Sermons of
President Leroy S. Johnson

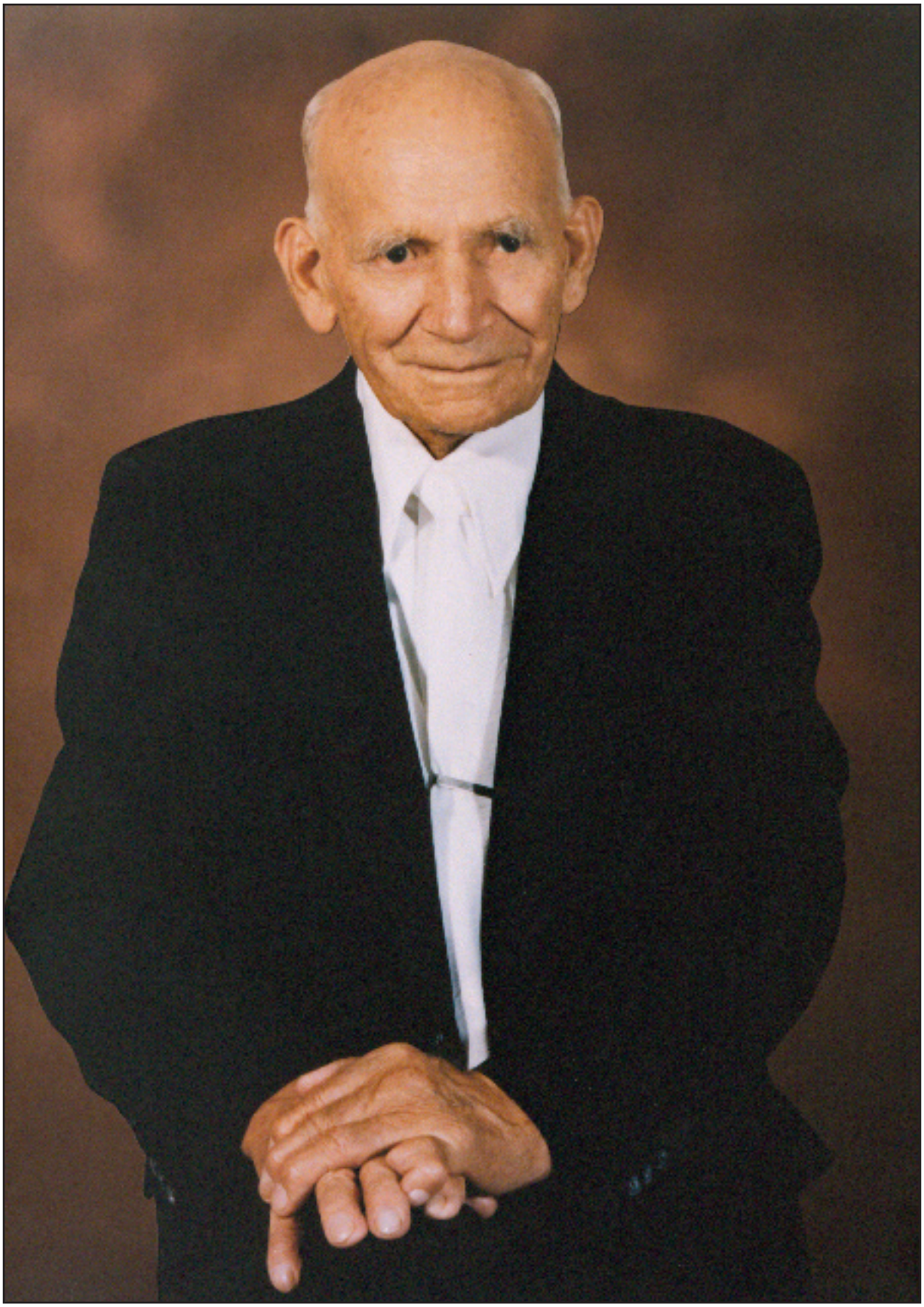
Volume Five

Fifth Edition
Published by President Warren Jeffs
Hildale, Utah
2006

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(Printed by Twin City Courier Press -- Hildale, Utah)



Leroy S. Johnson

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SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 15, 1950, SUNDAY, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, I assure you I feel my weakness this afternoon in standing before you and trying to encourage you to live according to the teachings that we have received this afternoon. I trust that the Spirit of God will rest upon me, that what I may say will be in accordance with His mind and will, for I know that without His Spirit, I can say nothing that will benefit you, or me either. That is one thing we must have with us if we give the people the will of God; we must have the Spirit of God upon us.

We have heard many great and wonderful truths this afteroon from the different brethren who have talked to us. Brother Joseph Musser has pronounced great blessings upon this land. He has done it before, and now he has given it to us again. There is not a man or a woman in this audience that will live to see those blessings realized unless they conduct themselves in the way Brother Musser has told us. We must repent of our sins, overcome our weaknesses, and live according to the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

There never was a man lived upon the earth who received a blessing from the servants of God, even to his calling and election made sure, that ever received that blessing unless he lived the law that gave him a right to it. Even the Prophet Joseph Smith, as good a man as he was and the many wonderful visions he had, never received the blessing of his calling and election made sure until he sealed his testimony with his blood. No mortal man will ever receive that blessing until he has lived and proven to God to the end that he is worthy of the blessing. Mark it down that that is true.

We are living in a great day. That is a remark I make often, because I feel it. It is the greatest day of any people that have ever lived upon the earth. It is the day when the Lord is winding up His work among the wicked nations of the earth

and commencing to bring forth a people that will eventually become the righteous population of the earth, and when righteousness will take the lead and go on. We are living in a time when persecution will be heaped upon a people who will not take up a sword against their neighbor and shed their neighbor's blood. We are living in a time when we will see people come among us because they see our safety here in the valleys of the mountains. It would not surprise me to see the valleys of the mountains clean before that time--cleaned of wickedness, that there might be a proper place for them to come where they can repent of their sins and serve the Lord God Almighty.

I want to encourage you to pay attention to the counsel that has been given us during this conference we have had. I am going to call it a conference, because it is the only conference that has been held in this land for many years where the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ has been taught. The Spirit of God rested upon Brother Musser today in abundance. His mind has been clear enough so he could speak understandingly to us. We should be thankful. Every soul in this house should offer a prayer in his behalf and ask the Lord to prolong his life that he might stay with us and be able to instruct us intelligently. He has made wonderful progress in being able to dictate the affairs of this people since the death of our beloved brother, President John Y. Barlow. I feel greatly the responsibility that rests upon us--men having been called to the position we have been called to. If we cannot keep the Spirit of God with us enough so we can give the word of God to you so you can understand it and you can be edified when you come to these meetings, we are not in the line of our duty.

Let us be humble; let us seek the Lord night and day for deliverance that we might be able to go about our labors like other people--free, without molestation; free, that we might build up the Kingdom of God upon the earth. Let us pray that the enemy will not be able to bring more upon us than we are able to bear. Let us

pray that the Lord might touch the honest in heart that they will come to us. We can see the blessings promised upon this land realized when we get so that the Lord can hear us and listen to our prayers.

I pray that the Spirit of God might go with you in your homes, that you might keep it there, that you might be able to go through this winter without suffering. One of the things that worries me is our condition going into this winter, but if we will serve God and keep His commandments, He can provide for our wants and needs.

I don’t feel to speak longer, but I ask the Lord to let His Spirit be with you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 21, 1951, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I desire that God will bless me while I speak this afternoon. I am not going to detain you long. We have been together a long while in this meeting. I want to encourage you in the course we are taking in striving to keep the commandments of God. I feel that we have no need to worry or feel bad because of these boys in whose honor this meeting has been held today. The Lord loves them and is protecting them. His hand will be over them. I wonder how much worry and anxiety you have for these same young men when they go upon the highways. The highways of the United States are just as dangerous today as the war that is going on. There have been between forty and fifty thousand casualties in the war in Korea since it started, according to the report. That means not only those that have been killed, but those that have been wounded and missing. Upon the highways of the United States, thirty-five hundred people were killed in the last twelve months.

These boys, through their righteous living, can set an example before many men. They might be the means of bringing one soul, at least, to a knowledge of the truth; and how great will be their reward in heaven with that soul if they save it.

I have felt to pray. I have felt to beseech my Father in heaven for His protecting care over these men when they take their automobiles and go on the highways, for I realize a little of the dangers that are there. You might be going down the highway on your side of the road as peaceable as can be, and around the curve comes a man on the wrong side. Before you can put your foot on the brake, you are together. I have in mind one accident in particular that happened north of Salt Lake while we were up there this last trip. On a straightaway where there was no crook in the road, an automobile took across the middle line, side-swiped one car, got on the wrong side of the road, crossed the next lane, hit another car, and killed four people. Every day, every paper we pick up has

something of the same story. The first fourteen days of January l951, there were sixteen people killed in the state of Utah on the highways--the greatest number in that period of time that has ever been known in this state. Outside of bus accidents where several people have been killed, or train accidents, there has never been known that number in that many days. I am only telling you what I read in the paper.

Now, I feel well. I feel to rejoice because of the teachings our young boys and girls have had. If we will teach them how to live while they are young, they will hang on to that teaching through their lives, as a rule. Once in a while you will find a dissenting spirit, one that will not listen no matter what you say. Where that occurs, there are ninety-nine who are obedient to the principles that they learn when they are young.

I don't feel to mourn over these men. I am anxious for their welfare, of course, and I will pray for them just the same as you will pray for them; and according to their faithfulness will the Lord protect them.

I am reminded now of an incident that happened among the Navajo Indians in the last war. I happened to be acquainted with some of the old Indians down there and knew their life while I was living among them. One young man I particularly know, his father had many wives. I don't say they were living the Celestial Law, because they didn't know what they were doing, but they believed that principle. When the government first told the Navajo Indians to give up that principle, their leaders held a council and told the authorities they would answer them in so many days. When that time came, they said, "Do you see those sand hills there?" "Yes." "Well, that sand will drink the blood of every man, woman, and child before we will give up that principle." That was the faith of those people. Shortly after the war, I happened to be coming across by Lee's Ferry. They were holding a carnival or a rodeo at the Lee's Ferry Bridge. The Navajos were there in great numbers.

One young man, the young man that I spoke of (I knew his father and knew he came from a polygamous family) had been in that great battle of Okinawa. He saw every man of his company shot down. When he saw he was alone, he crawled out of his foxhole and stood up where they could see him; and he fought alone and didn't fall. When they saw that they couldn't kill him, they surrendered to him--stopped their fighting. He could hardly carry the badges of honor the United States Government heaped upon him. But that is what the Lord can do. He can protect a man. This man said that his shirt was shot off, his skin wounded; yes, he had many wounds. His hat was shot to pieces. His trousers were shot away, but they didn't kill him, nor did they take him prisoner.

For that reason, I say, if we exercise our faith and under all circumstances strive to keep the commandments of God, we have a right to some blessings. If the Lord sees fit to take one of these boys or both of them as a witness against this nation in the attitude that they have at the present time, what is that to us? But we hope and pray that their lives will be spared and they will return to us.

I ask the blessings of God to rest upon us and keep us in the line of our duty. I hope He causes that enough anxiety may come among us to keep us humble; for as long as we are humble, the Spirit of God exists with us. God bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 18, 1951,
RELIEF SOCIETY CONFERENCE AT SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

I want to read a verse from the Doctrine & Covenants. I am going to speak just a few words to the parents. We have before us here this morning this body of little children. The house is well filled with them. I want to impress upon the minds of the parents some of the responsibilities that are upon us--especially the mothers. There is scripture to the effect that the responsibility is placed upon the mothers for the teaching of the children the principles of life and salvation when they are little. That does not lessen the responsibility that falls upon the heads of the fathers in doing these things and seeing to it that their children are brought up in the right way.

(Section 68:25-35)

> "And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands, when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents.
>
> For this shall be a law unto the inhabitants of Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized.
>
> And their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when eight years old, and receive the laying on of the hands.
>
> And they shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord.
>
> And the inhabitants of Zion shall also observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
>
> And the inhabitants of Zion also shall remember their labors, inasmuch as they are appointed to labor, in all faithfulness; for the idler shall be had in remembrance before the Lord.

> Now, I, the Lord, am not well pleased with the inhabitants of Zion, for there are idlers among them; and their children are also growing up in wickedness; they also seek not earnestly the riches of eternity, but their eyes are full of greediness.
>
> These things ought not to be, and must be done away from among them; wherefore, let my servant Oliver Cowdery carry these sayings unto the land of Zion.
>
> And a commandment I give unto them--that he that observeth not his prayers before the Lord in the season thereof, let him be had in remembrance before the judge of my people.
>
> These sayings are true and faithful; wherefore, transgress them not, neither take therefrom.
>
> Behold, I am Alpha and Omega, and I come quickly. Amen."

Every once in a while we hear someone remark about what this child or that child is doing, and I wonder sometimes how many of the parents know exactly what their children are doing and if they realize just what is going on among our children in our homes. It has only been a day or two since I had to correct one of my children because he was doing something he shouldn't. I wonder what is the matter with me when my children learn those things--these bad habits, little tricks that tend to dispel the Spirit of the Lord. It doesn't reflect so much upon the child as it does upon the parents. We should gather our children around us and teach them more to overcome these little habits that we get into when we are children. Teach them to be clean; teach them to have pure hearts, pure thoughts; see to it that they grow up in the right way so that the Spirit of the Lord will be pleased with them.

We have been blessed wonderfully with health. We have been blessed wonderfully with something to eat and something to

wear. The Lord has over-ruled for our good during this last winter. He has caused it to be summer all winter for us. Now let us live so we can have summer, so that we can raise something to provide for our needs this coming winter. I heard one man preach one time (it hasn't been very long ago), he said, "This winter puts me in mind of a winter we saw once before, and we had winter all summer."

I hope the Lord will look down in mercy upon us and give us summer when summer ought to be. One of the ways to gain that blessing is to put our houses in order, teach our children correct principles. One of the duties of the Relief Society is to teach the mothers to teach their children, especially the young mothers. Teach them how to raise their children, how to teach them in the way they should go, so that when they grow up, they will be men and women of God. The time is here, my brothers and sisters, when we will have to do these things, or we will have to go the way of the world. There is no getting around it.

The Lord has tried for centuries, since the world began, to teach the people the necessity of living righteously that they might come back into His presence. Now we are living in the last days when the Lord is winding up His work among the nations of the earth. He has withdrawn His Spirit, and the spirit of the evil one has taken its place. He is stirring up the hearts of men. We are right on the verge of being in the same condition as the Nephites and Jaredites were in their day when the Lord saw fit to wipe them off the face of the earth--allowing the wicked to kill the wicked.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us, and that we will think seriously upon these matters, that we will seek to find out just what our children are doing. We must call them around us and teach them how to overcome their bad habits, that they might grow up to be men and women that the Lord can use. God bless you, amen.

EXCERPTS FROM SERMON BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 29, 1951, SUNDAY, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, I trust that the Spirit of the Lord might direct what few words I say this afternoon. We have been well fed by the Spirit of revelation that has rested upon this people. The adversary is not asleep. He knows what is going on. There is only one way to keep him from further persecuting this people, and that is by following the counsel that has been given us to get the Spirit of God and keep it.

I only caught a little bit of news this morning on the radio. I got in on just the latter part of the broadcast, but it brought to my mind the prophecies of the holy prophets in ancient times, soon after Christ's time. The old Prophet James saw our day, and he knew what was going to happen. He told us about it. You will find it in the fifth chapter of James.

There is a great controversy on now and plans are being laid for great debates. The commentators said this morning that debating would not settle the question. So intense was the feeling in our Capitol that debating would not settle the question that is before the nation at the present time. He said from the White House came the news that mail was piling up; they couldn't begin to take care of all the letters that were going into the White House to the President. They made the remark that they couldn't understand why so much mail was coming into Congress. It was just the opposite from that which was reported from the White House. They said it was still running about six to one in favor of MacArthur's stand. So you can see what is going on in our national Capitol.

There never was a time in the history of the world when we should pray more for those who lead our country, that the Spirit of God might rest upon them to that extent that the purposes of the Lord might be fulfilled as much through them as it is possible.

This people has been persecuted from the very moment that the Vision was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, as has been told to you this afternoon. This people has been driven from pillar to

post. The Priesthood of God has never rested from persecution. They have been persecuted, driven, killed, murdered, martyred, until the blood of the Priesthood cries from the ground for vengeance to the Lord. Time and again they have petitioned this great government of ours for a redress and for peace that they might go on and accomplish the purposes of the Lord to establish the Priesthood. We have been told that in order to establish the Priesthood it will take the best blood.

We are at the time, brothers and sisters, that will make your hearts sink. Many times Uncle John has said in our travels that the time will come when your heart will sink within you because of the things that you will see. I have prayed to the Lord and have made the statement before that I would like to live and see this thing through. I believe I realize to a small extent what this people will have to go through in order to establish the Priesthood. I have spent many hours thinking upon the things that have been told us by the Priesthood of God and how we are going to establish it in the hearts of the people so that they can get the Spirit of God and keep it to that extent that He will be willing to protect us when persecution comes upon us, because we are going to have it. These mountains are going to be cleansed, that there might be a resting place for the tribes of Israel when they come. These are not my words, but the words of the holy prophets.

There never was a time in the history of the world when a people needed to get down on their knees more and pray for forgiveness of their sins and get nearer to the Lord. There never was a time in the history of this people here in Short Creek when the feeling was so high against them in their neighboring communities as it is today. We don’t hear much of it, but every now and then it crops out. It has come out here in our school several times this winter. Men and women have come and asked us why we live in this place--this godforsaken place--where we have come more for refuge than anything else. We have come here because we want to

live our religion. They marvel at how we provide for our needs, and so do I.

I think the Lord has poured out great blessings upon this people. I think that if there was ever a people that needed to be thankful and humble and quit their foolishness and get down to business, it is this people. If we exist here, we must have sufficient of the Spirit of God that He will be pleased to bless the elements, that we can produce that which we need to eat, that we might have something to exchange for that which we wear. It is not always going to be that we can go out and bring in the money to buy that which we eat and wear. Today we depend entirely upon the almighty dollar. I am afraid that some of us would suffer pretty badly if the way were closed up right now so that we couldn't get the money we need to live on. Some of us have gone a little bit hungry the past week because we haven't had the means to get another allotment to you. This is only a beginning.

Right now is the time, my brothers and sisters, for us to begin to think seriously upon these things. We don't know what minute conditions in the world will be so that our money will be shut off from us. We need to humble ourselves so that we might take advantage of the knowledge of this condition and prepare all we can this summer so that we might not go into next winter with our cellars empty. I don't know how we would get along now if we didn't have the means to go out and get that which we need. But I do thank the Lord for the blessings He has given--for the way He has provided for this people. It is true our boys have worked for that which was brought in, but the Lord has provided the work for them; otherwise, we would have been in a pretty bad situation.

Now, let us think of these things. Let us get down to business, and let us do all that we can to produce that which we need for food. Let us produce enough so we can exchange some of it for the things we need to wear. These are conditions that are facing us. "We hear of wars and rumors of wars in foreign lands,

but little do we know the hearts of men in our own lands." The words of the prophets are being fulfilled every day. All we need to do is study a little, search the scriptures, and they will tell us exactly what is going to happen to us.

I don't want to scare you, nor put fear into you, but I want you to realize your condition. You boys, you young men, see to it that you keep your hearts clean and pure. If you are evil minded, get the evil out of your minds. I fear that there are some among us--young men--whose minds are not altogether what they should be, and I want you to clean up--first your minds and your hands that your hearts might be pure before our Father in heaven, that we might be able to bless this people. It only takes one or two who have covenanted with the Lord to keep His commandments to get out of harmony with the Priesthood to throw the whole thing into disorder. So let us each one see to it that our heart is right so that the Spirit of God might dwell in our hearts and that we might be able to keep it there. God bless you, amen.

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 20, 1952, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

It is a glorious thing, my brothers and sisters, to be able to be numbered with the body of people such as I see before me this afternoon. The Lord is blessing us wonderfully, and we need to be thankful for being tucked away in these mountains where we don't see everyday sights that we see in the surrounding towns, in nearby communities. No wonder the Lord has pronounced great blessings upon a people that will keep His commandments. He knows the hearts of men and women, and He is no doubt pleased with all who will apply to their lives the principles of salvation.

We are living in a day when we need to adhere to the words of God as they fall from the lips of His servants and apply them to our lives, for that is the only thing that will help us in the distress that is soon coming upon this nation and all other nations. When we go upon the streets and see the condition in which the daughters of the Latter-day Saints and the sons of the Latter-day Saints are dressing, we feel to exclaim, "How much longer, oh Lord, will you allow wickedness to rule?"

The Lord thought so much of the uncovered bodies of Adam and Eve that He showed them how to make clothes to cover their nakedness. And today, people think nothing of it. You can go in town and see people naked walking up and down the streets, not only the older people, but they teach their children to follow in their footsteps. And the Lord is greatly displeased with people who have no shame and no respect for their uncovered bodies. I often think of the instructions given to us by the old Patriarch John Smith when he said, "See to it that you do not let your sons and daughters imbibe the traditions of the Gentiles."

We should be mighty thankful that we live in a community where we do not see these kinds of sights upon the streets. We have also been told that, "the daughters of Zion would walk the streets of our great and glorious city of Salt Lake as harlots," and you will not be able to tell the face of a Saint from a

Gentile. That time is upon us. How long the Lord will suffer these conditions to be, we do not know. But we do know this--that He loves His children, all of them, and He has given laws for them to live, and He will not destroy them all until He knows they are beyond repentance.

One of our brethren said he expected that persecution would become great against this people, and possibly some of us would be arrested and brought into court again, and maybe some of us sent to jail. Then we may enjoy a period of peace, and still some more of us be sent in. He figured that before this thing was through, we, the people who are applying to our lives the laws of the Celestial Kingdom, will have to petition for redress. We will have to petition the courts and the lawmakers to make it possible for us to live, and live our religion. Then the prophecy that had been uttered would come to pass, that the United States as a whole would accept the law of plural marriage, or make it possible for the people to live it, before the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would accept it, and they would be the last ones to accept it. So, we may have plenty to keep us busy thinking of ways and means to keep on living so that the Lord will be pleased to bless us.

We have gone too far now to turn back. If we let go of the things of eternal life and turn back into the ways of the world, then we are of all men most miserable. The scripture says that he who thinks that in this life only we have hope, he is of all men most miserable. But I don’t believe he would be as miserable as this people would be if they went back now into the old ways of living and lived as the world does. We have taken hold of the higher road that will lead us to life eternal; and if we let loose of it, we will lose all the blessings we have earned to the present time and those that we expect to earn. So, we would be of all men most miserable if we let go. We must keep hold of the iron

rod and make our way to the tree of life, as the old Prophet Lehi said.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us think of our condition. Let us do all we can to perfect our lives and make this place a place where evil will be afraid to come, where those who come among us with the thought of marring our peace and happiness will be uneasy here and will move out. We can do that, if we will live right. There has got to be a people raised up that will purify their lives to that extent that evil will go from their midst. If we will hold on to the start we have and keep on trying, the time will come when that very thing will happen here--that those who have it in their hearts to mar the peace of this people will not be able to do it. They may come in here and pick up some who are trying to live the law of Celestial Marriage and take them away, but they will not be able to destroy this people if we live right.

Now, I pray that the spirit of peace will rest upon those that are called to speak to us, that we might be fed the bread of life, and that we might be able to apply to our lives these sacred principles and bring about the Millennium in this place.

God bless you, amen.

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 21, 1952, SUNDAY, AT SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, I trust that the few moments I stand before you and attempt to speak, the Spirit of the Lord may rest upon me and put words into my mouth. I desire to say nothing except it be in accord with the Spirit of God. We are truly thankful to the Lord for the many blessings He gives to us, and especially for these beautiful storms that have come the past few days. They are timely and will be life-savers to this people. It has been a number of years since we have had such storms as these this time of the year, planting time, when we could put seeds in the ground and they would be able to do us good. We have some ground planted and we hope to continue to plant as long as we can get seed to put into the ground. The time is coming when we are going to need all we can raise--all the Lord will bless us with. Not only for our own sustenance, but for those who come among us seeking for shelter and food. We are only a little handful of people in one of the most arid parts of this earth, and our past record has been no crops. But the time is soon coming when things will grow. This place will feed many thousands of people because of the faith of the people.

We are only repeating history in this place. We can study the scriptures and study the workings of the Lord throughout the history of the world, and we will find we are doing over again the things that have been done before among the people of the Lord. But we have one advantage over other dispensations. We have this advantage over them--we are living in the dispensation of the fullness of times when the Lord is going to finish His work, and we have the opportunity of commencing to prepare a people for the winding up scene. That is why a greater responsibility rests upon you who are assembled here this afternoon than has ever rested upon any other people, because God’s work is not going to be frustrated. There may be a few of us that will fall by the wayside, but the

majority of this people will go on, and through their faithful labors, the Millennium will be ushered in.

A great deal of tribulation may come to us, which, no doubt, will be one of the saving principles of this people. The servants of the Lord are anxious to have a people go up with them and give them the support that is needed in this day. When men are called into leadership in the work of God, and they feel the responsibility that is upon their shoulders, they receive more or less an assurance from the Lord of the things that are upon them, or the responsibility that is upon their shoulders; they feel the weight of their calling. They can see a little further down the line than the majority of the people. The Lord reveals to them a few things that other people cannot see. And for that reason they are leaders, they become leaders, and they try to teach the people how to live. Some rally to and give them their support, others partly give them their support and think they can direct the rest of their labors better than the Priesthood. They go on for a while and prosper; they then begin to lose the spirit of the work, and they fall by the wayside.

Now, I hope the majority of this people, I hope that all of them will catch the spirit of this work in a way that you will not be part-doers, that you will come up to the line and do your full duty in supporting this work in this day and age when the Lord is preparing a people for the consummation of His work. I hope that those who are here who have pledged their support to the Priesthood will cease to be part-supporters, that they will get behind the Priesthood with all the power that is within them, because it is the only way of safety that you have. It is the only way of safety that I have, to put all my effort into the building up and the establishment of this work in the earth.

I think it would be well to read just a little of what happened in the old Prophet Lehi’s time. We will take his son Nephi when the Lord commanded him to build a ship, and he is

telling about the things that happened. It will give us a little bit of insight into how history repeats itself. Reading from the 18th chapter of First Nephi.

> "And it came to pass that they did worship the Lord, and did go forth with me; and we did work timbers of curious workmanship. And the Lord did show me from time to time after what manner I should work the timbers of the ship.
>
> Now I, Nephi, did not work the timbers after the manner which was learned by men, neither did I build the ship after the manner of men; but I did build it after the manner which the Lord had shown unto me; wherefore, it was not after the manner of men.
>
> And I, Nephi, did go into the mount oft, and I did pray oft unto the Lord; wherefore the Lord showed unto me great things.
>
> And it came to pass that after I had finished the ship, according to the word of the Lord, my brethren beheld that it was good, and that the workmanship thereof was exceeding fine; wherefore, they did humble themselves again before the Lord.
>
> And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father, that we should arise and go down into the ship.
>
> And it came to pass that on the morrow, after we had prepared all things, much fruits and meat from the wilderness, and honey in abundance, and provisions according to that which the Lord had commanded us, we did go down into the ship, with all our loading and our seeds, and whatsoever thing we had brought with us, every one according to his age; wherefore, we did all go down into the ship, with our wives and our children.

And now, my father had begat two sons in the wilderness; the elder was called Jacob and the younger Joseph.

And it came to pass after we had all gone down into the ship, and had taken with us our provisions and things which had been commanded us, we did put forth into the sea and were driven forth before the wind towards the promised land.

And after we had been driven forth before the wind for the space of many days, behold, my brethren and the sons of Ishmael and also their wives began to make themselves merry, insomuch that they began to dance, and to sing, and to speak with much rudeness, yea, even that they did forget by what power they had been brought thither; yea, they were lifted up unto exceeding rudeness.

And I, Nephi, began to fear exceedingly lest the Lord should be angry with us, and smite us because of our iniquity, that we should be swallowed up in the depths of the sea; wherefore, I, Nephi, began to speak to them with much soberness; but behold they were angry with me, saying: We will not that our younger brother shall be a ruler over us.

And it came to pass that Laman and Lemuel did take me and bind me with cords, and they did treat me with much harshness; nevertheless, the Lord did suffer it that he might show forth his power, unto the fulfilling of his word which he had spoken concerning the wicked.

And it came to pass that after they had bound me insomuch that I could not move, the compass, which had been prepared of the Lord, did cease to work.

Wherefore, they knew not whither they should steer the ship, insomuch that there arose a great storm,

yea, a great and terrible tempest, and we were driven back upon the waters for the space of three days; and they began to be frightened exceedingly lest they should be drowned in the sea; nevertheless they did not loose me.

And on the fourth day, which we had been driven back, the tempest began to be exceeding sore.

And it came to pass that we were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea. And after we had been driven back upon the waters for the space of four days, my brethren began to see that the judgments of God were upon them, and that they must perish save that they should repent of their iniquities; wherefore, they came unto me, and loosed the bands which were upon my wrist, and behold they had swollen exceedingly; and also mine ankles were much swollen, and great was the soreness thereof.

Nevertheless, I did look unto my God, and I did praise him all the day long; and I did not murmur against the Lord because of mine afflictions.

Now my father, Lehi, had said many things unto them, and also unto the sons of Ishmael; but, behold, they did breathe out much threatenings against anyone that should speak for me; and my parents being stricken in years, and having suffered much grief because of their children, they were brought down, yea, even upon their sick-beds.

Because of their grief and much sorrow, and the iniquity of my brethren, they were brought near even to be carried out of this time to meet their God; yea, their grey hairs were about to be brought down to lie low in the dust; yea, even they were near to be cast with sorrow into a watery grave.

And Jacob and Joseph also, being young, having need of much nourishment, were grieved because of the afflictions of their mother; and also my wife with her tears and prayers, and also my children, did not soften the hearts of my brethren that they would loose me.

And there was nothing save it were the power of God, which threatened them with destruction, could soften their hearts; wherefore, when they saw that they were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea they repented of the thing which they had done, insomuch that they loosed me.

And it came to pass after they had loosed me, behold, I took the compass, and it did work whither I desired it. And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord; and after I had prayed the winds did cease, and the storm did cease, and there was a great calm.

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did guide the ship, that we sailed again towards the promised land.

And it came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days we did arrive at the promised land, and we went forth upon the land, and did pitch our tents; and we did call it the promised land.

And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth, and we began to plant seeds; yea, we did put all our seeds into the earth, which we had brought from the land of Jerusalem. And it came to pass that they did grow exceedingly; wherefore,we were blessed in abundance.

And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were beasts in the forests of every kind, both the cow and the ox, and the ass and the horse, and the goat and the wild goat, and all manner of wild animals, which

were for the use of men. And we did find all manner of ore, both of gold, and of silver, and of copper."

Here we see when a people were keeping the commandments of God they were blessed; and when they ceased to keep the commandments of God, the judgments of the Lord came upon them, and we find it in this day. What greater judgments can come upon a people than has come upon this people in the short time the Gospel has been upon the earth in this time? When the Lord showed Himself to the Prophet Joseph Smith and introduced His Son to him, the Prophet Joseph bore with the infirmities of the people in establishing the work of God; and how those men who followed him in the presidency labored to establish the Kingdom of God in the earth. Then, after they had been brought to this goodly land and established here, they began to prosper, and the Spirit of God began to withdraw from them because they hardened their hearts against the principles of salvation.

Now the Lord is trying again to establish His work; trying again to raise up a people who will go on and establish His work and establish His Priesthood in the earth never more to be taken away. Men come among us and tell us that the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled and our time is lost, that there is no hope for us to go and establish these principles, that it has gone to the House of Israel. But there is one promise, that is, if we will repent, we will be numbered among the House of Israel. We are trying to raise up a people that will draw near unto the Lord that He might draw near unto us. You can look back over the history of the people in this little place in the last fifteen years, and you can watch the actions of the people. Those who have placed their all upon the altar and have been faithful in keeping their covenants in supporting the Priesthood are the men who at the present time are making headway in this work. But those who have come up half-heartedly and supported the Priesthood with what they

thought they should do, and reserved some for their own benefit, see where they have gone. Are they here today? No, they are out somewhere else. And there are many here today, if they don't repent and do the things they have agreed to do, not only with their God, but with their fellow men, are going to fall by the wayside.

Now I plead with you. See whether you are coming up to the line or not, and repent. See what you are doing. See to it that you are keeping your covenants--the covenants you make with your God and your brethren, that the work of God might have something to go on. Remember, when you are drawing from the storehouse of God and also laying aside some of your wages, you are taking from them the things they should have--all your support. You are not hurting me or Uncle Rich, but you are hurting yourselves, and sooner or later you will feel the weight of a chastening hand upon you.

I pray that you will support this work, that we can call down the blessings of God in the times of need. If we continue in the way we are going, if this people who have pledged their support to the Priesthood continue in the way they are going at the present time, we have no claim upon the protection of God in this place. The enemies of this work can come in and scatter us abroad, and we can't do anything about it. But if we will band ourselves together and come up with a united front, there is no power under heaven that can scatter us.

Remember these things! If we don't keep our part of the covenants we have made with Father, we have no promise, but if we keep our part of the covenant, Father is bound to fight our battles for us, because He said He would. And when He says He will do it, He will, because He is a man of His word.

Now I pray the Spirit of the Gospel will rest upon us that we will realize the position we stand in, the position that each one of us takes in this work, and that we will come up to the

line and stand there, that when the enemy comes, he can’t penetrate beyond a certain point.

May the Spirit of Peace rest upon us, because the Spirit of Peace is the Spirit of God. May we be able to banish from our midst the spirit of contention which is the spirit of evil, that we might have the Spirit of God with us and keep it, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 28, 1952, SUNDAY, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I desire an interest in your faith and prayers that what I say this afternoon will be in accordance with the mind and will of our Father in heaven, in keeping with the spirit that has been manifest here this afternoon. In studying the scriptures, we find that the same conditions existed all the way through the history of God's people upon the earth. When men have been sent among the people to call them to repentance, or to establish the work of God among them, they have been slow to accept the principles of truth and apply them to their lives.

We find that Christ, even the Son of God, when He came here, with the wonderful miracles that were performed, the great signs that came at His coming, the predictions that had been made before and the fulfillment of them, through all His labors among the people, they were slow to believe that He was the Son of God. And after He had labored for years among them, taught them the way of life and salvation, yet He moaned because of the condition of the world, because of the condition of the people among whom He dwelt, that they could not see nor understand His true mission here among men upon the earth.

I am going to read just one small verse and part of another.

(St. John 13:35,36)

> "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.
>
> While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light."

Jesus spoke many parables unto the people and they understood them not. Some He explained, and some He left for them to

figure out. These few words I have read to you I have pondered upon many times, and wondered what they meant to us in this day. At the passing of Uncle John three years ago, these words came home to me and how we could apply them to our lives as well at this time as those people could when Christ was among them. When the servants of God come among us, the light of truth is among us. If we could listen to them, lend them our support and praise our Heavenly Father for the privilege we have of having such men among us, how fast we would grow in knowledge of the hereafter. When the Prophet Joseph came and restored the everlasting Gospel, the light of Christ was upon the earth again, but few there were that understood it or believed in the light, and many of those who accepted it and walked side by side with the Prophet of God rejected it and fell into darkness; and, oh, how great was the darkness! Some of his dearest friends at one time became associated with those who murdered him in cold blood.

From that time to this, the light of Christ has been among this people, among the people of the world, and they have not recognized it. They have cast it aside, pushed it to one side, this way and that way and tried to get around it, even those who have embraced the Gospel. They went through many trials and tribulations, yet rejected the light which would carry them back into the eternal realms of our Heavenly Father and give them eternal increase, but they have rejected those things, those principles, that light that was given to them.

We can take every president of Priesthood from the time of the Prophet Joseph to this day and place them in their positions and tell all the things that transpired in their day and eulogize their greatness for living in that time and for the part they played in the establishment of the Priesthood of God in the earth. Take Brigham Young, he followed the Prophet Joseph, and his great mission was to establish the saints in the tops of the mountains in fulfillment of prophecy from the mouths of the prophets for many

generations. The man who followed him, John Taylor, what a great and wonderful man he was, and how the Lord loved him. The Lord loved him so much that He came and prepared the way whereby the Priesthood of God could exist in the earth and the law of the Holy Priesthood could continue through a period of time when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints should reject those great and glorious principles.

We can come on down the line and give you what part each president took until the Manifesto was given and the people accepted it. Then, and then only, did the Priesthood, or the law of the Holy Priesthood go into hiding. President Brigham Young said on one occasion that if this people ever became popular with the wicked, know ye then that the Holy Priesthood was out of their hands, speaking of the Church. What is it today? The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is one of the most popular churches in the world. Not very long ago the Mormons had a hard time obtaining a seat in the Senate of the United States. Today, they are asking them to come and assist in the government. Have we become popular with the wicked? We haven't heard any complaints so far against the Mormons holding a position in the Cabinet of the President, and we have two of them chosen for the cabinet of the new president, a man and a woman, Latter-day Saints.

If the words of the Prophet Brigham Young are true and the Priesthood of God is out of the hands of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where is it? Where has it gone? Either it is somewhere outside of the Church, or Brigham Young is a false prophet. John W. Woolley filled a little niche in the line of Priesthood. He had to live in obscurity out of the lives of most people. There were only a few people that knew his position, and those who did find out his position had a hard time doing so. They had to be men of God and the Spirit of God would have to be upon them in order to find it out. Lorin Woolley stood alone in the capacity for some time, until the Lord came to him and told him

to fill up the quorum, or call other men to his assistance. And we can come on down the line, after Uncle Lorin, it was Leslie Broadbent who commenced the work of getting before the people the truth regarding the Priesthood of God. He commenced that work. After him came Uncle John Barlow. And what was his work? His work was to bring out into light before the world again the true principles of the Celestial Kingdom. He suffered imprisonment for it along with others. But that isn't all he started. He started a work that will eventually mean the redemption or fulfillment of the prophecies of the Savior in the Book of Mormon unto the Lamanites, that they will be brought to a knowledge of the truth again.

The time will come when Uncle John will be in the foreground of establishing that work among the Lamanites. It will be a hard thing for people to believe, but it is the truth. If we could have only seen and realized what little bit of light we had while Uncle John was here and could have listened to the things he tried to tell us, the things he had deep in his heart, there would be a great many more men in this little place today than there are now. One meager house wouldn't have held them all, if people had listened to what he had to say. But he couldn't do it, they wouldn't listen. There are only a few people in the world today that will listen to what is being given to us trying to bring us up to a point where we can truly say, Jesus is the Christ. For Jesus said: He that saith that Jesus is the Christ and doeth not his work, the truth is not in him.

So what good is it to us to say that we believe the principles of salvation are true if we don't do them or apply them to our lives? I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, there is a great responsibility upon those who I am speaking to this afternoon in this building, a greater responsibility than any of us realize. For, all who align themselves with this body of people are taking upon themselves responsibilities that are greater than any other people have taken upon themselves, outside of the Prophet

Joseph and those people who listened to his word and obeyed the counsel that he gave. We have separated ourselves from the world; we have separated ourselves from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as it now stands.

We have come out here in this place that people say is a “godforsaken” place. You can hear it on all sides. They don’t see why we want to stay here. They would like to get us out of here. They would like to scatter us abroad upon the earth. But, God being our helper, we will stay here and establish the Kingdom of God, and it will grow. This house is filled this afternoon, the seats are filled with grown-ups. This morning it was filled just as full with little children and youngsters. In another few years, we will have to have a good deal bigger house than this to hold our congregation, because we are growing. But if we gain the destination for which we are headed, we are going to have to become humble. We are going to have to call upon the Lord night and day for deliverance from the evil powers that will come and try to separate this people and scatter them abroad.

Now, I pray the spirit of peace will rest upon this people, bless us with a determination that we will serve God and keep His commandments, that we can go from this meeting and praise the Lord for the testimony we have and that we can come back here a week from now feeling grateful for the effort we have made during the week; that we can teach these little children that the Lord is entrusting to our care that they might grow in knowledge and increase in understanding of the true work of our Father in heaven, that when we are called home we can say we have done our best and that the Lord will be pleased to say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” I pray these blessings will be ours in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 8, 1953,
RELIEF SOCIETY MEETING, HELD THURSDAY, 2:00 p.m.
AT SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, this is a pleasure to me this afternoon to address this audience. I pray that the Spirit of God will direct my remarks. I desire to say nothing but what will be pleasing unto our Heavenly Father. We have seen a great deal of good come from this Relief Society Organization. Its growth since its first organization by the Prophet Joseph and the good that has been done through the many years has been outstanding. We can take our minds back over a few years and see what the Relief Society has accomplished and what must be accomplished in the future by this organization. I remember when the first world war broke out. Word came out that the Relief Society of the Church had three million bushels of wheat stored. They took of the funds that came into their hands and bought wheat, built elevators and put the wheat in them and had that amount of wheat stored away. They thought that possibly they could hold it over, but when the demand came from the government to turn over their wheat, it was a great thing for that people, for this Relief Society to have that amount of wheat on hand; and what a great good it did at that time.

Now that is one of the things that has been accomplished by the Relief Society organization, but there are greater things to be accomplished. Had the Relief Society been tutored and instructed under the proper authority and along the proper lines, they wouldn’t have been able to imagine the amount of wheat that could have been stored by that organization today. You can take this little organization here, and the amount of progress that has been made in the last ten or fifteen years is more than our outside friends can imagine. They are surprised, greatly surprised, when they come into our midst and see the number of children running around in this place. If they came into our Sunday Schools they would be more surprised to see this audience of little children gathered together.

If the Relief Society had been taught along correct lines and principles and kept in the line of their duty since the beginning of the Relief Society and all the increase that would have come from that organization had been kept in the state of Utah, there wouldn't have been land enough to build homes for the increase of that organization. Now think! If they had done what the Lord told them to do--to live the Celestial Law, my word would have been correct, because truly there wouldn't have been enough land in the state of Utah to accommodate houses for the people at the present time. You take one man--Grandpa Jessop, for instance --take his boys and count up the number of children they have today, take that as an example. We will say that was an average of the increase for the Latter-day Saints when the Relief Society was first organized. Then put every man under the same condition, for the same amount of posterity, and bring it on down to the present time and see what operation would have been here. Maybe we think that that would be impossible. It seems as though it would be impossible, but yet, the charge was upon the people. Let me read just a few verses from Section 132:

> "Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines--
>
> Behold, and lo, I am the Lord thy God, and will answer thee as touching this matter.
>
> Therefore, prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you; for all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same."

Do we catch the significance of it? Then every man who embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ was under the necessity of obeying that law, or came under that charge.

> "For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned."

Is there any way to get around it and still go back into the presence of our Father? I want to tell you there is a responsibility upon the people far greater than our weak minds can imagine. This people today are under one of the greatest charges that any people has ever been under. Everyone of you profess to believe what I have just read, believe it to be a revelation from God.

> "For no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory."

Now I am going to read you something else. Let us go back to 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."

Do we catch it? I will read it again:

> "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."

Not many years ago, about fifteen years ago, the servants of God came to this place directed by the spirit of revelation. They came here and commenced to work, called a few people here together with some that were already in this place, and they started a work. They told us at that time that the Lord had commanded them to do this. They told us that they were working under the direction of our Father in heaven. They pronounced great blessings upon this place, and they gave us the charge to go forth and build it up, build homes, make it a resting place for the saints, a gathering place for those who would keep the commandments of God. Since that time, we have seen many come and many go. We have heard many testimonies of men saying that they believed, even that they knew, that these men were working under the inspiration of heaven, that they held the Holy Priesthood, that they were called of God, acting upon the earth instead of God Himself, and

they depended upon Him to guide them, to guide their footsteps. But many soon lost faith and went their way. A few stuck and stayed here.

Again the servants of God came and reiterated the promises that had been made upon this land. They gave us a new charge to go forth and build this place up. They placed servants here, placed men here to teach and to lead the work. Again some got dissatisfied and left and went away. And why did they go? We find the same spirit working among the people today--among this people. There are points of principle that we claim we have got to adhere to, we have got to know whether these men are being led in every act of their lives by the Spirit of God before we will do the things--all the things they tell us to do.

I wonder how long it takes, my dear brothers and sisters, for us to find out whether a man is actuated by the Spirit of God or not. Does it take a lifetime? Brother Zitting is my head, or he is above me in the Priesthood Council. Can I afford to spend a lifetime looking into Brother Zitting's life to convince me whether he is a man of God or not? Did I have to do that to Uncle John? When men and women make covenants with one another, I wonder how long it takes them to find out by what spirit they are actuated. Would it take a lifetime? Can you find out within a day or two, a month or two, a year or two, or do we have to wait as long as that man lives in order to find out by the acts of that man whether he is actuated by the Spirit of God or not? No wonder such men as Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, John Taylor and others who had the Spirit of God at heart and had it work upon them--no wonder they were weighed down and went to their graves early, because they could see the attitude of the people. And this people here, we don't realize the seriousness of the situation in which we are placed. If we did, we would be a better people, the Lord wouldn't be able to withhold the blessings of heaven from us. But we are afraid tomorrow Uncle Rich will make a mistake; we are afraid

tomorrow Uncle Roy will do something that won't be pleasing to the Lord, we hold away some of our support from him until we find out what he does. If we had the support of this people in the way the Lord intends for us to have it, this place would blossom as the rose. Instead of sandhills there would be grain fields. This could have been done before. I don't know how long the Lord will be lenient with us. Even with as much knowledge as we have, we have enough knowledge to make us a better people. There isn't a man or woman here in this place but what knows more than what they are doing. They know that unless they draw near to our Father in heaven they cannot reap the blessings of heaven. They know, everyone of us knows, that unless we make a change in our lives, before long the Lord will be displeased with us. And no telling where we will be.

I want to tell you, my dear brothers and sisters, that the Lord expects a lot from this people, a lot more than He is getting. Let us see what the Lord says here; let us see just what He says in these revelations. I am just going to read the first verse or two of a few of them. Maybe it will impress upon our minds a little more the responsibility we have taken upon us. This is the Lord speaking. Let us keep in mind we all believe this people have covenanted with the Lord and with one another that we will keep the commandments of God. We have borne testimony that we know what the Priesthood of God is--that it is the authority of God delegated to man here upon earth--the authority of our Father in heaven to act in His stead. In the 19th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants it says:

> "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--"

Section 56:

"Hearken, O ye people who profess my name, saith the Lord your God; for behold, mine anger is kindled against the rebellious, and they shall know mine arm and mine indignation, in the day of visitation and of wrath upon the nations.

And he that will not take up his cross and follow me, and keep my commandments, the same shall not be saved."

That is enough to show us, let us know that the Lord means what He says. He can't be here to lead this people in person and He has called His servants here to lead you, my dear brothers and sisters, if these men whom the Lord has left here to guide and direct your destiny are not living so that the Spirit of God can flow through them, we are in a bad way.

Now, how can we know that they are actuated by the Spirit of God in all things as pertaining to this work? We can know by upholding their hands and carrying out their counsel. If you don't believe it, watch and see. You watch the men and women who are behind this movement with every thing that they have, with their hearts and hands and time and talents and wives and children, and they are giving their all to the building up of this thing. Then you watch those who are waiting for the Lord to reveal to them every day whether they are being led by the right spirit or not; you watch their testimony and see where they go. You have seen them go out, and so have I. I want to tell you, if this people don't repent and begin to realize the seriousness of the condition we are in and what the Lord expects of us, sooner or later we will go down; and it would be a terrible thing, my brothers and sisters, to have this place, the people here, scattered out among the wicked places in the earth. Which one of you wants to see your boys and girls go into somebody else's family, or to have the judgments of

God come in here and wipe us out in a few minutes leaving maybe one here and one there; what would be greater sorrow? My dear brothers and sisters, you have got one of the greatest opportunities that ever was laid in the laps of people before you. If you will only grasp hold of it and carry it out.

If this people would start today--these words have been spoken before in this place--but the Lord is pleased enough with us to be lenient with us for another year if we will but turn over a new leaf and help to become a better people; if we don't, we have no blessing. There is no blessing in store for us if we don't do better than at the present time, because the Lord is displeased with some of the things that are going on in this place. Let us look to ourselves, each one of us to see where we can improve. Let us improve ourselves. But if this people will repent and keep the commandments of God, this place will be in an altogether different situation a year from now. You will have better homes to live in. The opportunity is here if we will but put ourselves in a position so the Lord will bless us in our efforts, but if we continue in the way we are going, some will be gone from this place. Not because the servants of God have pushed them out, but they will go out themselves because their hearts will be pricked until they can't live here.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon you and that you will go forward and keep the commandments of God. Try the experiment Alma told us. I think I will read just a few verses of Alma. Alma says to try the experiment. He says to plant the seed and try the experiment and see if it won't work. If you have a little bit of faith in him try it. If it works with a little bit of faith, put more faith into it; if you will keep on going, after a while you will have a perfect knowledge of it. So if these men have the authority to come here and pronounce blessings upon this land, and establish a people here and give them charge to go forth and build it up--organize yourselves and live as near as you can to

the United Order, bring yourselves up to a point where after while you can enter into the United Order. That is what we are trying to do. If you have a little bit of faith in us, support us--support us for a year, not for a day. We know you can support us with your faith for a day or two; but support us for a year and see what happens. Then if your faith fails you, pull out and go where your faith can keep you. If your faith has increased in that time, exercise more faith and after while you will get a knowledge that this work is true.

(Alma 32:14-32)

> "And now, as I said unto you, that because ye were compelled to be humble ye were blessed, do ye not suppose that they are more blessed who truly humble themselves because of the word?
>
> Yea, he that truly humbleth himself, and repenteth of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed--yea, much more blessed than they who are compelled to be humble because of their exceeding poverty.
>
> Therefore, blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble; or rather, in other words, blessed is he that believeth in the word of God, and is baptized without stubbornness of heart, yea, without being brought to know the word, or even compelled to know, before they will believe.
>
> Yea, there are many who do say: If thou wilt show unto us a sign from heaven, then we shall know of a surety; then we shall believe."

I want to ask a question here.

> "There are many who do say: If thou wilt show unto us a sign from heaven, then we shall know of a surety; then we shall believe."

Do we seek signs? I wonder what we are seeking for when we say we need revelation every day in the acts of the servants of God--whether they are actuated by the Spirit of God or not. Think it over. Is it a sign you are after? I wish we were all here today.

> "Now, I ask, is this faith? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for if a man knoweth a thing he hath no cause to believe, for he knoweth it.
>
> And now, how much more cursed is he that knoweth the will of God and doeth it not, than he that only believeth, or only hath cause to believe, and falleth into transgression?
>
> Now of this thing ye must judge. Behold, I say unto you, that it is on the one hand even as it is on the other; and it shall be unto every man according to his work.
>
> Now as I said concerning faith--faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.
>
> And now, behold, I say unto you, and I would that ye should remember, that God is merciful unto all who believe on his name; therefore he desireth, in the first place, that ye should believe, yea, even on his word.
>
> And now, he imparteth his word by angels unto men, yea, not only men but women also. Now this is not all; little children do have words given unto them many times which confound the wise and the learned.
>
> And now, my beloved brethren, as ye have desired to know of me what ye shall do because ye are afflicted and cast out--now I do not desire that ye should suppose that I mean to judge you only according to that which is true--
>
> For I do not mean that ye all of you have been compelled to humble yourselves; for I verily believe that

there are some among you who would humble themselves, let them be in whatsoever circumstances they might.

Now, as I said concerning faith--that it was not a perfect knowledge--even so it is with my words. Ye cannot know of their surety at first, unto perfection, any more than faith is a perfect knowledge.

But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words.

Now, we will compare the word unto a seed. Now, if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, it be a true seed, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts; and when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves--It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me.

Now, behold, would not this increase your faith? I say unto you, Yea; nevertheless it hath not grown up to a perfect knowledge.

But behold, as the seed swelleth, and sprouteth, and beginneth to grow, then you must needs say that the seed is good; for behold it swelleth, and sprouteth, and beginneth to grow.

And now, behold, are ye sure that this is a good seed? I say unto you, Yea; for every seed bringeth forth unto its own likeness.

> Therefore, if a seed groweth it is good, but if it groweth not, behold it is not good, therefore it is cast away."

That is enough to give us an insight into the responsibility that is upon the shoulders of this people. I stress this because we have taken upon us more than other people have today. There are no other people I know of, outside of a few Lamanites that have gone so far as we have, as to do what we have done here.

We have been accused of taking all the rights away from people by telling them to give us their full support, and to let us direct their labors, the things that they do, even to their home life, building homes for them, etc. The only reason we do this is because of the love we have for this work, for the love we have for you people. There is nothing in the world that would please us more than to have you all in comfortable homes, in homes where you could go in at night and turn on the electricity and have lights and every convenience the Lord would like to bless us with, which we can have if we will only keep striving. I would like to impress upon your minds that we have nothing in our hearts but love for you when we speak this way. What Uncle Rich has told you is because the Spirit of God is working upon us and we want you to be with us, and we want to be with you.

I want you to know we don't feel we are any better than you are. We know we are full of weakness and can be actuated by the Spirit of God for your benefit only through the support that you give us; so I ask you to support us and try the experiment for a year, give us all the support you can muster; and if money comes into your hands, pour it into the storehouse, so we can have something to buy your clothes and foodstuffs, and quit putting something down in your hind pocket for fear sometime you will need it to help the storehouse out, because it will never get there. If you hold some out for a rainy day to help out the storehouse, the

day will never come for you to get it again for that purpose, because Satan puts his clutches on it and won't let loose of it. I wrestled with him once for several hours over a pocketbook. I know he has got strength, and I know he is a strong man. I know that only the man who is actuated by the Spirit of God can overcome the power of evil, and I would like to see this people walk up to the line. I would like to see you go on and fulfill the measure of the responsibility that has been placed upon your shoulders as well as upon mine; because, don't think for a minute that all the responsibility is upon the shoulders of Uncle Rich, Carl and myself in this place, or upon the rest of the Priesthood Council. There is a certain amount upon your shoulders; and when you fall down, that weakens us. When one man contends with the Priesthood, he grieves the Spirit of God and the whole suffers because of the imperfections of one. Now remember that.

I pray that the spirit of peace will rest upon us and take the place of unrest and uneasiness in this place. I pray it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 11, 1953, SUNDAY, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

I was very interested in the testimonies that have been borne this afternoon, brothers and sisters, and I feel greatly edified by listening to what has been said. I feel to say amen to the remarks we have heard and to encourage you to apply them to your lives.

I just want to read a few verses from the 22nd Chapter of Luke and then we will close:

> “And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.
>
> And he said unto them, the kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and they who exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.
>
> But it ought not to be so with you; but he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he who is chief, as he who doth serve,
>
> For whether is he greater, who sitteth at meat, or he who serveth? I am not as he who sitteth at meat, but I am among you as he who serveth.
>
> Ye are they who have continued with me in my temptations;
>
> And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;
>
> That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom; and sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
>
> And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired you, that he may sift the children of the kingdom as wheat.
>
> But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not; and when you are converted strengthen your brethren.”

There is something that transpired during the life of the Savior--praying the same thought that has been given to you this afternoon--to be our brother’s keeper. I pray the Spirit of God will rest upon us and continue with us that we might get His Spirit around us and keep it, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 18, 1953, SUNDAY, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I desire an interest in your faith and prayers while I stand before you this afternoon, that I might be dictated by the Spirit of God, for I know that I need that spirit continually with me.

I am going to read just a little bit from the first page of TRUTH. You find this on every number of your TRUTH-- “Truth is knowledge of things as they are, as they were, and as they are to come. Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” I don’t know of a more free people than this people to whom I am talking today. You are as free as the air you breathe. You came here because of your choice. This land is not pleasing to the eye of the general man of the country. This is a very desolate, lonely place. If you didn’t come here because of your freedom, then why are you here? The Lord saw fit to further His work upon the earth, to make it possible for those who had it in their hearts to serve Him and keep His commandments; He saw fit to further His work upon the earth, to make it possible for those who had it in their hearts to serve Him and keep His commandments to have a place where no other people would come and molest them. And I mean just those words! There are no other people, and no other place in the country that I know of where we are freer from people who do not believe as we do as we are in this place. Therefore, the Lord has placed greater blessings upon us than upon other people. He has selected a place where we can meet together and preach the words of eternal life without being molested or contradicted by those who do not believe as we do.

There is no one here that I know of that has not covenanted with the Lord that they would keep His commandments. So, go on and do the best you can in working out your salvation here upon this earth. The Lord has pointed the way, given us examples. He has told us how to maintain our salvation. He has appointed men to lead His work, and He has placed people here in

this place who have covenanted to see that these men walk in the straight and narrow way, that they might have the Spirit of God with them continually. The only way they can do that is to lend their support to the work that we are engaged in.

A great responsibility is upon the shoulders of men who have been called of the Lord to lead His work in any dispensation. And they have only been successful insofar as they have been able to get a people to support them in the work that they were doing. You can follow it throughout the ages of the world, and the destiny of a people depends upon the amount of support that they give to those that the Lord has placed in charge of the work. It might seem to you that we are taking honor unto ourselves, but we are only pointing the way to a free people--people who have it within their power to do as they please--they can either follow the way that the Lord has pointed out, or they can turn and go any other way they want. But while they are doing it, the servants of the Lord will continue to point the way of truth and salvation. And those who do not wish to follow therein will have to suffer the consequences of the way they go.

The Lord has chastised those whom He has called to lead His work here in the earth, because they have listened more or less to the ways of man and given way to the interpretation that individuals have placed upon the word of God. I know of no better example than to call your attention to Section 3 of the Doctrine & Covenants. I am going to read the full Section:

> "Revelation given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Harmony,Pennsylvania, July, 1828, relating to the loss of certain manuscripts of the first part of the Book of Mormon, which Joseph had reluctantly allowed to pass from his custody to that of Martin Harris, who had served for a brief period as scribe in the translation of the Book of Mormon. This revelation was given through the Urim and Thummim. See History of the Church, Vol. 1, p. 21.

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.

Behold, you have been entrusted with these things, but how strict were your commandments; and remember also the promises which were made to you, if you did not transgress them.

And behold, how oft you have transgressed the commandments and the laws of God, and have gone on in the persuasions of men."

You see what the Lord had to say to Joseph because he listened to the persuasions of men. And he goes on--

"For behold, you should not have feared man more than God. Although men set at naught the counsels of God, and despise his words--

Yet you should have been faithful; and he would have extended his arm and supported you against all the fiery darts of the adversary; and he would have been with you in every time of trouble.

Behold, thou art Joseph, and thou wast chosen to do the work of the Lord, but because of transgression, if thou art not aware thou wilt fall.

But remember, God is merciful; therefore, repent of that which thou hast done which is contrary to the

commandment which I gave you, and thou art still chosen, and art again called to the work;

Except thou do this, thou shalt be delivered up and become as other men, and have no more gift."

Speaking now of the man who persuaded Joseph--

"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--"

So, when we make covenants with the Lord, He holds them very very sacred. When we break them, we stand upon very dangerous ground.

"For thou hast suffered the counsel of thy director to be trampled upon from the beginning.

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 to the Nephites, and the Jacobites, the Josephites, and the Zoramites, through the testimony of their fathers--

And this testimony shall come to the knowledge of the Lamanites, and the Lemuelites, and the Ishmealites, who dwindled in unbelief because of the iniquity of their fathers, whom the Lord has suffered to destroy their brethren the Nephites, because of their iniquities and their abominations.

> And for this very purpose are these plates preserved, which contain these records--that the promises of the Lord might be fulfilled, which he made to his people;
>
> And that the Lamanites might come to the knowledge of their fathers, and that they might know the promises of the Lord, and that they may believe the gospel and rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ, and be glorified through faith in his name, and that through their repentance they might be saved. Amen."

You can see by this, my brothers and sisters, the responsibilities that lie upon the shoulders of men who have been called in this day--been called to direct the work of the Lord. If they get out of the way, the Lord will correct them. They don't have to be corrected by men. If they get out of the way, the Lord will correct them and see that His work goes on in the right way. When they whom He has called to lead you listen to the persuasions of men--and what I mean by the persuasions of men, those who feel to find fault with the way they are being led and try to correct those who lead them, if we give way to their persuasions, we are trampling upon sacred ground. We are doing things that allow the Adversary to be our dictator rather than God; and for that reason, when we see things going on that are not right, we need to speak about them. And we don't want you--any of you--to get out of patience with us because we try to correct an error we see, because it is not our desire to cause confusion. We only want to keep the work going in a way that there will be peace and harmony, that the work of the Lord might go forward, that the promises that have been made to this people upon this land might be realized. Because the promises that have been made to you and upon this land cannot be realized only upon the principles of righteousness. If we sit idly by and watch iniquity go on and ripen and cause disharmony and disunion among us, then we are to blame. But if we do all we can

to promote the spirit of peace, then we are walking in the straight and narrow way.

Now, I want to encourage you to keep on trying. We are thankful for the effort you are putting forth. We are truly thankful for the amount of support you will give to us in every way. For we know that by doing we learn to be obedient, and the more we try to do right, try to be obedient, the more we grow and the more we can get the Spirit of God around us and keep it. That is the greatest thing we have in our hearts today--to promote a place in our hearts for the Spirit of God that it might dwell continually with us, that the blessings that have been placed upon this land might be realized as soon as possible. I know this people needs the assistance of our Heavenly Father in order to live in this place which is looked upon as a godforsaken place.

We have got to live so that we can purify the ground upon which we live and remove the curse that the Lord has placed upon it. It has been cursed because of the transgressions of the commandments of God, and we are told in the 84th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants that we are under condemnation and will remain there until we repent. It is up to us, my brothers and sisters, to put ourselves in a position where the God of heaven will be pleased to shower His blessings upon us that we might reap the blessings He has promised to the faithful, that this land might be a beautiful land--one that will be envied by those who are around it because of its beauty.

Don’t think for a moment that because we have no water the Lord cannot correct that situation. This place has an abundance of water, has plenty of water for our needs, and as fast as we prove ourselves worthy of it, the Lord will bring it into our possession so that we can use it. We may not see enough on the surface at the present time, but He has demonstrated to the Latter-day Saints since they have come to these valleys of the mountains

that He can increase the water supply according to the faith of the people.

I believe I related one time here a situation that existed in Mexico, but I will relate it again. When the colony of the Latter-day Saints first went into Mexico, the Lord placed a blessing upon the land that they possessed there, and told them if they would go to and keep the commandments of God, He would bless the land for their sakes. They went into the colony of Dublan. I suppose they had a lot of rain the first year or two and they had plenty of water; but there came a dry season, and their water supply wasn't sufficient to take care of their crops. They were burning up. So the people repented of their evil ways and fasted and prayed and told the Lord if He would open the way for their crops to be saved, they would keep His commandments. They called a fast and met together and prayed to the Lord and asked Him for these blessings. While they were in the meeting, they felt an earthquake; the building began to shake. They thought it was only a passing earthquake and they thought no more of it. But when they went out, they noticed that their water had increased, and from that time on they never wanted for irrigation water. It didn't make any difference how dry the season was, they had water. Those old timers in that country will bear that testimony today--the Lord opened the way for them to obtain irrigation water.

So I am not worried too much about our irrigation condition in this place if we will keep the commandments of God. All the blessings that have been pronounced upon any people since the organization of the Church have been based upon that one thing --if we will do as we are told.

In this last TRUTH, President Young, in blessing a party that was sent out in the early days of the Church here, made them promises. He said, in substance, when they were set apart by Brigham Young for that mission, among other things that if they did as they were told, they would not fail any night to have grass for

their horses. They were going down into game country. He promised them if they would not kill any more game than they needed for their use, they would always have meat when they needed it, etc. These promises were fulfilled to them because they kept the commandments of the Lord.

The only reason Zion was not redeemed at its set time was because of the transgressions of the people. So let us not let that happen to us here. Let us band ourselves together with that bond of unity that the Lord will be bound to bless us with the blessings that have been placed upon this land.

Now I pray the spirit of peace will rest upon us in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 21, 1953, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I desire that the Spirit of God will dictate what few remarks I make this afternoon. I feel weak under the responsibility that is upon me. We are living in a time when the Spirit of God has withdrawn from the earth. Men are going to and fro doing their own wills, as has been told to you this afternoon. They are seeking to get gain from every point possible that they might lay up earthly wealth and further canker their souls.

The Lord has told us to repent and return to the commandments He has given us, not only to think upon, but to live and obey, that we might come back into His presence. We are living in a time now similar to what the people lived in at the coming of Christ when He visited the Nephites upon this continent. I am just going to read to you a little about what happened at that time.

(3rd Nephi, 9:1-2)

> "And it came to pass that there was a voice heard among all the inhabitants of the earth, upon all the face of this land, crying:
>
> Wo, wo, wo unto this people; wo unto the inhabitants of the whole earth except they shall repent; for the devil laugheth, and his angels rejoice, because of the slain of the fair sons and daughters of my people; and it is because of their iniquity and abominations that they are fallen!"

(3rd Nephi, 10:6-7)

> "O ye house of Israel whom I have spared, how oft will I gather you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, if ye will repent and return unto me with full purpose of heart.
>
> But if not, O house of Israel, the places of your dwellings shall become desolate until the time of the fulfilling of the covenant to your fathers."

The Lord appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith and gave him a commandment to teach the people of this generation how to live to come back into His presence. People treated lightly the things that Joseph told them. There were a few who rallied around the Prophet and believed upon his words and put into practice those principles which would take them back into the presence of our Father in heaven. They, in turn, left their testimonies with the world. They traveled far and wide and taught the people the principles of salvation, but they received them not. We are living somewhere near a hundred years after these testimonies were given, and there still is only a handful of people at the present time--I will say. There are not as many living upon the earth today who believe and have the same testimonies in the Prophet Joseph as there were a hundred years ago. I doubt that there are as many people upon the earth today who could stand up and say they believed and had the same testimony as those people had. Where are we drifting? Are we any better today than the people were at the coming of the Son of Man in the meridian of time? I am afraid we are not.

I greatly fear for the welfare of this people unto whom I am talking because of the lack of faith, I fear for myself because I know my weaknesses. I know I am prone to give way to the weaknesses of the flesh. I also know that the Lord appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith and gave him commandment and told him how we must live in order to come back into the presence of our Father. I know when I fall short of keeping the commandments of God, I bring condemnation upon my head. No greater condemnation can a people bring upon themselves than to bear testimony that they know Jesus is the Christ and then not keep His commandments.

When I see a people struggling, trying to bring themselves into a position where they can enjoy the blessings of eternal life, and see them handicapped by the rest of the world

heaping persecution upon them and trying to stamp them out, it puts a heavy weight upon me because I know where we are drifting to.

The Lord has told us that He would use the weak things of the earth to thrash the mighty. I don't know whether we are strong enough, even though we are weak, to be used by our Father in heaven.

There is a great responsibility resting upon us, my brothers and sisters, and we should stamp out from among us the evil that is going about here and there. We should take to heart the things that the Lord places before us, the value of them, and try to preserve them that they might become useful to us. We are a wasteful people. The Lord blesses us with the good things of the earth, and we use them like we had plenty and could get more when this is gone. But, I want to tell you, the Lord is trying to teach us something. He is placing material blessings in our hands that will become useful to us if we will use them right. But the way we are going--we give a boy an automobile, and he uses it like the gas that is in it is the last gas he will have to use, so he gets all the speed out of it he can in the least miles, and he tears it to pieces. We are continually under the strain of fixing up our machinery. Why? Because we haven't learned how to use it. These are some of the things the Lord holds against us, because we don't preserve that which He places in our hands. We go down the street and think we are not noticed unless we go as fast as we can. We break a tire or a spring because of our carelessness. If we would use these things for which they have been made, that we might get the most out of them, the Lord would bless us with more. I think faith is the thing we lack more than anything else, but we have many things to repent of.

(Section 43, D. & C.)

> "O hearken, ye elders of my church, and give ear to the words which I shall speak unto you.
>
> For behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye have received a commandment for a law unto my

church, through him whom I have appointed unto you to receive commandments and revelations from my hand.

And this ye shall know assuredly--that there is none other appointed unto you to receive commandments and revelations until he be taken, if he abide in me.

But verily, verily, I say unto you, that none else shall be appointed unto this gift except it be through him; for if it be taken from him he shall not have power except to appoint another in his stead.

And this shall be a law unto you, that ye receive not the teachings of any that shall come before you as revelations or commandments;

And this I give unto you that you may not be deceived, that you may know they are not of me.

For verily I say unto you, that he that is ordained of me shall come in at the gate and be ordained as I have told you before, to teach those revelations which you have received and shall receive through him whom I have appointed.

And now, behold, I give unto you a commandment, that when ye are assembled together ye shall instruct and edify each other, that ye may know how to act and direct my church, how to act upon the points of my law and commandments, which I have given.

And thus ye shall become instructed in the law of my church, and be sanctified by that which ye have received, and ye shall bind yourselves to act in all holiness before me--

That inasmuch as ye do this, glory shall be added to the kingdom which ye have received. Inasmuch as ye do it not, it shall be taken, even that which ye have received.

Purge ye out the iniquity which is among you; sanctify yourselves before me;

And if ye desire the glories of the kingdom, appoint ye my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and uphold him before me by the prayer of faith.

And again, I say unto you, that if ye desire the mysteries of the kingdom, provide for him food and raiment, and whatsoever thing he needeth to accomplish the work wherewith I have commanded him;

And if ye do it not he shall remain unto them that have received him, that I may reserve unto myself a pure people before me.

Again I say, hearken ye elders of my church, whom I have appointed: Ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach the children of men the things which I have put into your hands by the power of my Spirit;

And ye are to be taught from on high. Sanctify yourselves and ye shall be endowed with power, that ye may give even as I have spoken.

Hearken ye, for, behold, the great day of the Lord is nigh at hand.

For the day cometh that the Lord shall utter his voice out of heaven; the heavens shall shake and the earth shall tremble, and the trump of God shall sound both long and loud, and shall say to the sleeping nations: Ye saints arise and live; ye sinners stay and sleep until I shall call again.

Wherefore gird up your loins lest ye be found among the wicked.

Lift up your voices and spare not. Call upon the nations to repent, both old and young, both bond and free, saying: Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord;

For if I, who am a man, do lift up my voice and call upon you to repent, and ye hate me, what will ye say when the day cometh when the thunders shall utter their voices from the ends of the earth, speaking to the ears of all that live, saying--Repent, and prepare for the great day of the Lord?

Yea, and again, when the lightnings shall streak forth from the east unto the west, and shall utter forth their voices unto all that live, and make the ears of all tingle that hear, saying these words--Repent ye, for the great day of the Lord is come?

And again, the Lord shall utter his voice out of heaven, saying: Hearken, O ye nations of the earth, and hear the words of that God who made you.

O, ye nations of the earth, how often would I have gathered you together as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not!

How oft have I called upon you by the mouth of my servants, and by the ministering of angels, and by mine own voice, and by the voice of thunderings, and by the voice of lightnings, and by the voice of tempests, and by the voice of earthquakes, and great hailstorms, and by the voice of famines and pestilences of every kind, and by the great sound of a trump, and by the voice of judgment, and by the voice of mercy all the day long, and by the voice of glory and honor and the riches of eternal life, and would have saved you with an everlasting salvation, but ye would not!

Behold, the day has come, when the cup of the wrath of mine indignation is full.

Behold, verily I say unto you, that these are the words of the Lord your God.

Wherefore, labor ye, labor ye in my vineyard for the last time--for the last time call upon the inhabitants of the earth.

For in mine own due time will I come upon the earth in judgment, and my people shall be redeemed and shall reign with me on the earth.

For the great Millennium, of which I have spoken by the mouth of my servants, shall come.

For Satan shall be bound, and when he is loosed again he shall only reign for a little season, and then cometh the end of the earth.

And he that liveth in righteousness shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye, and the earth shall pass away so as by fire.

And the wicked shall go away into unquenchable fire, and their end no man knoweth on earth, nor ever shall know, until they come before me in judgment.

> Hearken ye to these words. Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Treasure these things up in your hearts, and let the solemnities of eternity rest upon your minds.
>
> Be sober. Keep all my commandments. Even so. Amen."

We are living near the fulfillment of that prophecy. We are living in a day when the Lord is giving the people of this great globe the last chance to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the principles of salvation. A glorious opportunity you have, my dear brothers and sisters! And what a schooling you are getting; what a thrashing the Lord is giving this people because of their slothfulness. Why can't we draw down the blessings of heaven upon us? It is true that the Lord is mindful of us. He is heaping blessings upon us far beyond our capacity to receive, but they are not what He would like to give us. You know it and I know it. Let us watch our actions. Let us take care of that which the Lord places in our hands and use it for the betterment of His work. Let us quit our foolishness, and get down on our knees and get near to the Lord.

God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 19, 1959, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I heard everybody giggling because this loud speaker was way up in the air when Brother Jeffs got through speaking. I am mighty thankful for being here and partaking of the spirit of this meeting with you. I pray the few words I speak may be dictated by the Spirit of God. I desire to see this people prepare themselves to become instruments in the hands of our Father in heaven in bringing about His purposes in the earth. The more I labor in this work, the more I see I need to labor with myself in order to prepare myself to be used in this work. Brother Jedediah M. Grant could see the trend of the faith of the Latter-day Saints--that they were on the road to apostasy, and it grieved his spirit, because God had blessed him with an insight into the truths of eternal life, and he knew that if the people continued in the trend that they were going that many of them would lose their salvation.

We also know today that unless we turn about face and commence to apply to our lives the principles of eternal salvation, that we, too, will go down the stream with the wicked when the Lord cleans this land for the rise of Zion, because He has promised us that day.

The Savior Himself pronounced upon this land a curse if the people rejected the fullness of the Gospel in our day. Again, the Lord placed us under condemnation after He revealed Himself to the Prophet Joseph and gave him commandments and told him what to do to save himself and his sheep; but they treated lightly those commandments, and he placed the whole Church under condemnation. We have a great work and a great labor to bring ourselves out from under that condemnation, and if we preach repentance all the day long to the people we meet, we will not be able to save everyone.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is sending out missionaries by the thousands preaching repentance to the nations of the earth. President Jedediah M. Grant said (in the sermon that was just read to us) that he didn’t need to put on

the armor of the Gospel and go to the nations of the earth to preach the Gospel. We need it at home. If the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would call every missionary in from the nations of the earth and put them to work among their own people and teach them the fullness of the everlasting gospel, they would be doing a greater work than they are doing today. They are convincing people that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is right, but they are losing them as fast as they bring them in because they are not teaching them the correct principles of salvation. Let us look to our own selves. If we labor from now on and save no one but our own souls, how great will our joy be in the Kingdom of our God.

Let us listen to the wonderful truths that are being taught when we meet in this building, and let each one of us try to apply those teachings to our lives. Let us prepare, even this little body of people, so that Christ can use us. I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us that we might go on and prepare ourselves against the day of visitation that God has promised to this generation.

May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 7, 1959, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is certainly a pleasure to be here this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, to meet with you under the shade of this beautiful tree and under such favorable circumstances. I trust that the few moments I stand before you that the Spirit of God will direct my remarks. I have said many times, and I will say again, that I desire nothing but the will of God to be showered upon this people. I know we are living in a day when God is seeking out a body of people that He can depend upon, and He requires strict obedience to the principles of life and salvation.

I had the privilege of sitting in the midst of a body of young men that were going into the marines during the last week. The instruction of the captain to those boys was that if they never knew what obedience meant before, they would at the end of the next twelve weeks of their lives. So, if we don't know what obedience means, we had better begin to learn; and especially you boys who are preparing or thinking of going into the army, because when you go there, they will teach you obedience.

There has been quite a bit said this afternoon about the word of the Lord. I like to give the word of the Lord to the people because I feel at ease when I know it is the word of God I have given to them. The Lord says:

> (D. & C. 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."

It has been impressed upon my mind lately that there are two great powers striving for the minds of the people in this day. One is trying to bring the people unto repentance and get them to pay strict obedience unto the laws and commandments that God gave through the Prophet Joseph Smith for the salvation of the human family, that their souls may not be lost, but that the purposes for which we came to the earth might be realized in the lives of every individual which has come to the earth. These bodies that God gave to us were given to us for a sacred purpose, and that purpose was to cleanse and purify them that we might use them in the hereafter; for they are invaluable throughout the generations of time in bringing to pass the purposes of our Father in heaven.

Moses made the statement after he had talked with God face to face, "Now I know that man is nothing." He had come to realize that man within himself is powerless in the presence of our Father in heaven. We believe that, "as man is God once was, and as God is man may become." And If we are going to become like God, we are going to have to live and obey the same laws that He obeyed--namely, take care of these bodies God has given us--keep them clean and pure; purify our lives and apply to our lives the simple and pure principles which God has given us for our salvation.

On the other hand, the other power taking the young men and young women of the nation is demanding strict obedience to the powers of evil, that the will of God and His ways may be frustrated, and the souls of men be destroyed.

Now, these are the two powers that are working in the earth today. A great deal is being said about reaching the moon--billions upon billions of dollars are being spent in a race trying to find out which nation can get there first. But what did God tell our dear old grandfather, Moses? He took him up into the mount and showed him all the workings of His hands. He showed him many worlds, and He said, "These are mine, they belong to me; I created them. But, Moses, my son, only of this earth upon which you stand will I tell thee." He gave him to understand that what He was doing on these other earths was none of his business. So, why spend millions of dollars trying to reach something we cannot get?--while millions upon millions of people are starving to death while we are trying to do it.

The servants of God have been commanded, my brothers and sisters, to teach repentance to this generation. And what does that mean?

(Moroni 8:24-26)

> "For repentance is unto them that are under condemnation and under the curse of a broken law.
>
> And the first fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins;
>
> And the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God."

That is what the Lord requires of this generation. A great deal has been said lately about this people being under condemnation. Inasmuch as we are under condemnation, then we need

to repent. And when we repent, it means that we give strict obedience unto the teachings of our Father in heaven; and these teachings are directed by the servants of God whom He has called in the latter days. God has said that He would have a tried people. So we are being tested, my brothers and sisters, as to whether we will give strict obedience unto the teachings of that great prophet of ours, Joseph Smith, as has been stated here this afternoon.

Now, we need to give heed unto the commandments that God has given us for our salvation. “Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye find eternal life.” We need to stand in holy places and watch the arm of God made manifest in the day in which we live, because God is pouring out His judgment upon the nations of the earth at this time. They don’t know which way to turn or where to go to find peace. We hear them crying, “peace, peace,” but where is there any peace today? The time is soon upon us when this nation is going to be tested to the core. And, as I have read to you this afternoon, the prophecies of God are going to be fulfilled upon this nation; and you, my brothers and sisters, need to prepare yourselves against the day of great tribulation. That is the reason that we cry repentance, because we know that unless we find ourselves in a condition so that we can command the protection of our Father in heaven, we have no claim upon His blessings.

So, let us try to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections. Let us quit finding fault with one another. Let us get close to the Lord and take Him into our confidence and make Him our confidant, so that we might have claim upon His protection in our days of trial.

We are enjoying, at the present time, a period of peace. Now is the time to get close to the Lord. We know what He has said--that if we forget Him in our days of peace, He will be hard to find in our days of trial. Let us remember that.

May the spirit of peace settle down upon us and may we hasten to prepare ourselves to receive the blessings which God has in store for the faithful, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 16, 1959, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is good to be here again, my dear brothers and sisters, and meet with you under favorable circumstances and look into your beautiful faces again. The Lord loves this people. He has plainly told us that He chastises those He loves. Some of us, maybe, think that it is impossible to do the things that we have been told to do this afternoon, but anything that the Lord has instructed His people to do, if they will make up their minds to do it, He will open the way for them to do it.

I very often refer to these words--you know the old Prophet Lehi was a righteous man. He learned early in his life the same things that the Prophet Joseph learned. The Prophet Joseph upon one occasion made this remark: "I have learned this one thing, that when the Lord speaks, I go." The old Prophet Lehi learned that same thing in his day, and when the Lord spoke to him, he began to immediately put into operation the things the Lord commanded him to do. The Lord told him to send his boys back to get the records of the Jews, and they immediately began to murmur, some of them, that it would be impossible for them to go back into a city that was already trying to track them down and bring them into bondage; so they murmured about it. But he had one son called Nephi that was a boy that the Lord loved because he tried to do the things that his father told him to do. I want to read just a few of his words:

(First Nephi, 3:6-7)

> "Therefore, go, my son, and thou shalt be favored of the Lord, because thou hast not murmured."

That was Lehi speaking to his son, Nephi.

> "And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no

> commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them."

Now, when Nephi had spoken these words, he gathered his brothers up and took them along with him. No doubt, he tried to teach those people the same thing we are trying to teach today--to be obedient in the things the Lord commands us to do in order to bring up a people He could use. So, these boys went down and every opposition that could be placed in their way was placed there. And the boys got so worked up in their feelings that they wanted to do away with their brother, Nephi, because he was, according to their way of thinking, trying to get them to do something that was impossible.

We all know the story of how Nephi was persistent under any opposition that came, although he was driven back. They went down and sold their property that they had left, gathered the money to try to buy the records. But, instead of giving them the records, the enemy took their money away from them and left them penniless. That didn't stop them; they went back again. Then the Lord opened the way whereby they could accomplish the thing He had commanded them to do.

This people today are in the same condition. The Lord has commanded us to do certain things that we might work out our salvation, and we think because of the opposition of the world we cannot do that thing, that we have got to go along with the world and live like they do and take our chances of salvation with them. But the Lord has opened a way whereby we might apply to our lives the saving principles of the Gospel and still live among our enemies if we will do the things Brother Guy has laid before us this afternoon. If this people will begin to live according to the teachings that they receive, and keep them sacred, we will begin to prevail over our enemies, and there will be nothing that can stop

us until Zion is redeemed and the Lord's work is accomplished in the earth.

The Lord commanded the Prophet Joseph to prepare a people to redeem Zion. The Prophet had so much confidence in his people that he told them the Lord had commanded him to gather together a body of men to go up and redeem Zion, but they did not have confidence in what the Prophet Joseph said. They were like the brothers of Nephi that murmured, and they persisted in their efforts to try to dissuade Joseph from doing the work which the Lord had commanded. But Joseph went. He gathered all that he could of the faithful members of the Church and went up. We all know the history of what happened on that great journey because of the slothfulness and disobedience of the people. Disease came among them and killed some off, and there was only a portion of that body that went up to Zion. But out of that body of men were chosen the leaders of the Priesthood, the Church and the Kingdom of God, but the Lord could not accomplish the thing that He commanded them to do because they did not keep His commandments. He told them if they would go up without murmuring, He would redeem Zion.

Now, again, the Lord is trying to prepare a people that He can redeem Zion with. He has got to have a people that will be guided and led by the inspiration of the Spirit of God. That is what President Musser had in mind when he talked to you like he did this afternoon.

Now, my brothers and sisters, we only have this one chance to live and partake of the blessings of eternal life. The time to prepare to meet our God is while we live in this life. So, let us go to. Let us try between now and our next meeting to overcome some evil trait that we have, and see to it that we do not do it any more. Then, from that meeting until the next, let us try to overcome another one, and when we lay them on the shelf, let us leave them there. Let us not go back and try to dust them off and use them again, but lay them aside and leave them there. Then the

servants of God will begin to receive the support that God requires that they should receive, and the Kingdom of God will rise, and a people will be prepared to go back and redeem Zion.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us and that we will listen, and not only listen, but do the things which we are told to do that we might prepare ourselves to receive our salvation. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 6, 1959,
SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA 10:00 A.M. MEETING

This is a wonderful day, my brothers and sisters, and I am glad to be living in it. About fifteen or twenty years ago, I was riding along with a man in this place. We were being persecuted, having answered before the law. This man says, “I would hate to be in your shoes.” I said, “I would hate to see you there.” He says, “I will tell you, it is a serious thing, and I would want to get out of it as quick as possible.” I said, “Brother, do you know what I think? I am thinking very deeply, if the Lord will grant me the privilege, I hope He will leave me here until this thing is finished, until we have the Kingdom of God set up upon the earth.” He said, “I don’t want to live through what you are going to have to live through.”

I spoke to Brother Barlow about the incident. He put his hand on my shoulder and said, “Roy, you might just do that very thing.” If the Lord will bless me with continued health, I hope I will live to be of use to this people in establishing them and seeing the Kingdom of God established in the earth.

We have labored long and hard, brothers and sisters, to bring this many people together and have them united as they are, for which we are thankful. I feel like making this prophecy this morning, that if this body of people will carry out the resolution you have made, you will commence from this moment to prevail against your enemies, and all the bother they go to trying to stamp out this people will fall upon their own heads, and the way will be prepared for the Kingdom of God to rise, and the Millennium will be on its way.

There is a good deal of repentance that has got to come forth in this people. There is a great deal of laxity among the parents in the teaching of their children. If this weren’t so, there wouldn’t be so many young people come wanting to know how to overcome this weakness and that weakness. You parents, shame on you for some of your boys to come to the Priesthood to seek for

assistance in helping to overcome weaknesses that have been incurred in your homes. The Lord is not pleased with that situation among this people. You should commence while you are young, while your babes are young to teach them the sacredness of their morals. I don't want to have any more of these young people from this time on have to come to me wanting to know how they can overcome some of these damnable acts--weaknesses they have. Wake up and live! Write it down in the thoughts of your mind, and then go home and commence to straighten out your own family.

I do want these young men, these young boys, and girls, too, if they want to come for counsel, to come and we will teach them in the right way. We will do all we can to get them to overcome some of these bad habits they have; but we don't want these younger boys and girls coming up being taught by older ones how to defile their bodies, thinking they can clean them up later on. The Lord can't use boys and girls that have been taught unclean habits in your homes. I say, shame on you! With all the good things we have said about this people, shame on you! If you can't clean up your own home, how can the Priesthood do it? Cleanliness is one of the most important phases of our lives; not only cleanliness in the home, that is the starting point, but the cleaning up of our hearts, our habits, and everything that pertains to evil among this people. You are going to have to come to it sooner or later if you ever get into the presence of our Father in heaven, because He says, "I will not look upon sin with any degree of allowance." Think about it!

We are the best people on the earth, yes, but I find we are not good enough. We have got a long way to go to clean up, purify our lives and get ourselves into a condition where the Lord can bless and prosper us, and bring this people up to a point where He can use you and prepare you for the return of the Ten Tribes of Israel. Remember, that is what the Lord is trying to do. A way has got to be prepared--a people have got to be prepared--to

officiate for this great concourse of people we have been looking for all these years. The prophets of God have wished they could live and take part in that great work.

You have the opportunity, my brothers and sisters, and a great many of you will have the opportunity of assisting there if you will prepare yourselves. But let us look to our own knitting--clean up our homes, clean up the lives of these young men and women we have among and around us, that we might be able to make saints out of them.

It is one thing to get the Spirit of God and another thing to keep it. Remember this, that the Spirit of God is easily grieved, and once it is grieved and withdraws from us, it is hard to obtain it again, but great are the blessings that have been promised to the faithful and those who will prepare themselves to receive the blessings of heaven.

Remember, remember, that this people are under condemnation because they have treated lightly the things they have received; and the things that they have treated lightly are the things we have been speaking of this afternoon.

Now let us go to with a firm determination to serve God and keep His commandments. Let us clean up our lives, make our homes a place where angels will not be ashamed to come. How can you, my brothers and sisters, call in the elders and have them lay hands upon your sick and ask the blessings of God upon them if they are not worthy to receive the blessings? Let us keep our hearts and hands clean and pure, that the Spirit of God might be willing to dwell with us at any time, that we might command His blessing. I want to tell you, that the enemies of righteousness are not dead; they are working day and night. One judge told the prosecutor if they got evidence to convict this people, they would have to watch them day and night. So, don’t think for a minute they are not at work. And don’t think for a minute that the Lord is going to keep us from being persecuted unless we are worthy of being kept from

being persecuted. If we will go to as a body, if this body of people that is here this afternoon will go to with a firm determination to clean up their lives, get close to the Lord, I promise you in the name of Jesus that our enemies will not be able to stamp out this work and carry the people away like they did before.

I love you all, everyone of you, because of the faith that you have shown for the work through all these tribulations that we have passed through over the years and for the support you have given us. I am thankful for it. The only thing we are striving for is to continue--a continuation of that support, for you to more fully support the cause that you are living for.

Now, may God’s blessings settle upon you. May He put into the heart of every man, woman, and child in this building a testimony that cannot be shaken, and a determination to get close to Him and get His Spirit and keep it, I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 6, 1959,
SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA 2:00 P.M. MEETING

This is another evidence, my brothers and sisters, of the faith that you have acquired in your determination to work out your salvation. When I hear such things spoken as have been said this afternoon and in the other meetings, my mind begins to wander back into history as to just what the old prophets did in their day in trying to bring about a condition among the people that they could save their own souls; and I trust that the Spirit of God will give me strength to say a few words and to call your attention to some of the things that transpired in times past.

We have been told from time to time that the same thing that would save men today saved men in Abraham's time and in Noah's time, Enoch's time, and even back to our dear old Father Adam's time. The same principles of salvation have been taught to those who have aligned themselves with God's work in all dispensations. We are doing no more today than the old Apostle Paul did when he was left to lead the people to try to get them to align themselves with the Gospel of Christ, that they might save their own souls. This is what he said to the Romans: (Romans, 13)

> "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers, for there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.
>
> Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.
>
> For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same.
>
> For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Wherefore, ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

For, for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Let us walk honestly, as in the day: not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

There is the Gospel, my brothers and sisters, that has been taught throughout all the history of the world. The same doctrine that saved the old Apostle Paul will save the old gentlemen today. The same Gospel that was preached to the people of

Enoch will save the people of this day; and that is what we are trying to do. We are trying to lay before this people a foundation for their salvation. And as has been said here today, nothing but obedience to the laws of God will save any man, woman or child.

I pray the blessings of God will be upon this people, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 8, 1959, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, this is certainly a pleasure tonight to be here with you, to listen to the testimonies of my brethren and to partake of the wonderful Spirit of the Lord with you. I pray the few moments that I speak to you that the Lord will direct my remarks.

We have been told tonight of some of the persecutions and drivings of our people in our day, and we have been told of the reason for it. We have been trying to bring this people up to a point where the Lord can use them. I find, through wandering over the history of our people from the days of the Prophet Joseph and during the early days of the Church that the same principles, the same doctrine was taught by that man. The Lord told him to tell the people the same things that you have been listening to tonight --to repent and turn unto Him.

It is indeed a shame when we think back over the history of our people and review the revelations of the Lord to the people and see how lightly they have treated His word. He has plainly told us that we must repent of our sins, and that means to repent of the traditions of our fathers and turn and listen to the voice of God and apply it to our lives. I am going to read a little. I like to give it to you from the shoulder. That means the word of the Lord is better than my word. This revelation was given to Martin Harris. All the way down the line men who have understood the word of God, or heard it from the mouths of the prophets, have found it hard to understand that the Lord meant what He said, but this is what He said to Martin Harris:

(Doctrine & Covenants 19:1-2)

> "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--”

It is a great sermon in the few words I have already read. Get the book and read Section 19 and study it. You can study it from now until next month and still there will be something in there that you don’t get out of it.

> (Verses 3-4)
>
> “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.”

In the very beginning, when men began to take glory unto themselves, or when they began to feel like they had attained a little more education than the Prophet himself, the Lord had to call them to repentance. Here we are, one hundred years since that time. That revelation was given in 1830. In 1832, the Lord placed the whole Church under condemnation and told them they would remain there until they had repented.

Today the Lord is trying to raise up a people who will apply to their lives the truths that He gave to them in that early hour for their salvation. We can say all we want to say. Let the learned preach from the housetops that we live in an hour that is advanced from that in which the Prophet lived, and that the things that applied to the people in his day are not necessary in the day in which we live. Let them preach that all the day long and they will be damned. Why? Because the people are no closer to the Lord

today than they were in the days of the Prophet Joseph. They haven't learned this one lesson, to cease treating lightly the commandments of God. And until they can learn that lesson, the Lord is going to inspire His prophets and apostles and His servants, whomever they may be, to preach nothing but repentance to this people until we can love our neighbor as ourselves, until we can have perfect confidence in one another, until the time comes when we won't have to lock our cars in the daytime, let alone at night, in order to save the accessories that are inside of them. Until that time can come among our people, they are going to have to have repentance preached to them.

I pray the Spirit of God can settle down upon this congregation in this meeting here tonight and that everyone will commence now to apply to their lives that one principle, brotherly love, and every man and woman be their brother's and sister's keeper, that the Spirit of God might dwell with us and that we might be able to keep it, that our footsteps might be guided in the right path; because the days are coming upon us when we are going to have to rely on the grace of God for our substance, our apparel, and everything God has given to us. We live in a day when money can buy everything. What are you going to do when there is no money and we have to rely entirely on God for our existence? I want to tell you, brothers and sisters, this thing means more to us than just a fable or a bedtime story. It means more to us than that we are going to have to go back to the earth for our substance, and we have got to learn this thing.

I pray the Spirit of God will rest upon us, that the spirit of peace will settle upon us, that we might get the Spirit of God with us and that the spirit of peace might stay with us. I humbly pray for this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 6, l959, AT THE FISCHER RESIDENCE, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I assure you that I feel very humble in occupying this position after hearing President Hammon deliver such a wonderful discourse to you, and I pray that the Spirit of God will direct my remarks.

I am wondering now how many there are in this audience who caught the message from President Hammon. The very thing that he talked about concerns every individual in this wonderful audience that is listening here tonight. There are four rooms in this building that are filled to capacity, and that represents about the majority of the Latter-day Saints in this great and glorious city which the Lord once gave to the Saints. This city lot ought to be filled more crowded than these rooms are with people hungering and thirsting after righteousness, but they are not here. If we were to convert this whole audience, every man, woman and child that is here, and get them to repent and turn to the Lord as He desires that we should, we would be doing a glorious work. I would feel that our labors were not in vain.

There are too many among us who do not care. I hear it every day--“What is the use? We are living here, and what did we come here for if we can’t enjoy some of the pleasures of this life; what is the use of going through it and wasting the time the Lord has given to us just trying to be good?”

I hold in my hand the Doctrine & Covenants--revelations of the Lord to this generation. Now let us see what the Lord has said would happen to those who do not care.

(D & C Section 19)

> “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."

Should we care? I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, we had better begin to care, and hunger and thirst after righteousness.

"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.

I speak unto you that are chosen in this thing, even as one, that you may enter into my rest.

For, behold, the mystery of godliness, how great is it! For, behold, I am endless, and the punishment which is given from my hand is endless punishment, for Endless is my name. Wherefore--

Eternal punishment is God's punishment.

Endless punishment is God's punishment.

> Wherefore, I command you to repent, and keep the commandments which you have received by the hand of my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., in my name; and it is by my almighty power that you have received them;
>
> Therefore I command you to repent--repent, lest I smite you by the rod of my mouth, and by my wrath, and by my anger, and your sufferings be sore--how sore you know not, how exquisite you know not, yea, how hard to bear you know not."

The hearts of men must be changed. When Adam came into the Garden of Eden, who did he find there? The scriptures tell us that he found Satan there, and Satan demanded of him why he, Adam, was trespassing upon his ground. Ever since then the scrap has been still on. God destroyed the people of the earth entirely because of their wickedness, so the scriptures tell us. When Christ was here, He told His apostles that when He was asked what the condition would be at His second coming, He said, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at my coming."

I direct your attention to this small body of people that is here tonight as compared with the number of people in this great city. Now, go on a little further and compare it with the billions of people that are upon the earth today and see how far the servants of God have got in trying to preach repentance to the people upon this great globe. And the Lord hasn't been able yet to bring what few we are talking to tonight who are listening to us to repentance to that point where He can use us like He would like to use us. So, there is room for repentance, and God expects us to place ourselves in a condition so that He would be pleased to own and bless us. He has shown forth his hand in our defense in trying to protect us, but yet there is lots of room for improvement.

There are those under the sound of my voice here tonight that have come out to listen to us, and deep in their hearts they

condemn us for the stand we are taking in trying to perfect a people. So, there is room for repentance, my brothers and sisters, and except we repent, the judgments of God will not pass us by. We will feel the chastening hand of a just God upon us unless we hasten to set our homes and houses in order.

I pray that this audience will give heed to what you have heard here tonight, and hasten to prepare yourselves for that which is fast coming upon us. For the Lord has promised us through the mouths of His prophets in this dispensation destruction unless we repent. May the spirit of repentance settle upon us, and may we hasten to set our houses in order. You men who hold the Holy Priesthood, you had better hasten to honor that Priesthood that you hold or it will be taken from you.

Now, I pray that we will listen to that which the Lord has given us this night, and go from this meeting with a firm determination to serve God and keep His commandments, and I pray it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 27, 1959, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, it is a great pleasure to be with you again and partake of the spirit of this meeting. I have been very much interested in the testimonies that have been borne. I pray that the Spirit of God will direct my remarks.

This is a blessed people in this very critical age of the world. You are more blessed than the best of you realize. You are blessed because you can gather together and hear the word of God in this day. Very frequently, someone asks me why we don't preach to the outside people and cry repentance to them. I wonder how many gathered here tonight realize we are living in a day of near destruction which the Lord has promised to this generation unless they repent.

During the last week, you heard of a great storm that struck the east coast of our nation. I wonder how many of you thought of what had been prophesied about those cities named. It might be good to refresh your minds on these incidents taking place in our day. Maybe it will help us to prepare ourselves against that day. I am going to read from the 84th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants, verse 114.

> "Nevertheless, let the bishop go unto the city of New York, also to the city of Albany, and also to the city of Boston, and warn the people of those cities with the sound of the Gospel, with a loud voice, of the desolation and utter abolishment which await them if they do reject these things."

You remember these three cities were mentioned in the paper, New York, Albany, Boston. Boston had a tidal wave fourteen feet high; many houses were washed into the sea. This is only a warning to these people. The God of heaven meant what He said when He sent His servants to warn them in that day. He goes on to tell

them that it would be a little while before He would pour out His judgments upon them, giving them a chance to obey the Gospel; but they didn't do it.

We have been restrained from proselyting. We are living in a day like the old Nephite nation. The old prophet asked the Lord if he shouldn't go out and preach repentance. Let's see what He said.

(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."

This nation has been amply warned. The voice of God has gone forth by the mouth of elders and prophets, and they have wilfully rejected the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has rejected the principles of salvation. So, tell me, what good would it do to go forth and proselyte anymore? Except they speedily repent, utter destruction awaits this nation and the world. God will be more lenient with those not of this nation, because of the blood upon the skirts of this our beloved nation.

(Alma, 29:1-2)

> "O that I were an angel, and could have the wish of mine heart, that I might go forth and speak with the trump of God, with a voice to shake the earth, and cry repentance unto every people!
>
> Yea, I would declare unto every soul, as with the voice of thunder, repentance and the plan of

> redemption, that they should repent and come unto our God, that there might not be more sorrow upon all the face of the earth."

The people of this nation has had their chance to accept or reject the fullness of this Gospel and that too, in recent years; every man, woman, and child that has read of the persecutions, from the time of Joseph Smith until now, has had their chance to rally to the defense of this work and round out their salvation. They pushed it aside and said, "It is of no use to us in this day." But what of the day when they are brought up to the judgment of God, and He says, "Depart ye hence, for I never knew you."

Christ says, "He that saith he loves me and will not keep my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him." When they stand up before the throne of God, they will bow their heads in shame. I want to tell you, you are blessed, because you have the presence of the Priesthood to teach you. I hope we can rally to and get the Spirit of God and keep it. Amen.

EXCERPTS FROM SERMON BY PRES. LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 17, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We live in a glorious day, brothers and sisters. I am thankful to the Lord that I was held back to see this day. Like my brethren tonight who have spoken, I want to speak under the inspiration of our Father in heaven. I am thankful for the privilege of being here.

I couldn't help but think, while the other brethren were speaking, of the condition we find ourselves in at the present time. One of the old prophets spoke of cities given to the saints and how they let them slip out of their grasp; and he says, "Oh for the goodness of God to this people." And I feel like saying tonight, Oh for the goodness of God to this congregation here tonight! He tried to save the people for generations that lived after them, but they wouldn't listen.

In the latter days, the Lord said He was going to turn the thing around and give the word to the Gentiles that perchance there might be some blood of Israel among them who would receive the Gospel. This chance has been given to this generation.

There were also predictions made that if they wouldn't live righteously, this land would fall into the hands of enemies. You and I have lived to see this.

In this little building are all who care about their salvation. When you go from this meeting tonight, think of what has been spoken and see how you measure up; and if it isn't clear to you, get some of the books that have been placed in your hands and read what the early day prophets say to you as if from the dead. They will speak to you and tell you the same things we are saying.

The Lord has said, "Come out of her, my people," and this means to leave alone those great enticing amusements and educational things the world has so proudly placed before you. The servants of God are not teaching you false doctrine. This doctrine has been taught throughout the time of the world. You need to

apply what Brother Guy has been telling you tonight and assimilate yourself into the character of God.

(Alma, 13:32-37)

"Therefore God gave unto them commandments, after having made known unto them the plan of redemption, that they should not do evil, the penalty thereof being a second death, which was an everlasting death as to things pertaining unto righteousness; for on such the plan of redemption could have no power, for the works of justice could not be destroyed, according to the supreme goodness of God.

But God did call on men, in the name of his Son, (this being the plan of redemption which was laid) saying: If ye will repent, and harden not your hearts, then will I have mercy upon you through mine Only Begotten Son;

Therefore, whosoever repenteth, and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy through mine Only Begotten Son, unto a remission of his sins; and these shall enter into my rest.

And whosoever will harden his heart and will do iniquity, behold, I swear in my wrath that he shall not enter into my rest.

And now, my brethren, behold I say unto you, that if ye will harden your hearts ye shall not enter into the rest of the Lord; therefore your iniquity provoketh him that he sendeth down his wrath upon you as in the first provocation, yea, according to his word in the last provocation as well as the first, to the everlasting destruction of your souls; therefore, according to his word, unto the last death, as well as the first.

And now, my brethren, seeing we know these things, and they are true, let us repent, and harden not

> our hearts, that we provoke not the Lord our God to pull down his wrath upon us in these his second commandments which he has given unto us; but let us enter into the rest of God, which is prepared according to his word."

So, the things we have been teaching have been taught before, for these are the words of the old Prophet Alma. These things have been given today for the people of the world to repent and especially the ones upon this continent. For God placed a blessing upon this land that if people would live the Gospel, they would prosper in the land. Now God is trying to bring out from the nations the blood that could be grafted in. See how many are now supporting the Priesthood that God gave to Joseph Smith. You should be the happiest people; for you are living in a glorious day!

You should satisfy yourselves in your homes to teach those spirits placed in your hands. We need to watch ourselves, keep our secrets, for we are in a condition worse than a den of rattlesnakes. The Lord said He would protect His saints. Let us make sure we are saints. He won't protect us if we have one foot with the Priesthood and the other in the world. We have plenty of people in our midst if we can bring them along. How great would be our reward if we could give the Father three hundred names of men we could depend on. How many could Joseph or Brigham present to the Father, or how many could any of the leaders of Priesthood present as they went over. It would be a glorious thing, my brothers and sisters, if we could present the names of all here to the Lord. It would be a wonderful thing.

I pray the Lord's blessings upon you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

BENEDICTION BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 7, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. We present ourselves before you at the close of these services and thank you, Father, for the portion of Thy Holy Spirit that you have poured out upon us, for the instructions we have received under the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit. We are truly thankful unto you for the privilege we have of meeting under such favorable circumstances in this day and hour in which we live. For we fully realize, Father, the conditions under which we have to labor, and without Thy protecting care, we know it would be impossible for us to meet here and promulgate Thy Holy Gospel and have peace.

We recognize before you the protecting care you have had over our loved ones and dear ones in their scattered condition who have been scattered by the laws of the land, and we have not been able to get them together. We pray, Father, you will continue your watch care over them, and hasten the day when we can get them together and teach them Thy word.

Bless the honest in heart throughout the world, and hasten the day when Thy Holy order can be consummated again and Thy people be brought to an understanding of Thy Holy work. Look down in mercy upon us to recognize Thy protecting hand in all these things.

We pray you will watch over all your servants--those that are sick and afflicted. Will you raise them to their needed health and strength.

We pray for wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

We pray you will raise the sick to health according to Thy will.

We pray for all who desire an interest in our prayers.

Now we dedicate ourselves and all we have unto Thy kind care and keeping, and we do it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 20, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am happy to be here, my brothers and sisters, and to partake of the spirit of this meeting with you. I am thankful for the protection the Lord has had over me in the last two weeks. I feel very humble in trying to occupy the position that God has placed upon me, for I know and realize that I have a long way to go yet in order to get the Lord to have perfect confidence in me. I know that this people are in the same condition. I want you to look at it in this light: If you had some confidence in your neighbor and had vested in him a little secrecy or some confidence that you didn't want to go any further and he broke that confidence, how long would it take you to restore confidence between yourselves?

All right, I am speaking to a body of people who have made covenants with the Lord their God. How often have you made covenants with Him and then broken them? How long will it take you to get back into the confidence of our Father in heaven to that extent that He can bless you as He would like to?

The word of God has been given to this people tonight, and I don't want to deviate from that spirit. What I say here tonight I want to be the word of God to this people. So, I am going to read the word of God to you. I am holding in my hand the word of God to the Latter-day Saints--the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price and the Doctrine & Covenants. That, together with the Bible, is the word of God to the Latter-day Saints. This is what the Lord said: "Behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me, and they who have sought me early shall find rest to their souls."

Do you believe it? I read that from the 54th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants. I want to read now a little of what the old Prophet Nephi said. I might be able to quote it pretty close, but I would rather read it--if I can find it right quick.

When Nephi's father told him to go back and get the record, he told his father he would go; for he said: "I know that the Lord giveth no commandment unto the children of men save He opens a way whereby they can accomplish the thing that He commandeth them."

Ever since I have been acquainted with this work, I have heard the servants of God plead with the people to get the Spirit of God and keep it--to prepare themselves against the day of judgment when the Lord would pour out His judgments upon the people, or upon the nations of the earth.

I have been studying, of late, the scriptures, not only the ancient scriptures, but the modern scriptures, trying to find wherein we have been teaching false doctrine to this people. But I want to tell you, the revelations contained in this book, whether they were given for the benefit of the saints a thousand years ago, or whether they were given a hundred years ago, they are the same for the people today. If there is any revelation that was given to one of the servants of God in the days of the Prophet Joseph, it applies to the people of our day. We have got to keep the same commandments, the same words of God, or our salvation is not secure. I am going to read you a little from Section 105.

(Verse 9)

> "Therefore, in consequence of the trans- gressions of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion--"

Can you see and understand, my brothers and sisters, the reason that we are laboring so hard to get the people to repent and draw near unto the Lord and gain back His confidence, that we might be found worthy to receive His blessings when the day of visitation

comes and we are called upon to sacrifice even our lives, if necessary, to gain our salvation.

(Verses 10, 11)

> "That they themselves may be prepared, and that my people may be taught more perfectly and have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands.
>
> And this cannot be brought to pass until mine elders are endowed with power from on high."

In our day, ever since the raid of 1944 when the courts of the land brought to light this order of the Priesthood--I say, ever since that time, the elders have been endowed with power to gather the people together and teach them, those that would be taught, the principles of salvation. You are being taught them every time you gather together.

(Verses 12,13,14)

> "For behold, I have prepared a great endowment and blessing to be poured out upon them, inasmuch as they are faithful and continue in humility before me.
>
> Therefore it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season, for the redemption of Zion.
>
> For behold, I do not require at their hands to fight the battles of Zion; for, as I said in a former commandment, even so will I fulfil--I will fight your battles."

Why should we fear what the enemy of righteousness can bring upon us as long as we know that we are serving God and keeping His commandments? Why should we fear to keep the covenants that we make with our Father in heaven and with the servants of God when we know that God is a man of His word and that He will fight our battles if we are faithful.

I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, that the time is soon here when we will have to cry night and day for deliverance. So, we better start early. Let us start now! And not wait another minute to call upon God and to prepare ourselves against the great day that has been spoken about here tonight by the brethren.

Now, may the blessings of God be upon you. May you catch the vision that has been so beautifully portrayed before you tonight, that you might take new hope and prepare yourselves to receive the blessings of eternal life. God bless you all, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 3, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I rejoice, my brothers and sisters, with you in the wonderful revelations that have been given to us tonight. For the word of God has been given to this people in great simplicity and with great force here this evening.

I am not going to hold you but a few minutes longer. There are a few things I would like to say. I dare say that all who are gathered here tonight have gone down into the waters of baptism and had hands laid upon them for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Now, if there are any here tonight whose spirit bears testimony to them that what they have heard is untrue, or if they are not in full harmony with it, they had better find out wherein they are wrong and get close to the Spirit of God, that the Holy Ghost may bear record to them that they are true; because the Holy Ghost is not a forked instrument. It will not bear testimony to one person that what they have heard here tonight is true and to another that it is not true. If we have anyone occupying the room whose spirit does not bear testimony to them that the things they have been given today are the revelations of God to us, we would like to have them withdraw and give room to someone who is anxious to listen to and harmonize their spirit with the revelations that have been given.

I pray that the spirit of revelation will reveal to every person in this building that the Gospel is true, that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and that those who are speaking here and trying to lead you into all truth are servants of God, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 8, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I feel to say amen to what has been said tonight. I am thankful to my Father in heaven that I am permitted to meet with you again this evening, rejoicing in the knowledge that I have of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I trust that the few words I speak tonight may be directed by the Spirit of God that I might not detract from the words that have already been said.

The things of God are understood by the Spirit of God. If we want to perfect ourselves in a knowledge of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must get ourselves in a condition so that the Spirit of God can continue with us. As has been said many times in your hearing, the great message to this people is to get the Spirit of God and keep it.

The Lord is very good to us--to the people that live upon the earth today. He is anxious that the honest in heart should hear the truth and have a chance to accept or reject it. I have been associated with this particular work now for close to thirty years, and I have never regretted one moment of that time. I have rather rejoiced in the fact that the Lord has thought that I am worthy of partaking of these wonderful blessings of being tutored under the leadership that He has placed among this people and for the peace and rest that has come to me even in our direst persecutions. I have lived through and enjoyed the Spirit of God in all our undertakings. I am not saying that I have not been anxious because of the condition of our people and the great stress that has been heaped upon us, but I have rejoiced in the fact that I knew that we were doing the will of God as far as our knowledge would permit us to do so. The more I have to do with this work, the greater the testimony I have that it is the Lord’s work. I have had the privilege of visiting among our people from Canada to Mexico. Wherever I go and see the condition the people are in, the

different modes of life upon the earth, I study the scriptures and I understand the reason for the condition the people are in.

I rejoice in the knowledge that I have that God is merciful to His children, that He is trying to save a few out of all the people that are upon the earth today.

History tells me that this is not the only generation of time that God has poured out His Spirit upon His children. For He has told us time and again through His prophets that His children must repent and receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ and apply it to their lives, or they will be destroyed. We are living under the same promise today. Unless the inhabitants of the earth listen to the prophet of God and repent of their sins and accept His teachings and apply them to their lives, destruction is at their door.

We have this great Lamanite nation as an example to us of what the wages of sin are. They were once a delightsome people like you and I. They had risen to a height of intelligence equal to that which we enjoy today. The scriptures tell us that they had all the modern equipment for both seeding and harvesting of their crops. The Lord blessed them with knowledge and understanding, but they began to become wicked and reject the teachings of the prophets and apostles that were among them. The Lord told them that if they didn’t quit, He would destroy them. When they became wicked and would not listen to His words, He took His prophets and apostles from among them, and we can see the results of it in the generations of the Lamanite people. How fast is the generation of our day partaking of the same elements of destruction that those people partook of?

I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, we are living in a day when we need to listen to what the prophets of God have said, not only the ones that are living among us today, but those unto whom the Lord revealed this work: namely, the Prophet Joseph, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Heber C. Kimball, and others who were personally acquainted with the Prophet Joseph and partook

of the spirit and blessings of the revelations of God in that day. We have their testimonies. This Priesthood has gone to great lengths and a great deal of expense to get before the people the testimonies of those men. We are left without excuse, and as has been said here tonight, the Lord is not pleased with us when we treat lightly the things we have received.

So, the message that the Lord has for this people is to get the Spirit of God and keep it. Stand ye in holy places and watch the hand of the Lord made manifest. Whether you know it or not, great destruction is going forth upon the land in which we live. If the Lord is not causing the blood of the saints to be shed, He is allowing the knowledge of God to slip out of the minds of the people to that extent that they will never be able to regain it again worlds without end. Their knowledge of God will be extinct. When they wake up in the morning of the resurrection, they will find that they have fallen short of the privileges of the resurrection which God has promised to the faithful.

My brothers and sisters, I plead with you to search the revelations of God and measure your life by them and see how near you come to measuring up to a people that God could use if He were to send One Mighty and Strong here to set His house in order. How many men would it take to direct a people of a million strong? Has God got men enough trained that He could depend upon to direct that many people? Well, He won’t find that many people in the earth that He will be pleased with. He has not got enough men trained today to stand in the apostleship or in the quorums of the Priesthood that He could use in that great work of setting in order the house of God. So there is a great missionary work to be done. The only way we can do that missionary work is through example. If we can set an example before the world that the Lord can be pleased with, then we could stand in holy places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest. It has been done before.

I am reminded of a little band of Lamanite people who were converted to the Gospel of Christ. And through their conversion, they came to realize the great condemnation they were under. So, they made a covenant with their Father in heaven that they would bury their implements of war and never take them up again. The Lord took them at their word. He tested them out. He allowed the Lamanites to come in upon them and test their strength of faith. What did they do? They knelt before them and prayed to the Lord to forgive them of their sins and let their enemies slay them. So they stood in holy places and watched the arm of the Lord made manifest. The record tells us that the enemy killed about two thousand of them, but through that, there were about four thousand converted. They quit killing them.

All you need to do to be prepared to meet the opposition is to get the Spirit of God and keep it. The only way you can get the Spirit of God and keep it is by applying the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to your lives. When we find ourselves doing things that would displease the Spirit of God, repent of it. Repentance means to do it no more. If we would all practice that, we would soon find that the One Mighty and Strong would be making his appearance, because he would have a people he could trust and work with.

I don’t wish to detain you any longer tonight. We have been together a long time. We have heard many wonderful things tonight. I ask the blessings of God upon you, each and every one, and pray that He will bless you with His holy spirit and bring you up to a point where He will be pleased with your actions, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 22, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon me that I may not detract from the spirit of this meeting. While President Musser was speaking, I was reminded of a thought that he expressed, and I think I shall just read to you the rest of what he started to quote. The passage is found in the 88th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants. President Musser quoted the first part of this that I am going to read.

(Verses 63,64)

> "Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
>
> Whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you, that is expedient for you."

No doubt every person in this building has asked the Lord for His Holy Spirit to give unto them the revelations they need, that they might know what to do for their salvation. The servants of God have continually invited the people to repent and get near the Lord, that in the day of trouble they might find Him, that He might have compassion upon them and deliver them out of the hands of our enemies.

Some time ago, I had the privilege of visiting the great city of Mexico City. I had the privilege of going through that noted museum where they have hundreds, and I guess thousands, of idols. The Book of Mormon tells us about a great idol-worshiping people that once inhabited this continent. We also had the privilege of visiting some of the ruins in this great land of Mexico. In the museums that surround these ruins, we find thousands upon thousands of idols. Statues from small size to giant size. We all know what happened to those nations that worshipped such idols.

We are told that Abraham's father, Terah, was an idol-worshiping man. I don't know of a better story to tell you than

what Jasher tells of Abraham and his father. He says that Abraham went to visit his father, and he found idols of all sizes in his home. He found one large idol that Terah held as the king of idols. So Abraham takes the hatchet and goes through and breaks up all the little idols. When Terah comes home, he is very mad because of the destruction that has taken place in his house. So, he asked Abraham what had happened. Abraham says, "You brought a new idol in the house that greatly displeased the king of idols, so he took the hatchet, went through and broke them down." Terah says, "He couldn't do it, because he cannot move." Abraham says, "Then why do you worship him if he cannot move? Why do you worship him?" Then he took the hatchet and began to beat upon the king of idols. Terah was so mad at Abraham that he reported him to the King. They bound him and undertook to take his life.

I walk down the streets of our beloved nation, and I see in the windows of our stores hundreds and thousands of little idols--little innocent idols about so high and so high and so on. People are clamoring after them. I see them in the homes of the Latter-day Saints. I don't have to go any further than my own home to see them. Now, they are little innocent things, but if I were to go through my own home and carry them away, I would be the worst man in the world. Why? Because our hearts are being set upon the idols. The Lord says, "Thou shalt serve no other God besides me." Are we repenting of our sins? Are we seeking for the knowledge that God gave us when He created us?

Pearl of Great Price (Moses 7:32)

> "The Lord said unto Enoch: Behold these thy brethren; they are the workmanship of mine own hands, and I gave unto them their knowledge, in the day I created them; and in the Garden of Eden, gave I unto man his agency;
>
> And unto thy brethren have I said, and also given commandment, that they should love one another, and

that they should choose me, their Father; but behold, they are without affection, and they hate their own blood."

My brothers and sisters, the thing that the servants of God have been trying to get the people to do is to live according to the teachings they have received, that they might know and understand that we are saved no faster than we gain knowledge. Knowledge of what? Knowledge of our Father in heaven, who He is, why He created us, and why we are here.

I have young men and young women come and want to place themselves in the hands of the Priesthood that they might be placed correctly during their lifetime. Why do they come? Because they have been taught that they made covenants before they came here, and they want to know who they covenanted with. Now, God has blessed them with a knowledge that they did receive something before they came here, or they would not be seeking after it. What I have just read to you is what the Lord said unto Enoch, that He gave man knowledge in the day that He created him. There is a way to find out the knowledge that God gave us. That is through keeping the commandments of God and applying to our lives the principles of righteous living.

I have had young women come, since we placed in the homes of our people The Women of Mormondom, who made this statement, "The greatest desire of my life is to become like and have the same knowledge that Eliza R. Snow had." How did she get there? By applying to her life the principles of righteous living and seeking for the knowledge of what she knew before. She came here and submitted herself to the counsel of the Priesthood that was over her.

Let me read a little more. I am going to read from Second Nephi, 9th Chapter this time.

(Verses 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."

This people, the Latter-day Saints, are lovers of high learning, but what does it profit them unless they apply it in the right way? It is one of the cunning ways, my brothers and sisters, that the evil one has of diverting the minds of the people from the learning that God has demanded of His children for their salvation.

I wish I could express my thoughts in a way that would be convincing to this body of people who are listening to me tonight. I wish we could place before this people the true picture that would bring them into a condition where God would be bound to shower down His blessings upon us like He would like to, for I know that through reading the history of the saints of God throughout the generations of time, that when the saints have been faithful in keeping the commandments of God and have had uppermost in their minds to keep His commandments and to work out their salvation, He has heaped blessings upon them. They have become rich. Not only in spiritual things, but in the things of this world they have become rich.

If we want the rich blessings of heaven to settle upon us, we are going to have to conform our lives to the requirements that God has given us as these brethren have told you tonight. They have given you the pure line that will take you back into the presence of our Father in heaven. The things that we have tried to place before you are true, and they are for the salvation of this people. No one has any assurance in any other way.

You can sit and listen to the radio and watch the television and see men and women act, and what good is it to this people. It is enticing--yes--it is enticing, but what does it profit us in the end thereof?

Every man and woman that has gathered in this house tonight has come here to hear something that might help them gain an exaltation in the presence of our Father in heaven. What good is it going to do them unless they apply some of these things to their lives?

I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, that this is a serious matter. It is something that pertains to our eternal salvation. Unless we pay attention to what is said and begin to look around us and see wherein we are following the fashions of the world and see wherein we are deviating from the requirements of God and doing nothing to correct the evils, and wherein we are not repenting or complying with the requirements of the Priesthood or of that great prophet, Joseph Smith, in trying to compare our lives with his and the requirements that were made of him through our Father in heaven, through our elder brother, Jesus Christ--unless we are doing that, we are not doing very much to repent of that which is not right within us.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will settle down upon this people, and that we will commence to pay attention to the things that are before us at this time, because great destruction is at our door. Little do you know, or I know, how soon we are going to be called upon to ask the protection of our Father in heaven upon us. Unless we are found striving to get His Spirit and keep it with us, we are going to be found in a bad way, because we are going to need the protection of His arm. He has said that He would make bare His arm in protection of His saints, if it needs be that He send fire from heaven to do so.

Now, if we are worthy of it, the Lord will protect us. But if we are not worthy, we are going to find ourselves in a bad

way. We hate to speak this way, but we know it is true, for the prophets of God have said it. That great prophet, Joseph, said that there were those standing in that generation, in the day that he lived, whose eyes would not close in death until these great things should come to pass. So we are not very far off. If we will go into the history of the Lord's people and the destruction of people from this continent, we find that just prior to the great destruction, the servants of God were moved upon to speak the same way to the people in that day. When they become so united in their efforts to condemn the prophets and their teachings, then the Lord destroys them. The destruction was complete. Let us not be found in that class at this time. Let us repent. Let us destroy every evidence of worldly ideas in our homes and begin to apply to our lives the principles of righteous living. May God bless you all, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 28, l960, AFTERNOON, CANADA

I trust that the Spirit of God will direct my remarks that what I say will be in accordance with His mind and will. As I said last night, it is our desire to promote the spirit of repentance, the spirit of love towards one another and to promote the spirit of confidence one towards another.

In my reading of the Journal of Discourses, I find that it is very easy for us to slide over the more important parts of some of the sermons of our early leaders and grasp those parts that they stress more outwardly such as has been referred to here this morning. I am going to read just a little from a sermon by Brigham Young. It is found on page 316 of Volume 3. I am just going to read a little, then I will comment a little on it.

> "Sometimes I think it quite strange that the children of men are so constituted as to need to be taught one lesson all the time, and again it is not so marvelous to me, when I reflect upon and understand their organization, and the designed effect thereupon of this state of probation. Men are organized to be independent in their sphere, are organized for an independent being, yet they have, as soldiers term it, to run the gauntlet all the time. They are organized to be just as independent as any being in eternity, but that independency, in order for them to occupy a position in the sphere of an independent being having control over all things, must be proved and tried while in this state of existence, must be operated upon by the good and the evil."

Such passages of scriptures as this, we frequently pass over. We don't stop long enough to give it a little thought. Here is one of the most dangerous situations that the Latter-day Saints are in. We have the experience of such men as Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Heber C. Kimball,

Jedediah M. Grant and others who have borne testimony as we have heard here this morning; and yet, we don't have the capacity to grasp the experience that they have passed on to us and take our lesson from there and go on and apply it to our lives.

Every man and woman that has gone down into the waters of baptism has done so with the approval of our Father in heaven. They placed our Father in heaven under covenant to forgive them of their sins; and we, in return, covenanted with Him that we would keep His commandments and apply to our lives His laws and ordinances pertaining to our life and salvation. Now this is the thought I wish to leave with you this morning before we dismiss. I wish we would go from this meeting and ponder upon this thing for a little while.

This afternoon at two o'clock we will meet again and have another session of this conference. I pray the Spirit of God will rest upon us and be our constant guide and companion that we might be able to do something for ourselves regarding our salvation.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 28, l960, CANADA-EVENING

My brothers and sisters, after hearing what has been said this evening, I hesitate to try to add more. Our work at the present time is to prepare a people the Lord can use in the establishment of Zion. The old Prophet Moroni, in his comment upon the words of the old Prophet Jared when he was upon this continent, made the statement something like this--maybe it would be better to read it, then we will get it right. I like to hear the word of God as it is written, then there is no mistake.

(Ether 4: 4-7)

> "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 commandment 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."

There we see, my brothers and sisters, the condition of the people. The sealed portion of the plates that were delivered to the Prophet Joseph Smith will never be opened until a people

has been prepared that will show forth the same faith that was exhibited by the brother of Jared. He had so much faith that he saw the body of Jesus long before He came in the flesh. So the job that has been given to this body of Priesthood, in this day, is to bring up a people and teach them how to obtain faith sufficient to do the thing that Uncle Guy just told you--lay hold upon eternal life.

I am going to read you a little more scripture. I have here in my hand the Lectures on Faith. This is a comment on the Lectures on Faith by Orson Pratt.

(Page 86: 33-34)

> "Reader, are you sincerely desiring salvation, and do you wish to enter into a most thorough and searching examination of your faith? Are you willing to have your faith compared with and measured by the divine oracles? Are you a believer in the word of God? If so, you must be aware that you are commanded in the most emphatic terms to repent of all your sins. This is the very first act required of a Bible believer. Have you repented sincerely and humbly, and with all your heart? Have you confessed all your sins unto God with a broken heart and contrite spirit? Have you made sufficient acknowledgement and satisfaction to those whom you may have in any way injured? Have you covenanted with and promised the Lord that you will sin no more? If you have not repented in this manner and reformed your conduct, then you are not a true believer; your faith is vain, and your hopes are vain, and you are yet in your sins, not having complied with even the very first requisition of faith.
>
> But, if you have most sincerely repented and put away your evil deeds, then you have taken the first permanent step towards a true and saving faith. You are

> now humble and contrite in your feeling; your heart is tender, and you feel grieved that you have ever sinned against God. You are a believing penitent sinner; and your great desire is to obtain a pardon of your sins. You ask the Lord to forgive you, but He does not grant your request. You pray much, but still you have no evidence that your sins are forgiven. You go forward to be prayed for by your ministers and friends, but find no relief. You become discouraged and perhaps fall back into sin, thinking that there is something wrong, or that there is no hope for you; or perhaps you may be persuaded by your minister that your sins are forgiven, and you try to fancy that it is so; though you have no certainty that you are pardoned, yet you hope that such is the case; this false hope causes you to be somewhat easy in your feelings and you fancy all is well..."

We are here, my brothers and sisters, to try to persuade you to repent of your sins and try to prepare yourselves for a glorious hereafter. The Lord says that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. What are the principles of the Celestial Kingdom? This is something that every man and woman must search out for themselves.

I find in my experience in life that my interpretation of the scriptures is different than some men. If I understand the scriptures right, in order for a man to become a member of the Church of the Firstborn, he must enter in at the door. What is the door? It is baptism for the remission of sins. From there men should go on and sin no more, but keep all of the commandments of God and apply them to their lives. After they have received the ordinance of baptism and prepared themselves to receive further ordinances of the Gospel, been faithful and received the Priesthood, gone on and fulfilled their covenants with the Lord regarding

the Priesthood, honored their Priesthood, and so forth, and have entered into the Celestial Law and been faithful there all their lives and have been sealed up through the holy spirit of promise unto eternal life, then they become members of the Church of the Firstborn. But I find men interpreting that different. They are even going forth and organizing the Church of the Firstborn here in the flesh, baptizing men and women before they have proven themselves. The revelations plainly tell us that they have got to be tried and proven and sealed up unto eternal life before they can become a member of that church. Other scriptures are the same way.

Brother Guy told us what the Prophet Joseph said, that if any man preach any other doctrine than that which he has preached, he is cursed. In the 84th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants the Lord says this:

(Verse 54-57)

> "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--"

So, my brothers and sisters, we are all under condemnation, and we will remain there till we repent. Where upon the face of the earth can we find a people that has attained unto the faith of the brother of Jared so that the Lord can shower the blessings that He would like to upon them? Where upon the face of

the earth can we find a people prepared to go back and redeem Zion--build up the center stake and that great temple that has been promised to us in the last days?

I hope, my brothers and sisters, that you can take what we have given you tonight and think it over. On the morrow we will come here and try to give you a little more, but we have given you enough now to think upon. Measure your lives, see whether or not we have preached the same doctrine that Joseph the Prophet taught.

I pray that the blessings of God will rest upon you that you will go from this meeting with a more firm determination to serve God and keep His commandments. I humbly pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 29, 1960, CANADA--AFTERNOON

My brothers and sisters, it is indeed a pleasure for me to stand before you again this afternoon. I pray that the Spirit of God will direct my remarks. While President Musser was talking to us telling us to keep off the devil's ground, it reminded me of a little incident that happened in my own family. My wife Josephine was in bed with rheumatism, arthritis, or whatever you call it. She had been for several weeks. Her pains were almost unbearable. Her limbs began to draw around out of shape.

We were busy in our work trying to make a living. I called in one of the brethren, and we administered to her. I gave the children instructions how to care for her while I was out, and we went out about our work. We had hardly left the house--just a few minutes--when a lady came to the door and knocked. The children let her in. She happened to be one of the disciples of this lady, Amy McPherson, from down in Los Angeles. She came in and said, "Sister Johnson, I have come to heal you. If you will let me, I will have you out of that bed in just a few minutes."

Well, Aunt Josephine's pains were so great, she could hardly move a muscle, but she raised up in her bed and said, "You get out of here. Get out of my house. You can't heal me, for I won't let you." So the lady turned around and went out. As she went out, she turned and said, "Die, damn you, die."

Aunt Josephine's pains left her. When I came home that night, the first thing she said to me was, "Well, I am getting better. The blessing you gave me is working." From that day on, she began to get better, the pains left, and in a little while she was out of bed.

There is a demonstration of what the Lord can do for us when we won't let the devil take hold of us. I have no doubt at all that this lady, if she had been permitted to use her power on Aunt Josephine, would have done the same thing. She would not let

her do it. So the Lord recognized the blessing that was placed upon her in the morning and raised her out of her sick-bed.

We are told in the Book of Mormon that after Christ came, the destruction was so great that the people remembered it for at least two hundred years before they began to lose the faith again. If I remember right, the record says that people had perfect confidence in one another. Now, if we can develop that kind of confidence in one another, we will be well on the road to becoming the people that the Lord can use.

I opened this book and found another sermon of the Prophet Brigham Young that is not marked up too much. But to me, it is quite a remarkable sermon. I go through these books and pick out the sermons that people don't read very much; they mean a lot to me. Sometimes they mean more to me than the sermons that are all marked up. I notice in here that there are marks all through the book. This one by President Brigham Young doesn't have any marks in it. It is not a very long sermon, so I believe I will read it to you.

(J. of D., Vol. 1, pg. 74)

"After giving you a brief explanation of the feelings of those who profess to be Saints, I wish to give a little counsel--as I have frequently done before--to new comers.

I am acquainted with the general disposition of mankind, and also considerably acquainted with the traditions under which their minds, feelings, passions, judgments, or I will comprehend the whole by saying, their consciences have been formed by parents, teachers, ministers, and others who have exercised an influence over the young and tender mind; these things are familiar to me in a great degree, and have been for many years. I see them manifested each day I live. The branches of the tree shoot forth and bear their fruit, and men can judge of the nature of the tree by its fruit.

The feelings and sentiments of this people, the Latter-day Saints, are varied; they are far from being of one heart, and of one mind, (Now, pay attention, listen!) of one judgment, and of one desire; but I have no doubt they come nearer to it than any other community upon the face of the earth. This we know!

In reality, the inhabitants of the earth do not vary so much in their sentiments as they do in the explaining of them to

each other. This I have good reason to believe; when feelings and ideas are explained, people vary more in language than in sentiment, yet they differ widely in their sentiments, feelings, customs, habits, and manner of life.

With regard to the kingdom of heaven now on the earth, of which we form a part, we admit the kingdom of God has come; many of us believed that years ago who believed Joseph Smith was a Prophet, who believed he had power and authority to establish it on the earth. What were the feelings of the people, almost universally, in the infancy of this Church? Men of science and talent in this Church believed--or they said they believed--honestly, truly, and with all their hearts, that Joseph Smith did not understand anything about temporal matters. They believed he understood spiritual things--that he understood the Spirit of the Lord, and how to build up the spiritual kingdom among men; but when temporal matters were talked of, men were ready to decide at once that they knew more than the Prophet about such matters; and they did so decide.

Were you to ask how many times men did so, who did so, and on what occasions they did so, I could answer you, for I am conversant with every circumstance that transpired, pertaining to temporal matters, from the first of my acquaintance with Joseph Smith as a Prophet of the Lord. The first Elders of this Church decided that Joseph did not understand temporal matters. The first Bishops of this Church said they believed with all their hearts that they understood temporal matters far better than the Prophet Joseph. Are these the feelings of the people at the present time? They are not, but right to the reverse. I could have said then the same that I could say now, if Joseph was living--if he could have been believed and confidence could have been placed in him with regard to temporal matters, wealth would have been poured into the laps of this people to overflowing.

The remark that was made this morning is a true one, although the matter referred to is small, apparently, but it is a fact, there was not enough confidence in the people to satisfy them that the Prophet knew how to handle money, or what to do with it; they did not believe he knew how to manage temporal affairs. This lack of confidence brought poverty and distress upon the whole people.

When men came into our midst who shut up the bowels of their compassion and held their money with an iron fist, they were held in communion with us, our faith was exercised for them, we mingled with them, and gave them fellowship for a time, yet one man, with his covetousness, tied up the whole people. In many instances, men were cut off for their covetousness, and because they had not confidence in the Prophet and held their substance when means were wanted to carry on the work of God to send the Gospel to distant lands to sustain the poor, build houses, and accomplish that which was necessary to be done. While this means

was withheld, it brought the whole Church under condemnation, for this reason all had to suffer.

This was in the days of the Prophet Joseph. Have the people reformed since then? Perhaps a few of them have; and again, perhaps a great many of them have not. Many have not had an opportunity to reform, as there is a considerable portion of this community who have not had an acquaintance with the Prophet; they never associated with him, they have not had an opportunity of sustaining his hands. Again, there is a certain portion of the people who were associated with him. What would the people do now, if they by their voice could call him back to their midst? Would they be willing to lay their substance at his feet? I very much doubt it. He was poor, harassed, distressed, afflicted, and tormented with law suits upon law suits, persecution upon persecution, and thus it cost thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep him alive, which a few had to sustain. Is this affliction upon them now? It is not. The scene is reversed. And as the people once thought, that many by one man could be made poor, they now believe, by one man many will be made rich. At the present day I do not know where the opportunity is to prove the people.

There are individuals here and members of the Church that when they come up to this land are very careful to leave their substance behind them. And if they have money to lend, they are very careful to lend it to persons who do not belong to the Church. There are such present today. They are fearful and unbelieving. They did not believe in the days of Joseph that he could tell them the truth. But if you asked them if they believed Joseph was a Prophet and if God sent him to build up the kingdom, “Oh yes,” would be their reply; and yet they had not confidence to ask him what they should do with the thousands in their possession. These are a few facts in the life and experience of the Prophet Joseph.

How is it now? Have the people confidence? They say they have. Are they willing to take counsel? They say they are. As it was observed here this morning, when we wish anything done, the people are ready and willing to raise their hands to accede to the propositions made by their leaders. Do you remember what I told you a few sabbaths ago--this whole people are willing to receive counsel, but who of them are willing to carry it out to the very letter? The future will prove that. It is not proven by sitting on your seats and simply raising your hands as a token, a covenant, a witness to God and angels that you are ready to take counsel and also carry it out.

For men of principle, and seemingly of good sense, to believe the Prophet Joseph, who was inspired to build up the kingdom of God temporally as well as spiritually, did not know as much about a picayune as about God’s spiritual kingdom, about a farm as about the New Jerusalem, is folly in the extreme, it is nonsense in the superlative degree. Those who entertain such ideas

ought to have their heads well combed, and subjected to a lively course of friction, that peradventure a little common sense might dawn upon their confused ideas.

Consult your own judgments in such matters. Do you think that God would set a man to lead his people who does not know as much about a picayune or a farm as about God's spiritual kingdom or the New Jerusalem? Shame on those who would entertain such ideas, for they debase and corrupt the hearts of the community who imbibe them. According to the sentiments of some of the Latter-day Saints, the Lord must have become wonderfully high minded in the last days. I should think he has become too proud, according to their belief, to notice farms and merchandise, and other little affairs and transactions that pass around us. He used to notice the very hairs of our heads that fell, and the sparrows; He took care of the ravens, and watched over the children of Israel and supplied all their temporal wants; but we say now that He does not condescend to such small matters, having given us an understanding, and we know what to do. Are not these the feelings of the people? I could refer to some little things by way of example, but it would hit somebody rather too publicly.

Let me ask that brother if you have not thought in your heart that you would not go to brother Brigham for counsel for fear he would counsel you to go to some place you do not want to go? Still you say, "I believe this is the kingdom of God, and I do not want to come in contact with Brother Brigham, I do not wish to meet him for fear he should come in contact with my calculations and what I have decided upon in my mind," I could put my hand upon some of you who entertain such thoughts.

I will refer you now to the counsel I wished to give the brethren who have lately come into the city from the East. I have heretofore counseled new comers to go to the south, or to the north, for we have settlements 360 miles, north and south.

Many of the people here have their friends who have come in this season, and some are still on the plains who will be in in a few days. I have been in the habit of saying to the brethren--You take one hundred families and settle in such a place; and you take fifty and settle in yonder place. But I never have given such counsel for the guidance of the brethren that it has not raised one continual whining, saying, "I want to go to another place, for there is somewhere you want me to go that I do not like," or, "I rather think Brother Brigham thinks I am not tried and proven sufficiently, and he wants to put me in circumstances to finish trying me." That is the reason I want you to go here or there, and the reason why you complain; for when men are thoroughly tried, they are ready to go to any place where they are told to go, and when they are told.

My counsel now to new comers is to do just what you have a mind to, and go where you please if you can. You may go and

settle in any part of the Territory that you please; and furthermore, you may go to California if you wish.

I have told you what you may do. I will now tell you what you may not do. You may try to gather a little company and go to settle a place where there are no inhabitants. You cannot, with my consent, go to any place unless it is to a city, that is or will be walled in. If you go from this city, go to a neighborhood where you can be defended from the ravages of Indians or other evil designing persons.

Brother David Fullmer, this morning, talked about working all our lives upon a wall, if it were necessary, but the wall we contemplate making here is not a breakfast spell. I calculate to keep walling until the mountains around us become an impregnable defence. What we have now on hand is not a circumstance. I will venture to say that brother Parley P. Pratt has got a job on hand infinitely more extensive than the walling in of the whole territory of Utah. His work was given to him sixteen years ago by the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Kirtland Temple. Parley P. Pratt has yet to build temples in old Scotland. The Scotch brethren might say, “What is the use then of our coming to these distant valleys, so far from our native country?” Had you not better write to your brethren who are still in Scotland to stay where they are, think you? He has to build temples there of greater magnitude than we have yet contemplated. When he will do it I do not know; it is certain he will do it if he is faithful; but whether he will do it after the earth is glorified or before that time, I do not know.

I have a word to say to the sisters who have lately come into our city. Do not allow your fathers, your husbands and your brothers to go to any place to settle unless it is walled in or in some way made perfectly capable of defending you and themselves from the attack of Indians, or others who would seek to destroy you and your property. If they want to drag you off to some place where you will be exposed to the ravages of Indians, tell them you are going to stay where you are, and then ask them what they are going to do about it. It is not my general practice to counsel the sisters to disobey their husbands, but my counsel is--obey your husbands; and I am sanguine and most emphatic on that subject. But I never counseled a woman to follow her husband to the devil. If a man is determined to expose the lives of his friends, let that man go to the devil and to destruction alone.

You have got my counsel. You need not any of you ask my counsel to run over to the west mountains to settle, for there are plenty alone there already. If you have not elbow room enough, rub my elbows. I can rub as hard as you can. I can tell you something you never have yet thought of. You may number all the families in this city and with them their cattle and flocks, and there is more ground within its precincts, if properly cultivated, than would support them all from year to year. There are not inhabitants enough in the city to cultivate the land in it as it should be.

Look around and see the hundreds of acres that have not been cultivated at all; one bushel to ten has not been raised that might have been on the lots that the people have pretended to cultivate. Be not afraid of being too close together. The men or women who enjoy the Spirit of the Lord never feel themselves crowded by that spirit, or by those who possess it; and they never will. When disturbance and difficulty occur, it is because of the opposite spirit, which is a contentious spirit; and those persons who possess it may expect to be crowded when they get to hell, as much or more than they are here. They will not have as much elbow room there as they have here, perhaps.

The Latter-day Saints ought not to feel so. Our cities are open, our streets are wide, and we have the sweet mountain air, and a healthy country. Do not be afraid to live together. What kind of air did you breathe who lived in eleven, twelve, and fourteen story houses in your native country? If you could live in such confined circumstances, why cannot you live here while breathing air as sweet, I may say, as New Jerusalem.

I have told you my mind, you can now do as your own minds shall dictate, if you think proper, and be responsible for the same. I have frequently thought, what would be the consequence in this community were we to be as strict now as the authorities of the Church once were? For it used to be if a man did not obey counsel after it was given him, he was cut off from the Church. Do you not think we are lenient, easy, and forgiving? Let us be kind to each other, and cultivate the spirit of peace, and seek diligently to know the will of God. How can you know it? In matters pertaining to yourselves as individuals, you can obtain it directly from the Lord; but in matters pertaining to public affairs, His will is ascertained through the proper channel, and may be known by the general counsel that is given you from the proper source.

I have told you heretofore what I am afraid of (and in reality, I am not afraid of anything else), which is incorporated in the idea--See that ye forget not the Lord your God. If this people will serve Him with all their heart, mind, and strength, they have nothing to fear from this time henceforth and forever. You are not to be overcome by your enemies or put down and trampled under foot, if you will do this, and continue to be humble before the Lord your God. In doing this, no power under the heavens can disturb this people.

If I have any knowledge touching the condition of this people at the present time and the way they are taught, led, counseled, dictated by those who go before them to open the way, it is directly opposite of that we saw in the days of Joseph the Prophet. He was full of sorrow, trouble, poverty, and distress; but now the people are led into riches by the example, counsel, advice and dictations of their leaders. They are on the highway to wealth; and there is danger in it. Here are men that never knew

enough of the principles of economy to gather substance or save anything to themselves until within a few years back, but now they are becoming rich in a moderate point of view. We do not expect to become wealthy like the Rothschilds, or some other large capitalists of Europe. This people are gathering much substance around them, which is a principle of heaven--a principle of Zion, but there is a fear within us lest it cause us to forget our God and our religion. Whether we have much or little, let it be on the altar, for it is all the Lord's, whether this people know it or not. Joseph Smith said to this people that all the wisdom he had was received from the hand of the Lord. All the knowledge, wisdom, economy, and every business transaction pertaining to human life in connection with the spiritual kingdom of God on the earth, is given unto us as individuals, or as a community, from the liberal hand of God.

Do you realize this? Or will some of you say, "It is my own wisdom and economy that have accomplished this or that." If you do, beware lest the Lord withdraw the light of His spirit from you, that you be left in darkness, and your former judgment, wisdom and discretion be taken from you. If we receive good, it is of the Lord; then let us serve Him, and love Him with a true heart. As to the world, they may do as they please, for we care not for it anyhow. Let this people cleave unto the Lord and righteous principles, and all is right and well. May the Lord bless you. Amen."

I am glad Brother Brigham preached that sermon, glad the Spirit of the Lord directed me to read it to you. I am going to let it rest today because it pertains to us in this day as much as it did to those in the days of Brigham. He was a mighty fine man. He was the man that led this people under the hand of the Lord. The Lord dictated to him the words of his mouth.

I pray that the blessings of God will rest upon us. And that His Spirit will continue with you is my humble prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 29, 1960, CANADA, EVENING

My dear brothers and sisters, I trust that the few words I speak may be dictated by God, for I want to say nothing that will displease the spirit of this meeting--the spirit of our Father in heaven.

Upon one occasion, the Savior was asked, “What is the first and great commandment?” The Savior said: “Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy might, mind, and strength; and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

We can work all the day long and all our lives with this number one person, and still that commandment would apply to us. The great charge that the Savior made to the twelve when He left them was: “Thou shalt love me as I have loved you.” These are commandments that the Lord has left with His children. If we labor all the days of our lives, we will still have to make improvements, because we are mortal. We have not yet come to the same station that Jesus was when He made those statements--to the point of overcoming all evil.

I reach for this book, because the writing is a little larger, and I can see better what I look at. I like to give the word of God as it is written, because it tastes better. It leaves a better taste in our mouths.

(D. & C. Section 1)

> “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--

Unto the day when the Lord shall come to recompense unto every man according to his work, and measure to every man according to the measure which he has measured to his fellow man.

Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear:

Prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh;

And the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth.

And the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people;

For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant;

They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own God, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

Wherefore, I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments;

And also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world; and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets--

The weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh--

But that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world;

That faith also might increase in the earth;

That mine everlasting covenant might be established;

That the fullness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple unto the ends of the world, and before kings and rulers.

Behold, I am God and have spoken it; these commandments are of me, and were given unto my servants in their weakness, after the manner of their language, that they might come to understanding.

And inasmuch as they erred it might be made known;

And inasmuch as they sought wisdom they might be instructed;

And inasmuch as they sinned they might be chastened, that they might repent;

And inasmuch as they were humble they might be made strong, and blessed from on high, and receive knowledge from time to time.

And after having received the record of the Nephites, yea, even my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., might have power to translate through the mercy of God, by the power of God, the Book of Mormon.

And also those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually--

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.

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."

My dear brothers and sisters, we have a job to do. Here the Lord calls the whole world unto repentance. We have heard many times the servants of God tell us to get the Spirit of God and keep it. We have heard that in our days of peace when we have been permitted to gather the saints together and talk to them and tell them of the great calamities that are coming upon the earth. For the Lord has spoken it. In this revelation, He mentions that unless people repent of their sins and come unto Him, they have no promise. Then why is it that since the Prophet Joseph Smith bore his great testimony that he saw and talked with the Father and the Son and was permitted to organize the Priesthood of God in the earth and to set it up into operation, there are no more than a mere handful of people at the present time who will accept the same?

When Christ visited this continent, so great was the destruction among the children of men that they remembered it for two hundred years, and some of them more than that. What kind of a shake up is it going to take in our day to bring about a thousand years of peace and perfect confidence among the children of men?

The Prophet Joseph told us that there were those now living upon the earth (in his day) whose eyes should not be closed in death until all these things that he had been telling the people should come to pass. He had been telling them about the calamities that were about to come upon the earth to prepare the way for the return of the ten tribes of Israel. How much longer have we got to wait? I am afraid, my brothers and sisters, that the time is not very long. Some of us may live to see the day, and it may be our children who will see it, or our children's children. But the Lord

has said that not one jot or tittle of the words of the prophets would go unfulfilled.

So why do we linger? Why do we stand by the wayside and bicker with one another over trifling things and hold out the Spirit of God from our midst? What man among us can say that he is so perfect that he can say, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that he is right, and his brother is wrong? It can't be done, not in our day. He might be called through revelation to lead the people, but when he boasts in his strength, he is standing on mighty thin ice.

So we had better watch ourselves, each and every one of us. We are all working for the same goal. We all are working for that thing we call eternal life or eternal increase. There is not one of us that wants to fall short of that great blessing. So we had better watch ourselves and watch what we are doing.

I remember, one time, of having an argument with one of my brothers over some scriptural doctrine. I knew I was right, and he knew he was right. But we argued for two or three evenings. During the day time, we would take our books with us and find points to substantiate our beliefs. One night we started in right after work, about four o'clock in the afternoon, and we argued back and forth for some two or three hours. I left him, said that I knew that my views were right, and that I would not give in. I said. "I won't do it. I don't care what happens to me. I will not give in." So I went home and went to bed.

Well, I got to thinking the thing over. The Spirit of God told me I had better get up and go ask forgiveness of that brother of mine. The first thing I thought was. "I am not going to ask forgiveness. I have nothing to ask forgiveness for. If anybody is going to ask forgiveness, he is going to come to me." But I couldn't go to sleep. Finally, something says, "You had better get up and go over where Price is." So I went over. Price was sound asleep. I had to shake him to wake him up. He said, "What do you want?" I said, "I came over to ask your forgiveness.

In the first place, I was wrong for ever starting an argument with you. I am not going to leave here until you forgive me for what I have done." Well, he got up and threw his arms around me. He said, "I knew all the time, you would do this after a while, but you just had to learn your lesson." So I had to give in. It hurt me like the dickens for a little while. But I went home and to bed; I guess the Lord put me to sleep quick, so I would forget what had happened. I didn't even know when I hit the pillow. The next thing I knew, it was daylight.

Well, from that time to this, my brothers and sisters, I have realized that it does no good to argue a point of doctrine. President Barlow has tried to teach us that. He said, "If you don't understand a point of doctrine, don't argue over it. Lay it on the shelf. Leave it alone. Don't even touch it or go near it. Leave it alone. One of these days somebody will say something about it and you will understand it." It is better to do that than to argue over it.

So we have a lot to learn, everyone of us. We have to have these things come along in order to make men and women out of us so we can learn how to get the Spirit of God and keep it.

One of the great things that is the matter with this people, and all other people--it has been the matter with the people in the south and in the far south and in the middle south and everywhere else--and that is this little word: charity. Too many of us have not charity for our neighbor, for one another. As good a man as the father of the Prophet Joseph Smith when he was called to his position as patriarch of the Church--you know what the Lord said to him? I will read it.

(Section 4)

> "Now behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men.
>
> Wherefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might,

mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.

Wherefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work;

For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul;

And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work.

Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence.

Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Amen."

That is what the Lord said to the father of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Again the Lord said:

(Section 18: 18-19)

"Ask the Father in my name, in faith believing that you shall receive, and you shall have the Holy Ghost, which manifesteth all things which are expedient unto the children of men.

And if you have not faith, hope, and charity, you can do nothing."

Again: (Section 124: 116-117)

"And let him repent of all his folly, and clothe himself with charity; and cease to do evil, and lay aside all his hard speeches;

And pay stock also into the hands of the quorum of the Nauvoo House, for himself and for his generation after him, from generation to generation." And so forth.

There is the key to our great success--that little word--charity. There are many other references that we might refer to that will help us along the way.

Let us seek, my brothers and sisters, to overcome these weaknesses that we have even though it hurts. If we overcome them, we will go to our brother and ask forgiveness. It doesn't make any difference whether we are leaders or whether we are not. Sometimes we have to do it. The Lord will uphold us in our righteous doing. Sometimes we make mistakes and we have to repent. Sometimes we say one thing when we mean another. Sometimes we hurt the feelings of our brothers, and they can't take it. He that takes his jarrings and still treats his brother with charity and will not hold feelings is that much greater. He grows that much faster.

I remember one time, one of the servants of the Lord wrote me a letter. He had been misinformed. When I got the letter, I knew by the tone of it that there was something wrong. He had been told that I had done things that I should not be doing. So he took the hide off from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet. He told me a lot of things that would happen to me if I didn't repent. But I didn't retaliate. I knew that the situation had been misrepresented to him, so I didn't say anything about it; I let it ride. Next time I met the man, I went up, shook hands with him. I never mentioned it to him or held it against him. He put his arms around me and said, "Roy, you stood the test. If it had been any other man that I know of, I would have heard about it." The thing that makes us grow, my brothers and sisters, is to be able to take and take and take, as Brother Guy has told us, and give and give and give.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest down upon you. I also am delighted with the progress of this people. It is a wonderful thing, my brothers and sisters, to see the great progress that has been made over the last ten or fifteen years of our service among you--of our trips among you; not only you, but

people in the far south--the Lamanite people. We were down there this month and baptized thirty-two souls. Some of them were men who had been converted by the LDS missionaries, but were not quite satisfied with the doctrines they were taught. First thing they did was to place one of these books in the Mexican language in their hands. According to the testimony of some of these men, the elders could not answer some of the questions that they asked to satisfy them on the doctrine that was taught in the Book of Mormon, or in the Doctrine & Covenants.

So they came over to hear us talk. After they heard us, they came up and asked for baptism. We had men who had known us years ago who had been misled by other men, who found out they were misled, came back and wanted to hear us. They asked for baptism. So, the Spirit of God is working upon the Lamanite people as well as upon those of the Gentiles who will accept the Gospel. We are the Gentiles.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will continue with you and that you will continue to progress and increase, and that we can get together, bury our differences, not only in one way, but in every way possible, that we might get the Spirit of God and keep it with us. I pray that the Spirit of God will permeate every soul here, everyone that has been to this conference, and give them a more firm determination to serve the Lord and keep His commandments, which I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 5, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I trust, my brothers and sisters, that the Spirit of God may rest upon me that I will say nothing that will displease it today. I have been very much interested in the remarks of the brethren, and I desire to enlarge upon them just a little.

We are living in a day when great tribulation lies near our door. The Lord has said, “My people shall be a tried people.” If you are ready for the Lord to place trials upon you, then you are a pretty good people.

When Brother Guy was speaking, my mind went back to the days of the Prophet Joseph. I thought about the trials and tribulations that were placed upon the servants of God to establish this work. I remember the story of Heber and Vilate. The great trial the Lord gave Heber to see whether He could trust him or not. I wonder how many of this people are ready for such trials. In the Coming Crisis and How to Meet It, we are told that the Lord would place ways and means in the hands of Satan to try the faith of the people. I wonder how many of you have stopped to think just how great trials the Lord placed upon the Prophet Joseph Smith.

I think I shall call your attention to one trial the Lord placed upon the Prophet Joseph that to me is far greater than anything you have ever heard of. The Lord had warned the Prophet and partly prepared him to receive his trial. He has also prepared this people, or tried to, in order to meet the trials that are immediately coming upon them. I am going to first read Section 122 in the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Verses 1-9)

> “The ends of the earth shall inquire after thy name, and fools shall have thee in derision, and hell shall rage against thee;
>
> 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.

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."

There is a warning the Lord gave to the Prophet Joseph. Now, let us see what happened immediately after. We have all read the history, and we know the story of the men who are responsible--mostly responsible--for his assassination, the Marks, the Laws, the Fosters. Now, let us see what the Lord did. Here is what He said to Brother Marks.

(Section 124:80)

"Let my servant William Marks pay stock into that house, as seemeth him good, for himself and his generation, from generation to generation."

Then He goes on to say to William Law.

(Section 124:97-102)

"Let my servant William Law also receive the keys by which he may ask and receive blessings; let him be humble before me, and be without guile, and he shall receive of my Spirit, even the Comforter, which shall manifest unto him the truth of all things, and shall give him, in the very hour, what he shall say.

And these signs shall follow him--he shall heal the sick, he shall cast out devils, and shall be delivered from those who would administer unto him deadly poison;

And he shall be led in paths where the poisonous serpent cannot lay hold upon his heel, and he

shall mount up in the imagination of his thoughts as upon eagles wings.

And what if I will that he should raise the dead, let him not withhold his voice.

Therefore, let my servant William cry aloud and spare not, with joy and rejoicing, and with hosannas to him that sitteth upon the throne forever and ever, saith the Lord your God.

Behold, I say unto you, I have a mission in store for my servant William, and my servant Hyrum, and for them alone; and let my servant Joseph tarry at home, for he is needed. The remainder I will show unto you hereafter. Even so. Amen."

So, there is a great trial being laid before the Prophet Joseph. William Law was called to hold the keys of the Priesthood by the side of Joseph, and all the time the Lord knew what William Law was going to do. He knew that he was going to try the faith of Joseph. He did try him, until finally, Joseph rose before the Council and told them something like this: "If you want to carry this man any longer, he is on your shoulders, but I am not carrying him any farther. I am shaking him off." What happened? William Law immediately began to lay plans for the destruction of Joseph.

Joseph knew when he went to the slaughter who were the instigators of that great day. Was he tried? Did he flinch? I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, the thing Brother Guy told you today--the ordeal of annulling that great lie that was laid before this people is greater than you or I think. It is going to take courage, greater courage than we think to be able to stand and face the music that Satan is stirring up in the near future for this people. You and I, my brothers and sisters, will have to seek night and day for deliverance. The day is here when you should begin to cry night and day for deliverance; because you are soon going to be turned in. Satan is counseling deep and he is

laying a snare for this people. There are those in this audience today that will carry this message back to him, and our lives aren’t worth the snap of your finger.

Now, I pray that the blessings of God will settle upon you, and that you will commence from this very hour to cry night and day for deliverance, because you will need it. May God bless you all, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 19, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is a wonderful opportunity and blessing to meet with you again, my brothers and sisters, under such favorable circumstances. The Lord has truly put a hedge around this body of people. I trust the few moments I speak that the Spirit of God will rest upon me and that I will be inspired by Him to give you His word.

The Lord is truly opening the minds of His servants at this time to give you the true interpretation of the scriptures. Every time the elders of Israel have been asked to bear their testimony to the people, since I have been acquainted with this work, they have been inspired of the Lord to interpret the scriptures in the way they should be. The Lord has truly said: “Have I not given you my word in great plainness that you might know and understand the true principles of salvation?” So, all you need to do is measure the remarks of the brethren according to the measuring stick of the revelations of God. You will find that they measure up with that which the Lord has said.

I think we need to refresh our minds more often upon what the Savior said to the people, both in Jerusalem and upon this continent, and compare them. Take the instructions that He gives the apostles in Jerusalem, then turn to the Book of Mormon and read the instructions that were given to them upon this continent and see if you can detect any difference in the teachings that He gave to the people regarding their salvation.

In His last instructions to His disciples in Jerusalem, He told them He had other sheep to visit who were not of that fold, He would go now and give the will of the Father to them. When He appeared to the Nephites--let’s read a little of what He said there, if I can find it right off. Anyhow, He told His disciples that He had been commanded of the Father to visit the tribes of Israel that were lost--those that Father had led away into the north country. He said, “They are not lost unto the Father,

because He knoweth where they are." In another place, He told them He had other sheep which were not of the fold of Jerusalem or of this fold that He had been commanded of the Father to visit. There is no doubt in my mind that He visited all of the people we have any record of that belong to this world. We are told in the scriptures that He visited the spirits in prison that lived in the days of Noah. If that was His mission then, He must have been commanded of the Father to visit the people of Enoch, the people of Peleg, as well as the lost tribes of Israel.

So when all of the people of God are gathered together in the last days, during the days of the Millennium, there will be a great concourse of people. When we look around us at the present time, we only see a few who have any faith in the words of the Prophet Joseph Smith. If all those who have been baptized and joined the Church had full faith in all that Joseph gave to us, we would have quite a concourse of people today.

Brother Guy ably and beautifully portrayed before us the conditions of the people in this time. Let me draw this to your attention. The Gospel in the days of Christ went to the House of Israel. In all of our studies, we will find that it was Israel that Christ was most interested in. In the latter days, we have been told, the Gospel will go to the Gentiles and then to Israel. So what can we expect, my brothers and sisters, of this generation in which we live. We are living among people who are not of the House of Israel. We are trying to gather out from among the Gentile nations a little of the blood of Israel that is scattered among them. No wonder the Lord showed to the old Prophet Lehi the broad road that led to destruction, and that narrow road and the few that were in it who continued their journey to eternal life.

We should refresh ourselves upon these glorious visions and find out for ourselves the reason why we are having such a struggle at the present time to gather around us a few who will have faith enough that they will be counted among those who will be

partakers of the blessings of the glorious Millennial Reign. The Prophet Joseph Smith gave his life trying to gather around him a few who would believe and have faith enough in his testimony that they could save their own souls. The Lord has plainly told us that if we labored a lifetime and were capable of saving save it be one soul, how great would be our reward, or our joy, with that soul in the Kingdom of heaven. If you labor all your days, and you are able to save your own soul, how great will be your joy in the hereafter.

Think these things over, then refer to the scriptures. These are glorious things that the Lord has given to this people. See how near we come to measuring up to saving our own souls and the souls of our loved ones who God has entrusted to our care. The responsibility of you people for teaching your children correct principles that they might follow in your footsteps is a great thing in your lives; remembering that those who have taken upon them the responsibility of living the Celestial Law are paving the way for the more choice spirits of heaven to come forth in this day and age to be partakers of the blessings of the glorious Millennium and helping to establish it. This is a great blessing to be placed upon a people.

Now, I don’t wish to speak further, but I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon you each and everyone that you might know and understand the true way of life and salvation, that your souls might be saved in that glorious kingdom, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 3, 1960, PRIESTHOOD MEETING--HILDALE, UTAH

Once more I wish to express my gratitude for the privilege of being here this morning and partaking of the Spirit of God with you. I have noticed over the years of my experience with this work that we are inclined to get uneasy and anxious to progress the work of God in the earth.

I trust that what I am about to say is dictated by the Spirit of God, because I want nothing but His word given to this people. When the Lord saw fit to visit the Prophet Joseph Smith and introduce this Gospel to this generation, it was the beginning of a preparation for a new era that He was about to usher in; namely, the dawn of the Millennial Reign--the thousand years of peace that He has promised us before He winds up His work in this world. Now, so important was that day that He visited the Prophet Joseph and gave him instructions that gave this people a chance, or in other words, He gave the Gentile nation a chance to save themselves and to gather out the blood of Israel that was scattered among them. Great blessings He offered to the people if they would obey His laws and keep His commandments. He also placed a curse upon those who would not listen to the testimony of that great prophet. The great curse that was placed upon this nation and other nations is death.

For a period of a hundred years now this testimony has gone forth, not only to the Latter-day Saints, but to all the nations of the earth. They have heard missionaries testify that Joseph was a prophet and invited the nations to listen to the testimonies of the elders. But we only have a little handful of people. We have here this morning in this meeting a majority of the men who really believe that Joseph was a prophet and that he gave commandments that we should live and obey in order to get back into the presence of our Father in heaven.

Now, because of the great determination among the nations of the earth, and especially the Christian nations, to try to

disprove the testimony of Joseph Smith, the Lord is angry with all people. There are only a few with whom He is well pleased. They, too, are walking on thin ice because of the great delusion that is being given to the people in this day.

It is our duty, brethren, to see to it that each individual conforms his life to the testimony that was given by that great prophet, Joseph Smith. Measure your actions by the instructions which he gave and don't get too anxious for the Lord's work to progress faster than He can progress it. He is preparing a little body of men who He can trust, who He can put His confidence in to carry on the work He has to accomplish in the next few years. Let us each bow to the cross that we carry and prepare ourselves for that great and glorious work. Let us close our ears to anything that is contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I don't wish to say more at this time, but I ask the Spirit of God to be here in abundance today that we might be fed the bread of life. We will now hear from President Timpson.

* * * * * * *

CLOSING REMARKS:

I realize, my dear brethren, that we have been together a good length of time. There are a few things upon my mind that I would like to dwell upon just a little. There has been a great deal said in this meeting about Priesthood, which is the greatest thing that we have to cling to, to take us back into the presence of our Father.

It is the duty of every man that enters into the ordinance of matrimony and takes upon himself the responsibility of bringing spirits into the world to teach his family that the father is the god of that family. As far as they are concerned, he is the man that they look to for their instruction, for their edification as to the principles of life and salvation. It is his duty to look to the presiding authority which God has placed here in the earth

for his instructions that he might be properly instructed as to the principles of life and salvation.

It is the duty of the Presidency of Priesthood to keep themselves in tune with the Spirit of God that instructions may come through the proper line direct from the eternal world, that it might be transmitted back to the heads of families. The servants of God act in His stead.

When the Father and the Son appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith, he was instructed that if he lived right God would establish His Priesthood through him in the latter days, that he would hold the keys of salvation as far as this latter-day work is concerned, both in the world and out of the world. So we are responsible to him. And unless we keep ourselves in a condition so that he can communicate those principles to us that we might give it to you, what good is it for us to even try to occupy the positions that the Lord has placed upon us? If that be the case, then Joseph Smith is the god that we are responsible to. Then who does Joseph Smith look to? Who is the God that he is responsible to? Isn't it Jesus Christ? And so on back. Who is the God that Christ is responsible to? It is the man that started the creation of this earth--this Priesthood. Is there any other way, my brethren, that you can by-pass and get back into the presence of our Father in heaven, or our old parent, Adam? If there is any other way, pray tell me. But you will have to have a pretty good argument to convince me otherwise.

The things that have been told you here today are true. It makes no difference how hard the words are that are spoken, no man here has a right to say, "I will do as I damn please. They can say all they want to, but I have a right to my own opinion, and I will do as I damn please." That is just what it will be.

After President Musser spoke one day, I heard one man that I thought was grounded in this work and had his feet very firmly planted on the ground say, "He speaks like a little god.

I would be afraid to speak like he has to this people, and I don't believe that he has spoken under the inspiration of heaven." I said, "Brother, you are walking on thin ice. You had better change your opinion, because every word that president Musser said was true." Where is the man today? He is trying to lead another people--another Priesthood, if you please. What President Musser read to you out of the Book of Mormon will apply to him unless he speedily repents. Because, Alma said that every man that took the same course that that man did would reap the same curse that he did.

So let us watch our actions, my dear brethren; and remember this, that we have not set the penalty for disobedience, but God, Almighty, set it. We are only here trying to guide the footsteps of a few people that they might prepare themselves against the day of visitation that God has promised to the generation in which we live. May the blessings of God rest upon us, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 3, 1960, PROGRAM, HILDALE, UTAH

I have been much interested in the program 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 to do my part in this work. I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon you. 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 in as much as I prepare myself to occupy this position.

Now, may God bless you with life, health, and strength, to carry on with a more firm determination to 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, JULY 17, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We appreciate greatly, my brothers and sisters, the profound attention you have paid and your ability to endure the heat and sit and listen to what has been said.

The Lord has had a way of testing His people. He has truly said that His people shall be a tried people. Through my experiences lately, I have found that some of the greatest testing that the Lord has left upon the earth for His people in this day, and especially in this day, was the fact that He permitted certain individuals to remain upon the earth. Because of that fact, men have allowed themselves to be led away by just such characters as have been portrayed before you today--false and delusive characters.

I had an experience with one man who said he had one of the three Nephites come to him--showed him a short-cut into the Church of the Firstborn. He grabbed it and went his way. These are some of the pitfalls that the Lord has left to try the saints. If we think that we can, on our own, detect who appears to us--I don't care whether it is in a vision, or whether he appears to us on the street or where--if we think we can use our own wisdom against the wisdom of that great deceiver, we will be found in trouble sooner or later. Let us be careful who we allow to direct our footsteps. I am very glad that the sermons of the brethren have been along these lines. I exhort you to go home and study, mull over what you have heard, and apply to your life these wonderful principles, that you might be able to prepare yourselves to receive the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Let us remember that the great charge to this generation in which we live is to get the Spirit of God and keep it.

I pray that God will bless you, each and every one, with a firm determination to prepare your lives that you might reform them into the character of your Father in heaven, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 7, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

As far as I am concerned, my brothers and sisters, the moon can come up pretty quick. I trust that the Lord will put words into my mouth that we may not be led away from the trend of thought that has been placed before us this evening. I was glad to hear President Hammon break the ice and say that he didn't want to see his children pass through the same experiences he did; and I don't want to throw a cloud on President Timpson's talk, because I fully realize what he meant, and possibly they didn't stop to think how to straighten out the thought.

When the Prophet Joseph was asked on one occasion how he governed his people, he made this remark, "I teach them correct principles and they govern themselves." I don't think there is a man or woman here but what would like to see their children improve upon the experiences they have had. And I don't think for one moment that the Lord hasn't got a few experiences tucked away in his "hind pocket" to give His children experience; because I don't care what we pass through, there is something a little greater for our children to hurdle that will make better men and women out of them, else how can we build up and establish the Kingdom of God in the earth? If we are going to hold our children down to passing through the same experiences we have, how are we going to raise a better people?

Many times we have been held up as a good people, but we are not good enough. So, let us not think that the Lord hasn't got something to thrust in the paths of our children to make them better men and women. The thing for us to instill into the minds of our wives and our children is a desire to become better than we are, that this Kingdom might grow and take on the glory that the Lord is trying to give His work in the latter days.

Let us not think for a minute that there have been idle words said tonight. Everything that has been said has been said for the edification and building up of the faith of this people.

But we shouldn’t feel that we don’t want to see our children have experience, but that experience will come in a way that will make better men and women out of us in building up the Kingdom of God in the way He wants it built up.

It is true that the lives of some of our people are such that they would not like to see their children have to go through the same experiences. But they don’t want their children to grow up without experience. So, don’t think the Lord hasn’t got something to throw in their way to give them experience that will make His work grow faster. That is what we want.

Now, the Lord loves us, my brothers and sisters, or we wouldn’t be here in this large of a gathering today listening to the sermons that have been given.

This work is growing. It is growing faster than we have any idea, not by conversion of the world, but through the many spirits that the Lord is sending here through this body of people. It is amazing. If we were to gather our people together all in one body we would have quite a large congregation. There were quite a number of people in the south two weeks ago, but not nearly as many as there were two weeks before that. In this part of the country, we had a larger attendance two weeks ago than we had two weeks before that. There were three hundred and thirty-one a month ago in that little place, and three hundred forty-two here two weeks ago. There is quite a nice little audience here tonight. But that isn’t as many as Mr. Budge says there are. He says there are 12,000 of us in the state of Utah, and it is getting out of control. I hope he is right. I hope he continues to figure that, because as long as he thinks there are that many here, he will be afraid to tackle the people. So, if this people will continue to exercise their faith in the work that the Lord is trying to perfect here and will continue to perfect their lives and the lives of their children, it won’t be long until the Lord will have men and women He can work with.

After all, this is a day of preparation, and I hope that you will take heed to what President Musser has told you and stamp out these evils coming into your homes. And you menfolks, don't be afraid to sit down and explain the beauties of the Gospel to your wives and children, that they might be able to improve upon the conditions of their fathers and mothers, that a people might be built up and brought forth that God can use in this day.

Now I pray that the Spirit of God may rest upon us, that the spirit of peace may dwell in our homes, and that we might carry that spirit with us wherever we go. We feel good in your midst, and I know these other brethren feel good in your midst. We like to have your association and have you call on us, and let us help you in your trials and tribulations.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 21, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

This is a wonderful privilege, my brothers and sisters, being here again under such favorable circumstances, knowing and realizing the day in which we live and the importance of the efforts that we are putting forth to prepare this people.

Very few, in our day, realize the significance of getting close to the Lord and getting His spirit and keeping it. The spirit of the day is recreation and sports. We read in history of the great Roman sports era, the great gladiators, and so forth. Today, we are almost their equal, if not more so. So, the day is fast approaching, my brothers and sisters, when the Lord will have to take a hand and make it possible for the prophecies of the ancient prophets to be fulfilled and for the rise and establishment of Zion. We know by the revelations of God that Zion is to be redeemed in this generation in which we live, or the redemption is to commence in this generation. The Prophet Joseph Smith said on one occasion, in telling the people of the great calamities and judgments that the Lord would send upon the earth, that there were those living in that day whose eyes would not be closed in death until all these things had been accomplished.

So, you are living in a great day. The nation, the state, the Church, and the people in general have all been put to a test in a way that they little realized what they were passing through. The time will come when many men will say they didn't realize the significance of the day in which they lived. I doubt if all of us have stopped long enough to realize the importance of the day--importance of the opportunities that present themselves to us. For, truly this is a day of testing--a day of preparation--a day of testing to those who have accepted the ordinance of baptism and have been taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ and then been brought up to believe that part of that Gospel has been done away with, or that it cannot be lived in our day. The Lord has plainly said that this is the Gospel of salvation. The principles that

were revealed to the Prophet Joseph were given for the exaltation and eternal life of man.

The old Prophet Alma, in the Book of Mormon, tells us that this is the day--the day in which we live--to prepare to meet our God. If we do not prepare to meet Him while we are here, then we have no chance. For the purpose of this life is to prepare to go back into the presence of our Father in heaven. The principles of salvation that were given to us through the revelations and the teachings of our early leaders, the Prophet Joseph and those who followed him in the Priesthood down to the present time, have all been the same doctrines regarding the salvation of man. Unless we listen to the teachings of those men who God has called to lead His work and heed their counsels and apply them to our lives, our chance will slip away, and we will have missed the boat; for this is the day in which we live to prepare to meet our God. There is no other time. You can't lay the blame on somebody else because the way has been hedged up.

The Lord has always provided an escape for His servants who have not been called home as witnesses. We can go down through history and find that the prophets and servants of God have been placed in very precarious conditions, but He has always opened an escape for them. Just read what He did to Israel when He delivered them out of the hands of the Egyptians. Not very many people have stopped to think what Moses went through in order to accomplish that great feat. The Lord knew the condition of His people, the people having been in bondage for so long, they were ready and willing to follow the direction of Moses. When they got to the Red Sea, He opened the way for their escape from the Egyptian army.

You can see how the Lord delivered the Saints out of the hands of their enemies and brought them to the Rocky Mountains. We can come on down to our own day and see how the Lord has delivered the Saints out of the hands of the enemies of His work.

The Lord is pleased, to a great extent, with the efforts that are being put forth by this people who I am speaking to, to align themselves with the servants of God and give them their support. I dare say that there is not one here that has assisted, in the last two years, in helping the Priesthood to accomplish their labors that is sorry for it, or has missed that which they have donated toward the work. Your spirits are higher; you feel better. The more you do, the better you feel. That has been the condition of this work from the beginning of time till now.

The old Prophet Enoch labored, we are told, for three hundred and twenty years to prepare a people to receive the order of heaven. After that long period of working, the people were acceptable to the Lord, and He took them from the earth. He took them and a portion of the earth away that they might be preserved in their righteous living.

In our day, we have been promised a period of a thousand years of peace if we would prepare ourselves to receive the same kingdom, the same principles, the same doctrines and teachings that Enoch and his people received.

Now, let us not lose our grip upon the wonderful privileges that we have at our fingertips. Let us seize upon them. Give that which belongs to the Lord to Him, and see if He will not open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings upon you until you cannot receive more. He has demonstrated His power; if you will look around you and look at the conditions of our people and what has happened in the last few months, you will find just as great miracles being performed today as has ever been performed among the people of God--the Saints of God.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us, and that we will rally to His work and accomplish it. I pray that the blessings of God will rest upon you and give you every blessing you desire in righteousness, and I do it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 4, 1960, PRIESTHOOD MEETING, HILDALE, UTAH

The Lord is good to this people to grant them the privilege of being together under such favorable circumstances at this time. We find that the evil powers are not satisfied yet or leaving us entirely alone and granting us our freedom of gathering together. Now and then, we have incidents come up that prove to us that Satan is not satisfied. But the Lord has, in His wisdom and mercy, granted unto us a period of peace now to see what we will do with our time--whether we will continue to mingle with Babylon and partake of her ways, or whether we will rally around His servants here and give them the support that is necessary for the establishment of His work. Because of your actions, your faithfulness and showing forth by your works that you are willing to come along, as far as you have, the Lord is greatly pleased.

One incident, in particular, that transpired in the last week shows to me that the Spirit of God is greater than the spirit of evil. All we need to do is get close to the Lord, and the evil spirits will stay away, at least we can put them to flight. President Joseph Musser has said, on several occasions, that one will put thousands to flight. One man with the Spirit of God will put thousands to flight. This is verily true. Men with the spirit of evil upon them will shiver and shake in the presence of the Spirit of God. So, if we can continue to apply to our lives those saving principles, we will prevail against the powers that are arrayed against this people, and the Kingdom of God will rise.

Very often I am confronted with the situation that men are not satisfied with some of the explanations that are made on points of doctrine on the principles of salvation. In trying to answer these points, I am forced to remember what the Lord said regarding these things. I am going to turn to Section 50 in the Doctrine & Covenants and read the whole section.

"Hearken, O ye elders of my church, and give ear to the voice of the living God; and attend to the words of wisdom which shall be given unto you, according as ye have asked and are agreed as touching the church, and the spirits which have gone abroad in the earth.

Behold, verily I say unto you, that there are many spirits which are false spirits, which have gone forth in the earth, deceiving the world.

And also Satan hath sought to deceive you, that he might overthrow you.

Behold, I, the Lord, have looked upon you, and have seen abominations in the church that profess my name.

But blessed are they who are faithful and endure, whether in life or in death, for they shall inherit eternal life.

But wo unto them that are deceivers and hypocrites, for thus saith the Lord, I will bring them to judgment.

Behold, verily I say unto you, there are hypocrites among you, who have deceived some, which has given the adversary power; but behold such shall be reclaimed;

But the hypocrites shall be detected and shall be cut off, either in life or in death, even as I will; and wo unto them who are cut off from my church, for the same are overcome of the world.

Wherefore, let every man beware lest he do that which is not in truth and righteousness before me.

And now come, saith the Lord, by the Spirit, unto the elders of his church, and let us reason together, that ye may understand;

Let us reason even as a man reasoneth one with another face to face.

Now, when a man reasoneth he is understood of man, because he reasoneth as a man; even so will I, the Lord, reason with you that you may understand.

Wherefore, I the Lord ask you this question--unto what were ye ordained?

To preach my gospel by the Spirit, even the Comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth.

And then received ye spirits which ye could not understand, and received them to be of God; and in this are ye justified?

Behold ye shall answer this question yourselves; nevertheless, I will be merciful unto you; he that is weak among you hereafter shall be made strong.

Verily I say unto you, he that is ordained of me and sent forth to preach the word of truth by the Comforter, in the Spirit of truth, doth he preach it by the Spirit of truth or some other way?

And if it be by some other way it is not of God.

And again, he that receiveth the word of truth, doth he receive it by the Spirit of truth or some other way?

If it be some other way it is not of God.

Therefore, why is it that ye cannot understand and know, that he that receiveth the word by the Spirit of truth receiveth it as it is preached by the Spirit of truth?

Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together.

And that which doth not edify is not of God, and is darkness.

That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day.

And again, verily I say unto you, and I say it that you may know the truth, that you may chase darkness from among you;

He that is ordained of God and sent forth, the same is appointed to be the greatest, notwithstanding he is the least and the servant of all.

Wherefore, he is possessor of all things; for all things are subject unto him, both in heaven and on the earth, the life and the light, the Spirit and the power, sent forth by the will of the Father through Jesus Christ, his Son.

But no man is possessor of all things except he be purified and cleansed from all sin.

And if ye are purified and cleansed from all sin, ye shall ask whatsoever you will in the name of Jesus and it shall be done.

But know this, it shall be given you what you shall ask; and as ye are appointed to the head, the spirits shall be subject unto you.

Wherefore, it shall come to pass, that if you behold a spirit manifested that you cannot understand, and you receive not that spirit, ye shall ask of the Father in the name of Jesus; and if he give not unto you that spirit, then you may know that it is not of God.

And it shall be given unto you, power over that spirit; and you shall proclaim against that spirit with a loud voice that it is not of God--

Not with railing accusation, that ye be not overcome, neither with boasting nor rejoicing, lest you be seized therewith.

He that receiveth of God, let him account it of God; and let him rejoice that he is accounted of God worthy to receive.

And by giving heed and doing these things which ye have received, and which ye shall hereafter receive--and the kingdom is given you of the Father, and power to overcome all things which are not ordained of him--

And behold, verily I say unto you, blessed are you who are now hearing these words of mine from the mouth of my servant, for your sins are forgiven you.

Let my servant Joseph Wakefield, in whom I am well pleased, and my servant Parley P. Pratt go forth among the churches and strengthen them by the word of exhortation.

> And also my servant John Corrill, or as many of my servants as are ordained unto this office, and let them labor in the vineyard; and let no man hinder them doing that which I have appointed unto them--
>
> Wherefore, in this thing my servant Edward Partridge is not justified; nevertheless let him repent and he shall be forgiven.
>
> Behold, ye are little children and ye cannot bear all things now; ye must grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth.
>
> Fear not, little children, for you are mine, and I have overcome the world, and you are of them that my Father hath given me;
>
> And none of them that my Father hath given me shall be lost.
>
> And the Father and I are one. I am in the Father and the Father in me; and inasmuch as ye have received me, ye are in me and I in you.
>
> Wherefore, I am in your midst, and I am the good shepherd, and the stone of Israel. He that buildeth upon this rock shall never fall.
>
> And the day cometh that you shall hear my voice and see me, and know that I am.
>
> Watch, therefore, that ye may be ready. Even so. Amen."

The scriptures are full, my brothers, of the words of eternal life. When we have a point of doctrine come up which we do not understand, it is our duty to get close to the Lord, that He might be able to quiet our minds on that subject or that point of doctrine.

We have men come to us from time to time who are not satisfied upon points of doctrine, and they bring their books with them to try to prove, from the scriptures, that the interpretation that the servants of the Lord have given is not correct. But there is a way whereby we might understand. That is to come with the

Spirit of God upon us. If we hear a point of doctrine explained and it is not in accordance with our views, if it has come from the leading servants of the Lord, then it is our duty to get the same spirit that the servants of God have, that we might come to a mutual understanding. This revelation that I have just read to you will go a long way toward quieting the minds of those who do not understand as they are taught from the mouths of the servants of God.

Sometimes we feel that the servants of the Lord are misleading--that their words are misleading. When we do that, let us not condemn them. Let us get close to the Lord that we might understand.

The word of God is given to us according to the faith we have. If you come to a meeting with a question in your minds and a prayerful heart that it might be answered to your satisfaction, you can draw from the Spirit of God the answer to your question. And your mind will be quieted on that subject. But if you have a determination in your mind to force your interpretation upon the mind of the servant of God, you will go away with the same feeling with which you came. Your mind will not be satisfied; your soul will not be filled with the joy of the Spirit of God, and you will still be at variance with the servants of God upon the question that is bothering you. That is what the Lord is telling His servants in this revelation. He has left it up to the man, to the person, to the individual, to make the decision as to whether or not they have received through the servants of God the proper answer to their question.

Now, the Lord is pleased to some extent with this people, and I bear testimony to it. If we will continue, though it might seem hard, the great responsibility that is placed upon us might seem hard to bear, but if we will bear it well, my brethren, and carry off this work now, the Lord will make it easy. He has promised the people that if they will get close to Him and keep the

commandments of God, the wealth of the world is theirs. We don't care for their money, but we do care for the land upon which we live. We know that it has got to be sanctified and brought into a condition of productivity, that it will be able to take care of the great concourse of people that will be brought here to possess this great and glorious land upon which we live.

We look upon this country as being pretty well populated. To ride across the country, we see lots of wasteland. The time will come when this wasteland will be brought into productivity. When that great concourse of people, the ten tribes of Israel, come back, you will see a greater population here than you see today. And they will be taught the principles of life and salvation; and they will accept it. When the Spirit of God is made manifest among the Saints at that time, it will be when the Millennium is in operation. Then this land will become productive. It will do what the servants of God have said. It will produce more than we are able to comprehend.

If we look around us a little bit today, we see a little of the handiwork of God in making an unproductive land productive. You don't have to go any farther than this place. Just go down here and look at this little piece of ground that has been tried out this year, you will see one of the greatest miracles, in your mind, you have ever seen in this country. Because it is a miracle to see what the Lord has done for us in just a small way, just this year.

I want to tell you, dear brethren, that this great land of ours, this great expanse that is unproductive today can be made as productive as any land that we have, if we have the Spirit of God on us. There is no need of there being any poor among the people. When we go forth with the Spirit of God upon us, then the Spirit of God will spread from one community to another, and the land will become productive, the people will become productive, both in material things and in spiritual things. That is what we

are working for. We are trying to prepare a people today to carry off the kingdom. Inasmuch as the blessing was given to Ephraim to be the leader of God's people, and many Patriarchal blessings have been given to this people, we find we are of that lineage. It is our right if we prepare ourselves to receive it. But remember this, that this is a blessing that is offered to you by the Lord. Blessings offered and rejected often become cursings upon our heads. So, if we want to be numbered among the saviors on Mt. Zion, let us prepare ourselves for that order of Priesthood.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 4, 1960, HILDALE, UTAH

I first want to say, I feel very humble, my brothers and sisters, in occupying this position. For, I realize there is a great responsibility upon the shoulders of this body of Priesthood. I am grateful to my Heavenly Father for being here today, enjoying health and strength and beholding this wonderful audience. There are three hundred sixty-three people in the room today. This is very pleasing, not only to us, but to the Lord to see so many people here seeking to be instructed of Him. This is the reason that I feel humble this afternoon, because I know that in order to feed you what you have come out to receive, I must be able to be dictated by the Spirit of God. President Barlow, in his day, was very much pleased when the people turned out to hear him. Much more pleased was he when he could speak to the people, and they manifested a spirit of welcome to his words. On many occasions, when talking with him, I have heard him express the thought that many people have turned out to hear him talk, but they only came for curiosity; because they would take what he said and make light of it and justify their own actions in an opposing spirit. But we feel a spirit here, my brothers and sisters, of welcome to the words of the servants of the Lord. There may be a few opposing spirits, but they are overcome by the majority of the people.

In the past few years, we have experienced the feeling of a desire for unity among our people, which shows that the Spirit of God is working upon the minds of this generation in trying to prepare a people who can receive the instructions of heaven and not treat them lightly. So, we should be very careful, my brothers and sisters, in our after thoughts, after hearing the sermons of the servants of the Lord and how we express them to our neighbors; because they can be very damaging to our salvation. On the other hand, they can build us up in our faith in the Lord Jesus.

I bear you my testimony that the body of Priesthood that sits on this stand today have nothing in their hearts but to

see the Kingdom of God advance in the earth, the will of God promulgated to the people. Their presence here denotes a willingness to abide by the counsel that is given them.

A man said to me the other day, “What is your occupation?” I made the remark that I was an insurance man. He said, “What kind of insurance do you sell?” I said, “I don’t sell any, but I go about insuring men of their salvation, if they will do what I tell them to do.” “What have you got that President MacKay hasn’t got?” “Nothing. President MacKay has the same opportunity that I have, but he has rejected the saving principles of the Gospel. So if men will listen to what I tell them, they can round out their salvation. But, they have got to show a willingness to receive the policy that I have, or I won’t give it to them. So, if it’s further arguments you want, you will have to go somewhere else; because I will argue no further. President MacKay had the Gospel given to him in a pure line from the Prophet Joseph Smith, and so did I.” He said, “I take it you have been handled by the Church?” I said, “That is right. I have no records in the Church today.” The argument went no further. But that is the kind of insurance policy that we carry. There is no cash premium attached to it. There is no obligation on the part of the insurer or the insured only that they will receive their reward in the Celestial Kingdom of our God if they will listen to the teachings that we give. And what further insurance do we need? What greater insurance do we need if we can be insured against the evil powers that possess this world today?

I will tell you, my brothers and sisters, there is a great responsibility, not only upon the shoulders of this Council of the Priesthood, but upon every member of this audience today that has committed themselves in any way to sustain and support the authority of our Father in heaven that is here. Great responsibility is upon their shoulders. Where much is given much is expected, says the Lord. So when we express a desire to serve God

and keep His commandments, then so far as we keep those commandments, the Lord is bound. But when we keep them not, we have no promise. Wherever there is a blessing offered, there is also a penalty attached to it. For the penalty of denying the testimony that you and I have borne of the existence of a Creator is terrible. If I bear testimony that Jesus is the Christ, and I do His will, then I am offered a place by His side in the Celestial Kingdom. If I bear testimony that Jesus is the Christ, and I then reject His teachings, what is the penalty? The Lord says, damnation. What does it mean to be damned? It means to be cut off from all of the blessings that the Lord has offered to the faithful.

The greatest desire of my heart is to see this body of people continue in the faith. If the Lord has blessed you with a testimony that this work is true, it is my greatest desire to see you do everything possible to let the Lord know that you know that this is His work. Then He can shower His blessings upon this people. Every blessing that has been pronounced upon this land can be obtained through the faithfulness of those who occupy it.

Way back, sometime in history, the Lord pronounced a blessing upon this continent. It was something like this: Those who possess this land shall be a godfearing people, and they shall serve me and keep my commandments, or they shall be swept off the face of the land. We only have to go back into the history of our church and read and see where this very thing has happened a couple of times. In one instance, all the people of the land were wiped off because they would not keep the commandments of God. In the other case, all those who were once righteous were swept off, for the curse of unbelief was heaped upon them. So the whole nation was wiped off. For many hundreds of years the children of that people wandered in unbelief. They are still wandering in unbelief. There may be a few who have heard and accepted the Gospel of Christ, but the great majority are roaming the country in a

forsaken condition. The same promises have been made to the people in this day. If we will not keep the commandments of God, this nation will be swept clean. The Lord, in His mercy, restored the Priesthood, never again to be taken away or given to another people.

The scripture says that the time will come when there will be two working at the mill, one will be taken and the other left. There will be two working in the field, one will be taken and the other left. I put the question to President Barlow one day, “Just how will this come about?” He said, “My boy, you will be walking along with someone that you think is close to you, you will be thinking that this man is a servant of the Lord, but you will find yourself raised up while the other man is taken. I want you to remember that the Lord says, “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars in foreign lands, but little do you know the hearts of men in your own country.” “Now, this,” he said, “is what the Lord meant by the parable.”

The scriptures tell us that the Lord will put ways and means into the hands of Satan to deceive the people, and so keen will be the deception that even the elect will be deceived if it were possible. So we see, my brothers and sisters, the necessity of getting the Spirit of God and keeping it. Now, I pray that we will strive continually with number one--this person--that you might be able to save at least one soul, that you might have joy and rejoicing in the hereafter with that soul, and how great it will be.

There are many of us who feel that our salvation is sure and we must save our neighbor, but, my dear brothers and sisters, the best way to preach the Gospel to your neighbor is by example. If you can make your home a place where the Spirit of God can be, no one can enter that home without feeling the spirit. In this way, you will be more convincing than all the eloquent words that you could speak from your mouth. Let us strive from this very

minute on to save at least one soul, that the joy and rejoicing with your neighbors might be complete.

My greatest desire is to see this people blessed with every blessing they can contain in righteousness. I believe that the time is coming when the Lord will bless you with every blessing that you can contain. For, He has said, “Try me, see if I won’t open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings until you cannot contain more.”

Now, may God bless you, each and every one, with a desire to press forward and keep the commandments that have been given us for our salvation, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 18, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I don’t want to incur the displeasure of too many people. Here some sat back in the shade and now the sun is shining in their faces. But, nevertheless, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon me that I might say something that will benefit someone, and that we might be partakers of the good spirit while we further wait.

I have been very much interested in the remarks that have been made this afternoon; and I know that the Spirit of God has rested upon the speakers. The subject that President Musser has just presented to us is one of the most important of all subjects that I know of, for this reason, that we will be of no use to the progress of the Kingdom of our Father Adam without a body. And to deprive us of the privilege of having a body in the hereafter is only to reject the testimony of Christ. That is all we have to do. So, if there are any among us who think they can get away from it all by leaving this work, they only need to go to Mexico, out among these Indian tribes that we have and look over their suffering and condition and see what suffering we have to go through in order to shed these bodies. You can go down on the street corner in the city and see men and women begging for an existence. And why is it? Simply because they have broken a law. Sometime along the line they have had a chance or their forefathers have had a chance to accept or reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ and they are on the road out. Some have met with misfortune one way or another. Maybe they haven’t had a chance to receive the Gospel, but the chance will be given them sometime later. But it only goes to show the condition that we would be in if we had the chance to accept the Gospel and then rejected it. It shows to us the suffering that men and women would have to go through in order to pay the penalty that Uncle Guy has just been telling us about.

These bodies were given to us for a definite purpose--of becoming like God is. For, as man is God once was and as God is

man may become. The only way we can become as God is, is to live and apply to our lives the principles that will assimilate us into His character. That is what Brother Guy has been trying to put over here.

It is a very serious matter, my brothers and sisters, to reject the counsels of the Priesthood. Priesthood is God's power here upon the earth. Men who are called to preside in it are acting under the inspiration of our Father in heaven, and under His direction. The only way that that Priesthood can be purely given to a people is through the faith of the people. It is true that men can bear their testimonies, but before you can know and understand the full purpose of that Priesthood you will have to create a desire to know from our Father in heaven His will concerning you. There is only one way you can draw it, and that is through the channel that the Lord has instituted far the edification and the education of His subjects. The Prophet Joseph was so instructed under the tutorship of Christ Himself. That is where he received his first instruction; and then, under the direction of Christ, angels appeared to him. These angels did not come until after Joseph had had a conversation with Christ Himself.

From that time on, Joseph was instructed by men who held the Priesthood, and the right and the authority that was needed to institute the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the restoration of the Priesthood in the latter days was given to him. That Priesthood teaches us the principles of our existence, the necessity of coming here and receiving these bodies and purifying them and taking them back in a purified condition. Anyone who feels that they can defile these bodies, or go against the counsel of the Priesthood in preserving them and get back into the presence of Father (which they will have to do) without paying a penalty for it, will have to be instructed and receive the instructions of how to do it, because you cannot escape the penalty of disobedience. No man, or woman, no matter whether they are living or dead, can

escape the punishment of disobedience. When you have lived and had the testimony of Jesus borne to you, and you have gone before your Father in heaven and asked Him for a testimony and have received it, great is the responsibility that is upon you when you bear testimony to the world or to your friends that you know the Gospel is true. Much greater than you have stopped to realize and think upon is that responsibility, for there is a great work to do.

The Lord says, where much is given much is expected. When a man goes before the Lord and asks for a testimony of the truth and it is given to him, it is his duty to do all that he can to perfect that testimony and apply it to his life, that he might not come under condemnation. The wages of sin are terrible.

So, let us pay attention to what has been told us this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, and go from this meeting with a firm determination to serve the Lord and keep His commandments and do that which we have been told to do. May God bless you, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 2, 1960, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I believe that the audience is growing from week to week. It has been some time, my brothers and sisters, since my eyes have beheld a more beautiful sight than I am looking at this afternoon. We are certainly blessed to be able to meet together under such favorable circumstances with all the powers of the present day arrayed against the Celestial Law. The Lord has said, “Where much is given much is expected.” He has also said that Zion would be redeemed in His own due time and, “My people shall be a tried people.”

Since the days of the first vision to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the saints have been tried in their faith. No sooner had the Prophet revealed to the world that he had received a vision and saw the Father and the Son than did the powers of Satan try to destroy the work. But the Lord said that His work would finally triumph over all opposition.

It has also been said that the blessings of the Celestial Kingdom shall be realized when the people become united. So, in order to bring about a condition whereby Zion might be redeemed, we must promote a spirit of unity among our people. That unity must be centered upon one object, and that object is the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, or to bring ourselves into a condition where we can assimilate ourselves into the likeness of our Father in heaven. If we can promote this kind of a spirit among this people, there is no reason why the redemption of Zion is not drawing near; because the Father and the Son both bore record to the Prophet Joseph that this Gospel was restored 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.

We have heard so much this afternoon pertaining to the salvation of the children of men that I hesitate to try to enlighten you further, only to bear testimony to you that these

truths are true and must be adhered to in order to round out our salvation.

It is my testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that he received revelation for the salvation and eternal life of man. And it is by and through obedience to those revelations that we receive the gift of eternal life.

Let us go to now and study the scriptures. Let us get these old books down and wear the leaves out reading and turning them. Let us get that inch of dust off that has collected on the back of the Bible and dig into it and find out what we have got to do in order to save our souls. This is one of the most important things in the life of any individual upon this earth at the present time.

I have said before, and I say again, that if we knew that the mortgage holder was going to close us out tomorrow, or even next week, and there was no way to stop the deal, we would spend a lot of waking hours worrying over what was going to happen to us in the next few days. But how many of you spend any waking hours thinking about what is going to become of your souls when you leave this probation? It is more serious, my brothers and sisters, than we have heretofore thought about. Some think because the Lord provides the meals we eat, the clothes we wear, and He is merciful unto us and grants us a little peace now and then, what more is there for us to worry about? What President Timpson has read to you today (76th Section of the D. & C.) ought to wake you up. It should set you to thinking upon things more serious than we have ever thought about before.

I don’t worry about my earthly conditions, but I do worry about what is going to become of me when I leave here. The time to work out our salvation is the day in which we live, not after we have gone to the other side. After we leave here, we are going to be judged according to the works that we have done here. If we know that we have done all we can to get close to the Lord and get

His Spirit and keep it, then thank the Lord that we have obeyed the Gospel and its truths. But if we are not sure, let us seek; let us not cease to strive until the Spirit of God assures us that we have done the best we can.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us and that He will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and that we will go from this meeting with a more firm determination to serve Him and keep His commandments, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 16, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

This is a wonderful sight, my brothers and sisters, and I am grateful for the privilege I have of being here and listening to the word of God to you. When President Musser started to speak, I was reminded of the passage of scripture wherein it says that all men are created equal. President Musser says, we are not all the same height. I was wondering if there was a mistake made. (Pres. Musser: Some of us have been beat down more.) (Laughter) It reminded me of one of our last trips together. One of our brethren left his razor home. He wanted to know if we had an extra razor, or if he could borrow one. I told him that I had a "pile-driver", and if he wanted to use that, he would be welcome to it. He wanted to know what I meant by a "pile-driver." Well, some time ago, someone made me a present of one of these electric machines that you put on your face. Soon after you get through using one of those things, the whiskers begin to come out again. They are "pile-drivers." They drive them back in, and pretty soon they rise back. (laughter).

Brother Musser said to me one day, "Do you shave with an electric razor or one of these pulling machines." The answer was, "It depends upon who I am going to see."

Well, we are all created equal. The Lord put a mind in our head, and we all have the power to use it. Someone said, at the commencement of the meeting, that there was a war in heaven between two characters, and that war is still going on. We are equal enough to know that this is an actual fact. The Lord has given us enough intelligence to know the difference between good and evil. Even the little child of the Gentiles is taught what is good for him and what is bad for him. Most of them are taught that to obey their parents is one of the first laws of heaven--obedience to those who care for them. To be disobedient, they are punished. We who have had the Gospel of Jesus Christ explained to us know the

difference between good and evil as the Lord has intended us to understand.

This great war we have been talking about is still going on. There are only two powers that we have to deal with. One of those two powers will take us back into the presence of our Father in heaven. The other will deal to us damnation. So the only thing that the brethren are trying to put over to you people is to heed the powers that will give you knowledge and understanding of the character of God, that you might assimilate yourself into that character. We would like to have you understand that we have nothing else in mind but to lay before you the conditions that actually exist among our people that might be holding us back from gaining these blessings.

The Lord needs a people that He can put His trust in, and we are trying to lead you along that road, that you might become some good along the way in assisting the Lord to redeem His people. We cannot be of any use unless we understand the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, for the Lord has plainly said that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. Now, if we can learn wisdom, knowledge, and understanding by the mistakes we make and listen to the counsel of the Lord through His servants, we can become a people that the Lord can use. I humbly pray that the Spirit of God can rest upon us enough so that we can so order our lives that we might become useful in this work.

I don’t feel like speaking longer, but I ask the blessings of God to be upon you that we might go on now from this meeting and put into practice those wonderful principles that have been so beautifully laid before us this afternoon. God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 6, 1960, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am very thankful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here and partaking of the spirit of this meeting. I am thankful for the word of the Lord that has been delivered to you, for the Lord loves you very very much. He has said that He chastens those whom He loveth. Why does He chasten? That they might be better prepared to serve Him and keep His commandments.

I don't wish to detain you long, but I want to give you a little of the word of God to you.

> "Instead of the righteous being bound tighter and tighter, they will continue to have more and more liberty. As we are more and more faithful and obtain more power with the heavens we will have more of the power of God upon us. Let us seek diligently unto the Lord until we obtain the faith of Jesus in its fullness; for those who possess this are free indeed. Mormonism keeps men and women young and handsome. When they are full of the Spirit of God there are none of them but what will have a glow upon their countenance, and that is what makes you and me young; for the Spirit of God is with us and within us."
>
> "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 who have proven themselves before Him." (B.Y.)

What a wonderful opportunity, my brothers and sisters, that we have. You have been told of some of your faults tonight. You have also been told how to overcome them. Now it is up to you. There is enough faith within this room to shake this whole state

until it would wonder what had taken place, if you will put into practice the things you have been told tonight. If you will overcome those faults, you will find a great change in the attitude of this people and the blessings of God would shower down upon your head. I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 8, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, it is a great pleasure for me to be here this evening and partake of the spirit of this meeting with you and try to conform my life to the instructions that we have received. There are many among us who are not able to forgive our brother his trespasses against us, which is one of the abominable things President Hammon has been instructing you about. It is one of the characteristics among our people that the Lord is displeased with. So let us try--let us try to get rid of the feelings we have toward one another that we might become united enough that the Lord will smile upon us and bless us more abundantly through the coming year.

This is the commencement of a new year. No doubt many of you, if not all, have made up your list of resolutions that you would like to carry out and apply to your lives the next twelve months. But I would like to ask you, one and all, to discard your resolutions--all but one. Then try to carry out that one. Let that one resolution be: I am going to get the Spirit of God and keep it.

All these other things will be added thereto; for the Lord has said, seek ye first the Kingdom of God in its righteousness and all these things will be added thereto. So, if you will discard all your other resolutions and keep this one, you will be the greatest blest people there are upon the earth.

Our time is well spent. We have been instructed through the inspiration of the Spirit of God. Now, let us go from this meeting with a light heart. Let us discard all our faults and failings, that we might 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, JANUARY 22, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Once again, my brothers and sisters, I wish to express my gratitude for the preservation of my life, for God's blessings unto all of us, for the privilege we have of being here tonight and being instructed as we have been instructed. I desire that you assist me with your faith and prayers that I might be able to speak under the inspiration of our Heavenly Father.

I am very much pleased with the effort this people has put forth to repent and to draw near unto the Lord. I understand that all the rooms in this building are filled, which is an evidence that someone is desirous to listen to the servants of God. I hope that the testimonies you hear are in harmony with the testimonies of the early leaders of this work.

We have had many things drawn to our attention that would help us become the people God is looking for. If we can only listen to the teachings we receive and then measure our lives with the measuring stick the Lord has given us for our salvation, we can become the people that Joseph tried to bring up in his day. He had a hard time, because he was introducing a new idea into the world. Today we have been instructed for over one hundred years along the same lines, but there are not as many people listening to us as there was in Joseph's time. He had thousands of people gathered around him. They were eager to hear him but slow to do the things they were told to do. People have been the same throughout the generations of time. We understand that Adam was taught the Gospel, and he taught it to his children; but they were slow to listen to his teachings--some of them. We are told that Enoch worked over three hundred years to prepare a people that would be acceptable unto the Lord.

In our day, we know that the scriptures have been fulfilled in that the Savior told the Nephite people that if the Gentiles rejected the fullness of the Gospel, He would destroy them. Who were the Gentiles? Who was He speaking of? It was

those who had heard the Gospel and accepted baptism at the hands of His servants and then rejected the fullness of the Gospel. Today the Lord is trying to bring out of that people someone He can trust.

The Prophet Brigham Young said this: 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 His people who have proven themselves before Him. Then he says again: The greatest blessing that can be bestowed upon the children of men is power to civilize themselves after the order of the civilization of heaven, to prepare themselves to dwell with heavenly beings who are capable of enduring the presence of the gods.

President Hammon said he was preparing himself to go back to take part in the redemption of Zion. That is what we would like to prepare this people for. When you go back there, you will be capable of carrying out what I have just read to you--enduring the presence of heavenly beings.

Repentance is the greatest charge the Lord has placed upon a people, to repent of our sins and draw near to our Father and God that He might be justified in pouring out His blessings upon us.

We are in a precarious condition today. Ever since I got acquainted with this work, we have had to fight for our liberty. In the early persecutions of this people, in the days of the Prophet, the Lord had this to say about what was going on:

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 58:26-30-32-33)

> "For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things; for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.

> Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;
>
> For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.
>
> But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned.
>
> Who am I that made man, saith the Lord, that will hold him guiltless that obeys not my commandments?
>
> I command and men obey not; I revoke and they receive not the blessing.
>
> Then they say in their hearts: This is not the work of the Lord, for his promises are not fulfilled. But wo unto such, for their reward lurketh beneath, and not from above."

So we see the same teachings have been given to the people throughout the history of this work. Joseph had the same conditions to meet that the servants of the Lord have today. We have to change the thinking of people in order to accomplish the great blessings that the Lord has in store for the children of men.

Disobedience to the commandments of God has brought trouble throughout the history of God's work in this earth. Disobedience to the commandments of God has destroyed nations and has brought misery unto the souls of men. When men have been called to repentance, they have felt to censure the servants of God, which has brought misery and trouble and tribulation to the children of our Father. I am going to read from Section 56.

(D&C 56:1-6)

> “Hearken, O ye people who profess my name, saith the Lord your God; for behold, mine anger is kindled against the rebellious, and they shall know mine arm and mine indignation, in the day of visitation and of wrath upon the nations.
>
> And he that will not take up his cross and follow me, and keep my commandments, the same shall not be saved.
>
> Behold, I the Lord, command; and he that will not obey shall be cut off in mine own due time, after I have commanded and the commandment is broken.
>
> Wherefore I, the Lord, command and revoke, as it seemeth me good; and all this to be answered upon the heads of the rebellious, saith the Lord.
>
> Wherefore, I revoke the commandment which was given unto my servants Thomas B. Marsh and Ezra Thayre, and give a new commandment unto my servant Thomas, that he shall take up his journey speedily to the land of Missouri, and my servant Selah J. Griffin shall also go with him.
>
> For behold, I revoke the commandment which was given unto my servants Selah J. Griffin and Newel Knight, in consequence of the stiffneckedness of my people which are in Thompson, and their rebellions.”

So we see that the Lord is very much displeased with the actions of men and especially men who have put their hand to the plow and have said that they would follow after the teachings of our Savior but have not listened to the counsel of the servants of God. So they have been brought under condemnation. We have been told time and again and reminded of the condemnation that is upon this people because they have treated lightly the things they have received.

Now let us not treat lightly the things we have received any longer, because tribulation lies at our door. It was such actions as this that brought the persecutions upon the saints in the early days. Brother Hammon made the statement a while ago that it was some of those among this group of people who contributed to the tribulations of our people in their persecutions of late.

Let us look to ourselves, my brothers and sisters, and set our houses in order. Let us get the Spirit of God and keep it. Let us keep the resolutions that we have made that we will try this year to get the Spirit of God in our homes and keep it there that we might have claim upon the Lord for His protection during the days of our tribulation; because tribulation lies at our door. Satan has not laid down his weapons of war. And he is counseling deep that he might destroy the Celestial Law, the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. But the Lord has said that if we would keep His commandments, He would fight our battles. So let us go to, repent of our sins and keep the commandments of God. Let us 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, FEBRUARY 5, 1961, AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am delighted, my brothers and sisters, in being able to be here with you tonight and to partake of the blessings of this meeting.

In going over the scriptures and comparing them with the time in which we live, I find that in all ages of the history that we have, the same efforts by the servants of God have been put forth to get the people to repent. The old prophet Alma made the statement that the day in which we live is the day to prepare to meet our God, and it is as true as the Gospel itself. For there will be no other time given us until we have done what I heard Bishop David A. Smith say one time. He said that after a man and a woman had had the privilege of accepting the Gospel and turned it down they would be a long long time dead before they would have another chance. So, if we Latter-day Saints who have so many evidences of the truthfulness of the Gospel as it was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith reject it, we will be a long, long time dead before we will have another chance to accept that blessing again.

There have been many, many people, my brothers and sisters, who have lived in this old world who have not had the chance to accept or reject the Gospel. We who have a chance and will not do it will have to take a back seat until the Gospel has been preached to those who have not had a chance to receive it before we have a chance given to us again.

Many things have been given us tonight that if they were followed out would bring us nearer to our Father in heaven. It has been mentioned here that to become a prayerful people would help us. The Lord has said for us to pray continually that His Spirit might abide with us. I think it would be a good thing to refresh our minds upon this subject a little. In the Lord’s instructions to the Prophet Joseph Smith, He says this:

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 10:1-2)

> “Now, behold, I say unto you, that because you delivered up those writings which you had power given unto you to translate by the means of the Urim and Thummim, into the hands of a wicked man, you have lost them.
>
> And you also lost your gift at the same time, and your mind became darkened.”

So the Lord has said many other things to put us on our safeguard that we may get His Spirit and keep it with us; for there is no safety unless we listen to these wonderful safeguards that the Lord has given us.

> (Doctrine & Covenants, Section 88:62-65)
>
> “And again, verily I say unto you, my friends, I leave these sayings with you to ponder in your hearts, with this commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall call upon me while I am near--
>
> Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
>
> Whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you, that is expedient for you;
>
> And if ye ask anything that is not expedient for you, it shall turn unto your condemnation.”

The Lord is easy to find, my brothers and sisters, especially when we have the servants of God to help us along the way. The time to get close to Him is in the days of our peace. If we will seek Him when we are at peace with the world and with the enemies of righteousness then when the storm comes and the enemies of God’s work come upon us, He will not be hard to find. For the Lord has said many times that if we will seek Him early, we can find Him. It has been when the people have lost sight of the way

to get close to the Lord, when we have forgotten to draw near to Him in prayer that He has forsaken us. If we will go to the scriptures, we will find that when the people have been near to the Lord and have been diligent in calling upon Him and getting His Spirit and keeping it with them He has prospered them. The scriptures tell us that they have become a great and mighty people, rich in the things of this world as well as spiritual blessings. It is when they have forsaken Him or forgotten Him and ceased to call upon Him in mighty prayer that the Spirit of God has left them. When it has withdrawn from them, He has allowed them to be destroyed. You only have to go back to the days of Christ when He visited the people on this continent to read of the great destruction that took place here because of the unbelief of that great nation--the many cities that were destroyed. The record tells us of what happened at that time and the reason for it. It was because the people had forsaken the Gospel of Christ and had sought to destroy the prophets, discredit their words and to destroy the saints. The Lord visited them with great destruction. Then later on, after they had accepted the Gospel and had lived close to the Lord for so many, many years, how greatly He blessed them, how exceedingly great became the nation upon this continent. Then when they forgot Him and became wicked again and His spirit withdrew from them, the servants of God asked if they shouldn’t go among them and preach repentance again to them. But the Lord forbade it, because He said they had willingly forsaken Him.

I wonder how it is in our day. Look how wonderfully the Lord restored the Gospel to this generation. He came in person and brought His Son with Him and introduced Him to that great prophet, Joseph Smith, and bore testimony that He was His Son and told Joseph to listen to Him. Look how the people received him. That dear prophet was martyred before he had reached a half a century, because of the testimony that he bore to this generation.

The Church that he organized now has forsaken the most saving part of that Gospel that was delivered to the Saints. They have rejected it. What about us, my brothers and sisters? Are we living close enough to those truths that were given to the Prophet Joseph to make our skirts clean? Even though we profess to be living and clinging to the fullness of the everlasting Gospel, are we applying it to our lives in the manner that the Lord is pleased with us to that extent that He will protect us in the day of visitation that He has promised to this generation? For the Lord told the Prophet Joseph that there were those living upon the earth in that time whose eyes would not close in death until great destruction would come upon this land.

Great is the day in which we live; for the Lord has promised to the world that somewhere along the line He would redeem His people, that He would bring about a condition where His Saints would live in peace for a thousand years. During that time, the people would apply to their lives the Gospel in its purity to that extent that they could enjoy the presence of heavenly beings.

Now, this opportunity, my brothers and sisters, has been offered to you, to purify your lives to that extent where the Lord can accept you, and that you can become partakers of that great and glorious blessing. For the Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that if the people would prepare themselves, Zion could be redeemed in his day--in 1836. But he couldn’t find enough men that would fulfill the requirements that the Lord made of them. But He told the Prophet Joseph and Oliver Cowdery that this Gospel of the Kingdom was restored for the last time and that He would not take it away from the earth or give it to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. We have a very slim chance at the present day, a hundred years after these great truths were given to the Prophet Joseph. We have a very slim chance of keeping alive that great and glorious offering to this generation. But if we will cling on to the chance that

we have and make our offering acceptable to the Lord, we can carry this work to completion. Our children, at least, can be partakers of that great and glorious blessing of seeing the redemption of God's work in the earth.

Let us go to. Let us apply to our lives the principles that have been taught to us here tonight. Let us not allow ourselves to slip to that point where the Lord will not be willing to fight our battles for us and bring us off victorious in this great fight that we are carrying on at the present time.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will continue with this people and that we will continue to repent of our sins, to purify our lives, and get the Spirit of God and keep it. May God bless you, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 19, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Once more, I want to express my gratitude for the privilege of meeting with you again, to partake of the wonderful blessing we have received tonight. I feel like the time is far spent, and we have been well paid for our presence here and for the wonderful outpouring of the Spirit of God upon us.

We come here to be instructed how to conduct our lives and how to prepare ourselves to become more like our elder brother, Jesus, and to incorporate into our lives the same principles that he taught. I feel very weak, my brothers and sisters, in trying to promote the work that He has given us to accomplish in the earth, for I realize the weaknesses of men and women. I know the great responsibility that rests upon us, the great task that is before us in trying to revamp our lives from the traditions of our fathers and our mothers over the past generations and to incorporate into our lives the changeover. For the Lord has said, “My ways are not man’s ways.” He has given us in great plainness the things that we must do in order to get back into His presence.

When men and women came to visit with President Barlow, to find out their standing with the Lord, he would go to the book and open it and read to them what the Lord expected of them. I don’t know but what it is a good thing to refresh our minds from time to time on some of the requirements that the Lord has made of His people. In the days of the Prophet Joseph, men would go to him to find out their standing with the Lord, and I am glad that the Lord thought enough of us to have some of those instructions written down and given to us that we might refer to them from time to time, for they are very important, my brothers and sisters, to our lives. I feel like reading just a little from Section 45 of the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Verse 1)

> “Hearken, O ye people of my church, to whom the kingdom has been given; hearken ye and give ear to him

who laid the foundation of the earth, who made the heavens and all the hosts thereof, and by whom all things were made which live, and move, and have a being."

There is a great sermon, my brothers and sisters--in that one verse. We try to put over the same meaning to you, and we preach for an hour trying to get it over. But the Lord has told us in one verse here some of the great truths that He expects of His people.

(Verses 2-16)

"And again I say, hearken unto my voice, lest death shall overtake you; in an hour when ye think not the summer shall be past, and the harvest ended, and your souls not saved.

Listen to him who is the advocate with the Father, who is pleading your cause before him--

Saying: Father, behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself might be glorified;

Wherefore, Father, spare these my brethren that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have everlasting life.

Hearken, O ye people of my church, and ye elders listen together, and hear my voice while it is called today, and harden not your hearts;

For verily I say unto you that I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the light and the life of the world--a light that shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehendeth it not.

I came unto mine own, and mine own received me not; but unto as many as received me gave I power to do many miracles, and to become the sons of God; and even

unto them that believed on my name gave I power to obtain eternal life.

And even so I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, and to be a standard for my people, and for the Gentiles to seek to it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me.

Wherefore, come ye unto it, and with him that cometh I will reason as with men in days of old, and I will show unto you my strong reasoning.

Wherefore, hearken ye together and let me show unto you even my wisdom--the wisdom of him whom ye say is the God of Enoch, and his brethren,

Who were separated from the earth, and were received unto myself--a city reserved until a day of righteousness shall come--a day which was sought for by all holy men, and they found it not because of wickedness and abominations;

And confessed they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth;

But obtained a promise that they should find it and see it in their flesh.

Wherefore, hearken and I will reason with you, and I will speak unto you and prophesy, as unto men in days of old.

And I will show it plainly as I showed it unto my disciples as I stood before them in the flesh, and spake unto them, saying: As ye have asked of me concerning the signs of my coming, in the day when I shall come in my glory in the clouds of heaven, to fulfil the promises that I have made unto your fathers."

That is enough to give us an insight into what we are trying to put over to this people in this day. We are trying to

prepare you, my brothers and sisters, for the coming of the Son of Man. We are teaching nothing that is strange. We are trying to refresh your minds upon the truths that were given to you by our Lord and Savior--to prepare you against the day when the Lord will visit the earth with great destruction, that you might be prepared to receive the blessings of the protecting hand of our Father in heaven, and that your souls might be saved. For it is our privilege and our duty to prepare ourselves in the days of our peace, so that when the day comes that we cannot gather together and be taught, we might be prepared to meet the conditions under which we find ourselves alone, that we might be able to kneel down before the Lord and tell Him, “O Lord, in our days of peace we sought after you, now in our days of trouble, wilt Thou not protect us.” These are the conditions under which we find ourselves today. There are not many people in the earth who think enough of the mission of our dear old prophet, Joseph Smith, to stop long enough to listen to the revelations that he left for us that concern our salvation.

Let us not procrastinate the day of our salvation any longer. Let us draw near unto the Lord that the Lord might draw near unto us, and that we might receive the blessings that the Lord has promised to the faithful.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us, that we will seek until we receive His Spirit in abundance, that we might be able to command His protecting hand in the day when tribulation comes to us, and that we might prepare ourselves against the day of visitation that the Lord has promised to this generation of wickedness.

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

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 26, l961, SUNDAY, AT SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

I assure you, my brothers and sisters, that I stand before you in deep humility this afternoon. This wonderful audience touches my heart in this little place. As we go about the place, traveling through the streets, we don't see very many people, but when we gather on occasions like this, it is amazing where they all come from.

I am reminded of our travels in Mexico. We came to a little town and read the population sign on the outskirts of the town--so many thousand people. Then we looked the town over to see where they tucked them all. A lot of people can be tucked away in a very small space.

We have heard many wonderful truths given to us this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, and many thoughts have been brought to my mind. Brother Hammon touched upon one subject that I would like to enlarge upon a little. He made mention that when you leave here, you are going to have to account to our Father in heaven. Our men, our boys, our girls, our women go out to work for the Gentiles. They get a job, and before they leave home and go to the office, they will spend several minutes and maybe hours cleaning up, painting, grooming, seeing that their clothes are pressed properly and that they are clean and beautiful for the eye to look upon. I wonder how many of us are grooming our spirits and our bodies and our attire to meet that situation that President Hammon talked about.

I have heard the remark during my lifetime, on several occasions, something like this: "I want to get away from it all." There is one thing that you and I will never get away from, and that is the thing that President Hammon talked about--meeting that Maker of ours. We are going to have to report, my brothers and sisters, whether we are good, bad, or indifferent. The good Lord has been kind enough to tell us that, "My ways are not man's ways. If you get back into My presence and live there, you are going to

have to do certain things." And some of those things have been so beautifully given to you this afternoon that there is no need for wonderment as to what we can do.

We hear so many of the people say, "What can I do to help this work along?" The greatest thing that you can do is to prepare yourself to meet your Maker. The Lord tells us to read good books and hold fast to that which is good. Store our minds with the things of eternal life, that when we cross the bar, the governor will be pleased to hear the answers to the questions that will be asked. You insurance men, when you go to the commissioner to get your license, you don't go out to sell insurance unless you pass the test. I wonder how many of you are going to pass the test when you cross the bar of justice. The Priesthood, from the days of Joseph Smith until the present time, have tried to get that kind of reading into your homes to take the place of the trash that we find in almost every home in the community. Our young people are spending their time reading a magazine of some kind, but they won't read what the Lord tells us to store our minds with, so that when we cross the bar of justice we can answer the questions that will be required to admit us into the Celestial Kingdom of God.

In order to leave this generation without further excuse, the Lord has impressed us to get into the hands of this people more literature so that the minds of the people can be filled with the things of eternal life to prepare us for that great examination that is coming. There isn't a soul I am speaking to this afternoon that won't have to meet it. And how many of you will be pleased to take a "c" or a "d" mark? I don't care how much education you get in this world, if you don't prepare yourself to cross the bar of justice in the morning of the resurrection, what good will your learning do you? I don't care how many instruments you play, or how many songs you can sing, or how great your voice is, how well you can deliver a sermon, or what it might be, if you are not prepared for the examination that is coming, what good will it do

you? And where will you go? Just where President Hammon has been talking to you about. If you can't pass the examination over that bar, you will go back to dissolution. Otherwise, if you pass the examination, then you go on to eternal lives. You will enjoy the same blessings that our old Father Adam enjoyed when he came down here and started the population of this great globe.

> "The words of God, which he spake unto Moses at a time when Moses was caught up into an exceedingly high mountain, and he saw God face to face, and He talked with him, and the glory of God was upon Moses; therefore Moses could endure his presence."

Moses had prepared himself to become a leader of God's people only after the Lord had whipped him into line. Moses was willing to submit to the requirements God made of him to prepare him to endure the presence of God. That is what you and I have got to do.

Just read the story of Joseph Smith--what he passed through when he saw God face to face, and it will give you just a little idea of what will be expected of us when we meet that great man.

> (Pearl of Great Price, Chapter 1, verses 3-5)
>
> "And God spake unto Moses, saying: Behold, I am the Lord God Almighty, and Endless is my name; for I am without beginning of days or end of years; and is not this endless?
>
> And, behold, thou art my son; wherefore look, and I will show thee the workmanship of mine hands; but not all, for my works are without end, and also my words, for they never cease.
>
> Wherefore, no man can behold all my words, except he behold all my glory; and no man can behold all my glory, and afterwards remain in the flesh on the earth."

So if we even get to behold the presence of God, we have got to prepare ourselves for that occasion. We can't expect to behold all His glory until we have done the things that He has told us to do. He says, "In my House, there are many mansions." I am afraid we won't be satisfied, my brothers and sisters, unless we can get to the highest mansion that the Lord has prepared for His children.

Let us go forward. Let us continue to hold on to that little start that we have at the present time and never let slip from our grasp the opportunity that we have to prepare ourselves to become as God is. For, as man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become. It is not out of reason that we can become sons and daughters unto God. As these men have been telling you this afternoon, if you will submit to the teachings of Jesus Christ, there is nothing in the world that can keep you from enjoying that great glory of being in His presence and becoming co-laborers with Him throughout the eternities. It is within the reach of every individual, after they prepare themselves to receive those wonderful blessings.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will continue to work upon the minds of this people; and when the servants of God go through and visit your homes, the children will be reading these books together with the Journals, instead of these damnable stories that will do us no good but take us out of the presence of our Father.

I happened to go into the bedroom of one of our young men not very long ago, and I saw lying on a little table by the head of his bed one of the Journal of Discourses. I said to him, "Do you read that book every day?" He said, "I find that I can't sleep well at night unless I read one or two sermons out of that book the last thing before I go to sleep." "Do you read anything else?" Yes, he read other things; but he made a practice of reading one or two sermons out of the Journal of Discourses before he closed his eyes

at night. If you young men and young women will start the same thing, you will see a revolution in this place; and you will see men and women begin to get the Spirit of God, and you won't have to come to the Priesthood and ask what you can do to help this work along. The greatest thing you can do is to prepare yourselves to meet your Maker. Place in the hands of your children the best books you can get instead of letting them bring in the worst. Get them before them so that they can store their minds with the things of eternal lives. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 5, 1961,
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Just one little item more to let you know how the Lord matched up what has been told you tonight. I would like to read from Section 65 of the Doctrine & Covenants.

> "Hearken, and lo, a voice as of one sent down from on high, who is mighty and powerful, whose going forth is unto the ends of the earth, yea, whose voice is unto men--prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
>
> The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.
>
> Yea, a voice crying--Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the supper of the Lamb, make ready for the Bridegroom.
>
> Pray unto the Lord, call upon his holy name, make known his wonderful works among the people.
>
> Call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of Man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth.
>
> Wherefore, may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, mayest be glorified in heaven so on earth, that thine enemies may be subdued; for thine is the honor, power and glory, forever and ever. Amen."

I pray that the Spirit of God will continue with us, my brothers and sisters, and that we will hasten to prepare ourselves for this work. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 19, 1961, SUNDAY, IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We have heard the word of God delivered to us tonight, my brothers and sisters. We have been edified for over two hours. Now let us go home and get out the old Bible and dust it. Let us dust off the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine & Covenants and begin to dig in and find out whether these things be true or not. The Lord has been six thousand years trying to get people to do something about saving their own souls.

We are living in a time now that the old prophets talked about--if you don’t believe it, go look it up; dust off your first volume of the Church History and commence to read, and before you get very far you will find some of the things that the old prophets have prophesied about, the day in which we live and the things that the servants of God have been trying to get before you and get you to do--not only you, but the world. Joseph Smith tried to place the commandments of God before the whole world, and they rejected them. Today, the Lord is looking for a few men who are willing to do the things that Brother Guy has been explaining to you this evening, that He might have someone that will have faith enough left that He might use them when He comes.

We are not working, my brothers and sisters, for nothing. We have been commanded of the Lord to wake the people up from the deep sleep in which they are sleeping and to gather together enough men that the One Mighty and Strong might have someone to go to when the Lord sees fit to set in order His house. Let us hasten to get the Spirit of God and keep it, for you are going to need it if you survive the day.

Dust off the “Coming Crisis and How To Meet It” and begin to figure in your own mind that that great prophecy is being fulfilled right under your eyes, and you cannot see it. No wonder Alma wished that he was an angel and could speak with the tongue of an angel, that all men might hear him; because all the souls of men are precious in the sight of God. But the world has rejected the

fullness of the everlasting Gospel. They have rejected the testimonies of the elders for over a hundred years. Now the time has come when the Lord is going to perform His work, and I am afraid that that work of destruction is going to be greater than the hearts of men can stand. When I read the scriptures and I begin to sum up the time in which we live and what the old prophets spoke about, I begin to shudder because of what I might see before I leave this world. The time is that short!

My brothers and sisters, the Spirit of God rests upon us and we know that we speak the truth when we say the time is short. If you don't believe it, begin to listen and to measure with the yardstick the times that have been spoken of by the tongues of the prophets; not only the ancients, but the modern prophets, also. These things have been talked about for many, many generations. Long before the birth of Christ, prophets told about what would happen in our day. Now, begin to dig into the scriptures and find out where you stand.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon everyone of you, and not only you, but that it will spread to the four winds of the earth, the four corners of the earth that every soul might be touched that the Lord might be able to save at least a few.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 16, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is a pleasure, my brothers and sisters, to meet with you again and partake of the Spirit of God with you and to receive His instructions. I trust that what I say may be dictated by the Spirit of God, for I know and realize that a man occupying this position must be directed by the Holy Spirit. If we unite our faith tonight in drawing from the speakers the word of God, we can be edified. Otherwise, we will go away empty.

The Lord has plainly told us that if we seek after Him, we shall find Him. Many people come and want to know what they can do to help the work along. Every man and every woman has their part to play in the establishment of righteousness. The Lord has so arranged it that every individual that is born in the earth and arrives at the age of accountability has within them the power to do good or the power to do evil. He has given every individual the power to complain, or the power not to complain. He has given every individual the power to think good thoughts. He has given them power to think bad thoughts. So every individual has a certain portion of the Spirit of God on him.

When the first elders were sent out to teach the people--the Quorum of the Twelve--the instruction given to them by the Lord was to go out and bear testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel and all those who would believe and be baptized and live the Gospel would be saved. Those who heard the testimony of the elders and refused to accept it would be damned. So, the Lord expects a great deal from people when they listen to the testimony of the elders then fail to accept the testimony. Quite a thing! There are some things that the Lord has given us that we must do. He says that if we obtain eternal life, we must live the laws that give us the right to eternal life.

Did you ever stop to think that your being here upon the earth is a gift of God to you? We worked in the eternal world for the privilege of coming here and taking these bodies upon us that

we have, under a covenant with our Father in heaven that we would do all that we could, all in our power, to purify them and bring them back in a purified condition. In return for that covenant the Lord promised us that He would put these powers in our possession. We could come here and exercise our agency and do whatever we pleased about it. We could do good in the earth, or we could do bad. We could listen to the testimonies of the elders and accept them and gain eternal life through obeying the commandments of God, or we could listen to the testimonies of the elders and reject them and lose our salvation. Why? Because of the covenants that we made with the Lord before we came here. We covenanted with Him that we would come here and do all we could to perfect these bodies and bring them back into the presence of our Father in a purified condition. He, in turn, gave us these privileges.

We have these bodies here now. The Lord has provided a way for us to occupy them. He has provided the air for us to breathe. Did you ever stop to think that the air we breathe is a gift of God to us? The water we drink, the food we eat, the clothes we wear are the gifts of God to His children here upon the earth. The way we use these gifts the Lord has given to us will determine, a great deal, the station we earn when we go back into the presence of our Father in heaven.

When we draw in a breath, and we let it out again, it supplies the body with something to nourish it and keep it up. It is something that man has not been able to put into the dummies they have made. Science has spent millions of dollars trying to find out what life is. They have been able to produce flesh, been able to manufacture bones, put them together, but they haven’t been able to put that little thing called life into the body. That is something that God alone can do.

We have everything to be thankful for, my brothers and sisters, and everything to make us men of God--men and women who can take part in the establishment of righteousness in the earth.

The Lord has blessed us with these attributes that we might perfect ourselves. He has blessed us with a mind. We can think. These all go hand in hand to perfect the lives of mankind. Now, we bring ourselves down to the home in which we live. Every individual in the home has a certain part to play in the keeping up of that home. The mother has the responsibility of the housework, the teaching of the children. The Lord has placed the responsibility upon the mother of the home. It is a great responsibility. You mothers who are just starting out in life should see to it that you start long before the baby is born to instill into its nature love in the home and to direct your habits in a way that the child will apply them to its life when it comes and starts to grow up. Then see to it that its footsteps are directed in the right way. The Lord very severely chastised the Prophet Joseph Smith one time because he hadn't taught his children correct principles.

There is a responsibility in the home upon the mothers, the homework, keeping up of the home. Providing for the necessities of the family belongs to the father. The great responsibility is upon his shoulders. He is expected by the Lord to instruct his wife, the mother of the home, how to live, how to direct the children. With his help, she is supposed to see that those children are directed in the right way. If we can bring up a people that will work together in the home, there is no reason in the world why we cannot perfect a people God can work with. He has given us this opportunity, and He expects us to take advantage of it and apply it to our lives that we might be able to accomplish and fulfill the covenants we made with Him before we came here.

These are some of the responsibilities that are expected of the men and women who have accepted the testimony of Jesus and are trying to apply it to their lives. The Lord has made great promises to this generation if they would keep His commandments.

In order to gain the highest degree in the Celestial Kingdom, the Lord says that we must and shall abide the law that

pertains to that kingdom. These are musts. We must breathe in order to keep our bodies alive. We must think in order to live with those around us. We must obey every law that pertains to the blessings we receive. These are musts. Some young people think--sometimes we are told by them that they don't have to do anything, but the Lord has placed a great responsibility upon His children. If they live, they must do some things. If they have healthy bodies, they must and shall take care of those bodies in a way that will make them healthy, or their bodies will become frail and they will go out of them.

Now, let us mend our ways. There aren't any of us but what can do better. Every individual here can do a little better in some way. Let us think upon these things in a serious manner, because the Lord expects it of us. If He gives us blessings, He expects something in return just the same as you do with your children. If you bring food and clothing into the home, you expect the children to respect the home. If you have heard the testimony of the elders of Israel, then the Lord expects you to do something about it. If we complain about the condition we find ourselves in, we are not doing very much about living according to the teachings we have received. So let us go to and get the Spirit of God and keep it. These are some of the things we must do in order to do that. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 7, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I assure you, my brothers and sisters, that I am delighted to be here tonight and to have the opportunity of partaking of the spirit of this meeting with you, and enjoy your presence. After hearing what we have heard tonight, it thrills me to be associated with this body of saints.

It seems as though human nature is the same throughout the history of the world. We find that it was only a short time after the Prophet Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden until sin began to raise its head among the people. The Lord had to send prophets among the people to preach repentance to them. We find as we go down through the history of time, we have the old Prophet Enoch, who labored for more than three hundred years to perfect a people that the Lord thought enough of to remove them from the rest of this world in order to preserve their righteous living.

We can come on down to Father Noah. He is another man who labored for many years trying to bring the people to repentance. Finally, the Lord told him to build an ark. He was going to destroy the people because of their unwillingness to keep His commandments. We could keep on citing incident after incident where after the Lord had sent prophets among the people, and they had repented and enjoyed a period of righteous living and the Lord had prospered them, then they began to fall away and follow after the inclinations of their own hearts and soon would become like other people had been; and the Lord would have to send another prophet among them. We could keep on coming down the line until we come to our day.

We have incidents where whole nations have been destroyed from off the face of the earth because of the anger of the Lord towards a fallen people. How much better are we today? There should be millions of people bearing the name of Latter-day Saints who would be applying to their lives every principle that was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith; not only that, but receiving

additional knowledge and understanding in order to perfect their lives and to place them back into the presence of their Father in heaven in honor. Instead of that, we have a little handful of people who are trying to bring their understanding to a point where they can begin to comprehend a little of what was revealed to the Prophet Joseph. The majority of those who bear the name of Latter-day Saints have rejected the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. Why have they rejected it? Because they have thought more of their own judgment than they did of the prophets of God. That thing has been the cause of the downfall of not only people, but whole nations have fallen away, because they have sought to follow after the inclinations of their own hearts rather than to follow the revelations of God and apply them to their lives.

The incident that Brother Blackmore related is only one out of hundreds which has taken place since the days of the Prophet Joseph. The old Prophet John Taylor died in exile because his people had rejected him. He did not have enough friends, in his day among the Priesthood of God, to protect him and allow him to attend the funeral of his dear wife who died and was buried while he was yet in exile. He could not attend her funeral.

We bought with a price our liberty, our privilege to serve the Lord. It has cost us the price that it has cost many other people who have sought to serve God and keep His commandments. The Latter-day Saints today hardly know what the Prophet Joseph Smith gave to the people. We have examples come to us where presidents of stakes don’t know there is such a thing as the 132nd Section of the Doctrine & Covenants. When it is brought to their attention, they didn’t know it was there. Men talk about what a great and wonderful church the Lord has here upon the earth.

Every time a man stands before this microphone and raises his voice in defense of these principles, he lays his neck on the block. There are men bearing the name of Latter-day Saints who would like to wield the ax. No wonder the Lord said while He was

still here among His people, “Oh, will there be any faith left when I come?” It is high time, my brothers and sisters, that we come down to earth and begin to realize the real significance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and what it means to us. God gave us these bodies to perfect for the purpose of becoming like He is. For, “As man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become.” Unless we purify these tabernacles the Lord has given us and quit defiling them, they will never be of any use to us after we leave this stage of existence.

We understand that every person that is born into this world and receives a body will take it up again. Your spirits will be reunited with the body. That is the day when there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. When we find that we have fallen short of the privilege of going on into eternal life and enjoying eternal progression, that we will have to give up the body again. Then is when that great sorrow will be.

I will tell you, the failure, my brothers and sisters, of passing the examination that we are headed for, the sorrow and the great anxiety that will take hold of the spirits of these Latter-day Saint people who have had the Gospel of Jesus Christ revealed to them and have failed to apply it to their lives in a righteous manner--the Prophet Brigham Young put it this way: “When men find out that they have fallen short of the privilege of going to the grave and bringing their loved ones forth, it will be a great day of sorrow.” I’ll tell you, every man that has had hands laid upon him and received the Priesthood of God will be a pretty sorrowful man when he finds out he hasn’t honored that Priesthood.

There is not anyone who has arrived at the age of accountability who does not know when they do wrong. They know good from evil. They know when they sin; they know when they repent. But how many of us know what repentance means? Some men repent today, sin tomorrow again. Day after tomorrow, they repent again. They keep it up during their lifetimes. But repentance

means to refrain from committing sin and never do it again! The Lord has plainly said that if we will repent, He will forgive us and forget the past. But, if we sin again, our former sins will come back upon us, and it will be harder for us to get Him to listen to us when we say we want to repent again.

So, if there is anyone here who is in the habit of sinning a little today and repenting tomorrow, then the next day sin again, they had better change their habits and refrain from sin continually that the Spirit of God might dwell with them. That is what this people needs. We need to get the Spirit of God and keep it that we might be found with our tickets to stand at the right hand of God rather than His left hand.

Now, I pray that the spirit of peace will settle upon this people. Because the spirit of peace is the Spirit of God. The spirit of unrest is the spirit of evil. We want the evil stamped out. We want the Spirit of God continually that we might be prepared for His protecting care in the time of trouble and trial and tribulation, for plenty of it is coming.

What the prophets have told us that the Lord has said will be fulfilled every whit. The Prophet Joseph promised destruction to this nation unless they repented and accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ and applied it to their lives. How many have obeyed the commandment and applied the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their lives? Not very many. So, there awaits a day of tribulation. Remember this, that he promised it to the generation in which he lived. For he said, “There are those now living whose eyes will not close in death until all these things I have told you will come to pass.” One of the things he promised the people was complete destruction of the wicked to make way for the rise of a righteous generation of people.

After the days of the Savior upon this continent--the days immediately following the destruction that took place when He was crucified, it left an impression upon the minds of the people

to the tune of two hundred years of righteous living. But the destruction that is promised us in the near future will leave an impression upon the people to the tune of a thousand years of perfect confidence one towards another. So how much greater will be the trials and tribulations that are promised to these nations at the present time than what took place in the days of our Savior when He was here?

You had better sit up and take notice. When the prophets of God begin to prophesy of the destruction of nations, sooner or later, they take place. The time is drawing nigh, if what the Lord has said will come to pass, for He said that not one word of the prophets will fall short of their fulfillment. It behooves every Latter-day Saint that has gone down into the waters of baptism to sit up and take notice and repent of their sins and apply to their lives the principles of righteous living.

May God bless you, I humbly pray. Amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SUNDAY, MAY 14, 1961, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

It is certainly a pleasure, my brothers and sisters, to be here on this occasion, and I am thankful to the Lord for His blessings and for permitting me to be here and live to see this day when so many saints can be gathered together in this place, after the many trials and hardships we have passed through to bring about this condition. I feel very much blessed of the Lord. I feel like He has not forgotten us and that He will continue to pour out His spirit upon us inasmuch as we strive with our might to apply to our lives the principles of truth and righteousness.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon this audience today, that they might understand that which is given them, that they might go away from this meeting filled with a determination to keep the commandments of God, that He might continue to pour out His Spirit upon us, and that He might continue to bless this goodly land, that it might become productive to that extent that we might be able to enjoy the blessings thereof.

I pray that you will each offer up a prayer in your heart that the Spirit of God might be poured out upon us, that those who speak might speak under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost and that we might be edified and paid for our being here.

* * *

Now, brothers and sisters, you have heard the word of God today under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. You have heard it given to you in power in all of the testimonies that have been borne. Now it is up to you; you are on the spot. It is up to you to keep the commandments of God or lose your standing in this work. The Spirit of God has been here in abundance and the spirit of peace settles over this audience. Now let us keep that spirit of peace in our homes from now on, that God will be pleased to bless this people with knowledge and understanding, that the things that

are told to us might sink into our hearts and that we might apply them to our lives.

Now, I pray the blessings of God to rest down upon this people, that we might be blest in every way that we desire in righteousness. But if we continue in our dilatory situation, the Lord will not prosper us. The Lord has said, “When My people serve Me and keep My commandments, then I am bound,” and “Try Me and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings that you cannot contain.”

Now let us listen to what has been told to us and have faith and confidence in it, that we might put the Lord on the spot and have Him open the windows of heaven and pour out the blessings, not only of eternal life, but material blessings in this place, which He will, and I promise it to you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 4, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I am truly thankful for this wonderful privilege of being here and knowing this building is filled with people who are thinking at least something about their salvation.

Since this meeting commenced, my thoughts have been going back over the past. I haven't been in this world very long compared with the many hundreds of years that the Lord has been trying to get into the hearts of the people an actual desire to round out their salvation. My mind goes back to the statement of the old prophet, Alma, when he said that the day in which we live is the time to prepare to meet our God. Some people have looked at this statement with too much stupidity (not the word I wanted, but it will do). They have not taken it as a serious thought in the day the individual lives. The thought that Alma meant was that in the day that he lived men should prepare to meet their God, because of the condition of the people in that day, but it applies to the life of every man and woman that has gone down into the waters of baptism and received hands laid upon their heads for the gifts of the Holy Ghost. At that time, this statement began to apply to that person. The day in which he or she lived was the day to prepare to meet their God.

When the Lord has given commandments for the children of men to comply with, He has meant just what He has said. If He said: Thou shalt not kill, He meant: Thou shalt not kill! If He said: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, He meant: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself! We should take heed to these various commandments in the day in which we live, for we have all the scriptures and all the commandments that God has given for the salvation of men, from the beginning until now. So we are left without excuse. But if we will live according to these commandments the Lord has given to us, there would be no need for the scolding this people has just received. There are some among this

people who are trying to comply with the requirements of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are others who come under the condemnation that has been pronounced upon those who are dilatory in their efforts to see this work progress. Maybe we think that we are trying to progress the work in doing the things that we have been accused of, but if we will take heed to the counsel that has been given to us and commence to apply to our lives the commandments of God, we will begin to see this people grow. We will begin to see them prevail over their enemies.

Because we can gather a crowd the size that we have tonight is no sign that we have arrived to a condition where the Lord is bound to bless us, because He will not bless us or give us blessings more than we are worthy to contain. He will bless us according to our faithfulness, that is true. Unless we are faithful in all things, we have no claim upon the promises of the Lord.

I am thankful, my brothers and sisters, that I live in this day. I am thankful for the testimony that I have of the truthfulness of the Gospel as it was given by the prophet Joseph Smith. I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to associate with the servants of God and for the small degree of support that I have been able to give to those servants who the Lord has called and I have been acquainted with upon this earth. I am thankful that the Lord has given me a determination to serve Him and keep His commandments. He has given me a chance to try to overcome my weaknesses and imperfections. Now, inasmuch as He has given me this opportunity, He expects a great deal of me. Why? Because He has given me a knowledge of the truthfulness of this Gospel. Unless I do His will and apply to my life the commandments He had given to us and live and obey them, I am going to fall short of that wonderful blessing of eternal life. For I firmly believe that every Latter-day Saint who has borne testimony that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God and that he was sent

to restore the Gospel of Christ in the latter days and then rejects any part of the testimony of that man, unless they repent, will become as dark as midnight. They will lose the Spirit of God, and not only that, but they will lose their salvation--their chances for it.

Now, we must overcome these weaknesses and imperfections that we have and begin to apply to our lives righteous living, if we expect to survive the conditions that are soon coming upon this people. Satan has not been bound yet. He is very much alive. He has his servants at work. They are not only working in the day time, but they are working at night, trying to promote ways and means of doing away with the work of God in the earth. For he knows that the Lord cast him down to this earth and gave him a chance to try the hearts of men. He also knows that unless he can stop the work of Christ in the earth, that his time is very short; and it is getting shorter every day. He knows that if he doesn't get his work in now that he will have a very hard time accomplishing what he has designed to accomplish in this world. He has got the mass of the people behind him to support him. He knows that there are only a few who are striving to serve the Lord and keep His commandments. He is determined that the congregation of the saints shall not grow to a very big power unless they overcome him.

Now then, if we expect the Lord to come out of His hiding place and show forth His arm in defense of His people, the people are going to have to put forth an effort to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections and show the Lord that they are worthy to be called His saints.

The Lord has plainly said: When you do what I say, then I am bound; but when you do not what I say, you have no promise. Unless we are faithful in all things, we are standing on thin ice.

So, my brothers and sisters, let us take heed of the counsel that is given us. Let us not give the servants of God a chance again to scold us. Let us begin right now to do the things

that the brethren have told us to do here tonight to get rid of these habits we have. Let us form habits that will bring the Spirit of God into our homes. Let us put our homes in a condition so that when the Spirit of God comes there it can stay. It can be done. There isn't a person in this room or under the sound of my voice who cannot get the Spirit of God and keep it, if they will make up their minds to do that. You have had hands laid upon you for the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Now, if you will prepare your hearts to receive it, the Lord will bless you with it. If you can receive and keep the Spirit of the Holy Ghost with you, you will have the Spirit of God. It is not a hard thing to do, for the Lord has said: My yoke is easy and my burden is light. And it is. It is an easy thing to do, if we will make it easy. We can make it easy if we will follow the counsel of those who have spoken to us tonight.

I want to read just a little. This is from the old Prophet Alma.

(Alma 13:1-4)

> "And again, my brethren, I would cite your minds forward to the time when the Lord God gave these commandments unto his children; and I would that ye should remember that the Lord God ordained priests, after his holy order, which was after the order of his Son, to teach these things unto the people.
>
> And those priests were ordained after the order of his Son, in a manner that thereby the people might know in what manner to look forward to his Son for redemption.
>
> And this is the manner after which they were ordained--being called and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding faith and good works; in the first place being left to choose good or evil; therefore they having chosen good and exercising exceeding great

faith, are called with a holy calling, yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with, and according to, a preparatory redemption for such.

And thus they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, while others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds, while, if it had not been for this they might have had as great privilege as their brethren."

The same Gospel, my brothers and sisters, is being preached today that has been preached in all the ages of the world for the salvation of the souls of men. If this people will apply to their lives the principles of the holy resurrection, they will be resurrected in the morning of the first resurrection, as the Lord has said, crowned with immortality and eternal life; otherwise they will be resurrected unto death, for that is what the Lord has said.

Again the Lord said to us, and I will read this time from the 84th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Verses 43-50)

"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."

The Lord has been very merciful, my brothers and sisters, to this people. There are not any of us, but what will have to acknowledge that the Lord has been very kind to us to allow us to come here and be tutored under the tutorship of His servants.

I wonder how many there are here who know the descent of Priesthood that this Council holds. I wonder if we were to call upon someone to come up here and bear their testimony, could he get up and give a true dissertation of the descent of Priesthood from the Prophet Joseph to this day.

A week ago today, I had the privilege of calling upon a Lamanite to get up and bear his testimony. This Lamanite got up and bore testimony to the descent of Priesthood to the present day and bore testimony that he knew that the present Council, whom you have heard tonight, are the true bearers of that Priesthood. He mentioned the eight-hour meeting in President Taylor's time. He

told of the men who held that Priesthood and had it from John Taylor's time to the present time. This man was a pure Lamanite. We are not the only people, my brothers and sisters, on the earth who are trying to get close to the Lord and keep His commandments--trying to get the Spirit of God and keep it. The Lord has said, "I will have a tried people." If we can take what we have received tonight and apply it to our lives as a stepping-stone to our success in this work, it will build us up. If we take it as a rebuke and condemn the man who rebuked us, we are on dangerous ground. So let us remember that we are trying to bring this people up to a point where the Lord will be willing to stretch forth His hand in their defense in the day that the Lord visits this people with judgment. Because He is going to pour out His judgments upon the wicked, and the righteous will suffer with the wicked unless they are in a position to demand the protection of our Father in heaven. We have seen Him stretch forth His hand in our defense in the past, and He will do it again if we have sought Him early. In our days of peace, if we have tried to get the Spirit of God and keep it, then the Lord is bound to stretch forth His hand and to bless us in our times of trouble. Remember this.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us, that we will listen to the counsel we have received, that we might be found worthy of the protecting hand of our Father in heaven when trouble comes.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 18, 1961, SUNDAY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The Lord has been good to us, my brothers and sisters, in bringing us together upon this occasion. I trust that the same spirit that has dictated the remarks of the brethren will rest upon me, that the few words that I utter may be in accordance with the Spirit of God. I say the Lord has been good to us because He has spoken to the prophets before us. It has been stated here tonight a little about the raid of 1953 when our families were taken away from us and the old boy tried to destroy the work of God, but this is not the end. If he can't get at us one way, he will try another, for the old Prophet said--and I am reading from Second Nephi, in the 9th chapter:

> "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 nothing. And they shall perish."

Terrific pressure, my brothers and sisters, is being placed upon the Priesthood Council at the present time, to wrest the leadership of this people from those who the Lord has called to lead you. Men who think they are wise are trying at the present time to persuade this body of men to forfeit their leadership and place it in the hands of learned men, that men might be educated in all the walks of life, that great leadership might come from among this people. They are advocating that we place our young men and young women in schools of learning that we might not be any longer an "illiterate" people. Think of it!! Was the old Prophet inspired of God when he spoke those words? If there was ever a time in the history of this people that we need to get nearer the

Lord, it is now; because the old boy is trying every conceivable plan to destroy the faith of this people.

The Lord is trying to get us to get out of the clutches of these learned people that He might handle us, that He might educate us in the line that He wants a people raised up, that a pure Priesthood might be raised up and that the great and glorious Millennium might be ushered in.

I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, that we live in a great day, and we live in a day when we need to listen to the servants of the Lord and support them, that the Spirit of God might dwell with them, that you might draw from the heavens true revelation, that the mission of the Prophet Joseph might not fall to the earth unnoticed, which it will do if we give in. Which I hope we will never do, for the Lord has said that this Priesthood, this Gospel of the Kingdom has been restored for the last time, and that it shall never be taken away from the earth again or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.

We are determined, my brothers and sisters, to see that the work of God progresses, and with His help we will carry it on to completion.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us and that we shall receive a united effort among this people to get the Spirit of God and keep it, and that we might have an undivided devotion of your faith and prayers, for we need it in this day. May God bless you. We have been together long enough this evening. I humbly pray that the Lord will bless each and everyone of you that you might improve your condition before the Lord and that you might bring yourselves to a condition where this condemnation that has been spoken of might be erased, that we might walk off with this Kingdom in honor. God bless you, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1961, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am happy to be here, my brothers and sisters, and listen to the instructions we receive. I trust that the few words I say may be directed by the Spirit of God. There is nothing in the world that I desire more than to see this people serve God and keep His commandments. The remarks of President Hammon are very timely and to the point. I only wish to say “amen” to what he has said.

I am concerned deeply about the condition of our people in being prepared at the present time to call down the blessings of God upon us in this hour of need, because every hour we live we need the blessings of our Heavenly Father. We need to live from moment to moment, so that as a condition arises we can ask Father for the blessings and He will be pleased to give them to us. But I find at the present time a great deal of repentance is needed, even among this people, in order to get the Spirit of God and keep it with us. I find that some of our older people, especially our older boys, have indulged in things in this place that are very displeasing in the sight of God, and they have threatened their younger brothers and sisters and neighbors if they let out what they have been teaching. This state of things has got to be done away with. Instead of indulging in the sins of childhood and teaching other children to participate, let us teach them the results of such indulgences and teach them not to do them.

We have older men here in this place that have known of the depredations of children and have taught them to keep it secret and not let other people know what they are doing. That is the reason President Hammon has had to talk like he has today. Some of them have told children how to go and get things if they would keep their mouths shut.

We have taught people to keep their mouths shut because of our religious liberty, but we have not taught our people to keep their mouths shut in order to get away with some sin. We have that

situation in this place. Unless it is overcome and you boys begin to teach your younger brothers and sisters to refrain from indulging in these things, the Lord is going to hold you responsible for it; and the first thing you know, something will happen to you and you won't know why.

If we are ever going to keep the policemen out of this place, we are going to overcome these sinful habits that we have. I am embarrassed at the present time over situations that happened two years ago or more. But I have got to get to the bottom of it now and straighten the thing out somehow, or there are going to be further sinful acts committed in this place. And it is only because of the covering up of sin by older people that have known it and covered it up and taught their children if they would keep their mouths shut everything would be okay. It was okay for two years, but it is not okay any longer! Somebody is going to suffer before the thing is overwith. These are some of the things this people have got to repent of and begin to listen to the counsels of those whom God has called to lead this people.

We tell you to get the Spirit of God and keep it. How can you do it? Every time that sin raises its head in this place, there should be a roar go out to high heaven to get it out of the road, not to cover it up to make its appearance again later on!

The Lord has said that through our repentance and applying to our lives the laws and ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we come under the atoning blood of Christ. But I want to tell you that people who think they are getting by with anything short of keeping all the commandments the Lord has given us for our salvation are going to be disappointed sometime or other. If I understand the Gospel right, only those who apply to their lives the teachings of our Father have the promise of eternal life. It is going to take effort and repentance to do the things that President Hammon has said.

I don’t feel to speak any longer this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, only to encourage you to do the things you have been instructed to do. Let us come to a realization that if we want the blessings of heaven, we must do the will of our Father in heaven and keep His commandments. If we are able to take the reverses the Lord places upon us and take them sweetly and apply them to our lives as experiences that the Lord is giving to us to increase our faith and our knowledge of His great work, then He will give us the blessings that we desire. I have seen the Lord let our crops be destroyed even after we raise them--whole stacks of hay that are beyond any use whatever; and then the next year I have seen Him bless us beyond measure. So if we will live for the blessings of heaven, we will get them.

Remember this, faith is a peculiar thing. One lady bought her a home close to a mountain, and she complained about the mountain being in the way. After she lived there a while, somebody told her if she had faith enough, the Lord would move the mountain. One night she said to the Lord, “I am tired of living here and not being able to see further out in the valley.” The next morning she looked out and said, “Just as I expected, the mountain is still there.”

Peter said to the Savior when he saw Him walking upon the water, “Lord, let me come and be with you.” The Savior beckoned to him to come. He stepped out of the boat and started to walk upon the water. He did very fine until he looked down and saw a wave go under his feet. He allowed that little thing they call doubt to enter his mind for a fraction of a second, and he began to go down. And the Lord said, “Oh, ye of little faith.” So if we want faith to bring down the blessings of heaven, let us exercise it. Let us quit having the faith of the old lady. Let us learn how to get the Spirit of God and keep it, my brothers and sisters, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1961, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

This is a day, my brothers and sisters, for rejoicing, to see this wonderful audience that I am facing today. I trust that the Lord will put into my mouth His words that He wishes me to say, because I know and realize that we are living right near the door of the Millennial Reign. The prophets of God have spoken about this day, and the Lord has said that not one word that He puts into the mouths of the prophets shall go unheeded, or unfulfilled.

There is a passage of scripture given to the Prophet Joseph Smith wherein the Lord says, “I will take the young and the middle-aged and redeem Zion.” What does this mean to us, my brothers and sisters? President Barlow said upon several occasions, “I don’t look for many more converts from the outside world. We will have to raise a body of people that will carry on this work.” The audience that is before me today, if I were to take a vote, call for a vote, which I will not because of the embarrassment it might bring upon some of the young ladies here, I doubt if there would be more than fifty people here who would vote that their age was over fifty-five in this audience. That being the case, I am speaking to about 400 people today under that age. The Lord is needling us day and night to raise up a young and middle-aged people to accept the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and apply it to their lives. Just think it over.

I want to ask you one more question. Where can you go among the Latter-day Saints and find in a community the size of this one, 450 people gathered together to hear the servants of God teach them the truth?

I am going to take time to read just a little that happened way back in the days of the Savior, or immediately after His visitation to the people of this continent--Mormon’s warning to those who spurn the words and works of the Lord:

(3rd Nephi, Ch. 29)

"And now behold, I say unto you that when the Lord shall see fit, in His wisdom, that these sayings shall come unto the Gentiles according to His word, then ye may know that the covenant which the Father has made with the children of Israel concerning their restoration to the lands of their inheritance is already beginning to be fulfilled.

And ye may know that the words of the Lord, which have been spoken by the holy prophets, shall all be fulfilled; and ye need not say that the Lord delays his coming unto the children of Israel.

And ye need not imagine in your hearts that the words which have been spoken are vain, for behold, the Lord will remember his covenant which he hath made unto his people of the house of Israel.

And when ye shall see these sayings coming forth among you, then ye need not any longer spurn at the doings of the Lord, for the sword of his justice is in his right hand; and behold, at that day, if ye shall spurn at his doings he will cause that it shall soon overtake you.

Wo unto him that spurneth at the doings of the Lord; yea, wo unto him that shall deny the Christ and his works!

Yea, wo unto him that shall deny the revelations of the Lord, and that shall say the Lord no longer worketh by revelation, or by prophecy, or by gifts, or by tongues, or by healings, or by the power of the Holy Ghost!

Yea, and wo unto him that shall say at that day, to get gain, that there can be no miracle wrought by Jesus Christ; for he that doeth this shall become like unto the son of perdition, for whom there was no mercy, according to the word of Christ!

Yea, and ye need not any longer hiss, nor spurn, nor make game of the Jews, nor any of the remnant of the house of Israel; for behold, the Lord remembereth his covenant unto them, and he will do unto them according to that which he hath sworn.

Therefore ye need not suppose that ye can turn the right hand of the Lord unto the left, that he may not

> execute judgment unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the house of Israel.”

I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, that we live in a great day. We should take to heart the things that we have heard here this afternoon and begin to apply them to our lives; and prepare ourselves against the day of visitation which the Lord hath promised to the wicked to prepare the way for the return of the Lost Tribes of Israel, and for carrying the Gospel to the remnant of His house.

Now, my brothers and sisters, these are not idle words. The Lord has offered to you, my dear young brothers and sisters, the opportunity to prepare yourselves for one of the greatest works that the Lord has ever brought upon the earth--the privilege of being among those who will offer the blessings of the Celestial Kingdom to the different tribes of Israel who have fallen away and who have been lost according to the ways of the world. I will tell you, this should be a day of rejoicing to the few that have gathered themselves here who believe as you and I do. This should be a day of rejoicing, but my heart is weighed down in sorrow, because there are so few of the older people who know and understand, should know and understand, that these things are true, for they have had the revelations of God before them for over a hundred years.

The Prophet Joseph Smith died in sorrow because he couldn’t get the people that he had gathered together to believe in his words. The Prophet Brigham Young was taken in the prime of life because he was weighed down in sorrow because of the unbelief of the people. The Lord placed the whole Church under condemnation as early as 1832, because they had treated lightly the things they had received. Then how much greater should be the sorrow of the servants of God when they know and understand that the great

judgments that are soon to be poured out upon this nation and other nations of the earth will overtake not only the people of the world but this Church, too. Only those who have applied to their lives the principles of eternal life will be able to stand.

Why do I say these things? Because they have been prophesied, and I know that the words of the prophets shall be fulfilled.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us, my brothers and sisters, and I bless you with every blessing that God has given me power to bless you with. I bless you with understanding, and with power to overcome your weaknesses and imperfections, with power to stand in a day of tribulation and command the enemy to be dispersed.

Now, I pray that His Holy Spirit will guide and direct us and that we will strive harder to get the Spirit of God and keep it, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

BENEDICTION BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 16, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is a wonderful sight, my brothers and sisters, to see so many here to listen to what has been said. I pray that the blessings of God will be upon each and every one of you that you might grasp and understand the message that has been given to you this afternoon. I feel to say amen to what has been said and beseech you to give it your humble consideration. If you will bow your heads in prayer with me, I will dismiss these services.

> Our Father in heaven, we present ourselves before you at the close of these services, thanking you for the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that has actuated the minds of the speakers. And in the authority of the Holy Priesthood, we feel to bless this people with knowledge and understanding, that they might bring themselves into a condition that they will convert their characters into your likeness, that they may not have gathered here in vain. We bless them with power to throw off the traditions of this world and to take upon themselves the character of Thy Son, Jesus Christ.
>
> Now, we pray that you will bless each one according to his needs. Especially we pray your blessings upon thy servants whom you have called to lead your work. Bless each one according to his needs and inspire them from hour to hour, that thy work might grow and increase in the earth, that a people might be prepared that you can use in the redemption of your sacred people.
>
> Now, we dedicate ourselves into your hands, asking you to watch over us until we meet again, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SUNDAY, JULY 23, 1961,
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA (HILDALE, UTAH)

Now let us see how many would like to hear from the Lord. (All hands went up.) With His assistance, I would be pleased to speak from the stand this afternoon.

My soul is filled to overflowing, my brothers and sisters, at the size of the audience before me this afternoon. Sometimes we speak, seemingly, out of turn, in conversation with one another. I remember making the remark one time in the presence of President Barlow and two or three other men, after one man had said that he didn't want to live to see the persecution and hardships that men and women would have to go through in order to establish the work of God and see the Kingdom of God rise, I looked at the man and said, "I feel deep in my heart that I would like to live to see just that accomplished, and I would like to live and see the Kingdom of God well on its way and take part in the many trials and tribulations of this people in order to establish this work." After the conversation was over, President Barlow turned to me and said, "Roy, you might just see that thing; it may come to pass in your lifetime."

What has transpired from that day till now has thrilled me to the core, because I know this people is trying to apply to their lives the teachings of President Barlow and President Musser. Those are the two men that had this work in charge when I first became acquainted with it--the two men that I knew. President Broadbent passed away within a month after I first heard the testimony of President Musser regarding this work, and it was some time after that before the Lord blest me with a testimony that President Musser's word was true. From that day to this, I have tried to apply to my life the teachings of these men. The results of their teachings we see in this audience today.

Yesterday the electric power company made the remark that Short Creek was giving them more support than any other town, outside of Orderville, between Richfield and this place. Where can

you go in the Church and find a community with as small population as Colorado City and go to their church and find so many people eager to hear the word of God, and find so many young people in the audience? We have cause to rejoice, my brothers and sisters, over the condition we find ourselves in, although it has been slow and tedious over the years to bring ourselves to this point.

There are a few things that came to my mind while President Hammon was speaking that I feel we should not overlook at this time. Mention was made by one of the speakers this afternoon that we were charged in the early part of this year to get the Spirit of God and keep it. The wives and mothers of this people can go a long way toward accomplishing this charge. If every wife, young and old, in this community or in other communities where the Gospel is being preached in its fullness, will measure their husband's actions by the teachings of the Priesthood and encourage them, give them their support and overcome within their hearts jealousy, envy, and any other evil thought or desire, we will see this people getting the Spirit of God in their homes and keeping it. If you women, if the spirit of envy comes up in your heart, will kick it out and say to the evil one that has stepped up by your side, "Get thee behind me and leave me alone," you will see how quick that spirit will leave.

Why do I say this? Because I have had experience. I know that this people is being actuated by the Spirit of God under the direction of the Holy Priesthood, and where the Priesthood presides, Satan cannot come. And when I say, "Where the Priesthood presides," I mean where the husband is honoring his Priesthood and he presides in his home and will not allow his wives to rule over him. He can be kind and considerate to the feelings of his loved ones, and he can still preside over them. For the Lord has said, "Rebuke with sharpness and straightway show a spirit of love and kindness toward the one that is rebuked."

The Lord has said that His yoke is easy and His burden is light, which I have found is verily true. It is mighty easy to face the enemy with the Spirit of God upon you. The tightest place that I was ever in, in this work, my heart was light because I knew that I was doing the will of my Father in heaven. I knew what the enemy could do to me would not matter as far as my salvation was concerned. They might destroy the body, but they cannot destroy the spirit. If my spirit is right, what does the body matter? I know that God can restore the body to its proper shape and form when the proper time comes. I know that my spirit has got to conform with the Spirit of God if I possess it again, when the body and the spirit is reunited and I go on to my exaltation.

So, if your spirit is right, then you have nothing to fear; you have nothing to be concerned about as far as life or death is concerned. But the power lies in the home of every Latter-day Saint to get the Spirit of God and keep it. If we will strive continually for that goal, there is no reason in the world why this people cannot advance by leaps and bounds. It won't be long until we will be speaking to many times as many people as there are here this afternoon, because people seeing our good works will flock to us to find out what it is all about.

We have no right to deny salvation to any man, woman or child that desires to get the Spirit of God in their homes and keep it there. We have people come to us and apply for baptism and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Realizing the importance of those two ordinances, sometimes we feel within ourselves that we might be administering ordinances that would bring damnation to their souls because of the way of their lives. President Barlow told me that it was our duty to administer the ordinances of salvation to anyone who demanded it, and then turn them over to the Lord for His consideration.

The Spirit of God is easily grieved, and once it leaves a person it is hard to regain it again. When a person bears testi-

mony that he knows that this is the work of God and this is where the keys of the priesthood are, and afterward is persuaded by men that the keys of authority are somewhere else, he is treading on mighty thin ice; because, if the testimonies of these men who have led this Priesthood from the days of the Prophet Joseph until now are not true, then Joseph Smith was not a prophet of God. But, because we know through the whisperings, or through the testimony of the Spirit of God to us that Joseph was a prophet of God, we know that these men who have led the Priesthood down until our time have been his successors, and that God will hold us responsible for our actions. That is the reason we have been persistent, my brothers and sisters, in trying to build up the faith of this people and the faith of those who would listen to us.

We are mighty thankful that the Lord has come to our rescue on several occasions and taken out of our midst those ambitious spirits that would destroy the faith of this people if they could. Our numbers have been dwindled to a very few. We have seen it several times in our day. I'll tell you, I would hate to see anyone who has heard what has been said today depart from this work. When I get on the other side, I want to meet every one of you. I want you to take me by the hand and thank me for what little bit I have done to help bring you up to this point. I want you to know that I do not take this honor unto myself, because I know I have not done anything except the Spirit of God has actuated my actions in trying to build up the faith of this people.

My heart is in the work, and it is nowhere else. Men have seen me take a firm stand in this proposition. Men who do not assemble themselves with us at the present time know that I have followed the instructions that have been given me by those who have presided over me in this work, as close as possible for me to do so. I believe you are trying to do the same thing. I love you. I love everyone of you. God knows that I love you, and God will bless you if you will honor your Priesthood, and I mean both men

and women. If the men will honor the Priesthood that presides over them, and the women will honor their husbands, there is no reason why the Spirit of God cannot be upon this people every moment of the day and all the day long.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will continue with us, that the spirit of peace will settle over this people, and that we will be able to stamp out of our midst any evil that might be among us. I want you young men and women to take heed to what President Hammon has said about sowing your wild oats. Let us cease to sow those wild oats. Let us be just as eager to keep them out of our lives as Brother Harker is to keep them off his farm. Then we will find that we are beginning to get the Spirit of God and keeping it, which I hope we will do, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 20, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I will not keep you long, my brothers and sisters. We have had an outpouring of the Spirit of God here tonight. I would like to exhort you to not treat lightly the things you have received, for the Lord placed the whole Church under condemnation because they had treated lightly the things He had given to them. He promised them that they would remain under that condemnation until they repented. Let us go forth now and revamp our lives and incorporate into our lives the seeds of repentance; take heed to the counsel that has been given to us to get the Spirit of God and keep it, for it is the only avenue of safety that the Saints have in this day and age.

You only have to get out your Coming Crisis and How to Meet It, and read what is taking place or what the promise of the Lord is to this generation and then read the papers of today and see what is taking place. Look around you, notice what is taking place among the Saints, and you won’t be able to discredit the great revelation that was given in that little pamphlet. It would do you good to refresh your minds upon it.

We have had the principles of truth and salvation given to us tonight in abundance. Let us go home from this meeting with a firm determination to not treat lightly the things we have received. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 17, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Well, the rain is about to get us. We are glad that the Lord stayed the rains until these men bore their testimonies to you.

I have one more thought to leave with you in connection with what has been said--I will just give you the word of the Lord, and then we will close the meeting so we can get in the cars before we get wet.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 4:2-3)

> "Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.
>
> Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work."

This is right along the line that the brethren have been talking about. So, if we have our hearts in this work, or if we believe that Jesus is the Christ, let us serve Him and keep His commandments.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 19, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I trust that the Spirit of God will direct what few remarks I make. I only want to clinch the nail that has been driven here tonight. This is what the Lord requires of this people.

(Section 42: 65-67)

"Behold, thou shalt observe all these things, and great shall be thy reward; (the things that you have been told tonight) for unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom, but unto the world it is not given to know them.

Ye shall observe the laws which ye have received and be faithful.

And ye shall hereafter receive church covenants, such as shall be sufficient to establish you, both here and in the New Jerusalem."

I will read another place, if I can find it right quick.

(Section 105: 1-5)

"Verily, I say unto you who have assembled yourselves together that you may learn my will concerning the redemption of mine afflicted people--

Behold, I say unto you, were it not for the transgressions of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individually, they might have been redeemed even now.

But behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh saints, to the poor and afflicted among them;

> And are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom;
>
> And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself.”

Isn’t that what has been told to you tonight? My brothers and sisters, the Gospel is true. The Lord has truly said that He has given His laws and commandments in great plainness. We are left without excuse.

If the Latter-day Saints think they can get back into the presence of God on any other road, they will find the gates closed when they get there.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 3, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am thankful, my brothers and sisters, for this opportunity again to stand before you and enjoy the blessings that we have enjoyed this evening. I trust that the few moments I occupy that the Spirit of God will direct my remarks, because I have nothing in my heart to give to you people, only the word of the Lord. In this day and hour in which we live, we should rejoice, my brothers and sisters, in the wonderful blessings that the Lord is extending to us.

When I study the scriptures and try to find out the reason that we are in the condition that we are in today, I begin to shudder and wonder if it is too late. President Kimball upon one occasion made the statement that the people would not repent until it was too late, then they would try to prepare themselves against the day they should have been prepared for for generations before.

When we know and realize that the Gospel has been preached to the nations of the earth for over one hundred years--since the Lord saw fit to call the Prophet Joseph to reveal to the world the true and everlasting Gospel--I say, when we realize that it has been over a hundred years, and today only a few are trying to apply to their lives the saving principles that Joseph gave to us, I wonder if it is too late for us to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation that the Lord has promised to this generation in which we live.

Nevertheless, the Lord has extended to His children the privilege of repentance. In all ages of the earth, the Lord has extended this privilege to His people that perchance someone who lived in that generation might round out their salvation. When we think upon the billions of people who have occupied this earth from the days of Adam to the present time, and then try to figure the number of people who have been faithful in all things and have prepared themselves to the likeness of their God, I say, what a

wonderful privilege the Lord has granted to us. He has certainly been patient with His children. He has extended the hand of fellowship to a few in all ages of the world, that they might repent and save their souls. When we think of the conditions under which we are born into the world, that we come here and our memories of our existence before is taken away from us, and we are placed here to take up our abode among the wicked of the world, and then to hear the words of the prophets and to make up our minds as to whether we will obey them or not, it has been a great trial to some people, yet a great privilege to others.

The Prophet Joseph Smith was only a boy--a boy fourteen years old, we are told, when he went into the woods to pray and to ask the Lord for guidance as to whom he should align himself--which creed, and the Father and the Son appeared to him. We all know the story that Joseph left of what happened upon that glorious occasion, that perchance someone in this generation in which we live might round out their salvation and come back into the presence of our Father in heaven with honor and glory added to them.

Now, my brothers and sisters, the Lord has promised great affliction to this generation unless they do repent and listen to the testimony that was left by that man. Today he is trying to gather out a few who perchance might be desiring to become like God is, and the opportunity is here. What a wonderful thing it is to be numbered among a body of men and women who have been enlightened through the Spirit of God upon the principles of life and salvation. The Lord has extended the hand of fellowship to the Latter-day Saints from the day that the Prophet had that wonderful vision till today that perchance someone might be able to see the light and repent of their sins and come back into His presence in a shape that He can use them afterwards, that they might be useful throughout the eternities.

Today, the Lord has extended the hand of mercy unto us. He has put a protection around us. I find that in the day in which we live, the enemies of righteousness are many. But the Lord is trying to get us to understand that if we will put our trust in Him, He will still extend the hand of mercy to us if we will but show by our works that we are interested in the salvation of our souls.

We have seen in our short lives, the hand of God made manifest in the protection of His people and the principles for which we stand. We have seen the enemies come in and take our families away, our children away, and put our fathers in prison. One man has stood before you today and testified that he has spent time behind prison bars for this work. Today the enemies of this work are still working. We are not at the present time upon safe ground by any means. If we were to let loose of the little hold we have upon the Gospel of Christ, I say, if we were to let loose even for a moment, the enemies of this work would destroy us.

It is the duty of every man and woman who has said that they know Joseph Smith is a prophet of God to do all that they can to apply to their lives the principles he has said are for their salvation. If we do not do this thing, we have no promise. For the Lord has said that when we do what He says, He is bound--He is bound to bless us. But when we do not what He has told us to do, we have no promise.

We are living in a day similar to that which took place just prior to the coming of the Son of Man. The world was in the same condition that we are in today. For generations before Christ came, prophets came from time to time and testified of His coming. They told the people to prepare for it. Prophets lost their lives because they testified that there was a Christ to make His appearance and that great destruction would overtake them if they didn’t repent.

The history that we have of the people that lived on this continent upon which we live today, if we have been diligent in reading that history, we will find that the saints, from time to time, were told to prepare to meet their God. If they did not prepare to meet Him and be prepared to receive the Savior of the world when He came, great destruction would be visited upon the people. We all know what took place when the Savior came here. Millions of people lost their lives in the space of three hours when this great destruction took place. In three days time--three days of darkness and tribulation--many millions of people lost their lives. The record tells us that only those that were more righteous were left. And even after that, after all that they had heard and seen, it took some time to convince them that Jesus was the Christ. In our day, the Lord has promised us great destruction unless we receive the testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us arrange our lives so that we will be a shining light to the rest of the world. The Lord has said: “Stand ye in holy places and watch the hand of the Lord made manifest.” Plans are being laid today and preparation being made for the fulfillment of the vision of the Prophet Joseph, when he said that father would be against son, and son against father, mother against daughter, and daughter against mother, and great destruction and bloodshed would cover the land. If you will just take notice of the signs of the times, you are seeing preparations being made for this great destruction. I call it a great destruction, because it will be the opening of the way for the rise of Zion and the redemption, thereof. To become a people that can be partakers of the blessings of the great Millennium is something to be desired by those who believe in the revelations of God to His servants and to the people throughout the generations of time. We are told that all the holy prophets have looked forward to this day in which we live. It is a great day, my brothers and sisters, if we will prepare our hearts to receive it.

The greatest bomb-shelter that can be built is to get the Spirit of God and keep it.

"Stand ye in holy places." Where are the holy places that the Lord had reference to? It is in the homes of the Saints that have been dedicated that the Spirit of God might dwell there. When a home is dedicated, we should treat it as one of the sacred places upon the earth, that when the day of visitation comes, we can go there and stand and watch the great day of the Lord pass by and know that we can demand the protection of our Father in heaven while the wicked are being swept off the earth. Let us hasten to prepare our hearts that we might be able to receive these blessings; for there is no other place, I don't care how deep in the earth you dig. All you need to do is read the scriptures and see what the ancient Nephites went through when they buried their weapons of war in the evening that they might know where to find them the next morning, and they would be removed to some other part of the earth.

The Prophet Brigham Young said that the minerals of the earth can be moved from one place to another just as easily by the Lord as you can move from one room in your house to the other. This, I believe is true.

I do not believe that we can hide ourselves deep enough in the earth or far enough back in the mountains to be safe from the destructive elements that the Lord will cause to come upon the earth to destroy the wicked. I don't believe that He expects the Saints to dig down in the earth to be protected. I believe that He desires that His people will prepare themselves to receive the blessings of eternal life, and He will put a hedge around them that the enemies of His work cannot break through. The prophets have said that one man and Spirit of God is a majority. Ten men with the Spirit of God upon them will put thousands to flight. I believe these things to be true.

I believe that the greatest protection that this people can have is to keep the commandments of God, to put out of our lives every bit of dross that is within us and become as pure and undefiled as it is possible for humans to be, that the Spirit of God might dwell with us and become our protector.

There are enough people in the world today, who if they knew what was about to take place and were prepared to receive the Spirit of God, these things could be averted. The great destruction that the Lord has promised to this generation could be averted if the people would repent. But they will not repent according to the words of the prophets. We are living in a day when we need to be more serious in our thinking, that we might have a claim upon the protection of our Father in heaven when these things take place. They are near our door, my brothers and sisters, and you and I are going to live to see them fulfilled. There may be a few of our people that will fall by the wayside, and some that will pass to the great beyond before this day comes, but the majority of this people will live to see these things transpire.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will settle down upon us and that we will listen to what has been told us here this evening and has been told us from week to week, month to month, and year to year since the days of the Prophet Joseph. But, oh how few, compared to the millions of people who have heard the testimony of that man, how few there are that today can lay claim upon the protection that the Lord promised to those who He has commanded to stand in holy places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest.

Now, may the Spirit of God rest upon us and cause us to realize the seriousness of the situation and the greatness of the day we live in, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 17, 1961, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We have heard the word of the Lord, my brothers and sisters. Now, go home and see if you can remember it, and the Lord will bless you. If that is not enough, I will try to give you just a little more, then we will dismiss.

(D&C Section 133:1-4)

> "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."

These are the things that the Lord has commanded us to bring before the memories of the people of this day. We will find, my brothers and sisters, that the whole world has been left without excuse, for these things have been before the people for a good long while. Many people have been born, raised, if they haven't heard the elders tell it to them, it has been in the books. They have been taught to read and write. The Lord gave them minds that they might understand. He has said, "Haven't I given you my word in great plainness? So that a child may understand."

Now, the Lord has commanded us in this day to prepare a people against the day of visitation. These are the things we have to speak about when we get up, if we are actuated by the gifts of

the Holy Ghost. Remember that in olden times, men spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and we can truly say in our day that the servants of God speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost. So, the words we speak are not idle words, because you can measure them with the measuring stick that the Lord has given us, and you will find that we speak as other prophets have spoken.

May God bless you, my brothers and sisters, and keep you in the line of your duty, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 28, 1962, AT COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

It is certainly a pleasure, my brothers and sisters, to meet with you again and to partake of the Spirit of God with you. We have experiences every day that remind us of not only the ancient past but the past that has happened in our day and time. It seems that the Lord is continually allowing us to be needled to keep in our minds that we have a work to do--keep us in line, the line of our duty, for He loves His children. I only have to mingle with my own family to know how the Lord feels when His people begin to wean away from Him. I have been reminded continually of the experiences that the old Prophet Nephi had among his people just prior to the appearance of the Savior upon this continent. How often he was confronted with the designs of his people and how often the Lord caused them to repent. Some trouble would come among them that would cause them to repent and draw near unto the Lord, and then how quick they would forget and transgress the laws of God again. And this old prophet would have to go among his people and try to bring them back to the point where the Lord could protect them again. It shows to us that the natures of men are the same.

The Lord has to keep reminding us, my brothers and sisters, of the dangers of falling into temptation and partaking of the ways of the world in order to keep His people in the frame of mind where He can shower His blessings upon them.

I have been gratefully pleased with the actions of our people in the past few years, those that I have been acquainted with in this work. We have seen men and women come into this work and we have seen them go out. We know how easy it is to partake of the Spirit of God and then allow temptation to take hold of us and wean us away from the work of the Lord. But we have gathered together now a body of young men and young women who are worth saving. Not saying or meaning in the least that those who have come and gone are not worth saving, because they are; but we would

like to hold on to all that we have at the present time. Yet, I know how easy it is for us to allow the spirit of evil to come among us sufficient to grieve the Spirit of God and to wean us away from the work that is before us. We are living in a day when the Lord has promised the world, not only the present population but the prophets before us and His saints before us that He would raise up a people in the latter days that He could use in the Redemption of Zion; and all the holy prophets have looked forward to that day and wished that they could live and see the rise of Zion and the redemption thereof. If we in our study of the scriptures could only realize the great blessings that have been offered to the ancient prophets, such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the redemption of their posterity in the latter days, and then realize that we are living in that time and that the Lord is trying to prepare a people to bring about those blessings unto those ancient prophets, how much greater our anxiety should be toward preparing ourselves against the day of visitation which the Lord has in store for those who are disobedient to His laws and commandments.

We have one of the greatest opportunities offered to us, my brothers and sisters, that any people has ever had in the history of the world. We have greater dangers lying at our doors than any people have ever had. We are in the same category today as those who lived in times when the Lord has been about to perform a great and glorious work among His people and He has sent His prophets among them to call them to repentance and prepare them against a day of destruction that He has promised to them. But our blessings are greater because we are living in a time just prior to the great Millennial day that the Lord has offered to this world.

The days just prior to the appearance of Christ when the prophets went among the Nephite people and tried to get them to repent of their sins that they might not be partakers of the judgment day when the Savior would make His appearance was a great day to those people. We are told that so great was the destruction and

the tribulation that was brought upon the people at that time, it was sufficient to keep them humble for two hundred years or more.

But this time, brothers and sisters, we are told that the tribulation and the destruction that will take place upon this continent again will be in the memory of the people for a thousand years. So how much greater will be the time that is about to transpire in front of us than it was at that time. I will tell you, my brothers and sisters, we need to hasten to prepare ourselves against this day.

I heard a man say the other day that little do we know the hearts of men in our own country. This didn't come from a Latter-day Saint, it came from an outsider--a man who does not believe as we believe. He knows what condition our nation is getting into. Among other things, in our conversation, he said that little do you people know the sentiment that is building up against you in the hearts of men in your own land. In his trying to persuade me that I should allow leadership to take over in our councils, because he thought that we were not led by the spirit of the world, I told him that it wasn't leadership that we were lacking. We might lack in finance or we might lack in some lines in the way of conducting our economic life, but, I said, as far as spiritual leadership is concerned, we have the greatest leadership in the world. We are not afraid to face the world. We are not afraid to come out and live according to the teachings that we have had through the mouths of the prophets throughout all the history of the world, not only in ancient times but in our time, because we know that the leadership we have is superior to anything that is upon the face of the earth. We have continually tried to put this forth in our lives, not only in our actions but in our lives in the way we live.

I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, that there is no other way for us to secure our safety, not only before the people of this world but before the Lord Himself, than to humble

ourselves before the Lord and keep His commandments, get His Spirit and keep it with us. There is no other safety for the Latter-day Saints.

We are living in a time when great judgments are about to be poured out upon the nations and this nation in particular. I read part of a speech by one of the senators who had been making an investigation of the conditions of the world. He said he wasn't so much concerned about the war with other nations as he was about an internal war in our own land. He said he was more concerned about the safety of our own people within our own country than he was with the safety of our nation against other nations. So we see that the Spirit of God is working upon people. The Prophet Joseph said in one of his revelations that we will hear of wars and rumors of wars in foreign lands but little do we know the hearts of men in our own land. And I think this is the case.

The only safety that this people has, or any other people, is to get the Spirit of God and keep it and to prepare ourselves to receive the blessings of eternal life. We are left without excuse. The Lord has opened the way whereby we can place before the people again the testimonies of the early leaders of this Church, namely, the Journal of Discourses. He has been very kind to us to raise sufficient means to have the unbound volumes of the last edition of the Journals bound and now placed where the people can get them. We had about four hundred sets that were not bound. They were printed and getting ready to bind, but because of lack of means we had to receive them unbound. But now the Lord has opened the way whereby we can bind those copies and put them where the people can get them.

The Lord is kind to this people. We have had several scares lately, or somebody has tried to scare us with rumors of raids. I am not afraid of raids, my brothers and sisters, as long as this people will prove to the Lord that they are willing to obey counsel, that they are willing to strive to overcome their

weaknesses and imperfections, because there is enough faith among us today to stay off any great raid that might be in the making if we will just get the Spirit of God and keep it with us. We have seen the hand of the Lord made manifest in our defense many times in the past. We have seen the Lord allow the enemy to come in, not only because of our unworthiness, but because of His determination to try the world; not only the world, but His own Church and Kingdom.

Now let us get the Spirit of God and keep it with us. Let us strive to prepare ourselves against the day that the Lord has designed that He would prepare the way for the building up of His Kingdom, or for the redemption of His people.

I pray that God will bless us and pour out His Spirit upon us in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

* * * *

CLOSING REMARKS:

While President Timpson was speaking, my thoughts went back to another revelation similar to the one that he read to you. In order to bring out the point I want, I would like to leave another thought with you. I have been confronted with this question several times lately. A man approached me a while back and told me that he had prepared himself for twelve years to labor among the people and bring souls to repentance. He felt like he had prepared himself and his house to a point where the Lord was pleased with him, and he was prepared now to go out and preach the Gospel of salvation to the children of men and fulfill the blessing that was pronounced upon his head by a patriarch that it would be his place to preach the Gospel and bring souls to a knowledge of the truth. He desired that I lay my hands upon his head and set him apart for that work. I told him that it wasn’t my place to set

a man apart to go out in the world and preach the fullness of the Gospel at this time, but it was my place to teach men to prepare themselves to meet their God. I told him to go home and get the Spirit of God and keep it, and keep it in his home and set an example before the world that those around him might be prepared and be anxious to live like he was. He quoted the scriptures to me similar to what President Timpson read.

Many people take these passages of scripture and construe them to mean when the Lord says to thrust in your sickle and reap while the harvest is ripe, that they should go out and save other people.

But we have another revelation here that is a little more specific on this. Brother Timpson read Section 4 of the Doctrine & Covenants, and I will call your attention to Section 12. This is the revelation:

> "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."

See how powerful the word of the Lord is to this man!

> "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.
>
> 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."

I would like to put over the thought, my brothers and sisters, that these revelations are meant for each and everyone of us. It has been my desire through all my life to do something to save my own soul. And I take it that this revelation means just that. If I can get the Spirit of God and keep it, I will set an example before my fellow men, my brothers and sisters, that cannot be equaled. I can preach the Gospel stronger by doing that than I can by going out and trying to teach by word of mouth the words of salvation to the children of men. If I can apply to my life the principles that I know will save my soul and live by them and set the example before my fellow men, I will be doing the will of God, and I will be laying up treasures in heaven that will not rust.

I would like to leave that thought with you this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, that it is the desire of our Father in heaven that each and every man do something about saving his own soul, and then we will be doing something about saving the rest of the children of men who will listen to the words of Christ.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 4, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I feel very thankful to the Lord for the privilege I have of being with you again and listening to the testimonies that have been borne and to walk along with you in trying to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation.

The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith to tell the people that in the generation in which he lived the words of the prophets would be fulfilled, great destruction would come to the wicked, and the way be prepared for the rise of Zion. Something like five hundred and seventy years before Christ appeared to the Nephites upon this continent, the prophet said this:

(1 Nephi, 22:15-20)

> "For behold, saith the prophet, the time cometh speedily that Satan shall have no more power over the hearts of the children of men; for the day soon cometh that all the proud and they who do wickedly shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that they must be burned.
>
> For the time soon cometh that the fullness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men; for he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous.
>
> Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fullness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire.
>
> Behold, my brethren, I say unto you, that these things must shortly come; yea, even blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke must come; and it must needs be upon the face of this earth; and it cometh unto men according to the flesh if it so be that they will harden their hearts against the Holy One of Israel.

> For behold, the righteous shall not perish; for the time surely must come that all they who fight against Zion shall be cut off.
>
> And the Lord will surely prepare a way for his people, unto the fulfilling of the words of Moses, which he spake, saying: A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that all those who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people."

The Lord raised up the Prophet Joseph Smith and delivered unto him a message to this generation. That message was: Prepare ye, prepare ye, against the day of visitation when the Lord shall visit the earth with destruction to prepare a way that His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob might be fulfilled in the earth.

The Lord established His Church in the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith. The commandment to that organization was to preach the Gospel to every creature upon the face of the earth that they may be left without excuse. Today, there are not as many as the Prophet had gathered around him and heard these things declared who believe that the words he spoke meant the generation in which he lived, even though the Lord told him that in that generation, if they rejected his testimony, they would be swept off the earth. Today those who try to apply to their lives the principles that Joseph said were necessary for their salvation, I say, those who bear this testimony to the world that they know these things must be lived and practiced are persecuted, driven, and murdered. The Prophet was murdered. He had to give his life for the testimony he bore. Those he left behind apostatized from the things that he told them they must do in order to round out their salvation.

Now, in this day, in this late hour, the Lord is trying again to fulfill His covenant with the Prophet Joseph, that this

Gospel shall not be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do again offer an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. How are we going to do it if we don't prepare ourselves against that great and dreadful day that the Lord has promised to us? Just prior to the appearance of the Messiah upon this continent, that great and glorious church that had been set up upon this land had apostatized to a point where they were ready to stone the prophets if they continued to preach that there would be a Messiah come in that generation. They did stone the prophets, and they put the saints to death because they believed the words of the prophets.

Today, they are ready to do the same thing. They have done it, and they have murdered the saints. Every time we stand up and bear testimony that Joseph is a prophet of God and that Adam is our Father and God, we lay our heads upon the block. There are those in our midst that would like to wield the axe to cut them off. Nevertheless, my brothers and sisters, we have got to bear testimony that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and that it is necessary to prepare a people for that great and glorious day, the Millennial Reign. It has got to be done. Somebody is going to have to do it, for the Lord has promised holy men that this Gospel will never be taken away from the earth again. Somebody has to preserve it, and not only part of it, but we have got to preserve every principle that was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith which is necessary for the salvation and eternal life of man. That is the reason, my brothers and sisters, that we gather you together from time to time and try to get you to get the Spirit of God and keep it, that we might be prepared for that great and dreadful day which is at our door.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 18, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the opportunity of being with you and being able to stand before you in health and strength. I know the Lord is good to us to preserve us from the evils of this time. How long this security will last, no one knows, for we are living in a time when the Lord is already pouring out His judgments upon the nations of the earth. This nation is soon going to bear a great burden, and that burden is preparing the way for the rise of the city of Zion. The way is being prepared already and has been going on for a number of years.

We have not recognized the hand of the Lord so greatly as we can see it today; but from now on, we are going to see the hand of God made manifest in bringing about the preparation for the Lord to accomplish His work of establishing Zion in the earth. This promise has been given to the world for many generations that the time would come when He would redeem His people. His people have been under bondage for a good long while.

When He has tried to establish His work, the powers of darkness have sought to overthrow it. They have martyred the prophets, persecuted the saints, driven them until the Lord is ready now to perform His work; for He has said that after the testimonies of the elders to the world, then He would preach His sermon. The time is here, my brothers and sisters, for us to stand in holy places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest. Now is the time for us to draw near unto Him that He might draw near unto us. He has said, and I will read from the 88th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Verses 62-64)

> "And again, verily I say unto you, my friends, I leave these sayings with you to ponder in your hearts, with this commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall call upon me while I am near--

> Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive, knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
>
> Whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you, that is expedient for you;”

That is enough, my brothers and sisters, to give you an idea why the Lord has been so persistent in pushing us, in preparing a people against the day of visitation; for that great and terrible day that the prophets have spoken about is at our door. Before long, we will begin to see the judgments of God passing over the earth and especially over this land.

I doubt very much if this people will be able to be gathered together in audiences like this to hear the word of God in peace. For the time is coming when the saints will be driven into the wilderness, and they will stay there until the judgments of God have passed over. I don’t wish to say any more at this moment, but I pray the Spirit of God will rest upon us and upon the speakers who follow me, and that we will determine in our own selves that we will not procrastinate the day of our preparation. God bless you, amen.

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CLOSING REMARKS:

No doubt there has never been a time when this congregation that is gathered here tonight has heard more in the few moments that we have been together than has been spoken here, if you will weigh the words that have come from the mouths of the speakers.

I have been acquainted with this work since 1926. That was the first introduction to it that I had. In 1928, I had the privilege of visiting John W. Woolley, and hearing his testimony.

Since that time, I have noticed that the saints, in order to gather together, have had to gather in remote places and congregations, in order to have the word of God given to them. In most cases, our enemies have had spies among us. If they didn't get inside the house, they were on the outside taking our car license numbers so that we could be traced down.

Since 1944--I will go back to 1934, the servants of God have tried to gather together and teach the people the word of God. But we have been curtailed through not having room to house our people. We have been refused places of worship to gather in because of the doctrine we taught.

We had a few figures given to us today of what the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is doing. I understand that they have some nine hundred houses under construction. They are completing them at the rate of one a day using the tithing of the people--the money that belongs to the Lord. And they are persecuting the source of their blessings. They are persecuting the men, the servants of God who are giving the word of God to the world today and refusing them the privilege of entering into these great places of worship that they are building. The Lord is greatly displeased because of this condition, and because His saints have had to gather in places where they cannot see the speakers. There are four or five rooms in this home. I understand they are pretty well filled with people that would like to see the faces of those who speak to them. This is displeasing unto the Lord. That is one of the reasons the Spirit of God has rested upon us tonight, and we have told you the things that we have.

Now, you stand in holy places and watch the hand of the Lord made manifest, and see if the way won't be opened up so that the Saints of God can enjoy their freedom once more, for I testify that for over thirty years, to my knowledge, the saints have not been permitted to gather in the open and have the word of God given to them as God would like to have it done. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 25, 1962, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I have been greatly edified, my brothers and sisters, in the remarks that have been made. I trust that the Spirit of God will rest upon me in the few remarks that I make, that I might be guided by His Holy Spirit.

In President Hammon's remarks, my mind went back into the history of God's dealings with His people. I have been reminded of the conditions that existed in the early Book of Mormon history, the revelations of the Prophet Jacob and also the revelation of the Lord to the old Prophet Moses as has been intimated by President Hammon, and compared them with the present conditions of the world.

In the past few months, I have been asked the question by a number of our good brethren as to how far the Lord is going to allow science to discover the workmanship of His hands. One man told me that he felt like they were actually going to accomplish what they had set out to do, because of the accomplishments of this great astronaut, Mr. Glenn, in his great feat of circling the world three or four times in that many hours. I said to him, "Don't be disturbed in your feelings, because the Lord would never say to the old Prophet Moses that only of this earth would He reveal to him and then allow scientists of these times to find out the whereabouts or the conditions that existed upon the least of His planets."

Now these conditions have been revealed through the servants of God--the prophets, for many, many generations. And man will not be able to land on one of these planets and return to earth again, because the Lord God has said so. He has said that man would not be permitted to find out conditions that exist upon these other planets. So all the billions of dollars that are being spent today to find out the generations of our God are being spent in vain. The Lord has promised destruction to the people who attempt these things unless they repent, as President Hammon has said.

It is true that the Lord revealed to His servants, not only Moses, but others, that all the generations or all the planets that exist are the workmanship of His hands; but in no case has He ever said that He would reveal to them what existed on them or what conditions existed. I think I shall read just a little. This is what the Prophet Jacob said:

(Chapter 4:13)

> "Behold, my brethren, he that prophesieth, let him prophesy to the understanding of men;"

I will go back a little farther.

(Chapter 4:7-8)

> "Nevertheless, the Lord God showeth us our weakness that we may know that it is by his grace, and his great condescensions unto the children of men, that we have power to do these things.
>
> Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord. How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways. And no man knoweth of his ways save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God."

It is only by the revelations of God that men will find out the depths of the creations of our Father in heaven. And then, what He reveals to His servants, even His greatest prophets, is only pertaining to this world upon which we stand. And when we undertake to go farther than this world, then we have something to repent of. But the Lord has spoken. Now, what did He say to the Prophet Moses?

(Pearl of Great Price, Chapter 1, verses 23-42)

> "And now of this thing Moses bore record; but because of wickedness it is not had among the children of men.

And it came to pass that when Satan had departed from the presence of Moses, that Moses lifted up his eyes unto heaven, being filled with the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of the Father and the Son;

And calling upon the name of God, he beheld his glory again, for it was upon him; and he heard a voice, saying: Blessed art thou, Moses, for I, the Almighty, have chosen thee, and thou shalt be made stronger than many waters; for they shall obey thy command as if thou wert God.

And lo, I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days; for thou shalt deliver my people from bondage, even Israel my chosen.

And it came to pass, as the voice was still speaking, Moses cast his eyes and beheld the earth, yea, even all of it; and there was not a particle of it which he did not behold, discerning it by the spirit of God.

And he beheld also the inhabitants thereof, and there was not a soul which he beheld not; and he discerned them by the Spirit of God; and their numbers were great, even numberless as the sand upon the sea shore.

And he beheld many lands; and each land was called earth, and there were inhabitants on the face thereof.

And it came to pass that Moses called upon God, saying: Tell me, I pray thee, why these things are so, and by what thou madest them?

And behold, the glory of the Lord was upon Moses, so that Moses stood in the presence of God, and talked with him face to face. And the Lord God said unto Moses: For mine own purpose have I made these things. Here is wisdom and it remaineth in me.

And by the word of my power, have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth.

And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten.

And the first man of all men have I called Adam, which is many. But only an account of this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, give I unto you. For behold, there are many worlds that have passed away by the word of my power. And there are many that now stand, and innumerable are they unto man; but all things are numbered unto me, for they are mine and I know them.

And it came to pass that Moses spake unto the Lord, saying: Be merciful unto thy servant, O God, and tell me concerning this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, and also the heavens, and then thy servant will be content.

And the Lord God spake unto Moses, saying: The heavens, they are many, and they cannot be numbered unto man; but they are numbered unto me, for they are mine.

And as one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof even so shall another come; and there is no end to my works, neither to my words.

For behold, this is my work and my glory--to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

And now, Moses, my son, I will speak unto thee concerning this earth upon which thou standest, and thou shalt write the things which I shall speak.

And in a day when the children of men shall esteem my words as naught and take many of them from the book which thou shalt write, behold, I will raise up another like unto thee; and they shall be had again among the children of men--among as many as shall believe.

(These words were spoken unto Moses in the mount, the name of which shall not be known among the children of men. And now they are spoken unto you. Show them not unto any except them that believe. Even so. Amen.)

The words of President Hammon this afternoon are timely to this people, because we need them. We need to educate a people that can serve God and keep His commandments regardless of the things that are going on around us in the world today. God has said: “Come out of her, O ye, My people, and be not partakers of her sins.” So it is up to us, my brothers and sisters, to cleanse our lives from the sins of this generation in which we live and apply to our lives the principles of salvation. Not only do we mean the salvation of our souls in a spiritual line, but also the salvation of the land upon which we stand. Let us purify it; let us make it holy, that the Spirit of God might be here in abundance, that we might have a place to call our own.

There are no people upon the face of the earth that have been blest as this people have, and are being blest today. Where can you go and find homes that are not mortgaged, land that is not mortgaged far beyond its worth? Where can you go where you are not taxed to death. By what? By rent and other taxes. This people is the most free of any people that I know of upon the face of the earth today, and we should be the most grateful people because the servants of God have been led to keep the land upon which you stand unmortgaged from the crafts of the world.

Now let us seek to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections that we might sanctify this ground upon which we stand that it might become a holy place unto the Lord, that He might smile upon it in the day of His visitation--not only to the nations of the earth, but to this state upon which we stand. I tell you, the Spirit of God is very precious in the world today. If anyone possesses that spirit it will be the saints of God and those who

have purified their lives and applied to their lives the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, because God has said that Zion cannot be redeemed on any other principle. Now let us go to and put into practice the principles that have been so ably laid before you this afternoon, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 22, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We feel greatly blessed, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of meeting with you again and partaking of the Spirit of God with you. We trust that you will lend a listening ear and give us your faith and prayers that we might be blessed this evening.

It is the desire of the servants of God to accomplish the labors the Lord has placed upon us, and that is to prepare a people for the Celestial Kingdom. We have set our hands to prepare ourselves to take part in the establishment and redemption of Zion.

God has said that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. So that is uppermost in the minds of the servants of God today to bring you up in a way that will be pleasing to our Father in heaven, and beneficial in our preparation in that great work.

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SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 20, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am grateful to the Lord for the wonderful blessings He is bestowing upon this people and especially the blessings of life that He has given me. I am grateful for the faithful, and the prayers of the people. I trust that the few words I say may be dictated by the Spirit of God, for it is my humble desire that His will be done in all things and especially in regards to the faithful saints in this day.

First, I would like to give a little report on our labors during the last two weeks. We have traveled quite extensively in trying to visit the saints in Mexico. It is a long way to go to visit a few saints, but yet, the Lord has blessed us in our efforts to bless His work and bless His people. We have some seventy or eighty people down there who are trying to align themselves with the Prophet of God. They have stood the fire and have come through in faithful order. These people refuse to listen to any other order than the order that blessed them in the first place. They are growing rapidly in their knowledge of the truth. Every time we visit them, we have a few new members to add to the fold. All that we have thus far baptized and brought into our group have been faithful and true. There have been missionaries among them from other groups, but they have refused to listen to them. So, the Spirit of God is working upon a few of our Lamanite brethren and sisters. Our visit among them, we felt, was very successful. When we got ready to leave, they insisted that we convey their love and respect to this group of people here and in other parts where we find them. They are very anxious to be taught and trained in the order of Priesthood.

The Spirit of God is working very greatly upon His servants to hasten our preparation. In the early days of the Church, soon after it was organized, word went out among the saints that the testimonies of the elders would be carried to the four corners of the earth, and all who would hear would be saved, and

those who would not would be damned. That was the charge given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, that he should bear his testimony to the world. That testimony has been borne, and many people have accepted of it and been born into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That testimony has been expounded from the pulpit from that day to this with the reservation that some of the principles that he taught were not for the people at this time. If they were necessary in the days of the Prophet Joseph for the salvation of the saints, to the extent that the Lord required the Prophet to either teach and practice them or he would be cut off with his people, it is necessary today. It is just as necessary today that men live and practice the principles of salvation that were given to the Prophet Joseph as it was then or any other time in the history of God's people.

You can go clear back to the beginning, to the days of our Father Adam, and come on down the line, and the saving principles were given in every generation or every dispensation for the salvation of the souls of men as were given to the Prophet Joseph. At no time did the Lord say that He would excuse His people and give them salvation under any other circumstance. We can put these facts down and be assured in our minds that there is no other way for us to lay claim upon our Father in heaven in days of stress, in days of persecution, any other way than by keeping these laws and commandments.

The Lord is very anxious that this people prepare themselves against the day of visitation. That is the way He puts it in the revelations. He calls it a day of visitation when He visits the earth with destruction. That time is fast coming upon us, a great deal faster than we expect, because as far back as the Prophet Joseph, he said that the hour was nigh and that we didn't have time then to spend another day or another dime building up the kingdoms of the devil, but it was our duty to build up and establish the Kingdom of God in the earth.

Today we have to meet in obscure places in order to teach these principles and try to bring up a people the Lord can use.

We want to remember that we are not waiting on the Lord to establish the ways and means of our salvation. He is waiting for us to prepare ourselves for those blessings. I don't wish to say any more at the present time, but I pray the blessings of God upon you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

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CLOSING REMARKS:

The time is far spent, my brothers and sisters, but I thought I would like to call your attention to one or two things while they are fresh upon our minds. These wonderful things that have been told to us this evening should not pass lightly among us.

Christ said upon one occasion, "As in the days of Noah, so shall it be at my coming." He was questioned by some of the disciples as to what they should look to at His second coming.

I wonder how many of us have acquainted ourselves with exactly what took place prior to the flood. It only takes just a little reading here to give you an idea.

(Pearl of Great Price, Moses 8:19,20)

> "And the Lord ordained Noah after his own order, and commanded him that he should go forth and declare his Gospel unto the children of men, even as it was given unto Enoch.
>
> And it came to pass that Noah called upon the children of men that they should repent; but they hearkened not unto his words;"

The same Gospel, my brothers and sisters, that was given to Enoch was given to Noah. The same Gospel that was given to Noah

was given to Abraham, handed down to Moses. Christ again taught it, and then it was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

(Moses 8:23,24)

"And it came to pass that Noah continued his preaching unto the people, saying: Hearken, and give heed unto my words;

Believe and repent of your sins and, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, even as our fathers, and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost, that ye may have all things made manifest; and if ye do not this, the floods will come in upon you; nevertheless they hearkened not."

Christ told the Nephite people that the Gospel would be given to the Gentiles in the latter days, and if they hardened their hearts against that Gospel and received it not, they would be destroyed. He said that the remnant of Jacob would go through them as a lion among the flocks of sheep and tread them down, and none could deliver. The way would be prepared for the building of a city called the New Jerusalem.

The Gospel was restored to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and he was commanded to bear testimony to the world; and all who would receive his testimony would be saved, and those who would not receive his testimony would be damned and destroyed. Can you see any resemblance to the time prior to the coming of the Son of Man and the days prior to the great flood that destroyed all flesh, as the Lord says? Let us think it over.

May God bless you for the good work you are doing, for the faith you are showing; and may He continue to bless you as you grow in faith and knowledge and understanding in this work. I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 3, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I hope the Lord will strengthen me at this time that I might do His will. I am grateful for the privilege of being here, meeting with you under such favorable circumstances, for I know and realize that it is by the grace of God that we are permitted to gather together, after all that has been said and done to divide our forces.

There have been many truths given to us, many ways of escape related to us tonight to make us a better people if we will listen and pay attention to what has been said. Brother Guy has brought to your attention some of the warnings that are given to us from time to time. We have continually reminded the people of these warnings. President Barlow, on one occasion, made this remark: “Your next great test will be wealth.”

This has been the poorest people, as far as money is concerned, that I know of, in my part of the country. It hasn’t been our privilege to handle a great amount of the good things of this earth. In fact, the Lord has seen fit to bless us with failure after failure in order to keep us humble and bring us to a point where He might bless us with some of the good things of the earth.

It has been my observation that as soon as the Lord blesses us with a little more than we need, we begin to figure out some way to apply that to our lives that we might become more and more like the world, that we might gather around us these great conveniences and necessities that we feel we can’t get along without. Whether or not we are preparing to meet these situations is the question. If the Lord were to bless us with sufficient means to make us wealthy, would we stand it? Yet, we hear the rumblings that we might, in the near future, have the good luck of receiving some of these blessings--or cursings--which ever it might prove to be to our people.

I well remember one time in my earlier life. We moved out into Wyoming. The Church had a colonization movement and called a lot of our people into Wyoming. I remember hearing Apostle Owen Woodruff arise in meeting one day, and among other things, he said, “Little does this people realize the wealth that this lovely country upon which you dwell contains. It has been placed there for the benefit of the Saints if they will keep the commandments of God.” He went on to explain that the wealth of the world belonged to the Saints as soon as they were capable of managing it and using it for the building up and the establishment of the work of God in the earth. “But,” he said, “if you don’t apply the commandments of God to your lives, and live and obey the Gospel in its fullness, this wealth will fall into the hands of the Gentiles. They will come in and get it.”

We did not realize what he meant. This good man was a young man. I think he was about thirty-four or thirty-five when the Lord saw fit to take him away. He was an Apostle, one of the twelve. He had the Spirit of God with him. I heard him bear testimony to my father that except the people woke up and accepted the fullness of the Gospel and lived it and applied it to their lives, they would not be able to obtain the blessings that the Lord had in store for them in the country. Even then, we did not realize the importance of the testimony that he bore on that occasion.

My father was a man that had lived the law, but he refused to give up his family because of the Manifesto. He took them with him wherever he went. He had them with him in Wyoming. Brother Woodruff knew this. That was one of the reasons he was in our home and talking to my father. I had the very rare privilege of being with Father more than any of my brothers, because of my age, I guess, at that time. I was willing to take the job of being close to him and administering to his needs more than anyone else in the family, except my mother and the other lady that constituted

the family organization. Those two women lived together as much as possible. Although Father conducted two homes, two separate places, yet, these two women spent the greatest part of their time together. No greater love ever existed between two women than between those two. When they were asked if they had a chance to live their lives over again how would they live, they both answered the same way; they would not want it any other way. They said, "If we had known what we had to go through we would not have it any other way, because we know there is no other way than the way we have lived."

So, this great man, Apostle Woodruff, had the inspiration of the Lord to know that there was great wealth for the people, if they only knew how to use it.

I hope that our people have been tutored and trained enough so they could, under all circumstances, step up and bless the Kingdom of God with that which the Lord blesses them, that the work of God might go on and be established in the earth.

Unless great changes are made, which we know, by the revelations of God that there will be, but I say, that unless great changes come about, Zion cannot be redeemed without wealth.

I think upon one occasion the Lord revealed to the Prophet that Zion would be redeemed by money. Whether He meant that it would take money to buy the property upon which Zion would be built is another question. The Prophet also made the statement that great destruction would come, in order to prepare the way for the rise of Zion. Brigham Young made the statement that there would not be so much as a yellow dog to wag its tail when the saints return to Jackson County. Just what is going to take place, the Lord has not revealed to us. Anyhow, rumblings are beginning to roll in that this people might be blessed, if you want to call it a blessing--or cursing, whichever way you want to put it, by the riches of this world.

So this is one of the warnings that President Musser had in mind. President Barlow said that our next great test would be wealth. I have often wondered what it would mean to us and how it would come about.

We had one little experience. I might relate it again to give you a little idea of how the Lord can work. When we were in deep distress financially during the raid of 1953, the lawyers called me into their office and said, “You owe us twenty-five thousand, and we need five thousand dollars within the next few days. We expect you to get that money for us before we can proceed with these trials.” I felt within myself that it would come. But I didn’t know where it would come from, because I knew the strain that had been placed upon this people. But they had proven to the Lord that they were willing to part with everything they had in order to fight the battle of the saints. There was no other time in the history of our work when all of the women and children were taken from our community and threatened with never returning to their homes again. That was the first time in the history of this Church that that thing had happened to our people. The faith that was shown to the Lord by our people proved to Him that they were worthy of a blessing.

I came to Salt lake and laid the proposition before the brethren. President Zitting made this remark, “Roy, I don’t know where we are going to get the money unless we turn to uranium.” Without any forethought, (In fact, when I made the statement, I was afraid I had opened my mouth and spoken out of turn.) but anyhow, I said, “Brother Zitting, there is a place down in Houserock Valley that nobody else knows anything about. I know of a place down there that no one else knows anything about. You had better send me down there with a Geiger counter.”

It created a commotion among us that was very funny at the time. President Zitting slept a couple of nights on it, and the next morning he got up about four o’clock in the morning and

came to my door and knocked. He said, “Brother Johnson, get up. I am sending a couple of men down into Houserock Valley, and I want you to go with them.” So, I knew right then that I had either opened my mouth and put my foot in it, or else the Lord had spoken through my mouth. Anyhow, we carried it out.

I went into Houserock Valley and led the boys to this spot of ground that I had run onto way back in 1911. At the time I was riding with another man in that part of the country. We were riding for the Bar-Z cattle company. We run onto this spot of ground, and this fellow that was with me said, “Wait just a minute, I am going to stake out this claim.” So he got off his horse, found a flat rock and wrote on it with his pocket knife: This claim belongs to so and so. He stuck the rock up, and it stayed there for years and years. When we started to put up our claims for uranium in that particular spot, we run onto the rock, which was evidence that we had seen it before.

That little spot of ground brought the money. It proved to be very rich in evidence of uranium. We had geologists come and give us a reading on it. It was pronounced very wealthy. Not only one geologist but we had several in there. We had two from Los Angeles flown in. We had two from San Francisco. We had three from Oklahoma. We had two from New York. We had men come in from Moab. These men relied upon the reports of these geologists, who all gave about the same report that it was a fabulous spot of ground.

After we had received enough money from it to pay our lawyers and get the Journals well underway, the money shut off like that. The company that bought the claims sent their drills in there to find out the extent of the ore but the Lord had removed it; which proved to me that Brigham Young knew what he said when he said that the Lord could move the minerals of the earth from one place to another at His will.

So we don't know, my brothers and sisters, what the Lord might do to try this people; because He has said: My people shall be a tried people. So if you are ready to be tried, the Lord is ready to try you. You had better straighten up your shoulders and be prepared for anything that the Lord might have in His mind to place upon us because we have borne strong testimonies. Every man and woman that has been called to the microphone in the last few years has borne strong testimony that they knew this was the work of God. If you know it is the work of God, then you just as well have told the Lord that you are willing to receive any test that He might see fit to place upon you to prove that you love Him, and that you are willing to do anything and everything that is in your power to build up and establish His Kingdom in the earth.

The Savior said, on one occasion: 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 place ourselves in that category. Let's not say that Jesus is the Christ and that this is His work unless we are ready to back it up by our works. But if we are ready to back up our testimony with our works, then we are ready to receive the wealth of this world and use it for the building up and establishment of God's work whereby He might bring about the conditions that He has for many, many generations told the prophets, told the people through the mouths of the prophets, that He was going to accomplish in the latter days. Either we are living in the latter days, or the Prophet Joseph Smith was a false prophet and those who followed in his footsteps have uttered idle words. Now, we know that this is the work of God. We know that we have taken upon ourselves the responsibility of commencing the rise of Zion; for we know that a people has got to be prepared to do that great work. The Lord has told us, through the mouths of His prophets, the ones that have been numerated here tonight by previous speakers, that this is the preparation day for a people that the Lord can use in the redemption of Zion.

Now, may the Spirit of God rest upon us and may He bless us with a testimony that cannot be shaken, that He might pour out His blessings upon us, and that we will use them for the building up and establishment of Zion, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 8, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am not very well educated in the mechanism of some of these new inventions we have--some of them. I might operate an automobile that will go down the road straight.

I feel very pleased and wonderful in my spirits, my brothers and sisters, in being able to meet with you again and to partake of the spirit that has dominated this meeting so far this evening.

I was greatly interested in the testimonies of President Jeffs and President Timpson in their accomplishments of the day. It is quite a wonderful thing to be able to meet with the saints on one side of the continent in the morning and on the other side in the afternoon. It is quite a wonderful thing to be able to converse with those on the other side of the veil and enjoy the blessings of those on this side of the veil the same day.

In the early days of the Church, the Prophet Joseph had daily access to the revelations of God, and he was instructed how to teach the saints and what to give them in order to bring them up to a point where the Lord could use them.

President Hammon very often uses his experiences with animals to bring out a point that he wishes to impress upon the minds of people. I very often think of people in the light of wild horses. I used to like to work with them. The wilder they were, the better I liked it, because when I trained a horse, it usually obeyed my training.

When I was eighteen years old, I worked for a man about a year for a span of colts he had. I asked in the fall of the year what he would take for them. He said that he would take $75.00 a head. I said, “I haven’t got any money, but if you will let me work it out on your farm, I will take those colts.” He said, “If you will work for me for a year, I will board you and bed you and let you have your Sundays off, and you shall have the horses.” So I agreed to it. My wages were not very high, but I got a lot of

pleasure out of watching those colts grow. I broke them and taught them to obey what I told them to do. After I got them broke, I could tie up the lines and talk to them, and they would do just what I told them to do.

We used to roll our hay off the wagon with ropes and stack it that way. I have rolled many a load of hay off and put it on the stack alone with this team. I would hook them on the pull rope, and get up on the stack, stand where I could talk to them, and tell them what to do. They would do just what I told them to. If I told them to take it away easy, they would take it away easy. If I told them to go fast, they would go fast with it. If I said, "Whoa!" it was stop right there. When I told them to back up, they would back up easily. If one of them happened to get her foot over the tug, I would say, "Queen, get your foot in there." She would pick her foot up and put it back where it belonged. One of them I called Queen, and the other one I called Maude. Maude would do the same thing. I tell you, they obeyed me just like a human being.

The man I bought the colts from came one day, and I was loading a load of hay. I had the lines wrapped up on the hames. He came into the field. He said, "How are you getting along with your colts?" I said, "Fine and dandy. That is a fine span of animals." He said, "Aren't you afraid they will run away with those lines tied up?" I said, "No, they have learned what "whoa" is, and they have learned what it means when I tell them to go. They obey me." He thought it was pretty wonderful, but that is the way people are, or should be.

If the Prophet Joseph Smith had had gathered around him people who would have obeyed his will, the kingdom of God would have been one hundred years on its way now. This people would not have been under any other rule but the kingdom of God. We would have been a mighty people, because the Celestial Law would have been established among us. Our people would have been the most numerous upon the face of this land, because of the multiplication

that would have taken place. But the Lord has been working with His servants ever since He spoke to the Prophet Joseph trying to prepare a people. Today we have less men prepared than Joseph had in his time. We may have as many men who if the Lord gave the commandment for us to go up and redeem Zion, we might be able to gather together as many or maybe more men than Joseph did in his time. But could we go up under the same conditions that Joseph tried in the days of Zion's Camp? How many of us could take and endure the hardships that would be placed upon us without murmuring? It is very hard, I find, for our people to be caught under distressed circumstances without someone murmuring. That is what the Lord detests--a murmuring people.

I believe it was Uncle Lorin that made the statement that we would either serve our Lord and Master, or we would serve Satan. We would have to serve either one or the other. We are going to be brought up, my brothers and sisters, under great distressed circumstances unless we voluntarily shake off our imperfections and voluntarily place ourselves in a position where God can use us at any moment.

I wonder how many of our people are prepared to go at a moment's notice and not have to wait and put in order some of the things that beset us at the very moment.

The Savior said upon one occasion: "He that putteth his hand to the plow and looketh back is not worthy of the Kingdom." He said also, to one man: "Come, follow me." The man said, "I must go and tell my wife about it first." He said to another, "Come, follow me." He said, "I have some debts to pay, and I must go pay them first." He said to another: "Come, follow me." He said, "I must go divide my property among my children that they might be able to sustain themselves while I am gone." The Savior said: "He that saith he loveth me and doeth not my commandments is not worthy of the Kingdom. Or, he that looketh back is not worthy of the Kingdom."

So unless we prepare ourselves to be on hand at a moment's notice regardless of the circumstances under which we find ourselves, we are not worthy of the Kingdom.

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God in its righteousness and all these other things shall be added thereto." I wonder how many of us have thought about that and thought what the Kingdom of God is. What is the Kingdom of God? In so far as we are concerned, the Priesthood that rules over us is the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

Then we should seek to establish the Priesthood in a position where they can be directed by heavenly beings, that the people over whom they rule might be directed as they were in the days of the Prophet Joseph by daily revelation.

When we get to a point where we can do these things, then the Lord will begin to bless us and put a hedge around us where the enemies of this work cannot put further distress upon us. But He will open the way whereby we can provide for those we love and who come under our jurisdiction.

I don't feel to say more at the present time. I feel to turn the time over to President Musser and let him speak as he feels.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us, and that we will catch the vision of our opportunities here and take advantage of them and push this work to the fore. God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 22, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

This is not a bug on my head. (laughter)

My brothers and sisters, it is a great pleasure, I assure you, to be here tonight and to partake of the wonderful blessing that the Lord has given to us of listening to the words of life and salvation that we have heard tonight. I hope that every heart here will beat the same regarding that one principle of repentance that has been mentioned here tonight.

Wherever there is a people who profess to be numbered with the people of Christ or to believe in His name and His work, the devil is there also trying to persuade them against doing the will of our Father. If I read the scriptures right, this has been the case throughout all time. We were told that Adam had to put up with this condition in his own family, that Enoch worked over three hundred years to perfect a people.

There is no doubt in my mind that that people was something like we see here tonight. They exercised that desire to do the will of our Father, but the same spirit that President Musser told us about dominated their characters--deep down in their hearts, they didn’t want it. It was like President Barlow said, that we will bring together a people, teach them correct principles, and we will gather out of that body of people those who are honest in heart. The rest of them will leave, and we will gather a few more together. After a while we will have a people that can go down the road with their hearts beating alike. I have no doubt at all but what there are many among us who outwardly desire their salvation, but because of their inability to overcome the whisperings of Satan, they are tempted to do things that deprive them of their advancement.

We will find that the same thing existed among the people of Enoch. It existed among the Jaredite people, the Nephite people, and we will find it existing today.

When I reflect upon the condition that exists among the Latter-day Saints at the present time, and not only the Latter-day Saints, but all people of today, my heart is filled with sorrow when I hear men who profess to be servants of God telling the people that certain conditions or certain blessings can be obtained even by the disobedient as well as the faithful, if they will only continue to exercise that desire to serve the Lord whether or not their hearts are right. President Musser touched the key. If you got it, I hope you will build upon it and that we will stamp out of our midst those things that are holding us back from obtaining the blessings that we so much desire.

We have been told to remember before the Lord our condition and ask Him to open the temples to us, that we might receive our blessings. No doubt we all pray that way. But unless our desire, deep down in our hearts, is to obtain that blessing, it will continue to be withheld from us. The Lord is not pleased with the conditions that exist today in the administration of the Celestial Law. He is not pleased altogether in blessing this people with the promises of eternal salvation unless we can receive all the ordinances of those blessings. He cannot administer it to them until they have prepared themselves and He knows that they will not desecrate the law. He has closed the temples to the more faithful of the land because they have been desecrated. He has closed to the majority of people the privilege of hearing the pure Gospel of Christ taught to them. There are only a few people in this day who have access to the teachings of the blessings of eternal life. Among that people are many who do not desire it enough to stamp out of their lives the evils that have destroyed, not only communities, but whole nations. They have gone to ruin and gone out.

My only desire, my brothers and sisters, is to perfect a people the Lord can use in His work. Those who cannot come up to the standard that He has required, we do not care to carry along

upon our shoulders. The Prophet Joseph refused to carry on his shoulders those who would not conform their lives to his teachings, and we cannot do it, although there are many who persist in going along with this work who do not have their hearts in it. They go along with it because they are afraid, as one of the speakers said tonight, that they might be wrong if they left it. So they are straddle the fence, and they don't know which way to go. We have those among us who pay half their tithing to this people and half to the Church, so they will be sure to be on the right side. We know this because they have told us so.

So, you have been told the truth here tonight. Let us repent, my brothers and sisters. Let us get our hearts in the right channel. Let us desire that one thing--to get the Spirit of God and keep it, that we might be found worthy of the blessings of eternal life. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 19, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is indeed a great pleasure, my brothers and sisters, to meet with you and partake of the Spirit of God as it has been manifested here tonight. I am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that the great majority of those gathered here tonight have been down into the waters of baptism and have had hands laid upon them for the gifts of the Holy Ghost, which is the door in which all members enter into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Kingdom of God and the Church of the Firstborn.

There are many who are adverse to this statement, but I defy anyone to show me any other way than that which God has designed that men can be saved and exalted in the Celestial Kingdom.

I like to take the word of God for these matters, because this is the Kingdom of God that we are trying to establish upon the earth. What is a kingdom? You take a kingdom of the earth, we have one called Great Britain, what does the kingdom comprise? It comprises all of the offshoots of the British Empire, or in other words the Kingdom of God comprises the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Priesthood, the Church of the Firstborn with all its branches. That is what the Kingdom of God comprises. It may contain many or several organizations, fully organized organizations. But this is what the Lord says:

(Section 76:49-70)

> "And we heard the voice, saying: Write the vision, for lo, this is the end of the vision of the sufferings of the ungodly.
>
> And again we bear record--for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ concerning them who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just--
>
> They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in

his name, and this according to the commandment which he has given--

That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power;

And who overcome by faith, and are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true,

They are they who are the church of the Firstborn.

They are they into whose hands the Father has given all things--

They are they who are priests and kings, who have received of his fullness, and of his glory;

And are priests of the Most High, after the order of Melchizedek, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the Only Begotten Son.

Wherefore, as it is written, they are gods, even the sons of God--

Wherefore, all things are theirs, whether life or death, or things present, or things to come, all are theirs and they are Christ’s and Christ is God’s.

And they shall overcome all things.

Wherefore, let no man glory in man, but rather let him glory in God, who shall subdue all enemies under his feet.

These shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ forever and ever.

These are they whom he shall bring with him, when he shall come in the clouds of heaven to reign on the earth over his people.

These are they who shall have part in the first resurrection. These are they who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just.

> These are they who are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly place, the holiest of all.
>
> These are they who have come to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of Enoch, and of the Firstborn.
>
> These are they whose names are written in heaven, where God and Christ are the judge of all.
>
> These are they who are just men made perfect through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood.
>
> These are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God, the highest of all, whose glory the sun of the firmament is written of as being typical."

This is the word of God to this generation, my brothers and sisters, to come through the door of baptism into the Church and Kingdom of God, and then purify your lives and prepare yourselves for every step--from one step to another. The old prophet said, "We learn here a little and there a little, precept upon precept." We learn by the things we suffer. We learn obedience by the things we suffer. There is only one way, my brothers and sisters, to perfect our lives, and that is by keeping the commandments of God when we have once gone into the waters of baptism. There is only one baptism, and there is only one God.

Now, I pray that we will not be swayed by the testimonies of men who try to wean away the Saints from the true and everliving God--the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, for that is the only God we have to do with.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us and that we will take heed of the things that we receive through the testimony of Jesus, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 2, 1962, SUNDAY, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

Once more, I want to express my gratitude for being able to be with you again as a witness that this house is well filled with Latter-day Saints. While President Musser was talking, I couldn't help but think of some of the questions that go through the minds of some of our people, and what has happened in generations that have passed. The Lord gave commandment to the Prophet Joseph Smith:

(D. & C. 105:16-17)

> "Behold, I have commanded my servant, Joseph Smith, Jun., to say unto the strength of my house, even my warriors, my young men, and middle-aged, to gather together for the redemption of my people, and throw down the towers of mine enemies, and scatter their watchmen;
>
> But the strength of mine house have not hearkened unto my words."

I am reminded at this time of the prophet in the Book of Mormon days--his name was Abinadi. The Lord told him to go preach repentance to the people. They would not let him in the city, so he got up on the wall of the city. He did what the Lord told him to do. You all will remember the incident. They finally took this good prophet and burned him at the stake, because he was doing the will of God.

A certain man said to me, "Why don't you lay off the young people? You are driving them away from you. You were once young and you had your time, but you made the grade. Now give these young people the same chance."

Every time we get up in this day and age and say the things the Lord puts into our mouths to say, we stick our necks out. We don't know where or when somebody might take a crack at us. Nevertheless, we are living in a day when the Lord has told us

to raise up a people that He might have someone to work with when the One Mighty and Strong comes to set His house in order.

For over a hundred years, the Lord has made it possible for His servants to preach to the older generation, to try to get them to repent and to serve God and to keep His commandments. Today, there is nothing left but to preach to the young and rising generation and to try to show them wherein their parents and their forefathers have failed, that perchance there might be a few who will listen to the teachings of the servants of God and prepare themselves for the day when the Lord will make up His great army.

I don't believe that I have ever heard a more striking sermon preached to this people than the one you have just heard President Musser give. It is enough to condemn every Latter-day Saint who heard his voice or who will read about it. But I want to say to the rising generation, our mouths are not going to close from pounding away trying to get you to do better than your parents have done; rally around the standard of the Priesthood that God might have a young and middle-aged generation to work with. Because that was the commandment given to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

What we have been doing since I got acquainted with this work is not new. It is as old as the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It has been taught in all generations of time. Men have lost their lives trying to put over to the people the necessity of repenting and listening to the voice of God as it was given through the mouths of the prophets. And I have no doubt but what other prophets will have to pass through the same experience before the end comes.

Today the duty of the Priesthood is to prepare a people against the day of visitation and for the One Mighty and Strong to use when he comes to set the House of God in order. The House of God comprises a live congregation of people. God loves His people, His children; and if any of them can be saved, He will do all He can to save them. So, we are under the obligation of continuing to

pound away at these young people that they might grow up and do better than their fathers and mothers and their grandparents, that the Kingdom of God might be established in the earth.

I humbly pray that they will do so, that they will rally around the servants of God and pledge their support, and then keep the pledge, that the Lord might be justified in smiling upon this people and fighting their battles for them.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God might rest upon us and that we will listen and put into practice the things we have heard this afternoon, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 9, 1962, SUNDAY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is certainly inspiring, my brothers and sisters, to see so many people here tonight. It is also inspiring to see everyone with some kind of wrap to put over their shoulders. In the past month or so, I have been greatly inspired over the number of people who have come out to hear the servants of the Lord speak. Last Sunday, in Colorado City, we had around three hundred and eighty people in the audience. The week before, we had five hundred and thirty. I don't know how many we have here tonight, but we have a very fine crowd here, showing that the Spirit of God is working upon the minds of our people. The great inspiration is that the great majority of these are young people. The Lord has said that He would take the young and middle-aged and redeem Zion, and it looks like that is the class of people that is going to take hold of this work and walk off with it.

President Barlow said in his day that he did not expect many more of the older generation to come out and take hold of this work, but he felt that we would have to raise a generation of young people to shoulder the work and walk off with it.

The Lord is very much pleased with the few that are striving to get close to Him at the present time. The Council is pleased to see the support that is coming in at the present time, which shows more determination upon the hearts of the people to support the work of the Lord, but there is room for great improvement. We desire, my brothers and sisters, to see this work roll on with greater rapidity than it has in the past. We would like to see it gather momentum and gather up the young and middle-aged, and bring them into this work, that the will of God might be obtained in order to accomplish the great work that Christ said would be accomplished in the generation in which we live.

I believe, with the other brethren, that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God. For, after he saw the Father and the Son, his great desire was to do the will of those men. The Father bore

testimony that Jesus was the Christ and to listen to what He had to say. That is what Joseph tried to do. When he received revelation, he tried to apply it not only to his own life, but to get the people to apply it to their lives that the will of God might be done in the earth.

The Lord told the Prophet Joseph to go and bear testimony to the world that the Gospel was true. He said, all that would believe and put into practice those principles would be saved, and those who rejected his testimony would be damned.

So, how many men should be in these gatherings at the present time, after a hundred years of bearing that testimony? How many more should be here than we have today? We feel that the testimonies of the servants of the Lord in the last few years are beginning to take root and bear fruit. We would like to see this work grow faster. We would like to see those who profess to believe in the present Priesthood gather round with more firmness of mind and firmness of determination to see the work of God roll on, for it should roll on. The little activity that is going on in Colorado City is only a drop in the bucket to what it should be. And we should determine within ourselves that not another day pass when we are determined that our own will should be done, but let us determine that the will of God be accomplished in this generation.

Our time is well spent. There has been enough said here tonight to give us thought for a good long while, and let us ponder upon it and let us put into practice the things that will make us bigger and better saints.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 21, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, it is a great pleasure for me to be with you again this afternoon and enjoy this beautiful sunshine and this beautiful afternoon. The Lord has certainly been good to us and given us a wonderful period of stormy weather and then blessed us with such a wonderful afternoon to meet together to hear the word of God once more. I trust that the Spirit of God will rest upon me that the few moments I occupy this position we might be fed something that will help us realize the moment in which we live.

I have been on the battleground for a number of years. I have seen this people arrayed against and the hand of God made manifest in their deliverance, and I hope to be able to continue to watch the growth of this people.

I have been greatly impressed with the remarks of the brethren that have spoken before me, as well as Sister Hammon. She bore a wonderful testimony to you, and I am grateful for it.

When I picked up this morning's paper, I felt the blood in my veins curdle. I have nerves as well as other people, and they quiver. Why? I am going to read to you why. The Lord says:

(D & C Section 88:88-92)

> "And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people.
>
> For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand.
>
> And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds.

> And all things shall be in commotion; and surely, men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people.
>
> And angels shall fly through the midst of heaven, crying with a loud voice, sounding the trump of God, saying: Prepare ye, prepare ye, O inhabitants of the earth; for the judgment of our God is come. Behold, and lo, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."

What have we seen in the last month regarding some of these things that we have read? But there was something else this morning that made my blood curdle, and that was the fact that our great nation is proud enough to boast of her strength. In great big headlines she says, "The United States is able--has bombs enough--to destroy Russia twenty-five times."

In another article, it told of the gathering of our marines to the Everglades of Florida preparatory to a march upon our little neighbor, Cuba; and in the same article, it told of recalling a number of marines to service. About a month ago, one of my boys was recalled to his old campground in Camp Pendleton, near Oceanside, to take special training. He is due to be released next spring, but he is taking special training now. What for? This morning's paper said, "To go to North Carolina, preparatory to an invasion of Cuba." What does this mean to this nation? If the revelations are true, if we can rely upon them at all, it means that trouble is at our door.

The things that President Hammon has told you are about to be poured out upon this people. I look for the time in the near future when this people will begin to gather for a meeting like this, and the officers will be here to disrupt us and send us home, because they will not have us preaching the everlasting Gospel to gatherings like this. When that day comes, then look out!! For after the testimony of the elders, the Lord says, "Then I will

preach My own sermon." Somewhere in the scriptures we are told that it makes no difference whether we are gathered together and hear the testimonies of the elders or not; the rest of the people are under condemnation the same as those that are gathered.

So when the elders of Israel bear testimony to the judgments of God, the judgments of God will be poured out whether the other people think they will or not, for God has said that not one word of the prophets shall fall to the earth unheeded.

We are living in a day, brothers and sisters, when fear and trembling should be in the minds and hearts of every Latter-day Saint, whether they believe the Gospel or whether they don't. This would be fearing and trembling over the conditions that exist. This great Church of ours is boasting of strength, popularity; and I understand that it is preparing for this great World's Fair in New York, preparing to carry out one of the greatest exhibits of any people. What does the Lord say about it? Just go to Second Nephi and read what the old prophet said about our day.

I am telling you, my brothers and sisters, that the things we have heard here this afternoon are verily true, and we had better begin to fear and tremble and prepare ourselves against the day of visitation which the Lord has promised upon the wicked. If we are prepared, and it is the privilege of each individual to prepare himself against that day when the judgments of God are passing over the earth, then we might be caught up while they pass over.

Joseph Smith, on one occasion, predicted that this nation would be swept as clean as the Jaredite nation. He didn't mean the saints would all be destroyed, but the wicked will be wiped off as clean as the Jaredite nation, because all the people had cursed God in that day, and they were wiped off the earth. There was only one man left to witness the entire destruction, and he wandered to and fro in the earth and finally died after he had told another people of the destruction of his people. If it is true that not one word

shall fall unheeded that comes from the mouths of the prophets, what are we going to see if we live a few years more? It won't be very much longer, because the Prophet Joseph made the statement that all these things would come to pass before the people all died off that lived in that day. They haven't got much longer to live.

I want to exhort you, my brothers and sisters, to get close to the Lord. Get His Spirit and keep it, each individual of you, that those who have the seeds of repentance in them might repent and get close to the Lord that they might be permitted to be caught up while the judgments of God pass over the land.

I don't feel to take up any more of the time because of the hour, but I ask God to bless each and every one of you that you will catch the vision of the situation in which we live and do something about it. God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 4, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I trust that the few moments I occupy this position the Spirit of God will direct my remarks. Again, I want to remind you that I have nothing in my heart but love for the principles of righteous living. I want to see the will of God accomplished in this work.

I hope the sermons that have been delivered this afternoon, not only in President Musser's talk, but the other brethren, will be so indelibly impressed on your minds that you can refer to them every moment of the time.

I am reminded of an incident that happened not very long ago. A man came to my home who was having trouble in his home. His dear wife had chosen to go off with someone else. He was trying to persuade her to come back and take her place. He said, "I have been before the marriage counselor and tried to get him to give me some advice, and now I have come to you to see what to do. The marriage counselor told me to go to the girl and try to persuade her to change her ways, but no preaching--now, mind you, no preaching. Don't try to persuade her that the way you are living is right. You try to show her that she belongs in your home, and that she should come there and live."

I want you to just reflect a minute on that point. I know another incident where a child was wayward. A child counselor was called in, and he made about the same remarks. He said, "Now, go to this child and try to persuade him to change his ways, but no preaching."

Another incident happened. The person was having trouble with himself, and he came for a little advice. He said, "Brother Johnson, I want you to understand this, I don't have to do anything. If I want to take the advice given me, that is fine and dandy, but I don't have to do anything." I said, "No, that is right. You are perfectly right. You don't have to do anything you are told to do, but if I read the scriptures right, there are some

things that the Lord says we have got to do in order to obtain the blessings that we are after." I said, "You just got through telling me that you wanted to go along and live a life that would take you back into the presence of your father, but you said just now that you don't have to do anything you are told to do. God says that if you obtain the blessing, you have got to do the things that pertain to that blessing. So there are some things we can't get around if we go on to eternal life."

Now then, in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, since the days that the Prophet received his first vision of the Father and the Son, that testimony has been borne to the world. Missionaries have been sent out all over the world, and those that would receive it and accept it and apply it to their lives would be saved, but those who rejected it would be damned. Since that time, Satan has doubled and tripled his forces upon the saints to try to keep them from doing the things that would give them eternal life.

Now, which side are we going to align ourselves with? Are we going to listen to the preaching of Satan more than the preaching of the servants of God? That is the question. What President Musser has told us is verily true. All you need to do is go into the pocket book of the young people and look at the pictures they have there. Brother Guy called your attention to this. You will find them carrying around with them where every time they open the pocket book they can see the picture of some great actor which gives them the impression that they are great people. But you hardly ever see the picture of one of the servants of God, Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, or those men. They don't carry them around where they can see them to give them the inspiration that they have got something to live for. All they want is something to inspire their love for the evils of this time. Go into the homes, and you will see the television there. What does the television do? It preaches the sermons of hell--

nothing else. You hardly ever see a picture with any mind-lifting moral to it--something to tickle the ears and gladden the hearts of the people. So I am wondering--I am wondering what course we should take with our wayward young boys and girls without preaching to them the principles of life and salvation to bring them along in this work.

I wish you would reflect often upon the things President Musser told you this afternoon, and see if it won't help you to get the Spirit of God and keep it. For that is the charge that has been given us from the beginning of the Priesthood work until now. President Joseph Smith--the Prophet Joseph--made the assertion first for the people to get the Spirit of God and keep it. That has been the trend of the counsel of the Priesthood since that time until now. You have been called upon to make that your resolution at the beginning of the year. Make it your resolution every day, that I am going to try today more diligently to get the Spirit of God and keep it, and see how far it will go toward keeping the spirit of peace and love in the home.

Now, our time has been well spent this afternoon. I wish to leave this message with you, that the Gospel is true, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and that the things he taught and the revelations we have access to are the word of God to this people regardless of the day in which they were given. We hear so many of the elders of Israel, as they are called, say that they were meant expressly for the day that they were given in, but today we must listen to the constituted authority or the President of the Church. But I want to tell you, you are going to be held strictly to the revelations that were given to the Prophet Joseph Smith. I bear testimony to you that they are true, and they are as binding today upon this people as they were in the days of Joseph, Brigham, John Taylor and any of the other men. Now, may God bless you and help you as well as myself and the other members of the Council to get the Spirit of God and keep it. God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 18, 1962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I trust, my brothers and sisters, that the Spirit of God will direct me in what I say, that the chain may not be broken, the chain of thought that has been transmitted to you this evening.

The Lord has been good to us in giving us the opportunity of gathering together upon these occasions and listening to His servants and receiving instruction regarding our salvation. The word of the Lord has been the same from generation to generation, because all men are commanded, all people, both men and women, and children to prepare themselves for an eternal salvation. The word of the Lord is the same from generation to generation, in order to give all people the same chance.

In studying the scriptures, I find that the word of the Lord to His people is to repent. That commandment was given to the Prophet Joseph in the beginning of his administration among the people. The commandment was given to him to go out and preach repentance to the generation in which he lived. All who would accept his testimony, would be saved, and all who rejected it would be damned. That is a great commandment for the Lord to place upon the shoulders of a man among millions to go out and preach repentance to them and tell them what repentance meant and the purpose of repentance; and those who would reject that testimony would be damned. To be damned is to be stopped in their progress in eternal salvation, but those who would believe and would apply to their lives the principles of repentance would be able to go on and receive a glorious resurrection and be crowned with an eternal exaltation. That should be uppermost in the minds of all people to save their souls and be able to bring these bodies forth that the Lord has given us and have them celestialized, that we might be able to keep them and be able to go on to eternal increase.

I like to read the word of the Lord to His people.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 84:43-50)

"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."

There is the responsibility that is placed upon every man, woman, and child who has taken upon them the ordinance of baptism for the remission of sins, that they might be prepared to receive a glorious resurrection. The time is far spent, my brothers and sisters, this evening, and we have been amply fed the words of truth and salvation. Let us take them to heart and prepare our minds to receive them, that we might be benefitted by coming out. May God bless you and keep you well until we meet again, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 2, l962, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Again, my brothers and sisters, I want to express my gratitude for the Lord permitting me to be here and partaking of the blessings of this meeting with you. I know that a great struggle is on at the present time to try to prepare a people that the Lord can move on with, for this same condition has existed throughout the ages of time. The Lord has continually tried to prepare a people that He could trust, that He could put His confidence in, and that He could really save. We have record of a few times that this has been done. In order to preserve their purity, He has taken them away from this world that they might go on and fulfill the measure of their creation. Whenever a people has tried to overcome the ways of the world and put into their lives the seeds of salvation that they might grow, the evil powers have combined and tried to overthrow it. We have seen the saints rise from time to time, and evil crept in and destroyed their faith. One of the reasons that the faith of men and women has been destroyed and they have left the work of God and gone the ways of the world, is simply because they have not been converted.

This word “converted” is quite a deal. I have known men, and I have known women who bore testimony that the work they were engaged in was the work of God, and that the Priesthood that lead them was the only true Priesthood upon the earth, and that they had the right to lead and guide them. Within a few years, I have heard them deny that testimony. Maybe they did not exactly want to deny the testimony they had, but they were convinced because of the actions of men that they might be mistaken in the testimony that was given them. But I have found that those who have sought for a testimony of the truthfulness of this work, God has borne testimony to them that this is the work of God and they have stood by it without wavering and have withstood the persuasions of men, and today you will find them stalwarts in the Kingdom of God. They support the Priesthood with every fiber of their being that it

might have progress and increase. The place so many of us fall down is that we are not converted to the principles of righteous living.

The Prophet Joseph Smith tried to gather around him men that he could trust--that the Lord could trust, but of those that the Lord placed around him, there were very few that stood by him. If I remember right, there was at one time only about three men that dared to say that Joseph was a prophet. And he had a good deal more than that gathered around him before that time.

I have seen this Priesthood rise and gather men and women around them in my day and in your time. I have seen the congregation almost as large as what we have here tonight, and I have seen them go because of the persuasions of men. But those few that would not be swayed by the cunning of the devil are still supporters of the Priesthood. The only reason that the Priesthood and Church are separated today is simply because people are not converted to the principles that the Prophet Joseph Smith gave us for our salvation. He gave very much, and we have them. We have the revelations of God before us, and we are left without excuse.

There is a way to tell whether the Priesthood is leading us correctly or not. We have the records that have been handed down to us from generation to generation--the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price telling of the ancient faith. You can compare it with the teachings of the Priesthood today, and you will find no confliction. You will find that it adds up. So let us become converted to the principles of salvation and put them into practice in our lives, that we might be able to withstand the tests that are coming upon this people. These words were given by President Heber C. Kimball upon one occasion, “A test, a test, a test is coming, and who will be able to stand the test?”

This people has been tested ever since I have known or been old enough to know what the Gospel of Jesus Christ meant. The Priesthood has withstood the test so far, and they are still teach-

ing the same doctrine that was given by our Lord and Savior to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Let us remember these things. Let us do all that we can to support the work that the Lord has borne testimony to our spirits is true. Let us not be swayed by those who come among us and try to tell us that we are not being led by the same spirit that began this work in this day and age. I don't wish to say any more at this time.

* * *

CLOSING REMARKS:

I have said before, and I say again, along with President Jeffs and President Musser, the greatest thing I would like to do is to have this people in a condition that we could recommend them to God for the advancement of this work. The Prophet Joseph Smith labored all his life trying to build up a people that he could recommend to our Father in heaven. These other men, as has been said here tonight, have done the same thing. They are men who have been called and set apart by the Holy Priesthood to prepare a people, and they have labored diligently all their lives. They have continually told us that we cannot be saved unless we desire to be saved. If we desire to be saved, we will put into practice the seeds of eternal life.

One of the old prophets, I believe it was Alma in the days of the Nephite nation, said something like this: If you find a good seed, plant it and try it. If it takes root, nourish it and let it grow. See if it won't produce the fruits of eternal life.

The Lord revealed to Joseph the seeds of eternal life. He tried to plant them in the hearts of the people, but they would not receive them. After Joseph left, Brigham tried to do the same thing. The old Prophet Brigham Young labored all his days trying to plant the seeds of eternal life in the hearts of the people. The people rejected them. After two percent of the Latter-day Saints received them and tried to put them into their lives, tried

to nourish them, and help to lead them along and bring them back to the presence of their Father, very few men were successful. The Church in general finally rejected the principles of eternal life.

Today, the Priesthood is trying to regenerate in the minds of the few saints that have gathered around them the seeds of eternal life that they might take root and grow, that a people might be prepared--against what? I think I shall read just a part of one of the revelations that the Lord has given us. I think it is something that pertains to the people in this day more than anything else that I know of. I am going to read from the 133rd Section of the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Verses 1,2)

> "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 people; 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."

President Barlow dwelt for some time upon that word--the meaning of it--ungodly. His interpretation of it was that a people must first become godly before they can become ungodly. Here is a revelation that was given in 1831. The Church was organized in 1830, and the Lord has branded some ungodly already.

(Verses 3-9)

> "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.

Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations which are afar off; unto the islands of the sea; send forth unto foreign lands; call upon all nations, first upon the Gentiles, and then upon the Jews.

Behold, and lo, this shall be their cry, and the voice of the Lord unto all people: Go ye forth unto the land of Zion, that the borders of my people may be enlarged, and that her stakes may be strengthened, and that Zion may go forth unto the regions around about." (Verses 12-21)

"Let them, therefore, who are among the Gentiles flee unto Zion.

And let them who be of Judah flee unto Jerusalem, unto the mountains of the Lord's house.

Go ye out from among the nations, even from Babylon, from the midst of wickedness, which is spiritual Babylon.

But verily, thus saith the Lord, let not your flight be in haste, but let all things be prepared before you; and he that goeth, let him not look back lest sudden destruction shall come upon him.

Hearken and hear, O ye inhabitants of the earth. Listen, ye elders of my church together, and hear the voice of the Lord; for he calleth upon all men, and he commandeth all men everywhere to repent.

> For behold, the Lord God hath sent forth the angel crying through the midst of heaven, saying: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight, for the hour of his coming is nigh--
>
> When the Lamb shall stand upon Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his Father's name written on their foreheads.
>
> Wherefore, prepare ye for the coming of the Bridegroom; go ye, go ye out to meet him.
>
> For behold, he shall stand upon the mount of Olivet, and upon the mighty ocean, even the great deep, and upon the islands of the sea, and upon the land of Zion.
>
> And he shall utter his voice out of Zion, and he shall speak from Jerusalem, and his voice shall be heard among all people."

One of the finest revelations that the Lord gave. It pertains to this people as much today as it did in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith, because the people today are in a worse condition than they were then.

It has been the cry of the elders of Israel from that time until now for the people to repent. The old prophet said, "Today is the day to prepare to meet your God." That goes in every generation of people. The day in which you live is the day to prepare for your salvation.

There is no one that can work out your salvation for you. So if you sit idly by and let your chances slip by, then who is going to perform that work for you.

We had better prick up our ears, brush away the cobwebs from our minds, and let us begin to listen to the servants of God, that a people might be prepared against the day of visitation which the Lord has promised in our generation. That time is near at our door.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us, that we will pay attention to what has been told us tonight, and that we will seek more diligently to weed out of our midst the evil that is taking hold of some of the hearts of our people; for there is too much among us.

We are not prepared, my brothers and sisters, to that extent that the Lord would be pleased to come out in judgment against our enemies. I am afraid a great many of us would fall by the wayside. But we have a golden opportunity. There has never been a people that had a better chance to round out their salvation than we have today. We have the servants of God who have been authorized, and who are being directed by the good old Prophet Joseph Smith in this day, because the Lord has placed in his hands the keys of our salvation; and He has plainly told us that they would never be taken away from him either in the world or out of it. Those who would be called in his stead would still work under his direction. They are still working under it. They will continue to work under it until the Lord comes; because the Lord has said that this Gospel of Jesus Christ would never be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.

There may be only a few left from time to time, but the Spirit of God will rest upon a people and others will be gathered. As President Barlow said, we may have to raise a people to carry off the Kingdom.

May the Spirit of God settle upon us, my brothers and sisters, I humbly pray, and may God bless you each and every one, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 6, 1963, COLORADO, CITY, ARIZONA

I hope that the few moments I speak this afternoon the Spirit of God will direct my remarks. I have been greatly interested in the testimonies of the brethren this afternoon. After all, that is the reason for these meetings--to bear testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel, of the lives and labors of those that the Lord has placed to teach us. I was traveling with President Barlow one time and discussing the principles of the Gospel. I made the remark to him that I wished I had the ability and power to get up and speak to people and talk to them like some other men did. He said, “All you need is the Spirit of God. You have read extensively what the Gospel means to this generation in which we live. The thing for you to do is get up when you are called upon and bear testimony to the truthfulness of the work, and take no thought beforehand of what you should say, but let the Spirit of God take the lead of your mind. The time will come when if it is necessary that you should give more, the Lord will put the words into your mouth, and your tongue shall be loosed.”

I like to go over some of the revelations the Lord has given us in this day and refresh them in my mind, I like to read sermons of the early leaders bearing testimony to the principles of truth and salvation, that my mind might have something to draw from in case the Lord would want me to speak upon some subject that has been troubling the saints.

I have noticed this afternoon that the sermons of the speakers have been dictated along these lines. They have spoken as they have been led by the whisperings of the Spirit, that you might be edified in your desires to be here and to hear what has been told you. There has been nothing said that I caught but what would be uplifting to your characters if you would ponder upon it.

Very often I feel led to speak upon some certain subject. After I have spoken, I have wondered whether I have told the truth or not, but it isn’t long until I find that other men have spoken

along the same line. If we are capable of being dictated by the Spirit of God, we will not deviate from the line of truth that has been given us from the very beginning of time.

It is true, my brothers and sisters, that we are here to learn, and to put into our lives the principles of salvation, and try to bring ourselves to a point where we can feel that we have benefitted by coming to these meetings and listening to the sermons of the elders of Israel. We are the elders of Israel.

The Lord has said, “He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is not worthy of the Kingdom.” But we are speaking to men and women who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of trying to make their lives as near as possible like unto that of our dear Savior who came here and lived upon this earth as you and I live. We read of His teachings, and we try to incorporate them into our lives. We bear testimony that we know the Gospel is true, that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God, that Jesus is the Christ. We bear testimony that the Father and the Son appeared to the Prophet Joseph and gave him instructions how to live in order to become like our Father in heaven, and how to prepare ourselves for an eternal progressive life. We bear testimony to these truths.

We bear testimony that we know that Brigham Young was a true leader of the principles that Joseph taught, that he carried on after Joseph was martyred and taught the people the same principles that Joseph taught. We, also, believe that Brigham Young was led under the direction of the same God that directed the Prophet Joseph Smith. We, also, believe that John Taylor followed in his footsteps and refused to teach any other doctrine than that which the Prophet taught and that which Brigham Young taught.

We could go on and tell you of the other leadership that the Lord has called to the helm from that day to this. And we bear testimony to you that the truthfulness of these teachings are the same today as they were in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith

when he bore testimony to the world that all the different sects and churches of the world were wrong. The Lord told him that he was to join none of them, because they were all an abomination in His sight.

We hear it said today that one church is just as good as another, has just as much right to administer salvation to a person as another. There was a man in my presence the past week who has been a Catholic all his life. He came and applied for baptism. Before he was baptized, I asked him if he was willing to give up his former religion and accept a new revelation--that the religion he had been following was an abomination in the sight of God, that the one he was now seeking to join could administer salvation to him. He said, “I wouldn’t ask for baptism if I didn’t know that I was getting something better than I had before.” But after the ordinance of baptism was administered to him, he continued to attend mass in the Catholic Church. I asked him why he did it. He said that he came here to get power that he might be a better member in the church that he belonged to. I am afraid that is what is the matter with our Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints today. We have too many such men. We have too many men who are ready and willing to concede that there is so much good in other churches that we can put our arms around them, call them in and have them pray in our meetings, have them get up and give instructions to our people, and yet, they condemn within their hearts the testimony of the Prophet Joseph.

We have two men in our ranks who come to hear the testimony of the servants of God. Yet, they cling to the teachings of the mother church, that the Manifesto was a revelation from God, and that it is an excuse to keep us from advancing in our great clamor for an eternal existence, or an eternal advancement.

Some of us wonder why we are not given a definite job to do, so that we can better prepare ourselves for the things we believe to be true, but there are not very many of us who have

stopped to think deep enough to understand that we have and are treating lightly the things that the Lord has given us. If we were in a position so that the Spirit of God could direct us at all times, that might be the case, because we understand that after we leave this existence, we will be put to work in some field or another.

We are not allowed to be idle. If we are idle, then we are in that category that the Lord told the Prophet those were who would not listen to the testimonies of the elders while they were here. They will be cast into that burning fire of eternal damnation. Of which, he says that no man knoweth the suffering of those who partake of that kingdom, only those who are partakers of it. So, in order to prepare ourselves for a happy existence in the eternal worlds, it is our duty to take notice, take stock of our activities, and see to it that we cease to treat lightly the covenants and the promises that we have made with the Lord in order to round out our salvation.

We are in a state of preparation. I find it is a continual effort on the part of the individuals to keep themselves in a position so that the Spirit of God can be with them always. That is what we have been hammering at the saints all these years, to get the Spirit of God and keep it, that we might be prepared when we are called to go and meet our Maker. The only way, my brothers and sisters, that we can gain true happiness is by living so that the Spirit of God will not leave us. “Well,” says one, “even as good a man as Christ was, for a time he was devoid of the Spirit of God.” On one occasion the Savior said, “My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

A man, a short time ago, heard one of the brethren make the remark from the stand that one of the reasons that we couldn’t get the Spirit of God and keep it was because we had treated lightly the principle of baptism. He said that we go down into the waters of baptism, and we make a covenant with the Lord that we

will forsake our sins and live a better life, and the Lord in return offers us the gifts of the Holy Ghost. We go along in the old rut, and we partake of the evils of this generation the same as we did before, we, therefore, break our covenants with the Lord, and we do not have the gift of the Holy Ghost to direct us. He says this is not a true doctrine. He says that any man or woman who has gone into the waters of baptism has the Holy Ghost bestowed upon them, and no man can take it away from them.

Then I said, “The covenant that you made when you went into the waters of baptism was not made to your understanding. You were to forsake your sins and strive to become like a little child who is pure and holy before the Lord and keep yourself in that condition in order for the Holy Ghost to remain with you. Do you figure that the Lord is bound in His covenants to leave the Holy Ghost with you under any and all conditions? But you are not bound in your covenant with Him?” I said, “Think upon it, brother. Think what it means, and see if you haven’t treated lightly the things that you have received. If you have, then you come under the condemnation spoken of in the 84th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants, wherein the Lord said that we are under condemnation because we have treated lightly the things we have received and shall remain under that condemnation until we repent.”

I said, “That is true. If you will repent of your sins and do them no more, then the Lord will forgive you. Then you will come under the covenant that the Lord made. But, until you do repent, you shall be void of the gift of the Holy Ghost when you think you should have it. You have got to keep yourself in a condition so that the Spirit of God can rest upon you under any circumstance, so that if some sudden condition comes upon you that you need help from the heavens, you can ask the Lord for help, and He will be willing to give it to you. For there is somewhere in the scriptures that He says, ‘Draw near unto me in your days of peace that I might draw near unto you in your days of trouble.’”

Now, my brothers and sisters, all we are trying to do is to instill into your hearts the desire to overcome your weaknesses and imperfections and get yourselves in a condition so that the Spirit of God can stay with you night and day; so that the Spirit of God can direct your dreams or your sleep, and you can be filled with the Spirit of God during the days when you are at work, that you may not speak evil of one another, that you may not find fault with the brethren or anyone, but find something good to talk about.

Forget the evils that you see in your neighbor and try to find some good in him. And if someone is doing things that you know are not right, call his attention to them. He may get mad at you for a few minutes when you point out that the thing is wrong. Later, he may bless you for it. I have had that happen during my lifetime.

So, let us go to with a firm determination that we are going to prepare ourselves for a better day; that when the Lord pours out His judgments upon this great world that we are living in, we can lay some claim upon Him for protection even in our day. We don’t have to go back into history to find where the Lord has stretched forth His hand in defense of the principles of truth and righteousness. All we need to do is to remember what has taken place in our short lives, and we will find that the Lord has stretched forth His hand in the deliverance of those who have put forth an effort to purify their lives. He has preserved us for a purpose. That purpose is to prepare a people that the whole world may not go down with the wicked, that there might be a few left, that the Kingdom of God may rise. The Kingdom of God cannot rise unless we have a people who are determined to stamp out of their lives all the evil of this generation. For the Lord has said that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom.

If you will read what the Lord has revealed regarding the Celestial Kingdom, you will find that those who dwell there--who

are permitted to go there, are those who have prepared themselves against the day of visitation, or have stamped out of their lives the evils of this generation in which we live.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us, and that we will listen to the testimonies of the elders who bear testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that the revelations he gave were for the salvation of the children of men, and that in no other way can we be partakers of the glorious day that the Lord has promised us, of a thousand years of peace on this earth. That day is coming, for the Lord has said that not one word of the prophets shall fall unheeded to the ground.

I pray the Lord will bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 20, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is a pleasure, my brothers and sisters, to meet with you again under such favorable circumstances and partake of another outpouring of the Spirit of God with you. The Lord is very kind to us, and yet, He, from time to time, shows forth His hand to let us know that He still lives and exists. We only have to go back over the past week to see how little we are, and how easy it is for Him to bring distress upon those who He loves as well as those who hate Him. It only takes the turn of the hand for Him to distress nations and people and to bring upon us conditions that are uncontrollable. This part of the country has witnessed in the last week some of the coldest weather we have ever had.

I will just tell a few of the things that have taken place. Over in Gallup, New Mexico, the frost broke their city water tank, and the report was that the whole city was without water. They shipped water in on the railroad, by the train load. Even the motels, restaurants, hotels, as well as the people, were carrying their water from the railroad to their places of business and their homes in buckets, to take care of their needs.

Just a turn of the hand of the Lord can bring great distress upon people.

In St. George the mercury went to 20 below zero, something that is almost unbelievable in that place. The citrus fruit crops in Phoenix, Mesa, as far south as Yuma, and in southern California, have all been struck with the frost in the last week. So we need to be on our toes, my brothers and sisters, to get the Lord to smile upon us, that we might not be found wanting under any conditions that He might see fit to bring upon this land. He has plainly told us, warned and forewarned us, of the coming destructions that await those who forget Him. He has also pronounced blessings upon those who love Him and keep His commandments.

These are some of the things that have been going through my mind lately. I find that the Spirit of God is resting upon our

people, and He is ready and willing to bless all who will rally around His work and bless it, so that He can be justified in pouring out His blessings upon us. I don’t feel to speak longer at this time. We will now hear from President Holm.

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REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 3, 1963, SUNDAY, HOME OF CARL FISCHER, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I feel greatly honored, my brothers and sisters, of the Lord for the privilege of being with you again under such favorable circumstances and to enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit here tonight. I have been greatly interested in the testimonies that have been borne, for I believe they came from the heart.

Out of a family of twenty children, Aunt Lizzie and two of her sisters are the only girls left in Father's family. The rest of them have all preceded us. She is the only one that has had what it takes to stand up for the truth and stand by the side of the Priesthood. She has one other sister that entered into the principle of plural marriage, but she has not yet aligned herself with this order of Priesthood.

Father had twenty children, and out of that twenty, he had twelve daughters and eight sons. Out of the eight sons, two died in infancy or before they arrived at the age of nine years, and four of his daughters died before they were of age. The rest of them raised families and passed on. One other sister lived to be past eighty years old. She fought all her life for the principle of plural marriage, but she never could persuade her husband to enter into it. After her husband died, President Barlow pronounced the blessing of eternal life on her because of her faithfulness in trying to enter into the Celestial Law. He told her she had kept her covenants that she had made and was a candidate for eternal life.

I believe there are many women who are candidates for eternal life who have never had the privilege of entering into that principle in this life, because of being hampered by a husband who would not teach them the Celestial Law.

Another sister condemned me because I "traded President Barlow one of my daughters for a herd of Hereford cattle." Anyway, the street corner congregation had spoken it that Roy Johnson had traded one of his daughters for a herd of Hereford cows.

So she called me on the carpet for it. I said, “Well, Polly, a man is a poor manager that can’t provide for his family.” I said, “If he could provide a home for one of my daughters, and her husband could provide me with meat for several years, well, why not make the trade?” She said, “I know now there is nothing to that talk.” I sat down and talked with her, and she was converted to plural marriage and wondered why her husband didn’t teach her that law. The next time I met her, I had to convert her again. So I know that some women would live that law if they had husbands that would go along with them.

I guess Aunt Lizzie has been one of the mainstays of her father’s kingdom, and she seems to be still converted by her testimony here tonight.

I wanted to go on just a little further with the same section that President Jeffs started to read to you.

(Section 93, Verse 46-47)

> “I called you servants for the world’s sake, and ye are their servants for My sake--
>
> And now, verily I say unto Joseph Smith, Jun.--You have not kept the commandments, and must needs stand rebuked before the Lord.”

He gave that same commandment to Frederick G. Williams, because he had not taught his children those things that would bring them back into the presence of our Father in heaven. So even Joseph had to stand rebuked before the Lord.

(Verses 48-49)

> “Your family must needs repent and forsake some things, and give more earnest heed unto your sayings, or be removed out of their place.
>
> What I say unto one I say unto all; pray always lest that wicked one have power in you, and remove you out of your place.”

We can see how necessary it is, my brothers and sisters, in raising our children that we teach them correct principles, that we teach them to shun evil and to cleave unto that which is good, and instill into their young minds the great principles of eternal life, that we might not stand rebuked before the Lord.

It is an easy thing, my brothers and sisters, to grieve the Spirit of God, but it is a hard thing to regain the favor of the Lord after we have once grieved His Spirit. It requires complete repentance from the thing which we have committed in order to gain His Spirit again and to be favored of Him. So it is a very dangerous thing to grieve the Spirit of God.

The first order that the Priesthood tried to establish in Short Creek was the United Trust. Some of the men who put in all their possessions, their land, especially, when they saw a good chance to draw it out, drew it out and asked for their deeds back. After they had received them back, one or two wanted to come back into the work again. When the United Effort Plan was presented to them, they wanted to come back. But you know, it was the hardest thing in the world for those men to part with the deeds to their property again. Several who drew their land out and took their deeds out never were able to return. There was only one man, that I know of, that returned, and it took him a year or more of continual effort and continual tutoring under the hand of President Barlow before he could bring himself to a point where he could re-enter this work. He has been a very faithful man since, but he said to me several times that he never wanted to go through that ordeal again. One of the worst ordeals that he ever undertook was to re-enter this work after he had once pulled out of it.

So it is a mighty hard thing, my brothers and sisters, to regain the favor of the Lord after we have once lost His confidence. It requires a complete repentance of our sins in order to do so. This man, before he was able to come back into the work, applied for baptism and was rebaptized and had hands laid upon his

head for the reception of the Holy Ghost again. He told me several times that he feared very much for his safety in this work because of the temptations that came to him. So we can see that it is a mighty hard thing for us to dilly dally along with the principles of righteousness when we have once had an understanding of them.

The Lord is very good to us. He has provided for our needs, both spiritually and temporally. I had the privilege the other day of visiting our attorneys that fought our cases through the courts in the days of the raid of ‘53. When we hired these attorneys, there were three of them in the firm. They had one secretary taking care of the work of the three attorneys, and they were soliciting for cases to keep their firm alive. They were barely making enough to pay their expenses and get food enough to take care of their needs. Today, they have seven secretaries and have added one more lawyer to their firm, making four of them, and they have seven office rooms. These office rooms are filled with law books. It would surprise you to go into them. Mr. Kinney told me the other day, “I want you to know that we know the cause of our expansion.” He said, “Until we took the case of the Short Creek people, we were hardly able to live. Today we can’t take care of the business. We have to hire outside help to come in. We have women who are searching the books continually for us. We had to add a new office the other day in order to provide for another set of law books. We could keep another secretary going, too.”

They got a call from a man in Texas who is the head of a big firm there that was deeply in trouble. He called Mr. Kinney and wanted to know if his firm would take his case. He said, “Haven’t you any lawyers in Texas? You are too far away. We don’t want to take your case.” He said, “Listen, Mr. Kinney, we want somebody that can win our case. Anybody that can win a case like you won in ‘53 when you fought the polygamous case in the court can win any case that comes up before them, and we want somebody who can win.” Mr. Kinney had just returned from Texas where he had

fought their case and won it for them. Such cases as that have brought those men out of the kinks, you might say.

Whenever I go to Phoenix I call them. The next move I have to make is to go to the office where they can see me, possibly take me out to dinner, if I will go with them. He told me the other day that he was never going to take another group case unless it was the Short Creek people. “If they ever come into court again,” he said, “I want their case. And, Mr. Johnson, the next time we take your case, we will do just what you asked us to do before, which we thought we couldn’t do.”

When Mr. Kinney took the case before, I told him that the first thing I wanted them to do was to fight this case from the standpoint that we were not law-breakers. He said, “No, Mr. Johnson, we can’t. You have broken the constitutional law.” I said, “No, Mr. Kinney, we have not broken the constitutional law. We have broken no law of this land or of God. Until we can get a law firm that will take our case and fight it from that standpoint, we will never win the case.” But the other day he told me if he ever took our case again, he would fight it from the standpoint that we were not law-breakers. He said, “We are not afraid. The reason I told my firm that I would never take another group case unless it was yours is because in the Short Creek case, when it first came to us, I drew a long breath and told my partners here that we had taken on something that was going to stifle the firm because there were so many women involved. Any case we take where there are women involved, we have trouble. It takes three phones in this office to answer the calls from women. One wants the case fought this way and one that way. But in your case, we had one man to deal with. That was you. If we had any problem come up, we told you what it was. You went and met with your people and came back with the answer, and that was it. I have never had a more pleasant case in my life. The other boys will tell you the same thing.”

When the others found out I was in Mr. Kinney's office, they all had to come in and shake my hand and welcome me back to the city. They left this word, "If any of your people ever come to Phoenix, we want you to give us a call--either come to the office or call us on the phone and let us know you are here."

Some time ago we understood there was a movement on foot to try to come in and pick up some of our people down there. I made a trip to Phoenix and asked the lawyers if I could leave a retainer fee and have them keep their ears to the ground so that if they heard any rumors about picking up our people, they could let us know about it so we could prepare for it. They said, "We don't need a retainer fee. All it takes is a telephone call, and we will be on the job." I don't blame them for that. We only left $50,000 in their hands, so I think we have a little interest coming.

Be that as it is, we still need to be humble in our efforts to obey the Gospel. I will tell you, it is a mighty big job to try to fight our way through so much opposition as this people has. We had threats come to us such as this in 1944, "If you don't join up with us, you are going to be cut off at the pockets." That is one thing. Another thing is that we are "impostors" because we won't join up with some of the offshoots of the Church that feel we have less Priesthood than somebody else has.

We are glad for all these things because the fire is taken away from us. The Church now is about to fight some of these offshoots because they have carried the fight to the Church, and we have kept our mouths shut as far as the Church is concerned.

We are trying to establish the principles of righteousness in the hearts of men that God can use. We might say a few things here that sound like we are fighting the Church teeth and toenails, but we have kept the commandments of the Lord in this. The Lord has said to agree with your adversary quickly that he might not turn and rend you. So we are trying to agree with those

who persecute us insofar as we don't have to displease the Lord in doing so. If we have to stand and face the enemy, we will do it. But if the Lord has another offshoot from the Church to take the fire away from us while we do our work, that is all right because we want to get our work done. We want to keep alive in the hearts of this people the necessity of preparation.

In my study of the revelations the Lord gave to the Prophet Joseph Smith, time and time again, I see that He has instructed the people to prepare themselves for the coming of the Lord; prepare to meet the Bridegroom.

Our message to you today is to prepare to meet the Bridegroom and to be prepared to meet our dear Savior when He comes to make up His jewels; because we have that promise that if we will prepare ourselves, He will choose from among the people those who are worthy to carry on His work. The great urge that the Lord is pushing onto His servants at the present time is the need for preparation. We have to have more who are not afraid to stand up for that which is right in face of all opposition. We have to stand our ground. We have had to in the past, and we will have to again.

The time is soon coming, my brothers and sisters, when conditions will not be such as they are at the present time. We see every day the judgments of God being poured out upon the people. He is very mildly trying to bring the Latter-day Saints to a realization of their situation. We can see it. We can see it every day.

Joseph Smith said on one occasion that wind and earthquake and other destructions would devastate the people of this nation until it was completely devastated of its inhabitants, and a destroying scourge would cover the ground, and people wouldn't know how to combat it. These things are near at our doors. He told the people that there were those living in his day that would not close their eyes in death until these things came. We can expect them

just as the Prophet has said. The Lord has said that not one word of His prophets would fall to the ground unheeded. Today the Lord is trying to get us to resist evil and uphold truth and righteousness.

I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will settle upon us, that we will be more determined from now on to align ourselves with the Priesthood so that the Priesthood can draw from the heavens the instructions that are needed for the advancement of this people. Now, may God bless us, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 17, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It has been a pleasure to me to listen to the word of the Lord to us tonight, and I trust that we can let it sink in and profit by it. We want to remember that we are living in an age when money rules the earth and everybody is after it, not because all of them need it, but they want to have their hands on it. I have men come to me every now and then with schemes of how to make money. It is like I told one man the other day--that I was not interested in money, I was interested in saving the souls of men. All I want is enough to carry me here and there where I have to go. I want to know that my quiver is loaded with the word of the Lord for the people.

As far as I am concerned, my brothers and sisters, it is our salvation that we are after. In this day and hour, we are striving with our might to convince the world that the word of God has not been laid upon the shelf and they have it no more, but that the word of the Lord is going to be realized upon the heads of this wicked world. Yet we have to have some of that “dough,” they call it, that is needed so much in the world today. I think it was well named. A man gets his hands on a little of the dough, and he never quits needing it.

I will have to tell you a little story, now. I know a lady who had her hands in the dough, one day, kneading. I tried to get her to get the dough off her hands and get out of the house, because I could see a tree was going to fall on it. Finally, I went to the door and hollered at her. I guess she thought the roof was caving in, because she had no more than moved until it did cave in, but she came out wringing the dough off her hands. No one got hurt except the house.

We have to stop along the way. I noticed Brother Guy had to stop along the way to make a remark to wake us up. We are engaged, my brothers and sisters in a work that is vital--very vital, to this generation in which we live. It is the only source,

that I know of upon the face of the earth, through which the Spirit of God can work to bring about the redemption of Zion and the building of the city that He has mentioned so often in the scriptures, that the great work can be accomplished that He has promised to all the generations that have existed upon the earth until this day.

We hear so much said about gathering genealogy and gathering to the temples to get the work done. I have a sister that is in temple work up to her ears. She says that I have lost my chance, because there is so much temple work that has got to be done, and thousands of people are going through the temples every day, she says, doing work that I ought to be doing there. It is true that this temple work must be done, but the Lord has provided a time for it. Had the people kept the commandments of God, the temple work being done today would be effective, because it would have been done under the direction of the Priesthood. Under the present conditions, I would rather be out here trying to get the people to understand that they have lost their chance. There is only one day left for us to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ and apply it to our lives, and that is the day in which we live. But we have strayed from the ordinances. We have transgressed the law, and we have broken the everlasting covenant.

Now the Lord is trying to call us to repentance that there might be some faith left when the time comes for the appearance of our Savior again. He made that remark when He was here. On one occasion He was talking to the people, and He went out to pray. He felt so bad because of the wickedness of the world and the few who would accept His testimony that He cried to the Lord, and during His prayer, He said, “Oh, will there be any faith left when I come?” Upon another occasion, He said that when He came again, it would be as it was in the days of Noah, when a very few would be looking for Him. I am afraid that is the way it is going to be this time.

We have a testimony that the Gospel is true and that a people must be prepared to receive the coming of our Savior. That is what we are trying to do--to prepare the hearts of men to receive Him when He comes, and to overcome that condition that He prayed to the Father about: “Oh, will there be any faith left when I come?”

We would like to see a lot of faith left. We would like to see a corp of men that He could put His trust in, that the Priesthood could lead up to Him and tell Him, “Here they are. They are ready to carry off the work. Load it on them.”

Let us prepare ourselves. Let us take heed to what the brethren have been trying to tell us all these years. I slept fifty years of my life away before I met up with President Barlow. And I have been another fifty, almost, waking up. I hope you people can wake up faster than I did. I am just beginning to get the “sleepy bugs” out of my eyes so that I can see a little. I hope we can work together, and that you and I can go along the road together, that we can be in the same congregation when the time comes that the One Mighty and Strong needs a body of men to work with, that we can walk up to him and tell him, “We are ready. No matter what comes, we are ready to go on with the work.”

Now, may the Spirit of God rest upon us and help us to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections, that we might be prepared against the day of visitation. God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 10, 1963, AT COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

The time is far spent and well spent. I couldn't help but reflect back when President Hammon was talking, to a sermon I heard President Joseph Musser preach in Short Creek, way back in about 1935. I don't know but what it was just as strong as the sermon President Hammon has preached this afternoon on the same subject. If I remember right, I believe he mentioned in that sermon that he felt like he didn't want to come back to this place again until the people had their places cleaned up so he could go in and enjoy a day with them without being embarrassed.

We have been warned and forewarned, and the Lord impresses us that we have got to keep hammering away. A people has got to be prepared to carry off the Kingdom of God, and it is going to be a people who have cleanliness at heart. The Spirit of God cannot come to a home that is ill-kept, while He blesses the occupants of it with health and strength. I don't think we have any excuse to maintain a filthy habitation or let our bodies go unclean. The Spirit of God surely cannot dwell in an unclean tabernacle.

No doubt some of you people wonder why we are so determined to hammer some things into the heads of this people. Joseph, the Prophet, at one time, was being questioned as to his receiving the revelation, the heavenly vision, and he told some of his friends that he had seen the Father and the Son, and that the Father said, "This is My Beloved Son, hear Him." He answered something like this, "I know that I saw a vision and I saw these two personages, and I know that God knows that I know; and I dare not deny it." Joseph also knew that God had given him commandments to give to the people of the earth. He told Joseph to bear that testimony, and those who believed would be saved and those who would not believe his testimony would be damned. A short time after the conversion of the old Prophet Alma, after he had been stricken by the hand of God because of his attitude towards the

Church and the people of God, he made a statement something like this, “I fear that I have sinned so greatly that I cannot repent.” So he says, “The most that I can do is the least I can do to save my soul.”

Ever since I have been acquainted with this work, this order of the Priesthood, we have heard these same things preached over and over again. People of this generation in which we live, in and out of the Church, in and out of the Priesthood, have heard or know something about the testimony that the Prophet Joseph bore. And there are not very many who have listened and applied to their lives the counsel that has been given them to prepare themselves against the day of visitation which the Lord has offered to this generation. This generation of people has ignored the counsels of the Priesthood, and ignoring the counsels of the Priesthood has sealed their damnation. We have been told that the elders of Israel will at some time, sooner or later, go among the people and seal their testimonies against them. Let us not have them come here and seal us up to damnation. Let us have them seal us up to eternal life. Let us prepare ourselves against that day; for the Lord has said, “Seek Me early that in your days of trouble you might find Me.” So let us have Him on our side. Let us have it said that we can seek for a blessing and receive it.

I know through experience and through observation of others that we can get ourselves in a condition so that when we ask the Lord for a blessing we can receive what we desire if our desires are in harmony with the requirements of heaven.

I know that the Lord can heal our bodies; we can call in the elders if our faith is sufficient and our sick can be healed. I have seen that among our people. If our faith is sufficient and we are united enough, we can persuade the Lord to change our attitudes and change our minds and things we are doing. He can heal our bodies. He can take away from us the appetites that are injuring our bodies.

I heard a young man one time tell his father he wished he was dead. That was quite early in the morning, around 7 o'clock. About 4:00 in the afternoon, he was dead. The Lord answered him just that quick. He was a boy about l8 years old; a big robust, fine young man, about the build of Lee Bistline. I knew him and worked with him for two years or more, and I never saw a time when the boy had a sick day. But his father asked him to go to conference with him one Sunday morning. They had to go seven miles to conference. He said, "I don't want to go. I want to stay here. We boys want to go swimming this afternoon. I don't want to go to meeting." His father talked to him a little while and says, "I would like to have you go and take in this conference and see what you can get out of it." He said, "Well, I don't want to go." After his father talked to him a little while, he said, "I would rather be dead than to go to that meeting." So his father loaded the rest of his folks in the buggy and went to meeting. That afternoon, about 4 o'clock, we were fishing for him in the swimming hole.

I could relate several other instances where people have made assertions that they wished this and that and the other would happen, not thinking anything of it. That is, thinking that they were sure it wouldn't happen, but it did happen. In my own case, I have asked the Lord to take away from me the appetite for things that were injuring my body and making me suffer from time to time, and the Lord did just that thing.

I know that we can sway the blessings of our Father in heaven. I have seen the time during stormy weather when we have needed to harvest a crop, and have asked the Lord to stop the rain so it wouldn't ruin the crop. And while the crop was being harvested, I saw it rain everywhere around me, from the north, south, east, and west, but no rain came on the crop until we got it harvested. I have seen in dry seasons where we have needed the rain and we have got down on our knees and asked the Lord to send

moisture that the crop might not suffer, and we have received the rain.

A man told me of an incident that happened in old Mexico where the people had been without rain for some time and the crops were suffering. He called a three-day fast. He prayed to the Lord to send moisture, send rain. He asked an old foreigner to get up and offer the prayer in meeting before they broke their fast, and the old fellow told the Lord what a good people they were and how they deserved the blessings of moisture, etc. He spent some length of time trying to persuade the Lord of how worthy they were of rain. Before he closed his prayer, he said, “Now, Lord, we don’t want one of these little drizzle drazzles; give us a gully washer and a frog strangler.” They said that before he said amen, it started to rain, and before the rain was over the whole city was covered with boulders instead of beautiful gardens that they had before. You can go up there today and find boulders all over the city, and especially around the meeting house. They had to move the boulders in order to make a pathway from the schoolhouse to the street. That city was abandoned a short time afterward, and it stands there--large brick houses with nobody in them. The whole city stands there today, a living witness of how the Lord can answer the prayers of people. This town had somewhere close to a thousand people or more.

Now, if we want the Lord to smile upon us, let us not be offended at the things we have heard today, but go home and do something about it. Let us not let the golden opportunity that is before this people pass by, because we do have a golden opportunity here.

The Lord has never forsaken the righteous. He may have let them go down and be wiped out with the wicked, but what has He said about these things? He said, “When the righteous die, they die unto me,” meaning that they will not lose their salvation; and

all of us have got to die sometime. When we do, let us be prepared for an eternal resurrection.

Now I realize, my brothers and sisters, that we have been together a good long time this afternoon--have heard a lot of wonderful things. Let us be built up in our faith and let not one of us go away from this meeting with the thought in our minds that we are not going to do anything about it, or be disturbed in our feelings. Let us be lifted up in our feelings with a determination to do something about what we have been counseled to do this afternoon, and see how quick the Lord will build us up and make our bosoms swell with gladness because we are determined to see the Kingdom of God rise and be established in the earth; because it has got to come. Somebody is going to redeem Zion and it is within the grasp of this people because the Lord has said so. He has said that the righteous are those that have purified their minds as well as their hearts, and they have done something about preparing themselves to be numbered among the saints of God.

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

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BENEDICTION Offered by Patriarch W. Elmer Johnson

Our Father who art in heaven, we humbly bow our heads at the close of these services, in thanksgiving and gratitude for the blessings that we have here received. Father, we feel that inasmuch as Thou has had to chasten us as a people that there is still hope, that there is still a chance for us to repent. And now, dear Father, we pray that the spirit of repentance may rest upon each and every individual to whom this message comes, that a great time of reformation may sweep over this people; that Thy work may go forward more speedily, that the message of the Gospel may

sink into our hearts and have the effect for which it is designed--the setting in order of Thy house, the establishing of Thy Kingdom in the earth. Help us, Father, to be Thy people in very deed.

We are thankful for those whom Thou hast raised up to place these things before us that we are not led by flattery but that our failings are made plain unto us. But, Father, with this we realize that we are left without excuse; help us to measure up.

We pray for Thy Servants who have been called to direct this work that Thou wilt watch over them and direct them and give them every needful thing to assist them in their work. We pray for all Thy saints or all that have good feelings toward Thy work. Be with us and bless us, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 17, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is a wonderful thing, my brothers and sisters, to enjoy this wonderful opportunity of coming together at this time and being instructed of the Lord. The time is drawing closer continually for the redemption of Zion. The Lord is continually needling His servants to prepare a people, that there might be sufficient who have prepared themselves to carry on this great work. Great destruction has been offered to this generation except they repent, and the more the servants of God cry repentance, the farther away the people get.

We find that it seems impossible for the word of the Lord to penetrate the hearts of men in this day. Therefore, the servants of the Lord are under a great strain to get into the hearts of this people a desire to repent of their sins and get close to the Lord and get His Spirit and keep it with them.

Our first speaker this evening will be President Richard Jessop.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 21, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am thankful to the Lord, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being with you again and to partake of the Spirit of God with you; for I know that the words of the Lord are still ringing true that where a few are gathered together in His name, there His spirit will be also. So whenever the servants of God bring a body of people together, they can rest assured that the Lord will pour out His blessings upon them and give them the things that they desire. So, let us concentrate our thoughts upon the occasion here tonight and draw from the speakers the things we desire to hear that will answer our questions and bring us to a better understanding.

I desire to read just a few verses from the Third Section of the Doctrine and Covenants--the words of the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith because of a little mistake he made. I would like to have you keep these words in mind throughout this session of meeting this evening that you might be better paid for coming out, to better know the purposes of these meetings.

(D&C Section 3:1-3)

> "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."

Let us keep these words in our minds and compare them with the words of the elders who speak to you this evening.

We will first hear this evening from President Holm.

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CLOSING REMARKS:

Once more, I would like to call your attention to what I read to you at the beginning of this meeting. The Lord does not walk in crooked paths. He has said that not one word of the prophets will fall to the ground unheeded till all be fulfilled upon the heads of the generation of the latter days.

Christ said upon one occasion: “He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is not worthy of the kingdom.” The Prophet Joseph Smith had hardly got through organizing the Church before the Lord placed the whole church under condemnation because they had treated lightly the things He had given them. He told them that they would remain under condemnation until they repented. Just think it over. I shudder, my brothers,and sisters, when I hear of the conditions that exist around us, for I know that we stand upon very thin ice, and it is about to break any time. Let us hasten, my brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation that the Lord so frequently mentions in the Doctrine and Covenants. Stand ye in holy places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest. That is what we need to do. We need to make holy the homes that we dwell in that we can go there and command the protection of our Father in heaven. This can be done. I remember one incident that happened in the ‘44 raid, if you don’t think that God can protect a person.

The big boys came into Short Creek before people were up--some of them. They were hunting for a certain young lady, and they went into her bedroom to find her. She pulled a blanket up over her head. One F.B.I. man sat on one side of the bed and another on the other. They wondered where to look next to find her. She could hardly keep from laughing out loud. They finally got up and left the room, and she found herself alone again.

I saw the prosecuting attorney of Mohave County shake like a leaf with fear just because I stood in his presence, and he didn’t know what was the matter. He did know that he had no busi-

ness being there, and he made his visit very very short. When he left, he left in a cloud of dust. He could not drive fast enough to get away from that spot. As far as I remember, he never came back into our community.

Now, the Lord is just. He will deal out justice to every person who will do what He has told them to do, and that is to humble ourselves and keep His commandments. Now, this let us do. Let us go home from this meeting and begin to prepare our houses that we can have a holy place to go to when God pours out His judgments upon this great nation that we have.

I want to say once more to this people that the keys were turned in 1953 when the President of this great Church told the world that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was in full harmony with the state of Arizona in the Short Creek episode. Just weigh those words and see what they mean against a people that was trying--only trying--putting forth an effort--to apply to their lives the principles that would bring them out from under the curse that God placed upon the whole Church in 1832. From that day to this the Priesthood has prevailed in every court action that has been brought against this people. It was that day that the key was turned in favor of the people who had been carried away.

The state was determined not to be humiliated, so they kept these people there for three years and tried to make it so expensive upon this people that they would be broken forever. But, again the words of the prophets are being fulfilled. Heber C. Kimball made the statement that every time they kicked this work that they would kick it up hill. From this time on, this work is going to grow. I can see in this people the nucleus of the great Millennium. There are those among us who are determined to see the Celestial Law placed on record. They have it in their hearts to stand by the Priesthood and see to it that this work does not fail.

We are going to keep hammering away until we bring out of this people a sufficient number that God can roll His work on.

I trust that the Spirit of God will settle upon every one of us that we might be able to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections, that we might be numbered among those who will press forward with this glorious work. May God bless you, amen.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 19, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is a pleasure to meet under the shade of these beautiful trees in the cool of the evening in the open air where we can breathe deep and enjoy the outpouring of the Spirit of God.

For some time now, we have enjoyed a greater portion of the Spirit of the Lord than we have in many months and years. The Lord is mindful of the conditions under which we live. He is mindful of the efforts that are being put forth to comply with the requirements of the Gospel and the effort that we are putting forth to bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that was placed upon us in the early days of this Church.

If we can continue to apply to our lives the principles that the Lord has given us without treating them lightly, the time will soon come when He will pour out His blessings in abundance upon His people, for He has said that the abundance of the earth belongs to the Saints. Whenever the people have forsaken their sins and sought for His Spirit and kept it with them, they have prospered throughout all the generations of time.

The goal we are working for today is to stamp out of our lives the dross that is within us and to replace it with righteous living--get rid of the traditions that have beset us for so many generations and get ourselves into a condition so that God can rule our spirits. It is for that reason that we have met here this evening. I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will rest abundantly upon those who speak this afternoon.

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SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 2, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

As far as I can see, my brothers and sisters, it is a wonderful sight tonight. I understand the rooms are filled, which is gratifying to the Priesthood Council. This is a glorious day in which we live. I pray that the Spirit of God will direct my remarks that what I say may be in accordance with His mind and will.

Whenever the work of the Lord has prospered, Satan has tried to stop it by introducing among our people the seeds of destruction. One of the most abominable things in the sight of the Lord is sowing seeds of discord among brethren. When I say among brethren, I mean among sisters, also. When we gather together and speak evil of one another, we are sowing seeds of discord. I had a telephone conversation today. In that conversation, I could feel the results of the spirit of discord, or the seeds of discord being sown, not only among brethren, but among the sisters of our people. These are things that hold the work of God back. The Lord is not pleased with a people that will speak evil of one another, or will condemn one another for things that will transpire in their lives.

For example, I am going to relate some of my own experiences to bring out the point that I would like to bring out here tonight. When I first got acquainted with this work and began to work with Brother Barlow, the Lord blessed me with several years of failure. I took them as blessings. I thanked the Lord every year for the blessings He gave me.

One year, I had a wonderful crop of wheat almost ready to harvest. On this ranch we were renting, we rented about thirty head of cows. We had them up on the reserve. This crop of wheat was almost ready. In fact, we were getting the harvester ready to go into it within a few days. I got up one morning, thirty-five head of cattle, not only our own, but a few extras, were inside the wheat field. They had gone through, and if you know what a herd of cattle can do to a wheat field that near harvest, then you can imagine what took place then. Well, we only threshed a very small

portion of that crop. Those cattle just went from one end of it to the other and kept going back and forth. When the harvester went over the field, most of the wheat was on the ground. I thanked the Lord for what we had left. I did not dare complain over it because I knew if I did, I would displease the Lord.

Another year, we had prospects of a very fine crop, and a drought hit us. Right when we should have had rain, we didn't get it. So the Lord blessed us with another failure. Another year, we had a very fine crop of wheat. We threshed about twenty-two hundred bushels of wheat. We built some nice granaries to put the wheat in. In the evening, when we dumped the last load of grain in the granaries, the Lord blessed us with a lock on it. The government said: "You can't use this wheat. You can't even take any of it out for mush or use it for flour or anything else." For two years, they kept the lock on it. So we thanked the Lord for our blessings again.

But, because of the effort that we put forth to support the Priesthood and keep President Barlow in his work and keep him going, the Lord finally showered His blessings upon us.

I have related this incident before, but I don't think it will hurt to relate it again. It will bring out the points that I would like to impress upon you people here tonight. The Priesthood sent us into Mexico. We went down there depending upon the Saints in the States to keep us in foodstuff and furnish us means until we got on our feet. The first thing we did was build some houses. We spent about three or four months building houses. We hired the Mexicans to make the adobes for us. As fast as they would dry, we would lay them in the buildings. We made five three-room houses, one five-room house. We got them all ready to move into, when the gentleman that was furnishing us the property served notice on me that the houses were now ready for us to move into if we would accept him as head of the Kingdom of God in the earth. Otherwise, we could move on. So, you can imagine what we were up against.

I knew very well that I couldn't get to the States to bother the Priesthood with it, so I answered him on the spot.

I said, "Brother, I am not going to accept you as head of the Kingdom of God on the earth. As far as I am concerned, you are nothing more than I am, a servant of God here trying to build up and establish His work." I said, "I know where the keys of Priesthood lie, and that is it. I will not accept your offer." He said, "All right, you know the road." So, the next day, we were on the move. We left our work behind and went off.

We went up into the mountains, rented a piece of land, and raised a good crop of corn. We got it just to the state when we could harvest the ears from it, and lo! and behold, we got up one morning and found about twenty-five head of range cattle had broken the gate down and got inside. You can imagine what happened to our corn crop.

The next year we had a crop of oats. We planted oats for hay, and it was a good crop in that country. We harvested a very nice crop for the amount of land we had in. We harvested the oats, put it in a stack, went out and rented a baler and started to bale the hay. Our creditor came in with a truck and hauled off a couple of loads. We did not have any way of hauling the hay away, so we stacked it like they stack bales of hay in this country. One morning it clouded up and started to rain, we could not bale on account of the wet. It kept raining. It rained every day. When the rain was over, we had two big stacks of oat hay that was wet clear through to the ground. We could hardly find any hay, when the storm was over, that was worth baling. The bales we did have stacked were almost ready to set fire. So, we lost that crop.

I made a trip to The States. I saw Brother Barlow, and we tried to raise some money to help pay off our grocery bill down there, which was beginning to get very large, but we failed to get enough money together to pay what we owed. Brother Barlow said, "Roy, you go down and send your brother, Elmer, and Edson Jessop

out of there. Tell them to get back to The States, then you pay the bill." It was seventy-five thousand pesos at that time. That meant I would have to go into debt another fifteen or twenty thousand pesos in order to put in another crop and then depend upon the Lord to bless us. The boys left and came out. All I could do was follow the dictations of the Spirit and let the Lord work.

But, mind you, I didn't spend all my time sleeping. I spent very little of it sleeping. But I did spend a lot of time on my knees asking the Lord to inspire me what to do. I followed the dictations of the spirit, and the result was that when fall came--by the way, my agreement with the people I rented from was that I was to give them half the crop off the place--anyway, when fall came, I was able to pay off the bill, pay for the rent, and come home with three hundred and fifty dollars in American money. That is what the Lord does for us when we do what He has said for us to do--seek first the Kingdom of God in its righteousness and all these other things will be added thereto.

Now, you can figure what I got out of that crop that year. I paid half of the crop to the man that owned the land, and paid over eighty thousand pesos that we owed besides. We had about one hundred twenty acres of land planted. I never, in my life, saw such a crop of grain. Oat hay in that country was worth the same as alfalfa hay in this country. We got for our hay six pesos a bale which was about seventy-five or eighty cents a bale in American money, but we paid off the bill.

The Lord can do many things, if we will place ourselves in a position so that we can receive His Spirit, but we cannot receive it by sowing seeds of discord among ourselves. It is one of the greatest evils that can come among people. When we sow the seeds of discord, it causes feelings. When we have hard feelings towards one another, we are not living the second commandment, which the Lord says is next to the first. The first 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.

Now, there are other evils that are creeping in among this people. I was reading an editorial out of the Millennial Star the other day which related the early history of England, when the spirit of adultery entered in among the people. The article related one incident, to put over the point that the writer wanted to put over. There was one city of six thousand people that had forty-seven “houses of ill fame.” The government condoned it, because if they ruled against these “houses” it would incur the displeasure of the leading men of the nation. The government did not want to disturb the minds of men, so they encouraged it. It brought the curse of God upon them. Their enemies came in and almost destroyed the nation. About that time, there was a lady came into power, one of the queens of England. The first thing she did was make a law that anyone caught in adultery or condoning it should be put to death. Hundreds of people were put to death in England because of that thing, but she cleaned up the nation. It became one of the greatest nations of the earth--one of the most powerful nations of the earth and is today.

But this spirit of adultery is creeping in among this body of people. It is getting such a hold that it is worrying the Priesthood Council. We don’t know how to handle it, and the only way we can handle it is to get the Spirit of God and stamp it out. Wherever we find it cropping out, we are going to stamp it out, if we have to pick the people up and move them out. But we are determined to clean this people up that the Lord might smile upon us, and that our name throughout the world might not be blemished. Our people have become world renowned because of our cleanliness as far as venereal disease is concerned. But you let this spirit of adultery continue among our people, and how long can we be clean? Just about long enough for the Lord to cause some calamity to come in and disrupt us, and carry us out.

The spirit of adultery was the cause of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It was the cause of the downfall of Rome. I have no doubt that when the rest of the records are given to us, we will find that it was the downfall of the Jaredite nation and also the Nephites. If we will just go through our own history, we will see what has happened to men since the days of the Prophet Joseph who have been guilty of the sin of adultery. What has happened to them? Many men have been called of the Lord to stand in high places, and they have fallen because of that spirit.

Now, let us take notice of our actions, and especially the young people. I want you young people to safeguard your morals and see to it that you do not partake of this terrible evil, because it is one of the greatest seeds of destruction that can be sowed among a people. There is no man--no man or woman that can stand up and say, “I am so good, I cannot be contaminated with that spirit.” Because, you don’t know what will take place. There are none of us that knows when the proper temptation comes along what we will do. There have been many men who have stood in the same position that we stand in--this Priesthood Council--that have partaken of that spirit, and the Lord has had to deal with them.

Now, let us try, my brothers and sisters, to keep these things out of our midst that we might continue to have our name go forth, not only among our own people, but out to the world that we are a clean people, and that we are living over and above the rest of the world because we have more. The Lord has given us more than He has any other people. Let us try and see if we can this once carry this work through, so that the Lord can smile upon us and continue to bless and protect us in this day and hour when He is pouring out His judgments, not only upon this nation, but upon the world. Great destruction is taking place throughout the world. It is increasing in this land. It is increasing in other lands. If we want to be the people that the Lord has spoken about to stand in holy places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest, if we want

the Lord to make His arm manifest in our behalf, we must serve Him and keep His commandments. Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us and that we will hasten to clean up our lives.

God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 16, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is good to be here, my brothers and sisters, and partake of the blessings of this meeting. This is a great day in which we live.

Our minds go back, my brothers and sisters, to the time of Christ when He was upon the earth, when He went about His work of cleaning up the Church, the temples. When He was a mere boy, He made the statement to His parents, “Know ye not that I must be about my Father’s business.” He put in all of His time trying to get the people to clean their lives up and live like the Lord had designed.

Today, we are trying to do the same thing. This people who have been taught by the mouths of holy prophets, prophets who have walked and talked with God, with His angels, received the laying on of hands of angels, they were commanded to go forth and search out the righteous from the ends of the earth. “Come out of her, Oh ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins,” was the cry. Then the Lord tried to lay before the people the necessity--get into the minds of the people the necessity--of cleaning up their lives and purifying their spirits that they might be numbered with His people.

You can go back into history, and you will find that in almost every instance where the Lord has destroyed people, cities, and nations, that the old prophets talked about one great evil that was creeping in among the people when they commenced to cry repentance to them. That evil was adultery. The Lord plainly tells us that if a man looks upon a woman and lusts after her, he has already committed adultery in his heart.

I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, we are facing a crucial time among this people. It is a time that we most need to take to heart the word repentance and begin to apply it to our souls. You fathers and mothers who are winking at what you call little things that go on among your children, if you don’t correct

it, the sin is upon your heads and not so much upon the heads of your children. I will tell you, if you study the scriptures, you will find out what responsibility the Lord places upon fathers and mothers. It is not the children who are going to lose their souls as much as it is the fathers and mothers. The hearts of people are going to be judged. You want to remember that we lived a life before we came here. We came here under covenant to live and obey the laws of God and apply to our lives those principles that would bring us back into the presence of our Father in heaven. If we allow our children to partake of the evils of this earth under the covenants that we have made with our Father, who is going to be responsible? I want to tell you there is a responsibility upon the fathers and mothers. Why? What did the Lord tell the Prophet Joseph in the case of his brother Alvin, when Joseph saw him sitting on the right hand of God? Joseph said, "The boy has never received baptism. How can he be there?" The answer was, "If the boy had lived, he would have obeyed all the laws that God revealed to man on the earth."

Now, knowing the works of these children that are being born under the Covenant, the Lord knows what they did in the time before this, and they must have risen to a high state in the mind of God, or they would not be permitted to be born under the Covenant. Now, what is the responsibility of fathers and mothers who have made covenants with the Lord that they would do thus and so in order to be saved in the Celestial Kingdom and then allow these things to creep into the minds of the children? The responsibility is this: When these children are brought up for judgment, what is going to be the deal? One of your teenagers does something he shouldn't, and you are brought into juvenile court. The child testifies that, "Father and Mother allowed me to do such and such." Who is going to suffer? They might as soon pronounce judgment upon the parents. In some cases, they have had to go to prison for a good long time because they contributed to the delinquency of these

children. What about these pure babies that are coming through the Celestial Law?

We have been going over the “weathers” of some of our people that we found were doing things that they hadn’t ought to do. But now we are going to lay the responsibility back in the laps of the people it should be laid on--that is, the fathers and mothers of this people. Your children are going to have to suffer, of course, because they have become of age, and now they are partaking of sin, and they are going to have to be cast out from among the Saints unless they repent. If they will repent and come make right the wrongs they have done and be rebaptized and show by their works that they are going to go straight from now on, they have a chance.

But, some are defiant, we find. There is a great responsibility upon this people. The sooner we realize it, the better off we will be. The Lord has made known to me that unless an immediate--an <u>immediate</u> repentance comes over this people, we are going to see serious trouble--a lot more serious than we think it is! So, we had better begin to do something about it. We had better begin digging into the lives of these young people and get them to see the errors of their ways and begin to seek for the Spirit of God, because if these spirits made covenants before they came here that they would do such and such, and they chose their parents, and those parents allowed them to be loose and go to the dogs, as we call it, who is going to pay for it? Are those children going to be judged according to what they would have done if they had received proper teaching, or are they going to be judged otherwise? You had better stop and think a little bit upon what is going on. Why do I speak this way? Because my heart is torn out because of the bright spirits that are among this people who are doing things that are going to damn them just as sure as they keep it up.

We called one man in to talk with him. He laughed at us, He said, “I know my heart, I know that God knows my heart.” He had already confessed to the sin of adultery. “It makes no difference what you men say. If I can’t settle this thing peaceably, I will go the other route.” And he has gone the other route. Now who is going to pay for it?

We had better start taking notice of what is going on around us and begin cleaning up our houses. We have been trying to pound this into the heads of this people ever since I have been acquainted with this Priesthood circle. It was being pounded in by President Musser. It was pounded in by President Barlow when I first got acquainted with them. I have heard it all my life. I have heard my father try to pound it into the heads of his hard-headed kids, and I was one of them. I thank the Lord that I took notice enough to keep myself clean from that one evil that crept into the lives of many of my associates. I have seen them go by the wayside.

I know that these other men are bleeding at the heart as much as I am because of the condition that exists among the so-called Latter-day Saints. I don’t have to go back to the mother Church to back up that part of my statement. I can stop right here in this room--simply because of the slackness in the minds of the Latter-day Saints in gathering their children around them and teaching them correct principles.

One man told me the other day that if we took the route that we are trying to that it would drive the children all away from us. I have noticed that if you go at it in a proper manner that you can draw these children around you. You can make saints out of them, if you go at it right and teach them with kindness and not with the spirit of force. Satan said, “I will go down and save them all, that not any will be lost.” Christ said, “I will give them their agency.” All you need to do is teach them correct principles and let them take their course. When you teach them correct

principles, put it into their minds that it is an evil to do anything that will lead up to this great evil that we find among us.

I have been made to understand, my brothers and sisters, that there must be a change in the minds of this people. Where there are examples of these evils and men have not repented, and they have come under the wings of this Priesthood, they are treading on mighty thin ice right now if they expect to remain under the jurisdiction of this Priesthood. The Lord has shown me that we are going to have some very very difficult conditions come upon us if we don't clean up. The Lord says that He does not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. He means just that. If we are the servants of God, we are going to be held responsible for the conditions of the people over whom we preside. We have got to be men that can stand up to the situation that confronts us without fear or trembling and go through and clean up the flock. So, we had better begin to watch. I will tell you, you had better be on the inside and in the good graces of this Priesthood circle than to be on the outside looking in and laughing at what is going on at the present time. You might not laugh long. There has never been a time when the Lord has had to come out and chastise a people that they have laughed at the prophets very long. Just go read what happened in the days of Alma and Amulek. When they began to preach repentance to an apostate people, they began to persecute them, put them in prison, tied them up, then people went by and spit on them and laughed at their condition. After they had gone so far, what happened to them although they were tied inside the prison? The story says that everyone that was inside the prison was killed except Alma and Amulek.

These men have been telling you tonight that the Lord would protect His saints even if He had to send fire from heaven. That is what the Lord said He would do. Are you going to be on the side of the Lord, or are you going to be some of His persecutors? When you persecute the servants of God, you persecute God Himself.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us, and that we will hasten--and I mean hasten--to do something about our lives that we might be found in a position where we can command the Spirit of God.

Whenever we see people begin to apply to their lives the spirit of repentance, we rejoice. We actually rejoice in our hearts, because we know that God is just. He has said that we are obligated to forgive all men, and He will forgive whom He will. He has never released the responsibility of the fathers and mothers from the teaching of the children. Just go back and read what He told the Prophet Joseph Smith when the Prophet failed to teach his children correct principles. He told him that he was nigh unto cursing. I am afraid there are a lot of us that will come under the curse because of the actions of our children.

Now, let us hasten--let us hasten to get the Spirit of God and keep it. Remember that we can't get the Spirit of God and at the same time condone wickedness in our homes, or evil doing. But we can clean up our homes and get the Spirit of God and keep it. Let us hasten to do so, my brothers and sisters. Let us take to heart the counsel that is given to us from month to month, from Sunday to Sunday here. Let us get the Lord to smile upon us so that we can become that people that He will be pleased to send down fire from heaven if necessary to protect us in the day of visitation, when He is visiting the nations of the earth with His judgments and destruction.

God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 7, 1963, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

The time is far spent, my brothers and sisters. I feel that some of you are weary of hearing the word of God. I only desire, my brothers and sisters, to speak according to the will of God this afternoon. I have nothing in my heart but love for the building up and establishment of the Kingdom of God in the earth.

We have labored all the day long, week in and week out, month in and month out, year in and year out, to try to build up the faith of this people. Today we find we are in deep trouble.

The old Prophet Jacob stated that the hearts of women were broken because of the actions of their husbands. The Lord told him to tell the people that the reason for this was that they didn't understand the scriptures. I believe that is what is the matter with this people. Something is wrong somewhere, as President Musser has stated this afternoon. I don't desire to build upon any more or say any more than what has been said upon this subject. But the Lord has told us that we must do something about it. He plainly says in the scriptures that after the testimonies of the elders, "Then I will preach my sermon." Whenever the Lord has preached His sermon among the people, they have suffered, especially a rebellious people. We have had that stressed to us this afternoon. The scriptures are full of the promises of the Lord to the righteous. Why we can't be numbered with the righteous and reap the blessings of eternal life is the thing that I cannot figure. I do not know why men and women should rebel against a promise like that.

Enoch was a man that lived in a day like the day in which you live. He lived in a day of rebellion. But the scriptures tell us that he gathered around him enough righteous that the Lord took him and his people out of their midst, so that they would not sin again. They are off somewhere on a third part of the earth, and not just standing there waiting for the time to come to return.

When they return to this earth, they are going to inhabit a great part of it. It is going to be a great congregation.

The Lord has said that He was going to gather up as many of the remnant of Jacob as would come, and He would build a city upon which His glory would descend. After the city was built, then the time would come that He would carry His Gospel to the remnant of the people who He was speaking to--the Nephites. Then the time would come when He would carry His Gospel to all the scattered Israel, including the ten tribes of Israel.

What a golden opportunity, my brothers and sisters, this people have if they will purify their lives.

A few weeks ago, we undertook to look into a few of the rumors we heard in this place. Since that time, the bud that was about to break, broke and this thing has opened up like a great flower. Talk about a conspiracy. I am speaking of that word--I remember in 1944 when the officers came and picked me up, they read a little pamphlet to me called a summons. It said in that: “You are under arrest for conspiracy.” I wondered what I had conspired to do. I conspired to help to get out a pamphlet called TRUTH to try to get before the people the Celestial Law. That was the conspiracy we were arrested for. But today we find a conspiracy among this people to see to it that the Priesthood does not carry out the work that they have begun. The conspiracy got so great before we got a hold of it, that I don’t know what is going to happen before we get the upper hand of it, but I hope that we can overcome it, that we can redeem this people, at least enough of them so that the Lord can carry on His work.

Some time ago, we told you that the Lord wanted five hundred men that He could bank on, that He could put His trust in, that He could have confidence in, but I don’t know how many we can salvage. We are under strict instructions from the Lord to stamp out of our midst any iniquity that is in there, and when we find it, ask the people to repent. If they will not repent, cast them

out, He says. We attempted to do it, and the hearts of people rebelled. “Why did you cast him out? or her out? We will show you that you cannot do this to us and get away with it.” We have asked you to get the Spirit of God and keep it, but that feeling is not the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is to get behind the Priesthood and help them prepare a people that the One Mighty and Strong can use. He does not want only men, but he wants women that he can bank on. We still extend the invitation, as Brother Guy has said, to all who desire a blessing at the hands of the Priesthood to come and show their loyalty. Those who will not, will save the Priesthood a lot of embarrassment if they would please move out. They are not in harmony with the work of God. Go where you are in harmony! And live in peace, and quit having your hearts torn out Sunday after Sunday, month after month, and year after year.

Let us get the Spirit of God and keep it with us. Let us become that people from whom the One Mighty and Strong will choose when he comes to set the House of God in order. He is going to come, the Lord says, even if He has to gather up another people; but He told the Prophet Joseph Smith that this Gospel would not be taken from the earth again or given to another people until the sons of Levi offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. That does not say that this people who are in this audience today will all be there, or that they will be permitted to partake of the blessings pertaining to the establishment of Zion and the reign of peace in the earth. The Lord said, “They will cry peace, peace. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars in foreign lands, but little do you know the hearts of men in your own country.” I fear that little do we know the hearts of men in our own country today.

Now, I pray that the spirit of peace will settle upon us, that you will get out of your heart, every one of you, that feeling “that the servants of God are trying to lord something over us, and that we are not going to take it.” Let us stand up to the rack.

Let us carry out the injunction that the Lord has placed upon us and bring up a people that can be loved of the Lord. Let us stamp out of this place every bit of iniquity, so that the Lord can be pleased with us.

I don't want His judgments to settle down upon us, but I want to tell you one thing, that where there is much given, there is much expected. You can go into the history of God's people throughout the ages of time, and you will find great trials and tribulation have been heaped upon that people that have said that Jesus was the Christ then rebelled against His teachings. You don't need to take our word for it--just go take the words of the prophets of old and look back over the history of this people since the Prophet Joseph Smith and see what has happened because of rebellion.

I believe it was the Prophet Joseph that made the statement that if this people didn't repent and walk up to the line, they would be driven from pillar to post until the enemy had hunted down every Latter-day Saint that dare say that Joseph was a prophet.

It has been stated here today what they did to this people in our day. Now, the Lord has again promised us a day of vengeance if we do not repent. Have we forgotten what has transpired in the past, and are we going to go our way? I don't want to pass through those things again. I will if I have to, but I hope the Lord doesn't bring it upon us. I hope we can catch the spirit of this work quick enough to bring about a condition here where the enemy cannot come in, not even the imps of hell and get into the hearts of the people again. I don't want to fight that kind of people, that kind of a warfare. The warfare that I want to fight is for the King of Israel--Jesus Christ!! We have got people here that tell us that we are off our base, that we have got no right to curtail the enjoyment of our children--we were once young like they

are. We had our time, and they have got a right to it now. Those people's children are getting out of line.

So let us get the Spirit of God and keep it. I trust that the spirit of peace will settle upon us and that we will hasten to clean up our houses insofar as immorality is concerned. If there is anything that is against the teachings of the Gospel of Christ in our homes or in the community, we need to clean it out.

I don't wish to say any more, but God bless you, and help us to carry out the work that we have to do, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 21, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, we have enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon. We have been instructed by the servants of God and had our prayers answered. When we commenced this meeting, we anticipated a nice little drenching as we have had sometimes before. I was glad when President Musser informed the Lord that his top was thin and for Him to stay the rain while he spoke, because He recognized the significance of the occasion and the great instruction that this man has given us.

Now, I hope we can still enjoy the blessings of God while enjoying a few minutes of this nice cool after the sprinkle.

I trust that the Lord will dictate what few words I say this evening. I was reminded of a passage of scripture while the brethren were speaking. I do not know that I can quote it exactly, but I can give you an idea of what I want. The Lord said that as man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become. Now, there are a few people who stop long enough to recognize what this means.

I was reminded of an incident that happened when I was growing up. I had to take over the reins of government in my mother's home when I was a very small boy, about twelve years old. I was fourteen when my father died, but he spent the last seven years of his life, as I have said before, in a wheelchair. But it was my good luck to be the farmer on our little twelve acre farm.

We raised a couple acres of wheat. After we got it threshed, it was quite smutty. Mother didn't want to be beat altogether in the transaction, so she washed the wheat to get the smut out of it. She did a very good job, because it blacked almost every kernel in the wheat pile. After she had properly dried it, she had me sack it up again and sent me to the gristmill. Well, I didn't know what a gristmill was. I had never been in one, but I was anxious to know how they made flour. So, I took this load of wheat over and told the miller that I had a load of wheat and that I wanted to trade it to him for some flour. He came out, opened

one of the sacks and looked at it. He said, “I can’t use this wheat.” I said, “Why not?” He said, “What in the world did you wash the wheat for? That is my job. I wash the wheat.” I said, “Well, it had a lot of black kernels in it. We wanted to get rid of them, and that was the only way we could figure to do it.” “Well,” he said, “You did a good job. You made it so I cannot make flour out of that wheat.” I thought he was going to turn me away without any flour. I was anxious to go through his mill. I thought that was a wonderful thing to see all that machinery going in there and see the big stack of flour he had and all. I wanted to know more about it.

After he had given me a good chiding for allowing my mother to wash the wheat, he said, “Maybe I can use it for pig feed or something that way. If you will drive around to that platform, I will take the wheat out of your wagon and give you a little flour to take home.”

Then he showed me through his mill. Boy, I thought, I would like to be a miller and see all that white stuff coming out of the sacker into the sacks, watch the bran go off in one way and the shorts in another. I went home with the impression on my mind that I would like to be just like that old miller. He was an old man, a kind man. He treated me kindly, but he knew how to chide the wrongdoers.

In thinking over this, I thought how much it compared with what the Lord said: As man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become. This little schooling that we are going through here today is only the beginning of fulfilling that passage of scripture. We are here beginning to learn how to become like God.

Brother Musser is having printed a book called “Adam, Our Father and Our God.” There are many people who don’t believe that Adam was once a man like we are. They think he was some great spirit that was off over there some where that went through a college and learned how to start the population of the earth and be

something--I don't know what they have in their minds--to be some foreign element that doesn't pertain to Godship, or something else.

I am glad that this doctrine has been very ably explained through the sermons of our predecessors, our leaders throughout the generations that have just preceded us from the Prophet Joseph until now. The Prophet Joseph Smith was the man that advocated the doctrine in this day that Adam was once a man like we are, and that He lived on an earth like this and earned the right, or went through this college of learning how to become like God is. When he learned that part--or that profession, he was permitted to go down with his brethren and build an earth. They went down with him, so the scriptures tell us, and showed him how to draw the elements together and build an earth. What for? To do like the man that presided over him had done. He said, "I do nothing save what I saw my Father do." That is what Christ said. That is what Adam said at one time. That is what you will say sometime. If you will listen to the teachings of the Priesthood, you will learn how to do just like Father did. The scriptures tell us that one God said to another, "Let us take this man down and show him how to build an earth, that he might have a place to put these spirits that he has learned how to create." So they went down.

Now whose right was it to preside over the spirits that were going to come to this earth? Was it the God that was over Adam, or was it Adam? He had learned to become a God. It is as plain as the nose on your face if you will just look at it right. We are only going through the motions here in this life. As man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become.

We come here, and we are taught the first principles of the Gospel: faith, repentance and baptism. We obey those first principles, then we are taught that there is a system of marriage that is essential to the exaltation and eternal life of man. So, we apply that to our lives. Through doing that, we are taught how to produce our kind here in this earth. What is the purpose of

marriage for time and eternity? The Latter-day Saints believe that it gives man a right to go on after this life and continue to produce. To produce what? I have been taught that after we go from here, we learn how to produce spirit children. That is a correct principle, because the Lord says that this law is for the exaltation and eternal life of man, and herein are My works continued. So it is just one continual round after another.

Adam went through this experience. He learned how to live the Celestial Law here. He learned how to bring children into the world. He learned how to apply to his life the Celestial Law and gather around him many wives and children here. After he left here, he was taught how to produce spirits for a kingdom of his own, or produce enough to go on from one world to another. We are told that He told the old Prophet Moses that He had many kingdoms, many worlds like this one, but He said, “Of this world only will I tell thee, Moses.” These are simple principles. They are simple to those who understand them. There is no reason why we cannot understand them if we will do the thing that the Prophet Moroni told us. He said, “All those who will read this record with a prayerful heart and a determination to know and understand under the Spirit of God will know that the record is true and the things it contains are of God.”

Now, all these principles, every principle that was given through the Prophet Joseph Smith for the advancement of man is true, and there is a way for man to find out. Every man has got to have a testimony of the truthfulness of this Gospel. My testimony won’t save you, and your testimony will not save someone else. My testimony might help you to gain a testimony for yourself that this doctrine is true. Now, we have been together a good long time, and the time is well spent. I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us, and that we will apply to our lives the many good things we have heard this afternoon. We have heard enough to keep us busy. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 18, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I have a lot of questions asked me from time to time that I cannot answer right on the spur of the moment. When I run across the answers, sometimes I can give them publicly and save everybody coming in and asking me over again. I will get my eyes out, and maybe I can see better. Paul says: “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I write unto you, for yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord cometh as a thief in the night.”

That question has been asked me, several times lately, where to find the scripture that says the day of the Lord cometh as a thief in the night. “For when they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape; but ye brethren, are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief.”

This Gospel that has been taught to us this afternoon is as old as the book. The old prophet, Alma, in the days of the Nephite nation, taught this same doctrine to his people. For he said upon one occasion, “This is the day to prepare to meet your God.” So the same Gospel that Adam taught his people in the Garden of Eden, the same Gospel that Noah preached to the people for a hundred and twenty years trying to get them to repent, was taught by Jesus Christ. It was taught again by Joseph the Prophet. It has been taught today by the servants of God. It would be well to read the 5th chapter of 1st Thessalonians. You will find there that the same things that were taught by Paul were taught here this afternoon by President Jeffs, Brother Timpson, and will be taught by the rest of the speakers this afternoon.

Somewhere in the scripture, the Lord says, “By their works ye shall know them.” We desire nothing, my brothers and sisters, but to teach you the truth.

Joseph Smith was asked how he governed his people. He said, “I teach them correct principles, and they govern them-

selves." So that is all we can do. We can teach you correct principles, and it is up to you to govern your lives. So the things that are being taught today are nothing more or less than have been taught throughout the ages of time.

I don't wish to speak any longer at the present time, so we will turn the time now over to Brother Musser. . .

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SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 22, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The testimonies of these men who have spoken should be a warning to every individual who heard them. If I remember right, the Lord said to Joseph Smith, “Go bear this testimony to the world, and all who will believe and accept your testimony will be saved, but those who reject it will be damned.”

I wonder how many in the room heard President Timpson speak tonight. These same words have been spoken in my hearing for more than twenty years by this body of Priesthood. I used to hear them when I was a boy, but it was more of a whispered testimony than an outspoken one like we heard tonight. This order of Priesthood is trying to get before the world the testimony that Joseph Smith was commanded of the Lord to teach the world. But I wonder how far-reaching it is. It will be twenty years on the eighth day of next March when this Priesthood Council was brought out into the open and published to the world, not because the Priesthood wanted to be made known, but because the Lord wanted us to come out of hiding. He wanted that testimony given to the people.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had removed from the homes of the Latter-day Saints the testimonies of the early leaders of this Church--this Priesthood, and the Kingdom of God. They gathered up their literature and burned it, so they could not get it. So, it is not because the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the world do not know about the Priesthood or its operations, it is because of their willingness to reject the testimony of Joseph Smith and seal their damnation. How many of you are going to seal your damnation by not paying attention to the testimonies that were borne to you tonight? I wonder how many of you caught what President Musser said. If persecution is at our door, it is the only recourse that the devil has at the present time to get at this Priesthood.

I was amazed, my brothers and sisters, at the words of President Kennedy before the council of United Nations. He made a statement something like this: The U. S. has withdrawn from the race to get to the moon, and they are going to stay withdrawn from the competition. He said, I believe that we ought to keep trying to get to these solar systems, these other planets, but not in the way that we have been trying to get there. He said, I want these nations of the earth to understand that the U. S. stands for unity, not for competition. When Russia and the other nations of the earth will cooperate with the U. S. in exploring the solar systems, then we will participate with them. It is the only way we will ever get there. We will not get there through competition. He went on to say further that the U. S. had committed many wrongs against religious liberty, and he named a dozen other organizations that the U. S. government had discriminated against. But he said, I want you to know that the U. S. is doing all it can to right those wrongs. Every religious organization has a right to their beliefs.

So, there is no way left to get at this Priesthood but through persecution. The words of Attorney General Budge still linger in the minds and hearts of many people--that wherever the people who are trying to live the Celestial Law are found, those around them should make it so miserable for them that they cannot live. It is the only recourse they have.

Since 1944, the Journal of Discourses, the testimonies of the early prophets, leaders of this Church and Priesthood have been republished and scattered, not only among the believing members of the people, but among the Church. So, they have no excuse. The President of the Church announced that the Church had struck hands with the wicked. They are willing to cooperate with the destruction of the Celestial Law.

For twenty years now, this Priesthood has been trying to prepare a people. How many have we got prepared? Can five hundred

men be called who can stand shoulder to shoulder and say, “I am ready to place my all at the hands of the Priesthood,” and come up to the mark and have perfect confidence in one another? If we have that many men, you can expect anything to happen. We will have many men when persecution starts that will say, “I would like to be with you, but I cannot stand what I see coming.” They try to get away from it, but what does the Lord say? They will not be able to get away. Let us take stock of ourselves, my brothers and sisters, and see wherein we can improve our lives that we might be prepared. What for? To receive the protection which God has offered to the saints in the day in which we live. He said, “I will protect my saints if I have to send fire from heaven to do so.”

Are you a saint? Are you a half believer? Quarter believer? A third believer? Or just an investigator? And yet believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God? How many returned missionaries have we in the room that believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and have not come up and put on the full armor? Are you still saints or are you not?

There are returned missionaries in this room tonight who will be glad to carry the tale of what they have heard here to the authorities of the Church. Do they believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet when he said that he saw the Ancient of Days standing at the pulpit in the Kirtland temple? How many Latter-day Saints believe it? Who is the Ancient of Days? Is He some unknown being? That is what the Church says. They say it was not Adam; but if I understand the scriptures right, it was Adam.

I don’t care what the Church says. Whoever their spies are, they can go back and tell President MacKay that if they want to. They are here tonight. They can put the question to President MacKay--just who was the man that stood at the pulpit that the Prophet called the Ancient of Days?

My brothers and sisters, the testimonies that have been borne here tonight are true, Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and

this is the work of God handed down to us by Priesthood descent. We cannot preach any other Gospel. Why? Because we have taken on the armor of Christ. Christ says, “My sheep know my voice and no other will they follow.” May God bless you, I humbly pray, and give you a testimony of this work, that you will hasten to prepare yourselves against the day of visitation that President Musser spoke about. I do this, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 6, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The time is far spent and well spent. Brother Hammon voted me down. I don't know whether you caught all he said to you or not. I caught a few of the things he told you that are truth. There are not any of us that will live to see peace. Yet, the Lord has said we would enjoy a thousand years of it. What President Hammon meant was peace with the world. The greatest enjoyment of my life was the peaceful feeling that I felt when the law dragged me off to jail, knowing that I was going to jail for a righteous purpose, trying to get close to the Lord and get His Spirit and keep it.

There have been a few times in my life when my blood has run cold. When I say that, I mean cold! It was almost frozen. One of those times was tonight when I read this little statement of President Moyle's. Another time was in 1953. One Sunday morning, I happened to be in Phoenix, Arizona, waiting for the time to arrive when I could go among our people and visit some of them. I thought I would turn on the radio, and I heard President MacKay say: "I want the people to understand that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is in full harmony with the actions of the state of Arizona in the Short Creek episode." I think if blood could freeze, mine froze that morning. I knew what it meant. It meant that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had fully rejected the Celestial Law. That is what it meant.

President Brigham Young made this remark one time in one of his sermons. Speaking of the Millennial Reign--the thousand years of peace--he said, "You will live in despair of ever seeing wickedness completely done away with until the Lord sees fit to destroy the earth or the inhabitants thereof."

Joseph Smith said that in the generation in which he was living there were those living upon the earth whose eyes would not be closed in death until all these things would come to pass. He had been telling them of the great destruction that would take

place just prior to the building of the New Jerusalem. Christ said to the Nephite people that He would take the remnant of Jacob and invite all the remnant of the House of Israel that would come to join them, and they would build a city which should be called the New Jerusalem. "Then," He said, "My work will commence in carrying my Gospel unto the remnant of this people. Then will the work commence among my people, 0 House of Israel, in carrying the Gospel unto the tribes that have been lost. Then will the work of the Father commence in carrying the Gospel unto all the nations of the earth and to all the House of Israel to gather them in to the New Jerusalem--all who will accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

So, the only place that there will be peace during the thousand years of the Millennium will be among the Saints of God, or upon the land of Joseph--the American Continent. It will take the full North American Continent to hold the people when the ten tribes of Israel are brought back. It will take a long time to convert all the people that will need to be converted to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But where the Saints of God are, there will be a cloud hanging over them by day and a pillar of fire by night. What for? To protect them from the evils in this day in which we live, so says the Prophet. And men will look on with amazement. They will say, "Let us not go up to battle against Zion, because the armies of Zion are terrible."

It is a great thing, my brothers and sisters, to witness the fear that comes upon men when God puts fear into them. Attorney Bollinger was a very brave man when he was backed up by the law and had the judge and the jury close around him where he could look at them once in a while; he could plead a case pretty well. Millard Black was the deputy sheriff one time. Millard happens to be in the house tonight, so I will tell this story. He said, "I got a note from Bollinger today wanting me to meet him over to Pipe Springs. Would you like to ride over with me?" I said, "Yes, I will ride over with you." So, we started out.

Mr. Bollinger got into Pipe Springs, but he felt so uneasy that he didn't wait there for Millard. He thought he would go on a ways and meet him on the road; so he did. He met him way out in the desert between Pipe Springs and Short Creek. He drove up, and we stopped. Millard got out of the car. Mr. Bollinger got out. He said, "Who is that you have with you?" Millard said, "That's Roy Johnson." Bollinger said, "Here's these papers." He shook like a leaf. He could not keep the papers still. He said, "You sign them for me. I can't sign them. You take them. I haven't got time to talk with you." I never saw a car leave the country any quicker than his did trying to get out of there. He was just scared to death to meet a man from Short Creek.

Just a week or so before that, he was in Short Creek holding court over President Barlow and Price Johnson and Carling Spencer. President Musser was the counsel for the brethren, and he entered a demur in the case, on the ground that the warrants were based upon belief and not on knowledge. The Justice of the Peace acknowledged the demur and dismissed the case. So, while Brother Bollinger was getting his papers ready for a new arrest based on knowledge, we slipped the prisoners out of the road and put them on their way. Brother Barlow's case was dismissed entirely, so he got out of it. The other two men had to flee for their lives.

Well, the word went out over the radio that the "desperados" had "flew the coop, were up in the hills surrounded by Indians and couldn't be found by the sheriff's posse" trying to find them. That scared Brother Bollinger till he did not dare come back to Short Creek anymore. He never came back either--anymore. But the fear of God, when it is placed in a man, is something terrible.

So, if we don't want to shiver and quake, we had better get close to the Lord and get His Spirit, that when He commences His judgments around us, here closely, we will be in a shape so we can stand the onslaught; because they are coming.

I thought I would read just a little if I had the chance tonight on this subject that Brother Moyle spoke about--being such a righteous people. You know, in 1831, the Lord gave to the people the law of Consecration. He told the people that He required that they give of their substance to the poor and the needy. The portion that He required from them was one-tenth of all their annual increase. In the first place, He wanted a consecration of all their property, and after that, one-tenth of their annual increase. If there was anything left after that was paid, He wanted that, too; after their needs were taken care of. He said very specifically that He required the people to take care of their actual needs. At the time the law was given to the people, Joseph was immediately confronted with the questions: How much am I required to give? How much am I required to hold back for my needs? How much am I required to give? Joseph replied that to answer that question would be giving him more power than a king. The Lord expects every individual to be his own judge in these matters. A man knows what it will take to keep him from one pay day to the next; and if he is honest with himself and the Lord, he will not hold back any more than he actually needs for his existence. The rest of it belongs to the Lord.

Now, after that was given, the Lord said this:
(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 84:47-57)

> “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--
>
> 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--”

Where can we find a people, even among the Latter-day Saints, that have repented and remembered the Law of Consecration as it was given by the Lord. This that I read to you was given about a year after the Law of Consecration was given. A year later, the Lord told the people that they were nigh unto cursing because they had treated lightly this law. Then again a little later, He told the people that the least He would accept of them was one-tenth, which is a tithing--what we call a tithing. If they didn’t give one-tenth, they were a cursed people. True, the Church is one of the richest organizations there is on the earth today, because of the great amount of donations that are given, together with the interest on the money that has been invested here and there and that they have been able to borrow.

A great responsibility rests upon us, my brothers and sisters. The old prophet said that this is the day in which to prepare to meet our God--the day that we are living in. We cannot expect somebody else to live the Celestial Law for us after we have been here and had the chance and had these testimonies borne to us.

We cannot expect to slide along through life, and then have somebody else do the work for us, afterwards. That is not what the Lord intended when He sent us down here. We told Him over there that we would come down and live these laws. “Just give us a chance and see if we won’t.” So, He sent us down here. We are not here by chance. We are here by choice! We understood the plan of salvation before we left the other side, and we asked the Lord for the chance to come down here and try our strength and see if we could work out our salvation. We came down here, and the Lord has sent prophets among us and told us what the law is. He told the Prophet Joseph to go bear this testimony to the world. “And all who will accept it will be saved, and those who reject it will be damned,” saith the Lord, God. These things are true. The things you have heard tonight are true.

I don’t feel to keep you any longer. I ask the blessings of God to settle upon you, each and every one. Let us try to get ourselves in a condition so the Spirit of God can bear sway, that we can be protected, not only in a physical way, but in a spiritual way, also, that we might be able to command the spirit of revelation to that extent that we can understand the principles of salvation. God bless you, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 20, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

This is a wonderful day, my brothers and sisters, when we can listen to such instructions. What a golden opportunity we have to straighten up our characters and to assimilate them into the character of our Father in heaven. It is simple. It has been told to you by all of the speakers tonight in their sermons to love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength; and to love thy neighbor as thyself. The greatest obstacle that our people have to mount is envy. We see someone have something and we, ourselves, cannot help but envy them for the things they have--jealousy, in other words. These are some of the destroying elements of our characters. If we can get rid of them, then we can commence to feel we are beginning to assimilate our characters into the character of our Father in heaven.

The world loves its own, so says the Lord. You only have to go out and mingle with a few of our neighbors, and you will find that the world loves its own. Men say that we are great men, we are honest, upright citizens, but the minute we begin to exert our feelings that we want to assimilate our characters into the character of our Father in heaven, then we are criticized; and the first thing we know, our characters are belittled. So the things we have heard tonight are the staff of life. It is the kind of food that has been fed to the saints ever since the beginning of time. Those who have listened and tried to put into their characters the words that have been spoken tonight are those that have been honored of the Lord. We have been told over and over again these same things. Still they are music to our ears and we like to sit and listen to them, but it is those who are doers of the word that get the blessing. So, let us be doers of the word and not listeners only.

Our time is well spent and far spent tonight. We have received the word of the Lord to us. My only desire now is to leave our blessings with you. For we only desire that you be built

up in your characters to that extent that when we go on the other side, we can meet you again. We hope to be here to instruct you under the inspiration of the Lord until He is ready to call us home.

Now, may God’s blessings be upon you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 3, 1963, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I only feel to say amen to what has been said. You have had delivered to you this afternoon the revelations of heaven. Don't think for a moment that what you have heard is sacrilege in the sight of Christ, for it is truly praise to Him.

President Musser mentioned that we have seven generations in the Celestial Law represented in this community. Do you know what that means? The Lord said that the sins of the fathers will be visited upon the heads of the children unto the third and fourth generations of them that hate me. Just seven generations ago, men had been faithful in keeping the law that was given to them for the exaltation and eternal life of man. How many, if they had been faithful, would there be singing praises to God as you have heard here this afternoon? Think of it. How long, Oh, how long are we going to have to wait to bring up a royal Priesthood that God can use? Our hearts bleed, my brothers and sisters, for the generation in which we live.

We know that the generation in which we live is the most wicked since the days of Noah. Yet, one of the apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made the statement just a day or two before he died that the generation in which we lived was the most righteous since the days of our Father Adam.

I want to leave my blessings upon you, as far as it is my right to bless this people. For when I go and meet the brethren on the other side, I want to be able to carry a favorable report of the people who came under the jurisdiction of this Priesthood.

Now, may God bless us and help us to apply to our lives the instructions that we have received this afternoon, that we may not be found wanting when the Lord comes to make up his jewels. I invoke the blessings of God upon you all, each and every one, especially these young children who are being born under this covenant, that they might grow up in the fear of the Lord.

I invoke the blessings of God upon those whose feelings are not altogether in harmony with what they have heard this afternoon, that they might get them straightened out, and that all might be able to sing Hosannah, Hosannah to God in the highest. May God bless you, my brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 17, 1963, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am very pleased to be here and listen to the word of the Lord to us. I have nothing in my heart but to see this people prepare themselves for eternal life. I cannot help but reflect upon the words of the Lord to our dear prophet, the Prophet Joseph Smith, when He gave the commandment to him to bear his testimony to the world; and all those who would accept his testimony would be saved, and all who would reject it would be damned.

When Joseph set up this work, the Lord gave him commandments to follow. He did not set it up according to his own will, but he followed the direction of holy angels to set this work in order. He gave the people the word of God--step by step--for their salvation. Through doing that, he gave his testimony to the world. It has been a good deal over a hundred years now since the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the restoration of the Priesthood. It has been a good long time since the Lord made this statement through the mouth of His servant, the Prophet Joseph.

When the angel laid his hands upon Joseph’s head to restore the Aaronic Priesthood, he told him that this 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. Soon after that, he received the Melchizedek Priesthood under the hands of Peter, James and John who rightfully held those keys. He bore testimony to the world that the Lord promised him that if he was faithful, he would be an instrument in His hands in restoring the true Gospel to this generation in which we live. Just prior to his death, he told his council that he had gathered around him that there were those living at that time whose eyes would not be closed in death until this land would be prepared for the redemption of Zion.

The Lord promised the Prophet Joseph as early as 1836 that if he could find five hundred men who would be faithful and go

up without murmuring to the land of Zion, He would redeem it then. He could not find them, but out of that march was chosen the leadership of the Church and the Priesthood. From that time until this, this Gospel has been preached to the world. It has not been taken away, nor given to another people.

I like to give the word of God as He gave it to the Prophet Joseph. As early as 1832, the people being so stubborn in their actions against applying to their lives the Gospel as it was given to them through the Prophet Joseph, the Lord placed the whole Church under condemnation. I give this to the people very often because I can see a dilatory people. Out of all these years that have passed since the Prophet Joseph Smith, there are only a very few that are able to comprehend that this whole Church is under condemnation and will remain there, says the Lord, until they repent. In Section 84, the Lord says this:

(Verses 47-57)

> "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--

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."

Again, the Lord says:
(Section 131:1-4)

"In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;

And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood (meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage);

And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.

He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase."

This commandment was given in 1843. Again, in 1843, the Lord said this:
(Section 132:4-6)

"For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

For all who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that

> blessing, and the conditions thereof, as were instituted from before the foundation of the world.
>
> And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fullness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fullness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God."

So, these commandments which the Lord gave to this people are necessary for the salvation of His children. It doesn't make any difference which one it is. In St. Matthew, we read that if a man breaks the least of these commandments, he is guilty of the whole.

I was talking with a man a few days ago. He said, "Roy, why don't you come back and take your place in the Church? There is no use of your hanging on to just one little old flimsy principle of the Gospel and discarding all the rest." He said, "My heart has bled for your condition. I have lost sleep. I have laid awake nights worrying about your condition, because you hold continually to one little ol' principle of the Gospel and discard everything else."

I said: "My dear brother, if you would obey that one little ol' principle that I hang to, you would have to live every other principle that God has revealed to the children of men in this day. For, you cannot believe that principle and discard any of the others. You cannot do it!"

In the first place, I could not cling to that principle and live it unless I had first been led into the waters of baptism. I would never have that blessing administered to me unless I honored the Priesthood that I held. I never could get into the Celestial Kingdom unless I prepared myself for a Celestial Glory. How in the world can I do it without living all these other commandments that God has given? So, I said, "You had better quit

worrying over me and commence to worry over your own salvation. Maybe it is your own condition that you are worrying about more than mine."

This is something to worry about. The things I have read here to you tonight--volumes could be written on it. Why? Because we have treated lightly the things we have received. One of the most lightly treated commandments that the Lord has given us is to prepare ourselves to receive the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Men can ask for baptism. They can come up and say, "We have repented of our sins. We believe the testimony that you have borne. Now we are ready for baptism." We can take them down into the waters of baptism, and when we bring them up, we lay our hands on their heads and promise them the gifts of the Holy Ghost. But when we administer that ordinance to them, they covenant with the Lord that they will forsake all their sins, and they will do nothing from that time on to displease the Lord. For, the Lord promised that their lives should be washed clean of the sins of this generation. If they are true and faithful, they can have access to the gifts of the Holy Ghost, but we find ourselves falling back into the old rut. The first thing we know, we are treating lightly that ordinance of the Gospel. It is no wonder that the people cannot get the Spirit of God and keep it.

I was confronted the other day with another subject. I read a letter that was written to a member of my family. "You don't know what you are missing. You ought to come and be ushered into the Church of the Firstborn."

President Heber C. Kimball, at one time, offered a prayer at the family altar. He prayed for his enemies, then he started to laugh. He said, "Excuse me, Lord, but it makes me laugh sometimes when I pray for my enemies." I had to smile at this letter.

I wonder if we understand how we are going to get into the Church of the Firstborn. There might be some of them here

tonight, but they are going to get what the Lord says about it. Do you realize that every man that receives the ordinance of baptism has already taken a step towards the Church of the Firstborn. I wonder how many people believe it. There is only one baptism, but there is a whole lot of preparation that has to be made before men can attain to that high and glorious order of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 76:50-52)

> "And again we bear record--for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the Gospel of Christ concerning them who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just--
>
> They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name, and this according to the commandment which he has given--
>
> That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power."

Do you get it? You have got to first believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then repent of your sins, and then be baptized after the manner of His burial, and have hands laid upon you for the gifts of the Holy Ghost.

(Verses 53-70)

> "And who overcome by faith, and are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true.
>
> They are they who are the church of the Firstborn.
>
> They are they into whose hands the Father has given all things--

They are they who are priests and kings, who have received of his fullness, and of his glory;

And are priests of the Most High, after the order of Melchizedek, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the Only Begotten Son.

Wherefore, as it is written, they are gods, even the sons of God--

Wherefore, all things are theirs, whether life or death, or things present, or things to come, all are theirs and they are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

And they shall overcome all things.

Wherefore, let no man glory in man, but rather let him glory in God, who shall subdue all enemies under his feet.

These shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ forever and ever.

These are they whom he shall bring with him, when he shall come in the clouds of heaven to reign on the earth over his people.

These are they who shall have part in the first resurrection. These are they who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just.

These are they who are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly place, the holiest of all.

These are they who have come to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of Enoch, and of the Firstborn.

These are they whose names are written in heaven, where God and Christ are the judge of all.

These are they who are just men made perfect through Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out

> this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood.
>
> These are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God, the highest of all, whose glory the sun of the firmament is written of as being typical."

The only way, my brothers and sisters, that you will ever become a member of the Church of the Firstborn is to apply to your lives every principle that God has given for the salvation of man. First, we go into the waters of baptism, and we have hands laid upon us, and the Lord promises us the gift of the Holy Ghost if we will keep ourselves clean; because we are cleansed from the sins of the generation in which we live. There is no other way. By keeping the commandments of God, as this commandment says, we can go on and attain these great blessings through honoring our Priesthood and preparing ourselves to become gods and sons of God. It is the only way that men will ever attain to the Church of the Firstborn.

Men can organize. They can go on and pretend this and pretend that. According to the words of the Prophet Joseph, any man has a right to go out and organize a church if he can get followers. It doesn't make any difference what kind of church you organize in this day, you can get followers. But if we want to be saved in the Celestial Kingdom of our God, we must apply to our lives the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. The Lord says in here that it is the only way! The only condition under which Zion can be redeemed is upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom.

First, we must repent of our sins. Second, we must enter into the waters of baptism for the remission of our sins. Did we ever stop to think a little upon what that means?--to have our sins remitted. This Gospel of Jesus Christ is a great thing. It is the greatest thing that ever came to this earth--the opportunity to forsake the sins of evil and apply to our lives the principles of

righteous living. It is the only way we will ever get back into the presence of our Father.

Now, let us listen to what the brethren have to tell us whenever we come out to these meetings. Let us begin to realize that we have a responsibility with the Lord to come up to the line, that we might be able to command the blessings that He has offered to us through righteous living. Let us not be found wanting.

I pray that the spirit of peace will be with us, because the Spirit of God is the spirit of peace. That is what we are working for--the Spirit of God continually working with us that we might go on and purify our lives that the Lord might be able to use us in His work.

May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 5, l964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is good to be here, my brothers and sisters, enjoying the cold outside. The Lord has certainly been kind to us to provide a place for us to gather into.

I am happy, my brothers and sisters, to be with you again and to partake of this wonderful feast we have had this evening. We have had an outpouring of the Spirit of God, and these brethren have given you His word to us.

We are continually confronted with ideas of men regarding the revelations of God. We want to draw your attention to the fact that we are only trying to teach people to prepare themselves according to the revelations that were given to the Prophet Joseph Smith and handed down to us through the testimonies of the men who were acquainted with him and men who were taught by him, as also his own testimony. We are not trying to interpret the scriptures other than the way the Lord has put them; for He has said: “Haven’t I given my word in great plainness, so that a child could understand?” So, as far as we are concerned, there is no argument. The testimony of Joseph Smith is sufficient for the salvation of the human family at the present time until they learn to govern themselves in the order that the Lord commanded him to teach his people how to govern themselves, and that is by teaching correct principles.

I have been accused of being ashamed of my religion because I will not argue with the dissenters of Mormonism, men who have pulled away and been a law unto themselves and attempted to set up new organizations. In speaking upon this subject, Brother Barlow said, “We are not trying to set the Church in order, but we are trying to keep alive the principles which were once delivered to the saints.” That is what we are trying to teach the people, whether we get many followers or not. We know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and he was commanded of the Lord to bear testimony to that effect. He saw the Father and the Son, and he

was given commandment to teach the people and to prepare them for the great Millennium, that they might be prepared to receive the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, meaning to purify their lives, rid themselves of the sins of this generation and assimilate themselves into the character of our Father in heaven who once dwelt upon an earth like this one and worked out His salvation in fear and trembling, as we are trying to do today. So, my only desire and wish is, my brothers and sisters, that you listen to the testimonies that are borne to you by the Council of the Priesthood in this day and try to change your characters, that God might use you in the establishment of His work.

He told the Nephite people that He would call upon all the House of Israel that would come to come and assist in the building of a temple in the city which would be called the new Jerusalem. That was the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith to prepare a people that God could use in the establishing of His great work. He even went so far as to tell Joseph that if he could find so many faithful men that would go up to Zion without murmuring, He would redeem Zion even in that early hour of the existence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but He had to delay the work to some future time when a people could be prepared for that labor. He also told them that there were those living upon the earth whose eyes would not be closed in death until these things would come to pass. His servants today are laboring hard to prepare a people to receive these great and glorious blessings. What a golden opportunity you have!

I pray that you will hasten to prepare yourselves and set an example before the rest of the world that will be acceptable unto our Heavenly Father, and I invoke the blessings of God upon each individual who will labor with himself to bring about these conditions in our lives, that we might be able to be partakers of the glorious gift. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 19, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, this is a great pleasure for me to be here this evening and to partake of the spirit of this meeting with you. The Lord has been very kind to us to again allow us to assemble ourselves together under such favorable circumstances.

We have seen many changes in our ranks since I first got acquainted with this work. I have seen the prophets of God placed in the jail cells, and they have had to live there. I have seen their health broken down because of persecution, because of the worry. They have died martyrs to the cause. I have seen our people torn from their homes, bound in prison, women held in custody by the state, with their children, under threat of having their children torn away from them. I have seen the hand of God made manifest in restoring them to their homes once again. I have seen the laws broken under which they pretended to take our people away from us and imprison them. So we have seen many changes in this short life that we have lived. Yet, the Lord has sustained us in our efforts to restore order in our ranks and to gather around us again a body of men and women trying to prepare a people that He can use in His great work of redemption.

In 1836, the Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that He would then redeem Zion if he could find five hundred men that would be faithful in all things. But the Prophet couldn’t find them. He had thousands of men and women who had accepted the Gospel, who claimed that they had accepted the testimony of Jesus Christ through the Prophet Joseph Smith, but he couldn’t find five hundred men that would be faithful in all things. The Lord finally told him if he could find two hundred, He would yet redeem Zion, but he couldn’t find that many. We are trying, today, to prepare men for the building up and establishment of God’s Kingdom in the earth, for the One Mighty and Strong to use in the redemption of Zion. But you couldn’t go throughout the vast realms of the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and gather that many men together that would be faithful in all things. Why? Because they have rejected the testimony of Jesus. What did Christ tell the Nephite people? He told them that He was the prophet spoken of that would be raised up in the latter days like unto Moses who would lead the people. Then that prophet came forth and bore testimony to the world of the truthfulness of His Gospel that all who would believe would be saved and those who would not believe would be damned.

What did the Lord tell the Prophet Joseph Smith? Christ bore that testimony to the Prophet Joseph Smith and commanded him to go forth now and bear that testimony to the world, and all who would believe would be saved, and those who would not believe would be damned. How many have believed the testimony that Joseph bore? I don't know that you could find five hundred men from the days of the Prophet Joseph until now, if they were all here, that would be faithful in all things and the Lord could trust them.

The Lord is yet waiting for a people to be prepared for that great work. It has got to be accomplished, my brothers and sisters, for the Lord has spoken it. Christ, Himself, told the Nephite people that there would be a city built, and they would call it the New Jerusalem; and that city would be built before the great Millennial Reign. "After the city is built," He says, "then My work will commence among this people in carrying the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them." "Then," He says, "My work will commence among the Jews, among the lost tribes of Israel, and then it will go to all the kingdoms of the earth."

So the great missionary work has not commenced. It is true that the Prophet Joseph organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and he was commanded to send missionaries among the nations of the earth. For what purpose? To gather out those who would believe the testimony of Jesus as it was borne to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

The mission of this Priesthood is to keep alive the saving principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, namely, Plural Marriage and the United Order. Without these two principles, says Brigham Young, this Church cannot advance as God would like it to. He said again, “If ever this people become popular with the wicked, know ye then that the Priesthood of the Living God is out of their hands, which I hope never comes.” But it is here. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been made popular with the world. Then where is the Priesthood?

The servants of God are greatly concerned over the welfare of the saints at the present time and will continue to be concerned about them until the judgments of God are being poured out, not only upon the world, but upon this nation. They are coming, for the Lord has spoken it--not only through modern prophets, but through ancient prophets. They have all spoken about it. And today, He is urging us to urge you to prepare your hearts against the day of visitation.

The Lord says that the first and 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. On these two commandments hang the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The greatest obstacle that we have to surmount is jealousy--one of the greatest obstacles that this people has to climb over and to trod under their feet. We are jealous of one another. We see one person having a little more than someone else, and we are jealous over it. We have to express our thoughts, and our hearts are broken; then we criticize and we kick against the pricks, as the ancient prophet says.

These are some of the things, my brothers and sisters, that beset this people. These are some of the things we need to sharpen our minds upon. One of the greatest mistakes that we make is that we do not keep the commandment that was given to us by the

Lord--to pray always. We rely too much upon our own ability to combat the evils around us. We feel that we are self-sufficient. As one boy told me when I was talking to him, trying to get him to see the error of his ways, “I’m old enough to take care of myself.” You might be old enough to take care of yourselves, but we can’t take care of ourselves without the help of our Maker.

We should be our brother’s keeper. The Lord has said that if we labor all our lives and save, save it be one soul, how great will be our reward with that soul in the Kingdom of God. If we labor all our days, my brothers and sisters, and save our own souls, how great will be our joy with that soul in the Kingdom of God. He could have said it in those words, and it would have meant the same thing. But, too many people feel like their own soul is saved because they have gone into the waters of baptism and have had hands laid upon them for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

One of the greatest of all commandments the Lord has given to the children of men is the ordinance of baptism for the remission of sins. And every man, woman and child that has gone into the waters of baptism has automatically covenanted with the Lord that they would forsake their sins and do them no more. The Lord promises, in return, that He will give them access to the gifts of the Holy Ghost; but unless they keep themselves in a pure state of mind and body, what right have they to the gifts of the Holy Ghost? The Lord says, “If ye do what I say, then I am bound, but if ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.” Think it over!

So, the word of the Lord to this people is repent! Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins; then keep yourselves in a condition so that the Spirit of the Lord can dwell with you.

We are now starting out upon a new year. Let me ask you once more to lay aside all of your resolutions except one--**Get the Spirit of God and keep it.** God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 16, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am glad, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here again and partaking of the spirit of this meeting. Maybe some of you think that it is out of order in some phases, but we have a responsibility on our shoulders that is greater than any other people.

We are being looked upon as the most pure of any people upon the face of the earth, because we condone and try to teach the greatest principles that God has given to the children of men. Even those who fight us hardest know these things. They look to us as an example, as an exemplary people.

The things that the brethren have been talking about tonight are timely, because we have been accosted by men and women of this character among our people. So it is time we were cleaning house. The very best of us cannot say, "that doesn't fit me," or, "that doesn't belong to my family, or my house," because you don't know what is going on in your own home. So don't treat too lightly the things you have been told tonight.

To give you something to think about and to cheer you up for another month, I will give you an excerpt from Brother Young.

(J. of D. Vol. 10:288)

> "Instead of the righteous being bound tighter and tighter, they will continue to have more and more liberty, as we are more and more faithful, and obtain more power with the heavens and more of the power of God upon us. Let us seek diligently unto the Lord, until we obtain the faith of Jesus in its fullness, for those who possess this are free indeed."

(J. of D. Vol. 5:210)

> "Mormonism keeps men and women young and happy. And when they are full of the Spirit of God, there are none of them but what will have a glow upon their countenance.

And that is what makes you and me young, for the Spirit of God is with us and within us."

This is a glorious Gospel that we have embraced, my brothers and sisters. Let us keep it glorious. If we have misgivings within us, or any spirit in us that will tend to lead us to the ways of the world, let us get rid of them; for the Lord has said, "Come out of her, O ye, my people and be not partakers of her sins." And that is what we want.

If we are going to be Latter-day Saints, let us be Latter-day Saints! We don't have to be partakers of these things that destroy our character before our Father in heaven. The things that the brethren have been talking about have been the things that have destroyed many people and been the downfall of nations, let alone communities and families. There is nothing in the world that will destroy a family quicker than to be partakers of these evils that have been spoken about tonight.

Let us take courage. Let us repent of our sins. Remember this, the Lord has said that if we will repent, He will forgive us of our sins and remember them no more before His face. So, let us repent and get the Lord on our side, so that when these trials and tribulations come upon us, we can call on our Father for help, and He will be willing to give it to us. He has said, "I will protect my saints even if I have to send fire from heaven." But He won't protect those who disregard His teachings. He is speaking of those who do all they can to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections and sins of this world in which we live. So, let us be on the Lord's side. Let's not provoke again the servants of God to have to talk to us like they have tonight.

I pray that the Lord will bless us with the spirit of repentance, that every one of us will clean up our lives, that we can be a better people. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 22, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is good to be here, my brothers and sisters, and to partake of the Spirit of God with you. We desire to speak nothing in this meeting except it be dictated by our Father in heaven. So I sincerely ask that you will exercise your faith and prayers that we might be edified while we are here this evening.

The Lord has brought us together to hear His words. We are no different than any other people who have lived in days past as well as present who have gathered themselves together to hear the word of the Lord. We are here to be taught the principles of salvation. We cannot receive the word of the Lord to us unless we get our minds in a condition to receive that which the Lord has for us. This has been the trouble with people throughout the ages of time--people have gathered themselves together to be instructed and have not prepared themselves before hand to receive that which the Lord had for them, then they have not been edified to a point where they could grasp the word of the Lord as it was given to them. The servants of God have told us in times past that our minds would be darkened unless we could get the Spirit of God and keep it. President Jedediah M. Grant put it this way, “Their minds would become as dark as midnight unless they prepared themselves to receive the word of God”--or words to that effect. We do not want to become as dark as midnight regarding the principles of salvation. We want to be numbered among that people which the Lord has been striving these many years to bring up in these the latter days to assist in the redemption of His great work.

We are living in the latter days. When I speak this way, I mean in the latter days of the generations of the Gentiles, or in the times of the Gentiles. The Gospel first went to the House of Israel, and because they rejected it and would not receive it, it was taken from them. The promise was that in the latter days it would go to the Gentiles and give them a chance to accept or reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The mission of Joseph Smith was to

give to the Gentiles the truth and to prepare them for the coming of the Son of Man. His charge to the Prophet Joseph was to go bear that testimony to the world, and all who would believe would be saved; and all who would reject that testimony would be damned.

For over one hundred and twenty years, this Gospel has been given to the world, and how many people are being taught the truth? How many people are being taught the fullness of the everlasting Gospel today? How many have accepted? In times past, the Lord has given the people a chance to prepare themselves against the day of visitation. This doctrine has been given from the beginning of time until now. Enoch, we are told, was over three hundred years preparing a people that the Lord could receive. We don't know how many people Enoch took away with him. We have no record of it at the present time. But we do know that the Lord, since that time, has been trying to get the people to accept the Gospel as it is given in the day in which they live. We are told that we were given the fullness of the everlasting Gospel, or the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through the mouth of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Today we are trying to prepare a people for a work that has not yet been accomplished, and that is the redemption of Zion and the ushering in of the Millennial Reign. If we understand the Gospel right, that will include all the righteous that have lived upon this earth and prepared themselves for that day. Why do I believe this? Because the Lord has said that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. If that be a fact, then the people upon this earth must become righteous like unto people who have been exalted into the Celestial Kingdom. In other words, our mission here is to prepare ourselves for that glory.

In my study of the scriptures, I cannot help but believe that men can become righteous. Men can overcome their weaknesses, their imperfections and become like our Father and our God. He

did. He lived upon an earth like this. He went through the same trials and tribulations that we are going through today. He fought down the evils that came in His way. He overcame them. Christ set the example in our generation. He set the example and the history was made, and it has been handed down from generation to generation. All creeds who call themselves Christians believe that the story of Christ is true, but they don't know how to apply to their lives the principles that He lived; because they do not do the works that Christ did. Most every Christian creed, except the Latter-day Saints, claim that all you need to do is believe, and the sacrifice that Christ made will wash away your sins. But what do the Latter-day Saints believe, those who have not gone into darkness and have not had the Light taken away from them? Christ said, "He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him." So it takes work along with our faith in order to perfect us. We must work with ourselves in order to purge from our systems the traditions of our fathers for so many generations of time. We have imbibed the superstitions of the Gentiles for so long that we hardly recognize the evils that we commit or that beset us. So it takes work along with our faith to overcome these things.

I find in our midst, brothers and sisters, many things that are retarding the Spirit of God. We have been told ever since I have been acquainted with this work to get the Spirit of God and keep it. We have been told by the Prophet Joseph Smith that we are under condemnation because we have treated lightly the things we have received. If we are under condemnation and will remain there until we repent, then that is the word of the Lord to us.

It is our duty, my brothers and sisters, to take stock of ourselves and measure our everyday lives with the revelations of God and see wherein we have fallen down and have forgotten the true way of life. Every day we find someone who is committing evils that will destroy this people if they are not checked. They have

destroyed other people. They have destroyed nations. The greatest among them is adultery. An adulterous generation cannot survive if they do not repent. The Lord has plainly told us that if we will repent of our sins, He will forgive us and remember them no more before His face. He has also said that when we do what He says, He is bound; but when we do not what He says, we have no promise.

So we are living in a day when the Lord is trying to prepare a people. For what? To carry off the Kingdom. He has promised that this Gospel of the Kingdom shall never be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering to the Lord in righteousness. So we have a chance. It is our opportunity--now--to prepare ourselves to become the nucleus of the great and glorious Millennial Reign! But if we do not prepare ourselves for that and overcome our evil ways and weaknesses and imperfections and purify our lives so that we can have the Spirit of God with us continually, we will not survive the day of visitation that the Lord has promised to the generation in which we live except they repent. The prophets have said that they will not repent until it is too late.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the second coming of the Son of Man.” What happened in the days of Noah? People laughed at him and scorned him and did everything they could to stop him from building the ark, but he went on and built it. When the floods began to rise, when the waters began to rise and the rains continued, people began to repent and wanted to go into the ark, but the Lord provided an army to take care of the situation. Jasher tells us that the beasts of the forest came down and stood between the people and the ark and would not let them come near.

The Lord has many armies that He can raise up. He doesn’t have to kill people with the sword. He does not have to cause wars to come to destroy nations, but it is usually that way. The record tells us of two great nations that were destroyed--at

least all the righteous in one of them, and all the people in the other because of wickedness. These evils I have spoken about are the things that caused these nations to fall. If you will go back over the history and find where nations have fallen and gone out of existence, it has been because of the evils among them, the adulterous generation that rose up in those times. These are the things we must speak about when we are trying to prepare a righteous people.

We must work. The servants of the Lord work every day trying to teach people to overcome these evils. We cannot do very much about it unless the people try to do something for themselves. I have men come to me and want to know how they can overcome certain weaknesses that they have. In many cases, I have to answer them: No one can do you any good but yourself. You invited these weaknesses. You practiced them. Now no one can do anything for you but you. You will just have to make up your mind that you are going to overcome them, then quit doing them. Repentance means to cease to do the evil and never do it again, and then you will repent. When the Prophet Abinadi told the people of Noah of their wickedness, of their whoredoms, and told them they were an adulterous generation, it made them mad, because he revealed their secrets. They burned him at the stake. But that didn't save them. The people were destroyed as the prophet told them they would be if they didn't cease to do evil.

In our day, the Lord has said that He would raise up a righteous generation. And how can we become a righteous generation except we repent of our sins? If we don't repent, then we have no promise; for the Lord has told us that. So the message of the Lord today to the people is to repent of your sins and become clean before the Lord, that He might be bound to grant the blessings that He has offered to the saints in the latter days, and that is to protect them even if He had to send fire from heaven to do so when

the judgments of God are being poured out upon the generations of the earth.

I have been around enough. I have felt the pulse of the people until I know that this particular people have no friends in the earth today. Any man that believes that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and is trying to apply to his life the principles that he told us we had to live in order to get back into the presence of our Father, has no place in the hearts of the people today. This is the day when the devil is being given a full rope--a full length of rope--to try his power. The Lord has said: “My people shall be a tried people.” And we will be a tried people!

Those who go back to help redeem the center stake of Zion will be men and women who are tried and tested. Why? Because they will have to be the leaders of that great work. That job belongs to Ephraim. It does not belong to Judah or any other tribe, but it belongs to Ephraim. Judah received the promise that the scepter of power would never go out of his hands. But what power? The physical power that had to be exhibited among the children of Israel. But the power of the Priesthood was vested in Joseph, and it will never be taken away from him. Zion cannot be redeemed only by the power of the Priesthood. Men who hold the Priesthood have no business delving into these unrighteous practices.

We may think, brothers and sisters, that because we have had a little taste of persecution, because we gather together from Sunday to Sunday and hear the words of the Lord given to us and we back up the Priesthood with our faith and our prayers and our means that this is the only people upon the earth that the Lord loves. But, where much is given much is expected. And when we do not cleanse our lives as the Lord desires us to in order to bring about His purposes in the earth, He can very easily spew us out of His mouth and bring up another people.

Someone told us of the Journal of Discourses. Do you realize that the Journals are being sold outside this group of

people more than they are inside? Each one of us may have a set in our home, but hundreds of sets of Journals are going out among other people. And they are clamoring for them. The time has come when some people among the Latter-day Saints are wondering what is going on. So let us not be too sure that we are the only people on the earth that the Lord can raise up in this day.

Let us take on a new lease on life. Let us determine within ourselves that we are going to be numbered among that people that the Lord is going to use. Let us purify our lives that we might be counted worthy to demand the protection of our Father when we need it. Let us hasten to prepare ourselves against that great and dreadful day that the Lord has promised to this generation. He promised, through the mouths of His servants, that when the Saints go back to Jackson County there will not be anything left, not even a yellow dog to wag its tail. There are a lot of people back in that country now--an awful lot of them, but the time is very short. The Prophet Joseph told us in his time that there were those living whose eyes would not be closed in death until all these things come to pass. So time is short.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us, that we will hasten to cleanse ourselves from the evils that exist among us, and that we will be able to get the Spirit of God and keep it that we might be protected from one day to another. We can do it. One righteous man and the Lord is a majority. Remember the Lord will not allow a righteous man to lose his life unless He desires a witness.

Now, may God bless you, my brothers and sisters; and may we hasten to prepare ourselves against that great and dreadful day, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 5, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the opportunity once more of meeting with you and listening to the outpouring of the Spirit of God to you this evening.

In the face of all that has been said today in the conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I dare say that this has been the most inspiring part of the conference. I would to God that all the congregations of the Church had heard what has been said here tonight. Maybe some of us think that not much has been said that concerns the majority of the people of the earth today, but enough has been said tonight to this audience to condemn every person upon the earth except they do what has been told them to do.

The Lord says that He does not walk in crooked paths, but His work is one eternal round. The Prophet Joseph Smith was commanded to cry repentance to this generation, to turn away from sin and to accept the testimony of Jesus Christ. He was commanded to go forth and bear that testimony to the world; and all who would believe would be saved, and all who would not listen to it would be damned.

If you listened to the conference today, you heard almost every speaker mention the words of great philosophers of the earth of the different nations, and of the different orders that exist. But in all their sermons, I failed to hear the words of Brigham Young, or Heber C. Kimball mentioned--two of the greatest prophets of the latter days.

Tonight we have heard the testimonies of these men bearing testimony that the Holy Priesthood is here, and that we have the opportunity of aligning ourselves with it and gaining information whereby we might round out our salvation through fear and trembling. Too few people believe that the Priesthood has been taken away from the Church and is operating under some other order. Brigham Young made this statement: “If ever this Church strikes

hands with the wicked and becomes popular with them, know ye then that the Priesthood of the living God is out of their hands, which I hope never comes," but it is here.

President Heber J. Grant made this statement, before the Knife and Fork Club in New York City: I am glad to report that opposition has ceased to exist between the Church and the world. As much as to say that the Church of Jesus Christ has struck hands and is in full harmony with the wicked. There is very little Priesthood anywhere else to be found than among the people who are assembled in this home tonight and small groups in a few other places.

This people were placed under condemnation in 1832, because they had treated lightly the things they had received. I wonder how much they have received the ordinance of baptism. The Lord has revealed the economic order of heaven, and this particular order was lightly treated. By 1834, the Lord said that the people were nigh unto cursing because they had failed to accept this holy order, the order of consecration. In Section 119, the Lord told the people that the least He would accept of them was one-tenth of their annual increase. He placed them under obligation to accept that decree, or He would not own them. This people is still laboring under that condemnation that was placed upon the people, because they treat lightly the things they receive. The Latter-day Saints, in general, treat lightly the things they receive from their leaders.

Stress was placed upon the congregations of the Church today on morality, upon adherence to the word of God to condemn the whole congregation unless they turned over a new leaf and began to practice in their lives the words of those men; but few there were that could grasp the importance of the instructions given. The whole Church program in education is one of the greatest evidences of treating lightly the things they have received.

I am going to tell you a little story of what transpired in one of the communities of the Church when our people were taken and scattered among the people in 1953. The children were placed in school in the different communities. In the little town of Mesa, Arizona, where my children happened to be located, one of my boys came home and said, “Mother, they won’t let me take gym unless I dress out.” She said, “I don’t want you to dress out. Go back and ask the teacher if you can wear levis.” The teacher said, “No, you are going to dress out just like the rest of these boys.” Well, the boy left his levis on and went out on the grounds. He ran around with the other boys on the track. When the boy came in off the field, the teacher put him over a barrel and gave him a whipping with a razor strap. The boy got up and came home. He didn’t tell us about the whipping that he got at that time. He said that the teacher still wanted him to dress out. His Mother said, “No, John, I don’t want you to dress out. The Lord gave us these bodies to keep sacred and clean, and they are not to be exhibited before the public.” He went back to school the next day and came out with his levis on. Again, the teacher took him back and gave him another whipping. He said, “Are you going to dress out?” John said, “No. I don’t care how much you whip me. My mother told me that my body was not to be exhibited before the public.” So the teacher allowed him to wear his levis.

The next year, the other boy taking gym came home and said, “They want me to dress out.” His mother came to me. By this time, we had found out about the whippings of the other boy. Ralph didn’t know whether he wanted to take a whipping or not. So his mother came to me and said, “What shall we do about this?” “You just sit down and write a note to the teacher and tell him that it is your belief that one of the biggest reasons for juvenile delinquency is the fact that they are making the children dress out in school.” The boy took the note to the teacher and showed it to him--same teacher they had the year before. He read the note,

turned to Ralph, and said, “Get yourself a nice pair of levis. You won’t have to dress out.”

The Church will teach the importance of morality and decry against immoral practices. Then they will allow teachers to teach children that they can take off all their clothes but their shorts and parade among their kind upon the earth, and expect them to practice what they are taught by the authorities. They don’t know how to handle the situation.

One of the speakers spoke about the great divorce situation among the young people of the Church. They are married, and before they have lived together a month or two, they want to get divorced. What does Heber C. Kimball say about it? He said too much to please the authorities of the Church. He said that if they gave up the Celestial Law, their daughters would walk the streets as common harlots. That is what is happening today. They have allowed too much of these unholy practices to go on among their children, until they have made whoremongers and harlots out of their children. Then they wonder what is the matter.

Heber C. Kimball said in the old bowery: “You men and you women, who lift up your voices against that holy principle that has been introduced among this people, the time will come when your daughters will run these streets as common harlots, and you can’t help yourselves.” So there we are.

Brigham Young said, “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 who have proven themselves before Him.”

My brothers and sisters, all that we are trying to do is get a people to prepare themselves to receive the revelations that the Lord has given us in this day and age for our salvation. If we are under condemnation and will remain there until we repent, we have got to get out of our minds and our hearts the evils that

beset us and that are holding us back. We have got to quit treating lightly the principle of baptism. Do you know that when you go into the waters of baptism that you covenant with the Lord that you will never break His commandments again? That you will never condone in your home an unholy practice? or commit an unholy act? The things President Musser has been talking about tonight--envy and strife and all these other evils that beset the minds of our people, we have got to get over them.

Joseph F. Smith said something like this: “If there is anything that any of the authorities can do to cause us to apostatize or hold feelings toward one another, we need to be converted.”

This is the work of God that we are engaged in. Our salvation depends upon our actions in this great work. It is no wonder that the world is in the condition that it is today. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that if he could find five hundred men, He would redeem Zion as early as 1836. But Joseph could not find five hundred men. What was the word of the Lord to Lot when He destroyed Gomorrah? He said, “If you can find five hundred souls in the city that are righteous, I will save it.” And He kept coming down until He said, “If you can find ten, I will save it.” Lot could not find ten people that were righteous, so the Lord destroyed the city. He told the Prophet Joseph that if he could find five hundred men, He would redeem Zion; but he could not find them. So, He finally told him to gather up what he could, and He would still redeem Zion if they could go up without murmuring, but they could not do it. They allowed envy to enter into their minds, and they contended with one another.

Here is another principle. The Church has brought among the schools the spirit of contention. We have one basketball team contending against another. They can’t hold down their feelings. It hurts a man’s feelings to get outdone. They have had some pretty tough fights in this place. The police have had a pretty

tough time during the basketball games that we have had during this season. After the basketball game, they have to fight it out to see who is the best man. These contentions of one team contending against another are abominations in the sight of the Lord. He says: “Love one another.”

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.”

We have a job to do, my brothers and sisters, and it is a very humiliating situation that we find ourselves in today. A hundred years of tutoring, one hundred years of striving on the part of the head of the Priesthood to try to bring up a people that the Lord can use--and I doubt very much that we could gather up five hundred men through the length and breadth of Zion that the Lord could put His trust in and say, “Go do a work without murmuring” and have it done with that many men. I believe that the Lord could redeem Zion if there were five hundred faithful souls among us that could go and do the job.

Let us bring ourselves out from under this condemnation that is upon us. Let us labor day and night. Let us lose some sleep, if we have to, to bring about a condition among us that the Lord can smile upon us and keep us from being partakers of the sins of this generation in which we live.

Now, I humbly pray that we can go from these services with a greater determination to do something about our salvation, that we might be found in favor with the Lord when He pours out His judgment upon, not only the world, but upon this people; because we are going to be cleansed. Everyone who cannot apply to their lives the principles of righteous living, as has been pointed out to us from time to time, is going to be found wanting when the Lord pours out His judgment upon this nation; because the way must be prepared for the rise of the Kingdom of God. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 17, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We have been together for a good long time. We have had many truths given to us tonight, and the Spirit of God has been here to dictate this meeting. I trust that the few words I speak may be dictated by the Lord, for I desire to do nothing that will detract from what has been said and the theme of this meeting tonight.

I have been reminded tonight of many points of doctrine that this people should pay attention to. I would like to call your attention to one or two things while I have this opportunity. The Lord told us in the beginning of this dispensation that the Gospel is unto all men whether it be upon the isles of the sea or upon foreign nations or wherever they are. All who would believe the words of the Prophet would be saved, and those who would not listen and accept his testimony would be damned. This charge was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith and the elders of Israel. And what was given to the elders of Israel in Joseph's day still stands for the elders of Israel in this day. The testimonies of these men who have borne testimony tonight are just as binding upon the people in this day as the testimony of Joseph in his day.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized in 1830. Commandments were given for the salvation of the human family. The Prophet Joseph was charged to bear testimony to the world that he had seen the Father and the Son, and he had been instructed by them to bear testimony of this truth to the whole world. Joseph, in turn, bore testimony to the elders of Israel and gave them the same instruction. Tonight you have heard instruction of the elders of Israel to this people in this time. It is just as binding upon you who have heard it as at any other time in the history of this work. Those who will not listen and apply to their lives the testimony you have heard are under just as great condemnation as those who heard the testimony of Joseph and Brigham and Heber, and others of the servants of God from that time

on. A great responsibility lies upon the Latter-day Saints who have chosen to separate themselves from the world and come out and listen to the testimonies of those whose right it is to teach the people. Joseph was charged and the charge went to the elders of Israel to go out and teach, “And you’re not to be taught.” So where is the argument? And why? Because God told the Prophet Joseph Smith that all the denominations of the world were wrong. They had a form of godliness, but their hearts were far from Him. Then He revealed to him the principles of salvation. So where is the argument?

I bear testimony to you, my brothers and sisters, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God that Brigham Young was his legal successor, that John Taylor took his place in the direction of the Kingdom of God. It has been handed down to this day, and the Lord is directing it just as much as He was in the days of Joseph.

I pray that the blessings of God will settle upon you, each and everyone, that you will cease to argue with the Spirit of God and the elders of Israel and commence to listen to the principles that will give you salvation throughout the eternities. I pray that God will bless you with a testimony that the things you have heard tonight are true, and they pertain to your salvation; for they are true. And they stand as a witness against everyone who has heard what has gone on tonight.

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

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 7, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I trust, my brothers and sisters, that the Spirit of God will dictate what few remarks I make tonight. For I feel, like President Musser, our time is short. We have the question asked us from time to time--when are we going to set in order the different orders of the Priesthood. We have been told by the Lord that the House of God is out of order and that He will send One Mighty and Strong to set it in order. It isn't our mission, my brothers and sisters, to set in order the different orders of Priesthood. But it is our business to prepare men that the Lord can use when He sends One Mighty and Strong to do this work.

Men have got to be taught how to love one another, how to do the things that President Timpson read out of the Bible that the Lord told us to do, the Savior. We have got to learn how to be kind to one another, to love one another. These things have been rehearsed to us from time to time as long as I can remember in this work. In fact, it has been taught as long as I can remember in the Church that the first two commandments were: Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength, and the second is like unto it; until we can love our neighbor as ourselves, we are not preparing for the setting in order of the House of God. The Lord tried this in 1836. He had Joseph organize the camp of Zion, He told them if they would go up without murmuring to Jackson County, He would redeem Zion. But they could not do it, because they didn't have love in their hearts towards one another.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is unto all people, whether they be upon this land or upon the isles of the sea, or wherever they are. I am just going to give you here a little of the word of the Lord tonight, and then we will close this meeting, but I wanted to say that much. We are here to prepare ourselves to be used by the Lord. He has tried to bring men out of the world and use them as green timber on the building up and establishment of the Kingdom of God in the earth. But soon after He organized the Church, He

placed them under condemnation because they treated lightly the things He tried to teach them. He said they would remain under this condemnation until they repented and remembered the new covenant and how to keep it, and also the other commandments that He has given. So He put us on our own. After that, He told Joseph if he could gather five hundred men together He would redeem Zion. But he could not find five hundred men that would be faithful. How can He redeem Zion today with a less number of men? And how many men are prepared today that would endure the hardship that men have to endure in order to carry on the work of God?

(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."

So the Lord is calling upon all men to repent and come and accept the testimony of Joseph the Prophet. And those who will listen to his precepts will be saved, and those who reject his testimony will be damned, saith the Lord.

(Section 1: 34-39)

> "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."

The Lord is anxious, my brothers and sisters, that we hasten to stamp out of our lives every bit of evil that exists there. If we could imagine the worth of one soul in the sight of God, we would never rest until we became as pure as He is. We would cease to be idle, as Brother Timpson read to us, cease to speak evil towards one another, cease to criticize; and all these other evils that go to deprive us of the Spirit of God, we would stamp out of our lives, so we could prepare ourselves against that day when the Lord pours out His judgments upon the wicked. How many of us tonight are prepared to meet the situation in the morning if we should have to give up our homes and go out as President Musser has been talking to us about? How many of us could stand these things under the conditions under which we live?

Let us be prepared. Let us strive every moment to purify our lives, to live so that the Spirit of God can dictate from hour to hour, from moment to moment. Then we can begin to be prepared for these other blessings that we so much desire to be established among our people.

Now, I know that you are weary from being together so long. I trust that the Spirit of repentance will settle upon us, and that we will put into our lives a greater determination to read these revelations that God has given us for our exaltation and eternal lives. Let us practice the principles that will purify our lives as He was purified, that we might be counted as worthy servants in His Kingdom, that He might choose us when He makes up His army of soldiers to carry on and establish the Millennial Reign; for Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. And every person that takes part in the Millennial Reign will have to be purified to that extent that they can receive the visitations of the faithful people who have lived upon this earth and gone over on the other side. When we become like that, then we can begin to realize that we are the true servants of God.

Now, I pray that the spirit of peace will be upon us, and that we will be prepared against the day of visitation which the Lord has offered to this generation. Let us purify our lives to that point where we can lay claim to the blessings of protection in that day and hour. And I pray these blessings upon you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 21, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I thank the Lord, my brothers and sisters, for the wonderful instruction we have received. I have nothing in my heart but love and respect for all who are here tonight. I trust that these words will sink deep into your hearts and that you will strive with your might to bring about the purposes of the Lord in your lives.

These problems have been upon our minds and have been bothering us for many years. These are some of the things that bothered me long before I became acquainted with this order of the Priesthood. After I got to know President Barlow and President Musser, I soon learned I had to change my ways, my thinking, my actions, as well as changing my life into a life of devotion to this Priesthood work. The Lord has blessed us in all our efforts to bring about this change in the lives of the people. Joseph the Prophet tried to establish it in his day, and he had the same problems to meet that we have. President Brigham Young had to meet the issue, and he had the same problems to meet that we have. He called the attention of the elders of Israel to these same conditions that have been drawn to your attention here tonight.

My only advice to you is to take to heart that which you have heard and seek to bring it into your lives; and you parents, teach your children correct principles. The Lord has been waiting, since He restored the Gospel, for the Priesthood to bring up a people that would devote their lives to the way that He wishes us to live. He has said, “My ways are not man’s ways.” And that is true. We have to change our ways into the celestial way of living. Until we can do that, Zion cannot be redeemed; because Zion cannot be redeemed, so the Lord says, only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. Satan has had rule over the minds of men for so many generations that it is hard for men to look upon God as the real Creator of our bodies and our spirits and the world upon which we live.

Now, I pray that the blessings of God will rest upon us, that we will heed the counsels of those who the Lord has chosen to represent Him here in the earth at this time. Let us go forward and cease to be backsliders any longer. Let us get behind the servants of God and push them to the front. Let us incorporate into our lives the principles of the Celestial Kingdom and become that people that the Lord is looking for to redeem a fallen people.

I pray that God will bless you, each and everyone, and give you the spirit of this work. I do it, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 5, 1964, EVENING, HILDALE, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I hope you have enjoyed this conference as much as I have. I hope that the Spirit of God will continue here to dictate my remarks, that we might continue to be fed as we have been this morning and this afternoon. I say, this morning, because we were fed inspiration before we came to this meeting this afternoon. I ask an interest in your faith and prayers that what I say might be dictated by the Holy Spirit.

I have been greatly interested in the remarks of the brethren in regards to our preparation for eternal life. The Lord is continually inspiring this Priesthood to hasten the preparation of men and women to be used in the redemption of Zion. Let me here state that there is no other way that Zion can be redeemed only through the preparation of people. The Lord established His work through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith and gave him instructions that this dispensation belongs to him. The Lord instructed him what to give the people in order that they might come back into His presence and remain there. He also gave him instructions that anyone who rejected his testimony would not gain eternal life, but would be damned. The things you have been taught today are in harmony with the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. There is no other way whereby Zion can be redeemed only upon those principles. There has never been a time in the history of this Church or this Priesthood when a greater effort has been put forth to prepare a people for the redemption of Zion.

There were many thoughts that passed through my mind while the brethren were speaking today. I want to read to you a little from the 93rd Section of the Doctrine & Covenants upon the things that have been told you today. I was in hopes that one of the other brethren would take this Section up and comment upon it, but the Lord has left it for me.

(Section 93:1-6)

"Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to

pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am;

And that I am the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world;

And that I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one--

The Father because he gave me of his fullness, and the Son because I was in the world and made flesh my tabernacle, and dwelt among the sons of men.

I was in the world and received of my Father, and the works of him were plainly manifest.

And John saw and bore record of the fullness of my glory and the fullness of John's record is hereafter to be revealed."

So we have more of the record of John when we are prepared to receive it.

(Verses 7-13)

"And he bore record, saying: I saw his glory, that he was in the beginning, before the world was;

Therefore, in the beginning the Word was, for he was the Word, even the messenger of salvation--

The light and the Redeemer of the world; the Spirit of truth, who came into the world, because the world was made by him, and in him was the life of men and the light of men.

The worlds were made by him; men were made by him; all things were made by him, and through him, and of him.

And I, John, bear record that I beheld his glory, as the glory of the Only Begotten of the Father,

full of grace and truth, even the Spirit of truth, which came and dwelt in the flesh, and dwelt among us.

And I, John, saw that he received not of the fullness at the first, but received grace for grace;

And he received not of the fullness at first, but continued from grace to grace, until he received a fullness."

Brothers and sisters, ever since I have been acquainted with this work, the brethren have been trying to teach this people here a little, there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept, that we might be prepared to receive a fullness of the spirit of truth and salvation. Even Christ, we are told here from the record of John, had to be taught in this way. Then why not the people in our day be taught here a little and there a little, until they become educated in the principles of truth and salvation?

(Verses 14-15)

"And thus he was called the Son of God, because he received not of the fullness at the first.

And I, John, bear record, and lo, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove, and sat upon him, and there came a voice out of heaven saying: This is my beloved Son."

Can we see, my brothers and sisters, the reason for the testimonies that have been borne this afternoon, that we are trying to prepare a people to become as Christ was, to follow the example of our Father and our Elder Brother, that we might sit down with Him in the eternities, that we might enjoy His company throughout the eternities. These are the blessings that we are trying to prepare a people to receive. Remember that Zion cannot be redeemed, only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. And those who enter into the Celestial Kingdom must and shall abide the laws of

the Kingdom. For the Lord has said that every blessing that we obtain, we obtain through obedience to the law upon which that blessing is predicated.

We have come here to the earth to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation, against the day when the Lord is making up His jewels and consummating His work in the earth by destroying the wicked, as has been read to you this afternoon by President Musser through a revelation given to that good Prophet Heber C. Kimball. He saw this day; he saw the condition of the people. He understood what would happen to the people in our day. He saw it. He prophesied of it. Today we are enjoying a day of peace, so to speak, in this great turmoil that is going forth upon the earth. In face of the destructions that face us, we are enjoying a period of seeming peace. In the words of President Young, this is not a very good sign when the Saints enjoy peace. So, we had better be humble while we enjoy this peace. We had better humble ourselves before the Lord and make ourselves susceptible to the principles of righteousness, that we might command the protection of heaven when these things come upon us.

Another thought came through my mind while the brethren were speaking. I wonder how many of us have stopped long enough to think a little about the mission of John Taylor and Willard Richards. If you will remember, these two men were permitted to be in Carthage when the Prophet and Hyrum were martyred. Why were they there? Did you ever stop to think about it? Why was John Taylor permitted to go into the prison with the Prophet and Hyrum? I can tell you. The Prophet Joseph Smith was weighed down in sorrow because of the condition of his people, and the Lord was sorrowful because of the condition of the people. He knew the integrity of the heart of Joseph. He knew he had been a faithful servant, and that he needed consolation. So, John Taylor was a consoler to the Prophet and Hyrum while they spent their last days in this life. We are told in history that Joseph asked John to

sing the song, “A Poor, Wayfaring Man of Grief” time and again, to console his soul that he might endure what he knew was going to transpire at that moment.

What was the reason for Willard Richards being there? He was there to receive instruction from the Prophet Joseph Smith. We have The Coming Crisis and How to Meet It--one of the inspiring revelations of the day. It has been handed down to us until now, and it is as binding upon the people as it ever was. It is being fulfilled under our eyes. This good man, in editing the Millennial Star, was inspired to write it, and he wrote it. Where did he get his inspiration? Under the direction of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Now then, these men were prepared for the great work ahead. John Taylor was prepared to receive a visit from the Prophet Joseph and Jesus Christ regarding the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. He died a martyr the same as Joseph did. He carried the balls that he received in Carthage Jail until the day of his death. He was an outcast from among the Saints and died in exile. But, he died knowing that the way was prepared for the continuation of the everlasting Gospel.

Now, the Lord is very merciful unto this people. He is also very sorrowful because of what is transpiring among our people today. We have been speaking to a people today who claim to be living the fullness of the Gospel, the law of Celestial Marriage. What about the children that are being born through this high and holy law? I wonder how many of us have stopped long enough to realize that these spirits that are being given to us are precious in the sight of God. We are bringing them into the world, then turning them over to Satan. The Lord is not pleased with it. Let me read you just a little of how the Lord looks upon this thing. I am reading from the same Section of the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Section 93:47-48)

“And now, verily I say unto Joseph Smith, Jun.

--you have not kept the commandments, and must needs stand rebuked before the Lord;

Your family must needs repent and forsake some things, and give more earnest heed unto your sayings, or be removed out of their place."

That is how sacred the family organization is. If the Prophet Joseph was nigh unto cursing, what must we be who are bringing these choice spirits into the world and then turning them over? It is something to think about. He goes on to say:

(Verses 49-50)

"What I say unto one I say unto all; pray always lest that wicked one have power in you, and remove you out of your place.

My servant Newel K. Whitney also, a bishop of my church, hath need to be chastened, and set in order his family, and see that they are more diligent and concerned at home, and pray always, or they shall be removed out of their place."

That is how the Lord looks upon this thing. He is not pleased with the way we have taught our children--brought them up. We are all in the same box. We have treated lightly the things we have received. We are under condemnation and will remain there until we repent, until we can bring ourselves out from under this condemnation. My brothers and sisters, we live in a day when we should think more about the things of eternal life than the things of this world. Brigham Young would be very much embarrassed if he were to come into the homes of this people and see what is going on in regards to teaching and rearing our people in the proper manner, as would all the other brethren from the Prophet Joseph down through the line of Priesthood.

I pray, my brothers and sisters, that the spirit of the Gospel will settle upon us, that we will take heed to the things that we have heard today and apply them to our lives, that we will hasten, both men and women, to set ourselves in order and then set our families in order, that we can enjoy an outpouring of the Spirit of God and that we can lay claim to His protecting hand in the day and hour when we need it. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 12, 1964, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

It is a wonderful thing, my brothers and sisters, to be permitted to come together under such favorable circumstances in this day. We can thank the Lord from the bottom of our hearts that we enjoy this wonderful privilege. He has granted us a day of preparation. He has caused that conditions come upon us to try our faith, our integrity to see whether we really believe in Him or not. When we allowed ourselves to be ostracized from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and claimed to have a knowledge of a greater work than was being given us there, He tested us to see whether we meant what we said or not.

Now, He has granted us a period of peace to see what we will do during that period of peace, to see if we will continue to implore Him and get close to Him and rid ourselves of the sins of the generation in which we live, that He might be bound to bless us in another day of trial. He has said that when we do as He says, He is bound. Bound to do what? To grant us the blessings that He has promised us in as far as we have prepared ourselves to receive them. But He says, “When you don’t do what I say, you have no promise.”

Now, it is up to us to take stock of ourselves at the present time and see what we have done during our days of peace here, whether we have corrected the evils that beset us some years ago and brought our houses in order, so that we can demand the protection of heaven, or have we just slid along and said, “We will wait till next week to quit going to shows and watching T.V.--incorporating into our minds the things of this world. Tomorrow, I will clean up and be ready for the judgments when the Lord pours them out upon the wicked.”

We had better stop long enough to take notice if we are really preparing ourselves against the day of visitation, because the Lord has plainly told us that He would visit the earth with destruction unless the people repented and turned unto Him. He

also said that His ways are not man's ways, and Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. How many of us have tried to celestalize our lives? If that is the way we must live in order to redeem Zion, then we have got a lot of living to do. We have got a lot of revamping of our lives to do in order to get the Lord to smile upon us.

When we bring ourselves into a condition where we can command the elements, we can ask the Lord for rain, and it will rain. We can ask Him to cause the winds that blow to cease so that our crops can grow. When we are in danger of persecution, we can kneel down and ask the Lord to turn the wave. When we get ourselves in that condition, then we can begin to ask the Lord for other blessings.

President Joseph Musser pronounced upon this land a wonderful blessing once. He said that one acre in this place would be more productive than ten acres of the best land in Salt Lake Valley. When he said this, someone asked him when that would be. He said, "As soon as the people are united." United with who? With the Lord and His work. So, let us become united with His work. Let us do all that we can to perfect our lives and to clean them up and make them so that the Lord can use them.

I don't wish to say any more at this time. I ask the blessings of the Lord upon us that we might enjoy this meeting and enjoy an outpouring of the Spirit of God. We hope and pray that the Lord will permit us to straighten up our lives and become that choice people who will become the nucleus of the great Millennial Reign. God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 19, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, this is an inspiring sight to see so many out tonight. I am truly thankful to the Lord that I have been permitted to be here and to hear what has been said this evening. A great many things have been drawn to our attention, and if the Lord will bless me with His Holy Spirit, for I only want to speak under its direction, I will try to give you what He has for us.

I like to follow the example set by President John Y. Barlow. I remember that he liked to give the people the word of the Lord as it is recorded. He quoted a lot of scripture. He was a man who could quote the scripture and could interpret it. I am not that good. I have to read what scripture I give to the people.

However, there are a few things that I would like to comment upon that have been said tonight. One of them is the agency of man, I don't know if you all understand this as I do or not. We hear so many people say that they are exercising their agency in the things that they are doing. Let us remember that there are only two roads to follow. One is right, and the other is wrong. You have a right to exercise your agency if you are doing right, but whenever you step on the devil's ground and think you are exercising your agency, you are only abridging it. Remember that. If you go against the counsel of the Priesthood in order to exercise your agency, you are only abridging your agency, and you have no right to exercise it. If you think I am teaching you false doctrine, I would like to have you show me wherein it is false.

We are here to work out our salvation. There are only two ways to follow. One is to follow the direction given to us by Christ, Himself. The other is to follow the dictations of Satan and go his way. So, herein we find we have the right to follow and to exercise our agency. I will read the word of the Lord regarding these things.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 82:1-11)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, my servants, that inasmuch as you have forgiven one another your trespasses, even so, I, the Lord, forgive you.

Nevertheless, there are those among you who have sinned exceedingly; yea, even all of you have sinned; but verily I say unto you, beware from henceforth, and refrain from sin, lest sore judgments fall upon your heads.

For of him unto whom much is given much is required; and he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation.

Ye call upon my name for revelations, and I give them unto you; and inasmuch as ye keep not my sayings, which I give unto you, ye become transgressors; and justice and judgment are the penalty which is affixed unto my law.

Therefore, what I say unto one I say unto all; Watch, for the adversary spreadeth his dominions, and darkness reigneth;

And the anger of God kindleth against the inhabitants of the earth; and none doeth good, for all have gone out of the way.

And now, verily I say unto you, I, the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God.

And again, I say unto you, I give unto you a new commandment, that you may understand my will concerning you.

Or, in other words, I give unto you directions how you may act before me, that it may turn to you for your salvation.

> I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.
>
> Therefore, verily I say unto you, that it is expedient for my servants Newel K. Whitney, Sidney Rigdon, and my servant Joseph Smith, and Oliver Cowdery, and Martin Harris, to be bound together by a bond and covenant that cannot be broken by transgression, except judgment shall immediately follow, in your several stewardships--”

These are the conditions under which we are laboring. There is no other way, my brothers and sisters, for us to get back into the presence of our Father in heaven. We are here to exercise our agency. We have a right to exercise our agency when we do right, but when we do wrong, we abridge it. If we will keep this in mind, we will desire, my brothers and sisters, to follow the counsels of our Father in heaven. Follow the counsels of the Priesthood from the beginning; that is where the mistakes have been made, and great nations have fallen when counsel has been treated lightly. And this great nation today is toppling. It is on a teetering boulder at the present time. I will tell you, it behooves every individual who thinks anything of his salvation to bring himself to understand these things.

I don’t wish to speak any longer. We have been together a good long time. I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us, that we will take heed to the counsels that we receive from time to time and apply them to our lives that we might be found worthy of the blessings of our Father in heaven, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 2, 1964, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, this is a wonderful day in which we live and this is a wonderful sight before me. The privilege of being here is beyond my power to express my gratitude at the present time. I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon me and give me utterance and dictate the words I say that they might be in accordance with His mind and will.

I realize more every day that I live the importance and the greatness of the privileges that this people have at the present time.

When I get to thinking upon the purpose of our being here upon this earth, which is a preparatory state to go on from this to some other degree of glory in God's Kingdom and to be prepared to go on from there and continue on and on until we become gods and goddesses in our own right, it makes me feel more and more determined to stand in my place and perform the labors that the Lord has placed upon my shoulders. I am grateful for the support that the Lord has placed around me. I know that they, likewise, sense to a great degree the responsibility that we all bear.

I know that the opportunity has been afforded this people to continue a race of people that the Lord can use in His great work. Christ made it possible for us to work out our salvation. He came here and set the example of how we should live. He gave commandments of how to follow in His footsteps and to take upon us His yoke. He said upon one occasion: "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." If we will stop long enough to analyze that statement, we can see the reason for the servants of the Lord continually pounding at the people to overcome their weaknesses and to conform their lives with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Prophet Joseph was told in his day that all the denominations of the earth were wrong, that none of them was right, He was told not to join any of them and if he would be faithful the Lord would use him to establish His true work in the earth. He

also told the Prophet Joseph, that he should go forth and bear testimony to the world that he had seen the Father and the Son, and that they had borne testimony to him that through applying to our lives the teachings of Jesus Christ, we would come under the atoning sacrifice that He gave. Christ said upon one occasion that only those who would accept His teachings and apply them to their lives would come under that great sacrifice. In other words, those who would reject His testimony and the principles of salvation that He gave, the sacrifice that He gave would not apply to them. So we should take stock of ourselves and see how we measure up.

The servants of the Lord have been telling us for a good many years of the great destruction that would take place upon this land, and they have been trying to prepare us to meet that situation. And today, the whole world is in a state of commotion. No one knows today what tomorrow will bring. The experience of this people should teach us that the words of the prophets must be fulfilled whether it be in our day or some other day, but they will be fulfilled. The Prophet Joseph said that this great destruction would take place before some men that were living in his day should close their eyes in death. And the Lord in one of His revelations has warned us of the day in which we live at the present time. This revelation was given in 1831. I am going to read from Section 63 of the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Verses 17-31)

> "Wherefore, I, the Lord, have said that the fearful, and the unbelieving, and all liars, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie, and the whoremonger, and the sorcerers, shall have their part in that lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.
>
> Verily, I say, that they shall not have part in the first resurrection.

And now behold, I, the Lord, say unto you that ye are not justified, because these things are among you.

Nevertheless, he that endureth in faith and doeth my will, the same shall overcome, and shall receive an inheritance upon the earth when the day of transfiguration shall come;

When the earth shall be transfigured, even according to the pattern which was shown unto mine apostles upon the mount; of which account the fullness ye have not yet received.

And now, verily I say unto you, that as I said that I would make known my will unto you, behold I will make it known unto you, not by the way of commandment, for there are many who observe not to keep my commandments.

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;

Nevertheless, I, the Lord, render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s.

Wherefore, I the Lord will that you should purchase the lands, that you may have advantage of the world, that you may have claim on the world, that they may not be stirred up unto anger.

For Satan putteth it into their hearts to anger against you, and to the shedding of blood.

> Wherefore, the land of Zion shall not be obtained but by purchase or by blood, otherwise there is none inheritance for you.
>
> And if by purchase, behold you are blessed;
>
> And if by blood, as you are forbidden to shed blood, lo, your enemies are upon you, and ye shall be scourged from city to city, and from synagogue to synagogue, and but few shall stand to receive an inheritance."

I have noticed throughout the persecutions of the saints, that from time to time the spirit of retaliation has risen in the hearts of people. We have been criticized because we have refrained from returning evil for evil. But when we have been constrained to wait and let the Spirit of God work, this people has prevailed. We have an example in the case of Alma and Amulek, when great persecution was heaped upon those two men. Their families were brought before them, tied to stakes, and burned before their eyes. Amulek turned to Alma and said, "Rebuke them, Alma. Save our people." But the reply from Alma was, "The Spirit constraineth me." And what was the result? The result was finally the destruction of the persecutors of those two men.

We can go into the history of the saints, and we will find that whenever the saints have refrained from retaliation that is when the hand of the Lord has been shown forth in their defense, their enemies have not been able to do the things that they wanted to do to the people.

(Verses 32-38)

> "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.
>
> 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.
>
> Wherefore, let my disciples in Kirtland arrange their temporal concerns, who dwell upon this farm."

Knowing these things have been uttered by a prophet of the Lord, we are not ashamed to stand and bear testimony to the world that Joseph was a prophet and that we have been commissioned under his direction to prepare a people against this destructive element that is coming upon the earth.

We have been told by some that this persecution took place and that this revelation was fulfilled in the persecution of the saints in Illinois. I bear testimony to you that it has not been fulfilled yet, but it is soon to be fulfilled, and some of you will live to see it, if not a great many of you.

Conditions are already upon this great nation of ours that are not going to be settled without the shedding of a great deal of blood. The Prophet Joseph said that trouble would start in South Carolina, and from there it would spread to the whole world, and that bloodshed would not cease until this land was prepared for the rise of Zion. So we can rest assured, my brothers and sisters, that the efforts of the servants of the Lord ever since the days of

the Prophet Joseph Smith are not going to be in vain. For the Lord has said that this Gospel of the Kingdom would not be taken from the earth or given to another people until the sons of Levi offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.

It behooves every one of us to take stock of our lives and prepare ourselves against the day of visitation. It is an individual preparation that must be done. I cannot answer for your sins, nor can you answer for mine. “We believe that man will be punished for his own sins and not for Adam’s transgressions.” Christ was the man that took care of the transgressions of Adam. That was His mission, and to make it possible that you and I could atone for our own sins. Unless we come under the charge that Christ gave, that great sacrifice of His will not have any bearing upon our situation any farther than the right to be resurrected. We will be resurrected to one or the other of these great kingdoms, either to eternal life or to eternal damnation. There is none of us that wants to be partakers of the second. We all want to prepare ourselves in some way to be able to go on after we come up in the morning of the resurrection. All that we can do is the least that we can do to save our own lives.

Now, may God bless you, my brothers and sisters, and keep you in the line of your duty. May He fill our hearts with more determination to keep the commandments of God and to prepare ourselves that we might be able to come under His protecting hand when these great trials come upon us.

God bless you, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 16, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is a wonderful thing, my brothers and sisters, to be able to meet and enjoy the Spirit of the Lord under such favorable circumstances. We realize that we have met here tonight under the roof of Sister Fischer to enjoy an outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord. I hope that there will be nothing said or done that will detract from that blessing.

The Lord is very merciful unto us. I believe that He is pleased with the effort that is being put forth to establish His work at this time. Although we have a hard time bringing our feelings under control, I feel that the people are at least trying.

We want to remember that we are living in a time when wickedness rules the earth. The evil powers are trying to destroy what little faith is left. Satan knows, as well as he knows anything, that his time is short, and he must work night and day in order to accomplish the thing that he desires to accomplish.

Throughout all the ages of the world, the Saints of God have had to meet the opposition of Satan. Our Father Adam had to meet him in the Garden of Eden, and he had to overcome the evils of that time in order for him to establish the work that was before him. You can take any age of history from the time of Adam until now, and you will find that the servants of God have had the same problem to meet. The minds of the people have been similar. There have been people who have believed the words of the prophets and have applied them to their lives. And as has been promised by the Lord, they have received their reward. There have been those who have not fully supported the work of the Lord, and they have gone their way. There have been those who would not believe at all, and they have gone their way.

The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that Abraham had received his reward, and we have all the evidence that is necessary that people can work out their salvation. Christ was crucified, and He rose the third day. He took His body up from the grave as

an example of what could be done. He has come back to earth and mingled with men. He has fulfilled the scriptures in preparing the way for the salvation of mankind. He has promised the faithful that they should obtain eternal life, and the wicked have been promised the damnation of hell. And these are the conditions that confront the people today.

Satan is putting forth today a greater effort than ever before, to destroy the work of God. The prophets have said that he would destroy the very elect, if possible. He would even sit in the house of God and exalt himself as God. And he would appear as God. And his work would be revealed.

These are some of the things that will transpire in your day, in my day. These things are shaping up before us, and some of them are being fulfilled before our eyes. There are not many people who are prepared to meet them. There are not very many people who believe that that man of sin is revealing himself today. But it is true. The work of deception is beginning to creep upon the people, and they don't believe it. Our prayers should be, my brothers and sisters, to strengthen the testimonies that we have, that we might not be deceived. If we have a testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that he revealed to mankind the principles of salvation and commanded the people to live and obey the law of God, then we should do it. If we believe that this is the Priesthood that has been handed down from Joseph Smith until our time and that we are preaching the same doctrine that Joseph taught, then we should begin to prepare ourselves for the great judgment that God is pouring out upon the nations of the earth. There isn't a principle that God has revealed for the salvation of man that we do not preach. We do not say that this principle or that principle is not necessary anymore, but we do preach that all that God has revealed is true for the salvation of mankind. And we believe that He will yet reveal many things, when we are prepared

to receive them, for the salvation of mankind. These are the things that we believe.

I was riding with one of my brothers one time. He said, “The trouble with you, Roy, is that you have taken one principle of the Gospel and hinged your whole salvation upon it.” I said, “Dear brother, if you can live that one principle without living all the rest of the principles that pertain to the salvation of mankind, I would like to see you live it and tell me how you do it.”

This Gospel is true. Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God, and he received commandments from the Lord to give to the people. He was commanded to bear testimony to the world that he had seen the Father and the Son and that God had again established His church upon the earth, and people were invited to come in unto it. Not only a few, but the commandment was to all men, regardless of who they were, or where they lived, or anything else. They have all got the right to accept or reject the principles of salvation.

These are some of the things that present themselves before us. These are some of the things that we must think upon and apply to our lives that we might be able to withstand the great temptations that are fast coming upon us, and that we might be found worthy of the protection of our Father in heaven.

I don’t wish to say any more at this time. I ask God to bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 20, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is good to be here, my brothers and sisters. I trust that we can enjoy an outpouring of the Spirit of God while we are here.

I deeply sense the weaknesses I have and the inability I have to present to you the actual importance of the work we are engaged in. I sincerely ask an interest in your faith and prayers while I speak that I might be guided by the Spirit of God.

I desire nothing but the spiritual salvation of our people. I sense, to some extent, the necessity of our getting close to the Lord and getting His spirit and keeping it. When I think of the situation that the Lord requires His people to get into in order to redeem Zion, I shudder with great fear for the salvation of our people. When I know that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, it means a great deal.

If we have studied anything about the Millennial Reign, then we can begin to have some little understanding of what this means to us. If we must bring ourselves into a condition where we can be guided by the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, then we must be in a condition where, if necessary, we can walk along with those who have departed and receive instructions from them.

When the Church was organized in the beginning of this dispensation, the prophets of God walked along with heavenly beings and were directed by them. This is the condition under which people must live in order to bring about that great Millennial Reign.

The Lord has promised that a cloud by day will rest over the saints of Zion, and a pillar of fire by night, that the outside world, or the wicked, would not be able to come up and molest them. The armies of Zion will be terrible, so says the scriptures. This is the condition which the Lord expects our people to prepare themselves for. They must be in a condition whereby they can receive

the revelations of God and be directed directly from heaven, as was the Prophet Joseph Smith and Brigham Young and those who held the keys of the Priesthood in that time.

We are told that Joseph was able to receive revelation daily from heaven. That is the condition under which Zion will be redeemed. So a great preparation is in process today for a body of men that can take part in that great work. The Lord has got to have a great concourse of Priesthood who can command the blessings of heaven at their will in order to carry on that work.

The scriptures tell us that the remnant of the house of Jacob will be invited to come and help build a city. All who will take part in that will be invited to come. After the city is built, then the great missionary work will commence to convert those who take part in the building of the temple. It will be just like it was in the days of the Savior when He appeared to the Nephites on this continent. For the scriptures tell us that His voice was heard by all who dwelt here, all who were left after the great destruction that took place. They were gathered together, and they heard His voice, but not all of them were converted that He was Jesus the Christ. The scriptures tell us that it took twenty years in order to convert all the people that Christ had appeared upon this continent. After that, the impression had been borne so vividly upon their minds that they lived in perfect confidence with one another for two hundred years. But this time, my brothers and sisters, the condition which we will be subject to will convince us for a thousand years that Jesus is the Christ, and that these things must be lived in order to bring about our eternal salvation.

The responsibility that is upon the shoulders of the Priesthood today is great. We sense it more than the minds of men can conceive; for we know we are laboring in the latter days. We know the conditions which this great nation of ours will be subjected to in order to bring about the preparation of this land for

the return of the ten tribes of Israel. We know that the way must be prepared and that a great concourse of people will be here to take part in that work. The ten tribes of Israel are those descendants of Jacob who will receive the great blessings that will be in store for them at the hands of Ephraim. Ephraim is being prepared. Each one of you who has had your Patriarchal Blessing will know--or ought to know--that you are of Ephraim, and that you are heirs to this great blessing of taking part in the redemption of Israel and the redemption of Zion.

Now, let us go forth, my brothers and sisters, and live according to the teachings that we receive, according to the revelations that have been given to the Prophet in this day and age in which we live. Let us not treat lightly the opportunities that we have of applying to our lives the principles of salvation. Let us think deeply before we imbibe the superstitions of the Gentiles and partake any further of their ways, that we might be prepared against the day of visitation that has been spoken of. It is going to be a hard thing, my brothers and sisters, to endure through these days of trial and tribulation in preparing this land for the return of the ten tribes of Israel and for those who can be converted to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Remember this, the great missionary work has not yet begun. It is true that the elders of Israel have gone out and preached the Gospel to the nations of the earth, but as has been predicted before, only those who are of Ephraim have accepted the Gospel. How many Jews are there among us? How much Jewish blood is there here that has accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ? How many Jews are there in the world? This branch of the House of Israel will not be converted until after the City is built and the elders are called out by the thousands to preach the fullness of the everlasting Gospel to them. Then they will be gathered in with the rest of the house of Israel. This Gospel will be carried to all the branches of Israel.

Now, let us prepare ourselves. Let us go on with this great work of preparation of preparing our minds and our bodies for that which is to come, that we might be able to stand the great trials that we will be subjected to.

I pray that God will bless us, that we will hasten to prepare ourselves for this great work, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 18, 1964, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

It is certainly a pleasure, my brothers and sisters, to meet with you again under such favorable circumstances and such wonderful weather we are having.

I trust that the few moments I occupy this position that the Spirit of God will dictate my remarks. Again, I want to express my gratitude for the privilege the Lord has given me to live in this day and partake of the blessings that He has offered to us.

I am grateful for the testimony He has given me of this work. I am especially grateful for the life and labors of our dear Prophet Joseph Smith and the testimony that he left to the world: that God lives, and that He is a man. For he says that he saw Him as a man, and he saw His Son. That testimony has been borne to the world. As has also the testimony that all the creeds of the earth were wrong. They had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof. The Lord promised the Prophet Joseph that through his faithfulness, truth would be given to the world, and also commanded him to go bear that testimony to the world; and all who would believe would be saved, and those who would not believe would be damned. This testimony still stands. All those who have borne testimony that they knew the Prophet Joseph was a prophet of God and that he received these instructions, and then have denied part of the Gospel that he delivered to them, come under the category of what Christ said to His disciples when He was here, that those who say they loveth Him and keepeth not His commandments are liars and the truth is not in them.

These are hard words to say about those who testify that Joseph was a prophet and then deny part of the principles that he declared so fervently were for the exaltation and eternal life of man. These are some of the things that beset us today. The Lord plainly tells us in the revelation, that if you are guilty of breaking one of these commandments, you are guilty of the whole.

Or in other words, when we are guilty of breaking one of the commandments of God we are guilty of breaking them all, for we have severed ourselves from the blessings of the Holy Priesthood.

We believe that God did appear to the Prophet Joseph, and He introduced His Son to him to listen to what He had to say. And we are the results of that testimony. We bear testimony again that we know that Joseph was a prophet, and that Brigham Young was his successor in the Priesthood, and that John Taylor and all those who have followed in the Priesthood line down to the present time were true advocates of the truthfulness of the testimony of Joseph.

Now, we want to encourage you, my brothers and sisters, to think deeply before you deny the testimony that the Lord has given you of the Priesthood that presides over you. There is no other way under which we can be instructed to get back into the presence of our Father in heaven. We are here to work out our salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord. None of us knows the day the Lord will call us home. Some of us are called in our youth. Some of us are called in our middle age and others in their old age. Some live to be quite aged in this day according to the age of man. But the day in which we live is the day in which to prepare ourselves to meet our Father in heaven.

We are all looking forward to the redemption of Zion, to that day when the Lord has said we would have a thousand years of peace on the earth. We are looking forward to that time. The Lord says that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. If that be true, there is a great deal of work to be done in our lives in order to prepare ourselves to receive daily the inspiration of our Father in heaven for our daily work, or the way that we should go.

One of the great commandments that was given 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. Upon these two commandments hangs all the law and the prophets. How many of

us are there that can love our neighbor as ourselves? How many of us are there that can overcome the temptations that come to us to have feelings in our hearts toward one another--criticism--the spirit of criticism toward one another? This is one of the greatest evils that can come into the lives of our people. This is one of the greatest obstacles to overcome in order to bring ourselves to a point where the Spirit of God can dwell with us. We should strive with ourselves every minute of the time that we have in order to overcome this evil. If we can come to a point where we can love our neighbor as ourselves, we will have made great strides toward preparing ourselves for that great and glorious day that the Lord has promised to us.

If you will just stop long enough to think what it means that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, it means that people upon the earth have got to prepare their lives so they can receive visitations from those who have departed and gone onto the other side. What was the promise given to Enoch by the Lord? That he and his people would come back when the City was built called the New Jerusalem. That is what we are all looking forward to. We are looking forward to that great day when that City is built, and it is called the New Jerusalem.

We are looking forward to the day when we can go back to Jackson County and take part in the blessings that are offered to us there. So what does it mean to us? It means that Enoch and his people who were translated and taken away from this earth will come back. The Lord goes far enough to say that Enoch and his people will fall on our necks, and we will fall on their necks, and we will embrace one another and kiss one another. And He would be there also. Is it just a myth that we are trying to teach you to overcome these things and to put yourselves in a condition so that you can love one another continually, that you can overlook one another’s weaknesses and imperfections, and boost them up to a point where you can put your arms around them and love them one

minute as well as another? I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, we have a work to do. You come to us and ask what you can do to further the work of God. Well, these are some of the things you can do. You can work with yourselves; you can work with your loved ones, your family, your children especially, and teach them these things.

Read the history of what the Lord has said, because it is full of it. We don't have to take the testimonies of living men entirely. We can take the testimonies of those who have lived before. The Lord says that not one word of the prophets shall fall to the earth unheeded, but that every word will be fulfilled.

Now let us take heed. Let us look to ourselves and prepare ourselves against that day when the Lord pours out His judgments upon those who will not listen to the testimonies of the prophets of God.

Let us prepare ourselves against the day of visitation that He has promised to the generation in which we live; because the day is coming when we will need every protection that we can draw from heaven in order to withstand the scene that will be before our eyes.

Now, I pray that God will bless us with every blessing that we desire in righteousness, and I do it humbly in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.