

Now, may the spirit of peace settle upon this people, and may the Spirit of God permeate your souls until you are satisfied that you are doing the will of God. I pray for you continually. May we all go from this meeting filled with the spirit and determination to serve God and keep His commandments, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 17, 1960,
AT THE FISCHER HOME, SUNDAY IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, it is good to be here and be refreshed by the remarks of the servants of God, and once more have a chance to renew our covenants, at least with ourselves, that we are determined to go from this meeting and do as we have been told--get the Spirit of God and keep it.

I trust that the few remarks I make might be dictated by the Spirit of our Heavenly Father. When President Musser began to speak, I thought of a verse or two that is recorded in the Pearl of Great Price, and I believe I will read it. You will find this in the Book of Abraham, third chapter:

> "And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell;"

If you will all remember, these were the words that were spoken when the sons of God gathered together and the Lord spoke to them.

> "And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them."

The very things that President Musser has been trying all evening to get before this people.

> "And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever.
>
> And 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.

And the second was angry, and kept not his first estate; and, at that day, many followed after him."

And he has kept on from that day unto this trying to lead away the souls of men. The Lord showed unto our dear old grandfather, Lehi, the full story when He gave him that wonderful vision, and he saw concourses of people following after the ways of the world. A few people were clinging to the rod and trying to make their way to the fountain of truth, and he was shown that many who looked across the gulf and saw the great concourse of people and the great enticements that were made to win away their hearts and their souls were overcome; and they, too, went over. There were only a few who made their way to the fountain of truth. How true it is. You have the picture before you today. We have only a little handful of people compared to the great multitudes that are upon the earth today following after the ways that Satan has designed to lead away the hearts of people and to lead their souls down to hell.

I wish, my brothers and sisters, that there was some way that the servants of God could penetrate the hearts of the people and save them from the great destruction that awaits them. But they will not listen. They wouldn't listen to Christ. They wouldn't listen to Joseph Smith, and they won't listen today. So, "Broad is the way and wide is the gate that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat. But narrow is the way, narrow the gate that leadeth to life eternal, and few there be that find it."

There have been many wonderful things portrayed to us tonight, and I don't want to detract from that spirit, so I am going to give way and let you ponder upon the things that have been told you--the testimonies that have been borne by these faithful sisters, as well as the brethren. But I want to say, God bless you, each and everyone that has come out tonight, and I hope that the Spirit of God will penetrate your souls and put within your hearts a firm determination to round out your salvation through sacrifice.

May God bless you, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

EXCERPTS FROM A SERMON BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 15, 1960, SUNDAY, AT SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

It is good to be here and partake of the Spirit of God. I hope there is not a Royite in this whole congregation. I hope we are all Godites. That is what I am for. I have nothing in my mind or desire except the Kingdom of God being fully established.

Do you really and truly want salvation? We come here and see the building filled. The people seem anxious to hear the word of God; but after hearing the sermon, we watch the acts of these people, and I wonder if it does any good to give them the word of God. In some instances, I feel it does, in others, not very much. Do you know the first requirement of faith unto salvation?

(From Lecture 6)

> "An actual knowledge to any person, that the course of life which he pursues is according to the will of God, is essentially necessary to enable him to have that confidence in God without which no person can obtain eternal life."

We are living in a great day. The Lord is preparing a people for the redemption of Zion, an event that all the prophets from Adam on down have hoped for. Many have come and gone thinking the great Millennium might come in their day. Even now, many of us think we shall enjoy the Millennium. We can if we apply the principles of true faith to our lives. That is the only way we will be able to enjoy the fruits of the great Millennium.

It is said, "There will be two working in the field, one will be taken and the other left. Two will be working at the mill, one will be taken and the other left." If you live right and prepare yourselves for the blessing, God will make bare His arm in your defense, and you will be lifted up while the judgments pass by. It is an easy thing for the Lord to protect His people from scourges and judgments. He can do it, if we will show Him we are keeping His commandments.

There shouldn't be any wavering of faith among this people here who were taken away. When our enemies shouted from the house-tops that we would never see our loved ones again, He preserved us.

We never lost one soul. Can we say we have made a mistake or that we have been following the wrong priesthood? Let us get our “eye on the ball” and prepare ourselves for salvation. Let us not tie our faith to men, but to the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I do not know a man, woman, or child, but what if they will repent, I want to see them at the morning of the resurrection. But, if some will not repent, I do not want to look at them anymore because they have been given a chance.

I want only to see the work of God progress and only His Kingdom established. It is God’s work we want established and not man’s; not mine, not Brother Hammon’s, not Brother Musser’s, or any other. It is God’s work we want established. One of the most dangerous things we can do is to follow after a man. We must learn to render service to those who fill the office, and thus render service to God. This misunderstood principle has taken a great toll, for some people have been converted to a man. It is proper only to revere the office and love the man who fills it.

The work is moving on very rapidly. I see this people demanding their freedom, but God says, “When I make you free, you are free, indeed.” The Spirit of God tells me this people will be free at a fearful cost. I believe you people are willing to be led by the Priesthood and keep your covenants.

Let us hasten and embrace this work in its fullness. It will call for strong men and women to establish the Kingdom of God. We should learn how to exercise a sense of justice toward all men, that free people may not begin to oppress others as has happened many times in the past.

I feel ashamed of myself and my friends before the Lord in the way we have handled this great charge in the past. We have been shabby in our conduct in wondering what we ought to do. We received the key to the law of Consecration this morning. Do we now know our duty with our surplus? Do we know our duty as to the covenants we have made and to whom our substance belongs? It belongs to God. It

is the “Kingdom of God or Nothing.” If you expect to have a kingdom of your own, you will, eventually, if you will continue on. Sustain the Priesthood at any cost. It doesn’t cost, it pays.

God cannot strip us much more than we have been stripped, financially. He will bless us if we will serve Him. The day will come when we will have all the means we need. If you want the abundance of this earth, work for the man who can give it, God, our Father. If we build up the Kingdom of God, our children will enjoy the benefits of our labors throughout the generations of time. Let us take care of the affairs of the Kingdom.

I pray for the spirit of repentance among this people. I pray that the Spirit of God will attend and bless you who have to travel today, that you may go in peace. I pray that the Lord will bless you young women, that you will cling steadfastly to the powers that can bless you, also the young men. I pray that we will eliminate the oppressive prejudice surrounding us. God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 12, 1960, SUNDAY, AT HILDALE, UTAH

On this wonderful day, I want to express my thanks to my Heavenly Father for letting me live and enjoy the association of this body of people. It was President Hammon's turn to speak, but the way things have gone off, he wants me to take his place for a few minutes. I thank the Lord for this wonderful body of people, for the faith that you have exhibited in the principles of eternal life.

There are a good many people who have risen in this work and passed on. A great many have stayed and weathered the storm. We will find this to be the case all through history. Whenever the Lord has delivered a message to the world and set men to lead His work, they have immediately gone to work to break down the traditions that have so long been established in this old world.

I remember one time we had quite a number of people here in this place. President Barlow went away for a day or two. This situation put me in mind of what Moses passed through when he went into the mountain and was gone for several days, and they thought he was no more, so they built a gold calf to worship. Brother Barlow was out of this place for a few days. People got anxious, and they got together and formed an organization and voted a man in to lead them. I remember, President Barlow came to me and he says, "Roy, if I can get one man to stay with me, we can build up the Kingdom of God." I says, "You've got one man, John. As far as I am concerned, you've got one man that will stay with you." He went to two other men in the town, and they said the same thing. The result was, the others stepped aside. We hung together--three of us. We didn't stay in this place. We moved outside, but we saw an audience not as large as this one, but half as many people as are here today, practically go out of this work. Some came back--tried to get back, but the biggest part of them never returned.

I'll tell you, my brothers and sisters, if there is anything to the Gospel at all, you have it, and the golden opportunity is yours if you will take hold of it. To better express my thoughts, I am going to read to you just a little. I am going to read from Third Nephi, Chapter 12.

"And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto Nephi, and to those who had been called, (Now the number of them who had been called, and received power and authority to baptize, was twelve) and behold, he stretched forth his hand unto the multitude, and cried unto them, saying: Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants; and unto them I have given power that they may baptize you with water; and after that ye are baptized with water, behold, I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost; therefore blessed are ye if ye shall believe in me and be baptized, and after that ye have seen me and know that I am.

And again, more blessed are they who shall believe in your words because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am. Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility and be baptized, for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.

Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit who come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

And again, blessed are all they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

And blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

And blessed are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

And blessed are all the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

And blessed are all the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

And blessed are all they who are persecuted for my name's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

And blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake;

For ye shall have great joy and be exceeding glad, for great shall be your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the salt of the earth; but if the salt shall lose its savor wherewith shall the earth be salted? The salt shall be thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the light of this people. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Behold, do men light a candle and put it under a bushel? Nay, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house;

Therefore let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy but to fulfill;

For verily I say unto you, one jot nor one tittle hath not passed away from the law, but in me it hath all been fulfilled.

And behold, I have given you the law and the commandments of my Father, that ye shall believe in me, and that ye shall repent of your sins, and come unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Behold, ye have the commandments before you, and the law is fulfilled.

Therefore, come unto me and be ye saved; for verily I say unto you, that except ye shall keep my commandments, which I have commanded you at this time, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, and it is also written before you, that thou shalt not kill, and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgments of God;

But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother shall be in danger of his judgment. And whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire,

Therefore, if ye shall come unto me, or shall desire to come unto me, and rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee--

Go thy way unto thy brother, and first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come unto me with full purpose of heart, and I will receive you.

Agree with thine adversary quickly while thou art in the way with him, lest at any time he shall get thee, and thou shalt be cast into prison.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, thou shalt by no means come out thence until thou hast paid the uttermost senine. And while ye are in prison can ye pay even one senine? Verily, verily, I say unto you, Nay.

Behold, it is written by them of old time, that thou shalt not commit adultery;

But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman, to lust after her, hath committed adultery already in his heart.

Behold, I give unto you a commandment, that ye suffer none of these things to enter into your heart;

For it is better that ye should deny yourselves of these things, wherein ye will take up your cross, than that ye should be cast into hell.

It hath been written, that whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and who so shall marry her who is divorced committeth adultery.

And again it is written, thou shalt not forswear thyself but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths;

But verily, verily, I say unto you, swear not at all; neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne;

Nor by the earth, for it is his footstool;

Neither shalt thou swear by the head, because thou canst not make one hair black or white;

But let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever cometh of more than these is evil.

And behold, it is written, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth;

But I say unto you, that ye shall not resist evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also;

And if any man will sue thee at the law and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also;

> And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.
>
> Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn thou not away.
>
> And behold it is written also, that thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy;
>
> But behold I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use you and persecute you;
>
> That ye may be the children of your Father who is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good.
>
> Therefore those things which were of old time, which were under the law, in me are all fulfilled.
>
> Old things are done away, and all things have become new.
>
> Therefore I would that ye should be perfect even as I, or your Father who is in heaven is perfect."

There is the full Gospel, my brothers and sisters. You should read it. If we can bring this people up to keep God's commandments and to get close to the Lord, if you can get the Spirit of God and keep it, then we can shine forth. This people is getting to be too large to be hid under a bushel, and the outside world can see it. And those who have had a taste of Mormonism are our worst enemies--those who have rejected the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. But I can tell you, I have said it before and I can tell you again, that we need not fear the enemies of this work--the Lord's work--if we will do what the Savior told us to do; keep His commandments. If you see an evil among you, cast it out! Overcome your weaknesses and imperfections and try to make your life one of worthiness that the Lord might be pleased to bless you.

Now I pray that the spirit of peace will settle upon us, and that we will continue to grow and increase, that we will continue to fill this house until we will have to push the back end further away. I pray that the Lord will bless you with everything that you need in righteousness, and I do it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 3, 1960, SUNDAY, AT SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

The time is far spent, my brothers and sisters. There are a few thoughts I would like to express before we dismiss. I want to say first, amen to all that has been said here this afternoon, especially to President Musser's and President Hammon's remarks. They are vital, my brothers and sisters, in our lives. After hearing what we have heard here this afternoon, what man is there among us who dares say that these men are trying to put themselves up as little tin gods to this people? They are only putting before you the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the seriousness of its nature to the lives of this people--to the lives of all people, for the Lord said that this Gospel was to all men whether they dwell upon this land or upon the isles of the sea, or wherever they dwell. He also said in the same revelation that it mattereth not whether it be His voice or the voice of His servants, it is the same. Now if that isn't clear enough for this people, what more can we do?

The prediction has been made that if this people will keep the commandments of God as they are instituted by the servants of God that they need not fear their enemies in this place for God will fight their battles, and it is as true as I am speaking to you this afternoon. In 1953, the devils would have never got in here had it not been for the disunity among some of the brethren in this place. Are you going to let it happen again? Remember, it only takes one or two covenant breakers to bring down the indignation of a righteous God upon the heads of a whole community.

Now, when men make solemn covenants that they will do a thing, they better make solemn steps and see to it that they do it and that it is not their actions that incur the indignation of a righteous God upon His people. We are here, my brothers and sisters, and the eyes of the world are upon us. We have chosen to defy the world by our righteous living. Now, let us be righteous in our living that we might bind the Lord in the day of visitation. Because He says, "When you keep my commandments, then I am bound, but when

you keep not my commandments there is no promise." You should write those words and put them where every member of the family can read them every day; and then do what Brother Guy has said, when you roll out in the morning, roll onto your knees. Don't get onto your feet until you have asked God to bless you through the day. And if you can't do that, lay in bed and tell the Lord to bless you before you roll out, but be sure that you ask Him in faith, believing that you shall receive the blessing, and then God will begin to bless this people. We don't want any more covenant breakers in this place nor anywhere among the saints of God, for one of these days you will find yourself outside looking in, and wondering how you could get back and do it honorably.

Let us go away from this meeting once more with a determination in our hearts to keep the commandments of God. Let's see to it that we stamp out sin wherever we see it and find it, that the Spirit of God might be in this place, that each one of us might get His Spirit and keep it, is the message of our Father in Heaven to this people. I pray that we will receive it from the crown of our heads to the soles of our feet, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 3, 1960, SUNDAY EVENING, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

I have been much interested in the program of this evening. My heart is filled with gratitude for the privilege of being here throughout the day, for the wonderful testimonies that have been borne of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am truly thankful, my brothers and sisters, for the part the Lord has permitted me to play in this place and in this work. I hope that I can go on and fulfill the mission that I have been called to in a way that will be pleasing unto my Maker. The greatest desire of my heart is to prepare myself to meet those of my brethren who have gone on before me from the Prophet Joseph Smith to this day. I hope that I can prove myself worthy of those blessings.

Your presence here tonight, my brothers and sisters, tells me that the Lord is blessing what little effort I have put forth towards my part in this work. And I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon you, and I bless you with every blessing that you desire in righteousness, for I firmly believe that it is my right to pronounce blessings upon this people inasmuch as I prepare myself to occupy this position.

May God bless you with life, health and strength to carry on, and with a more firm determination to get the Spirit of God and keep it, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 24, 1960, SUNDAY, IN SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

I trust, my brothers and sisters, the Spirit of God will dictate what few remarks I make. I am truly thankful for the privilege of being here today and looking into the faces of this wonderful audience. I see before me an audience of young people. If we had the faces here of the older people that were here a month ago, we would have an overflow meeting. There are three hundred and forty-two people (three hundred and eighty-two counting babies) in the building today. The Lord truly said, "I do nothing except I reveal my secrets to My Servants, the Prophets." President Joseph Musser made a prophecy here in this place almost twenty years ago that if this people would keep the commandments of God, all those who would not support the Priesthood would move out, along with other prophecies that were made at the same time. Those things still burn in my ears. We have said from this stand many times that all we need to do is follow the counsel of President Barlow--Get the Spirit of God and keep it! If every man who owns a home in this place could control his family to the point where the Spirit of God could dwell there continually, how much greater would be, not only the size of this congregation, but how much greater would be the volume of love and devotion towards one another in this place. The things that President Hammon has been talking about are verily true. If the lady folks of this community would stop long enough to think what it means for them to become mothers in Israel--if they could fully realize it, it would not be long till there would be a wonderful improvement, not only among the sisters, but among the men folks in this place.

If you women would fully realize that a great responsibility is upon your shoulders in seeing to it that your husband is a man of the Priesthood by helping him to honor his Priesthood, and that Priesthood is the way of your salvation, conditions would be a great deal different among us. I feel to say "amen" to what has been said and exhort you people to give ear, stop long enough to consider well that which has been told us this afternoon, that your lives might be made greater through righteous living.

I pray the blessings of God upon you, each and everyone, and especially you young people. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these other things will be added later. You are the most blessed people there are upon the face of the earth. Why? Because you have access to the principles that will exalt you and make you Adams and Eves. I don't know where else you can go and get that doctrine taught to you. May the Spirit of God rest down upon you and be your constant guide and companion each day, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 24, 1960, SATURDAY EVENING, IN CANADA

My brothers and sisters, it is a pleasure to be here this evening and meet with all you people, and to enjoy the Spirit of the Lord here with you. I pray that the words we speak may be inspired. I trust we will have a time of rejoicing together.

* * *

The Lord has said, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness and all things shall be added thereto.” The thing the Lord is depending upon us to do is to prepare a people that He can use. This is what He has been trying to do. He has been trying to establish a people to build up the Kingdom of Zion. Brother Musser has been pointing out to you the conditions in which we live and some of the truths we will have to accept to prepare us for this great work.

The Prophet Joseph Smith gave to the people laws and commandments under the direction of Jesus Christ for the perfection of the saints, or the perfection of those who have it in them to become saints. In 1830-31, there were some commandments given to the saints to perfect them; and as early as 1832, the Lord put the whole Church under condemnation. He said that they would remain there until they repented and remembered all that He had told them to do.

Our commission is to try to lay before you your position on the earth and to try to get you to do something about it, to apply to your lives the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. The Prophet Joseph said, in his day, that this work must be done in the generation in which he lived. He said, “There are some living on the earth whose eyes shall not close in death until all these things shall come to pass.” The time is very short when we must bring ourselves from under this condemnation. The time is now here when we have to do something about it, or God will get another people. The time is set for the return of the Ten Tribes and the ushering in of the Millennial Reign. We only have a short time to live. And, as Alma said, “NOW is the time to prepare to meet our God.”

Let us hasten to prepare ourselves to meet the One Mighty and Strong, so that when he comes, we can be ready if he chooses to use us. Then we might be some good in helping to carry on this work. I ask the Lord to bless you each and every one with His Spirit that you might know your position here upon this earth, that you might have the Holy Ghost to direct you in all you do.

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REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 25, 1960, SUNDAY MORNING, IN CANADA

We are pleased to be with you again this morning, and to see so many young people. We are trying to build up the faith of the people to bring them to a point where the Lord can use them.

I have in mind this morning to relate a few experiences of my life that might be faith-promoting to you here. In my early life when I was almost eight, my father had an accident and broke his back. He lived for seven years as an invalid, paralyzed from his hips down and could only move by someone helping him. When I was fourteen years old, he died.

The year after my father died, I undertook to go to work to provide for my mother, a brother, and two sisters. Father had two wives and twenty children. So, the experiences we went through led up to my faith in the Gospel at the present time. I went to work for a construction company. Because of my size, it was hard to get a job. Finally, a man said, “I will give you a try out.” I had been trained to use a wheel scraper, and I could handle it as well as any man. The head boss turned me down, but the straw boss put me on. I had a lot of fun out of it and made the horses do the work. When the boss came back from town and found I was running the scraper, he sat on the bank and watched me. Then he came down to help me. I saw him coming and decided to make it hard for him. I placed the wheel back where the scraper wouldn’t dump. The boss took over. He tried, but couldn’t dump it. He became vexed and stood off and watched me for a while. Finally, he came back and asked me how I did it so easy. I showed him, and he hired me for all summer.

My older brother worked there also and wanted me to quit at the end of the summer with him. I didn’t want to, so my brother said, “I’ll let you stay if you promise me that you won’t go swimming in the river any more.” It was the Shoshone River in Wyoming. The ice was getting on the river, and the water was too cold. So, I promised. The first Sunday passed. I kept my word. The next Sunday, the boys persuaded me to go in. We had so much fun. We

rolled a log in and rode it down the river. Then we rode two-on-a-log between two rocks where the main river ran. The boy on the front of the log put his feet down, my end went around and banged on the rocks. I locked my hands around the log to save myself. Every time the log went around, they could see my hands clasped around it. The next thing I knew, an old lady, about seventy years, had me straddled over a barrel to bring me back to life.

Another thing my brother made me promise was to not go fishing any more. My fishing hole was a lovely spot, but it had a big bank of cobble rock above where I sat to fish. I stayed away as long as I could, but one day I went. I sat fishing, got a nibble or two, then suddenly a pebble came down and hit me on the head. I looked up and saw the cliff collapsing on me. I ran out from under it as fast as I could. When the slide went into the river, it threw water on me and the dust from the slide settled over me and made it look like I had come out of a mud bath. I went back to camp with mud all over me. The same old lady who saved my life said, “You disobeyed your brother again, didn’t you?” If we want the blessings of God, we must keep the promises we make with the Lord. He also promises damnation if we don’t, and Satan claims our souls. You can take this all through life.

In my later years, shortly after I became acquainted with this work, the Priesthood sent me to run a farm. It was quite successful for one year. The next year, I had a beautiful crop coming, and the Priesthood was going to buy the place. In looking up the water rights, I found that the man we leased the place from had no rights whatever to take water from the Colorado River. The Lord blessed us greatly in our crops. The man came down one day to see how things were going. I told him that I had found by investigation that he had no right to take water from the river. As soon as the crops were harvested, I was going to pay him and leave. This made him mad. (By the way, he was on the jury that sent my brother and brother-in-law to jail for plural marriage.) Well, the next morning,

he came down with his six-shooter. His wife was in the car with a thirty-thirty. He saw to it that I loaded what belongings I could on the pick-up. All he would let me have was what we could get on the car at that time. I went to the County Attorney to get advice so I could get the rest of my belongings. The County Attorney said, “You can do nothing, let him go.” So, that was another experience we had.

Later on, the persecution of 1944 came along. After the trials were over, we had men in prison in Tucson. Then word came that another wave of persecution was coming. Brother Barlow sent about five of us to Mexico so the law couldn’t get us. We went down there to try to make a go of it. Not having finance to work with, we went into debt. In two years, we were heavily in debt--60,000 pesos. I made a trip to the United States to see if I could raise money to pay it off. Everything went against us. We planted, but didn’t reap. I came out and had a talk with President Barlow. He said, “Go down and send Edson Jessop and Elmer Johnson out, and you pay off that debt.” I didn’t let it sink in, but my first thought was, “It’s impossible.” But I said, “All right, John, I’ll do it.” I went to Mexico gathered up $300 and sent those men and their families out.

We had a place leased in the mountains near some old Latter-day Saint villages, about seven miles from Garcia. There was an old lake bottom there that had about three feet of water and covered a hundred acres of land. I was riding through there one day when the thought came to me, “If you drain this old lake, it will pay your debt.” I told a man my plans, and he said that it was impossible, but he brought me a tractor with a bulldozer on the front. I put my little lady on the tractor, and I went to work draining the place. By the time I got the drains made, it was planting time, July. I planted the land with oats, and then the rains started. By harvest time, you never saw such a crop of oats in your life. It was a rich piece of ground. The oats grew as high as a door with no exaggeration at all. No one could believe it. I wouldn’t myself if I had not seen it. I just got it cut and partly

raked and was about ready to haul when the rains started again. I walked out into the middle of the grainfield and told the Lord my condition. “Lord, I am trying to do what the brethren have told me to do. If you want to try me further, it is all right with me, but if I have found favor in Thy sight, hold off the rain until I pay this debt.” I got up off my knees. The rain stopped and every day it rained all around, but not a drop on that hundred acres.

Enos Wood came to my rescue. He brought in two or three outfits and helped me haul the crops and bale them. I agreed with the people I owed the debt to, to give them hay for payment-five pesos a bale. They came in and hauled it away as fast as I could bale it. When it was all finished, I went into the store and settled up what I owed, and also debts to others. The next morning, it started to storm, and soon there were thirteen inches of snow on the ground. I had $350 American money left over to come home with.

These are some of the miracles that are being performed among our people today. The Lord has come to our rescue and saved our crops. He has put us in a position where we should be. The Lord can bless us, and He will bless us. He is pouring out His blessings upon this people because they are trying to get nearer to Him. May God bless you, amen.

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SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 25, 1960, SUNDAY EVENING, IN CANADA

It is good to meet often and have the Gospel explained to us. We all recall reading about when Moses went up into Mount Sinai. When he returned, he found the people worshiping a golden calf. When people are left to themselves for a while, they get the same notions. So, God's servants have to come among them and straighten them out, then leave them again. Throughout all generations of time, the Lord has had to meet these problems. The Prophet Joseph Smith had to continually send missionaries among the people to teach the true way of life and salvation. Brigham Young and John Taylor had the same problems to meet. Brigham Young had to travel from north to south, east to west to keep the people in the line of their duties. It is the same problem that the servants of God have today. There is so much interest taken up with worldly affairs that we don't stop long enough to pick up a good book, or call our family around us and read to them. On Sunday we stop long enough to read a chapter or two, and we find our children reading novels or funny-books instead of things pertaining to eternal lives. So, we come here to try to promote more of this heavenly reading in our homes and promote a spirit in our homes other than going back to the golden calf. Men and women spend more time trying to promote some scheme in how to get along better financially than in how to serve the Lord better.

I go into homes where men have bought and paid for sets of the Journal of Discourses, and very few of those books have been taken out of the bookcase; and in some instances, they are still in the box that they came in. People don't get them out where their children can get them. One of the first things I did when the books were published was to get one laid out where the boys and girls could pick it up once in a while. I went to the room of my boy and found him reading the Journals. He said, "Dad, I make a habit of reading one discourse before I go to sleep. I find that I have a better sleep and get a better spirit." The other children are slower to take it up. Another boy, younger than he, is beginning to take it up now. He said, "After my school lessons, I try to read a sermon out of the Discourses. John got so much out of them, I thought I could

get something, too." If we can get our children reading them, they will get more out of them than anything else. We will raise up a generation of worthy men.

If there are any of you addicted to learning Personology, which is mind and character reading, cut off this worldly desire of getting this knowledge, and read the discourses. One of the greatest mind and character readers was John Y. Barlow. He would study a man or woman for a few moments and then tell me the character of that person. If I watched the person for a while, I could tell that he knew what he was talking about. Brigham Young was another. We are here to assimilate ourselves into the character of God. If we are interested in Personology--use God as a study to learn of Him. Use God as a measuring stick, and we can measure the character of men.

There are many ways we can improve ourselves day by day to measure up to the character of that great Being. One of the greatest responsibilities upon us today is to teach our children to become like God. If you can put into practice the things taught here, you will have a community here that will cease to worship golden calves. They will worship our Father in Heaven. Joseph Smith tried to put this idea over; Brigham Young tried in his day; John Taylor also tried in his day, but he had to go into hiding and died a martyr because he didn't have friends enough to help him.

A few years ago, the Spirit of God rested upon us, and we republished the Journal of Discourses. These books contain the sermons of the early leaders of the Church on the Celestial Law which will lead us back into the presence of God. Five hundred sets of these volumes were scattered among the people and in libraries. The Brigham Young University has six or seven sets. The students have access to these books. A lot of young people that go there are getting an idea of what was taught by the early leaders. The presidents of stakes and wards have to answer many questions of the young people who are going to school there.

One Seminary teacher, just out of school (I had two or three children going to his Seminary class), came to the school-ground one morning and heard the children taunting my children, calling them polygies, etc. He called them together and said: “There is not one child here that cannot trace his genealogy back to polygamy. It is not being lived now, but one day it will have to be lived in the Church. If you know of anyone living that law today, they are good people. They have to be, because that is a great law. I don’t want any taunting of other children.”

Sometime we are going to see the results of the great work that the Journals are doing. A little later on, maybe, not now. A great deal of people are thinking more deeply, especially young people. How many will rally to the standard? We have left this Church without excuse. The Church has been tried and found wanting. The states of Utah and Arizona have been found wanting. I believe the time has come when the Lord is willing to fight the battles of this people.

We must get close to the Lord and forget our differences, stamp out jealousy, enmity, and become a brotherly loving people, for the Lord has said that the first commandment is: Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind and strength. And the second is like unto it: Love thy neighbor as thyself. This is all we have to do. Get rid of the feelings that come up that tend to promote discord, and get the Spirit of the Lord and keep it.

God can fight the battles better than we can. In 1953, Governor Pyle made a notorious speech to the world that he had stopped a great insurrection, wiped out a city, put the men in jail, and was going to adopt the children out so that in two years their identity would be lost. David O. McKay, on the radio, told the people that he and the Latter-day Saint Church were in full harmony with the State of Arizona and what they did.

Brigham Young said, “If the time ever comes that this Church strikes hands with the wicked, know ye then that the

Priesthood is lost from them." Whether we know it or not, the Lord is giving us another chance to align ourselves with His work, or He will raise up another people. He could easily do it if you don't get on the ball and take hold of His work. The Lord may do it another way to carry off His work, but scriptures tell us that He will carry off the Kingdom. If we want to be partakers of this blessing, we must hasten. See that we don't sleep with feelings in our hearts against our neighbors, wives, or husbands. See to it that we don't harbor any feeling of enmity or jealousy or whatever and keep it.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon you that you will make use of the material that the Lord has placed in your hands. Don't let moths get these books. Every time I pick up a book, I get something new that I have not noticed before, in the Book of Mormon, also. It is a good book which tells us the story of what is going to happen in the latter days.

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SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 8, 1961, SATURDAY EVENING, IN CANADA

It certainly is a pleasure to meet with you again and to partake of the Spirit of God with you. I pray that the Spirit of God will direct my remarks so that we might be edified in coming together. I have no written remarks. I rely entirely upon the Spirit of God to speak to you. I have been very much interested in the remarks of the other brethren and exhort you to take heed, for we are living in a time when the Lord is preparing a people to build up Zion.

The Prophet Joseph Smith told us that the time would surely come in the last days when the One Mighty and Strong would come to set the House of God in order. I say that that time is getting very short in our lives. We have a great work to perform. We have been set apart to keep alive the work of the Lord. He has said that Zion cannot be redeemed upon any other principles. We must keep alive these principles and see to it that every year children are born under the new and everlasting covenant, for this law was instituted for man. I am reminded now of what the Lord said regarding this subject.

(D.& C. - Section 1:1-2)

> "Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say: Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.
>
> For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated."

In 1832, the Lord placed the Church under condemnation for treating lightly the things of God; and He said that they would remain there until they repented, not only to say, but to do the things which the Lord had commanded. So, the only thing we are

trying to do, brothers and sisters, is to keep alive these principles to put them into our lives and practice them, and repent of the things that we have treated lightly.

We are not trying to set up another church or to set the Church in order, but we are trying to prepare a people that the Lord can use to set His House in order when the One Mighty and Strong shall come. The Lord needs a people full of faith that He can depend upon, people who are tried and tested, for He has said that He will have a tried people. We have got to be tried in every way to prove ourselves worthy. The things that President Musser told us are only a few of the things we must do to prepare ourselves for this glorious work.

The Spirit of God is easily grieved, and once grieved, it is hard to obtain again. The easiest way to grieve the Spirit of God is to complain. And then it is hard to get it back and get into the groove again. Remember that the Spirit of God will not always strive with man. Let us get the Spirit of the Lord and keep it so we will have some protection against the evils of the world. The judgments of God have already started upon this continent of ours, and it is going to get worse and worse and will prepare the way for the Ten Tribes. Before the City can be built, the Lord must have a people prepared that will administer the ordinances. The Lord is hastening us to prepare a people that He can use. If you older people cannot be persuaded to throw off the yoke of unrighteousness and put on the yoke of righteousness, your children will have to take your place and they will carry off the Kingdom. They will not all be lost. They are being taught by the Spirit of the Lord.

We are asking you to go home and see to it that you speak no evil to anyone. Seek diligently for the Lord to pour out His blessings upon you, that you might be fully blessed for the effort you have made to come out. I ask the Lord to bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 9, 1961, SUNDAY EVENING, IN CANADA

I am thankful for the opportunity I have of speaking to you, and I trust that your faith and mine will be increased in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have heard many wonderful things today regarding the salvation of mankind. I am reminded of the First Article of Faith, "We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost."

If we believe in these principles, brothers and sisters, what we have heard today will go a long way toward rounding out our salvation. Some of these wonderful revelations that were given to the Prophet Joseph Smith seem small, seem insignificant in their nature, to some. But yet, when we contemplate them and begin to study them and find out the reason for them, we find that they are very important in our lives. President Jessop gave us a good idea of what was meant by, "We believe in God, the Eternal Father." Many people who do not understand the significance of it will try to divert our minds from the very significance of that term. "We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost."

The Lord has given us many commandments that we should apply to our lives and many instructions that we must follow to round out our salvation. In giving these instructions, He has warned us of the dangers that beset our lives. The Lord is very kind to the people in every age. He spent many years with Enoch trying to convert the people to the Gospel of salvation. Enoch spent three hundred and sixty-five years perfecting the people. Then the Lord took them away to preserve them so that they would not lose their salvation.

We understand that Noah had a great length of time trying to save the people. Yet, he saved only eight souls from the destruction that the Lord brought upon the earth. We are told that the brother of Jared spent a great deal of time gathering together a few souls out of the wicked world to take to a land where they could live by the revelations of God. The people, finally, were completely destroyed because of their lack of faith.

We are told that the Spirit of God rested upon Father Lehi and lead him to this land, flowing with milk and honey. He came to this continent, where he and his faithful son tried to perfect a people that the Lord might be satisfied with, and that He might save their souls. Alma tried to tell the people, “This is the day to prepare to meet your God.”

So, we say again today: THIS is the day to prepare to meet your God. If we let any opportunity slip by, who is going to save our souls? The things that have been told to us today are only stepping stones along the way to prepare ourselves to meet our Maker.

The Prophet Joseph Smith was told by the Lord that a great destruction was coming upon the people in the day in which we live. Many great things have been predicted about this destruction, and it will take place upon the land unless the people repent and remember their Lord.

(D.& C. Section 133)

> “Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the Lord your God, and hear the word of the Lord concerning you--
>
> The Lord who shall suddenly come to his temple; the Lord who shall come down upon the world with a curse to judgment; yea, upon all the nations that forget God, and upon all the ungodly among you.
>
> For he shall make bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of their God.
>
> Wherefore, prepare ye, prepare ye, O my people; sanctify yourselves; gather ye together, O ye people of my church, upon the land of Zion, all you that have not been commanded to tarry.”

There is one of the revelations that predict the judgments of God on an ungodly people. How can we be ungodly unless we have been godly at one time? The Lord is very kind to us to allow us the privilege of choosing where we should go, to choose right or to go down with the wicked. These things concern us greatly.

Not one word of prophecy shall go unnoticed. Great faith shall be exercised in this day by those who will not submit to the ungodly. Joseph Smith told us that there was a part of the record that he could not translate because it was sealed. The Book of Mormon tells us that it would remain sealed until great faith was exercised among the people in the last days.

(Ether - Chapter 4:1-7)

> "And the Lord commanded the brother of Jared to go down out of the mount from the presence of the Lord, and write the things which he had seen; and they were forbidden to come unto the children of men until after that he should be lifted up upon the cross; and for this cause did king Mosiah keep them, that they should not come unto the world until after Christ should show himself unto his people.
>
> And after Christ truly had showed himself unto his people he commanded that they should be made manifest.
>
> And now, after that, they have all dwindled in unbelief; and there is none save it be the Lamanites, and they have rejected the gospel of Christ; therefore, I am commanded that I should hide them up again in the earth.
>
> Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw; and there never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared.
>
> Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I should seal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandments of the Lord.
>
> For the Lord said unto me: They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord.

> And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are."

I heard a rumor a short time ago that the Church had these records, the sealed portion of these plates, that they are being translated; but where are the people that have shown forth faith as the brother of Jared? Where are the people so faithful that the Lord can visit them? He said that all would remain under condemnation until we repented. Where can we find this people? I want to tell you that the Lord expects a great deal of this people--of you, of me, because He has blessed us with knowledge pertaining to our salvation. Where can we find a people worthy enough to have perfect confidence in one another? Till then, we will find those records still sealed--still hidden away from this generation.

We come here to try to strengthen your faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, when the Lord is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked, to prepare you against the evil one. We come here to prepare a people so that they can be used by the One Mighty and Strong. The Lord has said that the Gospel shall not be taken away again until the sons of Levi do offer an offering in righteousness. Listen to the teachings of this conference and live by them so that you won't be found wanting when the Lord comes again to make up His jewels. I ask the Lord to bless you and make you see the importance of applying it to your lives so that you can make claim on eternal life.

* * *

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 21, 1961, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

> "Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you who have assembled yourselves together to receive His will concerning you. Behold, this is pleasing unto your Lord and the angels rejoice over you. The alms of your prayers have come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth and are recorded in the book of the names of the sanctified, even them of the Celestial World."

This was the word of the Lord unto the people in the days of the Prophet Joseph and they still stand good today. Those who have determined to keep the commandments of God and get themselves in line with His work and work out their salvation in fear and trembling come under this blessing.

Take a long breath and I will just about be through. The Lord is good to us, my brothers and sisters, to grant us this wonderful privilege. If we will apply to our lives, all these privileges we have, and try to align ourselves with the teachings that we have received, we will be on our way to perfecting this beautiful life that we have before us. God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son in sacrifice for the sins of mankind. The souls of men are precious in the sight of our Father. These bodies He gave us are very precious in His sight because they were designed to come up before Him in a sanctified condition; and He can't use a polluted body. He has so ordered that those who pollute these tabernacles will have to go back into mother elements, just like you see the leaves from a tree decay under the tree and go back into mother elements. But, He has told us that if we would perfect these bodies and bring them back to Him so He could Celestialize them, we can go on to eternal increase, eternal progression; and they will be useful to us in bringing to pass His great purposes of going on with the many creations He has made and will make, continue to make, and we will be partakers of those wonderful blessings with Him.

It's worth living for!! You send your child to school and you expect that child to obey the teacher, that at the end of school

he might be able to pass his examinations and be promoted. Otherwise, he will have to be held over and go through the grades again. It is only an example of what our lives are. So, it is worth the effort, my brothers and sisters, to do what we have just been told to do by President Musser.

I like to continue to remind you and keep refreshing your minds upon some of these things. (D. & C. 1:1-7)

> "Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say: Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.
>
> For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated.
>
> And the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow; for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed.
>
> And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days.
>
> And they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.
>
> Behold, this is mine authority, and the authority of my servants, and my preface unto the book of my commandments, which I have given them to publish unto you, O inhabitants of the earth.
>
> Wherefore, fear and tremble, O ye people, for what I the Lord have decreed in them shall be fulfilled."

So we see, my brothers and sisters, that the Lord has a purpose in bringing us here and tutoring and training us--that we might be of some use in His Kingdom.

Let us go forward with a more firm determination to purify our lives and to get ourselves in a position so that God will be pleased with us. We have examples throughout the history of the world where the Lord has greatly blessed people who have drawn near to Him and kept His commandments. We have examples where people have been destroyed because they have been disobedient. So, let us prepare ourselves for that which is to come. For the prophets of God have already pronounced upon the people, in our day, the latter time, the blessing of life if we will listen to the voice of the prophets, the voice of God, which is unto all men. He has also promised us destruction if we take the other course, and we continue and persist in our downward course of following the ways of least resistance, or the ways of the world. These things are very serious in our lives.

Now let us take advantage of the opportunity that we have and apply to our lives the principles of eternal life, that we might be found worthy to go on and perfect ourselves and become as our elder brother, Jesus Christ, when He came forth from the grave and proved to the world that there is something beyond this life. The example is here and has been set before us. Now let us take advantage of it that we might be found on the right hand of God when this life is past.

I pray that the spirit of peace will settle down upon this people and that we shall prepare ourselves against the day of visitation which the Lord has promised in order to prepare the way for the perfection of His people. God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 28, 1962, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I won't detain you very long, my brothers and sisters. I felt like I would like to say a few words after President Hammon got through. I made a few notes while he was talking and asking questions. The question was asked, "How much steam power do we need?" Brother Steed, I want you to set your aim to at least two 200 horsepower boilers for a starter. We will set them side by side. That will produce power enough if you want to run a generator and light this place with all the power we will need. If you want to run the other machinery and hang on to the power you already have, that is fine. We will need those diesel motors to pull these wells with, but we ought not to have any less than two of those boilers. If you get only one 200 horsepower boiler, you will find in the future that you will not have enough power; but the other one will help to take care of it.

Talking about the conservation of our foodstuff and storing it away--I have been a great believer in the words of the prophets because the Lord has said that not one word of the prophets would fall unheeded to the ground. On one occasion, at least, President Kimball said something like this--"The time will come when people will flock to the valleys of these mountains by the millions." He didn't say hundreds or thousands, but "by the millions." "What will we feed them when they come?" he says. He was talking about the storing of wheat and other commodities that would keep. That is what President Hammon has been worrying about for some time, not only President Hammon, but President Barlow made mention several times that he would like to see us go into this mountain somewhere and build a storage room where we could store wheat and other commodities that would keep. He said, "You are going to need it."

The signs of the times tell us that fearful times are at our door. We may have a little time yet to gather together some of this valuable stuff. Let us heed the counsel of the servants of the Lord when they present them to us. And let us rally to with all the faith and the courage and whatever it takes to accomplish these things. After our efforts of raising thirty dollars a head for each

member of our families, I haven’t heard tell of anyone starving to death among us. I don’t believe we will starve to death this time. I have never known of the Lord allowing a man to starve and go without the necessities of life when he has heeded the counsels of the Priesthood.

This is a great work in which we are engaged. I am overjoyed with the support that the people have given since I have known this order of things. I have seen our people in dire circumstances. Many of you remember the winter of 1935--it might have been 1934 and 1935 when we were blessed with the privilege of securing half of a man’s turnip patch if we would harvest them for him. We brought home several tons of turnips and put them in the cellar. That winter we had turnips for breakfast, turnips for dinner, and turnips for supper. We were able to obtain enough flour along the way to make a little brown sauce to go on the turnips. But I know of several people that tell me that they can’t bear turnips on the table any more, but I believe that if it came to a necessity they could still eat a few turnips.

I remember one time when I was about fifteen or sixteen, we raised just a few rows of wheat in the garden. Mother had us thrash it by hand and with the help of the wind we blew the chaff out of it and put it in the south end of the house. Rather than go in debt for foodstuff, Mother said, “Well, we will boil the wheat.” We had one of these little coffee grinders that has a little door in the side with a slide in it. We ground enough of that wheat to make a gravy. We would brown it and make a little sauce to go on the boiled wheat, but we had it three times a day for a little over a month. Finally, one day, I made the mistake of inviting one of our neighbor boys to come and have some dinner with us. We were going to have some of that good old boiled wheat and brown gravy. The boy tasted of it and looked around to see where the bread was. I told him we didn’t have any bread. All we had was boiled wheat and gravy. His father happened to be a store man. He went home after his meal and told his father. That night, or the next morning, we had plenty of food. But I was thankful for the experience.

I know that we can live on that kind of stuff if we have to, but if we will do the things we have been told to this afternoon we won't have to in this place because we can produce a variety of commodities that will take care of our needs. There is no need for this people to go hungry any more if we will just do what the Lord has told us. But there is a little old "if" in the shuffle. If we don't want these blessings, all we need to do is linger along and play with the Lord and see whether He will bless us in time of need, even if we don't keep His commandments. If we do that, we will find ourselves on the other side of the ledger. We will find ourselves in dire want for the necessities of life.

We can plant and the Lord will give the increase, if we are worthy of it. If we are not worthy of it, He can cause our crops to fail--miserably fail. I have seen it fall both ways since I have been in this community. I guess, if for no other reason but to hold me here, the first summer I spent in this place Brother Leo LeBaron came out here in the spring and he says, "If you boys will plant ten acres of beans out here, I will furnish the beans for half the crop." We thought that was a bargain; we had plenty of ground and didn't have to irrigate. All we needed to do was plant the beans and keep the weeds out. I don't believe I ever sweat harder in my life than trying to keep the weeds down in that patch of beans. Nevertheless, we planted the beans and that fall we took off of ten acres of ground twelve one hundred pound bags full of beans to Brother LeBaron, which is a lot of beans from ten acres of ground in this place--dry land. But in those days by cultivating every day we could hold the water from where it is underneath the ground up to the top. And those beans looked like irrigated stuff.

I know that the prophecies that have been placed upon this land will be realized. President Hammon has told us what we have done this year and what he believes we can do next year. Another prophet told us once what this land would produce. President Joseph Musser, with the Spirit of God on him, told us that if we could go to and keep the commandments of God in this place that the ground would become productive. He said it would become so productive of the

necessities of life that one acre of ground here would produce ten times what one acre of ground would produce in Salt lake Valley. That is quite a prophecy. But in those days, I was teetering in the balance; I didn't know whether to stay in this place or go somewhere else, but the Lord blessed us with such crops here on dry land that I finally decided to stay, after He showed me what the place would look like if it were handled properly. And I have seen some of the fulfillment of those inspirations that were given to us.

In regards to the enemies of this people, I am not afraid, my brothers and sisters, to serve the Lord and keep His commandments because I know that the Lord can protect us under any circumstances. I don't care what they are, if we are in a condition that we can go before Him and ask Him for blessings and feel within ourselves that we are not asking unworthily, He will pour out the blessings upon us. In speaking on this subject, it has been stated that President Woolley, at one time when his enemies were giving him troubles, made a remark something like this, "You boys have started this thing and by the gods we will finish it." He wasn't swearing either. He meant, "By the help of God, we will finish the job--by obeying the Lord and keeping His commandments." I hope we are men and women enough to see that those words won't fail. He was a servant of God and was being persecuted for the same principles that we stand for. If we have any faith at all in the words of the prophets, we will see to it that these things, these words of these good men, do not fail.

And the promise is to you people today the same as it has ever been--those that will put their shoulder to the wheel and see that God's work rolls on will never want for the necessities of life. I am not afraid to leave that promise in the name of Jesus Christ to this people--that if you will put your shoulder to the wheel, push with your might to see that the Kingdom of God is established in the earth, God will open the way to see that you can do the things that He has asked you to do. I am no more afraid to make you that promise than the old Prophet Nephi was when he said, "I know the Lord makes

no commandment to the children of men except He provide the way whereby they can accomplish that thing." I have seen it accomplished in my short life in many ways.

During the days of the raid of 1953, the Spirit of God rested upon me and told me to tell the lawyers where they could go and get the information that would help to free this people, and they found it. Then He helped me to raise the money to pay the bills. That has been our experience. There isn't anything President Hammon has asked you to do but what you can do. All we need to do is get this little old gray matter up here to do the job. We can do all the Lord will let us do. We don't have to take the bread out of the mouths of our wives and children to do it with either. Just try asking the Lord to bless your bodies and make them strong and healthy so that you can accomplish the things the servants of the Lord have asked you to do and see how quick He helps you out. I know He will do it!

I have been acquainted with this work and these men that have been called by God to lead and direct us for around thirty years now, and I can bear testimony that during that time the Lord has opened the way whereby we could do the things that the servants of God have asked us to do. They have all tried to get the people to do the same thing. What President Barlow asked us to do when I first got acquainted with him has been the theme all the way along. We have been trying to get the people to do the same thing today that he tried then.

May God bless us, each and everyone. And you who have to travel upon the highways this afternoon, I pray the Lord will let His Holy Spirit go before you and hold the evils back.

God bless you. Amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 29, 1963,
AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES OF RACHEL ALBERTA BALMFORTH,
AT HILDALE, UTAH

I feel very humble, my brothers and sisters, in trying to say a few words this afternoon, and I trust that the Lord will direct my remarks that they might be in accordance with His will, that they might be edifying to at least some of you. I haven't known this good lady for very many years, but from the time that I first met her until now, I have greatly enjoyed her company, possibly a little more than other people because of the experiences that we have had in common throughout the time that she has been in this place.

There is a little phase of her life that I don't think that we ought to overlook. There isn't anyone here who is over the age of fifteen, and I don't think there is anyone here at all, but what has heard of the persecutions of the people who have lived in this place. I want to call your attention once more to the raid of 1953. (The recording tape was turned here and I will have to fill in President Johnson's remarks in the next few sentences with my own words as well as I can remember. He made mention of the great army of Arizona coming in and taking the older women and a few others who had no children to jail in Kingman. These women were not treated with much respect and had many hardships to go through. However, through their trials, they had their prayers regularly, and Mother would usually start the singing every evening and morning. Some of the brethren who were close by, in another cell, would join in. After several days, the women were moved to an old C.C.C. building, but they did not cease to worry for their loved ones and pray continually for their well-being.) Pres. Johnson continues:

One day the ladies decided to fast and ask the Lord for deliverance. The jailer fetched their food, but when he came back in about an hour or so, he found none of it eaten. He began to curse them and used very harsh and vile language to let the women know that he was not satisfied that they were "staging a hunger-strike." Grandma Balmforth spoke up and this is what she said, "Sheriff

Porter, may I speak?" He turned to her, staring. "Has your heart ever been so full your stomach could not hold food? We are in deep trouble and if ever a people needs to get close to our God, we do. Our religion teaches us to fast when we need the Lord." That was the response of this lady to the sheriff. Today, of those nine ladies that were in the prison at that time, four have passed on, three are here today in this audience, and the other two live in Salt Lake City.

The kind and gracious governor that consented to the raid and furnished all the government troops that were under his command to come in and surround the "insurrectors" and carry them away, told the world that day that there would never be another community in Short Creek. He declared that the State would take away all their property, he would take the women away from the men, put them in detention homes, take their children and adopt them out, destroy their records and after two years their identity would be forgotten. That is what he told the world. In less than a month, he made a written statement that he was washing his hands of the whole thing. He didn't want anything more to do with it, but he had it in the courts and he couldn't get rid of it. He also told the world that they had spent three years in the legislature framing laws so that they could come in "legally" and do the things that they had done.

But the Lord blessed us. He blessed us with lawyers that broke the laws that they spent three years framing to destroy this people. For after three years of detention for the wives and children of this people, the State had to turn them loose because they couldn't hold them any longer. They had no law upon which they could hold them. They have not all returned here. Some of them are away yet, but they didn't take any of the children away and adopt them out. When they went to do it the Lord showed us that there were statutes upon the books where they could not adopt a child out in the State of Arizona without the written consent of their father and mother under any condition; and yet, they had been doing that very

thing for years. No lawyer had ever run across that statute on the books until they tried this people, and then, the Lord gave to us where to find it. So they were whipped.

There came another reckoning day and the good governor was beaten in the election. In the state of Arizona, a governor is elected every two years. Two years later the same governor tried to get his name on the ballot again. The Republican Committee said, “No, Mr. Pyle, the people haven’t forgotten Short Creek yet.” They wouldn’t even consider him as a candidate for governor. Now they don’t know what to do with us. They don’t know what is happening, but after what you have heard today you can see what is happening.

The good Lord told the Prophet, when he received the Aaronic Priesthood, that “This gospel of the Kingdom should never be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.” I bear testimony to you, my brothers and sisters, that this order that is conducting this funeral today is the only order upon the face of the earth that is upholding Joseph Smith’s testimony in every phase of the work. Whether you believe it or whether you don’t makes no difference to me, but that is the truth, and this good lady here has done just what you have been told that she has done.

There is no doubt in my mind that if Joseph Balmforth had lived and heard the truth as this lady heard it, he would have embraced it along with her, and she knew it because of the life she knew he had lived. She couldn’t do anything else, my brothers and sisters, than to embrace the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. Why? Because she was under covenant. It was the covenant that she made when she entered the House of the Lord that she would obey all the laws of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. She knew that she couldn’t break that law and ever see Joseph’s face again. Believe it or not, my brothers and sisters, this good lady is a savior upon Mount Zion in the house of Joseph Balmforth. She has saved his house, and in no other way would his children ever see his face again unless he comes

to see them if they haven't followed in her footsteps. If you can find any scripture anywhere saying that I am out of the way in saying this, I would like to see it. I'll tell you, truth will prevail wherever it is, and the truthfulness of the testimonies of these men who have talked this afternoon will be verified if you try to refute it.

I don't wish to weary you any longer with my remarks, but I bear testimony that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true. What He said when He was here is true, "He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is not worthy of the Kingdom." Unless we do everything that we can, my brothers and sisters, to do the things that were revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith, through the revelations he received, we will never in the world receive a glorious resurrection.

May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 14, 1963, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

It is good to be here, my brothers and sisters, and to partake of the Spirit of the Lord with you. I trust that the few moments I occupy this position the Spirit of God will direct my remarks. I have been acquainted with this work now since about 1926 when I first began to feel that the fullness of the Gospel should be part of my life. It took me from 1926 to 1935 to really get acquainted with the Priesthood work. Since that time I have tried to apply to my life the teachings of the servants of God. Since that time I have heard nothing but the same instructions that you have received here today--to repent of our sins and get close to the Lord and keep His commandments, or in other words, get the Spirit of God and keep it. That was the doctrine of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and it has been the doctrine of all the leaders of the Priesthood from Joseph till now. And as far as I am concerned, it will be the doctrine of the Priesthood from now on--to get the Spirit of God and keep it. If I read the scriptures right, the Lord does not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. There has never been a time that I can recall in my study of the scriptures where the Lord has soft-pedalled the people for doing wrong, or been lenient with them for disobeying His commandments. He has granted them their agency, told them what to do to work their way back into His presence, but in all His teachings, He has said that if we sin we will have to pay the debt.

So, let us give heed to what President Hammon has just been telling us. Let us blend it with the testimonies of the other brethren this afternoon, and let us do something about it. I would like to leave this thought in the minds of parents in this community and all other communities--that the spirits that are being born today through the New and Everlasting Covenant are the most valiant that have ever come to the earth. And the Lord is going to hold the parents responsible for the teachings that we give them--for the example that we set before them, and for the degree of faith that we instill into their hearts.

We are living in a day when the Lord is trying to raise up a people that He can use in the establishment of a righteous reign upon the earth. He has promised to all the generations of time since the days of Adam until now that there would be a Millennial Reign--a thousand years of peace upon the earth. Joseph Smith said in his day that there were those living upon the earth whose eyes would not be closed in death until these things had come to pass. So, I feel I am safe in saying that these children that are being born today in this time, under the New and Everlasting Covenant, are the most precious in the sight of God of any babes that have ever been born. He expects you and me to do something about it. But, it would be better, my brothers and sisters, if not another babe be born among this people than to have them born and come here and be turned over to Satan.

How many children are there on the earth, that bear the name of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who are being taught under the direction of the Holy Priesthood today? I believe it was Heber C. Kimball that made the prediction that if the Latter-day Saints gave up the principle of plural marriage, their daughters would walk the streets as common harlots. Word has come to us that one of the speakers in the recent Conference made the statement that 14% of the MIA girls that were not married were pregnant. He went on to say that, that was a terrible record for a people who claim to be the most righteous upon the earth. They have received more, they have had the revelations of the God of Heaven to direct them, and at the present time there is more delinquency in the state of Utah, according to the record, than the average of all the rest of the United States put together. Some record!

Here is a little community that was branded immoral, corrupt, and the most indecent people in the world, in 1953. We were branded as the most filthy people in the world. So, the army came in and rounded us up, ran us through a chute and took a blood test to show to the world that we were corrupt. But, according to the statement of one of the juvenile judges after the report was brought back to him, not one drop or one trace of venereal disease was found

among this people--something, he said, that couldn't be equaled in any part of the country. Let us keep it clean. Let us do something about these children that are being born among our people. Let us safeguard their morals above all else. Let us stamp out of our midst any trace of thievery and immorality that might be here. Let us make this, and let us keep it, the cleanest people upon the face of the earth, that the Lord might bless us, that we might become a nucleus for that great Millennial Reign that the Lord has promised in the latter days.

He is banking upon this people. Why? Because He told the Prophet Joseph Smith that this Kingdom was never to be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. Where else can He go to keep alive the principles of salvation that have been handed down in rightful succession from the Prophet Joseph, from the time that prophecy was uttered by him until now? You can't find another people. "How oft would I have gathered you," said the Lord, "as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wing, but ye would not." Let us come out from under that curse. Let us prepare ourselves so that we can walk up to Him and say: Here we are, use us in the establishment of a righteous reign upon the earth, that all the kingdoms that have existed throughout time can be blessed through our righteousness, for that is what the Lord is after.

If I study the scriptures right, and read them right, the Millennial Reign will be utilized in the blessings of the saints throughout all the generations since the days of Adam until now. You can go home and study them and see if that isn't correct.

What a wonderful opportunity, my brothers and sisters, lies in our laps. Let us not have it said of us again that the opportunity has been offered to us and we wouldn't accept of it. Let us walk off with the Kingdom! We can do it! Christ set the example and nobody can say that He didn't. Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God and he sealed his testimony with his blood. Was he any better than we? He was born of woman the same as we were. The Lord blessed him with intelligence. Has He blessed us with intelligence? He has, if we

will use it in the right direction. But, Oh, that word “Agency”. “I have got a right to my own opinion and I am going to exercise it.” Let us use our agency, but let us use it in the right direction. Let us be determined within ourselves that we are going to stamp out of our lives every vestige of corruption that there is in them. Let us walk down the road together and let the Lord know that we are ready to walk off with the Kingdom, and see how quick the kingdoms of the earth will make way for the Kingdom of God to rise.

I tremble, my brothers and sisters, at the tremendous concourse of young people that is growing up. They are going to have to have homes right away--a lot sooner than we have any idea of. Where are we going to put them? There has got to be a way prepared for this throng of young people that is being born today under the New and Everlasting Covenant because they are going to apply to their lives the New and Everlasting Covenant. Think it over! Let us go away from this meeting determined to do something about this repentance that we have been told about so much, and let us try to get our young people to walk down the road with us. Let us walk off with the Kingdom.

I pray the Spirit of God will rest upon us, that we will do something about it, and that we will hasten to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation.

God bless you, amen.

## REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 17, 1965, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We have been together a good long time, brothers and sisters, and I hope we have been paid for our sitting still and listening to the voices of the servants of God.

Every once in a while we have someone come in and want to know how much longer we are going to have to wait. But when I open the Journals and begin to peruse through the sermons of the brethren, these same things have been sounded since the days of the Prophet Joseph. So how much longer the Lord will have us wait, we don't know, but I do know this--if I don't prepare myself while I live, who is going to prepare me when I am dead? If in this life only we have hope, we are of all men most miserable. The Lord tells us He cannot redeem Zion only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. The Lord promised Enoch that he and his people would take part in that great work. Are we going to sit idly by and let our lives be snuffed out unprepared and then let the Lord bring men and women from the other side to redeem Zion? Think about it!

Another man asked me if I thought our continual preaching of the same thing over and over again was going to save this people. I can't get up to speak unless I say the same things this Sunday I said last Sunday. If I try to prepare a sermon, the Lord takes it away from me when I get up, and I have to say what He tells me to say, whether I like it or whether I don't.

I just want to read one verse to you. You people know it off by heart, but I am going to tell it to you like the Lord told it to the Prophet Joseph: "And as pertaining to the New and Everlasting Covenant, it was instituted for the fullness of My glory, and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God." This thing is a must, brothers and sisters. If we want a blessing at the hands of God, we will prepare ourselves while we live. And we will lay at the feet of the servants of God that which they need to build up the Kingdom of God, whether we have all we need to wear and eat or not. And if the servants of

God don’t keep busy going to and fro and teaching the people and keeping alive these things before the people, the Lord is going to cut them off and put somebody else there to do it.

Let us see to it that when the Lord does pour out His judgments upon the nations of the earth and the wicked we can demand His protecting hand. “Stand ye in holy places and see the hand of the Lord made manifest.” He said also that He would protect His saints if He had to send fire from heaven to do so when they need His protection.

Now, let us not be found wanting. Let us go to and prepare ourselves while the day lasts, that when the darkness begins to gather round we will be prepared to ask the Lord for His protecting care.

I pray the blessings of the Lord will settle upon us that we can feel that peaceful, sweet spirit continually throughout our lives. Now may these be our blessings, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 9, 1965, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I have been greatly edified this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, in what we have heard, and I trust that these words will sink deep into your hearts and that we will profit by them and hasten to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation. I use this word "visitation" because the Lord used it when He answered the Prophet Joseph Smith, after his prayer when he asked the Lord how long before He would bring judgment upon the wicked. The Lord told him that His anger was kindled against the rebellious and that they should feel His indignation in the day of visitation, and those who will not obey His commandments shall be cut off in His own due time.

I am very often approached upon the condition of our people in this place. The debts that we have allowed ourselves to contract and are not able to pay at the present time--this together with the weather conditions that we have just experienced are some factors in our lives that might tend to lead us to some of the adversities that have been spoken about this afternoon. It has been my experience, my brothers and sisters, that unless we rely entirely upon the Lord for direction, we have little hope in our delivery.

I have told this story before and I call attention to it again--a little experience that we had in Mexico. We went into Mexico and the Lord blessed us with failure to where we found ourselves deeply in debt. I am satisfied within my own feelings that the Lord allowed this to test our faith to see what we were made of. And possibly, the condition of our people today is for the same reason, to see how much faith there is among us. When we found that we were so deeply in debt that it looked impossible to be relieved under the conditions that existed, I took the situation to President Barlow. He says, "You go down and send those other men out with their families and you pay the debts." I don't think I hesitated more than a second, and I said, "I will do it." President Barlow didn't give me instructions as to what to do to pay the debts, neither did I ask him, but I went to work with the Lord. I followed

the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and by the time the year was up, I had sufficient in store to pay the debts.

During that time, I saw the Lord stay the rains and saw Him temper the rains to benefit His work. When we got our crop planted, we asked the Lord to send the rains and He sent them. When the crop was ready to harvest, I asked the Lord to stay the rains, and He stayed the rains on that particular piece of property we were operating. The general country had their usual amount of rain, but He preserved the crop to benefit this work.

Now, I am satisfied, my brothers and sisters, that this people, if they will do what they should from day to day, can control the elements. When springtime comes you can ask the Lord to stay the winds and they will stop. When it is cold around us, we can ask the Lord to protect our crops and He will protect them. I know He can just as well as I know that I am speaking to you. We can ask the Lord for moisture to produce our crops and He will send enough to produce them. I know that this people can get out of debt if they will take the Spirit of God for their direction. We don’t have to ask the Priesthood to tell us where to go to work or how to pay the debt. If we can leave this building with the Spirit of God upon us and start following the direction of that Spirit, in a year from now you won’t owe this store over here a dollar, and they will have all their money, and the Priesthood won’t have to provide ways and means for you to meet these obligations, you will put into the hands of the Priesthood that which they need to carry on this work.

I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will put into practice the things we have heard, that we might accomplish the labors that are upon our shoulders.

I don’t wish to say anymore at this time, but I ask the blessings of God upon you all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 21, 1965, SUNDAY, FISCHER HOME, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

If I can wake up enough, I will try and say a few words. While the brethren were speaking, my mind went back to the 34th Chapter of Alma. Amulek made his great appeal unto the people for repentance and to bring them into line with the will of God just prior to the great destruction that took place in the prison at that time. I think I will read a few of the things that he said to the people in that day and see how they dove-tail in with the things that are being given to the people today.

(Alma 34:17-32)

> "Therefore may God grant unto you, my brethren, that ye may begin to exercise your faith unto repentance, that ye begin to call upon his holy name, that he would have mercy upon you;
>
> Yea, cry unto him for mercy; for he is mighty to save.
>
> Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him.
>
> Cry unto him when ye are in your fields, yea, over all your flocks.
>
> Cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening.
>
> Yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies.
>
> Yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness.
>
> Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them.
>
> Cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase.
>
> But this is not all; ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness.
>
> Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you.

> And now behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you, do not suppose that this is all; for after ye have done all these things, if ye turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance, if ye have, to those who stand in need--I say unto you, if ye do not any of these things, behold, your prayer is vain, and availeth you nothing, and ye are as hypocrites who do deny the faith.
>
> Therefore, if ye do not remember to be charitable, ye are as dross, which the refiners do cast out, (it being of no worth) and is trodden under foot of men.
>
> And now, my brethren, I would that, after ye have received so many witnesses, seeing that the holy scriptures testify of these things, ye come forth and bring fruit unto repentance.
>
> Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you.
>
> For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.

These are some of the things that have been given to this people since the days that the Gospel was restored in this, our generation. And we are under this same condemnation that the people were under at that time, but they hardened their hearts. Instead of repenting, they hardened their hearts and we all know the story. They took Amulek and Alma and bound them and mocked them and made fun of them, and finally, they took their families and brought them out, tied them to the stake and burned them in front of the eyes of these two great men. And we know what the consequence was.

This is the day when the prophets of God have been telling us about from generation to generation to prepare for a great destruction that is coming upon the people. It is time, my brothers and sisters, that we were repenting of the things that the brethren

have been telling us about, that we can have claim in the day of vengeance when the Lord is pouring out His judgments--that we can have claim upon some of the blessings of salvation.

Now, I pray that the Lord will bless us and that we will listen to what has been told to us, that we will hasten to prepare ourselves against that day. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 5, 1965, SUNDAY, AT THE FISCHER HOME, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

First, I will call Brother Guy's attention to the fact that he has done some good anyway. I have been told there are two classes of people that go to church. After the church is over there is one class that has been greatly built up in their spirit, greatly strengthened; and the other class has been greatly refreshed because of the rest that they have had. I trust now that the Lord will bless me with words that will do a little good to someone.

In thinking upon the words that have been said this evening, my thoughts went back to the days of the Prophet Joseph when the Lord told him to tell Oliver Cowdery that the souls of men were very precious in His sight. So, if the souls of men are very precious in the sight of the Lord, then what has been said tonight is very timely because we are living in a day when men think very little of their own lives or the lives of others. You go out on the highway, and people drive like mad. They toot their horns for everyone to get out of the way so they can get down the road quicker. Some of them weave in and out and pay little attention to what is going on on either side of them, or in front or behind them. If they hit somebody, well they should not have been in the road.

So, the sermons that we have heard this evening are very pointed and very timely. I only want to encourage you, my brothers and sisters, to do what President Musser has just told you to do--repent. It is a wonderful gift. I have had many people come to me and want to know what they could do to better their lives. In some instances, they have said, "I feel that I have gone so far that there is no return, so what can I do?" But the Lord wouldn't ask us to repent if we didn't have the power of repentance. He has said, "Come out of her, oh My people, and partake not of her sins." We have power if we will just think that way. If we think we haven't the power, then we haven't, but if we think we have the power, then we have if we will use it. As long as life lasts in the body, then we have a fighting chance to repent and to do a little something for our salvation.

Brother Guy has told us what some men have done in their lifetime, and yet they have become great in the sight of God and in the sight of the people in doing something for their salvation and for the salvation of others.

So, let us not get in a rut and think that we cannot get out because we can get out. And the Lord expects us to use that power or He wouldn't leave us here. If we get beyond the power of repentance and we get to a point where the Lord feels like we cannot do any good any more, then He will take us. He allows nations to become very corrupt before He will destroy them. What does He say about it? He says He will destroy people when the cup of their iniquity is full.

So, as long as we have life and the Lord grants us our senses, we have the power of repentance and we can bring ourselves out of the rut. So let us not get discouraged. Let us take new life and do something for our salvation. Through our acts in striving to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and our return to the commandments of God in applying them to our lives, we set an example before others who might be able to follow our examples.

In the instances of Alma and Paul, many people were converted because of their acts of repentance. There were other men going about doing the same thing Alma was, and they became great missionaries for the Lord's work. We are told that many of the Lamanites were converted and brought to a knowledge of the truth, and out of that body of Lamanites that were converted, there were great miracles performed. These are records of holy writ--things that the Lord caused to be written that we might have them to refer to in our day. He showed to us that there is a chance for men to repent and to apply to their lives the principles of salvation.

Now, let us wake up to the responsibilities that are upon each and everyone of us, that we might prepare ourselves to become a people that the Lord can use. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 6, 1966, SUNDAY, AT THE CARL FISCHER HOME, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We could say “Amen” to what we have heard tonight, my brothers and sisters, and be well-fed for our being here. We have heard the word of the Lord given to us in great plainness. The signs of the times tell us that great things await us in the near future.

In reading the events that took place just before the coming of the Savior, the visiting of the Savior to this continent, it makes me tremble throughout my system when I think of the promises the Lord has made to the inhabitants of the earth in our day if they rejected the testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith. For truly the signs tell us that similar events await us at the present time.

When I go back and read what Joseph said regarding the conditions that would happen to people who were living in the day that he made these remarks, I’ll tell you, we should begin to look to our knitting. When he told of the great destruction that would take place upon this land--that hail, great wind-storms, earthquakes and diseases would devastate the country of its inhabitants; and, he says there are those now living upon the earth whose eyes will not close in death until you see all of these things take place.

What President Musser has been trying to put over here tonight is verily true. We find in our homes the companions that we have gathered around us continually telling us how they love us, but at the same time we have the very conditions that Brother Musser has been telling you about existing there. I find that it is a continual job to try to get out of the house the vexing spirits that come in when you are away. We no more than get the house cleaned of the vexatious spirits, then we have to leave for a day or two and they are there again, and this is not getting the Spirit of God and keeping it. If we want to get the Spirit of God and keep it, let us keep our lives clean from vexatious spirits. Let us see if we can’t begin to become a people that can claim protection when these great destructive elements take place around us.

I find, in Christ’s time, so great was the destruction that took place that the historian said only the more righteous were left. Those who could not be saved were destroyed, but even at that, it

took twenty years or more to convert those that were saved that Jesus was the Christ, and that it was necessary for them to comply with the laws and commandments that He gave.

We are living in a day when great events are taking place. I have been confronted with the problem of sending our boys into training. We have some of our boys in Viet Nam now and we have others on their way. I'll tell you, it is beginning to pinch a little. We will find that it will pinch harder from day to day from now on. We will find that these boys, unless they can claim--lay some claim before the feet of the Lord that they are worthy to come back and take their place in the establishment of His work, it is very doubtful whether they will come home. This is becoming one of the most destructive wars that our nation has ever fought, and it will continue to draw from our young manhood.

Now, these are not idle words. They are actual facts that confront us, my brothers and sisters, and unless we can get the Spirit of God upon us and send our boys off with the knowledge that they have been trained and tutored properly, and if they have not kept themselves clean from the traditions of this generation in which we live, we won't have much hope for their return.

I believe that the Lord is pleased to some extent with the efforts that are being put forth among our people today to try to cast off the traditions of this generation in which we live. I believe there are some among us who have striven daily to get the Spirit of God and keep it. It is a continual effort to overcome the evil spirits that hover around us, but we can do it if we will persist in keeping them out of our houses. The Lord can put a hedge around us. If He could put a hedge around one man, He could put it around others. The story tells us that He had a hedge around Job that Satan could not break through. He can put it around us if we will be determined to fight against the evil powers that strive to overcome us.

I trust the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will hasten to prepare ourselves for that day of visitation that the Lord has promised to this generation. God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 22, 1966,
AT THE HOME OF CARL FISCHER, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I trust that the few words I speak will be dictated by the Spirit of God. I have been very much interested in the remarks of the brethren. People have come to me and said, “Brother Johnson, why don’t you give us new revelation? You have taught us all these things and now we feel like we need something new.” I want to tell you something now. Maybe you know something about it and maybe you don’t. There will be some that will be informed, but I want to ask you why it was that the Prophet Joseph said, “I wish to God I could give to this people one-tenth of what He has revealed to me. But if I do, there are men on the stand who would want to take my life,” or something to that effect.

We find in the Book of Ether, about the 4th chapter, the words of Moroni wherein he tells us that he opened the record of Ether and they were able to teach some of the words of Ether to the people--some of the things that were in that record. But the Lord told him to take those things and seal them up and seal up the interpretation thereof. He also tells us that the Lord told him that they would not come forth unto the Gentiles until the Gentiles repented and began to show forth the same faith that the brother of Jared had. Now, what were these records? What were the records that the brother of Jared had? It was the record of God’s dealings with His people from the time of Adam until Jared’s time. Now the record does not tell us that, but this is what we find recorded in the 107th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants:

> “Three years previous to the death of Adam, he called Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, and Methuselah, who were all high priests, with the residue of his posterity who were righteous, into the valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman, and there bestowed upon them his last blessing.
>
> And the Lord appeared unto them, and they rose up and blessed Adam, and called him Michael, the prince, the archangel.

> And the Lord administered comfort unto Adam, and said unto him: I have set thee to be at the head; a multitude of nations shall come of thee, and thou art a prince over them forever.
>
> And Adam stood up in the midst of the congregation; and, notwithstanding he was bowed down with age, being full of the Holy Ghost, predicted whatsoever should befall his posterity unto the latest generation."

Now listen,

> "These things were all written in the book of Enoch and are to be testified of in due time."

There is no doubt in my mind but what these are some of the things that were revealed to the Prophet Moroni. He claims that he read them. He had them, but the Lord told him to seal them up. When the Prophet Joseph Smith received the records, there was a portion of them that was sealed. The Book of Enoch was sealed with the exception of what little we have here, about nineteen or twenty chapters. Why do you think that the Lord allowed the whole Jaredite nation to be destroyed and none of them left? It was no more nor less than the fact that the Lord would not permit that people to continue to betray the sacred things that the Book contained. He would not permit them to do so, so He destroyed the whole nation. Enough of that record was revealed to the Nephites to condemn them because the Lord destroyed all of the Nephites. The Lamanites were permitted to remain, but what did He do to them? Just go out and look around where the Lamanites are. Go down into Mexico and see what He did to that people in order to keep them from desecrating further the records that were so precious in the sight of our Father.

If there are any of our people who feel like they have come to a point where they have overcome all things--where they have overcome their weaknesses and imperfections and have no mental

reservations whatsoever regarding the record of God--let them begin to pray night and day for deliverance because that is what this people will have to do, as has been stated here tonight. We will have to get down on our knees and pray for deliverance because we cannot live in this wicked generation and become like Christ is--overcoming all things. If there are any of us who think we have completely become as pure in our living, in our thoughts and actions, as Christ was, then we better look out. We had better begin to pray to the Lord for deliverance from the generation in which we live. Now these are some of the things, my brothers and sisters, that we will have to think about.

All we need to do is go into the records and begin to read, and then study our own lives and see if we have overcome to a point where we can command the protection of our Father in Heaven. If we even come to a point where we can ask the Lord to shower down fire from Heaven to protect us in the day of His judgments, we have a lot of work to do yet. I pray the spirit of repentance will settle upon us and that we will hasten to prepare ourselves against the day when the Lord is pouring out His judgments upon this wicked generation.

God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 21, 1966, AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

This is a wonderful sight, my brothers and sisters, to see so many here this afternoon. I trust that the few moments I occupy this position the Spirit of God will direct my remarks.

It is gratifying to know that so many people are at the present time seeking for further information regarding their salvation. Last Sunday we had meeting in Colorado City and we had the house filled down there. I know that the Lord is waiting for us to hasten to prepare ourselves for the things that He has promised the faithful.

I have been greatly concerned lately with the condition that surrounds us. Because of our situation at the present time, we are in a day of trial and tribulation. The Lord has promised through the mouths of the prophets that great destruction would take place in the generation in which we live, and that time is just about up. When the Lord has said that during the Seventh Period of time that the earth would rest, or that there would be a period of peace upon the earth for a thousand years, it makes us sit up and wonder just when the One Mighty and Strong will be sent here to set the House of God in order. But before that man can come, the way has got to be prepared for the saints to take their place. And according to the revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith, great destruction must take place upon this land. This land, you want to remember, was given to Joseph and his seed forever for an everlasting inheritance. And how many of the faithful descendants of Joseph who was sold into Egypt are here at the present time? The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would claim that they have millions converted to the Gospel and are faithful followers after that order. But are they? Let us see what the Lord has to say: ( Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Pages 15-18)

> "Christ said to His disciples (Mark xvi; 17 and 18,) that these signs should follow them that believe:--"In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents;

and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”; and also, in connection with this, read 1st Corinthians, 12th Chapter. By the foregoing testimonies we may look at the Christian world and see the apostasy there has been from the apostolic platform; and who can look at this and not exclaim, in the language of Isaiah, “The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances, and broken the everlasting covenant?”

The plain fact is this, the power of God begins to fall upon the nations, and the light of the latter-day glory begins to break forth through the dark atmosphere of sectarian wickedness, and their iniquity rolls up into view, and the nations of the Gentiles are like the waves of the sea, casting up mire and dirt, or all in commotion, and they are hastily preparing to act the part allotted them, when the Lord rebukes the nations, when He shall rule them with a rod of iron, and break them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. The Lord declared to His servants, some eighteen months since, that He was then withdrawing His Spirit from the earth; and we can see that such is the fact, for not only the churches are dwindling away, but there are no conversions, or but very few: and this is not all, the governments of the earth are thrown into confusion and division; and destruction, to the eye of the spiritual beholder, seems to be written by the finger of an invisible hand, in large capitals, upon almost every thing we behold.

And now what remains to be done, under circumstances like these? I will proceed to tell you what the Lord requires of all people, high and low, rich and poor, male and female, ministers and people, professors of religion and non-professors, in order that they may enjoy the Holy Spirit of God to a fulness, and escape the judgments of God,

which are almost ready to burst upon the nations of the earth. Repent of all your sins, and be baptized in water for the remission of them, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and receive the ordinance of the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power, that ye may receive the Holy Spirit of God; and this is according to the Holy Scriptures, and the Book of Mormon; and the only way that man can enter into the celestial kingdom. These are the requirements of the new covenant, or first principles of the Gospel of Christ: then "Add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity (or love); for if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Book of Mormon is a record of the forefathers of our western tribes of Indians; having been found through the ministration of an holy angel, and translated into our own language by the gift and power of God, after having been hid up in the earth for the last fourteen hundred years, containing the word of God which was delivered unto them. By it we learn that our western tribes of Indians are descendants from that Joseph who was sold into Egypt, and that the land of America is a promised land unto them, and unto it all the tribes of Israel will come, with as many of the Gentiles as shall comply with the requisitions of the new covenant. But the tribe of Judah will return to old Jerusalem. The city of Zion spoken of by David, in the one hundred and second Psalm, will be built upon the land of America, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads." (Isaiah xxxv: 10); and then they will be delivered from the overflowing scourge that shall pass through the

land. But Judah shall obtain deliverance at Jerusalem. See Joel ii:32; Isaiah xxvi: 20 & 21; Psalms 1:5; Ezekiel xxxiv: 11, 12, and 13. These are testimonies that the Good Shepherd will put forth His own sheep, and lead them out from all nations where they have been scattered in a cloudy and dark day, to Zion, and to Jerusalem; besides many more testimonies which might be brought.

And now I am prepared to say by the authority of Jesus Christ, that not many years shall pass away before the United States shall present such a scene of bloodshed as has not a parallel in the history of our nation; pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake will sweep the wicked of this generation from off the face of the land, to open and prepare the way for the return of the lost tribes of Israel from the north country. The people of the Lord, those who have complied with the requirements of the new covenant, have already commenced gathering together to Zion, which is in the state of Missouri; therefore I declare unto you the warning which the Lord has commanded me to declare unto this generation, remembering that the eyes of my Maker are upon me, and that to Him I am accountable for every word I say, wishing nothing worse to my fellow-men than their eternal salvation; therefore, “Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come.” Repent ye, repent ye, and embrace the everlasting covenant, and flee to Zion, before the overflowing scourge overtake you, for there are those now living upon the earth whose eyes shall not be closed in death until they see all these things, which I have spoken, fulfilled. Remember these things; call upon the Lord while He is near, and seek Him while He may be found, is the exhortation of your unworthy servant. (signed) Joseph Smith, Jun.”

What is taking place, my brothers and sisters, before our eyes at the present time? There should be hundreds and thousands of audiences a great deal larger than this one partaking of the blessings that you are partaking of today, of having the word of God given to them, scattered throughout these mountains, fearing God and giving glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come. The judgments of God are spreading forth and few recognize it; very few recognize it. Many men will tell you great things are transpiring. It is the hand of God preparing the way for a work that is to be accomplished during the next thousand years.

The time is very short, my brothers and sisters. The generation in which this revelation was given is almost past. There are but few left. And there are only a few years left in the nineteen hundreds. Soon two thousand will be ushered in, and then what? It is not very long until the Millennial Reign is supposed to start. The Lord can accomplish a great many things in a short time, but how many of us are preparing for these things? How many of us are prepared to see great destruction around us and be able to hold our peace and give glory to God for the blessings He has given us? Let us stop and think what faces us at the present time. Let us be sober. Let us forsake the pleasures of this world and do it quickly and get the Spirit of God that we might be protected in this great hour in which we live. Every paper we pick up gives us an account of some great disaster taking place, not only upon this land, but in the old country. What for? Preparing for the return of the Jews to their possessions, their inheritance. And those who belong to the house of Joseph are only those who will accept the testimony of Jesus and apply it to their lives.

Christ told the Prophet Joseph Smith to bear testimony of the truthfulness of His Gospel, and all who would believe would be saved and those who would not believe would be damned. How many, how many today believe the story of Joseph Smith, the prophecies of Joseph Smith? Yes, they will tell you they do. Thousands upon thousands will tell you they believe what Joseph Smith said, but what about the Celestial Law? You mention the Celestial Law to them and

they will condemn it--“it is of no use to us at the present time because the president of the Church hasn’t told us to live it.” What does that mean? Go to the scriptures and see what Christ said about those who must wait and prepare their house in order to serve Him.

My brothers and sisters, we have a work to do. Every man, woman, and child that has been into the waters of baptism has a work to do, and they do not need to come and bother the Priesthood for more work to do to help to hasten on the work of God. Set your houses in order, men. See that there is no enmity in the hearts of your loved ones. Unless you work night and day with them you won’t prepare them fast enough so that the Spirit of God will be justified in sending fire from heaven to preserve them and you. The Lord says that He will preserve His saints if needs be He send fire from heaven to do so.

I pray the Spirit of God will settle upon us and we will listen to the words of the Lord through the mouths of His servants at the present time. I hope and pray health and strength will be given to us to stand that we might be partakers of that great and glorious day when the Lord sets up His Kingdom here in power and great glory. God bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 25, 1966
AT COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

We have heard many wonderful things this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, enough to inspire us to go on and serve the Lord and keep His commandments. All I wish to do is say amen to what has been said, and we have enough to feed us another week, or two weeks, or a month.

The Lord is certainly blessing this people. He gives us an opportunity to know and understand what is going on around us. One of the greatest evils at the present time is wealth. President Barlow said that wealth would be our next great test, but he didn't tell us how it would come. We have had a demonstration this week--one of the ways that the Lord would use wealth to entice this people. A man came to us and told us that there was a world of wealth lying untouched that was at the finger tips of this people to bring industry into our midst. When we looked into the situation we found that it was the wealth of the government of our nation that was trying to persuade us away from the work of God. It is true that we can reach out and grab a great deal of the wealth that is being offered at the present time for industry among the people of this nation. If we want to keep under the rule of the government that prevails in this land, we can continue to prosper and build up and establish the work of the devil in this community and this land. It has been the policy of the servants of God to stay out from under it as much as possible--the domination of the government of this land--and to build up and establish the Kingdom of God and come under its rule entirely.

I believe it is within the power of this people to continue to build up and establish the Kingdom of God and come under no other covenant or government. We had it explained to us in no uncertain terms that we were doomed to either go down and out or accept of the powers that be and accept of their enticing--untold amounts of support that we could get from the government to establish ourselves in this place. What I am trying to portray is that this was the

spirit in which the man came out with this declaration, that in accepting this great help, supervision would have to be accepted also; there is not enough know-how among our people to carry on an industry without the great help of men who have been trained to train people.

The Lord has told us that one man and the Spirit of God is a majority. I would like to know where these men got their know-how. If you will just look back over history you will find that this know-how that government has today, or science, has come since the Father and Son visited the Prophet Joseph Smith. Do you think that the powers of evil have greater access to knowledge of how God operates than the people of God? If this people wants to progress and build up and establish the Kingdom of God, they had better bring God into their confidences. We can obtain a few machines and set up a little kingdom of our own, and I believe God will come to our rescue and inspire us how to be superior to anything that is now taking place among our neighbors.

I am more determined today than ever before to turn down that enticing element to accept of government aid, because the minute we accept government aid we come under their power. This institution that we visited this week, the manager took us through from one end to the other and showed us what was going on. He also showed us a stack of orders ‘so high’ that they had received from the government telling them to make a million uniforms for the soldiers. It didn’t ask them to bid on it, it told them to make them. The bid was already there. The factory at the present time is making suits, men’s suits, but now they are under the necessity of bowing to what the government wants them to do. Why? Because they accepted government money. If we set up an organization here to make it easier for us to provide for our people, we would be subject to the demands of the government, and we would have to bow to it. So let us get our feet under us. Let us get the Spirit of God, and let us understand how the Spirit of God works, and let us let it work upon our minds.

I don’t believe there is any more intelligence in the world than there is right here in this building today. I believe if we set out to provide for our own needs we could provide everything we need in the clothing line. We wouldn’t have to go out of this community for talent. We have the know-how if we will just get the Spirit of God and go to work. I am convinced that what Brigham Young said is still true today--that if we will keep the commandments of God, we need come under no other government than that of the Kingdom of God, and the outside world cannot hinder us. I think we have started enough at the present time to keep this thing rolling, and that the powers that be will not have power to stop us because they will have their hands full and they won’t have time to fool around with this people any longer.

This kingdom will grow and increase and spread until it fills the earth, especially this part of it. Under the government that exists they won’t know what is taking place. The Prophet said that a cloud would hang over us by day and a pillar of fire by night, and scientists would say it is the workings of great men. I believe that this can take place. I believe this people are on the right road, and all we need to do is get the Spirit of God and keep it.

I don’t wish to say any more, but I hope the Lord will bless us with wisdom, knowledge and understanding and we will take to heart the counsel that has been given this afternoon, that we will hasten to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation. God bless you, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 12, 1967, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I don’t wish to detain you long, but I would like to speak a little upon the things that we have heard. I ask the Lord to put in my mouth the words He would like me to give to you. I pray that I can speak under the direction of His Holy Spirit.

You notice that President Jessop is not with us this afternoon because of illness. I have known this man for thirty-five or thirty-six years, and I have never seen a more faithful and devoted servant of God than he is. He is one of the men President Barlow went to and said, “If I can get one man to stand by me, this work will not fail.” Uncle Rich was one that Uncle John and I could depend on. He has been with us ever since. This work can roll on regardless of the man, but I would like to see President Jessop stay with us a good long time. He is a great support to this work. His influence is felt among all people who know of him, and we should feel after him.

This people have gathered themselves together for one purpose, and that is to do something about their eternal salvation. Many have come here because they have thought that they needed additions to their families, as President Hammon has been talking about. The servants of God, being commanded to see to it that plural marriage be continued in the earth, have tried to the best of their knowledge to administer that principle to men and women. Some men have seized upon blessings that it was not their right to seize upon. The servants of God have been more or less forced to grant the blessing.

If we would only realize that we cannot advance after we leave here without these bodies we have, we would put more effort into trying to perfect the principle of plural marriage because it is one law that will damn us if we fail, for we cannot advance without a body. And in order to advance, we have to have knowledge. We have to have knowledge of the principles of the Gospel that we live. Unless we have knowledge of what is required of us when we enter into the principle of plurality, what good will it do us? The Lord has said that we learn here a little and there a little, precept upon precept.

The Prophet Joseph Smith did not permit a man to enter into plural marriage unless he had been tried and designated by the Lord to enter into that principle. There were many men even after they had been told by the Prophet to enter into it that hesitated because it was a new doctrine unto them. The Prophet said this--add to your faith, knowledge. The principle of knowledge is the principle of salvation. This principle can be comprehended by the faithful, and everyone that does not obtain knowledge sufficient to be saved will be condemned. The principle of salvation is given us through the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Salvation is nothing more nor less than to triumph over our enemies and put them under our feet. And when we have power to put all enemies under our feet in this world and a knowledge to triumph over all evil spirits in the world to come, then we are saved, as in the case of Jesus who was to reign until He had put all enemies under His feet, and the last enemy was death.

These principles of the Gospel that are being taught to us today are very sacred in the sight of our Father in Heaven. When we have these blessings administered to us and we treat them with impunity, we trample on the sacredness of the ordinance that has been administered to us. I am sorry to say that we have many among us who have had this ordinance administered to them, and wives are complaining to us about the actions of their husbands.

When a man has entered into the law of plural marriage, he has no right to seek refuge in a beer parlor or in any other institution of evil. He has no right to go out and seek the company of other women, yet we have them among us. We have men that can’t leave women alone although they have had the law of plurality administered to them. We have men among us that pit one wife against another. Do you know what this is doing? All these evils are the first steps of destruction to these bodies that you have, and unless you cease and repent, you will have to lose that which you think you have because God will not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. It is better that you should go through life with one

woman and abide in the covenant with her than to have six or eight or more sealed to you for time and all eternity because your damnation will be sealed. The man with one wife, if he has abided in the covenant and the Lord has not seen fit to give him more in this life, will have a better chance than you.

Now this is correct doctrine, my brothers and sisters. The thing that you should do when you are administered to with the law of plurality is to seek to exalt those women you have. And it is not a principle of exaltation to pit one against the other and try to find out which is the winner of the fight. I am telling you men, you that are having trouble in your families, you had better start looking into your own homes, to this boy, to see what he is doing to promote this warfare. President Musser has delivered some strong sermons upon this warfare in the families of the saints. If persecution comes from the outside to this people again, it will be because of the iniquity within this body of people. It won't be because of the hatred of men and women outside. Why? Because you have had enough knowledge given to you from this stand to put into your hearts enough knowledge of God and His work to keep the evil out of here if you will only put it into practice. I am grateful to the Lord for the advancement that we have made here, for the wonderful showing of faith in the seeking for knowledge and understanding of this Gospel, but unless we commence to put into practice that which we have learned, it will avail us nothing. The time is coming when the Lord is going to ask us to invite men and women out who do not obey and are not worthy of the blessings of eternal life.

I was taking Uncle John to a meeting once, and because of my ability to stop along the way and visit someone else, he was late. He says, "Drive on, Roy. I don't want to go to the meeting late." I drove on. He says, "The time will come when you will find the door locked." I am afraid that is the trouble with a lot of us people. Unless we step up to the line and learn how to exalt those that have been set by the side of us, we will find the door locked and our advancement will be curtailed.

So it is time this people began to do what the Lord has required us to do, and that is to pray unceasingly for the Spirit of God, and then apply it to our lives. These things that we have been talking about this afternoon are very essential at this hour. Why? Because the enemy is counseling deep for the destruction of this people. Don't think for a minute that they are not. They know that we have won in some of the courts of the law, but I want to tell you, that those who have desecrated their privileges in the principle of plural marriage are bringing not only condemnation upon themselves, but upon this whole body of people. Why? Because we have witnessed before the world that we are trying to live the highest law that God has given for the salvation of mankind, and unless we can glorify His name through righteous living, we are bringing down upon our heads condemnation.

The Lord placed the whole Church under condemnation because they had treated lightly the things they had received. Joseph saw great sorrows among the children of men and especially in the Church, and he asked God to close the scene. Are we members of the Church? We certainly are. And where did He say His judgments would start? "They will start in My House." Maybe the judgments have already started in the House of God, but they haven't reached their height yet; for, the Lord is going to have a tried people. The prophets have told us that we would have many raids and separations, but each time there will be a few men who will be faithful enough to stand together until the Lord has a body of men and women that He can use in the establishing of Zion. I am happy for the progress that we have made, but I am sorrowful for the iniquity that is among this people. I want to tell you it is displeasing to the Lord. It is not only displeasing to the Lord, but it is a blot upon the servants of God who are trying to promote this order of the Priesthood. Men go out and boast to the enemies of this work that they are seeking plural wives. They will go to a beer parlor, and they find a woman that will talk to them and lead them along, and they have found themselves in trouble. It has to be stopped, my brethren. That kind of work has got to be stopped or the Lord will take a hand in it.

If there are any of you that feel like you would like to go on and live the Celestial Law, please get in the harness and show, not only the servants of the Lord, but God Himself, through your earnest efforts to perfect your salvation, and let the Lord bless you. We have women now seeking for release. What for? Because they haven't been taught correct principle since they were married to the man they were sealed to. That man thinks he has done everything possible for the woman, and if she is released from him, he will come back for another. That is what we have to face.

Let us sit up and take notice of our situation, my brothers and sisters. Let us turn over a new leaf and commence to build up and establish the Kingdom of God and its righteousness. Let us stamp out of our midst the evil that is among us. I don't care what name or nature it is, let us cast it out and seek the Lord in mighty prayer for forgiveness of our sins, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 2, 1967, SUNDAY, AT THE FISCHER HOME, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am grateful for the privilege of being here and listening to the words of these men who have spoken to you this afternoon. I am grateful for the testimony I have of this work, for the privilege of working for the Lord in trying to prepare a people to carry on His work.

My mind has been disturbed greatly in the past over the condition of our people--over the condition that exists in the world. The prophets have told us of the great destruction that would take place prior to the setting up and establishing of the Kingdom of God. At the same time we look back over the history and it has been a good deal over one hundred years since the Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith the plan of salvation and tried to set it up among His people. Yet the opposition in the earth has been so great that today we find ourselves and the people of the world in practically the same condition that they were in Joseph Smith's time.

And I am wondering--I greatly wonder--if there are many in the earth who realize how time is passing swiftly and that it is running out on many people who have come here to prepare themselves for a glorious resurrection, and today they find themselves in no better condition than they were when they first heard the Gospel, or in their early life.

Brother Musser has been reading and rehearsing some of the words of the prophets. Brigham Young made this statement in one of his sermons, that if the Lord had a people on the earth that He had perfect confidence in, there is not a blessing in the eternities of our God that they could bear in the flesh that He would not pour out upon them. Tongue cannot tell the blessings the Lord has for a people that have proven themselves before Him.

This Gospel is to prepare a people that the Lord can have perfect confidence in--that when He speaks, He knows His will will be carried out. This is the reason that He placed the whole Church under condemnation very early after the Church was organized. It was

simply because He wanted to impress upon the minds of the people the importance of living so that the Lord could have perfect confidence in them. Until He finds a people like that, His work cannot be accomplished. The establishing of the Kingdom of God must be upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, and in the Celestial Kingdom that is the condition you will find. You will find people there who, throughout their lives while they were upon this earth, did everything they could to purify their lives and to bring about a condition in their makeups that the Lord could have perfect confidence in them. You stop long enough to analyze yourselves, your own lives, and the lives of those who are neighbors to you, those who you know and are acquainted with, you will find there has got to be much improvement before perfect confidence can be placed in us.

The Book of Mormon tells us that all of the people who lived immediately after the Savior visited this continent lived in perfect confidence in one another for about two hundred years, then they began to fall away again. And when they began to fall away, the Prophet asked the Lord if he should go among them again and preach repentance. But the Lord said, “No.” He said, “This people has willfully rebelled against me, and because they have rejected me, they will reject you. And there is nothing left. Unless they repent upon their own they will be destroyed.”

We pray for a speedy dissolution of the governments of the earth, that the Kingdom of God might rise. But we are not prepared--none of us is prepared. If the Lord should answer our prayers and bring about some disaster here to wipe the wicked out of our midst, we wouldn’t be prepared for it. A lot of us would cry to the Lord to take our lives because we couldn’t stand to watch the scene. The old Prophet said it would be a vexation to hear the report of what would take place in the latter days, and it will.

Now, let us prepare ourselves that we might be able to bring down the blessings of God upon us, and that He might strengthen us that we might be able to stand when these judgments are poured out

upon the nations of the earth. This is the time to prepare to meet our God. I pray that the Spirit of God will help us to prepare ourselves against that which is immediately ahead of us and that we might be found worthy, both spiritually and temporally.

I am reminded of what Heber C. Kimball said, that the time would come when people would pour into these mountains by the millions, fleeing from the judgments of God. But, he says, what will you feed them when they come? How many people have heeded the warning of this great man? I have heard men say, “You will never see a famine in this country again, we are too enlightened, and there is too much foodstuff in the United States to have a famine come in.” I am afraid one is moving in on us, and we don’t know it. It has been spoken of by the prophets, and we are living right in a day when the Lord could turn the keys. He could turn the elements in a very few hours to cause great destruction. If He were to answer the prayers of a lot of our people, it would be disastrous.

I hope we can prepare ourselves against these visitations that the Lord has promised upon this nation and upon the world. Remember that He has said that the decree has gone forth that He would make a full end to all nations. Let us be prepared, my brothers and sisters, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

ADDRESS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 12, 1967,
AT THE COLORADO CITY ACADEMY GRADUATION EXERCISES,
HELD IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I feel greatly honored in being asked to occupy this position tonight. This is one of the great ambitions that I have had ever since I have been acquainted with this Order of Priesthood work. I know and realize that this is the only way that we can fulfill the covenants that we made with our Father in Heaven before we came here--to come under the direction of an order that is following after the direction of our Father in Heaven. For we made covenants before we came into this life that we would come here and take bodies, purify them, and take them back into the presence of our Father in a condition so that they could be immortalized, and that we could take them on throughout the eternities to complete the great work that is necessary for us to become like God is.

These students who have finished their work in this school are now commencing to launch out in life. Up until now they have been under the direction of their parents, their school teachers, and they have accomplished one hurdle of their career in life.

It has been said by great educators that it is good to be learned if we know how to apply that learning. And the way to apply that learning is to apply it in a way that will give us eternal life. The Lord has said that whatsoever is truth is light and knowledge. And truth is what we are seeking for. It makes no difference where we find it. The prophets have said that we should go out in the world and seek for truth. If it be among the wicked, search it out, and hold fast to that which is truth, for truth is light and knowledge. These boys and girls have found some truth, and they have learned a little about how to apply it to their lives. Tonight they will be given a certificate denoting that they have made another hurdle in their lives and that they are ready to go on. The Priesthood has sent many of our boys and girls out and had them get further education. We are getting around us some of the best teachers that can be found. I doubt that you can go anywhere in the world and find in a community this size a like number of students that are as bright as these are. Students that we turn out from this

Academy have the advantage over all other students in the world. Why? Because they are being tutored under the direction of the servants of God--men who have been tutored and trained in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful for the remarks of this young man, Brother Jedd, tonight. If you noticed, the theme of his remarks was the education that they have received under the tutorship of the servants of God. The Lord has said that one man and the Spirit of God is a majority. Some of the greatest scholars of this generation are men who have come under the tutorship of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I will mention one--Orson Pratt. He advanced some ideas in astronomy that have never been equaled by the great astronomers of the age, at least they have never been surpassed. They have had to acknowledge that the learning in his day and age is something that could not be equaled. Brigham Young became one of the greatest colonizers of the age. And why did he do it? Because he came under the direction of our Eternal Father.

If these students will go out from here with the Spirit of God upon them and seek continually to get and keep that Spirit, there is no truth that can be found that they cannot master. There is no end that they have in mind that they would like to achieve that they cannot achieve as long as they will seek for truth. Truth is the foundation of this earth. Truth is the foundation of all heavenly things--it doesn't make any difference what science says--if it is not founded upon the premise of truth, it cannot be achieved.

When the great Prophet Moses asked God to let him see into the different planets that the Lord had pointed out to him, He said, "Moses, My son, these are the workings of My hands. They belong to Me. But only about the earth upon which you stand will I tell you."

Science is spending many billions of dollars trying to find out what is on the moon. Do you think that He is going to let them go up there and meddle with His work? They might tell you they are getting there, but this is only a trick of science to try to disprove that God meant what He said when He talked to Moses. They have the Bible. They have access to all of the fundamental works of the

Gospel of Jesus Christ as they have been handed down to us. They have access to the Doctrine & Covenants, the Book of Mormon, the Bible, and the Pearl of Great Price, published by the Church and sent out all over the world. I dare say that every library in the world has them. It is a trick of the devil to disprove the work of Christ. They will go to any length to make a prophet of God out a liar. They have killed the prophets; they have martyred the saints to try to stamp out the work that the Prophet Joseph Smith set up, but they have failed. The time has come now for the work of God to advance. The time has come now to prepare a people to carry out with honor the revelations that have been given to us, to our early leaders.

You students have a great responsibility upon you. You have had a foundation here laid in your lives, and the Lord is banking upon it. My advice to these boys and girls is to go to the Priesthood and find out what they should do from now on. I think before a young man should leave this college and go into higher learning in the world that he should have at least two years under the tutorship of President Hammon in our missionary work. These two years now, immediately after going through this school here, under the tutorship of President Hammon is worth more to them than four years of college. Why? Because in two years from now they will be two years older. They will have a greater understanding of what education means to them. If they will apply themselves with an honest heart, desiring to learn and to apply to their lives the principles of salvation, they will be able to go through college and meet the opposition and come out and be of use to the establishment of the work of God in the earth. It is good to be learned if we know how to use that learning.

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the experiences we have had here. I am grateful for the young men who have gone out and spent their time gaining an education, and then came back here and put their time in helping to build up these institutions that we have. You won’t find it anywhere else in the world. Men who go out and spend a number of years gaining an education feel that the world owes them something, but we are all here by the good graces of our

Father in Heaven. He sent us here and gave us knowledge in embryo. As we gain knowledge, and we know how to use it, then we are fulfilling the mission that we have come here to fill. We are saved no faster than we gain knowledge. What kind of knowledge? Knowledge of how to build a ship? An automobile? Or how to run one, or how to fix it up? Knowledge of the character of our God and how to become like Him! This is the kind of knowledge that we want. We want to know how to build a tree and make it grow, how to create grass and make it grow, and finally, how to build an earth like this one upon which we live and how to people it--how to create spirits like we see in this building today. This is the kind of knowledge we are after. We are not after the knowledge of how to get to the moon or any other star in the heavens, but we are after truth and knowledge that will give us understanding that will take us back into the presence of our Father, and learn to do things like He does them. All these other things that we attain to in this life upon this earth avail us nothing when this life is ended.

Let us learn how to gather in truth, learn how to measure it by the square that has been given us by our prophet leaders. Let us learn how to square that which we hear by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that it might become useful to us in the years ahead.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will listen to the teachings that we have received. Let us apply to our lives the truths of the eternities.

May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 18, 1968, SUNDAY, AT THE HOME OF CARL FISCHER, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I am very pleased to be here this afternoon and partake of the blessings of this meeting with you. I am grateful to the Lord for the health and strength that we enjoy. In fact, we are grateful to Him for all the blessings that He has blessed us with, especially the good weather that we have had during this winter. We have had a lot of snow but it certainly has been very moderate considering the great cold that has been going on throughout the country. So the Lord is good to us, and we should thank Him every day for His blessings and ask Him to help us to so order our lives that we will be worthy to receive them.

President Jessop has just given us some thoughts to think about, and they are brought to our minds from Sunday to Sunday. Yet, we can’t realize the depth of the meaning of what President Jessop has just told us. We are living in a time when the Lord is preparing for something greater to take place in the earth. We have looked for it for many years during our own lives. The prophets have spoken about it for generations and generations, and many of them have wished to live in this time and see the hand of the Lord made manifest in the establishment of His work. So we should be doubly grateful for the privilege we have of living in the day we live in.

The Lord has plainly told us to pray night and day that His Spirit might be upon us, that we might be able to withstand the temptations and the trials and tribulations that are coming upon those who have forgotten God. When the Prophet Joseph Smith had that wonderful vision when he saw the Father and the Son, he was told that none of the churches was right, that they were all out of the way. But if he would be faithful in doing what he was told to do, he would be the instrument in the hands of the Lord to establish the true church upon the earth, and this is what we have. There are very few in the world today who believe that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is out of the way, but they have fallen away from the saving principles of salvation that were given to the Prophet

Joseph Smith. The Prophet plainly taught that Celestial laws must be lived in order to obtain our exaltation and eternal life. That is the reason we are here today--to prepare a people that the Lord might use in the establishment of His work in the earth.

Ever since the days of the Prophet Joseph the saints have been smitten and driven, and those who have tried to hang on to the principles of salvation have been the ones that have had to stand the brunt of persecution until there are a very few left today who have tried to apply to their lives the Celestial Law and inculcate it into their systems to the point where they can withstand the temptations of the day in which we live.

There has never been a time, I don't suppose, upon the earth, when wickedness was so rampant in the land as it is today. It is working its way into the very heart's core of this Priesthood, with those who have gathered around. We are having one of the hardest times today to keep our young people in the path of truth and righteousness. I don't remember in my boyhood days when we had the temptations placed before us that we have today. We had more of the Gospel placed before us in my boyhood days than we have today generally throughout the land. There is only one place that I know of where people can gather together and be taught the same principles that I was taught in my boyhood days and that is among this Priesthood group. We should be thankful above all other people for the privileges that we have--the privilege of being taught under the inspiration of heaven for our daily guidance, and for the privilege that we have of being numbered among God's chosen people and being taught the truths of the everlasting Gospel. We should be grateful for the privilege that we have of gathering together every month and hearing the servants of God place before us the ways that we should travel in order to obtain our salvation. They give us the roads and mark the road for us to travel.

It is true that we have many temptations. We have all of the temptations of the Gentile nations to lead us astray, lead us away

from the path of truth and righteousness; but we should be grateful for the opportunities we have of being taught the true path to take.

Now I pray that God will bless us, that He will give us a desire to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and that we will hasten to prepare ourselves for that which the Lord has in store for us. We have been told that these times would be so severe that we would not be able to stand unless we had the Spirit of God upon us. So, let us get the Spirit of God and keep it. Let us see to it that we overcome these evils that are creeping in among us. We have too much--too much--fault finding and criticizing of one another. Let us overcome this. Let us overcome these evils and get the Spirit of God and keep it. God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 23, 1969, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I pray that the Lord will bless me for the few moments I speak. I heartily endorse the words of the brethren this afternoon. I am greatly built up in my determination to go on and carry out the responsibilities that are upon my shoulders. I trust that this people will be patient and take to heart the counsel they have received, that the Lord might bless us with a continual understanding of the eternal truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am greatly pleased with the efforts that are being put forth to accomplish the labors that devolve upon us. Yet, I know that the words of President Barlow are verily true. They were true in his day and they are true today: We are a good people. We are the best people upon the earth, but we are not good enough. There is plenty of room for improvement and it should be the aim of every individual connected with this work, those who have a testimony that Joseph was a prophet, to have a greater desire to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections and bend every effort to live and obey the instructions that are given us from day to day.

It is through obedience that we gain knowledge and understanding. It is through disobedience that our minds are darkened. We have heard it said many times that the Church has gone into darkness because they have rejected some of the higher principles of the Gospel. But the Lord said that if we are guilty of rejecting one of these principles, we are guilty of the whole. So it has been my belief that when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints signed away their rights to the highest law that God has ever given to us--the law of plurality of marriage--that they were guilty of rejecting every other principle that God gave to us. If we will just stop long enough to examine the condition of the Church today, we will find that they have gone into gross darkness, that they have lost the Spirit of the Gospel, for there are no other people upon the earth that are more anxious to do away with the law of plurality of wives than the Latter-day Saints.

Not very many weeks ago, some devoted Latter-day Saints were found in our society trying to quiet their minds upon some of the higher principles of the Gospel and they immediately found

themselves being questioned by their church leaders and told that if they were caught anymore in our society that their membership would be questioned.

In the days of the Prophet, it was the ministers of the different denominations that incited the greatest persecution against our people because they believed that Jesus was the Christ and that He had again spoken from the Heavens and shown Himself to the Prophet Joseph Smith. But today, the converts to that same organization that was established through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith--the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints--have turned persecutors to the testimony of Joseph. If they heard me preach this doctrine, they would cry, “Treason against the Lord, Jesus Christ.” But the words of Christ are: Unless ye accept this doctrine and live it, you will be damned. Those are the words to the Prophet Joseph Smith, “Except you obey this principle and teach your people to obey it, you will be damned together with your people, and I will have to seek another people.”

We have heard what the brethren have said today. Brother Jeffs read to us the testimony of the great apostle, Heber C. Kimball. I bear testimony to you that except we turn--unless we make an abrupt turn--to rid from our lives every vestige of questioning in our minds of the truthfulness of this work, that we are not long for it. I testify again that every man and woman that will seek to know with a prayer in their hearts to know and understand whether the Priesthood Council today is teaching them the truth, it will be revealed to them, and they will know for a surety, by the whisperings of the Spirit that this is the work of God and that He is trying to prepare a people to carry off His work.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of repentance will settle upon us and that we will hasten to bend every effort possible to further the work of God in the earth. I ask God’s blessings upon you and ask Him to be merciful unto us and help us to understand our true position here in the earth.

Now, I ask God to bless us with the spirit of understanding that these things might be made manifest to us. May God bless you, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 14, 1968, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

Let the Lord be praised for what has been said. This is indeed, my brothers and sisters, a day of, should I say, mourning. We find the world today going at great lengths to celebrate the risen Christ. This is a day that should be used to glorify the name of our Lord and Savior and to plant in the hearts of our children the determination to serve God and keep His commandments that they might become instruments in the hands of God in establishing a righteous reign upon the earth. I think that President Hammon spoke well when he said that this people, those to whom we are speaking, have the opportunity of entering into the Millennial Reign--that period of time that the Lord has promised to all the faithful saints from the time of Adam until now, that the faithful would take part in when the earth would rest for a season. But a great preparation has got to be made.

The old Prophet Enoch labored for three hundred and twenty years, we are told, to perfect a people. I don't know how many he gathered around him, the scriptures do not tell us, but he obtained the promise of the Lord that he would be permitted to come back with his people and join up with the Zion upon the earth. So this is the reason that these testimonies that have been borne here this afternoon have been borne in humility and in honor before the Lord. Testimonies of this people are testifying that God lives and that He demands to be recognized.

He has said, "My people shall be a tried people." We have those among us who are anxious, very anxiously waiting to receive certain blessings--blessings that cannot be obtained only in the endowment house. And they wonder why the Priesthood Council doesn't come out and build a house. We could build it in a very short time, but President Hammon has told us this afternoon why we can't. Because the Lord has promised us the One Mighty and Strong to come and set the House of God in order.

I am grateful for the privilege, my brothers and sisters, of living in this day, for the testimonies the Lord has given us and given me, for the great work that has been established through the Prophet Joseph Smith. I am grateful that my father obeyed the commandment to “Come out of her, Oh ye, My people, and be not partakers of her sins.” When he came west he had no idea that he was coming out here to join the Mormons, the Latter-day Saints. The Lord had to lay him on his death bed in order to persuade him that there was something greater in life than just going to California for his health. And try to count his posterity today!

This is a glorious work, my brothers and sisters, and the more we work in it, the more we live in it, the more glorious it gets. The time will come when we will look back upon this day and rejoice that we had the strength to change over from the ways of this world to the ways of our Father. I could read to you from the revelation where it says that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. If that be true, then we have got to be educated in the ways of the Celestial Kingdom, or we have got to be changed, in other words, from the ways of the Telestial Kingdom to the ways of the Celestial Kingdom. For that is how we are living today--in the Telestial Kingdom.

Now, I pray that the blessings of God will settle upon us, that we will hasten to rid ourselves of these evils that are still trying to hang on to us. We haven’t fully come out of the world. It is going to be a long while, it looks like, before we can be fully out of her, but we can keep working. We can continue to work with ourselves until we become more perfect.

Let us serve God and keep His commandments. Let us pay our obligations--get out of debt so the world will not have us under their thumbs any longer. And let us get the Spirit of God and keep it. May God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 17, 1970,
AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR MELVIN JOHNSON AND
DAVID BROADBENT, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I just want to say a few words of consolation, if I can, to these two wonderful families. I have known Melvin ever since he was born. Many times we have called upon him to go out in severe weather to assist someone, or to do an errand. Upon every call that has ever been made that I know of, Melvin has never weakened. He has been ready and willing to go under any condition, whether he felt well or whether he didn't. I have seen the man go to help someone in the most severe weather.

You talk about the weather, I have lived in Wyoming where great blizzards and severe cold are, but I have never been in a country where I have felt the cold worse than I have in this part of the country. The winter of 1931-32 was one of the coldest winters that I have ever witnessed in this place. The temperature went down to thirty-two degrees below zero here. Melvin fought the snow and the cold without whimpering and under difficult circumstances. He has been a man of integrity. I don't think there has ever been a better operator of heavy equipment than Melvin Johnson. His services have been in demand throughout the country wherever he has been known. I believe if we were to call upon one of the Whiting Brothers to speak he would give nothing but praise of Melvin Johnson for the labor that he has performed for them.

David Broadbent--the same thing can be said of him. Not only has he been a leader in our community, but he has been a fearless man. Every call that has been made of him, he has been ready and willing to make, under any condition. It didn't make any difference where he was.

These two men were deeply rooted in the hearts of every person in the community or wherever they have worked. And I say, Sister Ruth, you can be proud of this man. He is over there now preparing a place for you. She has been faithful and true to him. She has raised a good family. They, too, have been obedient to their

parents. One of his brothers offered the opening prayer here this afternoon. These people have been faithful and true under all conditions. And I want to say to Sister Broadbent and all her family, that they need not worry or mourn over the condition of their departed husband and father. He has gone to prepare a place for them, and when the time comes, he will call them as he sees fit.

These occasions seem sad in one way, but in another way they are glorious. They are glorious in that we know that we have lived as near as possible to the requirements of our Father in Heaven. “As man is God once was; as God is man may become.” But I don’t know of two other men in our community who have tried harder to prepare themselves to meet their Maker.

Now, God bless each one of you who is connected with these two men, and your children. You who have been wayward, return to the side of your fathers. Help them to bear the burden and do all you can to straighten up your lives with your fathers, because they will expect you to do something about it. There is more to this order of life than just mere talking about it when you consider that God has said, “This is My glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.”

May God bless you, and after the benediction, when we retire to the cemetery please drive carefully. As you cross the bridge, please see to it that not more than three cars are on the bridge at once; it is old, and let us drive carefully. When we reach the cemetery where they will be buried, Warren Elmer Johnson, father of Melvin will dedicate Melvin’s grave, and Richard S. Jessop will dedicate the grave of David J. Broadbent.

May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 9, 1969, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I think if I said “amen” and sat down we could be well paid for being here this afternoon. It looks like I might have set the fire going early this morning in our Priesthood meeting, and it has been carried on pretty well. I hope we don’t lose faith over what we have been told this afternoon, for the Lord is kind and considerate to His people. I find that He is willing to give us every opportunity possible to save ourselves--or to hang ourselves--one way or the other. We all know there are only two ways to go, we can either go on and work out our salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord and gain our reward, or we can kick against the pricks and go the other way and lose our salvation.

I don’t know why the servants of the Lord are continually inspired to pour it on to our people to get down to work and get our lessons. I was talking to a few young men one day. One of the boys spoke up and said, “I wish the brethren would quit preaching to us and maybe we would be better boys.” Maybe that is what is the matter with a lot of our people, the reason we quit assisting in the building up of this place. Maybe it is because we preach too much, but I hope we can get our feet under us and get the Spirit of God in our homes, and let us see if we can get a better spirit in the community. If we can clean up our homes, if we can get the man and the woman to cooperate, get the Spirit of God in the home, we won’t have to work very hard to get it in the community. Get back into the groove and get things going. Let’s not have it said that we advanced too fast and got soured on the results of our labors.

Let us go away from this meeting with a more firm determination to serve the Lord and keep His commandments. I have noticed all through the scriptures that the Lord is capable of giving men every opportunity possible to repent of their sins. When the brethren were speaking, I thought of the revelation that was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith in July, 1828, right after the manuscript had been turned over to Martin Harris, and the Lord in this revelation chastises Martin and also Joseph, but He gave him another chance. He could have condemned them both because they broke a law. They

disobeyed the counsel of the Lord, and He called them to order. In the final end, Joseph chose, at that time, to go on and get closer to the Lord, but it appears that Martin continued to hold a feeling in his heart that finally took him out of the Church, out of the Priesthood. I am not going to read the whole chapter, but I will read a few verses.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 3:1-4)

> "The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught.
>
> For God doth not walk in crooked paths, neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left, neither doth he vary from that which he hath said, therefore his paths are straight, and his course is one eternal round.
>
> Remember, remember that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men;
>
> For although a man may have many revelations, and have power to do many mighty works, yet if he boasts in his own strength, and sets at naught the counsels of God, and follows after the dictates of his own will and carnal desires, he must fall and incur the vengeance of a just God upon him."

So here we are. Let us not justify the Lord in bringing down these judgments upon us, but let us go down the road, follow His direction, neither turn to the left hand or to the right. Let us get the Spirit of God and keep it. Our homes are the places to commence to promote that Spirit both in an individual way and in a communal way. If we will follow these counsels, we cannot help but be successful in our work.

We have been together a good long time this afternoon and heard many good things. Let us take them to heart, let us ponder them over in our minds and see if we can repent of our sins and come up clean before the Lord, then He will shower His blessings upon this place. God bless you, amen.

December 25, 1954
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Folks,

On this beautiful Christmas morning I would like to convey this message to one and all of the saints and especially to the parents of Short Creek and wherever it may reach.

May the true Spirit of Christ be with you and penetrate each and every one in this hour of great stress upon those who have buckled on the full armor of Christ with a firm determination to serve Him and keep His commandments.

I fear that we sometimes treat the warnings we receive too lightly and glory in our own righteousness because we have entered into the Celestial Law and do not humble ourselves enough so as to get the Spirit of God and keep it.

The fight with sin is real, and Satan is making ready for his last great battle with Christ to retain his power on this earth. The fight is just as real and important today as it was when Satan was cast out of Heaven.

In 1953, we felt like our faith was sufficient to keep our enemies out of this place, but God had a work to do that had to be done before He could be justified in showing forth His hand in our defense, although they were not allowed to do all the things they thought they would.

Today we find ourselves threatened with the experience of being separated from our children and we feel like the Lord surely will not allow this to happen. Now let us stop long enough to think this thing over. The Lord says, “Where much is given, much is required.” Are we living better than we were a year ago? Have we had the spirit of repentance in our hearts to that extent that we can kneel down before the Lord with a peaceful feeling that our prayers will be answered? Have we done all we could to teach those over whom we preside the way back into the presence of our Father in Heaven? And to keep iniquity out of our families?

These are a few of the questions we should consider and try to improve where improvements can be made. Let us as parents gather our families around us as much as circumstances will permit and let them know our true situation and seek to get the Spirit of God and keep it so that God will be pleased to grant unto us deliverance at this time.

I am thankful for my association with this people and the support that you have given the Priesthood during the past year. I pray that God will bless you with every blessing you desire in righteousness and that we can continue to work and pray together until deliverance comes.

Leroy S. Johnson

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 7, 1969, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here today and listening to the testimony of those who have spoken. I trust that the few moments I occupy this position that God will put words into my mouth that we might be edified and built up in our faith. It certainly is my desire to see this people prepare themselves to carry off the Kingdom.

The Lord is very kind to us, and He has given us this opportunity to exercise our ability to prepare a people that He might accomplish His great work in these the latter days. The Lord called the Prophet Joseph Smith and gave him commandments. He instructed him to go forth upon the earth and bear testimony to the world that there was a God in Heaven, and that He was a man like us, and at one time, He lived upon an earth like this, and was born of woman, as we have been born. He worked out His salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord.

Joseph was told to bear testimony to the world that these things were true, and all who would believe would be saved and all who would not would be damned. Now this wasn't new. These same things have been given to people throughout the history of the world. Enoch bore testimony to the same thing, to the people in his day. The scriptures tell us that he labored for over three hundred years trying to prepare a people that the Lord could use. When? In the latter days. For after he had labored all those years, he and his people were taken away. But before he left, he obtained the promise from the Lord that he would return sometime. There would be a people come up who would be called Zion--Zion upon the earth. The Lord told this great prophet Enoch that he and his people would come back and join with those who were upon the earth in completing the redemption of His work, that all who would believe upon the testimony of Jesus Christ and would apply His work to their lives, would also come. They may be with the great concourse of people that will be with Enoch and his people.

Somewhere we have been told that another man was translated. Enoch, we are told, took one-third of the surface of the

earth with him when he went. This other man took another third of the earth. I am speaking now of Peleg. If he took a part of the earth with him, how many people did he take? The records of these two peoples are not available. According to the scriptures, Moroni tells us that the Lord told him to seal up these records, and they would remain sealed until the people showed forth faith like unto the brother of Jared. I would like to be among the people who have access to these records so I can tell what took place. I would like to live so that I can be taught what took place from the very beginning--from the time of Adam until now. We only have a portion of the record. We know that there was a man named Adam. We know there was a man named Enoch. We know there was a man named Noah because the scriptures tell us and the prophets have borne testimony of it.

We know there is a man named Melchizedek. We know there are men named Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and Moses. We also know that there was a man named Jesus, the Christ, who came and gave His life for the sins of the world to make it possible for men to be resurrected and to be brought forth and to receive their bodies again. We know these things because we have been taught them by the revelations of God.

What a wonderful day it will be when we obtain the blessings that have been placed upon, not only the ancients, but upon the land in our day. We are told that the Lord cursed the earth because of the wickedness of men, and it does not bring forth in its fullness at the present time. I heard the Prophet Joseph Musser speak in this place in a meeting--one of the early times of his visiting to this community--and he told the people that this land was choice above all other lands, and that the time would come when one acre here would produce more than ten acres of the best ground in Salt Lake Valley. Someone asked him one day, “Brother Joseph, when will we reap these great blessings you have placed upon this land?” He said, “When you become united.”

We cannot become united under the conditions that we find ourselves in at the present time. I find people among us criticizing

one another. I find people among us who are sowing seeds of discord. I find the spirit of complaining over our conditions. We find that people criticize us because some seemingly have a lot and others have nothing. I know we are in very dire circumstances--some of us. These things I would like to see rectified. I would like to see our people live so that we can enjoy all things in common that we might all live comfortably together. We may not all eat alike; we may not all dress alike, or wear the same clothing, but we can be comfortably situated so that our homes will be pleasant to live in.

I have had the privilege, in recent years, of visiting some of our Lamanite people who have come a long way in bringing themselves out of poverty and disgrace, but they still have a long way to go. They still hold to traditions that have beset their people for many, many generations. I don't think these people were that way always. I think their ancestors had more than they have--a great deal more. The scriptures say they did, and because of disobedience, they were cursed.

The Lord has said, "Where much is given, much is expected." I don't know of a people that has been given more than our people today. I don't think we have any more given to us today than they had in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith, but we have had more time to prepare ourselves to receive the blessings that were pronounced upon us by the Lord through the mouth of the Prophet Joseph Smith, if we would keep His commandments.

But, I find that the servants of God are trying to bring a people out of obscurity, people that have been blinded by the craftiness of men. The Lord now is trying to salvage a people from among a people who received the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity through the mouths of prophets who have had the privilege of walking and talking with heavenly beings. Joseph, the Prophet, saw the Lord. He saw Jesus Christ. He saw the Angel Moroni; he saw Peter, James and John. He saw Moses; he saw Father Adam and others, and he bore testimony to these things, but the people treated them lightly. What did the Lord do? The Lord placed us under condemnation and told us we would remain under condemnation until we repented and remembered

these things that He has told the prophets to tell us, and now we are trying to get them before the people.

This little body of people spent a lot of money trying to reprint the sermons of the early leaders of the Church (after the Prophet Joseph Smith) bearing testimony to the truthfulness of Joseph Smith's mission and the things that he taught and tried to give to the people--the Journal of Discourses. After we got these Journals printed and had a few of them scattered around over the country, then the Church thought they would take it over. They printed the Journals and highly advertised them through their papers and magazines. The Improvement Era carried a great advertisement campaign just a year or so ago telling what a great work the Journals would do among the people. There was a great reformation, we felt, over what the Church had done before.

I can remember, not very many years ago when the Church sent agents out around over the country gathering up the Journal of Discourses and the Millennial Star. I had a brother-in-law that had two sets of Journals in his home. A man came into his home one day and said, "Brother Judd, we have orders from the President of the Church to gather up these Journal of Discourses and the Millennial Star. Now, we don't want you to give them to us. We will pay for them, but we have to have them." So, they gathered them up. He let them have the Journals. He was a good man. He had faith in the President of the Church and in other Church authorities, so instead of taking money from the Church, he gave them the books. What did they do with them? They took them out and burned them. They had a great bonfire and burned them up.

Now, a year or two ago, they ran a great advertising campaign in the Deseret News, Salt Lake Tribune, Improvement Era, and I don't know but what it was in the Relief Society Magazine about what a wonderful opportunity the people had to receive the instructions of the early leaders of the Church. For about six or seven years there has been a set of the Journals right up over the cash register in the Deseret Book Company. The Deseret Book Company has put a set of the Journals into the hands of many, many people.

But, today, it is a different story. I went in there the other day--no Journals. The Church has again started a campaign to get the Journals out of circulation. What next? What can we expect in the generation in which we live when the word of God is worth nothing to the people and especially to the Church that Christ organized through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

What a golden opportunity you have, my brothers and sisters. The Lord is good to you. There are many of us who feel like we understand the scriptures, and that we have prepared ourselves as far as we can and are waiting for more of the word of God. Every once in a while I hear someone say, “When are you going to teach us something new? Everything that we hear from the stand today has been told to us all my life. When are we going to hear something new?” We hear this from the older people. I don’t hear very much from the young people, but I hear it from the older people. I can tell you how it works. We send our children to school. About every month or so, we get a report card telling us how our children are doing. At the end of the year, they take their examinations for their graduation. If they haven’t got their lessons, they fail. Why did they fail? Because they have skipped over something.

The Lord is anxiously waiting to give this people more, but they have skipped over something. They are not ready for their examinations. And I will tell you what it is. The question was asked Christ which of the commandments is the greatest. The answer was: “Love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength; and the second is like unto it--Love thy neighbor as thyself. And upon these two commandments hang all the law and the Gospel.” There is the answer to your question.

The Lord has tried to teach this people to love their neighbor as themselves ever since the Gospel was restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. He tried to set up the United Order, but he couldn’t perfect one because of selfishness, or greediness, or criticism, and other things. So we have missed something, and we are not ready for the graduation. There are very few men, very few women, that can pass the examinations. These blessings will never be

realized upon the heads of people who cannot pass the examination. A diploma cannot be issued.

This doctrine has been taught ever since I can remember. When I was a boy, I heard men like Joseph F. Smith, Anthon H. Lund, Matthias F. Cowley, John W. Taylor, Melvin J. Ballard, and others preach these same sermons over the stand, time and time again. I have heard Heber J. Grant preach them, but these men had to cater to those who they tried to teach. So, today there is only one place where you can get the word of God in its purity and that is through the mouths of the servants of God who have been called to lead the Holy Priesthood.

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for this opportunity that we have, and I would like to see us prepare ourselves that we might be among that people who the Lord can use in the latter days. I would like to be among that concourse of people that will be able to greet the people of Enoch when they come. The Lord told him, "When you come back, Zion on earth will meet the people of Enoch." The people of Enoch will fall on the necks of the people of Zion and weep. The people of Zion will fall on the necks of the people of Enoch and weep. I would like to be there. I would like to see how it feels--not only the people of Enoch, but the lost tribes of Israel--and help administer their blessings to them in the House of the Lord. I would like to live to see the conversion of the Jews and of other great blessings that the Lord has in store for the faithful Latter-day Saints. I say Latter-day Saints because these are the Latter days. I would like to be among them, and I would like to see every person in this room and every person that I am acquainted with that has declared themselves in support of the Priesthood of God be there, and many others. I would like to see the honest in heart throughout the world gathered together, because if they are honest in heart, they will be supporters of the Priesthood.

Now, I pray that the Lord will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and that we will soon raise ourselves

out from under the curse that the Lord placed upon us. The whole Church is under condemnation and will remain there until they repent. So, let us repent. Let us remember the teachings of our Savior, of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor and others. Let us listen to the testimonies of the servants of God and apply them to our lives. I pray that we can get the Spirit of God and keep it. God bless you, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 14, 1969, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

It is good to be here, my brothers and sisters, and hear what we have heard. I am greatly built up in my faith by the effort that is being put forth by this body of people. I am grateful for the knowledge that we can be told in plain words what we must do to work out our salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord, because it is a day of fear and trembling.

We chose to come, as Brother Hammon has told us, in this day and hour, because we wanted to take part in the establishment of God's work in the earth and the Redemption of Zion. I firmly believe that we desired of the Lord to hold us back until this time, that we might come here and prepare a people, that we might have an opportunity to show our courage and determination to fulfill our covenants in assisting in the Redemption of God's people.

We have been told quite a bit today about education and the kind of education we should have. This has been the desire of even the ancients--ancient prophets--to gain the proper education for their existence here in the earth. And of all people, this people should create a desire to know and understand the reason for their being here and where they are going.

When Brother Timpson was speaking, he referred to Abraham. He tells us that he sought to be taught by the Prophets of God regarding the knowledge that he received. And the Lord took him and tutored and trained him. He said he walked and talked with the Lord, and the Lord told him what he would have to do in order to be prepared to become a God. It wasn't training after the order of the world. It was a training after the order of the Gods. This is what you and I should be most interested in--a training after the order of the Gods--because that is what we are trying to do. We are trying to train ourselves to become like God. For as man is God once was, and as God is man may become.

This is an order of things that has to be sought after. It is not a must to everybody, but those who have a desire within themselves to become like God will not seek to be tutored and trained

as astronauts or scientists in this world, but they will be seeking after a knowledge of how to create after the order of the Gods. That is one of the ideas President Timpson tried to put over today. That is what we are here for, my brothers and sisters, and there is only one way we can get it; and that is through the studies of these scriptures and a great desire to apply ourselves to the instructions that are given in them.

We are all mortals. We are all subject to mistakes. We might be directed by the Spirit of God to give instructions to people, but if you don't take our actions for a criterion, some of us are going to be led into by and forbidden paths. But if we teach and instruct according to the word of God, then you will know that you are being tutored and trained for a greater life, then we will be caught up and changed in the twinkling of an eye, as the scriptures tell us.

We have been together a good long time this afternoon and heard many good things. I want to encourage you to keep on. I was thrilled beyond words this morning. I asked Brother Timpson to have the deacons meet with us for dismissal. We had two hundred & seventy in our Priesthood meeting this morning. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that He would redeem Zion if he could find five hundred faithful men. If these boys all prove themselves faithful, we will be climbing up towards that number. I am wondering if we can gather together that many men. I am wondering what will take place in this earth.

The Lord has told us in plain words that He would redeem Zion, and that Zion would be redeemed in this generation. So let us continue, let us continue to labor with ourselves until we overcome all evil, and become a people that will have perfect confidence in one another and not have the desire to envy that which our neighbor has. Both men and women have got to come to this order of things.

Now, I pray the blessings of God upon you. I pray that you will have strength to get the Spirit of God and keep it. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 28, 1969, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, I am not going to hold you here very long. I want to bear testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is true. The testimony of Joseph, the Prophet, is true. What we have heard here today goes to substantiate the faith of those who have spoken. They have borne testimony to the truthfulness of the teachings of these men--both our Savior and our Prophet.

After all that has been said, I don't want anyone to go away and say that there is no use to try because the Lord is willing to forgive all men who will repent and turn unto Him. I think the few moments I have, the best I could give you would be from Section 64--just part of it. (Section 64: 1-l0)

> "Behold, thus saith the Lord your God unto you, O ye elders of my church, hearken ye and hear, and receive my will concerning you.
>
> For verily I say unto you, I will that ye should overcome the world; wherefore I will have compassion upon you.
>
> There are those among you who have sinned; but verily I say, for this once, for mine own glory, and for the salvation of souls, I have forgiven you your sins.
>
> I will be merciful unto you, for I have given unto you the kingdom.
>
> And the keys of the mysteries of the kingdom shall not be taken from my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., through the means I have appointed, while he liveth, inasmuch as he obeyeth mine ordinances.
>
> There are those who have sought occasion against him without cause;
>
> Nevertheless, he has sinned; but verily I say unto you, I, the Lord, forgive sins unto those who confess their sins before me and ask forgiveness, who have not sinned unto death.

> My disciples, in days of old, sought occasion against one another and forgave not one another in their hearts; and for this evil they were afflicted and sorely chastened.
>
> Wherefore, I say unto you, that ye ought to forgive one another; for he that forgiveth not his brother his trespasses standeth condemned before the Lord; for there remaineth in him the greater sin.
>
> I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men."

I don't think there is anyone here who has sinned to that extent that they cannot be forgiven. I think if we will make up our minds that we will go on and be partakers of the blessings of the establishment of Zion, we can be part of it. I very often hear someone say, "Oh, what is the use? I can't make the grade anyway. So why try?" But why give up! Let us continue to try. If we will continue to try, it won't be long until we can make the grade.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us bring in the wanderings of our minds and center them upon the things of eternal life; for the time is drawing short. We have the signs of the times to reckon with; and from what I can observe, the time is drawing nigh. The Lord is going to have to cut His work short in righteousness in order to accomplish the work that He has set up in the latter days.

May God bless you and give you wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that you might be able to work out your salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord. This is a day of fear and trembling in which we live. The Lord has brought us forth in this time to accomplish a great work. It is our privilege to be partakers of that great work because we are the only ones on the face of the earth that are being taught under the direction of the Holy Priesthood. May God bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## PART OF A SERMON BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 11, 1970, SUNDAY, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

(Section 85 - D. & C.)

> "Yea, thus saith the still small voice, which whispereth through and pierceth all things, and often times it maketh my bones to quake while it maketh manifest, saying:
>
> And it shall come to pass that I, the Lord God, will send one mighty and strong, holding the scepter of power in his hand, clothed with light for a covering, whose mouth shall utter words, eternal words; while his bowels shall be a fountain of truth, to set in order the house of God, and to arrange by lot the inheritances of the saints whose names are found, and the names of their fathers, and of their children, enrolled in the book of the law of God."

I wouldn't have to read any more than that, and it would give you something to think upon for the rest of your life to see whether you could comply with it or not.

A year prior to this, in 1832, the Lord gave the United Order for the salvation of His people. A year later, He has to wait until He can send the One Mighty and Strong. I hope we can prepare a people, my brothers and sisters, that can love one another, that we can see our children criticized by those that teach them and lead them without arousing our anger--the anger of the parents--and without taking the part of the children. Through doing this, you drive your children out of the body of the saints. If we had parents in this place that would cease to criticize the teachers and the Priesthood for trying to teach their children to be obedient, we would begin to bring ourselves out from under this condemnation that the Lord placed us under, but we can't do it.

I am going to read to you a few of the things that we need to apply to our lives, and let's see to it that we repent and draw a little closer to the Lord.

(Section 88:123-126)

"See that ye love one another; cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires.

Cease to be idle; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another; cease to sleep longer than is needful; retire to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary; arise early, that your bodies and your minds may be invigorated.

And above all things, clothe yourselves with the bond of charity, as with a mantle, which is the bond of perfectness and peace.

Pray always, that ye may not faint, until I come. Behold, and lo, I will come quickly, and receive you unto myself. Amen."

All you need to do is measure yourself by the scriptures and see whether you are ready for the United Order or not. Let us go into the history and see whether we have repented to a point where we have overcome the difficulties that caused the United Order to fail in other days; for the Lord is not pleased with failures in His work.

Another thing I want to remind you of is this: We want to remember that the Lord has been kind enough to us to give us a prophet in the latter days--the Prophet Joseph Smith. He gave him commandments to give to the people, and we have those commandments here to refer to from day to day. It has been over one hundred years since the Prophet Joseph was slain, and the people of the Church have almost forgotten him.

I think it was Brother Timpson who said that he didn't know what it would take for the Lord to wake the people up. I don't know either. It took quite a calamity in the days of the Savior here to prepare this continent enough so He could come and set in order His House. So, I don't know what it will take.

If the One Mighty and Strong were to come today and stand here in this pulpit and talk to you, you wouldn't believe him. You

wouldn’t know him. You would call him an imposter. So, what is it going to take to bring us to our knees? I will tell you what we could do about it. We could take the things that we have been told today and begin to practice them in our homes. It wouldn’t be long until the Spirit of God would be upon us and we would know whether a man was sent of God or whether he came of himself.

These are the conditions that we find ourselves in, my brothers and sisters. Let us go home and begin to teach and to practice in our homes the spirit of love and kindness towards one another. Let us bring ourselves to a point where the One Mighty and Strong could come into our homes and not be ashamed. Let us get the Spirit of God and keep it. God bless you, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 18, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of living in this day, and for the testimony we have of our great prophet, Joseph Smith. I am grateful for the work that he set in order. I am grateful for the faith he had in seeking for knowledge and understanding, and for the wonderful vision that he received through his great faith, for it took faith for a boy of his age to approach the Lord in this generation of time and to ask for knowledge and understanding. We all are aware of the great vision that he had, and through his works the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was established and set up in the earth. From that day until now, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been recognized by the Lord.

Today, nearly three million people are mourning the loss of a great leader. He took his place in the leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and he filled it with honor before the people. I don’t know of a man who has been loved by a greater number of people than has David O. McKay. It will be a great day of mourning and admiration given to his name, and I want this people to understand that the Priesthood join in with the rest of the world in mourning the passing of David O. McKay.

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I feel, my brothers and sisters, that we have had an outpouring of the Spirit of God this afternoon. We have been well paid for being here.

There is one short revelation here that I would like to read in closing. I like to refresh our minds upon the revelations of God to His people, for I greatly feel the necessity within me of our repenting of our weaknesses and imperfections and getting ourselves in a condition so that God can use us in His redeeming work. This revelation I am going to read was given by the Prophet Joseph Smith to Joseph Knight. Brother Knight was very close to the Prophet Joseph in his translation work, and this is what the Lord said to him; and it applies to each and every member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

(Section 12 - D.& C.)

> "A great and marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men.
>
> Behold, I am God; give heed to my word, which is quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, to the dividing asunder of both joints and marrow; therefore, give heed unto my word."

The Lord has very plainly told us that His work is not man's work, and in order for us to come back into His presence, we must give up everything that is worldly within us and begin to be taught by the angels of Heaven the way to perfection. Or, in other words, we are here going through a period of schooling just the same as we would go through a college and get a rounded education.

We came here with a full understanding when we left the eternal world that we would come down here and work out our salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord, and that we would take these bodies back in a purified condition. But because of the controversy between those two great generals, Satan and Christ, the Lord had to give each an equal chance because Satan demanded that he have a chance to try these spirits that would come to the earth.

So, along the way, the Lord has tried to tell us the importance of living according to the teachings of Christ. No one upon the face of the earth had to change so quickly as did the Prophet Joseph Smith after he had his first vision of the Father and the Son. He tried to arrange his life according to the teachings of Heaven, and he became one of the greatest prophets of all time.

> "Behold, the field is white already to harvest; therefore, whoso desireth to reap let him thrust in his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God.

Yea, whosoever will thrust in his sickle and reap, the same is called of God."

And this doesn't mean that we are called to go out and preach to every Tom, Dick, and Harry. This means we are to get in and work and find out what we have to do to save this soul. The Lord was speaking to Brother Knight. Brother Knight wanted to know what he should do to gain his salvation and to straighten out his life. So, the Lord was telling him. Many people have read this section of the Doctrine & Covenants and took it unto themselves that it meant that they should go out and reap while the harvest was white. We should be ready to thrust in our sickles and reap--reap what? The kernels of eternal life as they have been given to us through the mouths of the prophets, and they are in this book.

"Yea, whosoever will thrust in his sickle and reap, the same is called of God.

Therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive; if you will knock it shall be opened unto you.

Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.

Behold, I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work;

And no one can assist in this work except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope and charity, being temperate in all things, whatsoever shall be entrusted to his care.

Behold, I am the light and the life of the world, that speak these words, therefore give heed with your might, and then you are called. Amen."

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 22, 1978, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY

This is a wonderful sight, my brothers and sisters, to see this building filled. I hope we have enjoyed an outpouring of the Spirit of God this afternoon. I hope that is the way we feel. Our time is far spent. There are others we would like to hear from, but we need to close.

I just want to call your attention to the condemnation that the Lord placed us under, the whole Church, as early as 1832. You will find it recorded in the 84th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants. And He said we would remain under that condemnation until we repented. The reason we bring you together and teach you these things is because we would like to bring a people out from under this great condemnation the Lord placed upon us. He said it was because we treated lightly the things we received. So, let us take note of what has been said, and let us try to arrange our lives so the Lord will be pleased to restore our blessings to us again.

I pray the blessings of God upon you, each and everyone of you, and ask that we would do more towards gaining a more firm understanding of our situation here in the world and especially regarding our eternal salvation.

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## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 8, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I guess the first thing I need to do is apologize. When I first came in, I pulled off my overcoat, and I didn't have one on. My brothers and sisters, I am grateful for the privilege of being here today, for the health and strength that I enjoy, and for the health and strength of our people. We should be the most grateful people upon the earth because we have a testimony of Jesus in our hearts. I dare say there is no one in this room who is seeking for anything else but an eternal salvation or you would not be here.

Our Father in Heaven has been gracious enough to us to see to it that we have the revelations of His Holy Spirit to guide us in this day and hour in which we live. We know, through the testimonies that have been borne, as well as the testimony of the Holy Spirit to our being, that Jesus is the Christ and that He has set up His Church and Kingdom in this day never again to be thrown down or given to another people. So, we should be the most grateful people in the world.

I am certainly grateful for my parentage. My father was a sickly boy when he was going to school, but he weathered his way through. He was a graduate from one of the eastern colleges. At his graduation time, he was pronounced "on his way out" by physicians. He had a disease that they said could not be cured; but if he would migrate to the western seaboard, he might prolong his life for a few months. On his way, he got as far as Salt Lake City, then the Lord took over, and he raised a large family. Not as large as some I know of, but he had twenty children. I am one of them. He had a firm testimony in the revelations of Joseph Smith.

I remember him telling about his return to his hometown in Boston. He wrote to his father and told him that he would like to come and visit him, and his father wrote back and told him he could come as a stranger, but not as his son unless he would deny his testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith. By this time, Joseph Smith had been martyred. Father didn't feel to denounce his testimony, so

he wrote back to his father and told him he would be glad to come back as a stranger if he didn't want to recognize him as his son; which he did. He might have gathered a little genealogy while he was back visiting with his father. When his father saw him coming up the path to the house, he walked out and met him and says, "I'll welcome you into my home as a stranger, Warren, but I will not own you as a son."

So, these are some of the things our parents have had to go through to gain their salvation. Father was a Priesthood man. Brigham Young called him on a mission--called him to Lee's Ferry, Arizona, to take John D. Lee's place when the officers came and took John D. Lee away. He set him apart as a missionary to the Indians. He told him to take his family and go to Lee's Ferry and live there where he could teach the Indians the truths of the everlasting Gospel. And he wasn't released from that mission until long after President Young died. President Young called him, and President Woodruff released him. About a month after he was released, he met with an accident which rendered him helpless from the hips down. He had his back broken in one place and thrown out-of-place in another. He lived for seven years that way.

Last month, I went through a similar experience, only mine wasn't as bad as his, but I know a little bit about what his suffering was. Nobody can know what men go through, or women either, as far as that goes. Many women are rendered helpless, and no one knows the suffering they go through. My mother was a lady about Aunt Susie's build. She may have been a little heavier than Aunt Susie. Her regular weight was something like two hundred fifty-four pounds, and she had a bad leg that caused her a lot of pain. Even at that, she got around and did her work, and she was loved by everyone who knew her--like Aunt Susie.

I want to draw your attention to the fact that we have a work to do. I have men come to me and wonder what they can do to make the work grow faster. But in my perusal of the scriptures, I find that this has been the case ever since the organization of the Church. Every man has a job to do. It was Alma, in the Book of

Mormon who said, “The day in which we live is the day in which to prepare to meet our God.” This is the day in which we live to prepare ourselves to meet our Maker. So, if we work every day with ourselves, the Lord says, and labor all our lives and save save it be one soul, how great will be our joy with that soul in the Kingdom of Heaven. We not only have our own souls to save, but we who have entered into the Celestial Law have many souls to save. We will be held responsible for those the Lord has placed in our hands to teach and train. Every man that has a family has a full time job preparing that family for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. The Lord is going to hold us responsible for the actions of those boys and girls.

Upon one occasion, the Prophet Joseph Smith was chastised very heavily by the Lord. The Lord told him he was nigh unto cursing because he had not taught his children correctly. How many of us are better than the Prophet Joseph? Are we able to say that we have done all we could to teach and train our children?--that they might follow in the footsteps of the great leaders that the Lord has sent here to lead this people, and to follow the counsel the Lord has given us in these revelations that He has placed in our hands. How many of us are out from under the bondage of sin--or the condemnation the Lord placed upon the Latter-day Saints because they had treated lightly the things they had received? If you are, then you might be well within your right to come and ask the Priesthood to give you another job to do. But it is a full time job for us to teach and train these children the Lord has sent into our homes and see that their mothers teach and train them in the proper manner. The fathers of these children are going to be held responsible because they are the heads of the families. They teach their children to draw close to them, and give them their full support, but there are very few who call their children around them and teach them principles that will keep them from going out with the Gentiles after we have them raised up. We have too many of them going that way.

We are living in a time when the Lord is preparing the earth for a change. The scriptures are full of it. He has promised His people that in the latter days He would make it possible for

their redemption--the Redemption of Zion. We have eyes that can see, ears that can hear, and we have minds that can read. And if we can easily see the signs of the times today that they are fast closing in upon us then there is not time for us to linger along and prolong our day of repentance.

This is what the Lord has commanded in His revelations to the Nephite people. I am going to read a little from the 16th chapter of Third Nephi.

> "And verily, verily, I say unto you that I have other sheep which are not of this land, neither of the land of Jerusalem, neither in any parts of that land round about whither I have been to minister.
>
> For they of whom I speak are they who have not as yet heard my voice; neither have I at any time manifested myself unto them.
>
> But I have received a commandment of the Father that I shall go unto them, and that they shall hear my voice, and shall be numbered among my sheep, that there may be one fold and one shepherd; therefore, I go to show myself unto them.
>
> And I command you that ye shall write these sayings after I am gone, that if it so be that my people at Jerusalem, they who have seen me and been with me in my ministry, do not ask the Father in my name, that they may receive a knowledge of you by the Holy Ghost, and also of the other tribes whom they know not of, that these sayings which ye shall write shall be kept and shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that through the fulness of the Gentiles, the remnant of their seed, who shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth because of their unbelief, may be brought in, or may be brought to a knowledge of me, their Redeemer.
>
> And then will I gather them in from the four quarters of the earth; and then will I fulfill the covenant

which the Father hath made unto all the people of the house of Israel.

And blessed are the Gentiles, because of their belief in me, in and of the Holy Ghost, which witnesses unto them of me and of the Father."

Now hear this :

"Behold, because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and because of the unbelief of you, O house of Israel, in the latter day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fulness of these things shall be made known unto them.

But wo, saith the Father, unto the unbelieving of the Gentiles--for notwithstanding they have come forth upon the face of this land, and have scattered my people who are of the house of Israel; and my people who are of the house of Israel have been cast out from among them, and have been trodden under feet by them;

And because of the mercies of the Father unto the Gentiles, and also the judgments of the Father upon my people who are of the house of Israel, verily, verily, I say unto you, that after all this, and I have caused my people who are of the house of Israel to be smitten, and to be afflicted, and to be slain, and to be cast out from among them, and to become hated by them, and to become a hiss and a byword among them--

And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all those

things, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, behold saith the Father, I will bring the fulness of my gospel from among them.

And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them.

And I will show unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you; but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel.

But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto me, saith the Father, behold they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel."

So here is our opportunity. There is no people upon the face of the earth who have the opportunity that this people have to repent and come unto the Father, that they might not come under the curse that He has placed upon the Gentiles because they have rejected the Gospel.

"And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them.

And I will show unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you; but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel.

But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto me, saith the Father, behold they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel.

And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father.

But if they will not turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice, I will suffer them, yea, I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them,

> and shall tread them down, and they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel.
>
> Verily, verily, I say unto you, thus hath the Father commanded me--that I should give unto this people this land for their inheritance.
>
> And then the words of the prophet Isaiah shall be fulfilled, which say:
>
> Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing, for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion."

The Lord is trying once more, my brothers and sisters, to prepare a people that can stand when His judgments go forth upon this great land to prepare it for the Millennial Reign. But there is a great lot of work to be performed in a very short time in order to cleanse this land whereby the One Mighty and Strong might come and set the House of God in order. This is what we are trying to do--trying to prepare the hearts of a people who can be used by God's servants when He sends them forth to establish the Millennial Reign upon this great continent of ours. For this land has been set apart to be known as the New Jerusalem, and this is where the Lord will perform His great work--His vicarious work for the dead and the work for those who are living. This land will be overrun with a great concourse of people who will be brought in when the ten tribes return. This has been prophesied of by the prophets of God, and the Lord has said that not one word of the prophets shall fall to the ground unheeded.

Now let us prepare ourselves--let us go forth and prepare our hearts that we might be able to entertain the angels of Heaven if the Lord should see fit to send some to our homes. Let us get our homes in a shape so that peace and harmony will be there, that we can entertain them in a pleasing way before our Father in Heaven.

Now, I pray that the blessings of God will settle upon us, and that we will go from this building with a more firm determination to teach and train those who are under our care, that we may not be found wanting when the Lord asks for our assistance in the establishment of righteousness in the earth. God bless you, amen.

## REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 15, 1970, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am well pleased, my brothers and sisters, and well paid for my being here this afternoon. I trust that the few words I say may be dictated by the Spirit of God, that we might continue to be encouraged. All that I heard today is encouragement to this people or should be.

The other day, two or three young ladies were standing on the street corner in Salt Lake City waiting for a bus, an elderly man--a policeman--was standing directing traffic, and his eye caught these young ladies. He watched them for a little while, then he came over where they were. He said, "It looks so good--so good--to see a young lady with clothes on that I couldn't help but come over and congratulate you ladies on being well dressed." So, all who look at us are not looking at us with an evil eye. They admire people, even in this day of mini-skirts they admire people who cover their bodies.

I am proud of the people who have gathered around the Priesthood. Last Sunday, I attended a meeting in Salt Lake City, and our people are setting an example before the world that sooner or later they will recognize. If they don't do it because of decency, they will do it because they are forced to.

We have been told that we will take direction from the Priesthood or we will take it from the prince of darkness. The time will come when we will be mighty glad that we have kept ourselves as decent as we are today. We should live so that the outside world would want to emulate our characters. I believe we are. I believe we are commencing to demand the respect of decent people throughout our communities. I would like to see it continue. I would like to see our young men and young women take pride in following the example that our leaders are trying to teach them, that the Lord might be pleased to bless us in our times of need.

Now, we have been together a long time, and I want to invoke the blessings of God upon you. I hope He continues to bless you and protect you from the diseases and evils of this time. Let us try continuously to get the Spirit of God and keep it, that we might live long to assist in the establishing of righteousness in the earth. May God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 22, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I feel, my brothers and sisters, that we have enjoyed an outpouring of the Spirit of God this afternoon. And I trust that the few moments I speak, I might be dictated by the same spirit. The servants of God are under the commandment to preach repentance in the day in which we live. That is the reason that you hear them calling us to repentance from time to time. You'll find recorded in the Sixth Section of the Doctrine & Covenants that the Lord's instruction to the elders of Israel was to teach nothing but repentance to this generation.

The Lord has been very jealous of the workmanship of His hands, and the great multitude of people that you see today are the workmanship of our Father. From time to time, throughout the generations of time, He has wept bitterly over the condition of His children. He has told His prophets, in times gone by, and reiterated it in our generation, that those who live upon this goodly land and inherit it must be a God-fearing people and a people that will serve the God of the land. "Or else," He says, "when they are ripened in iniquity I will destroy them." That is the reason the brethren have spoken like they have today. They know, and I know, as you ought to know, that the Lord means what He says. For He has plainly told us that not one word of the prophets shall fall to the earth unnoticed.

In 1953, when the army came into the little town of Short Creek, we witnessed a great commotion among the people. Not only those that were being taken, but those that were taking them were uneasy in their feelings. In fact, they were so uneasy in their feelings that they dare not come in before daylight.

These things have been told us from time to time ever since I can remember. I remember when I was in the Church, it was a little before things were as bad as they are now, but I heard the brethren preach sermons like you hear the brethren preach today. They warned the people against sin, against breaking the commandments of God, and admonished them to keep all the commandments of God. But from time to time, the false and delusive spirits crept into the minds of those who spoke, and then the people began to drift away from the saving principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I hold in my hand the Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants and Pearl of Great Price. This is the law-book of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is the law-book that we preach from. I am just going to read one verse to show you how jealous the Lord is about His people. He says, "Behold, I am God, give heed to my word, which is quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword to the dividing asunder of both joint and marrow. Therefore, give heed unto my words." If the officers of the law should come in this door, there would be a lot of people try to get out some other door. How many of us take to heart this one verse in the Doctrine & Covenants? You will find it in many places. The Lord starts his revelations many, many times the same way.

Let us draw in the wanderings of our minds, and commence to keep the commandments of God. Let us repent of our sins--the sins that Brother Musser has brought to our attention today.

Speaking along the same lines that you have heard the brethren speak today, you will find that Brigham Young spoke under the direction of the Holy Ghost, as we are told that prophets of God in olden times spoke as they were led by the Holy Ghost.

> "Where is the continent, the people, the nation, or kingdom among whom the Book of Mormon could have been translated, angels have visited the Servants of God to restore the Priesthood and establish the Kingdom of God, that has risen, grown, and spread abroad--but in the government of the United States? Therefore, nowhere else, as you were told here a few Sundays ago.
>
> How is it now with the present feeling of the people? Could that work now be done in the United States? It could not. The very duties performed by Joseph, Oliver, David, Hyrum, and others could not now be done in the United States--for the people would rise en masse and put them to death or drive them from their borders."

I wonder how it would be today. I am afraid if they were to try to set it up in this day, they would be bombed. That seems to be the great weapon of war. In the days of Joseph they only had the

musket, they called it, but today they blow them to pieces. Brother Kimball said the time would come when the saints would be deprived of meeting together. Do you think that time is about upon us?

In days gone by, the enemy had men and women come in among us to hear what we had to say, and then bring to them what the Servants of God were preaching about. That is what they did before the 1944 raid, which incited the raid. I wonder how long it will be before this people will be deprived of meeting together--like we are today. Let us hasten to get into our minds the things we have heard here today and yesterday, last month and the month before, that perchance this condition does come upon us we will have something to think about. Let us prepare ourselves against the day of visitation that the Lord might be justified in smiting our enemies and preserving to us the privilege of meeting together under such favorable circumstances as we have today.

Now may God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 29, 1970, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here this afternoon and hearing the testimonies that have been borne, and I trust that the few moments I speak, the Lord will put words into my mouth that we might be paid for coming out this afternoon. This building is well filled which is a testimony to us that you are interested in knowing something about what to do about your salvation.

This of all days--today--should be a day of reminding ourselves of the great suffering that Christ went through. It should be a great day of study for the inhabitants of the earth to know what to do in order to become like Christ is. If you were to go out today, throughout the country you would find this one of the greatest days of pleasure that we have. We have other days that we celebrate the memories of the past, but instead of being a people of merry-making and satisfying our carnal desires for pleasure, we should be in deep humility and thoughtfulness for the things Christ left for His people to remember.

If we will just go back into history, we will find that after the crucifixion of Christ, He reported back to His Father the things that had transpired; and He was told to go now and show Himself to other people upon the earth who had not seen Him, but who had heard of Him through the mouths of prophets.

I very often feel within myself what a great thing it would be if we were living so that we could enjoy the full record of Christ’s dealings with His people. But we only have a portion of the record to refer to. We don’t have the record of how many years, or how many days, or months, or weeks it was after He was hung upon the cross before He came to visit the people upon this continent. Very little do we know of the time that He came here and the great destruction that took place, but we do know that He came and delivered the message that His Father sent Him to deliver. I don’t think it would be amiss to remind us of some of the things He told the people.

We do know this, my brothers and sisters, that Joseph the Prophet was instructed to teach nothing but repentance to this generation of people. We find that Joseph did go and preach nothing but repentance to the people. Those that prepared themselves to receive the Priesthood and the blessings of the Priesthood and continued faithful were added upon, and as they were worthy and proved themselves worthy, they were given more of the glories of the eternities. We find that was the case through all the history of time from our Father Adam until now.

From time to time, we find that men have prepared themselves to a point where they received great and glorious blessings from the Lord. Enoch prepared his people according to the instructions that he received through his Priesthood head. He worked close to those who were ruling over him in this life. So great became his faith, that the Lord could not withhold His blessings from him. So, He poured out His Spirit upon Enoch, and he became one of the greatest prophets of all time. He was able to prepare a people, after a long and hard struggle, to receive the blessings that God had in store for faithful men and women. So great was the faith of that people that the Lord took them away--not to destroy them or to sink them out of existence, but to preserve them from the wickedness of this earth.

If we had the record, I think we would find that they had been tried, possibly as you and I have been tried. If not, there will come a time when they will be tried, for the Lord has told us in this day, that there will be a Millennium--a thousand years of peace when people will be taught the principles of truth and salvation; and they will be prepared to receive these people of Enoch, who will be greatly pleased with the privilege of coming and mingling with those in the Millennial Reign. They will join with them, so says the record. The city of Enoch and his people will come back to this earth, and the city of Zion will go up and meet them; and they will fall on each other’s necks and kiss them in anticipation of enjoying the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God wants a people who are thinking about Him. He is trying to teach the children of men to change their ways, for He says, “God’s ways are not man’s ways.” He also said, “Come out of her, O ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins.” So, the thing that I can read and glean from the revelations of God is something greater, to me, than what we are gaining by the accepted education in this world, or the things that this world participates in; for I find that there is nothing in the education of this world that can save men except that part that gives them a knowledge of our Father in Heaven and how to become like Him. Upon this day--this Easter day, as they call it, we should be engaged in doing something about our salvation, that we might become righteous men and return unto God.

In reading Third Nephi, we find that after the great destruction took place, the people gathered together in one place in order to converse about the great changes that had come upon the earth and the reason for them. They began to remember the prophecies that had been uttered by the prophets of God from time to time, prophecies about the birth of Christ and His crucifixion. The signs of the times had come to them, and they had seen a part of the fulfillment of prophecy. The record tells us that they heard a voice, but they couldn’t understand the voice. Then they heard it again, and they couldn’t understand it. After they had heard it a third time and couldn’t understand it, the voice continued speaking, and they began to understand. It was the Lord introducing His Son to that body of people. After He had introduced Him, Christ came down and stood among them and told them who He was and gave them instructions what to do. He called one man from the audience and set him apart to baptize the people. I am just going to read a few verses here. Christ said this to the people:

(Third Nephi, 11:37-38)

> “And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in nowise receive these things.

> And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God."

See how important it was that people should be baptized for the remission of their sins that they might become as little children who are innocent of any evil.

(Verses: 39-41)

> "Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and who so buildeth upon this buildeth upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them.
>
> And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock; but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell stand open to receive such when the floods come and the winds beat upon them.
>
> Therefore, go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth."

This is a great day in which we live. We should be grateful for the revelations of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and especially the words of that man Brother Richard was speaking about. We should be grateful for our own lives to that extent that we would do something about our eternal salvation. Let us draw in the wanderings of our minds and center them upon the principles of eternal life, and then do something about it. This is the day for us--we who are living here--to prepare to meet our God. I pray that we will come to earth and become humble and bring ourselves to a point where we can get close to the Lord and get His Spirit and keep it. May God bless you. Amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL, 1970, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, I trust that the Spirit of God will dictate what few remarks I make this afternoon that the wonderful testimonies that we have received may be verified in what I say because I know that the Lord can dictate to His servants and arrange their thoughts while they are speaking.

I have been greatly edified this afternoon in the testimonies of our young men as well as the testimonies of our leading brethren. The Lord has said that He would take the young and middle-aged and redeem Zion. These young and middle-aged are going to have to be taught. Where else in the world can they be taught only under the direction of men who have been called and set apart under the direction of our Father in Heaven to carry on His work.

The charge to the Prophet Joseph Smith by our Savior was to go bear testimony to the world that God lives and He is a man like you and I; all who would believe this testimony would be saved, and those who would not believe would be damned. The Savior says, “He that saith he believeth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him.” So, we had better take notice how we bear testimony that we know that the servants of God lead us. We had better do what the servants of God tell us or we may come under a condemnation that is greater than any of us here can imagine, as President Timpson told us today. “No man knoweth,” says the Lord, “what men go through when they are condemned to go back into mother elements, only those who are partakers thereof, for it hasn’t been revealed to man. Not even the angels of Heaven know what these people have to go through.”

I heard a man remark yesterday after the activities of the day when our Academy choir sang for them, “The one thing that impressed me most was the fact that we could tell the difference between the boys and the girls that were in the Academy Choir.” He said, “I’m sorry to say in our own ward, community, it is hard to tell the difference.”

The Lord, to some extent, is still recognizing the efforts that are being put forth among this people who represent His Kingdom

here in the earth, but He is not yet altogether pleased. I hear from time to time women discussing how they would like to have their dresses made. Can I make it a quarter of an inch shorter and still be recognized by the Priesthood? Why couldn't they say, "Could I please the Priesthood a little more by making my dress a quarter of an inch longer?"

The first thing the Lord did to our first parents was to clothe them and show them how to cover their nakedness. We have been taught by modern prophets and apostles to cover our bodies, not only the women, but the men, and to keep them covered. I am grateful for the effort that has been put forth among our people to dress modestly. I am grateful for these things, but I would like to see it kept in a more modest situation.

I think I will read just a verse or two to impress upon your minds how the Lord feels about His work. In His chastisement to the Prophet Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, this is what He says: (Doctrine & Covenants, Section 3)

> "The works and the designs and the purposes of God cannot be frustrated neither can they come to naught. For God doth not walk in crooked paths neither doth He turn to the right hand nor to the left, neither doth He vary from that which He hath said; therefore, His paths are straight and His course is one eternal round. Remember, remember that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men."

I heard another remark yesterday from an outsider from Phoenix. He not only made it once, but he made it a half dozen times in my hearing. "I have heard many, many choirs, in my day, but never have I heard a better performance than I heard today." Let us keep it up. He went on to say, "I have never seen a choir of young people dressed so modestly, so manly, and so ladylike as what I saw today."

Let's let the Lord know that we are not ashamed of His work. You heard the testimony of these boys. They were not ashamed to say "No" when they were asked to partake of evil. If they only

knew what they were really doing--they were out there representing the Priesthood of God. The Lord was pleased with what they did, and He cared for them. He protected them, and He brought them home to continue His work.

You young men, you should be ashamed of yourselves to do anything in this community to cause the Priesthood to call you to order or to cause Sam Barlow, our peace officer, to stop you on the highway and tell you to drive a little more peaceable. When you are stopped, you should never hold a feeling in your heart that Sam Barlow is trying to put something over you and cause him to have to give you a ticket to appear before a judge. It is the most disgraceful thing that I know of from this community. Any young man who will take another man's part is just as guilty as the party that got the ticket. They think they are doing their pal a justice by sticking up for him. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves. You are not only doing an injustice to yourself and the driver of the car, but you are doing an injustice to this Priesthood. We call on these boys sometimes to get up and bear their testimonies. They bear testimony that these men hold the keys of the Priesthood. Then they go out and do things like this.

Every boy that receives the Priesthood, and especially the Melchizedek Priesthood, should honor it. The only way to honor the Priesthood that rules over us is by being peacemakers in the community. Instead of having a peace officer here, these young men should shame him out. Why do we need a peace-maker in this place? What do we need of a peace officer? Our boys are more inclined to say "Let's see how far we can go and how much Sam can take--or, how much the Priesthood can take, before they say anything about it."

If we are going to be among that body of young and middle-aged that the Lord is going to redeem Zion with, let us begin to show our colors. Let us talk to the Priesthood, let us desire it within our hearts, if we want to be among that body of men. The quicker we can do it, the quicker the Lord can use that army of young men to march back to the center stake of Zion with so much power that even the rocks and the trees will bow to them. That is what the Lord says they will do.

Let us be honored with that great incident that the Lord has said He would perform in the latter days. There are no other people in the world, my dear young people, that have the opportunity that you have. You should be grateful for it. You should be so grateful for it that you would never again cause our peace officer to call you down, no matter what you are doing.

I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will not cease praying. The Lord has told us the time would come when we would pray night and day for deliverance. Let us start in now before that time comes, that we might have weight with our Father in Heaven.

For several years before the 1953 raid, our people got close to the Lord. They were doing what the Priesthood asked them to do. The Lord had a people prepared for the incident that took place. Don't think for a minute that the Lord didn't know that that was coming. Don't think for a moment that He was not preparing for that day. The world had to know what was going on, not only in a spiritual way, but a physical way, and the test was made. The word went over the radio that this people was rotten with venereal disease because of the ungodly practices, as they called it, but when the test was made, there was not one person that was contaminated. It went all over the world.

Mr. Kinney, who was here yesterday, made a tour of the European continents. Every place he went, he found on the records that Short Creek was the only town of its size in the world that was free from venereal disease. He told me that he found this to be the truth in Germany first. When he found it on the records there, wherever he went, he went to the records, and that is what he found. He told me, "I think the record that you people made was a great boost to my organization." He says, "Don't think for a moment that we don't know where our advancement came from." I went to his office on purpose because I had heard a rumor of further persecution. I went there to ask him, in case of another raid, what his fee would be to be our attorney. He said, "Mr. Johnson, that telephone is your retainer. Don't hesitate to call. We will drop everything else and

do what we can for you. We are prepared better today to fight for you than we have ever been before." This is what the Lord can do for us. He can fight our battles. He has said, "If you will do what I say, I will fight your battles." And we have found it to be true.

My brothers and sisters, let us pay attention to what we hear from Sunday to Sunday from this stand. Let us begin to apply to our lives our opportunities to do what the Lord has told us to do and remember that His course is one eternal round. May God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 19, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Again, I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here. I have been greatly edified by the testimonies of the brethren. I trust that the few moments I speak that the Lord will put words into my mouth, for I know that my mind is blank so far as my knowledge is concerned about the character of my Father in Heaven. I find that sometimes when I open the scriptures and start to read that which I thought I understood, I have to change my thoughts on many points of doctrine.

The Lord has so arranged it that unless we do as the old Prophet Moroni told us to do when we read the scriptures--read them with the Spirit of God upon us, with a determination to know and understand--we will not understand the scriptures. When the brethren arise and start to talk, there is no doubt but what many in the audience are enlightened on some point of doctrine that is presented to us. There are many points of doctrine that were given to us today that can occupy our minds and give us something to think about for a good long time.

We are told by the prophets that we learn here a little and there a little, precept upon precept, and I find this is true. When I am about my daily work and thoughts creep into my mind about one subject or another, I will begin to ponder upon them, and I will begin to find that I am pretty dumb--to put it in a slang way--as far as my own knowledge goes. So, I have to go to the scriptures to straighten out my thinking. I find this is the only way, my brothers and sisters, that we can come to an understanding of the things pertaining to our eternal salvation, and the eternal salvation of our children. Sometimes when I see the actions of our children, I wonder what is taking place among the Latter-day Saints.

We have gathered around us today (and this room is well filled) people who feel that we are trying to teach them the truth. I have been associated with this order of the Priesthood for a good many years. In fact, I have been taught to honor and sustain the Priesthood all my life since I was old enough to know what Priesthood meant. And when I heard the brethren bear testimony of where the keys of the Priesthood were, I was not satisfied until I joined up

and aligned my life with them. Why? Because I had done what I had been told to do by men who had been called to lead and direct the minds of the people in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I learned to love the Church and I learned to love the Priesthood because I knew the Church was a vehicle of the Priesthood, instead of the Priesthood being a vehicle of the Church. So where the Priesthood was--my heart was. I had seen the results of honoring and sustaining those who had been called to lead and direct. And that is where my heart is today--my heart is in the revelations of God contained in this book. I love to read, and now I have done at least sufficient to keep me thinking while I am working.

My advice to the boys that are going into the army is to get the Spirit of God and keep it with them. One of the best ways to get the Spirit of God and keep it is to have a prayer in your heart wherever you are, asking the Lord to protect you from the evils of the day and being able to say “no” to evil when it presents itself to you. I believe most of our boys are very, very glad for the instructions we give them when they go out.

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the testimony God has given me of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. My prayer is, everyday, that He will strengthen the testimony that He has given me. Many times I have heard men say that the Lord had revealed to them that this order of the Priesthood was true. And I have asked them if they know what they are talking about. “I don’t care what happens to me,” said one man, “No matter how much persecution they heap upon me, I will never deny my testimony that this order of the Priesthood is true.” But before a year was out, he told me he was going to ask the Lord for another testimony. He was convinced that this order of the Priesthood was out of order. I told him he had better ask the Lord to strengthen the testimony that he once had and not ask Him for another one. He has been out of the work for many, many years and he is still groping around here and there, trying to satisfy his mind on an order that will exalt him. When the Lord finds that we do not have confidence in Him, His spirit withdraws and He turns us over to another spirit; and if we are not careful, we are confused in our minds, and that confusion gets greater as we grow older.

So, the prayer of this people should be for the Lord to strengthen the testimony that He has given us of the truthfulness of this work. I heard a man in another order preach that doctrine to his people. He said, “I don’t want you fooling around with these other off-shoots of Mormonism. This is the only one I want you to have anything to do with. How can we progress if we don’t have the faith of our people?” So this is a doctrine that is in the minds of many people. You go out into the world and go into any organization or any corporation or partnership and unless you have faith in that which you are trying to do, you won’t last long with them.

This people is trying to arrange their characters to conform with the character of our Father who created us. There is only one way to do it, and that is to follow the revelations of God and the testimony of His servants who He has called to lead and direct us. The great problem is to find out and to satisfy our minds as to the correct order, or group of people who have been called of God and ordained to direct and lead His people. Once we get that testimony we have no business to let it enter into our minds that we might be mistaken because the minute we do, we will become confused, and unless we repent--and that quickly--confusion will drive us away. We have had men come into our society and live among us and rejoice over the fact that they have the privilege of coming among us, and the first thing we know they hear the testimony of some man who has been with us and then pulled away, and they are convinced that we are impostors. So, they go out of our society and we see no more of them.

Some of us might say, “This won’t happen to me.” But whenever you have a thought of that kind and voice it, that gives the devil the advantage and he works upon it. He is a very cunning worker. Says Nephi of old: Oh that evil one, how cunning is his way, he uses flattering words to persuade men and women, and they listen to him. But the Savior said to go forth now, and bear testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and all who will believe will be saved and those who will not believe will be damned; and, to be damned is to be stopped in our progress.

I hope that the time will never come when we lose any more of our people who have gathered around us who are determined to do something about their salvation. I trust the Spirit of God will settle upon us, that we can get His Spirit sufficient to satisfy our minds that the truth is being taught to us, that we might be prepared against the day of visitation that the Lord has promised to this wicked generation in which we live. You only need to go down into the city in which we live to see the signs of wickedness that are rampant in the earth today, and it has filled the earth--all the cities are in the same condition. Men have lost their love for one another and they care not for the lives of their neighbors. We only have to pick up the newspaper and we will find that men are seeking the lives of their neighbors.

Now, let us hasten to set our houses in order. Let us listen to what has been told us today regarding our families, and let us have a better people--let us have a people that the Lord can trust. There isn't anyone here but what would like to have access to the temples of our God and have our work done, but the Lord has given the Latter-day Saints a chance once, they desecrated the Law He gave them, and He is very much displeased with it. He is going to have to have a people that have built up a confidence in Him again, that He might know they will not desecrate the ordinances of the Holy Order of Marriage before they will be opened to us again. We are trying to teach that we need to prepare a people who the Lord can have confidence in, and one that He knows will go about His work and do it without murmuring--without complaining--without criticism one towards another. When we get that kind of people, then the Lord will smile upon us and we will begin to grow and increase, and the work of God will begin to grow and increase.

Now may this spirit settle upon us and may we have confidence in one another to that extent that we might love our neighbor as ourselves--for this is the great need among our people. I pray that we can hasten and bring ourselves to this understanding, and I ask God's blessings upon you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 10, 1970, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for this opportunity of meeting with you today, for the blessings God has given to us, for this beautiful day that we have, and to meet under such peaceful conditions at this time. I am grateful for the testimony that the Lord has given us of the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. I am grateful for our heritage, for the teachings of our fathers and especially our Priesthood fathers from generation to generation, and for the testimony that they have left with us that Christ does live and that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God.

The same principles, brothers and sisters, have been taught throughout the generations of time. All people who have lived when the Gospel was on the earth have had the same privilege that you and I have to prepare ourselves for the redemption of Zion. All the holy prophets have expressed their gratitude for the blessings they have received, and they have wished that they could live in the day of the redemption of Zion.

In the latter days, the Lord has given great blessings to His people, His children upon the earth. He brought forth the Gospel through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and he was commanded to bear testimony to the world that Christ did live and that He gave commandments for the exaltation and eternal life of man. He was told to go bear that testimony to the world, and all those who believed would be saved, and those who would not believe would be damned.

These truths are preached as far back as our record tells us of the Jaredite Nation. The people in that day were told to prepare themselves against the day of visitation, or when they were ripened in iniquity, the Lord would wipe them off the earth. But as long as they were faithful, they should possess the land upon which they lived and it would be a blessing unto them. But the people could not endure the enticings of Satan and his followers upon the earth. It was impossible, seemingly, for them to draw near enough unto the Lord for Him to bless them for any length of time. When they repented of their sins and served the Lord for a few years, the

Lord would bless them abundantly. He sent prophets among them and tried to teach them the ways of eternal life, but the enticings of Satan were so great that they fell away from time to time; and then, the judgments of God would move in upon them and cause them great distress.

We find that in the days of the Nephites, it was the same thing. The Lord sent prophets among them and taught them that Jesus was the Christ and that He would come to redeem His people, but they would not believe them. It is true that they would serve the Lord from time to time, and the Lord poured out His blessings upon them. But when they began to give way to the enticings of evil, they had to be chastised and brought to their knees.

We find in our day that after the Prophet Joseph Smith came and introduced the Gospel of Jesus Christ again and bore testimony to the world that Christ lived and that He was a man like us and that He rules in the Heavens, very few people, compared to the many millions upon the earth, believed the testimony. The descendants of those who were converted to the proposition have fallen away and rejected the saving principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Latter-day Saints are in the same condition today that the world was in when Joseph Smith came. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph that the people had a form of Godliness, but denied the power thereof. What do we hear today? We hear the same thing. The power of God is the Gospel of Jesus Christ unto eternal life. The principles that pertain to that eternal life have been discarded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They have a form of the Gospel that was restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith, but they deny the power of it--the power of their salvation.

What a great blessing you people have who are living in a day and being brought in under the direction of the Holy Priesthood of God where you can be taught the principles of eternal salvation and where they do not deny the saving principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Lord says that by their works ye shall know them. Where can you find another people upon the earth that is trying to

live and obey the Gospel in its fullness except among this people? And yet we are concerned, my brothers and sisters, about our hastening to bring ourselves to a place where the Lord will be pleased to shower His blessings upon us. When I speak of His blessings, I mean the blessing of one day to another. A month ago, I was trimming my trees, what few little trees I have, and I found they were loaded with live fruit; but today what do I find? I find nothing but dead-stuff. Why is it? It is because we don't have the faith necessary unto eternal life. If we did, our trees would bear fruit. These terrible winds would stop. We would have control over the elements; then we could say, "Pass us by," and they would pass us by. But we haven't sufficient faith. The only faith we have is faith to cause distress--one against another. Some of us sow seeds of discord among our people--both men and women.

Sometimes I wish that we didn't have a telephone. Why? Because we hear something and we hasten to tell somebody else about it. The Lord can't trust us from one minute to the next. He can't give us a secret without having us go and tell our neighbor about it. So we have many things to repent of. We have many things to accomplish before we can bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that God placed us under in 1832--long before the Prophet died.

We have been trying--the Priesthood of God has been trying--laboring all these years to try to bring a people up that God could trust, that He could give a secret to them, and they could keep it; that a man could instruct his wives, and they would keep it--consider it sacred--not secret, but sacred.

The Lord has deprived us of the privilege of the House of God. Why? Because He can't trust us. We won't get another privilege to have our endowments and the other blessings of the House of God unless we repent to a point where God knows that when we go through that House that the sacredness of it will not be spread--not even to those who are near and dear to us. Let them find it out when they go through, so they, too, can obtain the blessings.

I am grateful for this day. I am grateful for the privilege that we have of bringing as many together as we can, as we

have today, to tell the truth to you and try to get into your hearts the determination to overcome these weaknesses and imperfections that we have so that we can raise up a generation of young men that God can use. We had in our Priesthood meeting this morning two hundred and eighteen elders. Including the Aaronic Priesthood, we had two hundred and ninety-eight bearers of the Priesthood here. What a power for good this would mean to this people if we were the people that God wishes to train upon this earth. This is only a training place. This is a school that you are going to. We are learning the ABC's of the redemption of Zion, learning how to become Saints.

Let us strive with our might to overcome the weaknesses that we have and to bring ourselves to a point where God can smile upon us. And when these cold spells come in the spring of the year, we can turn the frost away from our trees.

May God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 21, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

This is certainly an inspiring sight, my brothers and sisters, to see so many here to listen to what the Lord has for us. I am grateful for the privilege of being here today and hearing what I have heard. The Lord has certainly been good to us to give us the instructions we have received this afternoon. While the brethren have been speaking, my mind has wandered throughout the scriptures. I am particularly grateful for the privilege of living in this day and for the knowledge the Lord has given me of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the testimony He has given me of the truthfulness of the work of our great Prophet, Joseph Smith, and the testimony that he bore to the world of the existence of the Father and the Son and their characters, and that they were once mortals like you and I.

I am grateful for this knowledge and understanding. It gives me hope that if I prepare myself for a glorious resurrection that sometime, somewhere, I may become like Him; for, the Lord has said, “As man is, God once was; and as God is, man may become.” This, to me, is far reaching to think that God was once a mortal like you and I, that He once lived upon an earth and had the privilege of embracing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and applying it to His life. And through His faithful diligence in applying to His life the principles of salvation, He was exalted to a God, and He was permitted to participate in the building of an earth and peopling it. What a wonderful schooling this is.

There may be many (no doubt there are) among us that feel within themselves that this Priesthood is out of order. They think we don’t know what we are talking about, but what has the Lord said about it? The Lord has said, “If ye keep my commandments, ye are mine. He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him.” These are some of the things that the Lord has said. If this be the case, then while God was upon this earth, He did the things which Christ commanded should be lived and obeyed.

Now, if we expect to get where God is--or to become a God--we must live and obey the commandments that He gave to the children of men when He was upon this earth. He will come again one of these days, and He will claim His own; for He has said so. He has said that the devil will claim his followers, and the Lord will claim His. He has also said that those whose names are not found written in the book of the law of God shall not have rights to the Priesthood from generation to generation, nor their children after them. What a condemnation to be placed upon a man who understands that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God--that he was commanded to bear testimony that he was visited by the Father and the Son and told to go forth and bear testimony to the world that these men still live and will live forever--I say, what a condemnation upon a man who understands this and then rejects or disbelieves the testimony of the servants of God.

In the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants, we read that it makes no difference whether it be the testimony of God, Himself, or whether it be the testimony of His servants whom He has called and given authority here upon the earth, it is the same. So, let us consider well whether we have the right to criticize before we condemn the Priesthood that God has placed here to rule over us and to direct us. I say rule over us--we only rule over you as far as the Lord has given us authority to do so. And the authority that He has given us is to teach you the way of salvation, but unless you put forth an effort to apply to your lives that teaching, inasmuch as it concurs with the revelations of God through the mouths of our prophets who have come before and been here and labored under the spirit of revelation, then it is your duty to (to put it in the words of President Joseph Musser) apply the square and see whether we are teaching you the truth or not.

Many people, says Brigham Young, have revelations, and men who have revelations and condemn the servants of God whom He has chosen, you can put it down that they are not the servants of God, themselves. They are either the servants of their own will, or they are the servants of him who rules from beneath. So, let us apply the

square to what we hear from this stand and from other places where the Priesthood directs the people.

We are living in a day when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked. He has taught us throughout the generations of time that He would redeem Israel. Many of the prophets have wished to live in our day. Why? Because this is a day when God is trying to prepare a people to take part in the redemption of Israel. We are living in a day when the Lord is about to perform a great work and a wonder among the children of men, when He is preparing to build a New Jerusalem. Christ told the Nephites how it would come about. The servants of God would call for help and all who would believe upon their words and come and take part would assist in the building of a city and the building of a temple; and after the building of this temple, then the great missionary work would take place. He says, "Then will my work commence in carrying this Gospel of the Kingdom to the Jews and then to the lost tribes of Israel."

So, a lot of work has got to be done before the redemption of Israel and the establishment of the Kingdom of God in its glory. A way has got to be prepared for the return of this people to the designated spot of ground whereupon the New Jerusalem is to be built. This ground has been dedicated and set apart by the Prophet Joseph Smith. It looks at the present time like it would be impossible, but when these men were reading to us out of the Book of Mormon, my mind went back to just prior to the appearance of Christ upon this continent and the great wickedness of the people, the great persecutions of the saints, and I am grateful to the Lord that He has protected His saints in this day, that He has put a hedge around us. I pray night and day for Him to continue this hedge, that we might continue to exist until we prepare a people that will love Him and keep His commandments. I find that just prior to the coming of Christ and even after His birth and the few years that He lived before His crucifixion, that great wickedness reigned upon this land. Many of the prophets were stoned or put to death in different ways, and wickedness reigned.

What about the day in which we live? Has there ever been a time in your lives when you have seen so much wickedness as there is today? How much greater wickedness must come forth before the Lord comes out of His hiding place? I want to tell you, the signs of the times are sliding down upon us. Somewhere one of the prophets told us that the time would come when there would be no responsible government upon this land. Just look at the signs of the times and see what is transpiring right under your eyes. The Congress of the United States has lowered the voting age. What is going to take place? Are we about to put an incompetent man in the President's chair. Think about it. Is that what is going to take place in order to give us a government that is not responsible? Heber C. Kimball said, "There is a test, a test coming, and who will be able to stand." And I am wondering the same thing.

Let us hasten, my brothers and sisters, to cease to criticize one another. Let us hasten to have love in our hearts towards our neighbor. Let us hasten to prepare our hearts that we will be able to accept the call that will be made upon us--especially upon the Priesthood. Let us hasten to prepare ourselves that we might know for a surety when a call is made that we know it is of God and that it comes from Him and that we might apply it to our lives. There is a doubt in the minds of a lot of people, I find. Some of the best of us have doubts as to whether the Priesthood has the right to call or not.

Let us take stock of ourselves. Let us apply the square to that which we have heard this day and see whether or not these men have told us the truth. And let us hasten!--especially you young and middle-aged men! The Lord has said He would take the young and middle-aged and redeem Zion. When is this call going to come? None of us knows. None of us knows what day the Lord is going to shake the earth. He shook it once--at the coming of Christ upon this land. He shook this earth so violently--the record tells us--that all but the more righteous were killed. Great cities were destroyed--violent earthquakes--volcanoes, and we see the evidence of it all over the land. Go where you may, you will find the evidence that is spoken of in the Book of Mormon portrayed before our eyes. In some places the

governments have uncovered some of the evidence that there was a great civilization upon this land. I see by the magazine that an attempt is being made now to show that a papyrus boat can be made to navigate the ocean, to try to disprove the words of the Book of Mormon in the construction of a boat that carried the people to this continent.

Attempts are being made for people to visit some of the planets that the Lord has placed in the heavens. The Lord told Moses, when he asked Him to show him what was upon these great planets, that these were the workings of His hands, and He was jealous of them, and He wouldn't tell him what was on these other planets. He said, "Only of this planet upon which thou standest will I tell thee." Scientists of the day are trying to disprove the words of God to His servants. Are they going to succeed?

Sometimes, I feel like the Priesthood Council is trying to frighten our people, but when I go into the scriptures and see how the servants of God preached just prior to the coming of the Son of Man upon this continent I think we have been very tame in trying to persuade the people that there is a time coming when great destruction is just before us. I think the time is coming very soon when the tongues of the servants of God are going to be loosed, and when they speak, we are going to tremble because of the power of God upon them.

Now, I pray that we will hasten to take heed of the counsel we receive and prepare ourselves against the day of visitation, as the Lord calls it, when He is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked, that He might be justified in sending forth fire from Heaven to protect the Saints. For He is very specific in what He said, "I will protect my people, if need be that I send fire from Heaven to do so." Are you and I prepared to receive that kind of protection? Or are we going to linger along until it is too late?

Now, may God bless you. I humbly pray, that we might catch the spirit of repentance as we should and cease to sin any more, that God might be justified in pouring out His Spirit upon us, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 19, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I feel, my brothers and sisters, that the time is far spent and well spent this afternoon. We have had very much of the word of God given to us, and I don't wish to comment upon what the Lord has said.

I feel very humble, my brothers and sisters, this afternoon, after what we have passed through the last few days. No wonder that the Spirit of God has settled upon the speakers today. However, I want to encourage this people to keep on trying to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections that the Spirit of God might settle upon us and that we might be able to keep it. We have found in the last few days that the devil is not asleep. He is eager to take advantage of every opportunity if possible to dissuade the people from keeping the commandments of God.

The Lord has said love one another and keep my commandments. However, we find the spirit of contention and criticism going on among our people. So I don't feel like commenting upon what the Lord has given us this afternoon, any more than to exhort you to righteous living.

I am going to read a few verses from the First Section of the Doctrine and Covenants. I refer to this section a lot because I would like to get people to read it. If I can get them to read the First Section, then they might read the next one and the next one. (D & C 1: 34-39) The Lord says:

> "And again, verily I say unto you, O inhabitants of the earth: I the Lord am willing to make these things known unto all flesh;
>
> For I am no respecter of persons, and will that all men shall know that the day speedily cometh; the hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand, when peace shall be taken from the earth, and the devil shall have power over his own dominion.
>
> And also the Lord shall have power over his saints, and shall reign in their midst, and shall come down in judgment upon Idumea, or the world.

> Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.
>
> What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.
>
> For behold, and lo, the Lord is God, and the Spirit beareth record, and the record is true, and the truth abideth forever and ever. Amen"

So we have heard the word of the Lord today, and the Lord has verified it. Let us go home and study the scriptures. Let us become sober. Let us prepare ourselves that we might be able to be counted worthy of the protection of our Father in Heaven in this great day and hour when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked.

I pray for the spirit of peace to be upon you, remembering always that the spirit of peace is the Spirit of God. The spirit of unrest and uneasiness is the opposite. So let us pray always that the Spirit of God might be upon us, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 25, 1970,
AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR LUCILLE ZITTING JESSOP,
IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I feel very humble this afternoon in trying to say a few words. I trust that the Lord will put into my mouth the words that I should say.

First, I want to take advantage of this opportunity in behalf of Jay and his family and friends to thank all who have contributed in any way for his comfort and consolation, not only in regards to the sickness and death of this young lady, but in arranging his home to be more comfortable later. There have been a good many things done to help Jay to bear up under the pressure that is upon him at this time. I want to thank Uncle Fred for his efforts to add to the comfort of Lucille. We thank the hospital for their work, the doctors. These facilities have all been provided by our Father in Heaven for the comfort and help of His children here in the earth. During their trials, He has caused these things to be instituted for the comfort of His children.

I often think of my own family, my wives and my children, then I try to put myself in the position of our Father in Heaven. A father and mother will do all they can for the comfort of their children, and I don't think the Lord is any different with His children. He inspires men to do certain things for the comfort of these spirits that He sends to the earth because He has said that He is jealous of the workmanship of His hands, and all that we see around us is the workmanship of His hands. I want to thank those who have provided these beautiful flowers to add to the comfort and blessing of the day. I want to thank the morticians, the mortuary, for what they have done. I want to thank all you people for the wonderful way you have conducted yourselves in the last two weeks in taking care of those who have been bereaved, as well as those who have passed.

When we get through with these services, we will go to Salt Lake, where we have another funeral to take care of. The old gentleman, Orullian, Henry Orullian's father, was taken with a heart attack. Next Tuesday, at two o'clock we will hold his funeral.

I want to thank the Lord for all the blessings of life that we have around us, for the wonderful homes that He has blessed us with, our lands and our seeds, our crops and flocks and herds and all that pertains to us. I thank God for them, for I believe that this is a day in which we need to become self-sustaining. We put seeds into the ground, and if we will do our part, God will do the rest, and we will reap a bounteous harvest. But ever since the fall, in the Garden of Eden, the Lord has required that we earn our bread by the sweat of our brow. We cannot plant and then lay around and let the weeds grow up and expect to reap a bounteous harvest. So, we have to work and reap. The same way with the human family, we can teach and train and we can talk and recite the scriptures--give out the word of God, but unless we do something about it ourselves, it does us no good. President Hammon told us that you cannot save him or he cannot save you, and that is true. Everyone of us ought to do something about it. The good news comes to me that this dear lady has done all that she could to overcome her weaknesses and imperfections and to prepare herself for this day--like the good lives of David Broadbent and Melvin Johnson. They have been trying for quite a period of time to prepare themselves to be used by the Lord, and their passing is not the end.

When Enoch and his people were taken away, the Lord promised him that in the latter days he would come and take his place--he and his people would come and take their place in assisting in the great redemption work. He has also promised all the faithful throughout the ages of time that they would take part in the Redemption of Zion.

Now, let us not feel bad anymore than is necessary, as has been told to us today. It is right to mourn, which is true, it is right for us to mourn, but the Lord has provided us with the knowledge that this is not the end. I have seen people mourn because their boys have gone to the army. I have seen people mourn because their boys have been called on missions, and they have gone on

missions, but that wasn’t the end. There was a happy reunion when they came home, and this is what we can expect in this case. We can expect a happy reunion.

Now, I don’t wish to speak longer, but I wish to encourage Jay to keep on doing. He has been a faithful supporter of the Priesthood, and God has blessed him. This is not the end, Jay. Your life has only begun. Let all of us take courage and let us do just a little better. Let us make up our minds that we are going to be prepared when God calls, and there is not one of us knows when He is going to call. I want to leave my blessings with the Zitting Family and with the Jessop Family and with all you people, that God lives and He is watching over us, and He will take care of us one way or another.

Now I pray that God will comfort all who are bereaved at this time, and I do it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 2, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Again, my brothers and sisters, I am grateful for the privilege of being here. I want to thank my Father in Heaven for the life, health, and strength that He has blessed us with--not only myself, but you people. I am grateful for this wonderful audience here this morning. It is a witness to our Father in Heaven that we are thinking about our salvation, and we would like to do something about it.

We are truly living in a day when the Lord is pouring out His blessings upon His saints and He is also pouring out His judgments upon the wicked. I think it would be good to read just a little, if I can find what I want... What I wanted to read to you is what the Lord said about this generation in which we live. He said something like this, that His Spirit had withdrawn from the earth and that He would pour out His judgments upon the wicked until the earth was empty, except they repent.

We can see, my brothers and sisters, by the trend of society, the trend of the people today, that God is certainly pouring out His judgments upon those who have rejected the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the Savior said upon one occasion, “He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him.” Another time He said, “He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is not worthy of the kingdom.” We know that the commandments of God have gone forth in the earth in the last hundred years and that the testimony of Christ has been borne by the elders. The testimonies of early prophets in our day, such men as Joseph Smith the Prophet, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Heber C. Kimball, and others have been published and republished. The libraries of the nation are full of them. But men give little regard for the testimonies of these men. We pay little attention to the warnings that have been given us from day to day and from month to month and year to year by the servants of God to hasten to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked. Today, we find ourselves in a situation that is very annoying, not only to the Lord, but to His servants,

also, because of the ungratefulness of some of those who have been connected with this work and have been dilatory in preparing themselves to receive the full blessings of eternal life.

We have the scriptures before us. We have the testimonies of the brethren, and we have at our command the Journal of Discourses, the TRUTH Magazine, and other books that have been published by the Priesthood to keep us reminded of the things that pertain to our salvation. This has been the case all down through the history of time. From the days of our Father, Adam, until now, men have been dilatory in preparing themselves. Prophets have been raised up; the Gospel has been preached, and many generations have come and passed; and how many people are prepared to come forth in the morning of the resurrection clothed with glory and immortality and eternal life?

I am wondering just how long it is going to take us to realize that there is something more than to seek the pleasures of this life, the enjoyments of our neighbors to entertain us. We get in the automobile, and we have access to the radio, and a lot of us have record players in our cars; and where do we get the entertainment that we receive in our travels? that we receive in our homes? It is a continual rehearsal of the evil influences of our day. And yet, we claim we are keeping the commandments of God, we have “come out of her” as the Lord has said. “Come out of her, O ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins.” Yet, we rehearse these things over and over again in our homes everyday, that our children might be entertained. I wonder when, O when, will we provide entertainment that will save the souls that God is sending through the new and everlasting covenant at this time.

This may seem silly to some people, but the Lord says, “My ways are not man’s ways. And if you have eternal life, you must serve me and keep my commandments. Or in other words, you must provide wholesome and faith-promoting entertainment for my children.” It is no wonder that the Lord is displeased with the generation in which we live and that He has said that His Spirit has withdrawn from the earth. For He said to the Prophet Joseph Smith, “Because you

have displeased me in this thing, you are nigh unto cursing, for you have not taught your children as I have desired that you teach them."

How many of us, my brothers and sisters, stop long enough when we read the scriptures to understand what is in them, or to ask God to reveal to us just what He has told His servants in the commencement of this great work? And how many of us are bound and determined to do that one thing--serve God and keep His commandments? In another place, He says, "If you will have a blessing at my hands, you will obey the law that pertains to that blessing."

I was riding with President Barlow on one occasion, and he says, "Roy, my soul is weighed down. I am tired." And I wondered what he meant. I thought he was a servant of God and should be the happiest man in the world, but since he has left us and gone on, I began to see what he meant. The Lord had been so kind to the man, that He had allowed him to see the glories of His great work and his soul was weighed down with sorrow because of the unbelief of the people. He could begin to see why Christ made the statement, "O will there be any faith left when I come?"

We who have the responsibility of teaching this people under the direction of our Father in Heaven and knowing that we have access to the keys of the holy Priesthood, we can begin to see the reason why these men spoke as they did from time to time.

I am weighed down in sorrow because there are not more of us that fully realize the importance of teaching our children correct principles and getting before them the correct entertainment, that they might not lose their souls. When I see the trend of action that our children are following today my heart is sorrowful because we have boys that we cannot reach because of disobedience. We have to depend upon Satan's way to reform them.

The Lord has said that He is very jealous of the workmanship of His hands. Again, He says, "I delight in the chastity of women." I'll tell you, my brothers and sisters, there is more to live for than we realize. We have got to understand that there is more to do than just merely go from one day to another and not try to improve upon the things that we know are displeasing to the Lord.

The Lord has given us instructions as to how to dress and we have to preach continually, we have to talk continually to our people to get them to dress properly. Why? Because the people of the world laugh when they see our dress. What kind of an excuse are we going to give when we come up in the morning of the resurrection? "Well, I couldn't go down the street and be laughed at. I had to dress the same as they did." What will the Lord say about it? You answer the question.

This Gospel of the Kingdom is to all people regardless of creed or color or nationality, and the Lord says that if we will do what He says, He will give us eternal life. The old prophet Alma said, "This is the day in which to prepare to meet our God--the day in which we live." Because we won't have another life to prepare to meet our Father in Heaven and account for these bodies He has given us. This is the only opportunity we will have to purify these bodies and take them back to our Father in a purified condition, that He can celestialize them. So if we contaminate them, abuse them, and make them unfit for this spirit that the Lord has placed in them to dwell therein in a sacred condition, then what good is it going to do us in the resurrection? It is not only the bodies we have to purify, but also these spirits. We have got to create within ourselves the desire, my brothers and sisters, to serve God and keep His commandments. We have got to create within ourselves the desire to do good. We have got to create within ourselves the desire to cease to do evil.

The Lord has told us that no one can read our minds but Him, or know what is in our hearts. But that doesn't say we are all pure. Unless we allow Him to possess our minds and our hearts, will He fulfill that blessing upon us. We have got to create within ourselves the desire to know which of the creeds is right, which of the churches to join, as the Prophet Joseph Smith did. And after he had created that desire, he went out into the woods and prayed. The Lord answered his prayer: "Now Joseph, if you will keep yourself in this condition, my Spirit will continue with you. But unless you keep yourself in a condition so that my Spirit can continue with you,

I will have to turn you over to the buffetings of Satan and let Satan read your mind and your heart."

We say that we believe that the Gospel is true and we are willing to forsake our sins and go down into the waters of baptism and have them remitted. The Lord says, "If you will do that, I will give you access to the Holy Ghost." So, we go down into the waters of baptism and we come out and have hands laid upon us for the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Then we say: "I have been baptized. I have had hands laid upon me for the gifts of the Holy Ghost and I can do whatever I want to do, and when trials and troubles come, I can ask the Lord to bless me and I can exercise my rights under the gifts of the Holy Ghost and God will bless me."

We forget about our part of the bargain, that we have agreed to serve Him with all our might, mind, and strength, and with our hearts. So we lay the blame on the Lord for our condition--a good many of us. I heard a man say once that he did all right and the Lord blessed him and he got along fine until the Lord withdrew and left him alone. And when the Lord forsook him, he turned to the devil and says, "I'll let you rule over me." And he did.

So, when a blessing is given to us, it is given to us on a condition that we endure unto the end. These are the conditions upon which Patriarchal Blessings are given to us. They are given to us and we shall obtain them if we will be faithful to the end. All the blessings that we receive are predicated upon our faithfulness, and the Lord is willing to bless us with every blessing that we can contain and still give Him the honor and glory for it.

We should be able to praise the Lord and thank Him for the experiences that we have, even in our days of trials and tribulations. In our reverses, when He blesses us with a failure, it is only to help to build our characters. If we can take it in the right attitude and give God the praise for the experience, we will find that we will grow and increase in knowledge and understanding.

Let us make up our minds, my brothers and sisters, that we are going to serve the Lord regardless of the conditions that surround us. And let us go down the road thinking nothing of what we see in

the world today, but fear God and keep His commandments. I don't mean that we should be afraid of Him. I mean that we should fear His judgments. There is a difference between blessings and judgments. The judgments of God are hard to endure, but the blessings of God are easy, or else Christ wouldn't have said, "My burden is light and my yoke is easy."

Now, may God bless us, may He help us to realize our true position here in the earth and the purpose for which we are living in this day. May we hasten to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation which the Lord has offered to the dwindling of this nation and other nations, making way for the rise of His Kingdom. Nobody, according to His word, will be partakers of the blessings of the Redemption of Zion only those who can comply with the requirements of the Celestial Kingdom. Let's keep that in mind.

God bless you, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 16, 1970, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here today and hearing the words of eternal life. They have been delivered to us under the inspiration of our Father in Heaven.

The Prophet said something like this: Now is the time in which to prepare to meet our God. This was said many, many years before Christ made His appearance upon this continent. The same thing was told many generations before that by another prophet. We remember that when the Jaredites left the tower of Babel, the record says that Jared was a man slow of speech, but he was a righteous man, and he, being the leader of the Priesthood, asked the Lord to give him a spokesman--a man that could go to the Lord and receive revelation from Him and impart it to the people. So the Lord gave him his brother who was a man so intent upon working out his salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord that he became one of the greatest prophets of all time.

Moroni, the great historian who finished the record of the Nephite people, also made an abridgement of the Jaredite Nation. We only have a few chapters of what the Lord did to the Jaredites. But so wonderful were the words of Christ to the brother of Jared--we want to remember that this was many, many generations before Christ was born--but He talked to the brother of Jared and He told him the same things that you have been listening to this afternoon. He also told the brother of Jared that these things would come forth in the latter days to the Gentiles. But Moroni only gave a little of what was told to the brother of Jared. He said that the Lord showed to him all that Christ told the brother of Jared, but he only gave a little of the record to us. And the Lord told him to seal up the rest of it, that He would not permit it to come forth to the Gentiles or anyone else until they showed forth faith equal to the faith of the brother of Jared, who was able to see the finger of Christ. And Christ afterwards showed him His body as He would have it when He came in the flesh.

My brothers and sisters, time is running out for you and me. The Lord has told us that this is an individual responsibility--to work out our salvation. No man can work it out for you. All God wants are the hearts of men and women. He wants your hearts and your work. Men may say that they know the way, “Come on, gather around me, and I can save you if you’ll do what I tell you. But you have to do as I tell you.” But I want to tell you, you have got to do according to what Christ has said. I may think that I know the will of God, I may think that I can dispense it to you, that I can bring you in and show you the way--I may be able to help you along the way--but you have to do it yourself. You have got to work out your own salvation. “We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam’s transgression.”

The Lord has given us the revelations in this book, and He has told us many, many times that if we will live according to the teachings that He gives us here, we can gain our salvation. This book contains enough of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to take us into the Celestial Kingdom, but there is much to be learned. Joseph Smith said upon one occasion, “I would to God that I could teach you one-hundredth part of what I know, but I can’t do it because of unbelief.” Brigham Young said the same thing, and others have said it. It was because of unbelief that the Lord told Moroni to seal up that which the Lord showed to the brother of Jared; and He told him to seal up the interpretation thereof--and it would not come forth unto the Gentiles until they repented and showed forth faith like unto the brother of Jared.

So, time is running out for you and for me to prepare ourselves to meet our God. And it depends upon me--it depends upon each individual who has been here this afternoon as to whether they can endure the privations and the persecutions that are fast coming upon this people; and not only this people, but this whole beautiful country that we live in. For it has got to be cleaned and prepared for the redemption of Israel.

There are many people who have to come to this land and receive their blessings according to the scriptures. The Lord promised the Prophet Joseph Smith that this Gospel of the Kingdom would not be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. Those people have got to be gathered out. They have got to come back and take their place and have their blessings administered to them. We are trying to convert a few of the descendants of Joseph unto whom the blessing was given to administer the blessings of the holy Priesthood to the unbelieving Israelites.

Now, I pray that we can gather in the wanderings of our minds and that we can pay strict attention to the things that we have heard this afternoon and the things that we hear from month to month in this building to help us along the way. Let’s hasten to establish God’s work in the earth, or prepare ourselves to become instruments in the hands of God when He sends the One Mighty and Strong to set in order His house.

May God bless you, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 23, 1970, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am certainly grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here, and I trust that the Lord will bless me with words that I might continue to instruct you along lines of righteous living. Of all people upon the earth this should be the most grateful in this day. I was greatly interested in President Timpson's sermon this afternoon. I was also grateful for the words of President Hammon. I am grateful for the testimonies of our young men who have come up and borne their testimonies today.

I am grateful to the Lord that He sees far enough ahead of us to take care of our needs. We have a great concourse of people in this community, and we will have to provide means and ways that they might be able to take care of themselves. We are striving with all our might to get our people to get close to the Lord and learn how to serve Him and keep His commandments.

The Lord saw fit--I am going to give the Lord the credit for all these things because I believe we should--a year or so ago to build this room. We might say that He inspired us to build the school. We built the school because we needed it. We added this room because we needed it. The Lord provided us with the other house that we have been meeting in and it began to get too small for us. I hope that we have a little more room here. This room is not quite as long as the other one, but it is a little wider and it will take care of our actual needs. When we have a bigger crowd we will have to use the other rooms and loud-speakers to take care of the overflow.

The Lord hasn't sustained us yet in building a place of worship. We undertook to once, and our President told us not to go on with it because we had better not build a meeting house and call it a meeting house until the Lord tells us to. We have got meeting houses all over the Church and I don't think He is ready to bless us in building a big place for us to meet to worship Him. One reason is, there is not a meeting house in the Church but what has been desecrated after it was dedicated. Think it over! I'm grateful for the way the Lord has taken care of our needs up to the present time.

I thought when President Timpson was speaking I would like to read a few of the words of Christ to the Nephite people when He came and visited them. I am going to read a little from the 11th chapter of 3rd Nephi.

> "And now it came to pass that there were a great multitude gathered together, of the people of Nephi, round about the temple which was in the land Bountiful; and they were marveling and wondering one with another, and were showing one to another the great and marvelous change which had taken place."

This is right after the great destruction. The people were wondering about what had taken place. They were also conversing about this Jesus Christ of whom the signs had been given concerning his death.

> "And it came to pass that while they were thus conversing one with another, they heard a voice as if it came out of heaven; and they cast their eyes round about, for they understood not the voice which they heard; and it was not a harsh voice, neither was it a loud voice; nevertheless, and notwithstanding it being a small voice it did pierce them that did hear to the center, insomuch that there was no part of their frame that it did not cause to quake; yea, it did pierce them to the very soul, and did cause their hearts to burn.
>
> And it came to pass that again they heard the voice, and they understood it not.
>
> And again the third time they did hear the voice, and did open their ears to hear it; and their eyes were towards the sound thereof; and they did look steadfastly towards heaven, from whence the sound came.
>
> And behold, the third time they did understand the voice which they heard; and it said unto them:
>
> Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name--hear ye him.

And it came to pass, as they understood they cast their eyes up again towards heaven; and they saw a Man descending out of heaven; and he was clothed in a white robe; and he came down and stood in the midst of them; and the eyes of the whole multitude were turned upon him, and they durst not open their mouths, even one to another, and wist not what it meant, for they thought it was an angel that had appeared unto them.

And it came to pass that he stretched forth his hand and spake 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 the 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.

And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words the whole multitude fell to the earth; for they remembered that it had been prophesied among them that Christ should show himself unto them after his ascension into heaven.

And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them saying:

Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world.

And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes and did feel with their

hands, and did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, that should come.

And when they had all gone forth and had witnessed for themselves, they did cry out with one accord, saying:

Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him.

And it came to pass that he spake unto Nephi (for Nephi was among the multitude) and he commanded him that he should come forth.

And Nephi arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord and did kiss his feet.

And the Lord commanded him that he should arise. And he arose and stood before him.

And the Lord said unto him: I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people when I am again ascended into heaven.

And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize. And he said unto them: On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you.

Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them--Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them.

And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name; saying:

Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.

And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name; for behold, verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one.

And according as I have commanded you thus shall ye baptize. And there shall be no disputations among you, as there have hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there have hitherto been.

For verily, verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another.

Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger, one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away.

Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine.

And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me; and I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me; and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me.

And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God.

And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me believeth in the Father also; and unto him

> will the Father bear record of me, for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost.
>
> And thus will the Father bear record of me, and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me; for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost are one.
>
> And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in nowise receive these things.
>
> And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the Kingdom of God.
>
> Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and whoso buildeth upon this buildeth upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them.
>
> And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock; but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell stand open to receive such when the floods come and the winds beat upon them.
>
> Therefore, go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth."

I claim this is one of the most important chapters of the Book of Mormon or even of any scriptures that we have, because it explains to us the importance of the ordinance of Baptism--which I claim is one of the most, of all commandments of God, that we treat lightly. If we will read and study this part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we will be a better people. And let us do what Moroni told us to do: read it with a prayerful heart with intent to know and understand the importance of it.

My brothers and sisters, there is a lot to be learned, even the best of us, the most learned among us, treat this law or this principle of salvation lightly. It should be one of the most sacred

of all covenants made. Here is the Savior coming out of Heaven and the Lord bearing record that He is His Son and that He died for the sins of the world, or made it possible that you and I could have the doors of salvation open to us. If we would do what He has asked us to do--but the things that He asks us to do are too simple--just to be led into the water and laid under the water and come out and have hands laid upon us for the gifts of the Holy Ghost and that is it. Most of us think: I have been baptized, I have had hands laid upon me for the gifts of the Holy Ghost, and I have access to it, so I can do whatever I want to do and God will bless me. But this is not so. There is something else for us to do, according to what I have read here; we have got to keep all the commandments of God. We have got to keep ourselves in a pure condition so that the Spirit of God can continue with us.

Our time is far spent, but I pray that we will hasten to catch the spirit of the importance of obeying the Gospel of Jesus Christ and obeying these covenants we have made one towards another, especially the covenants we made with our God. May God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 30, 1970, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful for the privilege again of being here enjoying health and strength. I am grateful for the testimony that God has given me of this great work, and I trust that I might be guided by the Spirit of God, that what I say this afternoon will be according to His will.

Brother Timpson mentioned to you my using the book quite often while people speak. I am not a man that has practiced memorizing what I read. I once had a bishop. He was a very good man--I thought he was anyway. He was in the Church in the earlier period of this work, shortly after the Manifesto was signed. I happened to be President of the Deacon's Quorum. He visited our meeting one evening and he spoke to us. He said: "I want to advise you boys to read the scriptures--if you only read one chapter a day. I would like to have you make it a point to read one chapter out of the scriptures every day. Some people want to memorize what they read, but I will promise you this, if you will read one chapter out of the scriptures every day from now on, when you grow to be men; you will have a pretty rounded knowledge of the scriptures. You may not remember what you read, but I will promise you that when you need it, the Lord will bring it to your minds."

When the brethren talk and you see me open the book, you will know I am trying to verify a passage of scripture that the Lord has brought to my mind so that I can turn to it. I remember one time when I was asleep on the stand, President Barlow was speaking and he wanted a certain passage of scripture. He opened the book and I guess it slipped his mind where to find it, but he turned around and said, "Roy, where will I find such and such?" I told him the section in the Doctrine & Covenants. I could have told him the verse. He opened the book and it was what he wanted. I saw a couple of young ladies down in the audience that thought I was sleeping and wouldn't hear the question, I guess. And they started laughing and almost disturbed the meeting. I am not always asleep when I look like it.

Last Sunday, I read to you from the eleventh chapter of Third Nephi. I think it is one of the most important chapters in the Book of Mormon, and I will tell you why. Way back in the days of

Ether, or the Jaredites, the Lord told the brother of Jared that He would lead them to a choice land above all other lands and He also told him that whatsoever nation possessed that land would be a God-fearing people and serve the God of the land or when they were ripened in iniquity they would be wiped off and destroyed. We know what happened to the Jaredite nation when they ripened in iniquity. The record tells us that they were all destroyed. We know what happened to the Nephite nation later on when they were ripened in iniquity. Those that were not destroyed were cursed above all other people upon the face of the earth. And the Lord decreed that they should remain under that curse until the fulfillment of His covenant with Israel.

For many generations, the prophets had prophesied of the Christ. Samuel, the Lamanite, prophesied of it. Then when Christ did make His appearance to the Nephites, the whole face of the land was changed in about the space of three hours, the record says. And all but the more righteous were destroyed. Millions and millions of people destroyed in the space of three hours, so the record tells us. Did the Lord fulfill His covenant with the brother of Jared? Then the Christ made His appearance and He told the people of the great destruction that had taken place and the many cities that were destroyed and how they were destroyed. Then He told the people how to live in order to preserve their lives and the lives of the generation after them. So, I claim that there is no other chapter in the Book of Mormon that equals the eleventh chapter. While talking to the people, He told them what would take place in the latter days. He told them of the destruction of the people and the wanderings of those who would be left. He told of the Gentiles coming onto this land, and that the Gospel would be carried to them. He told them that if the Gentiles rejected the fullness of the Gospel He would take it from among them, and it would be carried to the house of Israel.

My brothers and sisters, we have been promised another great destruction. Christ made the promise at that time. Says He: “If the Gentiles reject the fullness of My Gospel, I will send the remnant of the House of Jacob among them and destroy them, and none can deliver.” But He told the Prophet Joseph Smith that this Gospel

of the Kingdom was restored to the earth for the last time and it would not be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. He also said that He would protect His Saints if needs be He sends fire from heaven to do so to fulfill this covenant. If we will study Third Nephi and do it as the Prophet Moroni told us to with a prayerful heart and a desire to know what the Lord meant, we will know.

I find among our people a great need for repentance. The Lord tells us plainly in the eleventh chapter of Third Nephi what He expects us to do. He tells us through the mouth of the Prophet Joseph that if we are guilty of breaking one of these commandments, we are guilty of the whole. He also says, “My work is not man’s work. And I require that all men should repent and keep my commandments.” We go down into the waters of baptism and come out and we take little thought of what it means. We have hands laid upon us for the Holy Ghost and we give little thought to what it means. So the Lord placed us under condemnation because we treated lightly these things. And He says we will remain under that condemnation until we repent.

So, repentance is the cry of the servants of God today to a wicked and perverse generation. The more we try to stamp out wickedness among us, the more the devil tries to bring temptation among us and to destroy the lives of our young people. We have to work night and day trying to keep out evil from among us. And our own people invite it. They see a man with a slick tongue and they invite him in--he is timber for a saint--and the work he gets in in a few days after he arrives cannot be stamped out in years, in the lives of our people. If we had the Spirit of God upon us, we would discern the spirit of men when they come among us, and I know this to be the truth.

I was walking down Main Street in Salt Lake City one day with President Barlow. A man stepped up to us and shook hands with us. Brother Barlow conversed with him a few moments, and the man went on. He turned around and watched the man walk down the street. He says, “There’s a man that could be a power for good in this Priesthood work, but you watch him, he will run faster than he is sent.” At the time, he seemed to be in harmony with the brethren.

President Musser had his office in the Atlas Building and we were headed to see him. This man had just come from President Musser's office. For years afterward, I watched that man's actions and thought he was really grounded in this Priesthood work, but he is gone today. He ran faster than he was sent. Here is an example of one of the prophets of God discerning the spirit of men. I could go on and on and cite example after example. There are those among us who feel like they have the Spirit of God with them, but they do not have the spirit of discernment that they can discern good from evil.

So let us repent. Let us get down on our knees and commence to pray night and day for deliverance from the powers of evil, that when the Lord sends the One Mighty and Strong to set in order His House, He might have timber to work with. Let us read the scriptures. This Priesthood has spent thousands and thousands of dollars reprinting the Journal of Discourses, the TRUTH Magazine and other magazines pertaining to the power of salvation. You have no excuse.

If you have a desire within you to do as Christ said, "Keep my commandments," you can do it. It is within the reach of every man that holds the Priesthood to obtain the power of discernment, if he will go for it. But Christ said, "He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him."

Now, I pray that the Lord will hasten to prepare this people for a greater work, that we might not lose the opportunity of becoming the people that He has promised would be the Saviors upon Mount Zion, those who would take part in that great work of preparing a place for the return of scattered Israel. People have to be prepared to go and do this great work. For Christ told the people in the days of Third Nephi that a temple would be built--a city would be built and they would call it the New Jerusalem. We have that opportunity, my brothers and sisters. Let us go to now and accomplish the work. Let us quit fooling around. Let us get the spirit of the Gospel and live it. May God bless you, amen.

DISCOURSE DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 8, 1970, AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR JEREMIAH MORGAN JOHNSON, HELD IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

The time has arrived, my brothers and sisters, to commence these Funeral Services for Jeremiah Morgan Johnson. He was born at Hildale, Utah, January 31, 1952. He died in a tractor accident at Manti, Utah, September 5, 1970. He was the son of Orval L. Johnson.

This boy finished his high school work. He was Student Body President and a fine student as well as a fine citizen. I think no finer boy ever prepared himself more for this great call that has been made of him. He had a poetic nature, and these services will more or less be in his honor. At least, one of the songs that will be sung was composed by him; and one of his original poems will be given.

* * * * * * * * * *

I, too, my brothers and sisters, desire an interest in your faith and prayers, that what I speak will be directed by our Father in Heaven. It has always been hard for me to speak on occasions of this kind and to express my thoughts as I know them. For I know that we are all the children of our Father; He is the giver of life, and He is the taker of life. The scriptures tell us that nothing can stay His hand. When He sets His hand to do a work, He does it. So it is with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The testimony of Christ to Joseph the Prophet was that none of the churches was right; that they were all an abomination in His sight, and that if he would be faithful and true to the instructions he would receive, he would be an instrument in the hands of God in establishing His Gospel in the earth again. After Christ finished his instructions to him, He said something like this: Go now and bear this testimony to the world, and all who will believe will be saved, and those who will not believe will be damned.

This is what we are trying to get before the people of the world today. Some people think because we speak of the fullness of the everlasting Gospel and the law of Plural Marriage, that we have

pulled away and left the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that we hang on to one principle of the Gospel, namely, plural marriage, and discard everything else. This is not true. For we believe that no man can receive the Celestial Law without first coming in at the door of baptism for the remission of sins and keeping himself clean and pure from the sins of the generation in which we live.

God plainly tells us in Section 133 of the Doctrine & Covenants to, “Come out of her, O ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins.” So this is what we believe. We believe that it is the duty of every Latter-day Saint that has gone into the waters of baptism and received hands laid upon him for the gift of the Holy Ghost to free himself from the sins of this wicked world in which we live.

Why do I believe it? All we need to do is read and study the Book of Mormon, that great and wonderful work that Joseph was instrumental in bringing forth and giving to the world. In there we find the Lord’s instructions to the Brother of Jared were that He would lead him to a land flowing with milk and honey which was a land choice above all other lands; and the people who possessed the land would be a God-fearing people and would serve the God of the land or be destroyed. When the Jaredite Nation became wicked and was ripened in iniquity, what became of them? God destroyed the whole nation, according to the record. Then the Nephite Nation got so wicked that the Lord had to do something about it. When Christ came, we are told that all but the more righteous were slain. Then 400 years later, He destroyed all except the Lamanites, and we know what happened to them because we see them among us today.

Are we going to allow that thing to happen again? Remember that the Lord told the Brother of Jared that when the people were ripened in iniquity that He would have to destroy them. Why did Christ and His Father come to the Prophet Joseph Smith and restore the everlasting Gospel? It was to leave a testimony to the world

that would save the more righteous. And when the Aaronic Priesthood was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, what did He tell him? He said, “This Gospel of the Kingdom will never be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.” Did He provide a way?

It was mentioned here today of the 1886 Revelation; and in that revelation it tells us that the way was prepared for the continuation of this Gospel through a wicked generation of people. In 1890 the Manifesto was signed by the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and not only did they sign away their privileges to the New and Everlasting Covenant, or the law of Plural Marriage, but they broke every other commandment that God has given. Why? Because God says: Break one of these commandments and you are guilty of the whole. Why doesn’t every Latter-day Saint in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints back up the law of Plural Marriage and the Celestial Law in its fullness? Simply because they have signed away their rights to it. This is the only place, my brothers and sisters, upon the earth that you can hear the fullness of the everlasting Gospel preached. Why don’t we repent and receive the testimony of Christ to the Prophet Joseph Smith and apply it to our lives!

I talk this way because this boy right here is an example of purity among a people who have been branded as apostates from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when they have only done that which the Lord has commanded. My brothers and sisters, there is more to this life than to just go down the road with other people and believe that we can lay aside part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and obey only one or two principles and say, “I am ready for the Celestial Kingdom.” There is more to it than that! Go home and read your books. Read the Doctrine & Covenants. You have the same book that I have. You have the Doctrine & Covenants, the Book of Mormon, and the Pearl of Great Price. You have the Bible, and that’s all I have. That’s all that these men behind me have. I want to tell you,

my brothers and sisters, we have got something else to do besides just believing what we hear from the pulpit today. We have got to "Come out of her, O ye, my people, and apply to your lives My Gospel," says Jesus Christ. And, "He that saith he believeth in me and doeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him."

Some might say this is not a funeral sermon. Go read what the Prophet Joseph Smith said in the King Follet funeral, and see whether I preach a true funeral sermon or not.

Now may God bless you--bless each one of you, that you might get a testimony of the truthfulness of the Everlasting Gospel as Joseph gave it to us and apply it to your lives--'ere you come under the condemnation that Christ told the Prophet Joseph Smith, that all who would believe would be saved, and those who would not would be damned. I defy any man to say that I have preached anything but the Gospel of Jesus Christ here today.

Orval, I want you and your family to be comforted, and know that this boy is not lost. God called him home and no man could have stopped it. I don't care who it is, I have said before and I say again, there is no premature death. For God has said our days are numbered; and when they come, no man can stop it. I defy any man, whoever he is, to prove different to me. I want you to know that this boy has lived his life and has gone home pure. God bless you and God bless everyone in this building that they might come to an understanding of the truthfulness of what they believe. If you didn't believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you wouldn't be here, because you have got a deep place somewhere in some corner of your heart that you want to know a little more about what this people believes.

Now, I pray the blessings of God upon us and upon all who desire to apply to their lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it was restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. I believe firmly that Joseph was a Prophet of God and that he saw the Father and the Son.

May God bless you, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 20, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I feel very humble, my brothers and sisters, in occupying this position after what I have heard this afternoon. I greatly desire that you offer a prayer in my behalf that the few words I speak may be directed by our Father in Heaven.

I was greatly pleased with the testimonies of these two young men that bore testimony to you this afternoon, for this is the class of men that the Lord said He would take and redeem Zion. We are living in a day when great wickedness fills the earth--a time when the Lord is preparing to cleanse the earth to make way for the rise of His Kingdom, or the redemption of His chosen people, Israel.

There is a lot of work to be done, my brothers and sisters, in preparation for this great and glorious work. The Lord has been very gracious to us in leaving His words regarding the redemption of His people. We are a blessed people because we live in a day when the Lord is preparing to bring forth another reformation in the world. He is not going to destroy the world right now. He is not going to destroy all the people in it. But He has promised destruction to the wicked unless they repent, and the day of repentance is running out.

In going over some of the prophecies that have been uttered since the Prophet Joseph Smith received his first vision, I am reminded of a vision of the Prophet Joseph when he saw the destruction preparatory to the redemption of Zion; he saw, according to his words, father killing son, son killing father, mother killing her daughters and daughters killing their mothers, and great calamities passing over the land. And after the Lord had shown him this vision for some time, Joseph asked Him to close it--close up the vision--for it was more than he could stand.

The Lord told the brother of Jared that this was a choice land above all other lands and those who inherit it would be a God-fearing people, or a people who would serve the God of the land or when they were ripened in iniquity, they would be destroyed. The record tells us, what little record we have, of the great test of the Jaredite people. They had inherited the land for many generations,

and many generations were upon this land. But they were all destroyed because they stoned the prophets and martyred them and refused to accept the testimony of Jesus.

Again, we have the record of Lehi and his great colony that came to this goodly land. And we know of the great destruction that took place again, and all those that claimed to be Nephites were destroyed. The record tells us that the Lamanite portion of that people saw to it that everyone that professed to be a Nephite was put to death. So, they had nothing but the wicked left. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was taken from their midst. The prophets withdrew and they were left unto themselves.

When that great explorer Columbus came to this land, he found a low and loathsome people--a degraded people roaming in bands throughout this great country. And we have them annoying us today. We call them the Indians. They are nothing more nor less than a people who lost the faith and were allowed to roam without the direction of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, the Prophet Joseph saw this time, and he saw this great destruction going on to fulfill the words of Christ unto the Nephite people four hundred years before this last destruction that came and the Gospel or the Priesthood of God withdrew from them. He left this testimony with this people that He would gather up the remnant of Jacob and redeem Zion. Or in other words, that He would take the remnant of Jacob and build a city and a temple which would be called the New Jerusalem. And after the city was built, then the great missionary work would commence in carrying this Gospel of the Kingdom to all the nations of the earth--to the remnant of that people that He was talking to--the lost tribes of Israel, and to all who could be converted to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He said that there would be a thousand years of peace upon the land, and nations would stand afar off and see the cloud hanging over us and a pillar of fire by night, and they would say it was the workings of great men.

This is the time, my brothers and sisters, that we are trying to prepare a people to take part in--the time to prepare

people to overcome the evils of this great globe upon which we stand, that they might be permitted and be worthy of taking part in the redemption of God's chosen people in Israel. We have all looked forward to that time. All of the holy prophets have looked forward to this day in which we live and wished that they had had the chance to live in our day. And Enoch, we are told, pled with the Lord to see this day, until the Lord covenanted with him that he should see this day--he and his people. So, we can look forward to a time when Enoch and his people will be reunited with the people of this earth. How soon after the temple is built, I don't know. No one else knows. God says not even the angels in Heaven know when He is going to accomplish His work. But, I do know this, that the righteous will know about it. And they will have the privilege of taking part in it; and it will be a glorious day.

When I read the revelations that were left by the Prophet Joseph Smith as recorded in the Doctrine & Covenants, I have to control my feelings because of my great weaknesses before the Lord. I have always desired to live in the time when Zion is redeemed, and I know that when I do wrong, I shorten my chances for living in that time. And you should have thoughts along the same line. We cannot become saints unless we desire to become saints. If we will create a desire to become saints of God, we can become saints because we will try from day to day to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections, that we might purify our lives and apply to our lives the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. For God has said that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom.

So, it has been my great desire and my great ambition to find out what the principles of the Celestial Kingdom are and try to apply them to my life as I find them out; and I find it is a hard row to hoe. I know that I cannot forgive my neighbor today and hate him tomorrow. I know that I cannot criticize my neighbor today and not criticize him tomorrow, but criticize him the next day, and still think that I am applying to my life the principles of the Celestial Kingdom; for I know that we must keep ourselves in line with the requirements of the Gospel from day to day--and one of the

requirements of the Gospel is to pray always that we might be in tune with our Heavenly Father.

If we have the Spirit of God upon us, we will have the spirit of peace continually, but I find myself from time to time with a heavy feeling upon me--whether it is because I have done something wrong or whether it is because I feel like somebody else has done me a wrong, it makes no difference--it is my duty to try to overcome that heavy feeling everyday and to keep myself in a condition where the Spirit of God can remain with me, remembering always that the Spirit of God is the spirit of peace, and the spirit of evil is the spirit of unrest and contention.

Now let us get our feet under us. Let us learn that this is the day in which to prepare to meet our God--the day in which we live. We cannot rely on the testimonies of our fathers and mothers to say that we know that Jesus is the Christ. We have got to have a burning testimony within us that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God, and that the Priesthood that rules over us is the true Priesthood of God upon the earth to lead and direct the people. We know that we are a peculiar people, and the Lord has said, “Come out of her, O ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins.” We know that is one of the commandments of God. So, let us “Come out of her.” Let us labor with ourselves until we can get the spirit of peace and keep it with us, and by this we may know, that we have the Spirit of God upon us.

I pray that this will be our humble lot, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 18, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I certainly feel very humble in standing before you this afternoon, especially after what I have heard. We have been together a good long time, and possibly some of us are getting weary of waiting. The Lord is kind to us. He is willing to wait on men and women to arrange their lives. He grants unto all men the privilege of repenting, and He makes no difference in creed or color or wherever they might be; they all have the same privilege of repenting of their sins and turning to the commandments of God.

I read a great deal of the scriptures. I am not a very good rememberer. I don't have the power to remember what I read, so I have to refer once in a while. To me this Gospel is something greater than most of us regard it to be.

When I think of the great experience that the Prophet Joseph went through when he was wondering as to what creed he should follow or what denomination of the many creeds in the earth was true; then he went to the Father and asked Him to reveal to him where he should go--I don't think that many of us can realize the condition under which Joseph found himself when he went before the Lord. We all know the story. We read it, and we have had it told to us many times; but there are very few of us that stop long enough to realize the importance of that hour which Joseph found himself in. The impression that was given to him was so great that he dare not deny it. He was reluctant in his mind to go and tell it to anyone. In fact, the Lord told him to keep it unto himself until he was told by the Savior to go bear testimony of it to the world, and all who would believe would be saved and those who would not would be damned. This, to me, is one of the most sacred aspects of the vision that Joseph had--the fact that he had been commanded to give something to the world that would save them if they would comply with its requirements, or it would damn them if they would not believe.

Since then we have had many men, this whole world has had many men come among them and bear testimony of these truths. If what the Lord has said through the mouths of His servants be true, that

all who would receive the testimony of the Prophet Joseph would be saved if they would adhere to his teachings and those that would not believe would be damned, then we have only a few, compared to the many millions who have heard this testimony, who partly believe what Joseph said that he saw and heard. Today we find that we are forced to refer to the scriptures to find out just what the Lord requires of His people. I very often refer to the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants. I am not going to read it all.

> "Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say: Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.
>
> For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated.
>
> And the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow; for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed.
>
> And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days.
>
> And they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.
>
> Behold, this is mine authority, and the authority of my servants, and my preface unto the book of my commandments, which I have given them to publish unto you, O inhabitants of the earth.
>
> Wherefore, fear and tremble, O ye people, for what I the Lord have decreed in them shall be fulfilled.
>
> And verily I say unto you, that they who go forth, bearing these tidings unto the inhabitants of the earth, to them is power given to seal both on earth and in heaven, the unbelieving and rebellious;
>
> Yea, verily, to seal them up unto the day when the wrath of God shall be poured out upon the wicked without measure--"

We are living in a great day. We are living in a day when great wickedness covers the earth. I don't know of a time in the history of God's work when there was more need of preaching repentance to a people than there is today. The Lord has commanded His servants to go forth and preach repentance. One place He says, "Preach nothing but repentance unto this people or this generation."

I have heard men say that they have nothing to repent of; they have repented of all their sins. In fact, I heard one man bear testimony to me that he was so free of sin that he wished he was as sure of his daily bread as he was of his salvation. But when this order of Priesthood was presented to him, he would not receive it. He has gone onto the other side now, and I don't know if he was so sure of his salvation or not. He did know this order of Priesthood, because he received his blessings under it. He had a plural wife.

I don't know how many of us feel that we are bound to be saved, that the Lord is bound to grant us the blessings that Brother Hammon tried to explain to us today of receiving our holy anointings. This Gospel of the Kingdom of our Father is something that is very lightly received among the people of the earth today. The Lord placed us under condemnation because we treated lightly the things that we received; and we are still treating lightly the things we receive.

The Lord says, "Pray always that you might have my Spirit with you and pray often that I might be found." I wonder how many of us keep faithfully the order of prayer in our homes or in our secret chambers or even in our hearts while we are working, while we are laboring. These are some of the things that beset our people. Let us begin to rehearse in our minds, from one hour to another, the things that we need to do to more greatly please the Lord, with our children, with our wives, and with our brethren. Let us cease to speak evil towards one another or to have evil thoughts or feelings towards one another. Because when you have a heavy heart, you need to get the Spirit of God.

I want to remind you again that the Spirit of God is the spirit of peace. If we can be at peace in our minds and in our attitudes every day, we can figure that we have the Spirit of God upon us. But if we have that heavy feeling in our hearts and we are uneasy and feel like criticizing this person or that, ever so little, it doesn't make any difference what it is, we should begin to feel around us and find out what is wrong and begin to ask God to give us the spirit of forgiveness, the spirit of prayer that we might get close to Him and seek His forgiveness for our wrong doings. This is what the brethren have been trying to get us to do today, and it would do us well to dwell more upon the revelations of God that He has given to us through the mouth of the Prophet Joseph Smith. They were given to men in that day who had the same things to overcome as you and I have. What was given to those men--Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, Martin Harris and others--applies to us today as well as it did to them in that day. And if we find that we are sliding back, like some of those brethren did, we need to dwell upon the revelations that God gave them. He told them to repent, and then they would receive their blessings. Oliver Cowdery was one of the choice men in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I don't know of one of the brethren that had more revelations given to him than did Oliver Cowdery because of his attitude towards Joseph and towards the principles of salvation, and finally his fellowship was taken away from him.

Let us strive to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections, my brothers and sisters, and try to apply to our lives the principles of salvation. Let us see if we can become a people who God can use in His great work, remembering always that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, and in the Celestial Kingdom there will be no quarreling, no fault-finding, no criticism. Everything will be done according to the will of God. God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 25, 1970, SUNDAY, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful for the privilege of being here this afternoon and hearing what I have heard. I am grateful for the opening up of this great subject that has been brought before us this afternoon. I have been greatly moved in my anxiety lately because of the condition of our people at the present time. When this meeting commenced, my mind went back to the Book of Mormon days.

I am going to compare the latter part of the Nephite history with our day today. And I hope that the Lord will bless me in trying to get before our people the condition under which we live at the present time. I greatly appreciate the day in which we live. A few years ago our people were taken out of this place, men and women put in jail--some of them--some of the ladies, and all of the men were imprisoned with the threat that this place would be destroyed, the people would be taken away, and after two years, their identity lost, and so forth. But we are here and we are being taught the fullness of the everlasting Gospel.

So, I would like to bring a little comparison here this afternoon by reading a little of the history and comparing it with our day. I will carry you back to the Book of Fourth Nephi. I am just going to read a few verses.

> "And it came to pass that the thirty and fourth year passed away, and also the thirty and fifth, and behold the disciples of Jesus had formed a church of Christ in all the lands round about. And as many as did come unto them, and did truly repent of their sins, were baptized in the name of Jesus; and they did also receive the Holy Ghost."

Now, this transpired within thirty-five years after Christ made his appearance in this land. Even after the great destruction that took place here, it took thirty-five years to convert a people.

> "And it came to pass in the thirty and sixth year, the people were all converted unto the Lord, upon all the face of the land, both Nephites and Lamanites, and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another."

This was the condition under which the people were converted at that time. So they were following the instructions of the disciples of Christ. This was the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

> "And they had all things common among them; therefore there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift.
>
> And it came to pass that the thirty and seventh year passed away also, and there still continued to be peace in the land.
>
> And now, in the two hundred and first year there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride, such as the wearing of costly apparel, and all manner of fine pearls, and of the fine things of the world.
>
> And from that time forth they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them."

I wonder how long it is going to be before we forget entirely the taking away of our women and children in this place. Our children are growing up and they are not being properly taught the things that have transpired in one generation. The things that were brought upon this people should be brought to their minds from time to time, that this young generation might know and understand the full importance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

> "And from that time forth they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them.
>
> And they began to be divided into classes; and they began to build up churches unto themselves to get gain, and began to deny the true church of Christ.
>
> And it came to pass that when two hundred and ten years had passed away there were many churches in the land; yea, there were many churches which professed to know the Christ, and yet they did deny the more parts of his gospel, insomuch that they did receive all manner of wickedness,

and did administer that which was sacred unto him to whom it had been forbidden because of unworthiness." and so forth.

Now, I am going to the Book of Mormon. I am going to read a few verses from the first chapter of Mormon.

"And now I, Mormon, make a record of the things which I have both seen and heard, and call it the Book of Mormon.

And about the time that Ammaron hid up the records unto the Lord, he came unto me, (I being about ten years of age, and I began to be learned somewhat after the manner of the learning of my people) and Ammaron said unto me: I perceive that thou art a sober child, and art quick to observe;

Therefore, when ye are about twenty and four years old I would that ye should remember the things that ye have observed concerning this people; and when ye are of that age go to the land Antum, unto a hill which shall be called Shim; and there have I deposited unto the Lord all the sacred engravings concerning this people." Now, I am going to skip a little more.

"And I, being fifteen years of age and being somewhat of a sober mind, therefore I was visited of the Lord, and tasted and knew of the goodness of Jesus.

And I did endeavor to preach unto this people, but my mouth was shut, and I was forbidden that I should preach unto them; for behold they had wilfully rebelled against their God; and the beloved disciples were taken away out of the land, because of their iniquity.

But I did remain among them, but I was forbidden to preach unto them, because of the hardness of their hearts; and because of the hardness of their hearts the land was cursed for their sake."

We are told that Jesus Christ and the Father appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and Joseph was commanded to bear testimony that he had seen these two personages. He was also given the privilege of setting up the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Great blessings were given to the people in that day. The Priesthood was restored through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and because of the unfaithfulness of the people at that time, the Prophet was martyred. But the Church went on.

The Prophet Brigham Young migrated to this goodly land in which we live and brought his people with him. Brother Hammon has told you today of the great apostasy that has taken place since that time. Now let's read a little more of it. I am going to read now from the eighth chapter of Mormon.

> "Behold I, Moroni, do finish the record of my father, Mormon. Behold, I have but few things to write, which things I have been commanded by my father.
>
> And now it came to pass that after the great and tremendous battle at Cumorah, behold, the Nephites who had escaped into the country southward were hunted by the Lamanites, until they were all destroyed.
>
> And my father also was killed by them, and I even remain alone to write the sad tale of the destruction of my people. But behold, they are gone, and I fulfill the commandments of my father. And whether they will slay me, I know not.
>
> Therefore I will write and hide up the records in the earth; and whither I go it mattereth not.
>
> Behold, my father hath made this record, and he hath written the intent thereof. And behold, I would write it also if I had room upon the plates, but I have not; and ore I have none, for I am alone. My father hath been slain in battle, and all my kinsfolk, and I have not friends nor whither to go; and how long the Lord will suffer that I may live I know not."

This is the closing record of Moroni to the people. A little further on he says:

> "And behold, their prayers were also in behalf of him that the Lord should suffer to bring these things forth."

This was the prayer of his father. And these are the conditions under which these things should come. Now, I want you to pay particular attention to what I am going to read:

> "And no one need say they shall not come, for they surely shall, for the Lord hath spoken it; for out of the earth shall they come, by the hand of the Lord, and none can stay it; and it shall come in a day when it shall be said that miracles are done away; and it shall come even as if one should speak from the dead.
>
> And it shall come in a day when the blood of saints shall cry unto the Lord, because of secret combinations and the works of darkness.
>
> Yea, it shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches become defiled and be lifted up in the pride of their hearts; yea, even in a day when leaders of churches and teachers shall rise in the pride of their hearts, even to the envying of them who belong to their churches."

The Lord spoke unto the brother of Jared when he sent him over to this country and He told him that He would lead him to a land flowing with milk and honey which is a choice land above all other lands, and the people who possessed it would serve the God of the land or when they were ripened in iniquity He would destroy them. And we know what happened to the Jaredite Nation. As long as they kept the commandments of God, they prospered and they grew to be a mighty people--many millions upon this continent; and then He destroyed them. No sooner had He destroyed them than He brought another colony here called the Nephites, and they were led by the hand of God.

Brother Jerry told us of the record that another colony was found called Amulekites. This boy, Amulek, was the son of Zedekiah; the record tells us he was the youngest son. The other day, I read an article in one of our papers telling now about how science had discovered that one of the sons of Zedekiah migrated to this country and peopled it. They think they have cleared up the mystery of the origin of the American Indian.

In 1953, the government came in and carried our people away. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints contributed a hundred thousand dollars to assist the State in prosecuting this people. It is on the records, so we know of what we speak. In 1954, when this people were in dire circumstances and didn't know which way to look in order to pay off the great debt that we were under, a demand was made upon us to raise $50,000 in a certain length of time. When the lawyers told me this, I said, "I'll see what I can do." I knew our people had been taxed to the limit. I knew that there would have to be a miracle performed in order to meet this demand, but I didn't feel discouraged. I felt that the Lord would open the way because I knew that we were doing the will of God as far as we were able.

The Lord did open the way, and during that time, we paid the lawyers off. We had already paid them over $50,000 before that, and how it came about no body knows, only those who were subjected to the proposition of mortgaging all they had in order to pay the court cases that were before us. Now then, not only that, but the Spirit of God rested upon us and told us to reprint the Journal of Discourses. We remember that these books were all gathered up a few years before. There were many sets of the Journals on the shelves of the Latter-day Saints. I had a brother-in-law that had a full set of the Journal of Discourses and the Millennial Star on his shelves. And how I envied him because of those books, but I didn't dare speak about them because I knew his attitude toward the principle of plural marriage. But, once in a while, I would borrow one and read it.

One day I went to borrow one and he didn't have them. I found his wife, my sister, in tears. She said, "You know what Eli

did? A man came here--sent by the Church--and gave him a few paltry dollars, about ten or fifteen dollars, for all the books he had. He said they were not worth anything. They had served their purpose and the Church wanted to get rid of them." So they gave him the money for his books; then they took them out, threw some gasoline on them and burned them.

The Spirit of God rested upon us in 1954 and told us to get those books in print again. We tried to get the Church to print them and they refused. We tried to get other printers in the state to print them for us. They refused on the grounds that the Church would disfranchise them if they printed them. So, we were forced to go to California. It cost us $20,000 to get a set of plates made. It cost us $35,000 in order to just get the printers to start the work, and before we got through, it cost us $55,000 for the first five hundred sets. So, we brought the Journals back to the state of Utah and put them on the shelves of the Deseret Book Company and let them sell them for us. This incited the envy of the leaders of the Church. Why? Because the Journal of Discourses were being distributed among the people of the Church, and it wasn't by the consent of the Church. They were allowing it because they had to--because the people demanded it.

Then they said: We won't buy their books anymore, we want to print them ourselves. So, we leased them our plates to print the Journals. Later on, they refused to print anymore of the Journals and had the bookstore quit selling them and had their agents go through the stores that were selling them--the second-hand bookstore and others, and buy up what they had--take them out of circulation. But Bookcraft rented our plates and got another edition of the Journals out and put them on the market. So, the Church got envious again and sent for the plates.

> "Yea, it shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches become defiled and be lifted up in the pride of their hearts; yea, even in a day when leaders of churches and teachers shall rise in the pride of

their hearts, even to the envying of them who belong to their churches."

So, Mormon saw what took place. He saw the apostasy and he saw this people who have now apostatized from the things that have been given us.

"Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be heard of fires, and tempests, and vapors of smoke in foreign lands;

And there shall also be heard of wars, rumors of wars, and earthquakes in divers places.

Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be great pollutions upon the face of the earth; there shall be murders, and robbing, and lying, and deceivings, and whoredoms, and all manner of abominations; when there shall be many who will say, do this, or do that, and it mattereth not, for the Lord will uphold such at the last day. But wo unto such for they are in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity.

Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be churches built up that shall say: Come unto me, and for your money you shall be forgiven of your sins.

O ye wicked and perverse and stiffnecked people, why have ye built up churches unto yourselves to get gain? Why have ye transgressed the holy word of God, that ye might bring damnation upon your souls? Behold, look ye unto the revelations of God; for behold the time cometh at that day when all these things must be fulfilled.

Behold, the Lord hath shown unto me great and marvelous things concerning that which must shortly come, at that day when these things shall come forth among you."

I wonder how much more wicked we will have to get than the people in the days of the Jaredites or even in the days of the Nephites before God pours out His judgments upon us and wipes us off

the earth. We have had a hundred and forty years more time to repent and bring up a people that God could use, and we are still crying the same repentance today that Joseph Smith cried.

Let us repent! Let us get down on our knees and cry for deliverance night and day that we might be found worthy of the protection of our Father when He is preparing this goodly land for the return of the tribes of Israel who are lost, and for the building up and establishing of His great work and the redemption of Zion.

May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 1, 1970, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful for the testimonies that have been borne, and for the privilege of being here again under such favorable circumstances. I am grateful for the support of this people to this Priesthood, but I wish it was much greater. When President Hammon was speaking I thought of a verse or two in the 84th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants wherein the Lord said: Woe unto that people or community or nation, or whatever it may be, that rejected the testimonies of the Elders, unless they repented they would be destroyed. So when we reject the counsel of the Priesthood, we are rejecting the word of God.

Mormon was a young man that went to the Lord and asked Him if he should go and preach repentance to the Nephite nation when they started to rebel again after Christ. The Lord told him, "No." He said, "They have willingly rejected me, and they won't listen to your words." So the world has willingly rejected the Lord and they have turned down the testimony of the elders regarding the testimony of Joseph Smith. So they have now gone beyond the point of repentance and there is nothing left but destruction. The Lord plainly tells us that the decree has gone forth and He will make an end to all nations. So these are truths that we have been reminded of this afternoon.

Our people are trying, I believe, to overcome some of their faults and failings. But we have many others, many that we have no control of yet, and those are the ones that we should work upon. Each one of us knows when we do wrong--when we displease the Lord--so we should work upon the points that we are weak in.

I have another matter that has come to my attention this morning that needs to be taken care of. Our people have been very heavily taxed. I think more heavily taxed than any other people and it has been a burden that must be paid or we will be deprived of some of our privileges. I don't know exactly the figures of how much tax we owe this year. (Turned and asked Uncle Fred) Twelve thousand dollars, Uncle Fred says, for both states. We are lacking a good deal of money to pay these taxes. It appears that some have ignored

their tax obligations entirely the last year and others have paid up very fine. So let's not be among those who shirk their responsibilities regarding these things, because we all have to live. There's none of us resides in this place but what is obligated, one way or another, for the place they live in. There isn't a home in this place but what is taxed, and somebody has to pay the tax. So we have one more month, lacking a day or two after today, to get these taxes into the County Recorder. So let's see if we can come up with a little assistance for Brother Fred and Truman. These men have been commissioned to garner in the tax money and see to it that the taxes are paid. Let's see what we can do about it in the next month.

I want to congratulate our men for the faithful work that was done on this reservoir. When I look it over I marvel at the accomplishment that is up there. And there is a wonderful opportunity here for us to expand and to more adequately provide for our people in the future; the prospects are good. I want to tell you that I think the Lord is very pleased with the effort our people have put forth to accomplish this feat. I want to encourage our people to go on, and whenever a project is advanced for us to do, let's put our shoulders to the wheel and push it on.

Now, may the Lord bless us, help us to overcome and to listen to the words of those that have spoken to us this afternoon, for they have given us the truths of the everlasting Gospel. We have heard these things ever since we were children, everyone of us have heard them. Then why don't we come up to the mark and be a people that the Lord can smile upon and bring out of it the necessary number of men for the One Mighty and Strong to use in the setting in order of the House of God--for this is what He is waiting for. He is waiting for the preparation of men. If the men will prepare themselves, I am not worried about the women because they will come along.

Now, may God bless you and keep you in the line of truth and righteousness until we meet again, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 22, 1970, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Again, my brothers and sisters, I am pleased to see this great audience here this afternoon. I have been greatly interested in the remarks that have been made. I only desire to admonish you to prepare yourselves for that which is to come. This is a day of preparation, for men to clean up their lives and put into their lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I had a man approach me the other day. He said, “Brother Johnson, I wish you would enlighten me a little on a question that has been bothering me. If you won’t be displeased with me for being blunt in my questioning, but I would like to know who is President of the Church that you men are setting up?”

I said, “Joseph F. Smith is the President of our Church.” “You mean to say, you have not been excommunicated?” I said, “That is not what I said. I said that Joseph F. Smith is the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that is what I belong to. They may have gone through the motions of excommunicating me, but how can they excommunicate a man for believing what Joseph Smith taught?”

He said, “Well, I guess you are right. I have heard a good deal of argument on both sides. I have heard your men argue and I have heard other men argue, but I can’t find, in my mind right now, where you have been teaching false doctrine because it is in the book.” I said, “I use the same Doctrine & Covenants, the same Pearl of Great Price, the same Bible that the Church uses. And out of the books, ye shall be judged. So if you can find anything in the teachings of our people that is contrary to the teachings of Christ, I would like to know where is it.”

The reason for us gathering people together and teaching them like we have been teaching them today is to try to bring up a people that Joseph Smith can use when he comes to set in order the House of God; for we believe that Joseph Smith is the One Mighty and Strong, who will come here clothed with power and the mantle of

righteousness to set in order the House of God. He has to have men prepared for that great work. He has to have men who have not fought against the laws of the Celestial Kingdom because God has said that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. And He will take the young and the middle-aged and redeem Zion.

We have to have a people who have had laid before them the principles of life and salvation as they fell from the mouths of prophets of this generation. That is what this people is trying to be. We live in a day when wickedness rules the earth. God has said that when the people who dwell upon this land become wicked and pollute their inheritances, when they are ripened in iniquity, that He will destroy them. And He has kept His word, twice. In one instance, He wiped them all off the earth. In the next instance, He wiped off all those who called themselves Nephites, and He left the rest to wander to and fro upon the land.

Joseph Smith told us that this land would be swept clean in order to make way for the redemption of Zion. The only reason it would be swept clean is because of the great wickedness upon the earth. If you and I think that we can escape the judgments of God, it will only be because we have applied to our lives the principles of righteous living.

After Wilford Woodruff signed the Manifesto, the Lord told him that it was now pleasing in His sight that men should use their own judgment regarding these principles. He also says in this book, the Doctrine & Covenants, that except a man obeys the laws that pertain to the blessings of Celestial Glory, he cannot obtain it. We are only trying to keep alive the principles of life and salvation. I hope and pray, my brothers and sisters, that we will continue to search ourselves for the dross that is within us and cast it off and read out of the good books, as the Lord has told us, and hold fast to that which pertains to our salvation. Now, may God bless us. Our time is far spent, and may we apply to our lives those things that will give us eternal life, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 29, 1970, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here today and for the testimonies that have been borne. I am grateful for the privilege of laboring in this great work. I pray that God will put into my mouth the words that I should say this afternoon; for I know and realize that we are living in a great day, not only a day of preparation, but a day of destruction. This is a day for the saints of God to prepare themselves against the day of destruction.

The Lord told the Prophet Mormon some two hundred years after the Savior visited this great land when the people began to become wicked again and that boy went before the Lord and asked Him if he should go among them and preach repentance--He was only fifteen years old--but the Lord told him, “No, they have willingly rejected me; and when they reject my words, they won’t believe yours. So you just as well keep still and watch the hand of the Lord made manifest.” He didn’t say it in that many words, but that is what He meant. The Lord says again, “Stand ye in holy places.” This is what He told the Prophet in our day. “Stand ye in holy places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest.”

The Lord promised to this great land upon which we live destruction to those who would not listen to His servants and apply to their lives the principles of righteous living. He said that when they arrived at a point of wickedness--when they had ripened, He would destroy them.

Joseph Smith was a boy of great faith. He had been taught to be faithful to his parents and to those whose right it was to rule over him; and when it came to a point of making a decision as to which faith he should follow, he came upon the words of James, wherein he said, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and he shall receive.” Joseph had the faith in those words that if he asked the Lord to bless him with a testimony, he would receive. Joseph went before Him, knelt down in humble prayer, and we all know the story. He was given an answer to his prayer. He saw the Father and the Son.

He was told not to join any of the churches because they were all wrong. They had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof.

In giving instructions to the early elders, the Lord said, “I send you out to teach and not to be taught.” He also said to the Prophet Joseph Smith, “Go and bear testimony to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and all who will believe will be saved, and those who will not believe will be damned.” This is the testimony that has been given to the people of this nation for over a hundred years, not only this nation, but the world.

Every now and then, I have men come to me, and women also, who want to know how to exercise faith. I don’t know of any better answer to give to this question than to give you the words of that great prophet, the brother of Jared, who was so close to the Lord and had such faith that the Savior could not resist showing him His body as He would have it when He came in the flesh. Now, remember, that Christ wasn’t born yet. He was in the spirit world, but He was the Savior of the world. I have heard some people try to tell us that Christ, the son of Mary, was not the Christ of this world before that time. But I would like to see them bring forth scripture that would prove to me that this is true; for I am going to read you something. You know that the brother of Jared led his people down to the seashore, and the Lord came to him or sent a message to him and told him to build some barges; and He showed him how to build them. The brother of Jared built them so that they could be turned over in the water; and in whatever position the outside of the boat was, the inside of the boat stayed right side up. It was built so that it didn’t have light in it. So he wanted some light. This man of great faith had petitioned the Lord from day to day to inspire him how to do things, just like you and I would. If we want to accomplish something, we ask the Lord how to do it, then we follow the dictations of the Spirit. That is what the brother of Jared did. So great was his faith that he would receive, that he kept himself in that condition or position all the time. He wouldn’t allow the “Witnesses of Jehovah” to come in and deprive him of his true senses and then believe partly what they said and partly what the Lord had

told him. That is exactly what they did yesterday. They came in among this people, and I suppose there would maybe be a wagon load of literature that you people picked up just to read to see what "Jehovah's Witnesses" wanted to tell you.

We don't have faith enough in the revelations of the Gospel to know what the Prophet Joseph Smith said concerning the Celestial Kingdom and how to get there, but we want to know what these churches that are an abomination in the sight of the Lord have to say about it, and whether our religion squares up with theirs or not. It makes my blood run cold when I see our people take people like this into their homes and let them leave their literature and then read it. I had one man tell me I was narrow-minded because I wouldn't listen to what other people had to say about my salvation. They told Joseph Smith the same thing, and they finally killed him, simply because he wasn't broad-minded enough to satisfy the people.

Now, let us pay attention to what I read here, and I will tell you how the brother of Jared acquired faith enough to see the body of Jesus Christ long before He was born. I want you to pay attention to what Christ said to him. (Ether, chapter 3)

> "O Lord, thou hast said that we must be encompassed about by the floods. Now behold, O Lord, and do not be angry with thy servant because of his weakness before thee; for we know that thou art holy and dwellest in the heavens, and that we are unworthy before thee; because of the fall our natures have become evil continually; nevertheless, O Lord, thou hast given us a commandment that we must call upon thee, that from thee we may receive according to our desires.
>
> Behold, O Lord, thou hast smitten us because of our iniquity, and hast driven us forth, and for these many years we have been in the wilderness; nevertheless, thou hast been merciful unto us. O Lord, look upon me in pity, and turn away thine anger from this thy people, and suffer not that they shall go forth across this raging deep in darkness; but behold these things which I have molten out of the rock.

And I know, O Lord, that thou hast all power, and can do whatsoever thou wilt for the benefit of man; therefore touch these stones, O Lord, with thy finger, and prepare them that they may shine forth in darkness; and they shall shine forth unto us in the vessels which we have prepared, that we may have light while we shall cross the sea.

Behold, O Lord, thou canst do this. We know that thou art able to show forth great power, which looks small unto the understanding of men.

And it came to pass that when the brother of Jared had said these words, behold, the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones one by one with his finger. And the veil was taken from off the eyes of the brother of Jared, and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood; and the brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear.

And the Lord saw that the brother of Jared had fallen to the earth; and the Lord said unto him: Arise, why hast thou fallen?

And he saith unto the Lord: I saw the finger of the Lord, and I feared lest he should smite me; for I knew not that the Lord had flesh and blood.

And the Lord said unto him: Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; for were it not so ye could not have seen my finger. Sawest thou more than this?

And he answered: Nay; Lord, show thyself unto me.

And the Lord said unto him: Believest thou the words which I shall speak?

And he answered: Yea, Lord, I know that thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie.

And when he said these words, behold, the Lord showed himself unto him, and said: Because thou knowest these things

> ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I show myself unto you.
>
> Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have light, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters.
>
> And never have I showed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast. Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yes, even all men were created in the beginning after mine own image.
>
> Behold, this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit will I appear unto my people in the flesh."

Brothers and sisters, we have a job to do. We came here to purify these bodies we have and take them back in a condition so that they can be celestialized and go on through the eternities to come. And in order to purify these bodies, we must overcome the evils of this day--the day in which we live because this is the only time we will have a chance. We who understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we who have had it taught to us from day to day and month to month and year to year, should be in a position where the Lord could answer our prayers continually. If we were living like we should in this place, we wouldn't need to spend thousands upon thousands of dollars getting water here. All we would need to do is ask the Lord for rain when we needed it, and it would come. We could command the rain to stay when we didn't need it, and it would be stayed. These things I know because of my experience. I know that the Lord can do these things for us. I know that there is enough Priesthood in this community to build this place up in righteousness before the Lord. I know that He would accept the offerings of our hands, if we would only be united as we should be.

I know that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God. I know that he saw the Father and the Son. I know that this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we have embraced. I know that this order of the Priesthood

is the only order that can save this people or any people that will apply it to their lives. And I know that we have a job to do to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked because He has started that work already, and great is going to be the destruction of this great nation. But I know something else, I know that other nations will not come in and possess this land because God has said so. He said this: That He would protect His Saints if He had to send fire from heaven to do so, and I have faith in those words.

I bear testimony to you that Jesus is the Christ, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and all the Presidents of Priesthood who have followed him from that time until now have been called by the Spirit of God to take their place in each day and time. I know that this work will roll on, whether I am faithful or not. If I lose the faith, someone else will take it over. But God has said that this Gospel of the Kingdom was restored never again to be taken away or given to another people until all these other things have transpired.

So let us go to. Let us get the Spirit of God and keep it. Let us get out of our hearts enmity towards one another. Let us learn to love one another and to love the Lord with all our heart, might, mind and strength. May God bless you, may His Spirit penetrate our systems until we are determined within ourselves to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ--regardless of what our neighbor says. If you will do these things, “Jehovah Witnesses” won’t be able to come in here. They will shiver so hard, they will stay out, and all other denominations that try to come into this place will not be able to come because they will stand afar off and wonder what is taking place.

May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 6, 1970, IN THE HOME OF RULON T. JEFFS, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is good to be here, my brothers and sisters, and hear the things that have been told to us this afternoon. We have been greatly impressed with the testimonies that have been borne and for the word of the Lord that has been given to us. I don't wish to detract from that which has been said. So, I trust that the Lord will bless me in trying to bear my testimony to you of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; for this is truly the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it is necessary for our exaltation and eternal life.

We have been greatly criticized because of the fact that we dwell upon the principle of preparation--preparing ourselves to receive the One Mighty and Strong when he comes, and being able to be used by him.

We read in the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants that this Gospel of the Kingdom is to all--all who will listen and obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We read again in 3rd Nephi where the Lord (Savior) says to the people that He was the one that was spoken of like unto Moses who would come in the latter days; and all who would receive His message would be saved, and those who would not would be damned.

I couldn't help but reflect upon Section 63 in the Doctrine & Covenants when President Musser was speaking. Let us hear what the Lord says here:

> "Hearken, O ye people, and open your hearts and give ear from afar; and listen, you that call yourselves the people of the Lord, and hear the word of the Lord and his will concerning you.
>
> Yea, verily, I say, hear the word of him whose anger is kindled against the wicked and rebellious;
>
> Who willeth to take even them whom he will take, and preserveth in life them whom he will preserve;
>
> Who buildeth up at his own will and pleasure; and destroyeth when he pleases, and is able to cast the soul down to hell.

Behold, I, the Lord, utter my voice, and it shall be obeyed.

Wherefore, verily I say, let the wicked take heed, and let the rebellious fear and tremble; and let the unbelieving hold their lips, for the day of wrath shall come upon them as a whirlwind, and all flesh shall know that I am God.

And he that seeketh signs shall see signs, but not unto salvation.

Verily, I say unto you, there are those among you who seek signs, and there have been such even from the beginning;

But, behold, faith cometh not by signs, but signs follow those that believe.

Yea, signs come by faith, not by the will of men, nor as they please, but by the will of God.

Yea, signs come by faith, unto mighty works, for without faith no man pleaseth God; and with whom God is angry he is not well pleased; wherefore, unto such he showeth no signs, only in wrath unto their condemnation.

Wherefore, I, the Lord, am not pleased with those among you who have sought after signs and wonders for faith, and not for the good of men unto my glory.

Nevertheless, I give commandments, and many have turned away from my commandments and have not kept them.

There were among you adulterers and adulteresses; some of whom have turned away from you, and others remain with you that hereafter shall be revealed.

Let such beware and repent speedily, lest judgment shall come upon them as a snare, and their folly shall be made manifest, and their works shall follow them in the eyes of the people."

We have some men come among us and want to be one of us; and in their eyes we are narrow-minded, not willing to take in all people and teach them that the Lord is kind unto all people and will save all people. For we teach that the Lord will save only those who will comply with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and go down into the waters of baptism and be baptized for the remission of their sins, then come under the direction of the Holy Priesthood and be taught and trained that they might be used by the One Mighty and Strong when he comes to set in order the house of God. This is the thing the Prophet Joseph tried to do in his day; Brigham Young tried to in his day; John Taylor tried, but his friends all forsook him. He wasn't able to go to his dear wife's funeral because he didn't have enough friends.

In our day it is the same way. We have been persecuted and driven. We have had our wives and children taken away from us, but through the good graces of our Father we have not lost them; they have been returned to us. I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, that this Gospel of Jesus Christ is unto all men who will hasten and obey and come under the direction of the Priesthood of God, but unto none else. I think I will read just a little more. We find in the first chapter of Alma these words:

> "Now it came to pass that in the first year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi, from this time forward, king Mosiah having gone the way of all the earth, having warred a good warfare, walking uprightly before God, leaving none to reign in his stead; nevertheless he had established laws, and they were acknowledged by the people; therefore they were obliged to abide by the laws which he had made.
>
> And it came to pass that in the first year of the reign of Alma in the judgment-seat, there was a man brought before him to be judged, a man who was large, and was noted for his much strength.

> And he had gone about among the people, preaching to them that which he termed to be the word of God, bearing down against the church; declaring unto the people that every priest and teacher ought to become popular; and they ought not to labor with their hands, but that they ought to be supported by the people.
>
> And he also testified unto the people that all mankind should be saved at the last day, and that they need not fear nor tremble, but that they might lift up their heads and rejoice; for the Lord had created all men, and had also redeemed all men; and, in the end, all men should have eternal life.
>
> And it came to pass that he did teach these things so much that many did believe on his words, even so many that they began to support him and give him money.
>
> And he began to be lifted up in the pride of his heart, and to wear costly apparel, yea, and even began to establish a church after the manner of his preaching."

I wonder if we live in a day similar to this, for we have seen men come among us and because of our narrow-mindedness, in their opinion, they have led people away, telling them that God would save them in the last days--a universal religion that all men would be saved regardless of how they lived. But if we go on and read the rest of this verse and chapter, we will find out what happened to this man. If we look around us, we will find out what the Lord is doing to men that do this in our day. Talk about seeking for signs--we have many men among us who seek for signs. They are wondering just what the Lord would do if they led away a people or led the people to rebel against the Priesthood. This is the reason we speak as we do--because the Spirit of God won't leave us alone. We have to speak according to the will of God to the people in this day as well as the prophets in other days. That is the reason President Musser has spoken as he has this afternoon--simply because he has been

dictated by the Spirit of God. And we speak as we are led by the Gift of the Holy Ghost. These words we have spoken this afternoon are the will of God to this people to repent and apply to our lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it has been given to us by the Prophet Joseph Smith. This book called the Three-in-One contains the record of this Gospel from the beginning until now. I wish we had the rest of the record so we could teach it all, but our mouths are closed because the record is closed. The Lord has not seen fit to give us the full record, but He has given us enough to insure our salvation if we will live for it--if we will apply the Gospel to our lives.

Let us go forth and overcome these evils that have been spoken of today, and let us see if we can become a people who can love one another and love the Lord our God with all our heart, might, mind, and strength. Let us prepare ourselves against the day of visitation which is right at our door. For the Lord is pouring out His judgment upon the wicked. He has withdrawn His Spirit from the world; and there is only one place that you can get the Spirit of God, and that is among the Latter-day Saints. We have the word of God. It is given to us and written, and we can all receive it. And all who will not receive it and obey the commandments that are given in this Gospel of Jesus Christ will be damned, and those who will obey it will be saved.

Now, I pray that God will bless us, that He will pour out His Spirit among the people, and that we will get His Spirit and keep it, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 10, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

We have been together a good long time, my brothers and sisters. I only want to bear testimony to the things that have been spoken this afternoon and admonish this people to take note of what we have heard and try to repent and to be better. I don't want anyone to go away from this audience with the idea in their mind that they have gone so far there is no repentance because the Lord has said that if we will repent, He will forgive us of our sins. Repentance, we have been told today, means to refrain from sinning any more. We all know the difference between right and wrong--even the little child spoken of here today.

During these sermons, my thoughts went back to a passage or two, and I don't think it would hurt to just read what the ancient prophets had to say from time to time. My attention was drawn to the sixth chapter of Jacob. Jacob, in speaking to the people, said this:

> "Behold, my brethren, I said I would prophesy: The end cometh."

When I heard President Timpson's sermon this afternoon, my attention was drawn to this passage of scripture. I want to exhort you, my dear brothers and sisters, that this is the last time that the Lord is putting forth His hand to prune His vineyard and to bring up a people that can redeem Zion, or redeem Israel; because this is the day in which the Lord promised that He would redeem His scattered people. The way is being prepared throughout the world, not only in the old country, but in this land, because this is the land that the blessing was given to. This is the land of Joseph, the man who will come forth and receive the blessings of the Holy Priesthood. He is the man that great blessings were given to in the early days of God's work.

I don't wish to hold you any longer, but I ask the blessings of God to be upon us and help us to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections. You who have weaknesses that you can overcome, I want you to get busy and overcome them. Let us have this a pure place,

that when the judgments of God are passing over the land, the Lord will put a protection around us and cause that His judgments might pass by our door. He has tucked us away here in this nook in the mountains, and we can be forgotten by the outside world.

Now, may God bless us and help us to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and live so that we can gain the blessings of eternal life, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 17, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am grateful, my dear brothers and sisters, for what I have heard this afternoon. My heart goes out to the people who are trying to overcome the world and "Come out of her," as the Lord has said, "O ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins." We want to remember this, that the Lord has set His hand to cleanse the earth that He might bring to pass His covenant with the ancient prophets that in the latter days, He will redeem Zion and set up His Kingdom that the name of our Savior might be glorified. The aim of this Priesthood Council is to prepare a people for this great and glorious work. This is the charge that has been laid at our feet and upon our shoulders.

Let us go from this meeting with a more firm determination to prepare ourselves against the day when the Lord is pouring out His judgments around us because that is what He is doing at the present time. Let us bring in the wanderings of our minds and center them upon the things that we have been told this afternoon that are necessary for us to gain our salvation and prepare ourselves to be used by the One Mighty and Strong when He comes to set His House in order.

I pray the blessings of God upon you, each one; for when I am called home and you are called home, I want to see you over there. If I am permitted to take my place among other men who have stood in this position and who will be gathered together, I want to see the faces of the people I have known in this life. This is the aim that we should all have. We should all have the desire within us to prepare ourselves for a glorious resurrection and cleanse our bodies to a point where we can take them with us after the resurrection on into the eternal world. The Lord has told us that the righteous would be resurrected unto eternal life, and the wicked would be resurrected unto damnation. So this is the doctrine that has been taught us this afternoon. Let us prepare ourselves for this great and glorious work.

I am just going to read a verse or two. I want to show you what the Lord has tried to impress upon the minds of this people. You will find these words in many places in the Doctrine & Covenants and other places in the scriptures.

> "Behold, I am God, give heed to my word which is quick and powerful sharper than a two-edged sword to the dividing asunder of both joints and marrow; therefore, give heed unto my word."

That is how important the Lord feels about the word that has been given to us today. We have been left without excuse, my brothers and sisters, and what we have heard today will either save or damn us. Let us get that in our minds.

I pray that God will bless us with health and strength to stand under the great pressure that will be placed upon us in order to stand the great trials that are coming upon us quickly. One reason I speak this way is because the Lord has said, "I will protect my saints if needs be that I send fire from Heaven to do so," when these judgments are passing over the land.

Let us keep the commandments of God, my brothers and sisters, and let us prepare ourselves that we can be used in the establishment of Zion. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 7, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We should be the most grateful people in the world to our Heavenly Father for the testimony that we have of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the privilege we have of living in a day that He has chosen for the redemption of His work. All the holy prophets have looked forward to this day with anticipation of the great and glorious blessings, and to have the privilege of living in this time. We have the knowledge, my brothers and sisters, of the handwork of our Father from the beginning of time until now. We have the scriptures before us and the revelations of God to direct us; for this reason we should be the most grateful of all people.

* * * * * *

Again, we ought to be thankful for the instructions we have received this afternoon. I couldn't help but think of my own situation while President Musser was talking.

I was born under the new and everlasting covenant. My father was a man that the Lord guided to this part of this great nation. He never knew what Mormonism was until he arrived in this little town north of us called Farmington. He was a sick man. He was a man that the Lord had seen to it that he had received an education--college education. In the latter part of his college career, he spent a lot of his time in the hospital and in his bed. But they were able to bring him through college in fairly good condition. The doctors told him that he only had a few months to live, and advised him to go to the west coast (He lived in Boston, Massachusetts), that his life might be prolonged a few months. So, he started for the west coast. He got as far as Farmington and became so sick that he couldn't go any further. So there he stayed. He stayed at my grandfather's place. My grandfather happened to be one of the early doctors of the Church. Through the good graces of the Lord, he was led to this man's place and taken in.

From there he first heard what Mormonism really was. The only thing that he had heard about the Mormons before he arrived

there was that they were a peculiar people, and they grew horns. That is what brought him by way of Salt Lake City to the West Coast. But he never arrived at the West Coast. I doubt very much if he ever saw the West Coast. But after his conversion to the principles of Mormonism, he spent the rest of his life doing the things that the Priesthood asked him to do.

He was called on a mission later to go to Lee's Ferry and take John D. Lee's place as a missionary to the Navajo Indians and perform a mission for the Church of taking care of the ferryboat across the Colorado River. While he was there, he was continually visited by Latter-day Saints going to and fro from Utah to Arizona, and they tried to get him to leave his mission and move into one of the Stakes and raise his family, but he said, "I will not leave my mission until I am released by the same authority that called me here." He did not receive a release until he had filled twenty-two years on a mission to Lee's Ferry.

We can hardly get our boys to go out and stay one week away from home on their jobs without coming home to see what home looks like these days. But this man took his family, two wives, and went to Lee's Ferry and lived there for twenty-two years. Finally, he was released by President Wilford Woodruff. President Young called him. I think I have somewhere in my possession a certificate calling him on his mission. He did much good among the Navajo Indians, as also among the Ute Indians. He had them working for him.

I find that through his faithfulness and his determination to keep the commandments of God that his name went far out among the people of Arizona and Utah and other parts of the United States. Through the great work that he did while he lived there, this man was able to unite his wives and raise a family of children. He buried four of his children while he lived there. The rest of them, grew to maturity and all married. But very few of them followed in his footsteps and lived the Celestial Law.

Not only did I have the fullness of the Gospel taught to me by example, but I was taught while a boy by my father to live so that the Lord could bless me. He taught the rest of his family the same

principles--that they could get nowhere in the Celestial Kingdom of our Father unless they lived as he had lived, and had their families united.

I remember very well, when I was a young man, of my father's being an invalid--having his back broken and having to live in a condition of paralysis from his hips down. It became my job, along with the other children, to see to it that Father's needs were taken care of. During that period of time, being with him so much, I heard the apostles when they came in and visited with him. I heard them talk on the principle of plural marriage. So I had it drilled into me. I can't help but thank the Lord for the experiences that I had with my father. I can't help but thank the Lord for the experiences I had with President Barlow.

I was forty-eight years old before I met Brother Barlow. I had already seen some of my brothers enter into the law of plural marriage. I thought it was my privilege as well as anybody else's to enter into it. So, I tried to convert young women to the proposition that I ought to have another wife. I could convert them, but I couldn't convert them to the proposition of going through with the marriage. So, I had many disappointments.

When I met up with President Barlow and told him what I had done, I said, "I have never been able to enter into the law. Now, why is it?" He said, "Well, my boy, you got off on the wrong foot." Well, I had read the scriptures, and I thought that all who believed that law had the right to enter into plural marriage. He said, "What is plural marriage?" I said, "Well, the book tells me that it is a law of the Holy Priesthood." "That's right," he said, "then if it is a law of the Holy Priesthood, it should be under the direction of the Priesthood, shouldn't it?" I said, "Yes." "All right, who told you to go and get another wife?" He said, "If you were going to be advanced in the Priesthood, being advanced from an elder to a high priest or a seventy, would you go to the President of the Stake and tell him you were prepared now to be advanced, and you would like to have him ordain you to a higher office?" I said, "No. I have never been taught that way. I was taught that if I was an elder, I should

remain an elder until I was called to be advanced." "All right," he said, "it is no different than the law of Celestial Marriage."

So, here is where I began to be taught the true order of the Priesthood. A little later, I met Brother Joseph Musser. I was talking to him one day when he said, "Roy, how many times have you tried to get into plural marriage? How many women have you asked?" I said, "That many, Brother Musser. They all turned me down." He said, "Well, I will promise you this, Brother Johnson, you won't have to go out and solicit them from now on. They will come to you." After I turned fifty years old, then I began to be added upon.

The Lord has blessed me. He has laid His hand upon me and placed a responsibility upon me that I feel very humble, my brothers and sisters, in laboring under the weight of the calling that I have. What I say regarding my life, I say in humility; for I know by the things that I have been taught that it is not my place to make light or be light-minded over the blessings that the Lord gives to me, or to any of His children. If we boast in our strength, then He turns us over to Satan to be handled. I have seen so many people turned over to the buffetings of Satan and how he handled them, that I don't want to be handled by him. I don't say that I haven't been. I think the Lord has tried me a few times to see what I would do under certain conditions.

I thank God for the health and strength that I enjoy today. I thank Him for the blessings of this people. It hasn't been very many years ago that when we gathered all our people together, we had one-third the audience we have here today. If we had all that were dedicated to the Priesthood as much as this audience is today, thirty years ago or twenty years ago, we could put them all in a building one-third as big as this room. President Musser and President Barlow would rejoice if they were to step into this room today and see as many as there are here eager to find out what they should do to round out their salvation.

The Lord has not permitted us to organize you any further than we have organized you. But He has put it into our minds to teach repentance to this people and teach them to prepare themselves

to be used when the One Mighty and Strong comes to set His house in order--set the House of God in order. This is what we are trying to do.

Enoch was three hundred and sixty years--or about that--trying to bring together a righteous people that they might be acceptable unto the Lord. We all know the story. If we will read the scriptures, we will find the covenants that the Lord made with Enoch when he left. One of the covenants that He made with him was that he should return with his people to the earth. And if we had all the record, we would find that this is true, that that time will come. The Lord is preparing the earth today for a new dispensation. The Lord has covenanted with many of His prophets that have dwelt upon this land that those who dwell here shall serve the God of the land or when they are ripened in iniquity, He will destroy them. I don't know how much more wicked a people can get.

When I read yesterday's paper, my blood ran cold. When the legislature of this great state that the Lord gave to the Latter-day Saints is trying to make it legal that men and women be sterilized, how close are we to the time of fulfilling the vision that the Prophet Joseph saw when he asked the Lord to close the vision, that it was more than he could stand, when he saw what would become of the people--the saints--even the Latter-day Saints; he saw it all. Brigham Young knew what was taking place--what was going to take place. And I don't know but what the other prophets of our time knew what was taking place.

Today, we are living in the midst of the most wicked generation that ever inhabited this earth--this part of the land. Not very long ago, one of the apostles of the Church, in speaking to a congregation, told them that never since the days of Adam had there been such a righteous generation as there was now. But he didn't give another sermon, the Lord took him.

My brothers and sisters, we are living in a time when we should pray night and day for the Lord to deliver us out of the hands of wickedness. We should be laboring night and day to set in order our houses so that the Spirit of God might dwell there. The Lord

placed this people, not only the Priesthood, but the whole Church under condemnation as early as 1832, and He told them they would remain under this condemnation until they repented. I don't know how much more we can do than to preach repentance to the people of this generation.

If we know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, if we know that Brigham Young was his true successor in the Priesthood, then we know that plural marriage is a necessity in this day and age; and we know that Celestial Marriage is not done away with. We know that God has continued the Holy Priesthood in the earth according to His word; for He told the Prophet Joseph when the Aaronic Priesthood was placed upon him that this Gospel of the Kingdom would remain in the earth until the sons of Levi offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness, and it would never be given to another people or taken away. So we have a right to talk like we do because of our lineage in the Holy Priesthood.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will listen to the things that we hear from this stand, that we will put them into practice in our lives, and that we will go home and set our houses in order and make our homes dedicated places to live in, that the Spirit of God might be there continually. I pray that God will bless you, each and everyone, for I don't want to see any of you fall away from this work. I want you to rally around the Priesthood and give them all the support that you can, and I want you to align yourself with the Spirit of God and let it be your guide and companion continually. May God bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 14, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I have been edified this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, and I trust that the few moments I speak, I will be guided by the Spirit of God. This is truly a day of preparation that we live in. The things that we have heard today are stepping stones to our preparation; and they are given to us under the inspiration of our Father in Heaven. So let us remember that these are truths of the everlasting Gospel, and they are necessary for the advancement of our individual preparation as well as our collective preparation. The Lord has said that we must become one or we are not His. So let us remember that these things are necessary for the advancement of this generation of people.

I can’t help but look at the conditions that exist in the world and in our immediate surrounding communities, and then look upon the opportunity that is offered to this little group of people here. The Lord has told us that we must continually prepare our young and middle-aged until the army gets very great, that He might have sufficient to promote His work in the earth. That is the reason that we stress the proposition that we prepare ourselves for that which the Lord is bringing upon the nations of the earth.

One of the greatest obstacles that we have to overcome is our indebtedness. A young man should be taught to be self-supporting and to become sufficient in his learning to be able to support those that the Lord might place around him. This has been the counsel of the Priesthood as far back as I can remember, that we should become self-sustaining and that we should be permitted to expand enough to take care of those who are placed under our care and to be honest with ourselves and with the Lord; then His work can increase and grow. When you sit back and say that you have nothing to give because it takes all that you have to live upon, then you should begin to take stock of yourself and see whether you have been honest with the Lord or not.

It has been my experience throughout my past life that if I wanted the Lord to bless me so that I can bless those who come under my care, that I remember Him first--and I mean first! I don't mean after expenses have been taken out, my bills paid, then if there is anything left pay my tithing. It has been my experience that if I wanted the blessings of Heaven, I sought for them through diligent efforts to please the Lord first. He said, "Try me, and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings you cannot contain." This has been demonstrated time and again in our lives, not only in my life, but the lives of others who I have heard bear testimony to the same thing. And after all, this is an individual preparation that we have to make. We can't wait for the other fellow to step out and show us how to do it, but we have to do it ourselves. There isn't a man that holds the Priesthood that hasn't the ability to get close enough to the Lord to be dictated by His Holy Spirit to round out his life and to round out his salvation, so that he can be acceptable to the Lord. Now, these are things that we need to take stock of. We should see to it that we individually are doing all that we can in order to promote and advance the Kingdom of God in the earth.

I pray the blessings of God upon us that we might hasten to prepare ourselves against that which is fast coming upon us, which is great, according to the testimonies that we have heard here today. God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 21, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I am greatly thankful unto the Lord for the preservation of my health and strength and that I am permitted to be here and hear what I have heard this afternoon. I am grateful for the presence of this congregation, for it is certainly a pleasing sight unto this Council to see so many come out to hear what the Lord has for us.

I can't help but reflect upon the things that have been spoken this afternoon and I want to continue to give unto you the word of the Lord concerning us upon the earth. I realize the great importance of our preparing for that which is soon coming. Many of us will remember what has been said and will be glad for the teachings we have received under the Holy Priesthood, for this is indeed a time of rejoicing among those who understand the hand of the Lord in this day among the people of the earth. God has been merciful unto His people. He has been merciful unto all men. He has given them a chance to accept or reject His word. He has also pronounced great blessings upon those who would listen to His word and the counsel of the Priesthood throughout the ages of time. He has also placed condemnation upon those who would not listen to His word and those who would persist in their wickedness. He has pronounced great blessings upon this land that we live upon.

For many, many generations, the Lord has spoken to the prophets and declared that those who dwell upon this goodly land that we enjoy today--if they would keep the commandments of God, He would bless them, He would prosper them, and He would send prophets among them to teach them according to His desires. This has been done; but, He says when they reject His word and when they are ripened in iniquity He would destroy them. This has also been done.

In our day, the prophets have reiterated the prophets of old, reiterated the word of God upon this land. The Prophet Joseph Smith said that he asked the Lord to show him what would happen to the saints; and before the vision was over, he asked the Lord to close it up because he couldn't stand it any longer.

We have the word of God with us, handed down from the Prophet Joseph Smith--yes, from the days of Adam--until now. We have had the word of God given to us, and we are without excuse. In the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants, the Lord says this:

(Verses 38 - 39)

> "What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.
>
> For behold, and lo, the Lord is God, and the Spirit beareth record, and the record is true, and the truth abideth forever and ever. Amen."

In another place the Lord says, "Haven't I given my word in great plainness so that a child could understand?" But we turn a deaf ear to what we hear.

There are many among us who seek for signs, so the Lord says. I am wondering how we look at these signs that we seek for. I have many people come to me for counsel and advice, and we give it to them, but instead of taking the counsel they receive, they go out to someone else to try to prove whether or not the counsel they got was right. Is this seeking for a sign? Think about it. To my mind, there are many among us who are sign-seekers. This is one of the ways that you can distinguish a sign-seeker. When a man goes to one of the servants of God for counsel, he should have his mind made up that he is going there to receive the word of God. He goes and asks counsel, and it is given. The man he is asking counsel from is supposed to have the Spirit of God upon him, and he will answer according to the will of the Father. And yet, when the counsel is given, he will go to another for counsel on the same thing. He isn't willing to take the word of God. He is going out to find a sign as to whether the man is actuated by the Spirit of God or not. This is displeasing in the sight of God and to the mind of God.

One time, as a man was leaving to serve time in the Penitentiary for living the Celestial Law, I heard him tell the head

of the Priesthood, “It doesn’t make any difference what happens to me, I will never deny that you have the keys of the Priesthood.” He was in prison for eight months, came out, and he wrote the Prophet a letter. In the letter he said, “You don’t have the ear-marks of a prophet.” Was this man seeking for a sign when he said he was going to the Lord for a new testimony of the men who held the keys of the Priesthood? Where is he today? He is still seeking for the men who hold the keys of the Priesthood. One of his sons was talking to me about a month ago. He said, “I saw Father today, and he said this to me: ‘I would be the most grateful man in the whole world if I could believe that these men hold the keys of the Priesthood.’” Had he been seeking for a sign? Apparently the Lord has never given him a new testimony of this work.

I am going to read from Section 63, just a few verses. (Verses 5-11)

> “Behold, I, the Lord, utter my voice, and it shall be obeyed.
>
> Wherefore, verily I say, let the wicked take heed, and let the rebellious fear and tremble; and let the unbelieving hold their lips, for the day of wrath shall come upon them as a whirlwind, and all flesh shall know that I am God.
>
> And he that seeketh signs shall see signs, but not unto salvation.
>
> Verily, I say unto you, there are those among you who seek signs, and there have been such even from the beginning.
>
> But, behold, faith cometh not by signs, but signs follow those that believe.
>
> Yea, signs come by faith, not by the will of men, nor as they please, but by the will of God.
>
> Yea, signs come by faith, unto mighty works, for without faith no man pleaseth God; and with whom God is angry he is not well pleased; wherefore, unto such he showeth no signs, only in wrath unto their condemnation.”

It would do this congregation well to go and read this whole section and ponder upon it; then see--take note of your actions--and see whether your faith is rooted deep or whether it is shallow. For this is a day of preparation; and before you get through reading this section, you will see that the Lord is not pleased with the generation in which we live.

I am skipping around in this section in my reading.

(Verses 32--35)

> "I, the Lord, am angry with the wicked; I am holding my Spirit from the inhabitants of the earth.
>
> I have sworn in my wrath, and decreed wars upon the face of the earth, and the wicked shall slay the wicked, and fear shall come upon every man;
>
> And the saints also shall hardly escape; nevertheless, I, the Lord, am with them, and will come down in heaven from the presence of my Father and consume the wicked with unquenchable fire.
>
> And behold, this is not yet, but by and by."

So, this is in the future, my brothers and sisters. We know what happened in the days of the Savior when He visited the people upon this continent. Fire came down and consumed many, not only people, but it consumed cities. There was nothing that could combat the fire that came down from heaven. So now He has said again that He would come down and consume the people by fire if it was necessary.

(Verses 35--37)

> "And behold, this is not yet, but by and by.
>
> Wherefore, seeing that I, the Lord, have decreed all these things upon the face of the earth, I will that my saints should be assembled upon the land of Zion;
>
> And that every man should take righteousness in his hands and faithfulness upon his loins, and lift a warning voice unto the inhabitants of the earth; and declare both by word and by flight that desolation shall come upon the wicked."

Now, the great stumbling block before this people is this disease that has come upon the people of the earth--the disease of seeking for signs. We have not stopped to think what a sign means in the eyes of the Lord. The Lord has also pronounced blessings upon those that would repent. That is what this Priesthood is trying to do--trying to get the people to repent of their sins and prepare themselves so that they might be used by God when He sets up His Kingdom in the earth; for He has said that this Gospel of the Kingdom is restored never again to be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. Now, these are the blessings that God has offered to the people if they will repent of their sins and become of one heart and one mind regarding the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord further says: (Verses 23--25)

> "But unto him that keepeth my commandments I will give the mysteries of my kingdom, and the same shall be in him a well of living water, springing up unto everlasting life.
>
> And now, behold, this is the will of the Lord your God concerning his saints, that they should assemble themselves together unto the land of Zion, not in haste, lest there should be confusion, which bringeth pestilence.
>
> Behold, the land of Zion--I, the Lord, hold it in mine own hands."

Now, may God bless us. May we study these things. Let us read more of the revelations of God to us. Let us get down to business and rid our minds of the evils that are besetting us. Many of the evils that possess our beings are not sins. If we will overcome them, the Lord will forgive them. He will forgive us, for He has said: "If you will repent, I will forgive you, and I will remember your sins no more before my face; but if you sin again, your former sins will come back upon you." Let us keep these things in mind. I pray the blessings of God upon this congregation and upon these people who are supporting the Priesthood today and those that come out to hear the voice of God in this day. I pray that God will bless each and everyone of them, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 28, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for being here this afternoon and hearing what I have heard. It has brought to my memory the many passages of scripture I have read and pondered upon and wondered about like other people. I trust that the few moments I occupy this position that the Spirit of God might rest upon me and that I might be able to speak according to His will. We have heard many good things this afternoon for our benefit.

We have many experiences come to us from day to day which cause us to reflect upon the conditions of the people, conditions of the Latter-day Saints, and the conditions of the world. We want to remember that we are living in a nation that the Lord favored so greatly that He visited it and selected a young man to commence His work of restoration in this generation; and, because of the peculiarity of his story, they put him to death. They were not ready to receive the testimony of Jesus. There are very few who have so far prepared their hearts to receive the testimony of Jesus in this land today compared to the many millions upon the earth. Yet, you will hear all denominations claiming to be Christians, believing in Jesus Christ. But we can say again what the Lord told the Prophet Joseph, that they preach for doctrine the commandments of men. They have a form of godliness, but their hearts are far from Him because He left a “strange” doctrine that we have heard explained to us this afternoon.

While the brethren were speaking, I had to open my book and refresh my memory upon a few points of doctrine that were given to the Nephite people. In comparison with the day in which we live, it is very similar. We have many men among us that profess that they want to live the Celestial Law. In days past, the Priesthood has administered to many men and given them the privilege of entering into the law of plurality. It was the charge that was given to the Prophet John Taylor, that he was to see to it that a year never passed but what children were born under the new and everlasting covenant or the law of plurality.

The Priesthood today is continually harassed by the complaints of women towards their husbands. I couldn’t help but look

up what the Lord had to say about this subject. I am going to read just a little. I am going to break the law of averages in this Gospel and skip around here and there and read verses that suit my need at this time. You know, the Latter-day Saints are accused with taking here a verse and there a verse in the scriptures and basing our religion upon that verse. I think this is something that the Latter-day Saints should study in order to convince themselves of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am going to read from the 2nd chapter of Jacob, which is the great controversy in the Church towards sustaining their stand on plural marriage. I am going to skip around in it. If you want to find where it is, read the chapter.

> "For behold, I, the Lord, have seen the sorrow, and heard the mourning of the daughters of my people in the land of Jerusalem, yea, and in all the lands of my people, because of the wickedness and abominations of their husbands."

That might make some of you men wonder what I am trying to get at. The thing I am trying to get at is why these women are complaining against their husbands. We hear a lot, not exactly against the women, but we hear a lot of instruction to the women to obey their husbands. But I want to tell you, that great responsibility is upon the husbands. That is what I want to put over.

> "And I will not suffer, saith the Lord of Hosts, that the cries of the fair daughters of this people, which I have led out of the land of Jerusalem, shall come up unto me against the men of my people, saith the Lord of Hosts.
>
> For they shall not lead away captive the daughters of my people because of their tenderness, save I shall visit them with a sore curse, even unto destruction; for they shall not commit whoredoms, like unto them of old, saith the Lord of Hosts."

Now, the next few verses I am going to read are the verses upon which the Church bases their great condemnation upon the law of plurality.

> “Wherefore, thus saith the Lord, I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph.
>
> Wherefore, I the Lord God will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old.
>
> Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none;
>
> For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts.”

There are men among this people who bear the Holy Priesthood who continually go out and seek the company of other women besides the ones that have been sealed to them for time and all eternity. These are the men whose women want to know what is going on. I want to tell you there is a responsibility upon the men, and especially the young men. I want the young men to listen to this. Brother Timpson read to you that when a woman is sealed to you for time and all eternity, you cannot commit adultery with her. I want to draw your attention to another point right here. You can’t go out and seek the company of another woman and have intercourse with her and claim that you can please the Lord in living the law of plurality; because you cannot do it! This is where the law of chastity comes in. Chaste means to be clean; and when you commit adultery with another woman, you are unclean in the sight of God! If you continue in it, you will be destroyed; for that is the work of God. The scriptures are full of it.

We are trying to prepare a people to be used by the One Mighty and Strong. I had a man come to me one day and say, "I understand that you have been teaching that you are trying to prepare a class of people that can be used by the One Mighty and Strong when he comes." He said, "Why don't you go up on the temple corner and preach repentance to the people and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ as you understand it?" I said, "I have not been told of the Lord to go up there on main street and teach repentance to the Latter-day Saints." This people are in the same condition that the people were two hundred years after Christ visited this continent. They have willingly rejected the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whether they know it or not; for the Lord has said: He that is guilty of breaking one of these commandments is guilty of the whole. The commandment to the people in this generation was to live according to the Celestial Law. So, when we discard the most saving principle of the Celestial Law, we are guilty of rejecting the whole. Mormon says this:

> "And I, being fifteen years of age and being somewhat of a sober mind, therefore I was visited of the Lord, and tasted and knew of the goodness of Jesus."

So, here is another young man, about the same age as the Prophet Joseph who was visited of the Lord.

> "And I did endeavor to preach unto this people, but my mouth was shut, and I was forbidden that I should preach unto them; for behold they had willingly rebelled against their God; and the beloved disciples were taken away out of the land, because of their iniquity.
>
> But I did remain among them, but I was forbidden to preach unto them, because of the hardness of their hearts; and because of the hardness of their hearts the land was cursed for their sakes."

Compare it with the day in which we live. We had the Prophet Joseph who was visited of the Father and the Son; and he was permitted to establish the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints upon the land. But soon after it was established and the Priesthood set up, he was crucified--martyred--call it whatever you want--they shed his blood. The men who the Lord set close to him had a great part to play in his martyrdom. The Latter-day Saints have suffered ever since.

Before the death of the Prophet, the Lord placed the whole Church under condemnation because they had treated lightly the things they had received. He told them that they would remain under this condemnation until they repented. According to the words of one of the Presidency of the Church--President Moyle--a few years ago, “This is the most righteous generation of people since the days of Enoch.” But the Lord didn’t allow him to live long enough to preach another sermon.

We are living in a great day, my brothers and sisters. We are living in a time when the Lord is trying to prepare a people, but He has closed the mouths of His servants in going out and preaching from the street corners, or going into the synagogue of the people and preaching. He has plainly told us that if they will not listen to the Lord, they will not listen to us--His servants. All we can do is preach to those who will come out, who desire to hear the word of God and be instructed by it, but even those have to be chastised for the iniquities that are among them. This is the reason we talk like we do. We want every man that will purify his life to do it so that he can be used when the call comes!

Repentance is unto all men wherever they are. If you are full of iniquity, get rid of it. The thing that the Lord wants more than anything else is for a man to purify his life and to repent of his sins and prepare himself to be used. This is all the Lord requires of us.

There are many things that we are slack in. All these things we individually know because God has blessed us with a knowledge of the difference between good and evil. Somewhere in the scriptures, He tells us that every person that is born into the world has enough of the Spirit of God to discern the difference between good and evil. Search it out. It is there.

I hope, my brothers and sisters, that we will pay attention to what has been told us this afternoon, and that we will hasten to rid ourselves of the evils around us. Let us not give the servants of God grounds to call us to order every day, every time they speak. But as long as wickedness prevails in the earth, I am afraid they will have to continue to preach as they have been.

Now, I am grateful for this day and for the people that have gathered around us and for the support that they have given us, financially and spiritually. I am grateful for all the honest in heart throughout the world, and I hope God will put a protection around them, that their lives might be preserved in this day and hour while He is cleansing the earth; for great destruction is going on from day to day.

Now, I pray that God will bless you with every blessing that you desire in righteousness and that He will hasten to satisfy your minds that you are trying to keep the commandments of God. God bless you, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 14, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful again for this wonderful privilege of beholding this wonderful audience that is before me this afternoon, I don't wish to detract from the spirit of this meeting, so I ask that the Lord will direct my remarks. We have heard some wonderful truths given to us, and I only want to encourage you to listen to what has been said and apply to your lives the truths of the everlasting Gospel.

This audience is in the same position today as was the audience of the man (the old prophet Jacob) who preached the sermon that Brother Timpson read to you this afternoon along with the audiences of President Taylor, Brigham Young before him and Wilford Woodruff after him. The same truths that would save the people then will save the people now. We are only trying to encourage you to search out the truths of the everlasting Gospel and apply them to your lives. They are before us; they are in the sermons of the early leaders of this work. We have the revelations of God to direct us. So we have no excuse to remain any longer in the condition that we are under. Women have got to learn to love one another. Men have got to learn to unite their women with them. And they have also got to learn to unite themselves with the Holy Priesthood, that they might be able to fulfill the covenants they made at the altar.

I want these men who have come under the direction of the Holy Priesthood to understand this--that these ladies have been sealed to you for time and all eternity. There will be a time sometime when the Lord may require them at your hands provided that you have not fulfilled the covenant that you made. If you have fulfilled all the covenants that are required for Godship, then you may be permitted to keep these women and have others given to you, that you might become a God in your own right. So great is this responsibility that unless you fulfill all these covenants, you come under that condemnation that has been so wonderfully portrayed to us this afternoon by President Hammon and others. Every man and every woman that has gone into the waters of baptism has had hands laid upon them for the gifts of the Holy Ghost, and you have access to the

revelations of the Holy Ghost regarding your own salvation and leave the revelations necessary for the guidance of the people in general to those who have been called to lead and guide the people.

If we take under consideration the responsibilities that have been placed upon us as individuals and seek to learn and know how to guide and direct those who have been placed by our sides, there is nothing to worry about.

I have said before, and I say again, that there is faith enough among this people to control the elements and to control the desires of our hearts if we will only exercise it. This can be done. It has been done in days gone by, and it can be done again.

Enoch perfected a people that he was permitted to take with him when he left this world. He has a promise of coming back again. Others have received the same promise and have gone on and are fulfilling the covenants that were made. Why not us prepare ourselves to a point where we can be used and have the glorious privilege of meeting again with these righteous people that have been led away with the promise of being returned at some future day and be met by the righteous people here. This is what we are working for. This is what we are laboring to prepare a people for. So let us prepare ourselves. Let us rid ourselves of all evil and apply the principles of righteousness to our lives. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 21, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I don’t know when there has been a time when people have been more blessed than the Latter-day Saint people today, and especially those who have it in their hearts to work out their salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord. We are truly living in a time when the Lord expects more of this people than ever before in the history of the world.

All the dispensations of time have been important to the establishment of God’s purposes in the earth. Adam came here and did his work, commenced the population of a righteous people upon the earth. He was commanded of the Lord to preach nothing but repentance to his posterity, to repent of their sins and get close to the Lord and work out their obligations that they made in the spirit world. We obligated ourselves before we came here by covenanting with the Lord that we would come down here and take upon ourselves bodies and do what we could to purify them and bring them back into His presence in a purified condition that we might be permitted to go on with them throughout the generations of time like He has. In other words, we came here to purify our lives and to become like God--to be able to obtain eternal increase.

Through the inability of the people to overcome the weaknesses of the flesh and to prepare themselves for a glorious resurrection, from time to time the Lord has had to bring disaster upon His people. History is full of the experiences that people have gone through in order to comply with the requirements that were made for the human family. We will take the Jaredites, for example. Not very many years after the great destruction at the time of Noah when the flood came, the Jaredites migrated to this part of the country, and we have all read what little history we have of their existence here and how they had to be destroyed because of their wickedness. Then we have the history of the Nephite people.

Prior to all these destructive incidents that have come, the prophets of God have come and preached repentance to the people, trying to get them to do something about their salvation. We read of a great commotion that took place upon this continent when Christ

visited the Nephite people in the meridian of time, and how righteous the people were immediately after this destruction took place. But it was only a few hundred years until they had to be destroyed because of their wickedness, because of the falling away, as Mormon put it. They willfully rejected the testimony of Jesus. For this great sin that was committed after so great a manifestation that the people had of the divinity of Christ and His work, we are told the more righteous were destroyed--all the Nephite people were destroyed--those that had taken upon themselves the name of Nephi.

The Lamanites, part of that body of people, were permitted to stay here, but they were without leadership. They dwindled in unbelief and roamed to and fro upon the land.

In our day, brothers and sisters, we had the wonderful privilege of having the Father and the Son come and bear testimony to us of the divinity of God and His work. Joseph, the Prophet, tells us the great story of that wonderful vision that he had of the Father and the Son and the instructions that he received. Today, we are a little over a hundred years from that wonderful day, and we find the people no nearer to the Lord today than they were in Joseph's time.

I wonder if we are about to have another experience of a prophet coming among us and trying to get us to repent and listen to the warning voice again before great destruction comes upon this great nation of ours. The Prophet Joseph Smith told us that he saw in vision the great destruction that would take place if the people wouldn't accept the testimony that he bore of the divinity of Christ and His work. I am afraid that that prophet has already come and sounded his voice to this great nation of ours. Anyhow, he sealed his testimony with his blood. This great and glorious nation is responsible for the martyrdom of that great Prophet. I am afraid that the only warning that the Lord is going to give this people from now on will be the testimony of the elders of Israel or the servants of God who have been called to keep alive these saving principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am afraid that the time has come when the Lord is going to pour out His judgments upon the wicked of this nation and the

nations of the earth until a way is prepared for the rise of the Kingdom of God and for the faithful saints to take their place. How many of us are prepared to receive the judgments of God when He pours out His judgments upon those we love? We love our brothers and sisters, our fathers and mothers, our friends and relatives. But do we love the Gospel of Jesus Christ more than we love our fellowmen? Are we willing to sacrifice that opportunity of a glorious resurrection because we love our neighbor? The Lord says the first great commandment is to love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength, and the second is like unto it: Love thy neighbor as thyself. These are two great commandments because all of the Gospel hangs upon these two principles. But how can we love those who we know are fighting the principles of righteousness? How can we love them? Some of us cling onto them. Is our love for men and women greater than our love for Christ and the principles of righteousness? These are questions that are in the minds of all people. How much am I willing to give for the testimony I have of the divinity of Christ and His work?

I wonder how many people will be prepared to receive the One Mighty and Strong when he comes to set in order the House of God. He has been here and started his work, but how many really believe it? How many are willing to sacrifice all that they have and be ready to go under any circumstances and build up and establish the Kingdom of God? We would all like to, but how many of us are prepared to do so?

There ought to be a thousand times more people gathered together today listening to the servants of God than there are, after a hundred years of preaching and teaching that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God and that he saw the Father and the Son. There are very few among us but what have a question in their mind as to whether this order of the Priesthood is right or not. Every once in awhile we have men come to us and say, “Isn’t there some other evidence that you can give us to substantiate your office and calling?” Others will say, “I want to be sure that I am on the right side, so I will come to your meetings and listen to what you have to

say. I will pay a little tithing to help you get along, but I am not going to with-draw entirely from the Church because I want to be on the right side when the time comes that I have to make a choice." We have already had to make a choice, my brothers and sisters, as to where we stand, whether we are for Christ and His work or whether we are for Lucifer and his work.

We are here to try to learn how to prepare ourselves to be used when the call comes by the One Mighty and Strong to set in order the House of God. And we are instructed from month to month, from week to week, yea, from day to day to prepare ourselves and our minds that we might be able to overcome the temptations that we will have to overcome before we are worthy of the great experience of assisting in the establishment of Zion. The scriptures are full of evidence that the Lord needs a prepared people, and those that will prepare themselves while they live are the ones that will be used in the establishment of Zion.

The old prophet said, "If in this life only we have hope, we are of all men most miserable." Enoch received the promise of the Lord that he and his people would come back and take part in the redemption of Zion. If that be the case, then there will be a lot of righteous people who will take part in that work, but there has got to be a lot of work done before that day comes. The House of God has got to be set in order. The work of redemption must be underway in order to receive them. Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. And in order to be prepared to meet with Enoch and his people we will have to have administered to us the ordinances of the Celestial Kingdom. These are what we will have to be prepared to receive.

We want to remember that the Lord tried to establish through the Prophet Joseph Smith a righteous generation, but because of unbelief and because we treated lightly the things we received, we were placed under condemnation. And this condemnation rested upon all the children of Zion and will remain there until they repent. So repentance is all that we can teach to the people. We might like to give you more of the word of God if you were able to receive it, but

Joseph couldn’t give all that the Lord revealed to him; Brigham could not give all that the Lord revealed to him. Neither can the servants of God give all that the Lord has revealed to them in this day. We would like to have a people come up who have enough of the Spirit of God upon them that they can understand.

We are told that the reason for our disobedience is because we don’t understand the scriptures. We go into the waters of baptism, come out and have hands laid upon us for the gifts of the Holy Ghost; and if we would keep our covenants with the Lord, He would open our minds to understanding until we were able to receive all that God has revealed to His prophets and to those who have lived righteous lives among the Latter-day Saints.

There are many who know and understand great things. This people could be greatly enlightened if we would labor with ourselves and bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that the Lord placed upon us.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us, and that we will listen to what comes from the mouths of the servants of God from this stand and apply to our lives the saving principles, that we might be permitted to know and understand what the Lord requires of us in the day in which we live. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 28, 1971, SUNDAY, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful for this privilege, my brothers and sisters, to be able to be here and to speak this afternoon. I trust that the Spirit of God will rest upon me, and that I may go on with the instructions that we have just received. We are continually being instructed of the Lord to get close to Him and keep His commandments. In my mind, going back over the conditions of the world and seeing the day in which we live, I think this is timely counsel for any people in this day. This Gospel has been before the people for a good many generations of time. At times, it has been obscured from the people, and there have only been a few on the earth that have known of its existence. At other times, prophets have come and brought people to their feet and tried to save those who would be saved from time to time. I think this is because of the determination in the minds of some spirits that have come upon the earth to know how and where to find the word of God sufficient to save their souls. I think this has gone on. I think it was the determination of some people prior to the great revelation that Joseph had to know and understand the will of God concerning them. It caused the Lord to visit the Prophet and give him revelation and try to set up His Church upon the earth.

Whenever the Lord has set up His Church and set the people in order and tried to save those who would be saved, the evil powers have combined to destroy that faith among those who had a desire to know more about their salvation. So great has been the opposition in the minds of people that whenever the work of God has been upon the earth and men have tried to bring about the purposes of God, the opposition has been so great that people have not been able to do what the Lord would like to see them do. So He has to place them under condemnation again because they treat lightly the things He gives to them.

Today we find ourselves in the same position as it has been in other stages of the world. The Lord set a great Prophet here--the Prophet Joseph Smith--gave him revelation and visions and has visited him at times and told him what to do in order to save a righteous

generation in this time. We are not very far advanced from that day, but we find little faith in the words that he spoke. The Savior told the people in the meridian of time when He visited them upon this continent that those who would believe His testimony or the testimony of His Gospel would be saved, and those that would not listen would be damned. The same opportunity was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith that all who would believe his testimony would be saved, and all who would not believe would be damned.

The words that we heard from the mouth of Brother Holm this afternoon are only encouragement to those who will listen and prepare themselves for that which the Lord has in store for them. We understand that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. The Celestial Kingdom is a kingdom where those who are true and faithful to the testimony of Jesus are bound to go. Those who fall short of that kingdom will have to take a lesser kingdom, we are told. But we will not be satisfied with anything less than the highest degree of glory in the Celestial Kingdom because that is what we are all working for. Those who believe the testimony of Joseph or the testimony of Jesus Christ will keep His commandments and apply them to their lives.

Rumblings come to our ears every now and then of further persecution among this people, and it is only the work of dissenters that is bringing about these rumors. Where there is smoke there is a little fire; where there is a little unrest, the enemy begins to work. So it is the duty and the responsibility upon this order of the Priesthood to get close to the Lord and keep close to Him, and to see to it that our children are taught to keep the commandments of God that we might go on and fulfill our mission here in the earth in righteousness regardless of what the enemy of righteousness might bring upon us.

We are told that in the Celestial Kingdom there are three heavens or degrees of glory; and in order to obtain the highest degree of glory, we must enter into and obey every law that God has given for the salvation of man including the new and everlasting

covenant of marriage. This must be obtained in order to gain the highest degree of glory in the Celestial Kingdom. These laws must be lived and obeyed.

Any man that enters into the new and everlasting covenant of marriage should begin right then to realize that he has taken upon himself obligations that are greater than any other obligation that he has ever taken. They are more sacred, and the Lord expects more of him than He has ever expected before. He should learn how to live and obey the law he enters into; for it is the most holy and sacred obligation that man has ever undertaken. Unless we can live and purify our lives in this order of the Priesthood, there is no hope for our salvation. So we must come up to the line and commence to learn how to live and obey the law as we enter into it and as we apply it to our lives.

The Lord has been very kind to His people. I am going to read just a little from the 98th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants.

> "Verily I say unto you my friends, fear not, let your hearts be comforted; yea, rejoice evermore, and in everything give thanks;
>
> Waiting patiently on the Lord for your prayers have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and are recorded with this seal and testament--the Lord hath sworn and decreed that they shall be granted.
>
> Therefore, he giveth this promise unto you, with an immutable covenant that they shall be fulfilled; and all things wherewith you have been afflicted shall work together for your good, and to my name's glory, saith the Lord.
>
> And now, verily I say unto you concerning the laws of the land, it is my will that my people should observe to do all things whatsoever I command them.
>
> And that law of the land which is constitutional, supporting that principle of freedom in maintaining rights and privileges, belongs to all mankind, and is justifiable before me.

> Therefore, I, the Lord, justify you, and your brethren of my church, in befriending that law which is the constitutional law of the land;"

We want to remember that the Lord God gave the Constitution of this land to our people--to the people who framed it. It was done under the inspiration of Heaven. Anything that is done against that Constitution is unconstitutional, and this we understood in the days of our raid. We knew what the laws of the land were and how the people had broken their covenants one with another in order to frame laws against this order of the Priesthood. The Lord gave the Constitution in such a way that He could establish His Church and Kingdom here. The Church could have been befriended if the people had done right, but they didn't. They broke the Constitution in trying to rule against the laws of God; but God will prevail over and above those laws that were instituted against us. In the days of the '53 raid, when I went before the lawyers that defended us, I asked them the question if they could defend us on the grounds that we were not law breakers. The first answer I got from them was no, they couldn't do it, because there was a law against the law of plurality--plural marriage. I told them then that until we could get lawyers that would defend this people who were trying to live a law that was given to them of God, we would never be successful. The next day, I got the promise from them that they would defend us on the grounds that we were not law breakers. It was upon those grounds that the Lord blessed us and saw to it that they couldn't do the things they said they could do to this people.

So great has been the blessings of God to us, my brothers and sisters, that we should sit up and take notice. That is the reason that you are here today--that this congregation is here--simply because of the faith of the people who were hauled before the courts, and the prayers of the people who did not have to go before the courts but whose faith and prayers went up to our Father in Heaven and helped to liberate us from the hands of the law. Under no other conditions could we have been wrested from the grasp of the evil powers.

This revelation that I have just read from means a lot to this people. It means a lot to this world if they only knew it. It is the only thing that could save the world. If they will read it, and study it, and apply it to their lives, they could avert the judgments that are coming upon us, and God would give us strength enough to go on and build up and establish His Kingdom in the earth. But it is like the Prophet said, they have waited too long, and the cries of the people are going up to deaf ears because they have treated lightly the things they have received. And we are still going on treating lightly the things we receive from this stand from Sunday to Sunday, from month to month.

The sooner we begin to cry unto the Lord night and day for deliverance from the grasp of the evil powers that are over us, the sooner we will begin to prosper, and the sooner the Lord will come out of His hiding place and defend our people. He has been very gracious to us to keep out of our midst, as much as He has, those who would seek our downfall. But they are still seeking to get in, and in some instances, they are making headway.

The evil powers are beginning to boil again, and men are lying about their positions--about the condition that they find themselves in. We hear of men saying that they have been members of our community here--people that we have never heard of say they have lived among us for years and they have been ostracized and driven out, their families have been driven out, and they want to know why. “Why, are we being thus treated?” The Lord tells us that Satan was a liar from the beginning, and these are conditions that have brought great persecution upon the former saints; and it will bring persecution upon the present saints. It is going to take the faith and prayers of those within our ranks to keep them far from us and make them stand their distance.

It has been made known to us from time to time, and we bore testimony from this stand, that if the people would do as they should do and stamp out of our midst the evils among us, the evil powers wouldn’t be able to come in and disturb us. But it is because we condone the evil that is among us that we are persecuted. When

people profess to be saints of God, and they are saints one day and sinners the next, the Spirit of God is grieved. It cannot exist among us like it would like to. One reason that Enoch and his people were taken away was simply because the Lord wanted to protect a righteous people; and, to leave them here in this land of wickedness would only destroy the faith that Enoch had worked so long to bring among a righteous people. We will find it is the same today. We will find that only those who will prepare themselves to be protected of the Lord will be protected. And those who will not--who are not able to bring themselves out from under the condemnation that God has placed upon us--are the only ones that God will not protect in the day of judgment when He is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked.

In the 76th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants, it tells us that those who were not valiant in the testimony of Jesus will have to go and inherit a lesser degree of glory. So let us not be content with a lesser degree of glory. Let us not be content with anything less than to be partakers of the Celestial Kingdom, and let us prepare ourselves. Let us work individually with ourselves to drive out every vestige of evil that is creeping in. Let us cease to find fault with one another. I hear of fault-finding every day among our people--among the best of our people. I find criticism going on. This should not be among this kind of people. We shouldn't find fault with one another. We should be charitable one towards another and overlook one another's weaknesses and imperfections. Let us cease to speak evil against one another, and then our neighbor will do the same thing. Once we bring up a people that can live together without bickering and quarrelling and speaking one against the other, then we will begin to get somewhere. That is what we will have to do before we can please the Lord to a place that He can bring the One Mighty and Strong to set in order His house. We will have to be able to love our neighbor as ourselves, to get the Spirit of God and keep it. The Spirit of God cannot be kept in a state of confusion. So let us see to it that we do not displease the Lord. Let us go to and

keep the commandments of God. Let us drive from our lives the spirit of contention--contending one against another--for this is the thing that kills the Spirit of God.

Now, I pray that God will bless us with a firmer determination to go on and live and obey the laws of God and apply them to our lives so that the One Mighty and Strong might come and set us in order, and that he might give us the full order of things, that we might go on and work out our salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord because we will have to do it. We will have to do just what He said we would have to do. We will have to pray night and day for deliverance from the enemies of righteousness, and it is fast coming upon us. May God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 11, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I want to express my thanks and gratitude to the Lord for the privilege of being here this afternoon, and I trust that the few words I speak will not detract from the spirit of this meeting. We have had many things given to us to build up our faith and strengthen us in our efforts to work out our salvation.

Joseph Smith was truly a Prophet of God. He saw the Father and the Son, and the Father bore testimony to the mission and work of His son, Jesus Christ. He admonished Joseph to listen to His words and he would become an instrument in His hands in furthering His work in the earth. We are trying, today, to keep alive the commandments that were given to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

I hear men say from time to time that this people doesn't have a spark of reverence for Jesus Christ. But such men are not in harmony with the Spirit of God or they would not make these remarks. We have heard and seen men who have spoken out against this people, against this order of the Priesthood, and we have witnessed the hand of God in closing their mouths. The time has come now when men who speak against this order of the Priesthood and its operations will not be able to speak out against it very long.

We read in history where men denied the Christ and continued to deny Him, against the persuasions of the Prophets of God. It tells us that the prophet warned one man and forewarned him that if he continued to speak out against the idea of a Christ that God would close his mouth, which He did. We have seen the same thing happen in our day, time and again, but in the minds of many people it has slipped by some way, or else we would step up to the line and take our place quicker than we do.

I remember a year or so ago when a man came out publicly against this people and tried in his heart to stamp it out. The Priesthood gathered together, remembered him before the Lord. The man, seemingly at that time, was in good health, but within a week they laid him away. Another incident in the case of Brother Zitting when the state's star witness was called on the stand to speak out against Brother Zitting--before he had a chance to open his mouth

against him, the Lord struck him and they had to carry him out and he never recovered. Another incident, at the trial of Carling Spencer and Price Johnson, a young man took it upon himself to see to it that John Y. Barlow and Leroy S. Johnson landed behind the same bars. He came out publicly and announced it--that he wasn't going to rest until this was accomplished. His brother, hearing him make the remark, warned him. He says, "If you continue your efforts against these men the Lord will strike you down." Which He did, but it was after he had gone to the President of the Church and asked for counsel and the President told him, "God bless you if you have got evidence to put these men behind the bars." He said, "Go to it." So the young man wrote a letter to his brother telling him what the President of the Church had told him, but within a week or so that boy was laid away. He didn't get a chance to speak out anymore against these men. I could continue to relate incidents in our day that are just as miraculous as in the days of Alma or Mormon or any of the other Prophets.

The other day, word came to my ears that there was a man in one of our neighboring towns bragging about his efforts to publicly denounce this people, and he came out in boldness and condemned us. I want to tell you that if this man continues to publicly denounce this people that God will close his mouth. He will never be able to speak against us again. I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, this is the day of the Lord that is being performed in the earth. The keys of destruction are turned against the world and turned against those who speak out against God's anointed. So they had better think twice before they speak out against what God has commanded us to do. Some may think that we speak boldly, but we are only speaking according to the will of God, for God is determined that His work shall go to the fore, and this is the day that He has designated to accomplish His work. He has said, "Stand ye in Holy Places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest." I am not afraid of what the enemy of righteousness can do against this people if we will do right. If we will continue to work with ourselves and to banish from our minds and our attitudes principles of unrighteous

living, God will see to it that we are protected, for He has said so. We have seen His arm made manifest in defense of this people in the past, and He will continue in the future if we will do right. We have been told plainly this afternoon what to do with ourselves and how to bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that God placed upon us many years ago.

Our time is far spent and I only wish to invoke the blessings of God upon this people and all who are striving with themselves to overcome and to banish from their lives the evils of this day. May God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 18, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I am greatly pleased to be with you again this afternoon and to see this magnificent audience here to listen to eternal life. I have been greatly interested in the remarks that have been made, and I don't feel to detract from the spirit of this meeting. I ask that the Lord will bless me with words that will build you up and give you a more firm determination to round out your salvation. I am greatly interested in the remarks of President Hammon, and how true they are. I can't help but think over the conditions of the people throughout the world from the beginning of time till now how hard the Lord has inspired His servants to try to teach the people so that they could round out their salvation.

We are living in a time when all of the prophets and the patriarchs of the olden days have looked forward to--when the Lord is winding up His work in the earth and preparing it for celestialization. I think the Lord meant what He said when He told the Prophet Joseph Smith that Zion could not be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. This is something that we should ponder upon and think upon. This is the proposition that has confronted the people in all ages of the world; for all people have a right to their salvation. But because of the covenant of the Lord unto Lucifer that he should be given a fair chance to combat the principles of righteousness, for he felt that because of his former standing with the Lord that he should be given an opportunity to show his power as well as for Christ to show His power among the souls of men, the Lord has said that He would give him a full chance with his power. The Lord said He would let Satan go the full length of his rope, but in the end He would show forth His hand and redeem His people. For the promise has been to the faithful throughout all the ages of the world that if they would keep the commandments of God, they would be saved and take their place in the mansions of our Father. This is one of the reasons that we continue to persuade our people to repent of their imperfections, their weaknesses, and to prepare themselves against the day of visitation when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked.

This land upon which we live is a choice land. The Lord has said that it is a choice land above all other lands; for it was an inheritance given unto the House of Joseph, unto whose hands the power of the Priesthood has been given. Through the seed of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt, the great promise of the Priesthood was given. We speak of the twelve tribes of Israel, but through the obedience of Joseph, he obtained the great promise. The other sons of Jacob all received blessings which shall be granted unto them in the winding up scene of the redemption of God's people.

Judah received a great blessing. The promise was made to him that the scepter of power would never fall from his hand; and yet, it was the House of Judah that crucified the Savior. Because of that great calamity, the Jews will have to wait until the last of the House of Jacob to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ and apply it to their lives. But these things must come to pass in our day, or in the generation in which we live. The Prophet Joseph Smith told us in the generation in which he lived that there were men living whose eyes should not be closed in death until all these things should come to pass, and that the redemption of Zion would be on its way.

My brothers and sisters, there is a great work to be performed among our people; but because of the opposition that is being exhibited against the rise of Zion and the redemption of Zion, a greater effort must be put forth by the believing--Gentiles, shall I say? That is what the Lord called it in our day. There are not many more of this Gentile world that will receive the Gospel. There might be a few of the more honest in heart throughout the world that will be gathered in through the great efforts of the Church of Jesus Christ to convert them to the proposition that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God; but very few of the converts to the Church will ever accept the Priesthood as it now stands. So we have got a great work to do, my brothers and sisters, in trying to prepare ourselves against the day when the Lord is performing His great work in the earth. There are not many more years left for His work to go forth and be performed among the nations of the earth.

The time will come that conditions will get such in the world that the Church will have to recall their missionaries and bring them home. This has been prophesied, and it will come to pass. I was reading this morning that new presidents of missions have been appointed and sent out, but little do they think of the calamities that are going forth among the nations of the earth. It has stopped the gathering--gathering out of the nations of the earth as the Lord told us to do. “Come out of her, O ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins,” and so forth.

I can’t help but think upon the great blessings that the Lord gave to the ancient prophets and apostles of His work. Nephi was one of the greatest prophets of Nephite history. He followed in the footsteps of his father, and he listened to his teachings. He was obedient to them, and the Lord blessed him with knowledge and understanding and with power to look down through the generations of time. He predicted of our day, and it was his desire to have the privilege of living in the time when the redemption of his people would come forth. On one occasion, he said that his heart was filled with sorrow nigh unto despair because he saw his people destroyed, and this took place according to the vision that he saw. Many generations later, so great was the destruction that he saw, he wept.

What did the Prophet Joseph Smith do? He wept also, and told the Lord to shut up the vision, because he couldn’t stand what he saw--what he saw in our day.

So let us prepare ourselves. Let us go from these meetings and ponder upon the things that have transpired in the past and see what the Lord has said about our day. Let us prepare ourselves against the day of visitation when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked, that we might be prepared as Brother Hammon has told us this afternoon.

Let us be sure that we are prepared to meet our Maker and to go home in peace and be able to live after this life is over. There are none of us that want to die and stay dead. We want to live again and be partakers of the great blessings that have been promised

to the faithful. So, let us overcome our weaknesses and imperfections. Let us apply to our lives the principles of salvation. They are plain. The Lord says that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. Let us try Him out. He says, “Try me and see if I won’t pour out blessings upon your head that you can’t contain.” So, let us put Him to the test. He is ready and willing to bless us. He is never too far away to find if we will repent of our sins and our short-comings.

There is faith enough among this people to do the work that the Lord has cut out for the righteous to perform. Let us prepare and become partakers of the blessings of eternal life, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 2, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful to be here, my brothers and sisters, and I am greatly pleased with the attendance at this meeting. This house is well filled which is a testimony to us of the desires of this people to learn more about their responsibilities in working out their salvation. I trust that the few moments I speak that God will put into my mouth the words that I should say, for truly we live in a day when great tribulation covers the earth and when greater effort must be put forth to prepare a people for the great work ahead.

I am reminded from time to time in the scriptures that the Lord is determined to redeem His people--Israel. Because of the faithfulness of such men as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and others, the Lord promised those men that He would do this for them. Knowing the hearts of the children of men, God knew what would take place in the earth. This great conflict has been going on throughout the ages of time. It commenced in Heaven before the population of this earth was begun. We all know the story of the great war that took place between the two great generals--Christ and Lucifer. This war has been going on throughout all time and will continue until Christ finishes His work, and all who had a desire to be saved would have the opportunity of proving to the Lord their worthiness.

The Lord has plainly told us that we cannot be saved in ignorance. We must have some knowledge of God and how to become like Him. That is our mission here. Our mission here is to learn how to do the same things that God has accomplished. In my perusal of the scriptures, I find that this is the theme all the way from the beginning to the end. God’s instruction to His saints in all ages of the world was to repent--repent of sin and to apply to their lives the principles of righteous living.

Today we live in a world that is full of commotion. We go out on the streets of our cities, and we see the evidence of disobedience on every hand. I am amazed sometimes when I think along these lines because of the great evidence we have before us in this goodly land of ours. When our forefathers came here to subdue this new country, they found a low and degraded people here. Later on a

record was brought forth--the ancient history of these Lamanite people. When I go among them and see them from time to time, I can't help but allow my heart to go out in pity for them. We understand that they were once a light and delightsome people like we see today here in this audience--men and women who had been taught the necessity of living close to the Lord and applying to their lives the principles of righteousness; but they willingly rejected the word of God. We see it on every hand--the evidence of this disobedience.

In some parts of the earth great excavations have been made and ruins of ancient civilizations have been uncovered. In uncovering these things we find the evidence of idolatry. This is another thing that has caused my heart to bleed. When I go into these cities of ours, into the market places, I find the shelves covered with idolatry--idols of every description. It has even worked its way into the clothing that is sold on the shelves of our stores. It has worked its way into the utensils that we use on the table in the home, on the water glasses that we drink out of. To put it in the words of the old Prophet Nephi, "O, the cunning of that evil one." It is enough to make a man weep who has had some knowledge of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the knowledge that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, then to go into these market places and see what is going on through the sources of evil to destroy--what? To destroy the faith of human beings. Not only that, but it has worked its way into the minds of our young people who roam the streets of the cities. They try to mimic what we see in this Lamanite nation. It is no wonder that the Lord placed us under condemnation and said that we would remain there until we repented.

The Lord is not anxious to wipe the wicked off the earth. He has said that He would leave them until they had filled their cup of iniquity before He would stoop to such a condition as to destroy that which He has created. No wonder that the old Prophet Alma said that he wished he could speak with the voice of an angel and declare repentance unto the people, and have them repent.

My heart rejoices in the fact that the Lord has said that in the generation in which we live, He would consummate His work, and

that the righteous among the nations of the earth would take part in the establishment of a righteous reign for a thousand years. It would be discouraging if I were to believe in my heart that after a thousand years, we would then go back into our present condition of living. However, the Lord has said that after the thousand years is over, Satan will be turned loose again to try the hearts of people; because He has said that babes would be born and live to the age of a tree during that time. They have to have the same opportunity as you and I to be tried in their feelings. I am grateful to the Lord for the opportunity He has given us to come out of the world and bring ourselves to a knowledge of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we might have some chance of salvation.

The Lord is very lenient with His people. Those who have not had the opportunity to hear the Gospel and the opportunity to apply it to their lives will be given another chance after death. But, during a Conference in Hurricane, Utah, one time, a great deal had been said about the possibility of people working out their salvation even after death. David A. Smith, who was in the presiding bishopric of the Church, got up to speak, and he leaned over the pulpit and said these words: “All you who have had an opportunity to repent of your sins in this life and you let it pass by and do nothing about your salvation here after you have had the testimonies of the prophets of God borne to you, I am afraid when you pass away that you will be a long, long time dead before you have another opportunity.” Think about it!

The record tells us that the old Prophet Mormon in the Nephite nation was only fifteen years old when he realized that the people were falling away from the true Gospel and taking up with idolatry. He asked the Lord if he should go among the people and preach repentance to them. The Lord said, “No, it won’t do any good. They won’t do what I say, and they won’t do what you say. They are rejecting me willingly, and there is nothing you can do.” The results of that we see in these Lamanite people. A great blessing has been left for them, and there is no doubt but what a lot of them will repent and be faithful. We have some evidence of it. We have

a very few people who have come out of the world and prepared themselves for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who have been converted to Mormonism and have wanted to know more than the Church could give them are well read. You will find that they know how to read the scriptures, and a few are trying to align themselves with this Gospel. Once in a while we find one that has intelligence enough to understand what is meant by the Celestial Law. We have had evidence of great faith among them. But this people who have been blessed with knowledge and understanding, who have had the opportunity of studying the Gospel of Christ and knowing the results of disobedience, and above all, those who have borne testimony that they knew that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and then continued to be dilatory in applying to their lives the principles that are necessary for our salvation, make it heart-breaking to the servants of God and those who know and understand these things and the necessity of applying to ourselves these great and glorious principles of salvation.

God knows and understands the hearts of men. He has given us from time to time the knowledge of how to discern good from evil. He has given us the key to know when we have the Spirit of God and when we do not. He has told us plainly that Satan cannot read our thoughts. Only God can read your thoughts unless you voice them. If you voice them, then Satan knows what is in your heart, and he will work on your weak parts. But one of the things that the Lord hates is one who harrows up in his heart vain imaginations. Why does He hate it? Because God has given us intelligence to know that Satan cannot read our thoughts. Yet, if he can’t read our thoughts, we think we can think up these things and we can get by with them. The Lord says that He hates that, and sooner or later, someone is going to drop a word and let Satan know what is in his heart. This is what the Lord hates. He hates for His children to give away the knowledge that they have of God and how He works.

So let us see that our thinking is along the right line. Let us see to it that we don’t imagine things that are not up-lifting

and helpful to us in gaining a knowledge of the truthfulness of our mission here in the earth.

Now, I pray that God will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding and with a determination to go forward and serve Him and keep His commandments. I pray that we can bring ourselves to a point where we can keep this place clean from invasion. I pray that we can get a hold of ourselves and teach and train these children that the Lord has sent to us in the proper manner that they might be able to do a better job than we older people have done. God bless you, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 9, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I have been greatly edified, my brothers and sisters, by the remarks of the brethren. We have been given the word of the Lord today in great plainness. We are now left without excuse. The responsibility is now upon you to repent and remember what has been said. One of the greatest testimonies of the truthfulness of what has been said today is the similarity of the remarks of the brethren. Each one has been led by the same Spirit in order to put over the message that the Lord has for us at this time.

I was impressed while President Jessop was speaking this afternoon to turn to the 9th Chapter of Alma which I think is one of the greatest chapters of the Book of Mormon. There are many that are equal unto it, but to me, this is one of the outstanding testimonies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I only want to read a few verses here. (Alma 9: 14, 15)

> "Now, I would that ye should remember, that inasmuch as the Lamanites have not kept the commandments of God, they have been cut off from the presence of the Lord. Now we see that the word of the Lord has been verified in this thing, and the Lamanites have been cut off from his presence, from the beginning of their transgressions in the land.
>
> Nevertheless I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable for them in the day of judgment than for you, if ye remain in your sins, yea, and even more tolerable for them in this life than for you, except ye repent."

It has been said here today that we are saved no faster than we gain knowledge. And where much is given, much is expected, and where much is given, greater light has been given; and he that sins against the greater light, reaps the greater condemnation. This people has been given more than any other people in the world. Greater effort is expected by the Lord from this people than any other people in the world. If we are not careful in the day in which we live, we will be in the same condition that the Lamanites were in

in the days of Alma. And furthermore, we will be in the same condition that the people he was speaking to were in because they had received the greater light, and greater would be their condemnation than those who had been born under the bondage of sin. So if this people persist in being dilatory in bringing themselves under the direction of our Father in Heaven, great will be our condemnation. We will be like unto what David A. Smith said, “I am afraid we will be a long, long time dead before we have another chance.” So let us repent while the day lasts. Let us be found on the side of our Christ. Let us listen to His teachings and assimilate our lives unto Him.

I pray that the spirit of repentance will rest upon us, and that we will listen to the counsel we have heard from the stand this day, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 16, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Another great day has rolled around. I am grateful for it. I am grateful for living in this time and for the testimony that God has given me of His glorious work. I am grateful for this people that have gathered around the Priesthood in our day. They are willing to listen to what the Lord has to give us; for truly this is a great day.

When I go over the scriptures and find the great period of time over which the Lord has inspired His servants to talk about--the day in which we live--it causes me to wonder if we are doing our duty in preparing ourselves against the day of visitation. We can go back more than five hundred years before the time of Christ when our progenitors came to this great land led by the hand of God in order to raise up a people that would serve God and keep His commandments, and the great sacrifices that were performed in order to bring about an attempt to prepare a people against the day of visitation when God pours out His judgment against the nations of the earth. Many years before that the Lord brought a people to this land, and He told the leader of that people, the brother of Jared, that He would lead him to a land that was flowing with milk and honey, choice above all other lands. Those who possessed the land must be a God-fearing and a righteous people or when they were ripened in iniquity, He would destroy them.

When the great prophet Lehi led his little colony across the waters and started the colonization of this great continent, these same principles of salvation were taught to his people. Repent ye, repent ye, and be baptized and keep the commandments of God. These are the principles that have been taught throughout the generations of time, from the days of Adam until now.

Nephi speaks of the great and abominable church, the whore of all the earth. He tells us who belongs to this great and abominable church. He says, “All those who fight against Zion--” I thought I would read it. He speaks here many times of the great and abominable church, the whore of all the earth, and how this great church will fall--in other words, the church of the devil. And all

those who do not belong to the Church of God belongeth to the church of the devil. There are only two churches, He says; One is thee Church of God, and the other the church of the devil, and he that fighteth against Zion or against the Church of God belongeth to the church of the devil.

In our day, we have been told this afternoon, Joseph Smith came here and set up the Kingdom of God. He set in motion the principles of the Celestial Kingdom that a people might be prepared to take their place in the redemption of Zion--in the establishing of the Church of God in the earth. Let us repent of our sins. Let us get down upon our knees and pray night and day for deliverance from that great and abominable church of the devil.

We have been told this afternoon that Satan will be given a full reign of power that he might destroy the work of Christ; for he is determined to win this great battle that has been fought from the beginning of time, as far as our existence is concerned. The Lord has said that righteousness shall prevail. Righteousness means that a people will be prepared to overcome the devil and his work. I wonder--I wonder how much longer the Lord is going to extend the day of redemption of His great Kingdom--the Kingdom of Christ, or the redemption of Israel as His promise was made unto the ancient prophets, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Our mission here is to search out the righteous from the ends of the earth. The Lord has missionaries all over the earth making it possible for those who are searching for righteousness to find it. He started this work with the Prophet Joseph Smith. He had the Prophet Joseph send out missionaries to all parts of the earth preaching the everlasting Gospel. In Joseph’s time it only reached a few of the nations of the earth; but since that time missionaries have been all over the world teaching that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God in the latter days.

In the last thirty years the greatest missionary program has gone out over the earth that has ever been. This order of the Priesthood commenced a program of reprinting the Journal of Discourses, which are the sermons of all the early leaders of this

Church from Joseph Smith until our time, which contain the everlasting Gospel as it was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith and his successors.

These Journals now have been placed in all the nations of the world where they can be found by the honest seekers for eternal life; because the Lord has said that He would lead the honest in heart to the fountains of truth. Are these the fountains of truth? Are there any other missionaries in the world that are preaching the fullness of the Gospel? Many thousands of sets of the Journal of Discourses have been scattered throughout the world. The honest in heart have no reason to complain that they have not had a chance; for missionaries have gone forth teaching that Joseph was a prophet by word of mouth, and these books have been placed where the honest in heart can find them.

Many people have been brought to the feet of the Priesthood, and they have sought to know more. That is what has brought you here. You wanted to know more about what to do to round out your salvation. This is the only place on the earth where the fullness of the everlasting Gospel is being taught from month to month. They will teach you, yes, in other places, that Joseph Smith was a prophet and that he was visited by the Father and the Son; but the principles of the Celestial Kingdom have been discarded. You can only receive the fundamental principles of the Gospel--faith, repentance and baptism. This is the only place that you can go on and be taught how to become like God, with the understanding that you have the right to apply to your lives every saving principle that was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith. This is the only place you can hear it.

This book (the Three-in-One) is full of them--full of the revelations of God. It dates back to more than five hundred years before Christ, telling us of the great destruction that was coming upon the earth--through disobedience to the principles of righteousness. The Lord has said that when the people of the earth are ripened in iniquity, He will destroy them, because the earth was made to abide a Celestial Kingdom. So this earth has to be celestialized. It has to live the measure of its creation. The people who live upon it must be celestialized or go down with the telestial kingdom.

Now, let us be among those who are sanctified in the Celestial Kingdom of our God. This is the only place in the earth that you can be taught, or that any people can be taught these truths. I have had men tell me that this is not the only place on the earth that the fullness of the Gospel is being taught, for Christ said that He had other sheep to visit who are not of this fold--people that have been led away out of the midst of this people. He went to preach to them. But where are they? Why did the Lord send the Prophet Joseph here to set up the Church and the Priesthood that the honest in heart throughout the world could flow to it and be instructed how to live and how to be saved? This Gospel of the Kingdom, so says the Father, has been restored never again to be taken away or given to another people. Some say that the fullness of the Gospel has been taken away from us and taken to some other part of this continent; but this is not so. The Prophet of God might have gone to some other part of this continent and given blessings to people, this Priesthood has gone to other parts of this continent and given blessings to people; but this is the only place where the fullness of the everlasting Gospel can be administered.

The three Nephites and John, the Apostle, might be traveling throughout the world administering to the people, telling them how to live and prepare themselves against the day of visitation; but where will you find another organized Priesthood? I haven’t heard of it.

Let us draw in the wanderings of our minds, my brothers and sisters. Let us study the scriptures. Let us prepare ourselves for that which is to come. When the One Mighty and Strong comes to set in order the House of God, he has to have men and women he can depend upon. That is what we are trying to teach. We are trying to raise up a body of men who can be told the secrets of the Kingdom and know that they will keep them, but very few can we find that will do these things.

When we hear the secrets of the everlasting kingdom, we want to tell them to our neighbor. The Lord says that when He reveals something to a person, that person has no right to divulge it unless He tells him to. How many of us are that well trained that

the Lord has that much confidence in us? Sometimes we reveal too much, so says the Prophet Heber C. Kimball. He said, “The thing I am afraid of is that we have revealed too much to this people.”

We are living in a day now when the time is short. The time is becoming shorter every day for a people to be prepared. This people will not all pass away until they will see great tribulations in the earth. They are going to have to have the Spirit of God upon them in order to survive the great tribulation that is fast coming upon this nation, as well as other nations. Unless we repent, we are going to be in danger of being swept off with the wicked because this nation is almost ripe in iniquity to that point where the Lord will have to destroy them. Except they repent speedily, this will be the case.

Now, I pray that God will bless us with an understanding, with a determination to understand and to apply to our lives the principles of salvation, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 23, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I have been very much interested in the remarks that have been made here this afternoon. I am delighted in the testimonies of these sisters and elders that have borne their testimonies here. I am grateful for the remarks of President Hammon. When we have to labor under the curse of a broken law, it is a great cross upon the people who try to get close to the Lord and keep His commandments. I hope that the Lord will bless me with His Spirit that I might put something over here to substantiate the wonderful sermon we had read to us this afternoon.

When our old grandfather Lehi left Jerusalem, he left under the direction of the Lord and he was guided by the Spirit of God in his journeys to this wonderful land. I am going to take his life and journeys and his posterity after him this afternoon to bring out the point I would like to leave in your minds. This man's posterity we see scattered throughout the land in a degraded condition at the present time. We see evidence around us every day of men and women trying to imitate the degraded condition of the descendants of this great man, Lehi.

No wonder the Lord has said that when the people are ripened in iniquity He has to destroy them. This is one of the evidences of destruction. It has been depicted in the lives of disobedient people in the past, and we have a record of it. So, when we see these conditions coming upon the people, we can put it down in our log book, as Brother Kimball used to say, that these conditions are upon us.

Nephi, in giving instructions to his son and to the people in his declining days, gave a history of the condition of the world in which we live today. He saw down through the stream of time and saw our time, and he knew what was going to take place.

Brother Hammon mentioned the placing of the people under condemnation because they had treated lightly the things they had received at the hands of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Through the inspiration of the Lord, the Savior of the world, Joseph tried to set up an order that would provide eternal salvation for those who would repent and apply to their lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We finally were driven to the Rocky Mountains because of our determination to try to bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that the Lord placed upon us. Or, had I better say, that the leaders of this work in their efforts to bring up a people that would redeem themselves from this curse migrated to the Rocky Mountains. President Young established them in different parts of the land. We all know the story of what took place.

Let us see what Nephi said to his people. I am only going to read a little. (Second Nephi, 28:19-20)

> "For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must be stirred up to repentance or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger, and perish;
>
> For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good."

What took place in the days of John Taylor, in the great crusade against the Celestial Law? Think about it. Brother Woodruff, I think, made a statement something like this: "We will pacify the enemy, and then we will go about and live our religion secretly." But, let's see what Nephi said about it.

(Second Nephi, 28:21)

> "And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well--and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell."

Did he see our time? Can we just get a glimpse of the awful chains under which we are laboring to try to break in order to get to a point where we can please the Lord in all things?

I would like to leave this thought with our people, that as long as there is evil existing in the families of those who profess to be Latter-day Saints and believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, the Lord cannot bless them as He would like to. He is trying

to purify a people at this time as President Hammon has told us. He is trying to bring out a people from among the Latter-day Saints who have believed that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and that he actually saw the Father and the Son and was instructed by them. He is trying to bring out a people who will rid themselves of all iniquity. For again, the Lord says: (I am going to read from the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants, verses 31-33).

> "For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance;
>
> Nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven;
>
> And he that repents not, from him shall be taken even the light which he has received; for My Spirit shall not always strive with man, saith the Lord of Hosts."

So, the thing that the servants of God are trying to do at the present time is to get a people to rid their lives of all iniquity. When that time comes then will the blessings that Joseph Musser pronounced upon this land come to pass. But, as long as we condone the iniquity in our midst that exists here today, we are going to have to expect just such weather as we have had in the last few days. We are going to have to labor under distressed circumstances until we can learn to cry unto the Lord night and day for deliverance. This is the word of the Lord unto this people, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 30, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I have been greatly edified, my brothers and sisters, with the remarks that have been made today. I trust that the few moments I occupy this position, the Lord will put my mind at ease by dictating my remarks. I am greatly interested in our young people, because the Lord has said that He would take the young and middle-aged and redeem Zion. I am greatly concerned about their testimonies, about the work that we are trying to give them at this day and hour of our existence. We have heard quite a number of our young men and women bear their testimonies lately, and I am greatly pleased with what I have heard; for it goes to show that there is a little coming out in the character of our young people of the instructions given by the present Priesthood Council and those of our brethren who are determined to see the advancement of this work.

We are living in a day when great tribulation covers the earth. This tribulation has been brought about through the wickedness of men and women. It has been said that the perilous times that we see around us will not cease until Christ comes. However, the Lord has provided an escape for the faithful of His children, and He plainly tells us that He is no respecter of persons. Anyone who desires to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections and apply to their lives the teachings of our Savior is counted as His children. I think it was Nephi that made the remark that all who fight against the work of God belong to that great and abominable church which must fall.

There are only two ways to go. One is to go the pathway that leads to eternal life, and the other is the pathway that leads to eternal damnation. This people is required of the Lord to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections and apply to their lives the principles of salvation, or to learn how to travel the road to eternal life.

The Lord is very out-spoken in His determination to save and exalt His children. I often refer to the Doctrine & Covenants for the word of the Lord to His people. I am going to read a few verses to let you know how and what the Lord requires of us.

In the 104th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants, we find this--I will let you search it out when you get home, because this whole section is one that applies to the saints in our day. The Lord has specifically said that unless we are one, we are not His. He established the United Order to be lived and obeyed for the salvation and exaltation of man. You heard President Hammon say today that until we can become united, we will have to go along in the rut that we are in. So we will have to make our own roadway up out of the rut. The Lord has placed the responsibility upon each and every individual to make his own way unto the road to salvation. No man can do it for you--it doesn't make any difference how much he preaches or how much he desires to see the people prepare themselves for an exaltation, it is still the individual responsibility that rests on the man and the woman.

The Lord says this:

> "With promise immutable and unchangeable, that inasmuch as those whom I commanded were faithful they should be blessed with a multiplicity of blessings."

This is what the Lord has promised to the faithful.

> "But inasmuch as they were not faithful they were nigh unto cursing.
>
> Therefore, inasmuch as some of my servants have not kept the commandment, but have broken the covenant through covetousness, and with feigned words, I have cursed them with a very sore and grievous curse.
>
> For I, the Lord, have decreed in my heart, that inasmuch as any man belonging to the order shall be found a transgressor, or, in other words, shall break the covenant with which ye are bound, he shall be cursed in his life, and shall be trodden down by whom I will."

So, we see by this that the Lord is very determined that men and women do certain things, or they cannot be counted among His people.

> "For I, the Lord, am not to be mocked in these things--
>
> And all this that the innocent among you may not be condemned with the unjust; and that the guilty among you may not escape; because I, the Lord, have promised unto you a crown of glory at my right hand."

The Lord has promised us a crown of glory if we will keep His commandments. We will remember that this revelation was given in 1834. As early as 1831, this order was given. In 1832, the whole Church was placed under condemnation because they treated lightly the things they had received. And by 1834, they were nigh unto cursing.

> "And all this that the innocent among you may not be condemned with the unjust; and that the guilty among you may not escape; because I, the Lord, have promised unto you a crown of glory at my right hand.
>
> Therefore, inasmuch as you are found transgressors, you cannot escape my wrath in your lives.
>
> Inasmuch as ye are cut off for transgression, ye cannot escape the buffetings of Satan until the day of redemption."

Brother Hammon has called us to repentance today, and he has laid at our feet some of the responsibilities that are upon the heads of the parents of the children--the young men and young women that are in this congregation. The example that is set by the fathers and mothers of these children is a great responsibility upon the parents. If we believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and that Jesus Christ established His Kingdom or His Church through that man, then we are bound by oath and covenant when we go into the waters of baptism to never sin again, but to purify our lives and to come out from under the condemnation that the Lord has placed upon us.

In days gone by, the prophets of God were sent among the people to warn them of the great destruction that would come upon them if they did not repent. It has been about a hundred and thirty-seven years since this revelation was given. How big is the

congregation of people that can stand up and be counted as worthy to take their place in the army of Zion that will be called to go up and redeem Zion?

The Lord tells us in one of His revelations that He had called for five hundred faithful men to go and redeem Zion, and Zion would have been redeemed. He came down to two hundred, and then He even came down to one hundred, but Joseph couldn't find them. So, He had to curse them. That curse remains upon this generation in which we live.

It is time, my brothers and sisters, that we should quit being dilatory in our determination to serve God and keep His commandments. In former days when the Prophet was sent among the people to warn them of great destruction, the people were dilatory in preparing themselves, and the record tells us of the great destruction that came upon them. We see the evidences of it around us today.

Now, the words that the Lord gave to us in these revelations are binding upon us, each and everyone of us. I'll tell you, when you come to examine the seriousness of this revelation to this people, it should cause the heart of every man and woman that has a child in this earth to fall down and mourn over the conditions they are in and beg the Lord night and day for deliverance from the powers of evil, that a righteous people might be raised up. He has said that He would raise up a righteous people. If He can't convert them, He will raise them up. I hope that the servants of God can put this over to this young generation that is coming up, that sufficient of them will have the power to teach righteousness in their families--commence when they first start out in life to inculcate in the hearts of the newborn that they will not sin; for we have got to come to this before we will be acceptable to the Lord. Now, we might laugh at it, but this is right. I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, this is a serious matter. The Lord is trying to redeem a people who are guilty of laboring under the curse of a broken law, and that law must be lived before God can accomplish His work.

We are given a job to do here in this life by someone who has built up a business, and there are some things that are “musts” to comply with in order to make a success. The Lord has laid down before us here today the “musts” that He requires us to comply with before He can accomplish His work.

Now let us go to! Let us overcome our weaknesses and imperfections. Let us commence to live so that we can claim the blessings of God upon us when we find ourselves in great tribulation which is commencing to cover the earth at this day--the day in which you and I live. God is commencing to destroy the inhabitants of the earth so that His Kingdom can rise and take its place. Are you and I going to be ready and prepared to be part of the goodly blessing of taking part in a thousand years of peace that the Lord has offered to us? Or will we have to go by the way and see our grandchildren take that blessing away from us, and we be destroyed? That is what He has promised us--that unless we take our place and come up to the mark--that we will be destroyed and someone else will be partakers of the great and glorious day that He has promised to the faithful.

These are a few things that we should think upon--the things that we have heard here today. Let us go home and see what we can do about it. May God bless you, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 13, 1971, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

Again, my brothers and sisters, I am grateful for the privilege of being here. I am truly grateful for the day in which I live, and for the things I have heard this afternoon. I trust that the Lord will put into my mouth the things I should say that will tend to make us a better people and hasten the time for our privileges of redemption. This is truly a day of fear and trembling before the Lord.

Just prior to the advent of the Savior visiting this continent and the Nephite people, prophets were going through the country and teaching these things--prepare ye, prepare ye for the coming of our Lord. What did the people do? They stoned them to death. They put them to death in other ways, tortured them, drove them out of their cities and wished that they would starve to death.

The Lord has said that He would have a tried people, that He would take the young and middle-aged and redeem Zion. We give them instructions from time to time to do certain things, and most people sneer at the idea and say, “Why? Why should we do this? We have plenty. The Lord is blessing us. The Lord has been good to us, and we have good homes, plenty to eat and wear. Why should we worry about doing all these things that they ask us to do?” But the Lord has said throughout the generations of time for us to be prepared for that which is to come. If there was ever a people tried, it is this people today. They are being tried in their feelings. They are being tried by the Priesthood--to get them to do right and apply to themselves the principles of righteous living.

People have not taken advantage of the advice of the brethren to plant gardens and raise that which they need. So we have to have a community garden. We have to send out to the neighboring towns to glean the fruit necessary to take care of our needs. I am reminded that we have gone out and bought an orchard of fruit. Now, this is a year of plenty in some places. Some places the fruit crop is better. Other places the fruit crop is short. This people should be mindful of the things that they have been counseled to do--in the days of plenty, prepare for the years of need. This has been the cry throughout the generations of time. Had it not been for the Spirit

of God resting upon His servants in times past, this people would have suffered more--which they did anyhow. They had to travel a great distance in order to obtain the necessaries of life. If it had not been for the Spirit of God resting upon one of the servants of God, they would not have been amply cared for.

We do not think that some of the things that we are offered are up to what we expect in this day of plenty. It should be our anxious desire to save and preserve everything that we can get hold of for our preservation of life.

In talking to one person yesterday, I said, “Are you taking advantage of the fruit that is available and filling your bottles?” “We only have bottles enough for our peaches or our apricots. We don’t want to fill them up with cherries, and especially the kind of cherries they are bringing in.” What cherries I saw have been good. Some have been small, others, a good size, but I want to tell you that if we don’t take care of that which the Lord provides, that the time is coming when we will suffer for the necessities of life. Some have also said that they only had a few bottles, but while we can get bottles, we had better get a hold of them. The time may come when we can’t get them. If we will take care of them, they will last us from year to year; then there will be another process that we might have to go to, and that is the drying of our fruit. So why not prepare for it, learn to use it in anyway that we can. If we can’t afford bottles, let us dry our fruit. It can be done. And, either way, it is useful for the food of man.

I understand that Brother Wyler has bought an orchard and people will not take that which he brings in for our use. What kind of people are we? There are people that call upon the storehouse for fruit that someone else has bottled. Why do we do it? There are some families in our midst that say that they can’t bottle fruit, but I know that you can. I know that there is not a woman that is raising a family that cannot bottle her own fruit if she will lend the effort to try.

Inasmuch as this is a community project, I am going to put the responsibility upon the heads of the families to see to it that sufficient money goes into the hands of Marvin Wyler to pay for the

orchard, and he will deliver the fruit here. We have canning facilities that if taken care of, will be able to process the fruit that the man can bring into this place. There are enough bottles here to take care of it.

The Lord allowed a lot of our fruit to be destroyed that we had bottled last year. Are we going to take it as a blessing, or are we going to take it as a chastisement from the Lord because we tried to save fruit? There is a lot of fruit that is bottled that is palatable; it is good to eat; it is available. If our people are out of that kind of commodity, why don't you go and get it rather than to go without?

The Lord doesn't bless us every year with a bounteous crop. This year he has thrown out another challenge to us to see what we would do with it--whether we are going to accept it as a blessing and lay away that which the Lord has provided--or are we going to let it go to waste then cry unto the Lord to provide for us when we need it. Some people like peaches; some like apricots; some like cherries; some want their bottles filled with apples. I have no doubt but what there are enough apples bottled in this community to keep us for some time, but the time will come when we will need it. So let us keep our bottles full. If it takes all our bottles to bottle what cherries we can take care of, let's fill our bottles and ask the Lord to provide more when the next crop comes. But let us not turn down the opportunity of providing for those we love.

Christ said, "He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him." If a man says he loves his family and will not provide for them, he is a liar and the truth is not in him. We had better prepare to take care of that which is necessary for our keep. The Lord is not pleased with us when we allow that which He has provided for us to go to waste, if there is a way to preserve it.

We say that we will do anything that the Priesthood asks us to do, but as soon as the Priesthood asks us to do things, we begin to make excuses. What does the Savior say about this? He went to one man and told him to sell all that he had and follow Him. The man said, "I have to go first, Master, and prepare my house for my

absence." He said to another, "Sell all that thou hast, give to the poor and follow me." The man said, "I have a lot of profit; I will first have to divide it up among my children. I have a large family; then I will come," and so forth. And what was Christ's answer? "He that putteth his hand to the plow and looketh back is not worthy of the Kingdom."

We have been instructed time and again to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation when God pours out His judgments upon the wicked. We have also been told that if we would live right, we could control the elements, but we haven't been able to control the elements so that we could get the Lord to smile upon us like we would like to have Him do here in this community. This is the only body of people, those who have gathered around the Priesthood at the present time, that have the wonderful opportunity to prepare themselves against the judgments of God because no other people are being instructed this way--in how to prepare ourselves and whose voice to obey. If we will go to the scriptures, we will find out that this Priesthood teaches nothing except that which the Lord has revealed to His servants the prophets. Let us prepare ourselves. Let us let the Millennium start in our community. It has to start somewhere.

The time is fast coming upon us when the words of President Joseph Musser will be fulfilled in this place. He said, "If you will keep the commandments of God, those who are among us who will not keep the commandments of God will get discouraged and move out." I don't want to lose anyone, whether they are young people, the middle-aged, or the old that are under the sound of my voice. I want all of you to begin to prepare yourselves more diligently to become the servants of God in helping to build up and establish Zion. I don't wish to keep you any longer, for our time is far spent. Let us take advantage of the opportunities that we have in preparing ourselves against the day of visitation.

The Lord commanded Orson Pratt to prophesy. One of the prophecies that he uttered was that the time would come when this nation would be broken up into little bands going through the land destroying property and killing and marauding and destroying that

which the Lord has provided for His people. It is in our history. We can find it if we want it.

The time may come when we don’t have access to the orchards of Hurricane, LaVerkin, and other places where we get our fruit. So let us plant a few more trees. Let us get our homes in a condition where we can take care of our own needs. Let us free ourselves from debt, so that that which we possess will be ours, and it won’t belong to the Gentiles, for the Lord has spoken out very heavily through the mouth of Isaiah against the people of the latter days--the Gentiles of the latter days during the preparation for the redemption of Zion. God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 20, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I, too, am grateful for this day in which we live. I can't help but think back upon the conditions under which our fathers were tutored and trained in order to bring us to this goodly land and in order to bring us forth under the new and everlasting covenant.

My father's people were Gentiles and very much opposed to the idea that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. However, my father's father was a polygamist. He had two wives and raised two families in the same home at the same time, but not under the direction of the Holy Priesthood because he knew nothing about the Priesthood. His son, Warren, was a studious boy and went to college and graduated when he was twenty-five years old from one of the eastern colleges. Just a few months before he graduated, he took sick. The doctors told him that he only had a few months to live because he had a disease that in those days was hard to cope with. They told him that his life might be spared a little longer if he would migrate to the West Coast. So, he prepared to migrate to the West Coast. He got as far west as Dubois, Idaho, after suffering many set-backs and trials along the way, which to us, some of them are wonderful experiences and others are laughable.

When they left the east, they had a nice buggy and a nice team of horses. They hadn't gone far until one of the horses died. They tried to get another horse, but they had to settle for a mule. They traveled some time with a horse and a mule. Something went wrong, and the horse died. They tried to get another horse or a mule, but they had to settle for an ox. So they traveled for some time with an ox on one side and a mule on the other. Finally, they lost the ox. So they traded the vehicle for a saddle. And they loaded the mule down with what bedding they could get along with and a change of clothes, and they started on.

One of them would ride the mule down the road for two or three miles and tie it up, and he would get off and walk. The other man would come up and get on the mule and ride down to his companion, then he would ride on past a ways, get off and tie the mule up and

walk. They called it “ride and tie.” That is the way they came across. When he got to Dubois, Father was so sick he couldn’t travel on any further; so his companion took the mule and the saddle and went on to California and left Father to die. But he started to get better, and while he was getting better, he would go down and sit in the lobby of the hotel and listen to the stories told by the people who patronized the hotel. They got to telling stories about the Mormons down in Salt Lake City--about their horns. They told such fantastic stories about the horns of the Mormons that Father got excited in his inner soul and wanted to go by way of Salt Lake City and see that peculiar people. He finally bought a horse and saddle and took off for Salt Lake City.

He got up here to Farmington, but he got so sick he couldn’t go any farther. So he tied his horse up to a hitching post and laid down on a man’s lawn. I suppose that he thought he was going to give up the ghost, the way he felt. However, the man happened to be a doctor. His name was Smith. Doctor Smith brought him back and nourished him and got him over his trouble. That is as far towards the West Coast as Father got. So, this is how the Lord works to give us our heritage.

After Father had accepted the Gospel and entered into the law of plural marriage and had his family well on the way, he thought he would go back and convince his father and mother and brothers and sisters that the Gospel was true. So he wrote and told them he was coming to see them. His father wrote him a letter. He told him he was welcome to come as a stranger, but not as his son because he had desecrated all the laws of decency by joining that terrible cult, the Joe Smithites. So, Father went back east. When his father saw him coming up the path to the house, he came to the door and held his hand up. Father stopped. His father said, “I want you to understand that you can come in as a stranger, but not as my son.” Father said, “I will be glad to come in as a stranger and be treated as such if only I can stay with you a few days.” But none of Father’s people ever joined the Church. He had two or three brothers. Those

brothers had large families, but none of them had any boys. Their families were girls. So, had it not been for Father's family, his father's house would have ended with my grandfather's home. But the peculiar thing of the story is that my great grandfather was also a polygamist. He had two families and raised them in the same home. His son followed in his footsteps. So, the Lord had a way of bringing us down through the dark ages and preserving our bloodline.

Our people came from England. We are of a bloodline that has been preserved and brought down to this day in which we live. I am grateful for this protection that the Lord has placed around the background of His servants. No doubt these other men have something similar in their lives.

Today, we find ourselves in a day and age when God is trying to prepare a people to consummate His work. Many attempts have been made throughout the history of this work to overthrow the revelations of God and to overthrow the servants of God and to put them out of existence. However, the Lord has been kind enough to preserve not only His servants, but His scriptures.

Some years back the scientists of the world got together, and they voted on some of the masterminds of the day. James E. Talmage was considered one of the seven great masterminds of the world. This great man was highly honored by the Church, given responsible positions, and was permitted to overhaul the revelations of God; or in other words, to modernize the revelations of God to fit the people of this time. We all know that Wilford Woodruff signed a Manifesto in order to make the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints a part of the world; or in other words, in order to save our dignity with the world, he made a covenant with them that we could do away with the Celestial Law. Since that time, many attempts have been made to change the ordinances and the doctrines of the Church, or the Priesthood.

In one of the publications that Brother Talmage was writing, he undertook to revise these revelations that God gave to the people. Because of his great knowledge and worldly ideas, he

took out of this book (the Doctrine & Covenants) some two hundred sections and parts of sections. In some places, he took the entire section out. Other sections, he took part of it out, and he created a book called “Revelations of More Enduring Value” for the people in our day. They took this book off the market--the Doctrine & Covenants that we now have--and printed one edition of this other book. But, the people turned it down. So, one edition is all they made. Very few of those books are in existence today; or if they are, they are hid up. I happen to have one in my possession; and when men get me cornered where they think I can’t wiggle out, I bring that book out and lay it before them, and ask them why this edition was tried to be given to the people--after they had called me a liar and said it wasn’t so.

I took it to one of the senators of our State one time, left it on his desk. I left a little note with it that said I wanted it back after he read it. The next time I saw him, he said, “Come into my office.” So I went in, and he had this book on his desk. He pointed to it and said, “That is the damnedest thing I ever saw in my life. I am sorry I called you a liar, but I would never have believed it because I didn’t know that book existed.” “Well,” I said, “you are behind the times then.” He said, “I admire your stand, and I admire the way you people are trying to live. I want to tell you right now that they are trying to legislate more against you people, but they are going to have a hard time doing anything more against you because I am going to go and get one of these books, and I am going to take it up in the Senate.” He did. He and some others got together, and they didn’t let the legislature pass what they would like to have passed to make it harder on this people.

This Gospel is true, and the Lord has protected it from the beginning of time until now. Now is the time that He is trying to prepare a people to consummate His work, to bring about His purposes in the earth instead of giving Satan a full reign of power. It is true that God will fulfill His covenant with Lucifer. He will give him every opportunity possible to persuade the people against the

Gospel of Jesus Christ. But the Lord has said that, in the end, He would exalt His word. That is what He will do.

I read to you a while back what the Lord has said, that He would take the young and the middle-aged and redeem Zion. Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, and it will take the pure in heart to consummate this work. So, it is our duty to persuade the people to rid themselves of all evil, that their hearts might become pure before our Father in Heaven, that He might have a people He can work with, that He can consummate His work and bring about a Millennial Reign, which will be a thousand years of peace upon the earth. Peace cannot come to the earth only upon these conditions. They will cry, Peace! Peace! but there will be no peace. And you will hear of wars in foreign lands, but little do you know the hearts of men in your own country.

Again, we have been told by the servants of God that peace shall not come to the earth, but conditions shall get worse and worse until Christ comes to claim His own. May God bless you, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 4, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I feel very humble, my brothers and sisters, in standing before you this afternoon, for I feel deeply the necessity of getting close to the Lord and getting His Holy Spirit upon us that we might not be misled by the persuasions of men who come among us. I pray that the Lord will bless me while I speak that I might be directed by His Holy Spirit; for I want nothing done except that which is acceptable unto Him.

I want to call your attention first to many things that have transpired in this place since I came here, since the Priesthood first came into this place: the raid of ‘34, when they came in and arrested some of our people for the “breaking of the law”, again in 1941, when they arrested some of our people for “breaking the law”, again in 1944, when the great raid was made upon our people, and many of our number were sent to prison for a good long time. In 1953, again our people were taken out of this place as a body and taken away. All the women and children were taken. Since then we were permitted to come back, and the Lord has blessed us and built us up and brought us out from under the poverty that we existed in. But yet, the Lord is not well pleased with what is going on among us; for He has allowed disaster and destruction to come among us. I claim that one of the greatest destructions is the morals of our young people. There isn’t anything greater in the sight of God than the destruction of the female members of His Kingdom. He says, “I delight in the chastity of women.”

We have had two of our best men called home. We had two of our fine young ladies taken at once. I can count about four of Newel Steed’s family that were taken in violent deaths, and I could go on and name a number of other conditions. There is a reason for it. Why is it? I am going to leave it to you to decide why. When the Prophet Joseph Smith petitioned the Lord to know why the saints were persecuted in Missouri, He said that it was because of the unfaithfulness of the people or their inability to obey counsel. I wonder if that is the reason today.

There have been times in the past when the Priesthood has asked the people to contribute. They have come up and contributed,

and I believe they do yet, but my attention the other day was called to an account in the 1953 raid where a man came in and contributed a good deal of money. Now he said, “I wonder if I got in trouble what the Priesthood would do for me?” Is this the spirit of contribution that is among our people? The Lord says that when we pay into His storehouse, that we give it as a freewill offering. And if we give it as a freewill offering, we never question whether we will be reimbursed or whether we won’t.

I have wind of other conditions among this people, by men who have the gift of gab, not the gift of revelation. Brother Hammon just told you that some people are swayed by the persuasions of men. I wonder if this will take place among our people. I wonder why we have so many of our young people that are disobedient among us. These are things that concern me greatly. It concerns the Lord. The Lord is not pleased with some of the things that are transpiring.

I approached one father on the disobedience of one of his sons. I said, “Isn’t there something you can do to teach your children to respect the Priesthood and what they stand for?” He said, “You have to remember that these are young minds. They have to have their day.” I wonder if that was what took place in the case of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Lorin Woolley, and Joseph F. Smith and others? They were young men who had responsibilities placed upon them. When Joseph went into the woods to pray, he was only fourteen years old, so the record tells us. Show me a boy in this place fourteen years old that you can put perfect confidence in, that the Priesthood can put perfect confidence in. Where is he? We may have them. They may be here. I hope they are, but I wish they were all that way. (2nd Nephi 9)

> “O the wisdom of God, his mercy and grace! For behold, if the flesh should rise no more our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the Eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more...
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> O that cunning plan of the evil one! O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not

unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves, wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish.

But to be learned is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God.

But wo unto the rich, who are rich as to the things of the world. For because they are rich they despise the poor, and they persecute the meek, and their hearts are upon their treasures; wherefore, their treasure is their God. And behold, their treasure shall perish with them also.

And wo unto the deaf that will not hear; for they shall perish.

Wo unto the uncircumcised of heart, for a knowledge of their iniquities shall smite them at the last day.

Wo unto the liar, for he shall be thrust down to hell.

Wo unto the murderer who deliberately killeth, for he shall die.

Wo unto them who commit whoredoms, for they shall be thrust down to hell.

Yea, wo unto those that worship idols, for the devil of all devils delighteth in them.

And, in fine, wo unto all those who die in their sins; for they shall return to God, and behold his face, and remain in their sins."

I pray that God will bless this people and give them the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, give them a firm desire to build up and establish the Kingdom of God; for God has said that the Kingdom of God cannot be built up except upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. We all know that none of these things are condoned in the Celestial Kingdom.

How many of us--yes, how many of us--can pass the examination? Let us think these things over and see what we can do about them, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 11, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for this opportunity and for the confidence you people have in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a testimony to the Lord that we are trying to arrange our lives according to His will when we turn out as we have this afternoon. This building is well filled as it is every Sunday when we gather together to hear the word of the Lord. I am grateful for the testimonies that have been borne, and I pray that the Lord will bless the words of my mouth that I will not detract from the spirit of this meeting.

The Lord is certainly kind to us to labor with us and be patient with us and help us to overcome the weaknesses of the flesh as we try to arrange our lives so that we can call down His blessings upon us. He loves this people because He chastises them. He chasteneth those whom He loveth. I am grateful for the privilege of associating with this people. I am grateful that the Lord had confidence enough in me to bring me to this place long before the Priesthood came and gathered me up. I am grateful for the testimony of the Gospel the Lord gave me when I was a boy and brought me along and kept me in the line of my duty performing the labors that the Priesthood placed upon me.

My father was a Priesthood man, and he taught me while I was young to obey the Priesthood. “Keep yourself in a condition so that when you are called upon to go and do a work, you can go and do it.” This is what I have tried to do all along the way with the help of my mother, not only my mother, but my brothers and sisters. They all lent a hand to bring me along and be patient with me.

I am grateful for this opportunity to bear witness to you that this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and I mean Latter-day Saints. The Lord has said that He would protect His saints if it was necessary for Him to bring fire from Heaven to do so. And who are the saints? They are those who try to apply to their lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ; for Christ has said, “He that sayeth he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him.”

So here we are. We are here to gain experience. The Lord has called us out many times and placed us in circumstances that we could not survive under without His help, but through the efforts of the individuals to determine within themselves that they were going to accomplish the labors placed upon them, with the help of the Lord they have come through--some of us with many scratches, but we have made the grade thus far. Now, let us keep on.

While the other brethren were speaking, my mind was brought to the section in the Doctrine & Covenants given for the benefit of Joseph, the Prophet. This is the word of the Lord that came to the Prophet Joseph, and I have tried to compare the lives of the brethren with the life of the Prophet Joseph. Now let's see how close we have come. I am going to read from Section 122.

> "The ends of the earth shall inquire after thy name, and fools shall have thee in derision, and hell shall rage against thee;
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> While the pure in heart, and the wise, and the noble, and the virtuous, shall seek counsel, and authority, and blessings constantly from under thy hand.
>
> And thy people shall never be turned against thee by the testimony of traitors.
>
> And although their influence shall cast thee into trouble, and into bars and walls, thou shalt be had in honor; and but for a small moment and thy voice shall be more terrible in the midst of thine enemies than the fierce lion, because of thy righteousness; and thy God shall stand by thee forever and ever.
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> If thou art called to pass through tribulation; if thou art in perils among false brethren; if thou art in perils among robbers; if thou art in perils by land or by sea;
>
> If thou art accused with all manner of false accusations; if thine enemies fall upon thee; if they tear thee from the society of thy father and mother and brethren and sisters; and if with a drawn sword thine enemies tear

thee from the bosom of thy wife, and of thine offspring, and thine elder son, although but six years of age, shall cling to thy garments and shall say, My father, my father, why can't you stay with us? O, my father, what are the men going to do with you? and if then he shall be thrust from thee by the sword, and thou be dragged to prison, and thine enemies prowl around thee like wolves for the blood of the lamb;

And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit, or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if the billowing surge conspire against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness, and all the elements combine to hedge up the way; and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good.

The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?

Therefore, hold on thy way, and the priesthood shall remain with thee; for their bounds are set, they cannot pass. Thy days are known, and thy years shall not be numbered less; therefore, fear not what man can do, for God shall be with you forever and ever."

What greater blessings and confidence can anyone have than to know that they are doing the will of God. If we know that we are doing the will of God, we are constantly possessed by the spirit of peace; because the spirit of peace is the Spirit of God. When we are beset by the spirit of unrest and unhappiness, we know that we are possessed by the wrong spirit and we need to do something about it and get ourselves in a position where the Lord can bless us.

We are here to build up and establish the Kingdom of God in the latter days. These are the latter days. This is the time that all the holy prophets looked forward to. They have all wished to take part in the redemption of Zion or the redemption of Israel,

God's people. And the Lord has promised that the faithful would take part in this great work. So today is the day to prepare for a glorious salvation. Today is the day for us to labor with ourselves to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections that we might not be found wanting when the day comes for the Lord to choose His valiant warriors in the building up and establishing of the Kingdom of God. This is the thing that we are working for. This is the day of preparation. Joseph Smith tried to establish in the hearts of the people that they should prepare themselves against the day of visitation. Now, the day of visitation is when the Lord is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked and preparing the way for the rise of Zion. He has promised through the mouths of His prophets for many, many generations that when a people upon this goodly land became wicked and their cup was filled before Him, He would wipe them off the earth to make room for righteousness to dwell. This has been done before, and it will be done again so that this land can become the Zion of our God. This is the thing that we are striving for, to prepare a people that God can use in the establishment of Zion on the earth.

Now, I pray that the spirit of peace will settle upon us, and that we will strive earnestly to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and live so God can bless us. I pray that He will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that we might know and understand our position here in the earth, and that we might be able to build up and establish the work of God in the earth, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## A SERMON BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 18, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, this is a great day in which we live. The Lord has certainly been good to us. He has brought us to this place to feed us His word and give us the reason why we are here. I trust that the few moments I speak I might be guided by that same spirit that has dictated to the other speakers here today.

I am always interested in the testimonies of young men. For the Lord has said that He would take the young and middle-aged and redeem Zion. Why? Because He can tutor and train them through the channels of the holy Priesthood to learn how to obey His voice. How many years now has the Lord been trying to tutor and train this people?

In about 1933 or ‘34, I first heard the testimonies of John Y. Barlow, Joseph Musser, Louis Kelsch, Charles Zitting, and others, to the truthfulness of this great work, and I have been interested in it ever since. The Lord knows how to gather His people together. There are not very many in this audience today who knew and were acquainted with--I’ll go back as far as Wilford Woodruff. I was only a small boy, but I can remember him. My father was incapacitated by having his back broken during the administration of Wilford Woodruff. I remember my father going to Salt Lake City from Kanab to be blessed under the hands of President Wilford Woodruff. When he came back, he had a wheelchair--given to him by President Wilford Woodruff. He taught us children to honor and obey the leaders of Priesthood. That was his great charge to his children, especially to his sons--to honor and obey those who presided over them in the Priesthood. He was a Priesthood man all the days of his life. I remember while attending him, helping to take care of his needs in his incapacitated condition, his instructions were: It doesn’t make any difference what the Lord allows to come upon you, never complain of your situation.

And although this man suffered--no man can tell how much he suffered--but in all my attending him, I never heard him complain of his condition. His prayer was always, “Oh Lord, help me to endure what I am called upon to pass through.” One of my older brothers,

not very many years ago, since I got acquainted with John Y. Barlow and this work--although this brother was bitter against the Fundamentalist movement, he told me one day, “Roy, if any of Father’s sons get to see his face again, it will be you.” My brothers and sisters, this is a great work, and this is a great day of repentance, for the Lord requires it.

What has been read here today--the charges given to Oliver Cowdery and the Whitmer boys and others--the charge to them then was to go out in the world and preach repentance to the world. And all who would believe would be saved and those who would not believe would be damned, saith the Lord. Now these charges were given in 1829. And as early as 1832, the whole church was placed under condemnation. Why? Because they had treated lightly the things that they had received. The hearts of men were such that they could not endure the chastening hand of our Father in overcoming their traditions and the traditions of the world and applying to their lives the commandments of God. So, the Lord had to place them under condemnation, and told them that they would remain under condemnation until they repented.

The people have slipped deeper and deeper into transgression until today we find ourselves trying to come out from under the condemnation that God placed upon us in 1832. We find that we are prohibited from going out in the world and preaching repentance. But the Lord has inspired His servants to preach repentance to the believing saints--those who believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God; and it is our charge today to preach repentance to this people and try to bring up a people that will redeem themselves from the condemnation that God placed upon them. This is going to be hard, brothers and sisters. Go back and read those early revelations to the early leaders of the Church, the Priesthood, the followers of Joseph Smith, and see how definitely the Lord tried to stress upon the minds of men the importance of keeping His commandments and the instructions that they received and how strict they were. He left no stones unturned.

In one of His instructions to Oliver Cowdery, He said something like this: Haven't you asked me many times for blessings and I have given you the answers through my Holy Spirit? If it had not been so, you wouldn't be where you are today. You have asked me again, and I have answered you through the whisperings of my Holy Spirit.

And He chastised the man pretty severely because he couldn't recognize the whisperings of the Holy Spirit, although the Lord answered him every time he sought Him. Then He went on to tell him: There is no one that can read thy thoughts or know the intent of thy heart except God.

The only reason we allow ourselves to be tempted by the evil powers is simply that we refuse to accept the Spirit of God and we cast it out of our minds and allow evil thoughts to come in. As long as we think evil of one another, as long as we have enmity in our hearts towards one another, we do not have the Spirit of God. Now here is the answer to our great question, "How do we get the Spirit of God and keep it?" We get it through encouraging the spirit of peace to be in our minds. When we allow the spirit of enmity one towards another, fault-finding one towards another and these other evil thoughts to come in, then we know that we do not have the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God does not condone sin in any degree of allowance, the Lord says.

So that is the reason the brethren have talked to us today like they have, trying to get us to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and live so the Spirit of God can dwell with us. Let us continue to strive with ourselves, my brothers and sisters, until we do overcome these imperfections that we have and apply to our lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the Gospel of peace.

God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 22, 1971, SUNDAY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

After what I have heard, I feel to say “amen” to the sermons of the brethren. We have been together a good long time and they have spoken well. The Lord has left us without excuse. I think this audience should study--not just read--but study the 19th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants. The 19th Section was given specifically for the benefit of Martin Harris. And we all know the history of the Church enough to know what transpired in the lives of these early men. Here the Lord instructed His servant, Martin, what he should do in order to preserve his soul and to round out his salvation in this life.

I am just going to read a little of it to show you how important the Lord thought it was for Him to instruct this man, as well as other men, in the line of their duties in trying to save their souls. We understand that the Lord has said that if we labor all our lives and save only one soul, how great will be our joy with that one soul in the Kingdom of Heaven. The Lord says here:

> “I am Alpha and Omega, Christ the Lord; yea, I am he, the beginning and the end, the Redeemer of the world.
>
> I, having accomplished and finished the will of him whose I am, even the Father, concerning me--having done this that I might subdue all things unto myself--
>
> Retaining all power, even to the destroying of Satan and his works at the end of the world, and the last great day of judgment, which I shall pass upon the inhabitants thereof, judging every man according to his works and the deeds which he hath done.
>
> And surely every man must repent or suffer, for I, God, am endless.
>
> Wherefore, I revoke not the judgments which I shall pass, but woes shall go forth, weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth, yea, to those who are found on my left hand.

> Nevertheless, it is not written that there shall be no end to this torment, but it is written endless torment.
>
> Again, it is written eternal damnation; wherefore it is more express than other scriptures, that it might work upon the hearts of the children of men, altogether for my name's glory.
>
> Wherefore, I will explain unto you this mystery, for it is meet unto you to know even as mine apostles."

Here the Lord explains very plainly His position in the judgment of the souls of men. Here, to me, is one of the most important revelations to each individual than any of the other commandments, if there can be any difference. When I read that we are required to spend every moment of our time seeking to overcome the evils that beset the human system when they come into this world, and if I spend all my time laboring to purify my life and you spend all your time to purify your life, I wonder if we will be prepared to go and enjoy what we expect to enjoy when we leave this life. These are the things that worry us more than anything else--is how fast are we preparing ourselves to take part in such great battles as President Hammon brought to our minds.

I wonder how the men lived in the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The old prophet Noah must have been a great man after he labored for so many hundreds of years to accomplish what the Lord had for him to do. And yet, all that he saw saved was his own family; and a good many of them were not saved. He had to watch them go down with the wicked. The Lord has told us that as in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the second coming of the Son of Man. So, this is a reality to us, my brothers and sisters. It is our privilege and duty to do something about our salvation. There should be millions of people hearing these scriptures rehearsed to them today, but instead, there are only a few hundred or a few thousand.

The time is far spent and there is little remaining for us to accomplish the great work that the Lord has placed here for us to do. And how many--yes, how many--of us go to our graves without preparation for the first examination. Let us sit up and take notice of the things that we have heard today, and let us do something about cleaning up our lives. For, in this body of people, there are enough in our Priesthood meetings to cause the earth to shake if they were united as one man--united with the Lord--as one man. If we had the faith that the sons of Jacob had, we could do many things.

I pray, my brothers and sisters, that we will hasten to get down to work and do something about our salvation. And I don't mean quit laboring to provide for our needs. That is something that we have to do, but we can come out of the world and cease to partake of her sins and clean up our lives so that the Lord will not be ashamed to meet us on the street or in our homes. Our homes should be in such a shape that the Lord would not be embarrassed to send one of His messengers there.

Now, I pray that God will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and with a determination to do something about our salvation. God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 5, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am certainly grateful for the opportunity this afternoon of being here and listening to the testimonies that have been borne. The Lord is certainly good to us, and He is bringing up a body of young men who will carry this work on. We are grateful for the faithfulness of this people who have gathered themselves around the Priesthood at this time. I couldn't help but reflect upon this while listening to the testimonies of these young men. On one occasion while I was riding with President John Y. Barlow, he said: Roy, the time has come when we will have to raise up a body of young men who will carry this work through. It is an uphill business to try to bring men into this work who will have faith enough to accomplish the great work the Lord has in store for us.

We have young men among us who are being taught the principles of truth and salvation under the direction of the Priesthood. They have been born and raised under the New and Everlasting Covenant in this time and are determined to arrange their lives so that they can take part in the great work of redemption. I know that this is satisfying to the Lord because of the peaceful influence that we meet under from Sunday to Sunday and month to month. The Lord has put a hedge around us to keep away the evildoers and those who would disturb our peace and happiness in this day and hour.

If you will reflect back upon what has transpired since we came into this order of things, you will find that our leadership has determined within themselves to teach nothing but repentance to this people and preparation against the day of visitation when the Lord is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked. This is according to the scriptures. The Lord has said that this is a day of preparation. He told the Prophet Joseph that this is a day of preparation--preparing a people to redeem Zion. This is the day that all the prophets throughout time have wished to live in--the day of preparation when men are being taught the importance of overcoming their weaknesses and imperfections and preparing themselves to be used in this great redeeming work that the Lord has promised to Israel. For He surely

promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and others that He would redeem His people in the latter days.

When the Prophet Joseph Smith came, the Lord told us that these were the latter days, that this Gospel was restored never to be taken away again or given to another people until the sons of Levi offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.

Now, these are some of the things that we are preparing ourselves for--for a great redeeming work. The Lord has said that He would send One Mighty and Strong to set the House of God in order and to divide by lots the inheritances of the saints. So, He has got to have a people prepared for this great work. He has got to have a people who have been taught the importance of overcoming their weaknesses and imperfections and preparing themselves against the day of visitation. This is a day when people must learn the importance of loving the Lord with all their heart, might, mind, and strength. He says the second commandment is like unto it: Love your neighbor as yourself, and upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

This is the reason the servants of God are continually bringing before us the proposition that we should do all that we can to stamp out of our lives the dross that is within us. When I say dross, I mean the evils that are within us that are besetting the minds of this great people in this hour in which we live. We find nothing but turmoil when we leave this building and go out in the world because as soon as we leave this building, we are out in the world. The only place that we can obtain peace is in our homes that have been dedicated, and the people within them are striving with their might to keep their homes dedicated so that the Spirit of God might dwell there. These are the things that we want our people to incorporate into their lives--the spirit of peace which is the Spirit of God, and be able to keep it in their homes, that we can prepare our children for that which is to come.

The Lord has said, “I will take the young and the middle-aged and redeem Zion. Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, and in the Celestial Kingdom there is no sin.” This is the reason that the Lord said that in Zion you will find peace. Zion is the pure in heart--those who have

completely driven from their minds the evils that beset us from day to day--fault-finding, criticism, and the spirit of envy one towards another. We should work upon these principles and bring ourselves to a point where the Lord can use us. He has said that He cannot use an unclean tabernacle. These bodies were given to us to purify, so that when we go back into the presence of our Father we can take them back and present them in a purified condition and receive a glorious resurrection.

He has granted the power of repentance to every person. The Lord plainly tells us that this Gospel is unto all people. It doesn't make any difference who they are if they will repent and sin no more. He says if we will repent of our sins, He will remember them no more before His face. So, let us repent, my brothers and sisters, of the dross that is within us. Let us cast it out and receive it back no more. That is what repentance means--cease to sin and cease to condone within the realms of our domain the appearance of sin. He said that He does not condone sin with any degree of allowance. So here we are. Let us get the Spirit of God and the spirit of this work and apply it to our lives and bring ourselves to a condition where the Lord can use us in the redemption of His work.

Let us start the Millennium within our own homes, within our own community, and let us work until we have accomplished this thing, that the Lord might smile upon us when He is cleaning the earth for the redemption of His people and the return of the ten tribes of Israel together with the return of Enoch and his people because He has promised Enoch that he would come back and take part in this great redeeming process. If He will bring Enoch back and his people, what about those who have been lead away? We have several peoples who have been lead away, Enoch, and Peleg and his people. We know not what covenants the Lord made with that man, Peleg. It can be obtained. It is in the records that were taken away by Jared and his people. Someday we will have it. The Prophet Moroni said that he had been commanded of the Lord to seal up these records, that they would not come forth until a people would come up that would exercise the same faith that the brother of Jared had. This man had faith enough to walk and talk with our Father. He had faith enough to see

the body that Christ would have when He came in the flesh long before He came here--before His mission was accomplished in the earth.

So, how much more have we got to do in order to bring ourselves to a point where the Lord will be satisfied to commence His great redeeming process in the earth? The preparation has commenced for it. This old world is in a commotion at the present time that will not be straightened out until the Lord is satisfied that there is a place to commence to redeem His people. We find through the words of the prophets that this land will be a land of Zion, and that Zion will be built upon this continent. A great cleansing process must go forth in this land before this time can come, but a people must be prepared to take part along with these other people that will come back. It is going to be the responsibility of the young men and women, those that will prepare themselves, to administer the ordinances of the Holy Priesthood to those who have come back, to assist them in the redemption of this great and glorious work.

So, you have got a great promise ahead of you. You have a great thing to live for and to prepare yourselves to receive. I pray that the Lord will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and that we will overcome the evils that are within us that we might be permitted to go to and fro with the Spirit of God upon us, that we might be protected from the evils of the day in which we live, and that we might be able to escape the judgments of God when they are poured out upon those who will not repent or who have not the power to repent. For this is what is taking place today right under our eyes. The Lord has truly prophesied of the great destruction that would take place when people are ripened in iniquity. I don’t know how much more ripened a people will have to become in order to justify the Lord in destroying them than the day in which we live. I can’t imagine a time in the history that we have read of the destructions that people have been more wicked than they are in this world today.

Now, I pray that we will get the Spirit of God and keep it within our homes and that we will apply to our lives the blessing that the Lord has offered to us--the blessing of repentance that we might be prepared against the day of visitation, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 12, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I feel, my brothers and sisters, that we have had an outpouring of the Spirit of God today. We have had enough given to us to keep us busy for some time to mull over in our minds and see wherein we can improve our lives. I trust that the few moments I speak I will be lead by the Spirit of God, that I will not detract from the spirit of this meeting.

While the other brethren were speaking, my attention was called to a revelation that was given just prior to the revelation in which the Lord condemned the people of the Church. This revelation was given in 1831, but it is numbered in the Doctrine & Covenants as Section 133. Just why the Spirit of God rested upon His servants to put this section here is His business and not ours to guess. I am only going to read a little of it. It will give us a little idea of what the Lord expects of us.

> "Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the Lord your God, and hear the word of the Lord concerning you--
>
> The Lord who shall suddenly come to his temple; the Lord who shall come down upon the world with a curse to judgment; yea, upon all the nations that forget God, and upon all the ungodly among you."

Let us pay attention to the wording of this revelation.

> "For he shall make bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of their God.
>
> Wherefore, prepare ye, prepare ye, O my people; sanctify yourselves; gather ye together, O ye people of my church, upon the land of Zion, all you that have not been commanded to tarry.
>
> Go ye out from Babylon. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.

> Call your solemn assemblies, and speak often one to another. And let every man call upon the name of the Lord.
>
> Yea, verily I say unto you again, the time has come when the voice of the Lord is unto you: Go ye out of Babylon; gather ye out from among the nations, from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

There is a great sermon in these few words. If we will stop and study them and apply them to our lives, we will be astounded at the amount of information that we attain from them.

The Lord expects a great deal from a people who have been tutored and trained under the direction of His Priesthood--so much so that He placed the whole church under condemnation. It was only a year after this revelation was given. And here His warning is unto the ungodly among us. We have first got to become godly before we can become ungodly.

For over a hundred years we have been taught that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that he, under the direction of Jesus Christ, set up the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the earth. So we have been taught the principles of godliness all the days of our lives. You older people and you younger people who dwell among the saints have been taught how to serve God and keep His commandments. But yet, we have not lived so that we can bring ourselves out from under the condemnation the Lord placed upon us. He has promised destruction to this generation in which we live because they forgot God. They claim that they know Him, that He will save them if they will but say that they recognize Jesus as their Redeemer. But Christ says, "He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him." So let us not be liars any longer.

Let us get our feet square under us and drive from our lives every dross of unbelief that we have. For, if we criticize our neighbor, we witness before our Father in Heaven that we don't

believe it is right to love our neighbor as ourselves. If we fail to keep any other commandment that He has given us for our salvation, we are in the same box. We are guilty of the whole. He says, “If you are guilty of breaking the least of these commandments, you are guilty of the whole.”

And again, the Lord says, “Unless you do what I say, you have no promise.” So, the promise of the Lord is unto all men who will serve Him and keep His commandments. Let us bring ourselves out of Babylon, for this is a doctrine of Babylon to take advantage of our neighbor first and think of our own salvation. The only way that we can gain our salvation is to keep our covenants with the Lord, to treat our neighbor as ourselves and to be honest with one another; be honest with the Lord and with ourselves, not only by word of mouth, but in our actions and in our tithes and offerings and in all the requirements that God has given us for the salvation of man.

These are the things that will bring us to a point where God will smile upon us, bless us and bless the land upon which we live and make it produce in abundance for us. These things can be had. We have had experience enough to know that the Lord can bless the land upon which we dwell. He causes trials to come among us. He causes disasters to come to see what we will do with them--whether we will praise the Lord for the experience we have, or whether we will condemn Him for not being just to us. I have heard many people say that God is not just or He wouldn’t allow such great destructions to take place in one part of the world and so much prosperity in another.

These are some of the things that beset us in our way of thinking. And the way for us to overcome it is to drive from ourselves the dross that is within us and begin to think along the lines that will help us over the hard spots in our lives.

Now, let us take heart. Let us apply to our lives the principles of righteous living, and let the Lord come to our rescue as soon as possible, that He might organize us and place us in a

position that most of us are desiring at the present time to be--as one. Let us make ourselves one by living as we should.

Our time is far spent, and I ask God to bless us that we might catch the vision of our being here, the purpose of our being here, and help us to apply to our lives everything that will help us to purify our bodies, that we might be able to take them back to our Father in a purified condition.

May God bless you. Amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 19, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I am grateful for the privilege of being here today and listening to the word of the Lord to us. This is a great day in which we live. This statement I have made many times in the commencement of my remarks since I have been acquainted with this great work. I suppose it has been all my life, for I have never known anything but the law of plurality--I was born in it, raised in it, tutored and trained in it. I worked in the Church from the time I was old enough to be ordained a deacon until I met up with President Barlow in 1933.

In 1928, I had the privilege of meeting John W. Woolley and listening to his narrative of the eight hour meeting and his testimony of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. When I left his presence, I began to wonder what was going to happen. I did not cease to labor in the Church. At that time I was connected with the Sunday School in our little branch, Short Creek.

I remember going to quarterly conference in Hurricane. President Ballard was representing the general authorities at that meeting. He chastised the Stake for not having a representative in the mission field. It was then the St. George Stake. So after the meeting, I offered to go on a mission for the Church and pay my own way, so that they would not be chastised again for not having a missionary in the field. The President of the Stake said that he would take it under advisement and let me know. In a few days, I received a letter from the Stake clerk telling me that my application for missionary had been turned down. Another young man, the son of a bishop in Rockville, had been selected to go on a mission, and the Stake's young men's association would keep him there.

Isaac Carling, at the time, was our leader in the Short Creek branch of the Rockville Ward. I said to Brother Carling, "Let's start a little fund here in this place and send it in to the elders' quorum to keep the missionary in the field." A year later, I met the Stake president of the Y.M.M.I.A. in St. George. He said, "Brother Johnson, I want to talk to you a minute." He came over and said, "I was very much impressed because you volunteered to go

represent the Stake in the mission field. I want to tell you what has happened. If it had not been for the little fund that came in from Short Creek, Brother Jones would have had to come home. We didn't get enough support from the elders' quorum of the Stake to keep Brother Jones in the field." I tell you this because of the prejudice that was against the little group out there. That prejudice has never stopped. A short time after this, he came out and excommunicated twenty-one of us at one time.

By the way, another young man was called about the same time from Rockville. His name was Crawford, Elder Crawford. I have forgotten his front name. After Elder Crawford returned from his mission, he was called on a home mission to come out to Short Creek and preach repentance to us. He was an ambitious young man, full of faith, as far as the Church was concerned. He was very definite in his explanation of what he was sent out to Short Creek for. He said, "I am very grateful to my Heavenly Father for the wonderful privilege that He has given me to come out here and preach repentance to you people." He went on at great lengths to let us know that we had committed one of the greatest sins a people could commit in breaking away from the Church and claiming plural marriage to be our great saving principle. I don't know what happened to Elder Crawford. After the meeting was over, he came and shook hands with us and said, "Now, I hope you take to heart our message and that you will hasten to repent and come back and be rebaptized for the remission of your sins."

Since that time, we have rebaptized many people to try to build up and establish a body of men and women that the Lord can use in the redemption of His work. I am grateful to the Lord for the spirit of repentance that He has given to us, that we have been able to see the folly of our ways and try to straighten up our lives and bring ourselves into subjection to the requirements that John W. Woolley told me that we would have to bring ourselves under in order to gain our salvation, or to bring ourselves to a point where we are candidates for the highest degree of glory in the Celestial Kingdom.

I was particularly interested in the narrative that Brother Hammon brought to our attention about the faith of great men and women. I am grateful for the testimonies of these other men in trying to bring before us the necessity of keeping the commandments of God that we might go on and fulfill the measure of our creation in righteousness. For we truly are living in a time when great requirements are going to be made of us to so order our lives that we might be able to withstand the temptations that will be brought upon us.

We would like to call your attention to "The Coming Crisis and How to Meet it." Those of you who haven't read it for sometime, I would like to have you read it because it is one of the greatest revelations that was given in our time. It tells what the conditions will be. It tells us what we will have to do in order to meet this crisis that is just ahead of us at this time. We have been mixed up in it for many, many years, but we paid little attention to the conditions around us. Today we are confronted with the fulfillment of many, many prophecies that have been uttered by both ancient and modern prophets.

We should be encouraged to live according to the teachings that we receive from month to month from the Priesthood of God. These men are continually being needled, in their feelings, to bring before this people the responsibilities that are upon them in order to keep alive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For you go outside of the confines of this order of the Priesthood and the people are not taught according to the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. This is the only place that we can be taught how to get back into the presence of our Father and what we have to do to prepare ourselves for a glorious resurrection.

So, let us take notice of what has been told us here today. Let us take notice of what has been told us from month to month. Let us not turn a deaf ear to the revelations of God for they are true, and they will be fulfilled. The Lord has said that not one word that has been spoken by His servants will fall to the earth unheeded. So let us take notice of our condition, our responsibilities--one toward another--not only in the family, but as a community. Let us be our

brother’s keeper. Let us do all that we can to further the work of God in the earth. Let us prepare ourselves for a glorious resurrection. I pray that God will bless us and that He will pour out His Spirit upon us that He will continue to give us wisdom and knowledge and understanding that we might be able to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation when God is pouring out His judgments upon those who do not have the power to repent. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 3, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, this is a privilege being here this afternoon, and I hope that I can speak without disturbing the peace. I have been suffering from a case of the flu, and I might break down and start to cough or heave like a horse that's got the heaves. (Where's Brother Hammon? (laughter) He's the man that brings up the horses in meeting.)

I have been greatly interested in the remarks this afternoon. I have been greatly interested in President Jessop's opening remarks, and I can see the results of the blessing that he asked from the heavens, for each man that has spoken has spoken under the inspiration of Heaven, and I want to continue, so I ask an interest in your faith and prayers that what I say may be the word of the Lord to us and that we might pay attention to what is being said.

The Lord is very kind to us to give us a chance to straighten out our lives and to bring ourselves into subjection to His will. I can't get away from the fact that we are still under condemnation and that the Lord is trying to bring us out and to build us up and to make men and women of honor before Him. He is very jealous of His work, and why is He jealous of it? Because He is the only one, as far as this world is concerned and He is the only one that knows how to produce our kind and give them intelligence that we might know and understand the things of this work and the hereafter.

I went to the great round house in Salt lake City the other day and watched a performance. This was a production of the Latter-day Saints. This is a great building of amusement where all the world can come in and perform. We have a great love to build these kinds of buildings, and the only purpose is to satisfy the whims of the evil powers. It brings this thought, "Why has this great cursing come upon the Saints in this day?" I don't know of a better example than to search over the scriptures and the revelations that were given to the Prophet Joseph and go over them a little and see what has happened over the years.

Brother Timpson has just given us a wonderful example of what the Lord expects of us in regards to the Celestial Law. The

Celestial Law doesn't only embrace plural marriage, but it embraces every other principle that God has given us for our advancement in the Kingdom of God. He gives us baptism by emersion for the remission of sins. He gives us the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. He gave us the law of sacrifice, or the law of the United Order long before He gave the law of Celestial Marriage. I want to call your attention again to what the Lord said in 1831.

(D. & C. Section 42)

> "And behold thou will remember the poor and consecrate of thy properties for their support that which thou hast to impart unto them, with a covenant and a deed which cannot be broken.
>
> And inasmuch as ye impart of your substance unto the poor, ye will do it unto me; and they shall be laid before the bishop of my church and his counselors, two of the elders, or high priests such as he shall appoint or has appointed and set apart for that purpose.
>
> And it shall come to pass that after they are laid before the bishop of my church and after that he has received these testimonies concerning the consecration of the properties of my church, that they cannot be taken from the church agreeable to my commandments, every man shall be made accountable unto me, a steward over his own property, or that which he has received by consecration as much as is sufficient for himself and family.
>
> And again, if there shall be properties in the hands of the church, or any individuals of it, more than is necessary for their support after this first consecration, which is a residue to be consecrated unto the bishop, it shall be kept to administer to those who have not, from time to time, that every man who has need may be amply supplied and receive according to his wants.
>
> Therefore, the residue shall be kept in my storehouse to administer to the poor and the needy, as shall be appointed by the high council of the church, and the bishop and his council;
>
> And for the purpose of purchasing lands for the public benefit of the church, and the building houses of worship, and building up of the New Jerusalem which is hereafter to be revealed."

This was given in February, 1831. Now the Lord was kind enough to give us another revelation in this same year but a little later. In August, 1831, this revelation came. (Section 59)

> "Behold, blessed saith the Lord are they who have come up unto this land with an eye single to my glory, according to my commandments."

Now, let us pay attention to what He says. I'll read it over.

> "Behold, blessed saith the Lord are they who have come up unto this land with an eye single to my glory, according to my commandments.
>
> For those that live shall inherit the earth and those that die shall rest from all their labors, and their works shall follow them; and they shall receive a crown in the mansions of my father, which I have prepared for them.
>
> Yea, blessed are they whose feet stand upon the land of Zion, who have obeyed my gospel; for they shall receive for their reward the good things of the earth, and it shall bring forth in its strength.
>
> And they shall also be crowned with blessings from above, yea, and with commandments not a few, and with revelations in their time--they that are faithful and diligent before me.
>
> Wherefore, I give unto them a commandment, saying thus: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy might, mind, and strength; and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt serve him.
>
> Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Thou shalt not steal; neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do anything like unto it.
>
> Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things.
>
> Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness, even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit.
>
> And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day;
>
> For verily this is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High.

Nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days and at all times.

But remember that on this, the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord.

And on this day thou shalt do none other thing only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart that thy fasting may be perfect, or, in other words, that thy joy may be full.

Verily this is fasting and prayer, or in other words, rejoicing and prayer.

And inasmuch as ye do these things with thanksgiving, with cheerful hearts and countenances, not with much laughter, for this is sin, but with a glad heart and a cheerful countenance--

Verily I say, that inasmuch as ye do this, the fulness of the earth is yours, the beasts of the field, and the fouls of the air, and that which climbeth upon the trees and walketh upon the earth;

Yea, and the herb, and the good things which come of the earth, whether for food or for raiment, or for houses, or for barns, or for orchards, or for gardens, or for vineyards;

Yea, all things which come of the earth, in the season thereof, are made for the benefit and use of man, both to please the eye and to gladden the heart;

Yea, for food and for raiment, for taste and for smell, to strengthen the body and to enliven the soul."

Now, I want to go from this. Here is one of the greatest revelations that we have. Why? Because the Lord gave us the law to live which He regards as one of the greatest of His laws; the law of sacrifice. And here He has given us the reward that we will get for living it. This was given in 1831, about August. A year later, in September, 1832, the Lord said this:

(Section 84)

"And everyone that hearkeneth unto the voice of the spirit cometh unto God, even the Father.

> And the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world.
>
> And the whole world lieth in sin and groaneth under darkness and under the bondage of sin.
>
> And by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me.
>
> For whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin.
>
> And whoso receiveth not my voice is not acquainted with my voice and is not of me.
>
> And by this you may know the righteous from the wicked, and that the whole world groaneth under sin and darkness even now."

Now who is He speaking to?

> "And your minds, in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received--
>
> Which vanity and unbelief have brought the whole church under condemnation.
>
> And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all.
>
> And they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say but to do according to that which I have written--
>
> That they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom; otherwise there remaineth a scourage and judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion."

Now, in 1834, we have this revelation: (Section 104)

> "Verily I say unto you, my friends, I give unto you counsel and a commandment, concerning all the properties which belong to the order which I commanded to be organized and established."

Did we read about the order that was to be organized and established?

> “to be a united order, and an everlasting order for the benefit of my church, and for the salvation of men until I come--
>
> With promise immutable and unchangeable, that inasmuch as those whom I commanded were faithful they should be blessed with a multiplicity of blessings;
>
> But inasmuch as they were not faithful they were nigh unto cursing.
>
> Therefore, inasmuch as some of my servants have not kept the commandment, but have broken the covenant through covetousness, and with feigned words, I have cursed them with a very sore and grievous curse.
>
> For I, the Lord, have decreed in my heart, that inasmuch as any man belonging to the order shall be found a transgressor, or, in other words, shall break the covenant with which ye are bound, he shall be cursed in his life, and shall be trodden down by whom I will;
>
> For I, the Lord, am not to be mocked in these things--
>
> And all this that the innocent among you may not be condemned with the unjust; and that the guilty among you may not escape; because I, the Lord, have promised a crown of glory at my right hand.”

When Brigham Young came west with his people, he had no more than landed here until he was implored by the people to set up the United Order. President Young bowed to the wishes of the people. He went from place to place and set them up. But in each instance, so I am told, he gave them this counsel, “Now this is a United Order; this is the order of Heaven, and if you let it fail, God will curse this land and it will not be a land of Zion unto you. And He will destroy you.”

We can see by what we have read here that the whole Church was placed under condemnation, and they were nigh unto cursing; and some were cursed because they treated lightly this order.

You can go anywhere in the United States where people have tried to live the United Order and you will find the cities in which it was set up destroyed. They never prospered because they didn’t keep sacred the covenants that they made. And, the city that the

Lord gave the Saints is numbered today among the most wicked cities in the United States. I heard some statistics the other day telling that Salt Lake City was counted third--the third most wicked city according to capita in the United States; and the seventh most wicked city according to cities. A great compliment to the city of Zion, as you heard from the pulpit yesterday!

No wonder, my brothers and sisters, that the Lord is teaching His servants to teach righteousness to a small body of people. I wonder how deep it is going to sink in--how long is it going to be before a body of men will rise and say, I'M READY!, I'M READY to follow the direction of our Father.

We have had many men that come and want to set up the United Order. We have men that have labored a good long time in trying to formulate a United Order that would stand. They want to know why we can't organize them and give them a couple of counselors and let them set up the United Order and we would be on our way. But they forget that this is one of the most sacred organizations that the Lord has ever given for the advancement of His Kingdom in the earth.

Now, I pray that God will bless us and that He will give us understanding, that He will give us a more firm determination to stamp out of our midst the evils that beset us. We cannot ask the Lord to set us up in the United Order when we have so much evil in our community.

May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 10, 1971, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful for this opportunity, my brothers and sisters, to stand before you again enjoying health and strength. I trust that the few words I speak will be dictated by our Heavenly Father. We are still living, my dear brothers and sisters, in dire circumstances, and great stress is placed upon us from time to time. We have a community here that the Priesthood has tried to keep from being mortgaged to the Gentiles and to provide homes for our people. We have been instructed to try to rally our people around us and help us to keep it in a condition where we can live and be at peace.

These figures that were given to you today are astounding to us. It is the responsibility of all who live here to rally around us and assist us in raising the necessary means to meet this tax obligation that is placed upon us. We have tried to make great improvements in our school system. I don't know why our taxes have taken such an abrupt jump all of a sudden, but it is here. It is here, and we will have to meet it.

While the brethren were speaking, I opened my book and went back to the time of the tower of Babel when the Lord confused the languages of the people, and read a little bit about the faith of Jared and his brother. Somewhere along the line, the Lord instructed the brother of Jared to be prayerful in all his undertakings--be prayerful and remember the Lord. He said, "If you will remember me, I will remember you." He went on to tell him about this wonderful land that we live on today--a choice land above all other lands, and the nation that dwelt upon it would be a God-fearing nation and serve the God of the land or be destroyed.

Some years later, it appears that the brother of Jared brought his people to a great body of water. Somewhere along the line, he had fallen down in continuing to cry to the Lord for guidance from day to day, so he wanted to know what he should do in order to cross these great waters. After the brother of Jared petitioned the Lord for some time, the Lord appeared to him in a cloud. He said, "You have sinned a grievous sin. Now, if you will take this as a lesson and sin no more, I will forgive you. Then I

can help you out." The brother of Jared wanted to know wherein he had sinned. The Lord said, "I told you to remember me in mighty prayer, but you failed to do so. Now, you have come to a point where you need help and you cry unto me for assistance."

Here is one instance where we see the great necessity of doing what the Lord has asked us to do--to remember Him without ceasing, praying night and day for deliverance; for little do we know when we are going to be caught without the help of the Lord because of our dilatory efforts to serve Him. I dare say, there aren't any of us but what forget from time to time to petition the Lord for His blessings and thank Him for what we have received, but I can testify to you that when we draw near unto the Lord and seek Him in humility, He will draw near unto us and grant unto us the blessings that we need.

Someone said this afternoon that there never was a time in the history of this work when we needed the assistance of our Father in Heaven as we do today. A lot of us might say, "I don't see where we are in dire need. We have all we want to eat. We have plenty to wear. We have homes to live in." But these things are not all we need. We need the Spirit of God to direct us from one hour to the next, from one minute to the next, from day to day, from week to week, and month to month, and year to year. I think the Lord has purposely arranged the conditions that we find ourselves in today to make us recognize that we are living upon His ground. Somebody has to pay the bill for living here. We have thought within ourselves that the Lord would provide. He has provided for us and made us happy and given us a lot of automobiles to ride in, given us nice surroundings for living; but in all this, we have forgotten to say, "Oh, Lord, I thank thee for the experiences of this day." Whether it has been good or bad, we should thank Him for the experiences we have.

Now, if we are so faithful, and we are so godly, let us muster our faith along with our works, and let us see if we can meet the obligation that the Gentiles have placed upon us. There is a difference in having a just debt fighting for the principles of

righteousness and a debt that is incurred by our unrighteous acts. In times past, the Lord has opened the way whereby we could raise the money to pay off, yea, two or three times the amount of these taxes. But are we in a shape today, are we spiritually able to say to the Lord that we have kept all His commandments the best we can, and now, please open the windows of heaven and pour out the blessings that we need? There was a time when we could do this, and the Lord blessed us. And this people know what I am driving at.

In the days of the raid when our people were all taken out, we had to fight for our existence. We had to fight the evil powers for the return of our wives and children; we got pretty humble; and I dare say, there was a lot of praying that went up to our Father in Heaven. When the lawyers said, “You owe us $50,000 dollars, and we have to have our money,” we went to the Lord and asked Him to open the way, and He did. But are we in a position today--because the county or the state has slapped a twenty-five or twenty-six thousand dollar debt upon us--are we in a condition to go to Him and say, “Father, we have kept your commandments, now please open the doors of heaven and pour out your blessings to us”?

Let us listen to what has been told us this afternoon. Let us try to apply it to our lives. Let us try to visualize the true position that we occupy, not only in this place, but in the eyes of the Lord. Let us see if we can begin to live so that the Gentiles won’t have power over us. This is a pretty stiff bill to pay in such a short time. I pray that God will bless us with life, health, and strength--strengthen our testimonies in the principles of righteousness, and give us a more firm determination to serve the Lord and keep His commandments, and to support those He has called to lead His work here in the earth. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 17, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am grateful, again, for this opportunity, for the privilege of being here with you this afternoon. I am grateful for the testimonies we have heard, and I would like this meeting to continue under the direction of the Spirit of God, that we might be built up in our faith and our determination to bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that God has placed upon us.

I am grateful for this book--The Book of Mormon, The Doctrine & Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price. I am grateful for the Prophet Joseph Smith who was instrumental in bringing forth the Book of Mormon which contains a record of God's dealings with His people for many, many generations of time. I am grateful for these revelations that the Lord has left for us to go over time and again to substantiate the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Too many people, today, discredit the testimony that Joseph left us. We shouldn't be teaching a small congregation like this one. We should have congregations such as gathered a week or so ago on the Temple Square and be teaching them the fullness of the Everlasting Gospel and the truths that are contained in this book.

The dream of the Prophet Brigham Young was to see an empire here that would govern themselves throughout the generations of time. He told the people that if they would keep the commandments of God, they need come under no other government--only the government of the Kingdom of God. This must be done before we fully please our Creator. We must build up a government that will do just what Brigham Young wanted to establish--but he soon found that it would be an impossibility to do these things. His hands were soon tied. He found traitors in the Kingdom who were willing to be go-betweens, between the servants of God and the servants of Satan to bring about a conversion of faith. This has been the great obstacle from that time until now.

I find that the Old Prophet Nephi prophesied of our day. I think I shall read. I am just going to skip around a little in Nephi's words to his people. I am going to read from chapter Ten of Second Nephi:

> “Behold, this land, saith God, shall be a land of thine inheritance, and the Gentiles shall be blessed upon the land.
>
> And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles, and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the Gentiles.
>
> And I will fortify this land against all other nations.
>
> And he that fighteth against Zion shall perish, saith God.”

This is the land that was prepared for the restoration of the Gospel in the latter days--the continent upon which we live. This was the promise the Lord gave unto a prophet many, many generations before Christ came--some five hundred years before Christ came. What have we seen in the last hundred years? We have seen this literally fulfilled. The Lord has fortified the Gentiles upon this land against all other nations until the present time.

> “For he that raiseth up a king against me shall perish, for I, the Lord, the King of Heaven, will be their king, and I will be a light unto them forever, that hear my words.
>
> Wherefore, for this cause, that my covenants may be fulfilled which I have made unto the children of men, that I will do unto them while they are in the flesh, I must needs destroy the secret works of darkness, and of murders, and of abominations.
>
> Wherefore, he that fighteth against Zion, both Jew and Gentile, both bond and free, both male and female, shall perish; for they are they who are the whore of all the earth; for they who are not for me are against me, saith our God.”

The testimonies we have heard this afternoon have testified of the great wickedness that we find ourselves in the midst of.

All there is left, my brothers and sisters, for the servants of God to do is preach repentance. Learn how to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength. The Lord says this is the great commandment--the great and first commandment. And the second is like unto it, love thy neighbor as thyself. In other words, overcome your imperfections. Why is it that we do not have the Spirit of God upon us continually? I am going over to the Third chapter of Jacob. I am going to skip over the second chapter because that is the great stumbling block in the minds of people. Let us listen to what Jacob had to say after he condemned the people for their wickedness:

> "But, behold, I, Jacob, would speak unto you that are pure in heart. Look unto God with firmness of mind, and pray unto him with exceeding faith, and he will console you in your afflictions, and he will plead your cause, and send down justice upon those who seek your destruction.
>
> O all ye that are pure in heart, lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God, and feast upon his love; for ye may, if your minds are firm, forever.
>
> But, wo, wo, unto you that are not pure in heart, that are filthy this day before God; for except ye repent, the land is cursed for your sakes, and the Lamanites, which are not filthy like unto you, nevertheless they are cursed with a sore cursing, shall scourge you even unto destruction."

Now the Lord has said in our day that except we repent and receive the testimony of Jesus as it was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith and apply it to our lives that He will destroy us. He has plainly told us that when we are ripened in iniquity He has nothing else to do but to destroy the people.

This nation has sealed their doom through martyring the prophets, murdering the saints, and trying to destroy the work of God in the earth. There is nothing else to do. There is nothing that the Lord can do unless this nation change their minds and turn unto the

God of Heaven and accept the truths of the Everlasting Gospel as it was given from the Prophet Joseph Smith, and teach the people to pray night and day for deliverance, or they will be destroyed as sure as you and I live. That destruction lies at the door.

We are here, my brothers and sisters, to receive the pleasing word of God, as Jacob said, and to apply it to our lives and be saved. Or we are here to reject the pleasing word of God and be damned. There are none of us that want to be damned. We want to be able to rise in the morning of the resurrection with a glorious resurrection--one that can give us eternal life. That is what we are working for. Let us give heed to the word that we hear from this stand from time to time. Let us see if we can bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that God has placed upon us.

We are here, and there is nothing we can do about it only to repent. So, let us repent of our sins and turn unto God and cry unto Him night and day for deliverance until deliverance comes because never in the history of time has a greater bondage been placed upon a people than is upon this people for treating lightly the things they have received.

I pray that God will bless us with knowledge and understanding that we might go on and be a better people and get the Spirit of God and keep it, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 24, 1971,
AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR NANCY JOHNSON,
DAUGHTER OF MELVIN AND RUTH JOHNSON,
HELD IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I trust that the Lord will give me strength to carry on in this meeting and continue the spirit of the Gospel as it has been given to us this afternoon. I want to say nothing that will displease the spirit of this meeting.

My mind has been carried back to the scriptures a good deal, as well as the life and labors of our deceased brother and friend, Melvin Johnson. The Savior on one occasion said, “Suffer the little children to come unto Me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” They brought the children to Him, and He blessed them; not only upon the land of Bethlehem where He did His missionary work, but also upon this land when He visited the Nephite people.

We have here before us today a young lady that has been with us for some eighteen years. Is that right, Ruth? Now the Lord has taken her. She goes home as clean as she was the day she was born. She never had a chance to commit sin. She has been cared for under the care of the Priesthood, for her father was a Priesthood man. I knew this boy from the time he was born until his death. I had closer contact, I guess, besides his father, than any other man, with this young man, Melvin. Many calls have been made upon him for service in Priesthood work, but I don’t know of a time that he ever shirked a responsibility given to him. Before I knew anything about John Y. Barlow, or his work, I employed the services of this young man. I called him in the dead of winter to go and help me, and I didn’t have to call twice. He was up and going. He and I fought the snow and the mud together trying to get the mail in and out of this place.

We were called upon many times to, not only fight the weather, but fight the waters of the great Colorado River. Uncle Elmer and I worked one winter on the Colorado River assisting the Government in their drilling operations to find what the bottom of the Colorado River contained, and we fought the river up and down for

many months. Later on, Melvin and I spent some time bringing the men back and forth when there wasn't a ferry to ferry people across. We brought them back and forth on row boats. So, I know a little about the life of Melvin Johnson. I know his family. He has some of the finest children as any family in this work. They are true and faithful to the principles of righteous living. Like all other families, mine included, they have boys that are dilatory, but Melvin hasn't lost hope, and neither have I.

I want you boys to remember what I have told you about your father. I want you to remember that he is over there working, trying to get you to follow in his footsteps and straighten up your lives and make yourselves as worthy to go home as this little sister of yours. God is just unto all people, all men. He says this Gospel is unto all men who will repent. And Christ said, "He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him." We don't have to be liars, but we want to be truthful men and women. And this, Melvin understood. I could speak the same of David Broadbent. I don't know of two men in the history of our work that were better prepared to go home and represent this people than those two men, and I don't think for a moment that they weren't called home to report what was going on in the earth before the Priesthood. They were both known by their works to John Y. Barlow, Joseph Musser, Charles Zitting, and they are there doing their work. Now, if we want to see them again, we will have to do the same things that they have. We will have to perform the same labors that they have.

This little girl has lived her life. She came here and did what the Lord required of her. And I think she has gone home to receive a glorious resurrection. Many people come here to this earth and take bodies, and they are here only a little while and they are gone. And what are they deprived of? The Lord is just unto all men and women. These same questions, no doubt, were asked the Savior. After the great destruction that took place at the appearance of Christ upon this continent, apparently, there were a great many

widows. The record tells us that the great majority of the people were killed off, and only the more righteous were left. I am just foolish enough to believe that there are more righteous among the women than there are among the men. I don't say that all women are righteous, but many times women get closer to the Lord than men do. A lot of men that think that they have a great posterity will wake up and find they don't have any because of their attitude in the earth.

The question might arise in the minds of a lot of people why young women are taken in their youth. Uncle Rich lost two at one time here a short time ago; Brother Steed has lost several. There have been many young women pass before they have had the chance to bear children or to fill the mission that women come to the earth to fill--to become mothers. Christ said upon one occasion, "Great are the sayings of Isaiah." And during His short stay among the Nephite people, this is what He said to them. This is one reason that I speak like I do, as there were many widows that were crying to Him to know what they should do.

(Third Nephi - 22:1-3)

> "And then shall that which is written come to pass: Sing O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child; for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.
>
> Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes;
>
> For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left, and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited."

President Young, speaking upon this subject, said this, "Many women come to me with tears in their eyes because they could not bear children. But I want to tell you that the woman that does not have a chance to bear children in this life will have all the

children gathered around her that she desires, if she will prepare herself for a glorious resurrection."

We don't know all that the Lord has in store for us. We don't know the answers to all of the whys and wherefores that come up in our minds. We do know this much, that the Lord promised Enoch and his people that they would come back and take part in the redemption of Zion. We know that this is the promise to the faithful, that they will take part in the redemption of Zion. A lot of work has got to be done. There have been billions of people come to the earth; and out of the billions, there are many people that are crying for baptism, and all this work has got to be done. It is going to take a thousand years to do it. There will have to be many temples built. Many people will have to take part in that work. Let us not lose faith. Let us get down to business and do something about our salvation. Let us repent of our sins, and let us become as a little child, that we might receive a glorious resurrection.

There is one thing we cannot do, and that is rob the dead. None of us knows the hearts of men or the hearts of women. We don't know the conditions under which they have had to live. The Lord has told us that only He can read the thoughts of men, or tell what is in their hearts. So, unless we speak them, unless we let Satan know what we are thinking about, he is bound as far as we are concerned. So, let us bind him. Let us each and everyone seek for that which is good and discard that which is bad in our lives, and then we will be prepared as this little girl is prepared because she never had an opportunity to commit sin. She is going Home as pure today as she was the day she was born; so what is there to worry about. We should be happy. We should thank the Lord for her being here and for the experiences we have had with her. We should thank the Lord for all that He has blessed us with from day to day.

Now, I pray that the Lord will bless us and bless Sister Ruth and comfort her heart that she might be able to glorify the name of our Father for having had the experience that she has, and the education that she has obtained through the care and the tribulation with this little girl.

Now I ask God’s blessings upon all of us that we might be able to bear up under the requests that are made of us from day to day and from time to time, that we might be found worthy of a glorious resurrection.

God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 31, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I don't know when I have attended a meeting that I have been more interested in than this one. I trust the Lord will bless my words that the spirit that has attended this meeting might continue. I doubt very much if there are many in this audience that believe all that Brother Timpson has just read to us. If we did, we would be a better people. Since this meeting commenced, I began to reflect upon the conditions under which this Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized.

We have in our midst many boys and girls that are dilatory and hard to manage and it has been a wonderment to our minds as to how to handle the situation. But, I have come to this conclusion that until we can get men and women who will teach our children under the Spirit of God and not try to bring into the minds of our children the opposite to the Spirit of God, we will continue to have this problem in our midst. I am wondering why God didn't call a man that had been tutored and trained in Catholicism, Presbyterianism, or any other ism to reveal Himself to. Why did he choose a little boy fourteen years old? Joseph says he was in his fifteenth year when the Father and the Son appeared to him and told him to not join any of the churches that they were all wrong. "They are an abomination in my sight. If you listen to My teachings, I will make you a leader among people." Think it over. Have we got to learn Catholicism, Presbyterianism, or any other ism in order to make us Latter-day Saints? Let's think it over!

There are too many--too many--magazines and books adverse to the teachings that Brother Timpson taught us here just now to make me believe that our people all believe what he just read to us. If they did, they wouldn't have them in their homes. Or they would get rid of them as fast as they possibly could. This is the reason that we don't advance faster than we do, simply because too many of the parents feel like we have to learn the bitter in order to enjoy the sweet. I can't find anywhere in history, in God's teachings, where

He says, “I want you to go and learn the bad before you start learning what is good.” Brother Timpson read to you the things the Lord requires of us, and how many of us got it?

If we are going to be Latter-day Saints, we have got to start studying the doctrine of Latter-day Saints. We had better begin to do what the Lord has said: Search out of books, good books, the words of knowledge and hold fast to that which is good. God says He doesn’t look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. From what Brother Timpson read to us just now, it is a sin to go out and apply to our lives knowledge that is against what God has given to us for our salvation. If you don’t believe it, go read the chapter over again (Section 84 D. & C.) and ask the Lord to help you understand it.

I hope that this people can prepare themselves. The time is mighty short. God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked. The wicked are being slain everyday, and greater wickedness is creeping in. The Lord has said that when this nation is ripened in iniquity, He will destroy it. He also said there is a test, a test, a test coming, and who is going to stand the test? Test of what? Test of the difference between right and wrong, between God and Magog.

Let us get down to business. Let us rid ourselves of all the evils that are in our midst. Let us raise up a body of young men that God can use. He can’t use a half Catholic and half Mormon. He can’t use a half Presbyterian and half Mormon, or a half Methodist and half Mormon. The Lord doesn’t condone it. He told us so in this chapter that Brother Timpson read. I hope that we can hasten to get ourselves in a position where the Lord can bless us, spiritually and temporally. He says, “Try me and see if I won’t pour out blessings upon your head that you won’t be able to contain.” I know He can do it.

The Lord is pleased with us, yes. He is pleased with us for all the good that we do, and we will be rewarded for it, but we

will not be rewarded for that which is evil among us. It stands as a condemnation upon us. Brother Timpson read that we would have to bring ourselves out from under that condemnation by repenting. So, let us repent of all the evil that is among us, and let us become a people that God can smile upon and bless like He would like to. He doesn't like to see His people suffer. He doesn't like to see us go without that which we need, and He would like to bless us so that we could come out from under the bondage of sin that we are under.

Now, I pray that the spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will hasten to do the things that are right in His sight. God bless you, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 14, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

This is certainly a wonderful sight, my brothers and sisters, to see this building filled. I believe that the Lord is pleased with us to allow us to be here under such favorable circumstances. After what we have been told this afternoon, I don't feel to apologize for what the Lord told us this morning; for I feel that He gave us just what we need at this time.

I have been greatly concerned in my feelings for some time past over the condition of our people, especially the Latter-day Saints who send missionaries out into the world to testify that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that he saw the Father and the Son. When I go from city to city and see the condition that exists, it is heart rending, knowing what I know about the conditions of people in times past and what happened to them. I hope that when I get through talking, you will understand what the Lord meant in telling us that we are no better than we were thirty years ago. I am going back to the early history of the Nephite people. I am going to read you a little of what Nephi said to his people.

(Second Nephi 9:28,29)

> "O that cunning plan of the evil one! O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves, wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish.
>
> But to be learned is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God."

We are enjoying a period of peace, we were told this afternoon, but this is a dangerous period in the lives of the saints of our Father; for it is during the days of our peace that the devil works, and if we are not careful, he gets a foothold, and he is hard to move. We see this among the different cities that should belong to the saints of God. The spirit of idolatry is rampant throughout the length and breadth of Zion--if it can be called Zion. This land

was given to the saints, and they were commanded to multiply and replenish it and to obey the counsels of God and apply them to their lives.

It has been said many, many times from this pulpit and other places that we are a good people, but we are not good enough. We have a lot to do to repent of that which is wrong among us. The scriptures tell us that when people become lazy, they become idolatrous. I am going to read just a verse from the Book of Enos. (Verse 20)

> "And I bear record that the people of Nephi did seek diligently to restore the Lamanites unto the true faith in God. But our labors were vain; their hatred was fixed, and they were led by their evil nature that they became wild, and ferocious, and a bloodthirsty people, full of idolatry and filthiness; feeding upon beasts of prey; dwelling in tents, and wandering about in the wilderness with a short skin girdle about their loins and their heads shaven; and their skill was in the bow, and in the cimeter, and the ax. And many of them did eat nothing save it was raw meat; and they were continually seeking to destroy us."

Can we see the picture as we go about from city to city along the highways? The last two or three weeks, especially during the hunting season, our highways were crowded with people going out with a determination to kill, to bring in whatever game they could get. Today is the Sabbath, but if you were to go up north on the north end of the state, you would find the woods full of hunters tracking down the birds and bringing them in. I could go on here and cite you many passages of scripture that say practically the same thing. When people begin to go into idolatry, they allow themselves to be found in hideous conditions. The long hair, the long whiskers, and even the clothing that these people wear today is an abomination in the sight of God. We have to fight and fight and fight to keep it down even among this people who have more given to them than any other people upon the face of the earth.

We have grown in numbers, yes. We have a lot greater audience here today than we had thirty years ago. But is our faith any different? After I heard what Brother Hammon had to say a week ago from the stand here, it makes me feel that we haven't made much

progress. We don't have to have these things told to us every day. There might be a few among us, maybe quite a few, who have their hearts set upon their salvation, their eternal exaltation, but we find that we have to work and work and work to keep our children in the right way and to keep them from partaking of the idolatry of the outside world. You can't go into these neighboring towns and partake of their evil practices without partaking of the spirit of the practice.

I am going to read from Mosiah now. (2:38)

> "Therefore, if that man repenteth not, and remaineth and dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine justice do awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt, which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord, and doth fill his breast with guilt, and pain, and anguish, which is like an unquenchable fire, whose flame ascendeth up forever and ever."

Some more of Mosiah. (11:6,7)

> "Yea, and thus they were supported in their laziness, and in their idolatry, and in their whoredoms, by the taxes which king Noah had put upon his people; thus did the people labor exceedingly to support iniquity.
>
> Yea, and they also became idolatrous, because they were deceived by the vain and flattering words of the king and priests; for they did speak flattering things unto them."

These were the conditions that existed among the people who were fast going into idolatry in those days. If you will follow the history through, you will find that this continued among the people until Christ came. When Christ came they were destroyed. Then for two hundred years, they remembered their God and prospered in the land and became a mighty people. They became very numerous upon the land, so the scriptures tell us. Then they began to fall away again. This is the way that God's work has had to be brought about among the people in different ages of time--through great struggle and through mobbings and plunderings; and all manner of things have had to be brought upon the people to humble them.

I wonder what is going to come upon us to humble us to a point where God can use us. We have more to do with today than we had thirty years ago. We have better homes. We are better provided for and all this. But how about our feelings toward the counsel that we hear from time to time?

The Spirit of God is easily grieved; and when it is grieved and leaves a man or a woman, they are left to themselves; and how far can they go? There is a way whereby we can bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that God has placed upon His people. That is to learn to love one another and to cease doing the things that Brother Hammon brought our attention to this afternoon. This community should be the most close-mouthed people there are upon the earth. According to Brother Hammon, we are not. I am afraid this is one of the things that is holding us back, holding us from getting the Spirit of God and keeping it.

We have tried to build an addition on the school house--the Academy, but it has lingered along and lingered along, and is not finished yet. If this people were perfectly united, that would have been finished months ago because every available man would have been on the job. There have been many available men in this town, but they weren't there. Is it because of the idolatry of our souls that has kept us away from this thing? It is <u>our</u> Academy. It houses our children. We wouldn't have the trials and tribulations in the school if our people were on their toes and doing their duty. If the fathers and mothers of these children were doing what they ought to do, they would see to it that the children were obedient to the teachers, but they are not. They are making a playhouse out of the Academy. They go up there to congregate and to talk over the many frivolous things of life instead of trying to study and accomplish the design of that institution. Is this progress?

Here is some more of Mosiah. (27:8)

> "Now the sons of Mosiah were numbered among the unbelievers; and also one of the sons of Alma was numbered among them, he being called Alma, after his father; nevertheless, he became a very wicked and an idolatrous man. And he was a man of many words, and did speak much flattery to the people; therefore he led many of the people to do after the manner of his iniquities."

Now this is what happened to one of the sons of a righteous man. But if you will go on and read, you will find out that God took him in hand and handled him. Have we got to be handled this way? Have we got to force God to come down and strike us down and give us misery until we repent? Or are we going to repent on our own and become a people God can use. I don't feel to criticize the Lord for what He had to say to us this morning. The Savior said, "He that putteth his hand to the plow and looketh back is not worthy of the Kingdom." Again, He said, "He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him."

The Lord plainly tells us to read good books and hold fast to that which is good. Let us do this. Let us study the Gospel. I don't think we need to study Catholicism, Presbyterianism or any other kind of "ism" in order to know that Mormonism is true. I think that is the wrong way to go. It is just as wrong as a man going from one faction of the Mormon Church to another trying to get his mind straightened out because he will never get it straightened.

When the Prophet Joseph was talking with Christ, Christ said, "Join none of them, for they are all wrong. They preach for doctrine the commandments of men, and so forth." He didn't tell him to go out and study their religions then hold fast to this that I tell you. But He told him to, "Come out of her, O ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins."

The Lord doesn't look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. We came here, my brothers and sisters, for a definite purpose of obtaining bodies, purifying them, and taking them back into the presence of our Father that we might use them in the hereafter and throughout the eternities of time. The Lord has said that He is jealous of His work. In Noah's time, the people were so wicked that it repented Noah that God had made man because they had become so corrupt that He had to destroy all flesh.

The Lord is very kind to us. He is patient, and He is long-suffering. Some of us He allows to live a long time to try to

see if we can overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and still purify these bodies that He has given to us. He has allowed men in the earth, throughout the world, to live a good many years. I saw an account the other day of a man who had just died at the age of one hundred and forty-one years old. That is quite a long life in this day. The Lord let him go a long while to repent, to do something about his salvation, but there wasn't very much he could do. I don't know how well he prepared himself to meet the Lord. He might be in a better condition than a lot of us are. He was a Negro, but the Lord let him live a long while.

The Lord lets us live to see what we will do with the life He has given us. With the knowledge that we have of the eternities, we should be a great deal better people than we are. Uncle John said, "We are a good people, but we are not good enough." And how true it is. That was many, many years ago--thirty or forty years--when I heard him say it, and we are not much better today. A few of us might be. A few of us might be trying our best to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections; but when we hear such stories as we heard from the stand today, there are some among us who are not doing what they should do, or these conditions would not exist in this place. It grieves the servants of God to have these things happen among our young people. We refuse to send our children to Hurricane to school. Why? Because the children down there persecuted our children. What are we doing? Let us take this thing to heart, my brothers and sisters. Let us not let it happen any more.

Let us serve God and keep His commandments. Let us overcome these weaknesses and imperfections that we have. Let us bring about a condition among our people that the Lord will be pleased to smile upon us. These are the things that have brought us under condemnation. The Lord says that we will remain under condemnation until we repent. I wonder how long it is going to take us to learn how to repent and how to teach our children. If we will teach them to revere father and mother, brothers and sisters, then they will revere their playmates upon the school grounds. They will revere the Priesthood. But we allow them to talk in our homes, or we

talk in our homes, and then laugh at what we say about somebody else. We think it is smart. Our children think it is smart, so they go out and say the same thing. It must have been talked about in the home, or the child wouldn't have talked about it on the school grounds.

This Gospel is true whether we believe it or not, so says Richard S. Jessop many times to us. I want to tell you that the Lord is not pleased with a generation of people who will not serve Him and keep His commandments; for He said He would destroy them when they ripened in iniquity. And where much is given, much is required. No other people on the earth has been given as much as this congregation has been given, and no greater opportunity has been given to people to straighten up their lives and be instruments in the hands of God than has been given to this people. So let us take notice of what is going on in our homes. Let us straighten up our lives. Let us not give anyone an opportunity to come to the Priesthood and complain over how their children are being treated. Let us raise up a body of young people that will be obedient, not only to their parents, but to their teachers and to all older people who they mingle among.

Now, may God bless you, may He give us the spirit of repentance, that we might go on and build up and establish a people that the Lord can use, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 21, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

This is a wonderful audience, my brothers and sisters, and I hope that the few moments I speak that the same spirit that has dominated this meeting will continue. My greatest desire is to see this people perfected to a point where the Lord will be pleased with us. When I hear such sermons as we have heard this afternoon, it fills my heart with pleasure, for I feel that some progress is being made among this people.

When the Lord speaks to us through the mouths of His servants, He doesn't mince words. He gives it to us from both shoulders, and He gives it to us in a way that we can understand; for He has said, "Haven't I given my word so that a child could understand?" I will read just a few words to you to show how specific the Lord gives His word to His people. He is speaking to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

(D. & C. - 3:12-14)

> "And when thou deliveredst up that which God had given thee sight and power to translate, thou deliveredst up that which was sacred into the hands of a wicked man,
>
> Who has set at naught the counsels of God, and has broken the most sacred promises which were made before God, and has depended upon his own judgment and boasted in his own wisdom.
>
> And this is the reason that thou hast lost thy privileges for a season."

Here the Lord is telling the Prophet why He took away from him the power to translate, because he gave way to the enticings of another man to get that which the Lord had delivered to him. Now this is what the Lord said to the Prophet:

(D. & C. - 3:1-3 and 16)

> "The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught.

> For God doth not walk in crooked paths, neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left, neither doth he vary from that which he hath said, therefore his paths are straight, and his course is one eternal round.
>
> Remember, remember that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men.
>
> Nevertheless, my work shall go forth, for inasmuch as the knowledge of a Savior has come unto the world, through the testimony of the Jews, even so shall the knowledge of a Savior come unto my people." And so forth.

We wonder sometimes why the servants of God get up and go over our withers, so to speak, and chastise us so severely. But we will find by our perusal of the scriptures that the Lord can speak harsher words than can the servants of God. We can tell you what the Lord has said. We can tell you that the Lord has said that we will be damned if we don't do thus and so. But the Lord has the power to come right out and tell us, "Now, if you don't do what I say, you will be damned!" When the servants of God talk to us this way, it is the words of the Lord that they are giving because that is what the Lord has said.

Over one hundred years ago, the Lord spoke to a little boy, one day. He said to him, "Joseph, I want you to go down there in the woods and pray to me and ask me to give you a testimony as to which one of the existing creeds is right." Now, maybe you have never had it put to you just that way before, but that is what the Lord told the Prophet Joseph. Did Joseph say, "I am not going to go pray. I am just a little boy."? No. Joseph said in his heart, "I will do what the Lord has asked me to do for I feel that the Lord will give me a testimony." So, he went out into the woods and prayed. Because he was obedient to what the Lord had asked him to do, He revealed Himself to Joseph. This is what Joseph said after it was all over:

(Joseph Smith - 2:22)

> "I soon found, however, that my telling the story had excited a great deal of prejudice against me among professors of religion, and was the cause of great persecution, which continued to increase; and though I was an obscure boy, only between fourteen and fifteen years of age, and my circumstances in life such as to make a boy of no consequence in the world, yet men of high standing would take notice sufficient to excite the public mind against me, and create a bitter persecution; and this was common among all the sects--all united to persecute me."

Why should they persecute a little boy? There was another little boy, one time--this was a similar incident. This is Mormon speaking:

(Mormon - 1:15,16)

> "And I, being fifteen years of age and being somewhat of a sober mind, therefore I was visited of the Lord, and tasted and knew of the goodness of Jesus.
>
> And I did endeavor to preach unto this people, but my mouth was shut, and I was forbidden that I should preach unto them; for behold they had wilfully rebelled against their God; and the beloved disciples were taken away out of the land, because of their iniquity."

I wonder why it was that the Lord picked upon two young men--mere boys. If you will go on and read this incident of Mormon, you will find that he was soon called into service, to head the armies of the Nephites. He fought all his life, although he was a prophet of God and chosen when he was fifteen years of age. But he was allowed to take his place at the head of the armies of the Nephites, according to the record, at fifteen years of age. And he fought until he was destroyed. An old man--fought all his life in the armies trying all the time to persuade, by his righteous living, the minds of those great leaders in his day.

The thing that we are working for, my brothers and sisters, is to try to avert a repetition of the conditions that existed in former days. We can go back a little further into history, and we can find another people that came into this goodly land. Remember that we are still upon this goodly land that the Lord told the brother of Jared that He would lead them to, and that people that possessed the land would be a God-fearing people and would serve the God of the land or when they were ripened in iniquity, He would destroy them. And He did. They prospered as long as they would keep His commandments, and they grew to be a mighty people upon this American continent. But when they were ripened in iniquity, they were destroyed.

After they were all destroyed, another people came here. After the second colony of people had come here and lived for many generations, they became a mighty people. The record says they covered the whole face of the land, and they must have done because the record says that many millions of people were killed. They were all destroyed except those that would not repent. The descendants of them are still roaming the land.

Now, the Lord brought this other boy up, Joseph Smith. He established His work again upon this goodly land. Joseph told us that except the people repented, God would destroy them, that we would have to keep the commandments of God or be destroyed. I don’t know how long the Lord needs to be patient with His people before He is convinced that people have ripened in iniquity. But I think He is getting to a point where He is soon going to show forth His hand in defense of the words of His Prophet. I don’t think it is very far off. The signs of the times show us that things are getting in such a shape that the words which we have been told from this stand that came from the mouth of the Prophet Lorin Woolley, that unless this people repent they would be destroyed, are about to be fulfilled. Not only Lorin Woolley, but Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and others prophesied the same thing; therefore, we could prophesy the same thing today, and our words would be honored by the Lord.

Are we going to sit idly by and criticize one another and cease to learn to love one another as we should love the Lord, or are we going to love the Lord, our God, with all our heart, might, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves? We don't love our neighbors when we speak against them. We don't love the servants of God when we criticize their actions, their words, criticize their work. There are many things that exist among us that hold us back from receiving the wonderful blessings that God would love to pour out upon our heads, and we could prevail over our enemies. We could prosper in the land. But I notice that a little prosperity ruins us. It has ruined people in days gone by, and it will ruin this people if we are not awful careful. So, my advice to you is to listen to the things that we have heard this afternoon and go home and do something about it.

Let us repent of our sins. Let us get down on our knees, not only twice a day, but several times a day if we have to, until we get the Spirit of God and the spirit of prayer upon us, and then we can walk and talk with the Lord as we walk along, as we do our work. The Lord will be pleased with us, and He will answer our prayers. That is one of the best ways that I know of for getting the Spirit of God and keeping it--to ask God from time to time to be with us while we are working; if our work is in the house, while we are going about our housework; if our work is in the field, while we are following the plow or sitting on the mowing machine or whatever we are doing; if we are riding in the truck, in the car, there is no better place in the world to pour out our soul to the Lord than riding along in our automobile. It would go a long way, my brothers and sisters, towards creating a spirit of love and kindness towards one another, towards our fellowman, and to bring a spirit of peace that the Lord would be pleased to shower great blessings upon us.

If we would learn how to use the things the Lord places in our hands--He plainly tells us to use that which we need, and the rest of what we have belongs to Him. We know how to get it into the hands of His servants, but we are in debt. We are all in debt to a point where we don't have anything to turn in to the servants of God.

We have to borrow the tithing we should pay--the one-tenth that the Lord says He requires from us. We have to borrow it from time to time to help pay our obligations. These are some of the things that we need to overcome to get ourselves in a condition so that we can have something to turn over to the Lord's work.

Now, I don't wish to keep you any longer. We have been here a good long time. May God bless you, and let us get down to business and let us get ourselves in a condition that in thirty years from now we can say we have made great advancement. The Lord is pouring out His blessings on this people because they are prospering, and they are praising the Lord night and day, and the work of God is rolling on. May God bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 12, 1971, SUNDAY, IN COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

We have been together a good long while, my brothers and sisters; but maybe it won't hurt us to listen a little longer. There are a few things I have on my mind that I would like to give to this people.

Some people think that we have a church of our own. I am asked every day, almost, "What do you call your Church?" The only answer I can give them is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Why? Because we take the standard works of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and teach the people from them. This is the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine & Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. From that book we take our religious standard. We teach nothing but what we can go to these scriptures and prove it.

First I want to read just a few verses from the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants.

> "Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say: Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.
>
> For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated.
>
> And the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow; for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed.
>
> And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days.
>
> And they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.
>
> Behold, this is mine authority, and the authority of my servants, and my preface unto the book of my commandments, which I have given them to publish unto you, O inhabitants of the earth."

Now, to substantiate what we have heard this afternoon, I wish to read from section 84 of the Doctrine & Covenants.

> "And I now give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life.
>
> For you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God.
>
> For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
>
> And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit.
>
> And every one that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit cometh unto God, even the Father.
>
> And the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world.
>
> And the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under darkness and under the bondage of sin.
>
> And by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me.
>
> For whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin.
>
> And whoso receiveth not my voice is not acquainted with my voice, and is not of me.
>
> And by this you may know the righteous from the wicked, and that the whole world groaneth under sin and darkness even now.
>
> And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received...

> And as I said unto mine apostles, even so I say unto you, for you are mine apostles, even God's high priests; ye are they whom my Father hath given me; ye are my friends;
>
> Therefore, as I said unto mine apostles I say unto you again, that every soul who believeth on your words, and is baptized by water for the remission of sins, shall receive the Holy Ghost.
>
> And these signs shall follow them that believe--
>
> In my name they shall do many wonderful works;
>
> In my name they shall cast out devils;
>
> In my name they shall heal the sick;
>
> In my name they shall open the eyes of the blind, and unstop the ears of the deaf;
>
> And the tongue of the dumb shall speak;
>
> And if any man shall administer poison unto them it shall not hurt them;
>
> And the poison of a serpent shall not have power to harm them.
>
> But a commandment I give unto them, that they shall not boast themselves of these things, neither speak them before the world; for these things are given unto you for your profit and for salvation."

We have been told many wonderful things here this afternoon, and I want to bear testimony to you that this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Lord has placed a responsibility upon this body of people to repent and to come unto Him--to prepare yourselves against the day of visitation because He has promised that the wicked would be destroyed, and He would preserve the righteous even though He had to send fire from Heaven to do so.

We have nothing to fear, but everything to be thankful for, and this is the happiness that Uncle Elmer speaks about, the joy and happiness of knowing that we are doing the will of God and knowing that we are living according to the teachings that we have received regarding our eternal salvation. For none shall be saved in their

sins or be heirs to resurrection. We are told, we are either resurrected to eternal life, or we are resurrected to eternal damnation. So what are we working for? Are we working for a glorious resurrection that we might go on throughout the eternities of time and become like God is? Or do we want to go back and try it over again? Some believe that we can do it, and we might, after so many trillion years of time, we might be given another chance. But who wants to go through that? The Lord says that those who are destined to partake of the second death, no one knows the sufferings that they will have to go through only those who are partakers of it--the sorrow, the agony that they go through, no one knows.

But the joy and happiness of those that partake of the resurrection of the just is far beyond expression. So let us live so that we can enjoy a resurrection with the just. And let us live so that we can be called forth in the morning of the resurrection and be crowned on the right hand of God. That is the kind of resurrection that I would like to have, and in order to do so, I am going to have to live according to the revealed revelations of God and not by the revelations of man. Because anything that is contrary to the revelations of God is the revelations of man or the devil to man.

There are only two powers working--the power of Christ trying to bring people unto eternal life and exaltation in the Celestial World to enjoy eternal life--the other, trying to destroy the work of Christ. This is the handicap that we are working under. We are working under the handicap of delusion. It would be a mighty good thing for our people to keep at their fingertips that wonderful revelation The Coming Crisis and How to Meet It. If we would get that booklet and keep it where we can refer to it, it would be one of the greatest boons to our trying to keep ourselves in a condition so that the Lord can shower His blessings upon us.

We are at the present time cut off, or had the door closed to us, from having our work done in the temples. But the Lord has said that when He has a people that He has confidence in, that He can put His trust in, then these blessings will be administered to us.

So, let us go forth. Let us go to with a firm determination to prepare ourselves and to be patient and long-suffering, that we might be worthy of the blessings of eternal life. For these are the things that confront us at the present time,

We know what is right and what is wrong. The Lord has told us plainly that every person that is born into the world is born with enough of the Spirit of God to know right from wrong, and we know this. We know this to be true. A little child knows when he does wrong, and if he is taught correctly from his infancy up, he will know, knowledge will grow with him on how to keep himself from doing that which is wrong, if he is taught correctly.

Now, let us go forth. Let us go to with a firm determination that we are going to overcome our weaknesses and our imperfections and live so God will bless us. Let us take to heart the things that we have received this afternoon and ponder over them to see whether they are true or whether they are not true. If we think that they are not true, let us remove ourselves from the society of those we think are teaching false doctrine.

Now, may God bless and help us to do the things that will give us happiness forever. For that is the only way we can get it, by doing what we were told to do in the commencement of this meeting--to know who God is and how to become like Him. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

A SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 19, 1971, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is good to be here, my brothers and sisters, and to enjoy health and strength. I am grateful for the privilege that the Lord has given me to live in this time. I am greatly interested in the testimonies of these two young men who have been out training in our government forces. I haven't been able to quite figure out, during this training season we have been in, why so many of our boys have had to go and get this training. In summing up the number of people connected with our work, I think we have been represented in the armed forces more than any other society, according to the number of people we have in our circles. I think the Lord knows what is going on. I think the Lord knows He can use these men if they will do what these two boys bore testimony that they would like to do, this afternoon--prepare themselves to be useful in the building up and establishing the Kingdom of God in the earth.

I can't help but reflect upon the conditions that exist around us and the position that we find ourselves in regarding the instructions that have been given us since the Prophet Joseph received his great vision of the Father and the Son. At that time, the Lord was very anxious that the Gospel be restored to the earth and men have the privilege to do something about their salvation. For many, many generations, the Gospel had not been taught to the people of the earth, and many were hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Many were wondering what could be done to do more about saving their souls, and we are still wondering.

Joseph was asked to gather up the strength of Zion and go up, to see whether the Lord could find enough to redeem Zion. Since that time, we have been lingering under the curse of a broken law. Before the date that the Lord asked Joseph to gather up the strength of Zion and go up and He would redeem Zion, He placed the whole Church under condemnation and told them they would remain there until they repented. This was in 1832. But Joseph was disappointed in the number of men that he could gather up that he could depend upon, and he had to labor under this condemnation, being handicapped because of

the inability of men to arrange their lives so that they would be acceptable unto the Lord. So, we have been laboring all these years under the curse of a broken law. The Lord said that we would remain under this condemnation until we repented and remembered to do the things that He has told us we must do in order to round out our salvation, or be permitted to come back into His presence and be crowned with glory.

So, we find ourselves, today, laboring in a condition that is not exactly pleasing unto us, and I know it is not exactly pleasing unto the Lord because we are dilatory in preparing ourselves against the time when He is going to prepare the earth for a glorious dispensation--the dispensation of the Millennial Reign. That is what the Lord is trying to prepare a people for.

When I read the scriptures, when I read the revelations given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and I stop long enough to think upon them, it is no wonder that we labor under great strain. The Prophet Joseph Smith was martyred because of the testimony that he bore to the world that he had seen Heavenly beings. It provoked the ministry of the world until they were not satisfied until they shed his blood. From that time until now, the servants of God have not been able to speak out and to tell the world all the truth. We are not able to do so today.

So, a way has got to be prepared for the rise of Zion, for the redemption of Zion, for the redemption of this great work. If we will stop and study what we read--yes, there are lots of us, I dare say, that every man and woman in this room has read this book (the standard works of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints), but how many of us have done what Moroni told us to do?--read it with a prayerful heart, asking God to reveal to us whether the words there are true or not. That is what we need to do. We need to read it with the Spirit of God on us to a point where He can reveal the truths that are contained in this book. Every time I read it, I see new things, new thoughts come to me.

The Prophet Joseph Smith made the statement that he would to God that he could reveal what the Lord had revealed to him, but he couldn't do it because of unbelief. How much more educated are we today than the saints were in Joseph's day? This is a question that perplexes us. I can't help but read out of this book. When I read out of it, I can't help but wonder--Oh, when will I learn to get out of this book all there is in it? As long as life is in this body, I will never get it all,

(Section 19 - D. & C.)

> "I am Alpha and Omega, Christ the Lord; yea, even I am he, the beginning and the end, the Redeemer of the world.
>
> I, having accomplished and finished the will of him whose I am, even the Father, concerning me--having done this that I might subdue all things unto myself--
>
> Retaining all power, even to the destroying of Satan and his works at the end of the world, and the last great day of judgment, which I shall pass upon the inhabitants thereof, judging every man according to his works and the deeds which he hath done."

If I stopped here and didn't read any more, I wonder if we have gotten out of those few words all that is in them.

> "And surely every man must repent or suffer, for I, God, am endless."

This Gospel of Jesus Christ is an individual affair. I cannot depend upon you for my salvation, nor you cannot depend upon me for your salvation. I can't depend upon anyone except myself to do according to my understanding of that which the Lord has given me. He says: Where much is given much is expected, and we get our salvation no faster than we gain knowledge. How do we gain knowledge? We get it through study and inspiration of the Spirit of God. He gives out to every man just as much as he can receive. Joseph received all things that the Lord could give to him and his brain could contain, and he could put it into practice.

The Lord said to Moses, “Get thee up into the mountain.” And Moses went into the mountain. The Lord talked to him, and so great was the faith of Moses, that the Lord showed him the generations of time, after He had tutored him for some time. We don’t have a record of how long the Lord kept him in the mountain. We do know this much, he was up there long enough that his brother thought he was gone and wouldn’t come back. He didn’t have Moses to guide him, so he built a golden image for the people to worship. What did Moses find when he came back? He found a people that were fast going into idolatry. We can go on and on and on and tell you what has transpired throughout the generations of time. Why has the Lord allowed this to go on? Because of the great creations that He has attained. He had to provide a way for these people, to try them to see whether they would be faithful and true to the covenants they made in the world before.

Each one of you made covenants with the Lord that you would come down here. In fact, you begged Him to give you a chance to come down here and work out your salvation in fear and trembling before Him. That is the reason we are here. But He set up barriers for us to climb over. He sent Lucifer and his followers down here for stumbling blocks for those who had made covenants that they wanted to come down here and show the Lord that they could work out their salvation in fear and trembling before Him. And few have done so compared to the many millions of spirits that have been sent to this earth.

How long will it take the servants of God throughout the generations of time to convince the people that live in their time that they must do more about their salvation than what they are doing? In 1832, the Lord placed us under condemnation because we had treated lightly the things we had received, and He told us plainly that we would remain under that condemnation until we repented and received these things without murmuring. One of the things we have treated lightly is the fact that we do not believe that God meant what He said when He said: Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with

all thy heart, might, mind, and strength. This is the great commandment. The second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But we are the most selfish people upon the earth. Why? Because we know these things. We know that God did give these commandments, and we stumble along, and criticize one another. We criticize the servants of God, and we do this, and we do that, and we think, "Well, tomorrow I can ask the Lord to forgive me, and He will forgive me." But will He? How many times can I kneel down and ask the Lord to forgive me of a sin that I commit every day? I ask Him to forgive me for speaking out against my neighbor; and the next day I go out, and somebody crosses my feelings, and I speak out again. I go home and kneel down and ask the Lord to forgive me; and the next day, I go out and do the same thing. How long is it going to take us to learn that we have to control those feelings within us? We have to be able to be cut to the bone, as the saying goes, and still be able to smile about it, and to forgive our brother or our sister for the things that he or she has done to cut us.

Many people think that because they have entered into the Celestial Law and been blessed with more than one wife, that they have made it. One time when I was a very young man, it came to my attention that a certain man had two women, after the Manifesto. He owned a store. I went into his store one day. He said, "Brother Johnson, you are just a young man, I wouldn't talk to you this way if I didn't know that your father had lived the same thing that I am living." He knew that my father had two families. They were both in the same town. My father had died before this, but anyhow this man was acquainted with both families. He said, "I wish that I was as sure of my daily bread as I am of my salvation because I have entered into the same order of things that your father lived." That statement always stayed with me. I wondered, at the time, if the man knew what he was talking about. I wonder how many of us think that we have it made because we have been permitted to enter into plural marriage. If you do, you have another think coming. There is a lot more to do.

Where much is given, much is expected. And when the Lord blesses a man with a multiplicity of blessings, He expects a multiplicity of something in return, and all we give Him is criticism.

How many of us are prepared for the One Mighty and Strong? Do you know when he is coming? Do I know when he is coming? Am I going to be prepared for him when he comes? Can I invite him into my home and not be embarrassed? Can you? Let us read this book. Let us study it. Let us get down to business. Let us repent of our sins and our shortcomings, and let us apply to our lives the principles of salvation, that the law that we hear so much about from this stand and we try to live, will be a blessing to us instead of a cursing. Because the next thing we know, we will find that we are in the class that Brigham Young spoke about, that it would damn more than it would save.

Let us live so that the Lord will be pleased with us. Let us overcome our weaknesses and imperfections. Let us learn to love our neighbor as ourselves. When we can do that, we can love the Lord. I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us, and that we will receive the instructions that we are given from this stand from the servants of God from month to month, from Sunday to Sunday, and see if we can bring up a people that the Lord can use when He gets ready to send the One Mighty and Strong here to set in order His house. May God bless you, amen.