Sermons of
President Leroy S. Johnson

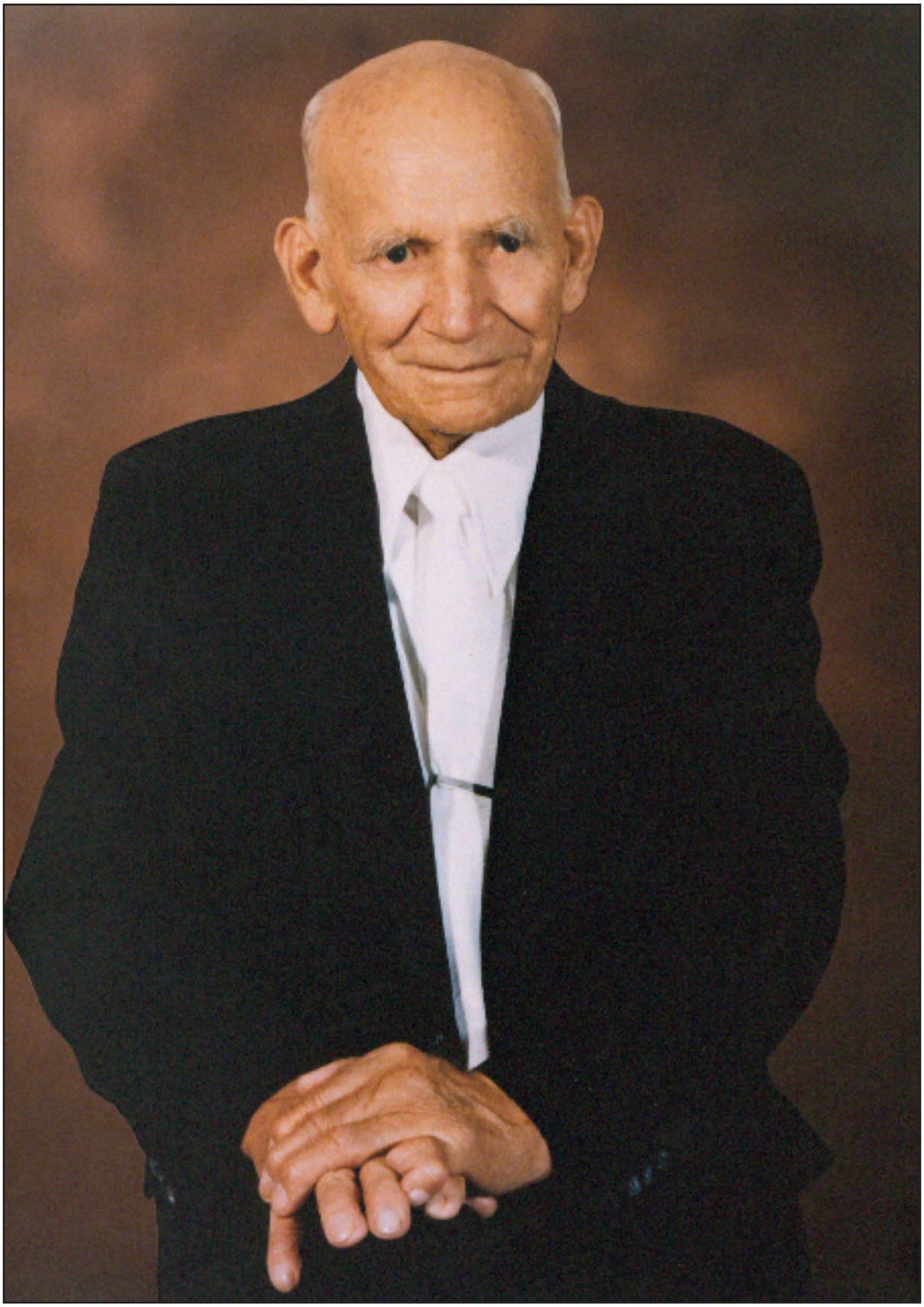
Volume Seven

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Leroy S. Johnson

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Volume Seven
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SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JOHN Y. BARLOW, DECEMBER 31, 1940,
AT A SISTERS CLASS IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear sisters, I am pleased to meet with you again. I was sitting here looking over this congregation of women and thinking how true it was, as one sister said, that she didn't know where she would find another group in the world as blessed as this group is. No, sisters, there isn't another group. Why? Because this law was given for your exaltation in the eternal worlds that you may bear the souls of men. Remember, the soul is the body and the spirit. There are some sisters here who haven't had the privilege of having children, but they will have the privilege if they are worthy, and they will be mothers of nations.

How thankful we ought to be that we have had the privilege of mingling with the men that God has seen fit to bless and give the right to keep this holy law alive that we might have eternal increase--that we might be able to bear the souls of men. The Prophet Joseph F. Smith said, "If we reject this law, we will come to a full stop." Then why shouldn't you be the greatest on earth--those that are receiving this law. There are a great many here receiving the law that haven't entered into it yet, but they have it in their hearts, and they know it is true.

I was in Short Creek last Friday and over the holidays. While I was there, Aunt Lizzie received a letter from her mother's brother telling her that she was the cause of this law (Plural Marriage) being lived down there, and that she was the cause of so much of the down-fall of their family, and he told her to repent. Why, repent of what? For believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ? For believing in the fullness of the Gospel? Is that what we should repent of? Christ says, "Though you live all the law, yet offend in one principle, you are guilty of the whole."

There were a great many thoughts going through my mind after reading that letter, and I thought, “Oh Lord, how long are you going to permit this to go on--having the children of the saints ridiculed and persecuted by men for upholding and maintaining the fullness of the Gospel?” I want to tell you that the parents of these children that are on the earth today are praying day and night for the Lord to save their posterity. Do you know how Nephi and Abraham prayed to the Lord for their posterity? How they prayed that they would understand and keep the commandments of the Lord? Enoch had been praying to the Lord for the inhabitants of the earth. The Lord promised him that He would save some of the inhabitants of the earth, so He saved Enoch’s son, Noah.

Stop and think of it, sisters. When Enoch was taken from the earth, the Lord preserved his son that the inhabitants of the earth might not perish. Melchizedek, or Shem, was the righteous one of Noah’s seed, and he kept the commandments of God all the days of his life. He gave Abraham the Priesthood. He was such a righteous man that when but a child, he quenched the pillar of fire. He received the higher order of the Priesthood. It was after the order of the Son of God. He conferred the same upon Abraham.

In our day, when we stop to think of what has happened --Elijah, holding all the power, came to the Prophet Joseph and gave it to him, and now here we are receiving it. Are we not blessed? Others are rejecting it.

Lorin Woolley used to keep telling us that his father, John Woolley, came to him quite a bit. I asked the Lord whether it was so, or whether it was not. Next time John Woolley came, I was in the room. He turned to me and said, “There is scarcely a man in this Church under ninety years old that is abiding this covenant.” He gave me to understand that men out of the Church

were abiding it. Those who had been ostracized. (Lorin testified that I was there when his father came.)

Now, Sisters, before Lorin died, he wanted to fill the Sanhedrin, and he told us that the Priesthood on the other side went from Canada to Mexico, and they couldn't find men to do it. What a condition. Talk about apostasy. Yet, they are trying now to put out a pamphlet and giving the names of all those who have been cast out. If I were one of those who they had missed, I would write and tell them they had slighted me.

Here is a little story on "Progress" told of a man from Sanpete whose wife was very sick. This man went to the hospital about every day to find out how his wife was. They would not let him see her, but they told him that his wife was progressing fairly well or in fair condition each time he came. One day he went to the hospital and asked how his wife was, and he found out she was dead. This is just the condition of the Church now. The members think all is well and that the Church is progressing, but some day they will wake up and find they have been deceived.

Well, I have been watching the progress of you sisters, and it has been very pleasing to me. I want you to all remember this--that the man is the head, but the woman is the neck, and the neck turns the head almost every time. I would like you to remember that. As President Young says, "If we can get the women on our side, we are all set."

I hope in the next year that we improve upon this year. Let's every one of us improve on some trait of ours. There isn't any of us but what has some little place that needs improvement. I know that this someone has.

May God bless you and be with you and help you in all your undertakings is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

EXCERPTS FROM A SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JOHN Y. BARLOW,
DECEMBER 26, 1943 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I have been greatly edified with the things that have been said here today. How many of us are taking it home? How many of us will be like James said, when we see our natural selves in the glass, will we go away and forget what manner of men we are? We like to hear God's words taught to us, but the minute we leave here, we forget.

We have in our midst today people who would say they want to live the United Order; but the moment you call on them to do it, then the test comes. They can't stand it. I know something about this myself. I have been working in it now for nearly ten years. I know how it feels. I know how we have men who will start and stop. I know this, that if we wish to live the fullness of the Gospel, we must live the fullness. God has said that He laid down a plan for us that we may be exalted and come back to Him. Do we believe that the angel flying through the midst of heaven has come? Think about it and see whether the hour of God's judgment isn't here upon us.

Another voice from heaven said, "Oh my people, come out of her and be not partakers of her plagues." A great many of us have come out of Babylon, but what have we done? We have brought Babylon with us.

My grandfather was one of the Prophet's bodyguards. My grandmother and Brigham Young's mother were sisters. Not only the first generation but the second, third, fourth, and fifth generation have had the same thing taught to them.

The Savior said, "If your eye offends you, pluck it out. If your arm offends you, cut it off." If any of us are not keeping the commandments of God, let us come out from among the wicked. Jesus said that if a man would not leave father, mother, brothers, and sisters, wives and children for His name's sake, he is not worthy of the Gospel.

Now, brothers and sisters, we are a group here, and we say we are persecuted. No, we aren't. We are blessed. Do you know why? Because every persecution we get brings us closer to the Lord. President Young said he never was persecuted in his life, and he had five homes taken from him. Joseph Smith said that there were only two men at one time out of his whole council who did not go against him. In all our dealings, remember this one thing, he that is not a good follower will never make a good leader.

I think we have had one of the finest sermons we have heard for a long time. Let us live it. We could hear men preach forever, but if we don't take it home and live it, we can't get the Spirit of God and keep it. We may go into the order of Celestial Marriage, but abiding in the covenant is another thing. There are a great many that have gone into it, and they are scattered all over, but are they living it? The adversary has no business with us unless we let him.

May God bless you and keep you in the hollow of His hand. May we live such lives that God will be glad to own and bless us is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

EXCERPTS FROM A SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JOHN Y. BARLOW,
JANUARY 20, 1944
759 EAST 32ND SOUTH SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I was thinking while sitting here of some of the sayings of President Young. He said, “Do you think the world will know when the resurrection takes place? Father Smith and the Prophet Joseph said that the world would know nothing about it.” I was thinking of the testimonies we have that they have been resurrected. You wouldn’t tell it to the world. They wouldn’t believe it if you did. We have a testimony that Joseph Smith came, and men shook hands with him, and he told them what to do, had them ordained and set apart for certain work. Will the world believe it? No.

The Millennium will come, and the world won’t accept it. When we go back to Jackson County, they will think it is the work of some wise man. Christ said that He would go before them. His presence and His angels would be with them. When that time comes (and it may be close at hand), no unclean thing will be there because Christ won’t be there if it is. We can tell how we must live. We must sanctify ourselves and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Resurrected beings will come and teach us of His ways.

There is a writing out now that tells us that the Millennium started in 1936. Do we believe it? I don’t. For we read from the scriptures that the very first angel that comes will cry, “The bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him.”

I want to tell you here, that if this people will keep on and keep the commandments of God, the gifts of the Spirit will surely come to them. We will have prophecy, we will see angels. You will be walking upon the road and someone will come to you. You will find it is one of the ancient prophets. Did Jesus’ disciples know Him? Not until He made Himself known.

These small meetings here--God has said that if we will hold these meetings that He will be in the midst of them. I never in my life was more satisfied than I am today that we have the truth, not caring what people are going to do to us. It makes it more true. Jesus said, “He that lives Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

In any day and age of the world the same cause always produces the same effect. We have been promised that if a few of us will go ahead, take those that will come if we only have twenty men, and live that law (United Order), God will be with us.

A short time ago, we left these parts and went down to Short Creek and started the United Order. If we do not live that law, the Spirit of God will cease to be with us, and we will go down and out. The fullness of the Gospel is the United Order and Plural Marriage. We, as a people, have done away with those things. We have taken the tower on the hill away, and the enemies came in upon us. What was the result? They said, “What need have we of this?” The result was the Edmund Tucker law, and so forth. No matter what people do or say about God’s laws, they are true. If they killed us, a truth would still be a truth.

I am glad to be here in Sister Morrison’s house. I ask God’s blessings upon this house and upon Sister Morrison and her children in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

EXCERPTS FROM SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JOHN Y. BARLOW,
FEBRUARY 6, 1944 SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, there is a warm place in my heart for the people here and for the Gospel, and every part of it is worth standing for. We are right in the time when our enemies are all around us, where they are questioning everybody they can find. One brother told me they had a pile of testimonies against us. Does that hurt us? It doesn't hurt me; it makes me rejoice. The time is getting close when God will take a hand. One of us is hit one way, and another hit another way. What difference does it make? God has laid down a law upon which every blessing is predicated. Until we live that law, how can we get the blessing? That is just as much of a truth as that the sun is shining out there.

We had a meeting up north about predestination and foreordination. The laws are predestined to save us, but the individual is foreordained to live those laws. This same law that is saving us now is the same law that saved those in worlds before us. We are foreordained to do a certain work, and we have a right to reject it or live it.

Brigham Young said, "Be careful how you persecute this people. God will hold men responsible for every act against the Latter-day Saints."

We have been preaching to get the Spirit of God and keep it. Brothers and sisters, we are going to need it. We have got to be more humble; we have got to let the things of this world go by and bring our minds and our souls and everything under God. If we don't, we are going to be in a trap. If we do it, God will open up a door and just as men think they have us caught, Uncle Lorin told us, if we will exercise the right kind of faith, a door will open and we will go through. Supposing some of us are put in jail. What difference does it make? The Prophet Joseph never was convicted in law. Why was he ever

arrested? Because of the prejudice of the people. Every history that we have of the Saints of God on earth is just like we are getting today. You hear them say, “Why, it is against the law of the land.” Who made the laws? Men did. They aren’t the laws of God. Those are the things we are looking for. When Daniel was told not to pray because it was against the law of the land, Daniel prayed just the same. It wasn’t against the laws of God. They threw him into the lions’ den, but he had the Spirit of God around him and those lions couldn’t touch him. The three Hebrews were cast into the fiery furnace, and the fire couldn’t hurt them.

Christ was brought up before the world and crucified--the Son of God--brought up there and told that He was a blasphemer. The Jews said, “Let his blood be upon us and our children.” It has never ceased. How many have read what Hitler is doing to the Jews? How many of us are prejudice. They have been whipped and pounded around until, in the financial line, they are sharper than other men. It is the Asiatic Jew that is doing it. The real Jew is light. These others are dark skinned people, nearly always.

Be careful what you do to God’s people! They took Christ and crucified Him. Then they started in on the apostles. The angel took Peter out of their way. Just stop and think for a minute or two and see where the sect is today that is everywhere spoken evil of. You can’t scare the spirit of a man, but you can scare his body.

Nothing short of the fullness of the Gospel of the Celestial Kingdom will satisfy the immortal soul. “If we don’t live up to the measure of our creation,” President Young says, “we will be thrown back to be molded again.” Thank the Lord we have got men here that will follow the laws of God.

Now it looks very much like we're going to get persecution. Now is the time to button up your coat and prepare yourselves for persecution. I am proud of this people and would much rather hear your testimonies than to get up and talk to you myself. I know God is with us. I know that He is going to have a tried people.

Some men are trying to find out the beginning of their generation. What difference does it make to us? We should be living the laws of God when they come to us. By living the laws that will exalt us and take us on, we can become what every son can become, an Adam, and every daughter, an Eve. That is the Gospel that we want. What should we do about it? We have got to live it! If we don't, that is the end of our kingdom, we cannot have an increase.

Know this that every soul is free
To choose his life and what he'll be.
For this eternal truth is given
That God will force no man to heaven.
He'll call, persuade, direct aright
And bless with wisdom, love, and light,
In every way be good and kind,
But never force the human mind.
Freedom and reason make us men,
Take these away, what are we then?
Mere animals, and just as well,
The beasts can't think of heaven or hell.

I say, God bless you all. What you are called on to do, do it with a cheerful heart, and go ahead and leave the consequences with the Lord. I often think, if the people can forgive me of my faults, I certainly will forgive them of theirs.

I was sent home off a mission because I lived the law of Celestial Marriage. God's Priesthood is inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and it cannot be controlled only on the principles of righteousness. God has heard and answered our prayers just as much, if not more, than He ever did before I was ostracized.

We were presented with a paper to sign not long ago in which it said that none of the leaders of the Church were living a double life. Now the Church comes along and cuts one of the apostles off for living a double life. Will they call the brethren back who wouldn't sign that paper? No. Why? As with the Priest, so with the people.

We are crying and praying that the One Mighty and Strong will come. Lately, I have been wondering whether we should pray that way or not. Suppose the One Mighty and Strong should come and want me to fill a certain position. Am I ready so I could take that position? Or would it be that I am not living right and could not fill that position? We must pray for the strength to live worthy so we will be ready when he does come.

Not a very long time is going to pass before the ten tribes are coming here, and you sisters have got to go into the temples and give them their washings and annointings. You have got to be prepared by being obedient to your husbands. The sisters have got to help the men. The men can't do it alone. Every individual, every young girl, every mother, and everyone must be converted, must live those laws if they get the blessings. There is no other way. We cannot force. Whenever we get to forcing, we get on the devil's ground.

President Young loved that agency so much that he said, "I would rather be chopped to pieces and resurrected in the

morning each day for three score years and ten, than to be deprived of speaking freely, or to be afraid of doing so."

May God bless you and keep you in the hollow of His hand. Don't ever go to bed at night nor get up in the morning but what you kneel down and ask God to be with you. This I ask in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

John Y. Barlow
2157 Lincoln Street
Salt Lake City, Utah

Leroy S. Johnson
Short Creek, Ariz.
May 31, 1944

Dear Brother John:

My heart is full to overflowing at this time, and I feel to send greetings to all who are being persecuted for Christ's sake. Oh how great the day in which we live! And oh, how slow to recognize the authority that God has placed over us and to unite our hearts to that extent that we can unlock the door in front of us so that we can pass through the wall that is hedging up our way.

If I could only command the words to break down the prejudice some of us have one toward another. I firmly believe that it is for this cause we have suffered these set-backs. The Lord is anxious to bestow his blessings upon us if we will but give ourselves over to him and let him freely use us in this great work.

The time of sifting is here, and I feel that all those who will not unite their hearts with the Priesthood and those whose right it is to lead will find themselves clamoring for straws to hold to in the great flood that is sweeping the earth. I am reminded of what the old prophet Mormon said in the first chapter of Mormon.

(Verses 16-17)

> "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 willfully rebelled against their God; and the beloved disciples were taken away out of the land, because of their iniquity.

> I did remain among them, but I was forbidden to preach unto them because of the hardness of their hearts; and because of the hardness of their hearts the land was cursed for their sake."

How long are we going to turn a deaf ear to the servants of God whose right it is to teach us the ways of life and salvation? After we have had testimony enough to receive the highest blessings that God can give to man on earth under their hands, and then turn a deaf ear to them when they try to give us the word of the Lord in temporal things, how can we expect to progress without setbacks?

This is a critical and trying moment, and our progress depends on the amount of faith we can exercise now. If we can be united, we will yet escape from the trap that has been set. I pray that the Lord will be merciful to us and overlook our weaknesses and touch our hearts that perfect confidence in one another will exist among us, for we know not today what the morrow will bring. The Lord is blessing us here, but we still have many things to overcome before we are right before the Lord. We had a rain yesterday that will tend to mature our grain crop this year.

May God's blessings be and abide with you, and may He deliver you from bondage is the prayer of your brother,

Leroy S. Johnson

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 14, 1947, WIDTSOE, UTAH

Brothers and sisters, we have heard the word of God today. We are thankful for the servants that God has called to instruct this people, and it is our duty to give heed to their instructions. We can see from past experience, both in this time and in times past, the effects of not following the instructions of those whom God has called to lead. We have been criticized many times for remarks that we have made in regards to obedience to counsel, but it has been possibly a misunderstanding of what is meant by counsel. We have here the Doctrine & Covenants, made up of revelations given directly from God through the Prophet Joseph Smith, and almost invariably those revelations are commandments to this people. There are no ifs nor ands about it. They are commandments to the people to obey the word of God. If Priesthood is the authority of God upon the earth, then if a man has been called by God to lead a people and they heed not the counsel that is given, they just as well reject “Thus saith the Lord” in one of these revelations.

We are undergoing a change from the procedure we have followed the past four years. Now this change that is coming upon us can work two ways. It can work for the salvation of this people, or it can work for their damnation. It is just how we use our individuality that has been placed upon us. This people has taken great steps. They have covenanted with one another and with their God that they would do certain things. Now, if we are not careful and we fall back into the old rut that we once followed, then the Spirit of God will withdraw from us. Then where are we? When the Spirit of God ceases to dwell with man, what is his condition? Read the history of God’s people upon the earth and see where people have gone and what has become of them when they have disregarded His counsel through His servants here on the earth.

These are a few thoughts that I wanted to add to what has been said this afternoon. I don't feel to say any more. Let us ponder upon the condition that we are in, each individual. Let us see to it that we don't go backward. Let us make every effort that we can make to go forward and to make this United Effort Plan a success. Follow the instructions that we have received this afternoon, and we will make it a success. I pray the Spirit of God will rest upon us in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JOHN Y. BARLOW, APRIL 6, 1948,
MEETING HELD AT OZUMBA, MEXICO

My beloved brothers and sisters, it is with pleasure that I stand before you and tell you concerning the plan of life and salvation. We have driven many miles, something like, I think, five thousand. Hearing from Brother Johnson of you people here and how you wish to be blessed and receive the fullness of the Gospel, I practically got out of a sick-bed to come down here, but I feel well paid. I hope what I may say to you will sink deep into your hearts.

We are living in a day and age of the world when men are doubting and many of them in the Church today are turning away from the higher principles of the Gospel. President Young said that the fullness of the Gospel was United Order and Plural Marriage, and we all know in reading the Doctrine & Covenants that whenever we receive a blessing it is by obedience to a law. He says that every blessing is predicated upon law, and whenever we receive a blessing it is by obedience to that law.

I have been in this work since I was born. My grandparents came down through all the persecutions of Nauvoo and through that country. My father was born in Nauvoo, and we have been with the Saints and with the Church ever since.

We read from the Book of Mormon that the time would come when men would turn from the fullness of the Gospel and then the fullness of the Gospel would be taken to you people. In fact, they mentioned the House of Israel, and it looks to me like the time is close at hand.

Now, if you brethren and sisters prepare yourselves and get ready in receiving these high ordinances, it is either going to uplift you or else it will damn you. Whenever we receive a high blessing, if we fail to live it--if we fail to keep the commandments of God, we go down that much more.

I can see in the eyes of you people here that you believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I truly hope that you will receive every blessing that is necessary to exalt you.

I won't say much tonight as I feel a little shaky. I will say, God bless you, and in the authority of the Holy Priesthood which I hold, I do bless you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

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(At the end of the meeting, Brother Barlow spoke for a few minutes again.)

My brothers and sisters, some years ago while in Short Creek lying in my bed, the Spirit of God spoke to me and told me to go tell the people to get the Spirit of God and keep it. He said that we will need it, and He explained to me why we would need it. The Spirit of God spoke to me just like I am talking to you now. I went up and told our people. Some of them took heed; others went on just the same. Today, you can go pick out the men--the very ones--that listened to what I said. So I will say to you brothers and sisters here, get the Spirit of God and keep it. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JOHN Y. BARLOW, JULY 17, 1949,
SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, I believe to have done myself justice I should have stayed home. But I wanted especially to put to this people some of the testimonies of the men that were with the Prophet Joseph. I brought a sermon today; I am going to call on Louis to read it if he will, and I expect this sermon to have come right from the fountain head--The Prophet Joseph--written by his secretary. I don't know if many of you have ever read William Clayton's testimony. He was the man that wrote down the 132nd Section of the Doctrine & Covenants as dictated by the Prophet Joseph Smith from the Lord.

There are a lot of things transpiring right now that we ought to know. There are a lot of things going on that this people ought to know, and why don't they know? Simply because we dare not give it to them. That is why. They are getting just about all they can take care of, but there is a lot of the Gospel of Jesus Christ today that we are missing. The testimony of men like William Clayton and the testimony of Joseph F. Smith tell us very plainly that this law will endure to the end. Joseph F. Smith was like President Young. He said it would triumph and ride over everything that has tried and still remains to try to hinder it.

If you will come up here, Louis, I have got so I can't preach much, but I can hunt out what has been written. If I did that, we would have enough here to read every Sunday for the next year. There are some other sermons in here I want read in connection with this.

Louis Barlow read: This is taken from the Journal of Discourses, Volume 21, page nine. Discourse by Elder Joseph F. Smith at the funeral of William Clayton.

"I have a paper in my possession, and have had for a number of months past. In fact, it was written at my request and then given into my care. I have preserved it with a view when thought proper, to have it published. As it is a sermon in itself, it would perhaps be more interesting than anything I could say on the present occasion, and therefore, with President Taylor's permission, I will read it to the congregation. He read the following:

William Clayton's Testimony

The following statement was sworn to before John T. Caine, a notary public, in Salt Lake City, February 16, 1874.

Inasmuch as it may be interesting to future generations of the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to learn something of the first teachings of the principle of plural marriage by President Joseph Smith, the Prophet, Seer, and Revelator and Translator of said Church, I will give a short relation of facts which occurred within my personal knowledge, and also matters related to me by President Joseph Smith.

I was employed as a clerk in President Joseph Smith's office, under Elder Willard Richards, and commenced to labor in the office on the tenth day of February, 1842. I continued to labor with Elder Richards until he went east to fetch his wife to Nauvoo.

After Elder Richards started east, I was necessarily thrown constantly into the company of President Smith, having to attend to his public and private business, receiving and recording tithing and

donations, attending to land and other matters of business. During this period, I necessarily became acquainted well with Emma Smith, wife of the Prophet, and also with the children--Julia M. (an adopted daughter), Joseph, Fredrick, and Alexander--very much of the business being transacted at the residence of the Prophet.

On the 7th of October, 1842, in the presence of Bishop Newel K. Whitney and his wife, Elizabeth Ann, President Joseph Smith appointed me Temple Recorder, and also his private clerk, placing all records, books, papers, etc., in my care, and requiring me to take charge of and preserve them, his closing words being, 'When I have any revelations to write, you are the one to write them.'

During that period, the Prophet Joseph frequently visited my house in my company and became well acquainted with my wife, Ruth, to whom I had been married five years. One day in the month of February, 1843, the Prophet invited me to walk with him. During our walk, he said he had learned that there was a sister back in England to whom I was very much attached. I replied there was, but nothing further than an attachment such as a brother and sister in the Church might rightfully entertain for each other. He then said, 'Why don't you send for her?' I replied, 'In the first place, I have no authority to send for her, and if I did, I have not the means to pay expenses.' To this, he answered, 'I give you authority to send for her, and I will furnish you with means,' which he did. This was the first time the Prophet talked with me on the subject of plural marriage. He

informed me that the doctrine and principle was right in the sight of our Heavenly Father and that it was a doctrine which pertained to celestial order and glory.

After giving me lengthy instructions and information concerning the doctrine of celestial or plural marriage, he concluded his remarks by the words, 'It is your privilege to have all the wives you want.' After this introduction, our conversations on the subject of plural marriage were very frequent, and he appeared to take particular pains to inform and instruct me in respect to the principle. He also informed me that he had other wives living besides his first wife, Emma. And in particular, gave me to understand that Eliza R. Snow, Louisa Beeman, Desdemona W. Fullmer and others were his lawful wives in the sight of heaven.

On the 27th of April, 1843, the Prophet Joseph Smith married Margaret Moon to me for time and eternity at the residence of Heber C. Kimball. On the 22nd of July, 1843, he married to me, according to the order of the Church, my first wife, Ruth.

On the first day of May, 1843, I officiated in the office of an Elder by marrying Lucy Walker to the Prophet Joseph Smith at his own residence.

During this period, the Prophet Joseph took several other wives. Amongst the number I well remember Eliza Partridge, Emily Partridge, Sarah Ann Whitney, Helen Kimball and Flora Woodworth. These all, he acknowledge to me, were his lawful wedded wives according to the celestial order. His wife, Emma, was cognizant of the fact of some, if not all, of these

being his wives, and she generally treated them very kindly.

On the morning of the 12th of July, 1843, Joseph and Hyrum came into the office in the upper story of the Brick Store on the bank of the Mississippi River. They were talking on the subject of plural marriage. Hyrum said to Joseph, 'If you will write the revelation on Celestial Marriage, I will take it and read it to Emma, and I can convince her of its truth, and you will hereafter have peace.' Joseph smiled and remarked, 'You do not know Emma as well as I do.' Hyrum repeated his opinion and further remarked, 'The doctrine is so plain, I can convince any reasonable man or woman of its truth, purity, and heavenly origin,' or words to that effect. Joseph then said, 'Well, I will write the revelation and we will see.' He then requested me to get paper and prepare to write.

Hyrum very urgently requested Joseph to write the revelation by means of the Urim and Thummim, but Joseph in reply said he did not need to, for he knew the revelation perfectly from beginning to end.

Joseph and Hyrum then sat down and Joseph commenced to dictate the revelation on Celestial Marriage, and I wrote it, sentence by sentence as he dictated. After the whole was written, Joseph ask me to read it through slowly and carefully, which I did, and he pronounced it correct. He then remarked that there was much more that he could write on the subject, but what was written was sufficient for the present.

Hyrum then took the revelation to read to Emma. Joseph remained with me in the office until Hyrum

returned. When he came back, Joseph asked him how he had succeeded. Hyrum replied that he had never received a more severe talking to in his life, that Emma was very bitter and full of resentment and anger.

Joseph quietly remarked, 'I told you, you did not know Emma as well as I did.' Joseph then put the revelation in his pocket, and they both left the office.

The revelation was read to several of the authorities during the day. Towards evening Bishop Newel K. Whitney asked Joseph if he had any objections to his taking a copy of the revelation. Joseph replied that he had not, and he handed it to him. It was carefully copied the following day by Joseph C. Kingsbury. Two or three days after the revelation was written, Joseph related to me and several others that Emma had so teased and urgently entreated him for the privilege of destroying it, that he became so weary of her teasing, to get rid of her annoyance, he told her she might destroy it and she had done so, but he had consented to her wish in this matter to pacify her, realizing that he knew the revelation perfectly and could re-write it at any time if necessary.

The copy made by Joseph C. Kingsbury is a true and correct copy of the original in every respect. The copy was carefully preserved by Bishop Whitney, and but few knew of its existence until the temporary location of the Camps of Israel at Winter Quarters on the Missouri River in 1846.

After the revelation on Celestial Marriage was written, Joseph continued his instructions privately on the doctrine to myself and others. During the last

year of his life, we were scarcely ever together alone but he was talking on the subject and explaining that doctrine and the principles connected with it. He appeared to enjoy great liberty and freedom in his teachings, and also to find great relief in having a few to whom he could unbosom his feelings on that great and glorious subject.

From him, I learned that the doctrine of plural and Celestial Marriage is the most holy and important doctrine ever revealed to man on the earth, and that without obedience to that principle no man can ever attain to that fullness of exaltation in celestial glory."

(signed) WILLIAM CLAYTON

Salt Lake City, February 16, 1874

(President Joseph F. Smith then continued.)

"As I before said, I felt to read this document because of the instruction it would afford, and for the further object of showing that although 'he is dead, he yet speaketh.' For this testimony of Brother Clayton will stand forever, though his body molders into dust.

I am, and so was the deceased when living, at the defiance of the world to dispute those statements. They are made from personal knowledge derived from personal associations with the Prophet Joseph Smith himself, not with a view to gain notoriety, but rather to leave behind him his testimony with regard to this important principle. He has done so.

And he has here stated, as having come from the mouth of the Prophet, this doctrine of eternal union of husband and wife and of plural marriage is one of the

most important doctrines ever revealed to men in any age of the world. Without it, man would come to a full stop. Without it, we never could be exalted to associate with and become gods, neither would we attain to the power of eternal increase or the blessings pronounced upon Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the fathers of the faithful.

There are but a few witnesses now living in relation to the coming forth of this revelation. There never were many that were intimately acquainted with the Prophet and his teachings upon this subject. I look around me and see a number of persons in this assembly whose hair has grown gray in the service of God, and who had an intimate acquaintance with our martyred prophet; but few, if any of them were so closely identified with him in this matter as Brother Clayton.

There are, however, enough witnesses to these principles to establish them upon the earth in such a manner that they never can be forgotten or stamped out. For they will live; they are destined to live and also to grow and spread abroad upon the face of the earth, to be received and accepted and adopted by all the virtuous, by all the pure in heart, by all who love the truth, and seek to serve Him and keep His commandments; they are bound to prevail, because they are true principles."

Brother Barlow: I have another little piece or two, one from Orson Pratt and one from John Taylor that I would like to have read, also, because I can't stand up and talk much. I think we can get the gist of the Gospel from this better than anything.

Louis read: (This is taken from the Journal of Discourses, Volume 22, page 29, quoting Orson Pratt.)

"No man without the Priesthood can behold the face of the Father and live. Now this has troubled the minds of some of the Latter-day Saints. 'How is it,' they say, 'that Joseph lived after having seen the face of the Father, after having heard the words of His mouth, after the Father had said unto him, This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him?'

Have you thought upon this other subject, namely, that Joseph had been already ordained before this world was made? To what Priesthood? To the Priesthood after the order of endless life, a Priesthood that is everlasting, a Priesthood handed down that had no beginning, a Priesthood after the holiest Order of God, a Priesthood that was after the order of His Only Begotten Son. If you had only reflected that that same Priesthood had been conferred upon him in the councils of the holy ones before the world was made, and that he was ordained to come forth in this dispensation of the fullness of times to hold the keys of authority and power of that high and holy Priesthood, and that he was ordained to come forth and perform the work that God intended to accomplish in the latter times, then the mystery would have been cleared up to your minds."

Louis read: (This is taken from the Journal of Discourses, Volume 21, page 2, by President John Taylor.)

"We have, with the help of the Lord, succeeded in gathering out many of the honest in heart from among the different nations of the earth. And we have come here to carry out the will, purposes, and designs of God.

I never supposed that we were to come here to get rich, to increase in worldly possessions, but we came, as I understand it, in accordance with an express command of the Most High that we may be taught in the knowledge of God and that we might come to an understanding of his laws. We are not here to follow the devices and desires of our own hearts; we are not here to carry out any particular theory of our own; we are not here to build up any system of man's creation, but we are here simply to do the will of God in the establishment of His Kingdom on the earth.

In many things, however, we have not lived up to that high and glorious privilege which has been presented to us; we have been careless and indifferent, and it seems as though Satan has been permitted to try and tempt us in every possible way.

For a few years past, a spirit of greed and covetousness has run through the land and cursed with a withering blight everything it has touched. It is as bad in its effects upon the mind of man as any pestilence or plague upon the human body.

We have begun to run after the things of the world; our hearts, our feelings and affections, in many instances, have been estranged from God. It is time that something should transpire to wake us up to a sense of the position we occupy; it is time we realized how God and angels look upon men who are absorbed in

the things of this world instead of living up to their professions and the covenants they have made with Him."

Brother Barlow: Here is one from Brigham Young which I think is right to the point.

Louis read: (Journal of Discourses, Vol 1, page 117.)

"Language to convey all the truth does not exist. Even in the Bible and books that have been revealed from heaven unto man, the language fails to convey all the truth as it is. Truth, wisdom, power, glory, light, and intelligence exist upon their own qualities; they do not, neither can they, exist upon any other principle. Truth is congenial with itself, and light cleaves unto light; it seeks after itself and clings thereto. It is the same with knowledge and virtue and all the eternal attributes; they follow after and attract each other. Mercy cleaves to mercy, because it is mercy; light to light, because it is light, and there is no darkness, no deception, no falsehood in it. Truth cleaves unto truth because it is truth, and it is to be adored because it is an attribute of God, for its excellence, for itself. It is upon this principle that these principles should be held, esteemed, practiced.

Any persons, men or women, who do not receive these principles for the love which they bear towards them, because of their beauty, excellence, and glory; and because they are congenial to their feelings upon this principle, are not Saints! They exist upon their own basis and rest upon their own foundation. Eternal justice, mercy, love, and truth, never can be moved;

> they are attributes and correspond and are congenial with each other; they promote each other, fortify the heavens, the Gods, and that which the Gods possess.
>
> Now look upon the opposite side of these principles. Suppose you say, 'We will give up the pursuits of our holy religion. We are not Latter-day Saints. Let us go and seek after the things of the world, speculate, get unto ourselves riches, turn away from our duties, neglect the things pertaining to our salvation, go with the giddy, the frivolous, the seeker after gold to California, Australia, or elsewhere, for the purpose of acquiring wealth.' I will tell you the result of that course. You would cease to increase in all the attributes of excellence, glory, and eternal duration from that very moment. As soon as you conceive such ideas, they find soil within you prepared to nurture them, and it brings forth their direful effects; from that very moment, you cease to increase. The opposite principle seizes you, fastens itself upon you, and you decrease, lessen, diminish, decay, and waste away in quality, excellence, and strength until your organization becomes extinct; oblivion covers you; your name is blotted out from the Book of Life, from the heavens, from the earth and from under the earth."

Brother Barlow: Now these are a few of the sentiments of the brethren that have been teaching us for years and years. If we analyze ourselves, how many of us are living these laws because we love them? Because of the excellency of them? Brigham Young stated here that if we take the opposite course it will fasten itself upon us. We naturally diminish and waste away in excellency and character and in everything else.

I wish, my brothers and sisters, that my health was so I could speak these things that are on my mind. I want to say this much, that I know that the testimony of William Clayton is true. And I know that these things are true that we have heard read to us. I know them of myself. You have got to know those things are true and know that you know them. That is the important thing. Lots of people say, “We know it,” when they don’t know that they know it.

I say, God bless this people and those who are striving to keep this principle alive, for it will stay alive. It doesn’t make any difference whether we do it, but it will be done, and it will go ahead and triumph and over-ride everything that is opposed to it.

Now maybe some of you wonder why I am so sure of this. When I was set apart, I took a covenant that as long as I lived I would teach these things. I didn’t necessarily take a covenant that I would teach the practice of them, but I would teach the principle of them and let the people themselves follow out the practice. You can’t teach the practice of it, but you can teach pure principle. We, ourselves, have got to consider about the practice of them.

I ask God to bless you, one and all, and I ask Him to enlighten your minds and quicken your understandings that you may learn more of these things and learn more about these principles. The Savior tells us very plainly how to live them. He says it plain. “Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me.” There is your key. Search it. I hope to see a great many more of the people searching and studying more. There is too much mental laziness among the people--mental laziness--we don’t dig down in and get the kernel of truth that is lying there waiting for us. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 29, 1950, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

I trust, my brothers and sisters, that the Spirit of the Lord will dictate what I say this afternoon. I don't wish to keep you much longer than a few minutes time. I am not a very long speaker, so I won't detain you long. We have heard many good things this afternoon to remind us of the blessings the Lord has for us in this goodly place. Uncle Elmer pictured our condition very beautifully, and it is a marvel, not only to us, but to those around us who see our condition here. I say it is a marvel even to us to see the growth of people from year to year without raising a lot of crops, and see us grow and increase and live. And I dare say, if you would look in our cellars, we would be as well fixed for the winter as people who have the abundance of life around them all the time, and why is it? It is because we have striven to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we understand it.

Now, my brothers and sisters, from now on, we are going to find it harder to live in this place. We are going to have conditions here for some time that will look as though it will be impossible for us to survive, but if we keep the commandments of God and are diligent, this will be the commencement place of building up the Kingdom of God in the earth. There has got to be a cleansing process in this land before we can enjoy the full blessings that have been placed upon this ground.

The wicked who seek to build up their own kingdoms will find that the elements here are against them, and this land will not produce in its strength until the Lord is ready. If the Lord were to give us, at the present time, the great blessings that we sometimes expect to reap here, we would be over-run by the wicked, and they would take away our rights. They would seek to drive us out of this place. As long as it looks like we are going to starve to death, like the Lord is not blessing the land,

they will keep off and hold back. Finally, the Lord will bring conditions about that they will have to move away out of our midst. Then the land will begin to produce if we are worthy of it.

If we can stand the drawbacks, the trials that will come to us here, if we can stand firm and true and live the laws of the Gospel as we understand them and as the Servants of God give them to us, there will not be one of us want either for bread or for clothing, but the time will come when this place will blossom as the rose and this land will produce in its strength.

People say that this land will not produce, that it can't produce, but I remarked to Brother Carl yesterday that my garden was one of the most fertile spots on this flat where the tomato vines are as large as any tomato vines you ever saw. Why is it? It is because the Lord is blessing that little spot of ground.

Why is it that we can't get much water? It is because the Lord doesn't want us to have it. He wants us to have enough to keep us encouraged and to keep our faith building up. As long as we seek to do that, the Lord will bless us and we will begin to exercise faith. As long as the Lord can keep us humble and we will keep humble, we will see those blessings heaped upon us, and the many children that we noticed this morning in this building will be taken care of.

The miracle that Uncle Elmer spoke about will continue to be performed upon this place. The wicked will wonder why they are living upon it. They may seek to move us out of here because we are getting so numerous on this spot of ground--which talk has already been expressed by our enemies, that this place would cease to exist in a few years--but that isn't according to the plan of God. When they commence to move this people, they will find they have a bigger job than they thought they had.

This is one of the most choice spots of ground on the earth. The Lord has spoken it through His prophets. The time will come when we will see it realized. Uncle Elmer struck the keynote when he said this land has been cursed that the wicked may not come upon it. That is right, and if we will live according to the counsel that has been given us by our leaders, the wicked will not come in and drive us out, and the curse will be removed from the land.

I pray that we will see the necessity of getting the Spirit of God around us and keeping it, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 26, 1950, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

I believe we have all enjoyed the meeting. There have been many truths, enough to give us something to think about for another week or so, longer than that if you want to. We come here and are instructed and asked to repent and live so that we can get the Spirit of God and keep it. I wonder how much thought we put upon the word “repentance.”

If we have done a wrong and we know it, we should see to it that we don’t do the same thing again, that we refrain from doing evil. If we have injured our neighbor in any way, we should go and make right the thing we have done before we can repent of it. If we have hurt someone’s feelings by what we have said, it is our duty to go and make it right, and then we are putting ourselves in a condition so that we can get the Spirit of God and keep it. These are some thoughts we should think upon when we think of the word “repentance.”

Repentance is to not go back to our evil ways. The Lord is not pleased with a people who repent one day, and the next day do the same thing and try to repent again and jump back and forth. Repentance is to repent of a sin and not have it with us any more. Let’s think about this and study it, and let’s repent of all our sins and do them no more.

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

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 31, 1950, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, it is indeed a pleasure to come here and look into your faces again and to feel the spirit that is here today. I hope that the Spirit of God will rest upon me while I speak this afternoon.

I have been interested in the remarks of those who have spoken this afternoon, and the picture has come before my eyes of the workings of the Lord among His people throughout the histories of the world. I couldn't help but think back upon the conditions that existed when our old father Lehi left Jerusalem, and compare it with our condition today. The Lord spoke to Lehi in a dream and told him that the city of Jerusalem was going to be destroyed because of wickedness. The Lord had told him for many years to preach the Gospel of repentance to that people, and when they had hardened their hearts to that extent the Lord saw fit to preach His own sermon to them. Then He warned Lehi in a dream to take his family and go into the wilderness, and He said, "I will lead you to a land choice above all other lands."

Some of the things that the Lord promised to Lehi, we are seeing fulfilled today. We are seeing the promises that the Lord made to him and to his son Nephi being fulfilled. How great were his trials when he was opposed by his children and by his wife and by those who were with him upon that journey, and how humble he was, and how hard he fought to get the Spirit of God around him and keep it that he might carry out and bring to pass the things that he knew the Lord wanted him to do, and how hard he labored to do the things that the Lord wanted him to do.

These are the very things we are doing today, my brothers and sisters. When we compare it with these other conditions that existed in the world, it is identically the same. The servants of the Lord are laboring hard to teach a people how to live to save themselves, and not only themselves, but this

nation, and to bring to pass the great and glorious promises that have been made to the children of men. It is for that reason that we continually encourage you to get the Spirit of God around you and keep it.

We know, through the revelations of the Spirit of God, that the time is here when we must prepare a people to save themselves, because no man will be able to save you. You have got to do it yourselves.

I hope and pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us, that the spirit of repentance will bear down upon us, that we will rally around those whom God has called to lead us and give them the support that is necessary to consummate the work of God in the earth, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

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

We have met together again this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, upon this beautiful day. Again, we should remember the blessings of the Lord to us this time of the year. If we acknowledge the hand of the Lord in our circumstances, He will continue to bless us. I pray the Spirit of the Lord may rest upon us that those who may be called upon this afternoon may be led by His Holy Spirit. I will just read a word or two here:

(Book of Mormon, 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 you 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."

This is a promise made to the Nephite people by the Savior, Himself, after the great destruction which fell upon that people at His coming. And it still applies to His people wherever they are found upon the face of the earth. The Lord has striven from time to time ever since the beginning of the history of His people in the earth--He has striven to raise up a people that would carry off the Kingdom, a people that would keep His commandments.

We have found only in a few instances where people have perfected their lives to that point where He has been pleased to shower His blessings upon them. It is true from time to time, in a great many instances, He has blessed this people, but to raise up a people who are determined to carry off the Kingdom and practice it in our hearts, there are only a few times this has happened. He is striving again today to prepare a people to

become worthy of partaking of the blessing of the redemption of Zion. May we be that people, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

COMMENTS IN A MUTUAL CLASS, BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 11, 1953, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

When the Prophet Joseph went out into the woods to pray, the Father and the Son appeared to him, and he was given to understand that something was being revealed to him that superceded all other covenants or principles that he had taken into his life before.

When the Angel Moroni came and gave him instructions, he had to leave off his every tradition and follow the instructions of heaven. Then the Gospel was given to him, step by step. When we undertake to stand upon principles that conflict with the Gospel of Christ, we are treading on the devil's ground. The devil has power over us to that extent that we persist in standing on his ground and partaking of his spirit.

When we make covenants with the Lord, He expects us to live up to those covenants no matter what it takes. If we have to sacrifice all our other ideas that we have ever had before, it is our duty. We will never get a blessing until we do bring ourselves into subjection and accept the things the Lord gives to us. Whether it comes directly from heaven or through His servants, it is the same.

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SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 24, 1953, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

Quite a man, that Carl. I expected to be called on, too. I trust, my brothers and sisters, that I might enjoy the Spirit of God to direct my remarks. I have been very much interested and pleased with the testimonies that have been borne by these young people.

We are at the end of one season's labor, and now we are about to commence another. The greater responsibility lies upon the shoulders of the parents in providing employment for these youngsters that have been in the schoolroom all winter and thus far this spring. We must see to it that they do not roam the streets and that their minds are employed in the proper manner.

We must do what we can to provide employment for these eager minds, that we might bring them up in the way that the Lord would have a people raised. Let us try to guide their actions in a way that will be pleasing to those around. We have experiences every day that bring sorrow to us--other experiences that bring joy to our hearts.

We should teach our children to be courteous and kind to those who come among us. Word has come to my ears that some of our youngsters wanted to see something funny, and they pulled a trick on one of the outsiders visiting our party. It was very unbecoming, not only to the youngsters, but it brings reproach to this people to think that our boys and girls haven't been trained better. Sometimes in trying to play a joke, we carry it just a little too far. In this instance, it might have caused bodily injury to the person on whom they pulled the trick.

So let us see to it that these things cease among this people. When people come here, let us treat them with respect, show them that we are living above other people, that the Lord has blessed us with more intelligence, that He has blessed us with a greater testimony than He has other people on earth.

Why can’t we live it? Why can’t we put into the minds of our children those things that will be receptive and pleasing in the sight of the Lord. I don’t know who were the ones that caused this thing--it might have been my boy, but if it was, I am talking to him. I am talking to the ones who did it and are guilty. These are things that we can do and maybe be forgiven for, but it remains in the minds of those who are harmed by it.

I hope that we can take to heart the mission of this people, both old and young, and see to it that we treat with respect those people who come among us. It doesn’t make any difference whether they are our enemies or not, they are still God’s children, and they have as much right to live upon God’s earth as you or I. It is not our business to judge them or to punish them for anything they might have done to us.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a great thing in the lives of people. I sometimes wonder just how kind the Lord can be to us and bless us with the good things of this life and still keep us in the line of righteousness. We have read in the scriptures, and heard the testimonies of men and women, of the rise and downfall of God’s people upon the earth. We have read about their poverty and how through poverty they have been humbled and have drawn nearer to the Lord, how the Lord blessed them because of their faith. Then we have heard of their downfall because of the great wealth that they attained through the blessings that the Lord heaped upon them.

Now it isn’t our desire here to bring up a people and have the blessings of the Lord upon us to that extent where we will become high-minded and proud so that the Lord will withhold His blessings from us again. The Lord has caused that a plan be put into effect that will keep the people from this great calamity if it is lived in righteousness.

We are told in history that for over two hundred years people upon this continent lived with perfect confidence in one another. Why did they do it, and how did they do it? It was because they put into practice a plan that Jesus Christ established among this people. He came here in person and commenced a work, instructed men how to live and what to do to make them wealthy and to bring them back into the presence of their Father in heaven. As long as they lived that plan and put it into practice they prospered in the land and became a great and mighty people, and the church had great wealth. But when they began to get proud, they began to break up into little clans; then the Spirit of the Lord withdrew from them. The result was a crumbling and falling of that great nation; the complete destruction of the people of God upon the earth because of their great wickedness. Those who were left upon the land were those who did not believe in the words of our Savior. The once righteous who turned and rejected Him were all destroyed, so we are told.

Now, why was it? Can we answer the question? Why was it that the righteous were taken and the wicked left? Why didn't the Lord keep the righteous upon the earth and cause the wicked to be taken away? It was because the Lord expects more of those whom He has blessed with a testimony of Him and His work. He would not let them stay upon the earth after they had rejected His work and brought reproach upon His name. He would not allow them to live upon the earth and perpetuate their wickedness here.

When we attain to that great knowledge of the fullness of the everlasting Gospel, we take upon us a great responsibility. We take upon us the responsibility of showing our Father in heaven that we will do His work by our works. When we fail to do those things, we bring down the judgments of God upon us.

When you say that you know that this Gospel is true and that God has called men to lead in this day, then say in the same breath that you have a right to follow God but not His servants, what are you saying? I would like you to ponder upon that statement. What does the Savior say? “He that saith He loveth Me and keepeth not My commandments is not worthy of Me.” This Priesthood is Godhead, and God has called men and ordained them to the Priesthood. He is not here Himself, but He has these men here to work under Him. Then can you say that they have no right to dictate to you, to tell you what to do to gain your salvation? Can you say that these men that the Lord has placed here to guide this work have no right to dictate to you until you find out direct from God whether they are right or not?

Of course we have a right to ask the Lord to dictate to us whether we are being led right or wrong, but when we make covenants to uphold the work of God here in the earth, have we any right to break the covenants that we have made? I want to tell you, my dear brothers and sisters, that this people here have taken upon themselves great responsibilities, and the Lord expects a great deal from us. Unless we become as one, as our leaders have told us, this land will never become what we expect it to--a goodly place to live upon.

If you don’t believe that God has called His servants to come here and establish His Priesthood and bring up a people that will go on and become that people who will assist in the redemption of Zion, then you have no business here; you should move out. If this is the place that has been designated by God for the commencement of that work, which the prophets have said it was, and if you are not in harmony, then go! Let somebody come in and take your place that can be in harmony with the work that is at hand.

I am mighty thankful for the testimonies that were borne here today by these young people, for I believe we are raising men and women. We are doing the very thing Uncle John said we would have to do--we would have to raise them up in order to get the faith that it takes to establish the Priesthood of God in the earth. If we believe the testimonies of these young men and women, we have heard plenty today to give us courage to go on and continue to teach our children in the right way that they might come up and take our place and go on and carry this work through as God wants it to go. No man or woman has any right to stand in the way of God's work.

Now I pray that the spirit of peace will rest upon us that we will take to heart what is before us, that we will seek diligently day and night for the Spirit of God until we get it so it will stay with us, and that this work will go on, that this people will go with it and fill the mission that they have been called to.

I verily believe, my dear brothers and sisters, that the Lord expects us to keep going until Zion is redeemed. Now, may God bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

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The young people who bore their testimonies were: Alma Barlow, Sandra Barlow, Ada Barlow, Adaire Stubbs, Mildred Barlow, Joseph C. Jessop, Richard Cooke, Lois Jessop, Ann Lauritzen, Bennie Bistline, Ellen Jessop, Harvard Stubbs, Edna Black Barlow, Lorna Allred, Esther Johnson Barlow, Merril Jessop, Florence Jessop, Steven Balmforth, Fawn Stubbs, Alvin Barlow, and Karen Lauritzen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 1, 1956, SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA

I trust that the few words I speak, brothers and sisters, may be led by the Spirit of God, because we find ourselves once more in the throes of persecution.

My mind goes back two and a half years when the enemy came in upon this people, but we are still here, and we are still being taught by the same God that taught us two and a half years ago. We have had two and a half years to make ourselves better. If we are not better, it is our own fault, because we have had experiences that ought to build us up and bring us to a point where we could find favor in the sight of the Lord in cases like these that we are called upon to go through from time to time.

Word came to me yesterday that the officers will be in here on the tenth to pick up Brother Black's children unless their mother and their father sign the papers that they have prepared. I don't know exactly what the contents are. I guess no one will know until they read them. Unless they make concessions to the officers when they come in, they will take their children away. Then, I understand that a little later on in the month, they will come in with papers prepared to arrest the parents if they do not sign the pledges that they have for them to sign. If they will sign, they can go on and cease to live the law of plural marriage and cease to teach their children, or to even tell them they can have their free agency. These are some of the things that are contained in those pledges. If they sign, they will be permitted to retain their children. I understand those pledges will have to be renewed once every thirty days.

We have many instances throughout the history of God's people throughout the earth where similar conditions have existed. The most outstanding of any history we have is the case of Alma and Amulek, when those people were accosted with

practically the same demands that are being made upon this people--that they cease to teach that there was a God and unless they obeyed Him and kept His commandments, they would be damned. Those are some of the things Alma and Amulek were called to deny if they gained their freedom. The scriptures tell us that they answered them nothing.

The result was that they brought their families and children and their friends that believed on the words of Alma and Amulek--and the history tells us they took Alma and Amulek and bound them to posts where they could watch what went on--then they tied their families and children and friends to stakes and burned them in front of their eyes. They did those things until they had consumed, I guess, practically all who would confess that they believed on the words of Alma and Amulek.

Then the scriptures tell us that they were still held in prison for some time, but finally, the Lord was satisfied that these men could stand the test that was put upon them without murmuring, and then He delivered them. The story tells us that the prison was extra filled with people who had come to torment Alma and Amulek because of their determination to serve God and keep His commandments. So the Lord caused a great commotion, and the walls of the prison fell. History tells us that all who were inside the walls of the prison were killed except Alma and Amulek. They broke their chains and walked out.

Now, whether we have faith enough to bring those same blessings upon us at this time remains to be seen, but this we do know--when the Lord established the Priesthood in the latter days, the Angel Moroni told the Prophet Joseph that this Gospel of the Kingdom would never be taken away nor given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. We were taken as a body two and a half years ago and threatened with utter annihilation; they had it in

their minds to imprison the parents of these children, take the children and adopt them out, and destroy the records that they may not know their identity. Governor Pyle said within two years the children wouldn't know who they were or where they came from. The Lord saw to it that our children were preserved, for which we are thankful.

Through this experience, we should be prepared against this day. We should be able to command the respect of our Father in heaven. We have a few days left; the enemy has been kind enough to us to give us ten days in which to prepare ourselves to receive them and to take what they have to dish out to us. In ten days time, we should be able to convince the Lord that we are ready to do His will and keep His commandments.

Some of our people have more or less looked upon this thing as a joke--something that we can pass lightly by and wiggle out from under some way or another, but I want to tell you, it is more than a joke. This thing is real. Nations have been wiped out because they have treated lightly the things that God has given His people. The Lord has plainly told the Latter-day Saints that they are under condemnation and will remain there until they repent and remember the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which He has given them.

What have we to repent of? We say that we have separated ourselves from the Church, and we are living the higher laws of the Gospel, what have we to repent of? Let's stop long enough to take stock of ourselves and get the Gospel of Jesus Christ and read it and see what the Lord expects of this people.

Do we have love in our hearts toward one another? Are we content with the surroundings in which we find ourselves? I am afraid there are some among us who persist in the thought that they are misplaced--they would be better off in some other family. Some of you women who have covenanted with your husband,

did you make those covenants without the knowledge of what you were doing? Are you not satisfied with your condition? You men, have you made mistakes in acting quickly and brought upon yourselves conditions that are not what they should be in your homes? Are you able to unite your wives and then your children? Have you taught your children how to honor and obey their parents and those who are older than they are, and especially those who preside over them in the Priesthood?

Have you done all these things? There are a lot of things that we need to think upon, my brothers and sisters. Have we kept our homes in a condition so that the Spirit of God could dwell there? It is true that some of our homes are not what they should be; they are not updated--we don't have the facilities that they have in the city to make our homes comfortable and desirable to all who come among us, but the least we can do is keep them clean--if we will. We can keep them clean so that the Spirit of God will be pleased to enter. How can the Spirit of God enter a dirty home, a place that is filthy, especially if the spirit that we condone in the home is not sweet?

Can we get the Spirit of God and keep it? Can we command the respect of our Father in heaven when the enemies come in and demand our children? Have we done all that we can to make our homes such that the Lord will be pleased that those children should stay and be taught there? If we have, then we can command the respect of our Father and make Him to understand that our homes are better for those spirits than somebody else's home.

We have many instances where the Lord has blessed those who have led His people. We will take, for instance, the city of Jericho. The Lord appeared to the old Prophet Joshua and told him to take his army and go out and march around this city, encircle the city once a day for so many days--six days--I believe. On the seventh day, "March around the city seven times

and I will deliver them into your hands." What happened? History tells us that Joshua did that very thing. He told the people of the dates, and he did what God told him to do. The Lord told him to not get hasty and want to hurry up, but to be patient and He would deliver the city into his hands, which He did. On the seventh day, after they encircled the city seven times, the walls fell, and the people--the city was destroyed.

The Lord has told us time and again that if we would prepare ourselves against the day of visitation that He would be mindful of His people, and I believe He is ready to bless this people if we will humble ourselves--if we will clean up our homes so the Spirit of the Lord can be there. I believe He is ready to bless us and cause that we retain our children. If they take them away, it won't be for long because they will be glad to return them. Conditions of the world are getting so that they don't know what is going to happen, and neither do we, but the Lord has promised that He would fight the battles of the saints upon the condition that they would keep His commandments and do as He has said.

There isn't very much we can do in this day when the evil powers rule the earth and the saints of God have dwindled from the path which the Lord laid out for them to travel. There isn't very much we can do, but we do have this consolation, if we know we have been striving with our might to keep the commandments of God, He is bound to fight our battles and permit us to live and teach our children the way back into His presence. He has promised us that. If we can go to with a confidence that we know we have done all that we can, then the Lord will bless us.

This is one of the most glorious days that men could live in. The Lord has promised more to the people who live in this time than any other time. He has promised us all that He has revealed to former generations, and not only that, but He has

given us all that He has promised to this generation if we will live for it. It is going to take us, and our children, doing all we can to get to a point where the Lord will be pleased to bless us, and we will have to conform to the condition that we find ourselves in. Someone said that we are either going to take direction from the Priesthood, or we are going to take direction from the devil. Now, if we can prove ourselves, if we have thought upon this thing and we have prayed, well then, maybe we will earn a condition where the Lord will bless us and bring us up and make us strong for this hour in which we find ourselves.

Someone said the other day, “Why don’t you go out and do like Brigham Young did--take your people and go to a new place and start all over again where you can live your religion?” I don’t know where that would be. I don’t know what other country we can go to. We have been over the country quite a bit and we have investigated the conditions of other countries, and we find it is all about the same--Satan rules wherever you go. He will continue to rule until God finds a people that He can work with--one He can mold so that He will be pleased to fight their battles.

I don’t believe we will have to go any farther than where we are. I believe just as much faith can be mustered in this place, here in the homes of this people, as anywhere else upon this good earth the Lord has given us. He brought us here. He sent His servants here and placed blessings upon this land and commanded this people to build it up and make homes for the saints with the promise that the Lord would bless us. What more do we want? Could we go out of here with our heads up and say we have done all we can but the enemies came in and drove us out? Can we go to another place and invoke the blessings of God upon it? I am afraid the Lord would spew us out of His mouth and wouldn’t have anything to do with us. We would find ourselves without the Spirit of God.

We have gone through and done the best we could under the conditions we have found ourselves in because He set us here without anything--and most of us were badly in debt, and we still find ourselves in debt.

As soon as we get to a point where it looks like we are going to build up a little bit, then the enemy comes in and causes us trouble. How long the Lord will allow this, I do not know. He wants us to prepare ourselves against the day when the enemy of His work comes in upon us. If we can command His respect, we can go about our labors with the confidence that He will protect us, and I know it can be done. I know that this people have it within their grasp at this time to cause the enemy to stand afar off and tremble if we will exercise the faith that we have, because we have been taught how to serve God and keep His commandments. If the enemy comes in and wipes us out, it will be our of own fault. It won't be that the Lord has forsaken this people because of their righteousness.

Now, I pray, my brothers and sisters, that we can muster enough faith here to stay the hands of those who seek to destroy this people. We have exercised faith in the past few years that has pleased the Lord enough so that we still retain our children. We have seen our children delivered miraculously from the enemies of this work, and there is no reason in the world why we can't double the faith that we have shown before.

Now, let us not get overconfident that God is going to fight the battles of this people. Let us go home from this meeting determined to get close to God that He might get close to us. Let us not cease to pray that He might stay the hands of those who seek to destroy this work, because these precious souls the Lord has placed in our hands are mighty precious in the sight of God. They need experience the same as we do, but I don't believe they have to go out into somebody else's home in order to

get experience. I believe the Lord can prepare a way to give them experience right here in our own homes if we will only find it and be willing to teach them how to come up in the fear of the Lord. The Lord tells us to cease to fear our enemies or what they can do to us, but to fear to offend God and keep His commandments so He can be pleased to shower His blessings upon us in time of need. Now, may the Lord bless us with a stronger determination to get the Spirit of God in our homes and keep it. May His blessings be upon us all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 5, 1959, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We have a wonderful audience here this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, and I thank my Heavenly Father that I have been permitted to meet with you again and enjoy the health and strength that He has given me. I pray that the few moments I stand before you He will dictate my remarks that nothing will be said through me that will hinder His work. I have nothing in my heart but love for the work of God and for its growth, and I desire that you assist me with your faith and prayers, that the will of God might be obtained here this afternoon. So far, the remarks of those who have spoken before me are pleasing in the sight of God, for they bear nothing but the building elements of the Kingdom of God. If we will go home after this meeting with the few notes we have taken stored up in our minds and try to verify them by the scriptures, we will find that nothing has been said here this afternoon that does not conform with the revelations of God.

We have been told time and again that the Lord has placed this people under condemnation and they will remain there until they repent and remember the covenants they have made with Him. The Lord foresaw what was going to happen in the hearts of men and their willingness to accept error instead of truth. He told them as early as 1830 that He would place them under condemnation unless they accepted the words that He gave to them and the commandments that He placed upon them to live and obey. I think that I shall read just a few verses from the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Section 24:1-12)

> "Behold, thou wast called and chosen to write the Book of Mormon, and to my ministry; and I have lifted thee up out of thine afflictions, and have counseled thee, that thou hast been delivered from all

thine enemies, and thou hast been delivered from the powers of Satan and from darkness!

Nevertheless, thou art not excusable in thy transgressions; nevertheless, go thy way and sin no more.

Magnify thine office; and after thou hast sowed thy fields and secured them, go speedily unto the church which is in Colesville, Fayette, and Manchester, and they shall support thee; and I will bless them both spiritually and temporally;

But if they receive thee not, I will send upon them a cursing instead of a blessing.

And thou shalt continue in calling upon God in my name, and writing the things which shall be given thee by the Comforter, and expounding all scriptures unto the church.

And it shall be given thee in the very moment what thou shalt speak and write, and they shall hear it, or I will send unto them a cursing instead of a blessing.

For thou shalt devote all thy service in Zion; and in this thou shalt have strength.

Be patient in afflictions, for thou shalt have many; but endure them, for lo, I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days.

And in temporal labors thou shalt not have strength, for this is not thy calling. Attend to thy calling and thou shalt have wherewith to magnify thine office, and to expound all scriptures, and continue in laying on of the hands and confirming the churches.

And thy brother Oliver shall continue in bearing my name before the world, and also to the church.

> And he shall not suppose that he can say enough in my cause; and lo, I am with him to the end.
>
> In me he shall have glory, and not of himself, whether in weakness or in strength, whether in bonds or free;
>
> And at all times, and in all places, he shall open his mouth and declare my gospel as with the voice of a trump, both day and night. And I will give unto him strength such as is not known among men."

The Lord requires a great deal, my brothers and sisters, from His servants. President Barlow labored all the days after I knew him, and I know he did before, trying to build up a people that the Lord could use. How many, how many are here today of the saints that President Barlow tried to educate and tried to lay before them the same principles that we are trying to lay before you today? This parking lot around this house would not be able to hold them if they had all been faithful in all things. He tried to plant deep in their hearts a desire to serve God and keep His commandments, but that is the sticking point, to try to get people to desire to serve God and keep His commandments.

We have many here today that are listening to the principles of truth and salvation. In five years from now, how many of you will be here to hear the servants of God? We have been trying to build up a people that will keep the commandments of God.

The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that the churches of the day drew near to Him with their lips, and with their lips did honor Him, but their hearts were far from Him. A great majority of the people are against the principles that were established by our dear Prophet Joseph Smith. They don't

believe in them. And why is it? It is because the people do not have a desire to serve God and keep His commandments. We have first got to acquire a desire to do a thing before we can do it.

Brother Ray Blackmore bore his testimony to you this afternoon. I want to say to Brother Blackmore that whenever he comes down here, he may be called upon to get up and bear his testimony. Why? Because he has been called of God to preside over a people, and he has just as much right to get up and bear his testimony when he is called upon as any of the brethren. He has a firm testimony that John Y. Barlow and Joseph Musser followed in the footsteps of the Prophet Joseph Smith as any man ever had, and you have heard him bear it, too.

President Hammon bore testimony that he would like to have lived in the days of President Brigham Young. He is living in a day when the Spirit of God is upon the earth just as great as it was in the days of President Brigham Young. He couldn't gather around him any more men that were firm in the truth than we can gather around us today, because down deep in their hearts they didn't have a desire. The desire was creeping in among them to do away with the saving principles of life and salvation, and before two more presidents finished their terms in his position, the people rejected those laws.

How many of you here today who have heard the testimonies that have been borne here this afternoon have an unshaken desire deep down in your heart to comply with the things that have been told to you? Think of these things, and then go to the scriptures and see where you stand. If the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were to gather with the people of this state, and then to gather with the people of this nation, as well as those unto whom we speak today, they would all still be under the same condemnation. They are going to remain under it until they repent, and God has promised that they shall repent or be wiped off the earth.

Is it worth the trial? Is it worth a trial for this people that are here today to acquire a desire to serve God and keep His commandments? May this be our happy lot, my brothers and sisters, that we acquire a desire to serve the Lord our God, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 27, 1960,
SHORT CREEK, ARIZONA
(Remarks at the beginning of the meeting.)

I feel, my brothers and sisters, that we have had an outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord here today, and we have heard many wonderful things. Now, if we can profit by them, the Lord will be pleased with us.

Brother Hammon made one mistake in his talk, and I am going to call it to your attention. He said he could go to Provo and bring carrots in here for three cents a pound. The Lord will not be pleased with this people if you send him to Provo to get carrots to feed us. I remember years ago when I was doing a little farming, they had a Fair down in Hurricane during Peach Days. We went down and secured a little display. I took out of my garden three samples of carrots--the Ox Heart, Long Range, and Danvers Half-long, and Short Creek carried away three blue ribbons.

There is no use going up there to bring carrots in to feed this people after the Lord has blessed us with this little stream of water we have. You can set aside an acre or two of ground down here and “organic” it just as well as they can “organic” it in Provo, and you will have the same kind of carrots raised on your land. I will promise you, you will raise more carrots off an acre of ground here than they can in Provo. Thank the Lord we have some faith.....

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SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DATE UNKNOWN, 1961, CANADA

I'm certainly happy, my brothers and sisters, to be with you this afternoon and to partake of another outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord. I trust that the few moments I occupy this position the Lord will dictate what I say. For I know and realize that we're living in a time when there's very little of the Spirit of God in the earth. There's never been a time in the history of God's work when the evil powers have been more determined to try to outwit the Lord in His work than today. There's never been a time that the people have treated more lightly the things that the Lord has given us than at the present time.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized in 1830. In 1832, the Lord placed the whole Church under condemnation because they had treated lightly the things He had given them. We are one hundred years and more since that time, and there are fewer people today than there were in 1832 when the Lord placed the Church under condemnation. I mean that there are fewer people who claim to believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and are trying to keep His commandments than there were then. We've got more people who say by word of mouth that Joseph was a prophet, but they have brought themselves under condemnation because they won't listen to his teachings. They claim that his teachings are not applicable to us at the present time. So, we're still under condemnation.

We find, today, that the evil powers are working among our young people, and they are beginning to get a great foothold. It's been amazing to us in our findings in trying to root out of our ranks the evils that are creeping in. We find it amazing to our understanding. For so many years, the Lord has been trying to teach those who have professed to believe in the Priesthood how to raise their families and how to bring them up in the fear

of the Lord; and even with all that, we find that the devil has found a fruitful field among our young people.

It's a responsibility, my brothers and sisters, that is greater than we realize. There was one time that the Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that he was nigh unto cursing because he hadn't taught his children correct principles. Every person that comes into the earth comes here in a pure condition. As soon as they arrive here, we begin to teach them either the principles of eternal life, or we begin to instill into their souls the principles of damnation. I think, sometimes, that the Lord is very much displeased, very much concerned about sending here to earth His choice spirits that have been held back until this day.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is unto all men. I very often refer to this passage of scripture because it's so plain and understandable. The Lord said:

(Doctrine & Covenants, 1:1-7)

"Hearken O, ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say: Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.

For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated.

And the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow; for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed.

And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my prophets, 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."

Those are the first words of this good book: The Doctrine & Covenants. I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, this is nothing to be trifled with. This Gospel of the Kingdom pertains to your advancement and mine throughout the eternities. We were created, not for this life only, but to go on and prepare ourselves to become like God is. For, "As man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become." There is no wonder, my brothers and sisters, that the world is in the condition it is today. There have been many, many generations through which the Lord has tried to get people to repent and to apply to their lives the principles of salvation, but very, very few men have been able to bring themselves under the jurisdiction of the Spirit of God that they might have the Spirit of God and keep it with them continually.

The Church calls missionaries and sends them out into the world to preach the Gospel. They convert people and they accept the first principles of the Gospel, faith, repentance, and baptism by emersion for the remission of sins, but very few realize what is meant by those few commandments.

"We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are; first, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, repentance; third, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, the laying on of hands for the gifts of the Holy Ghost."

If we only understood what those principles of salvation meant, we'd be a better people. First, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, repentance. Then we go down into the waters of baptism, and by doing so, we agree with the Lord that we will not return to the sins of this generation, but that we will keep ourselves clean. The Lord, in return, offers us the gifts of the Holy Ghost. As long as we keep ourselves in a clean condition, then the Holy Ghost can abide with us, but it cannot abide with people who are covenant breakers. The Lord is ready and willing to shower His blessing upon the people. He is ready and willing to reveal His mind and will to those who will prepare themselves for the reception of the gifts of the Holy Ghost, but when men go down into the waters of baptism and come out and return to their evil ways, evil doings then the Spirit of God withdraws. When the Spirit of God withdraws, it is hard to get it back again.

(Doctrine & Covenants, 84:44-57)

> "For you shall live by every word that proceedeth 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 everyone 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 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."

This is the reason, my brothers and sisters, that we are continually pushed to hasten to bring up a people that the Lord can use in the redemption of Zion. We're not here to condemn a people, or anyone. We're here to teach a people the importance of applying to their lives the principles of salvation that when the One Mighty and Strong makes his appearance to set in order the house of God, he might have timber to work with.

Today, a preparation is necessary. There's never been a time in the history of this work when the Lord has pushed His servants so hard to hasten the preparation of a people that He might have someone to work with. He told the Prophet Joseph Smith when He restored the Aaronic Priesthood that this Gospel of the Kingdom would not be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.

That promise that was made to the Prophet Joseph Smith has come so near to failing that it's been frightening to the servants of God. It's frightening today. It's actually frightening today. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that if he would raise five hundred faithful men, He would redeem Zion in 1836. The Prophet tried to find that many men, and he couldn't find them. Finally, the Lord told him to gather up what he could of the faithful of Zion and go up; and if they would go without murmuring, He would still redeem Zion. But Joseph couldn't find them. He found a body of men that were willing to go, but they couldn't go and keep the covenant that the Lord placed them under. So it looked as though the mission had failed, but out of that body of men came the chosen authorities of the Church, or of the Priesthood.

Now, again the Lord has put forth His hand to redeem Zion--to bring up a people that would be prepared to redeem Zion. That's what we're working for. We're trying to bring up a people that the Lord would be pleased to send to them the rest of His faithful spirits that are in the eternal world, that those spirits might come to the earth and not be disgraced through their coming here. Whose right is it to bring them here? Whose right is it to bring them up and teach them according to the word of God? Think it over. We are told that before we came to this earth, we understood fully the plan of salvation, and we shouted

for joy for the privilege of coming here and taking bodies. What for? To turn over to Satan? No! We all thought when we left over there that we could come here and be strong enough to overcome the evils of this world and go back in a pure condition because we understood that we had to have a body to go on with. That's the purpose of these bodies. If we come here and defile them, and give them over to the buffetings of Satan then what good will they be? We can't use them when we go back. We've got to purify them. We've got to keep them in a condition so that when we go back we can have them celestialized so that we might use them in the hereafter. There is a responsibility upon the parents of this day to commence to teach these children while they are yet unborn. Keep the Spirit of God with you. You mothers that are bearing children, as soon as you find that you are going to bring forth a soul, see to it that you don't spend one day, not one minute without having the Spirit of God upon you that it might be instilled into that little soul. I want to tell you, there is a great responsibility on a woman after she finds out that she is going to bring a soul into the world. There's a great responsibility upon a woman, and the thing that she owes to that child is the fact that she never allows herself to become disrupted in her spirit, that the Spirit of God might actuate that spirit while it's yet unborn. Then when it comes, she will find out that she has a hundred percent better chance of teaching it the principles of salvation than she would otherwise. There are a lot of angles to be figured out among the saints of God.

I'll tell you, the responsibility that's upon the parents at this time is tremendous because where much is given, much is expected. If we believe that we are sons and daughters of Adam, if we believe that Jesus is the Christ and that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God, then why do we let our spirits be actuated by the spirit of contention and the spirit of envying

and strife? The ones who can overcome these evils are the ones that are going to make the grade.

These are some of the things, my brothers and sisters, that we want you to think upon. We want to begin to raise ourselves out from under the condemnation that the Lord placed us under and said we would remain there until we repented. These evils that we've been speaking about are the things that disrupted the Church in the early days. They are what disrupted the Church all the way along.

Now, the Lord has given us another chance to preserve the Gospel of the Kingdom. Let us not fail. Let's make up our minds that we are going to keep the commandments of God and that we are going to apply to our lives the saving principles of that Gospel.

Let's start in. Let's help this coming generation become a pure and undefiled generation that God might perform His miracles in the last days.

I don't wish to say any more, but I pray the blessings of God to be upon you, each and everyone of you. May He prosper you in this land and in your efforts to teach and train this generation of young people, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 2, 1961,
SUNDAY EVENING MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR SISTER ALICE STEED
MOTHER OF BROTHER NEWEL STEED AND BROTHER W. W. STEED
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

The time has come, my brothers and sisters, to commence these services, and we are very happy to have so many people here this evening. You know, when a person has done their best through life to comply with the blessings of heaven, there seems to be no cause for mourning or to be sad about their passing.

Tonight we have met to pay homage to one of our dear sisters who lived a long and beautiful life, and she is well represented in this audience--Sister Alice Steed.

These service will be conducted in her memory, which, I am sure, will live throughout the ages in the memory of those who knew her. I haven't known this lady for a great number of years. I think I first met her along about 1950. It might have been earlier, but since that time, I have learned to love her and to love her family. I have great respect for all of those who are connected with her. I have sat and listened to the story of her life many times, and it has been very interesting to know her. I am sure that the Lord loved her because of her great faith. She had faith to be healed from one of the worst annoying diseases that men are afflicted with, but she lived to see her prayers answered in the removal of these obstacles in her life.

Now, I am sure that we will be greatly blessed in meeting her again. We will carry on these services in her honor this evening. The program will be carried out as follows, and without being interrupted.

Prelude Music Alice Harker
"Our Angels" by her grandchildren
Opening Prayer by Gerald Steed
Song "Gently Lead Us" by Newel Steed and Marjean
Remarks by Parley J. Harker, son-in-law
"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" by grandchildren
Remarks by J. M. Hammon
Closing Song, "The Teacher's Work is Done" Quartet

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 27, 1961,
MORNING MEETING
CANADA

The Lord has been good to us this morning to reveal His mind and will to us. I think now that we should have a little rest, and then we'll meet together again. After this meeting closes, we'll rest until one o'clock, and then we'll meet again.

In order to meet our appointments and to get back to our regular work, we'll need to forego a meeting tonight. We'll meet this afternoon and give the brethren time to instruct us, and then we'll be on our way, but we expect to be here again about the 7th of October, some of us, at least. I've been very pleased with the remarks that have been made this morning and feel to endorse them.

There is one thing that I would like to mention before I close my remarks, and that is this, over the years we have been striving to live the United Order. I remember one time, after we had tried to live that order in Short Creek, President Joseph Musser came down, and he threw quite a fear into us by making the remark that we were not living United Order. He said, "We're living at it." I wondered what he meant, but the longer I live, the more I learn, regarding his attitude.

Now, before a people is prepared to live the United Order, there has to be a lot of preparation made. And one of the greatest things that we have to overcome to prepare ourselves for those glorious principles we all want to embrace, is being able to overcome and control our feelings.

Men have got to be able to fellowship one another; woman have got to be able to fellowship one another before you are even worthy to enter into that order. It's the same thing that has disrupted that order from the time it was first spoken of and tried to be lived in the last days.

You read in the Book of Mormon the story of the people after the visitation of the Savior, and you will find recorded there that the people had perfect confidence in one another for two hundred years.

How many people are there in this room who have perfect confidence in one another? Just how prepared are you to be ushered into the United Order? A great deal of schooling, my brothers and sisters, has got to be done before we are able to live what the Lord has said we would have to in order to build up and establish the Kingdom of God in the earth.

Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. When you think upon that one phrase, you can see what has got to transpire in the minds of the people before we can do these things. Our job is to prepare a people that God can use in the establishment of the redemption of Zion. And if we who are the adults of today can't incorporate into our lives those principles which give us the right to take part in that great and glorious day, then who is going to do it?

The Lord told the Prophet Joseph that he was nigh unto cursing because he hadn't taught his children correct principles. How can we erase the curse or the condemnation that the Lord has placed us under if we don't do something about bringing our feelings into a condition so that the Lord would be pleased to bless us? Now, these are things that we'd like you to think about.

I won't speak further at this time, but I'll turn the time back to Brother Oler. We'll meet with you again at one o'clock. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 27, 1961,
AFTERNOON MEETING
CANADA

Brothers and sisters, it's now time to meet with you again. I trust that the Spirit of God will dictate what I say that we might be built up in our faith and that we might prepare ourselves against the day of visitation which the Lord has promised this generation.

In all the ages of the world, the Lord has tried to instruct the people to do something about their salvation. Right in the beginning of time and the days of our old Father Adam, the Lord came to him and instructed him about what he should do for his exaltation, and the exaltation of his children. But in all ages of the world, the opposite powers have been able to make their appearance to try to destroy the faith that the Lord has tried to instill into the hearts of the people.

All the way along the line it seems that the evil powers have been able to prevail in almost every instance. There are a few accounts where the Lord stepped in and saved the day for a people who had been close to Him and had striven to keep His commandments. There is no instance, or any record where the Lord has favored one people above another. He has sent prophets among the people and preached His sermons through them and told them what to do to round out their salvation, but He left it up to them to do what they wanted to do about it.

We have the records of Enoch where he labored for over three hundred years trying to perfect a people, and when he got them to a point where they could live in perfect harmony with one another, they refused to be swayed by the evil powers. Then the Lord took them away, translated Enoch and his people.

We have the record of Noah--how he preached to the people for a hundred and twenty years, then the Lord destroyed them because they wouldn't listen to his teachings. Had they

listened to his teachings, the Lord would not have destroyed the earth with a flood. But the Lord told Noah that all flesh was corrupted before Him, even the beasts of the field, because of the wickedness of the people. The scriptures tell us that as in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man in the latter days.

So if the world is under condemnation and there is only one way for its redemption, and the testimony of the Prophet Joseph is true that all the religions of the world are corrupted before the face of the Lord, it was necessary for Him to re-establish the Priesthood and give the people a new chance to serve the Lord and keep His commandments. During this time of restoration, the Lord promised to the Prophet Joseph that this Gospel would never be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering to the Lord in righteousness.

Now, because of the wickedness of the people, not only the world, but the rejection of the Gospel by the one-time saints of God, the whole world is under condemnation again. There is only one way that we can come out from under this condemnation, and that is by applying to our lives the saving principles that Enoch and his people applied to their lives.

The Lord has been kind enough to us to provide a way whereby His promise to the Prophet Joseph can be fulfilled in that this Gospel shall not be taken away or given to another people. That thread of hope that we have is handed down to our day, and we need it. We have a chance of building up and perfecting a people that can become instruments in the hands of God in establishing a Millennial Reign, which is a day of peace promised to the faithful saints on this continent which will embrace, not only the people of Enoch, but also the lost tribes of Israel. So there is a great blessing in store for those who

will apply these things to their lives, these great and glorious principles that God has given us for our salvation.

Now, it won't be any harder for us to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation, which is a day of judgment on the world, than it was for the people of Enoch to perfect themselves. The record tells us that immediately after the visitation of Christ upon this continent the people lived for two hundred years in perfect confidence with one another. It proves to us that it is highly possible for the people in the day in which we live to perfect their lives and put ourselves in a condition where the Lord can perform a miracle and a wonder among the people of the earth.

The Lord has promised to the faithful saints His protection. He has said that He would come out and show forth His strong arm in defense of His saints, even if it need be that He send fire from heaven to protect them, to destroy their enemies. If you'll go back to the record again in the history of the Nephite people, you will find that He did just that thing. He destroyed the wicked through fire from heaven, from earthquake, from the sinking of mountains and the sinking of cities and lakes rising in their places, from cities being disrupted and mountains rising. All these great destructions came because of the wickedness of people and their determination to destroy the prophets of God.

The record tells us that the more righteous among them were preserved; and after a few years time of preaching the Gospel, after Christ visited, they were all converted, according to the record in the Book of Mormon. Then came the day of a peaceful reign in that time--two hundred years of peace. When they began to fall away again, and the servants of God wanted to go among them and preach repentance to them, the Lord told them no. He said, "They are willingly rejecting me, and now if they

won't repent through the teachings they have received, they won't stay close to me, I will destroy them." Which He did.

There were only the wicked that were permitted to stay, and we can see what happened to that generation which today occupies this land. In all these generations of time people have not had access to the prophets of God to go among them and teach them the principles, or if they had, we have no record of it. If they did, no doubt they were put to death because of their testimonies.

Now then, the Lord told Abraham that his seed would be blessed through all the generations of time. He said in the latter days the Gospel would go first to the Gentiles and then to the House of Israel. The record tells us that great destruction will take place in this land unless the Gentiles accept the Gospel and apply it to their lives, and only those who believe in the testimony of Jesus will come under the atoning sacrifice of that great man. You hear the ministers of the world say that if you believe in Jesus that His atoning sacrifice will save you, but the Lord tells us plainly that only those who will accept the teachings and apply them to their lives will come under the atoning sacrifice.

In all ages of the world, there have only been two roads to follow. One to eternal salvation, and the other to eternal damnation. Now the Lord has left it to the decision of His children which road they would choose, and the great majority has chosen the road of death. Very few have chosen the road to eternal salvation. The Prophet Joseph, in his great mission among the children of men, brought the message of salvation and established it. Brigham Young, John Taylor, and those men tried to carry it on, but because of the wickedness of the people and their inability to comply with the requirements of the Lord, we find that today we only have a few, a very small portion of the

inhabitants of the world that actually believe in the testimony of Joseph Smith. We have many who claim they have a testimony of the divinity of that man's work, but very few there are that apply his teachings to their lives.

Now what did the Lord tell the Prophet Joseph when he asked the question, Of all the religions of the world which one shall I join? He said, "Joseph, join none of them, for they are all an abomination in my sight. They have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof." Joseph established the truth in the earth. He tried to get the true church established. Enoch tried to get Christ established in his day. The same principles that saved the people of Enoch have saved saints all the way down the line. The same Gospel was delivered to the Prophet Joseph, and we have it today. We have the same Priesthood, the same authority, and we're trying to build up a people that God can use. Now if the Lord requires that Zion be built upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, then we cannot reject those principles and be counted as saints because we will come under the category that the Lord said the religions of the world were in that they have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof.

Now let us go forth. Let us listen to the testimonies of the prophets, the elders of Israel, and let us apply them to our lives. Let us do the things that the Lord has said we must do in order to come under the atoning sacrifice of our great brother, Jesus Christ. I want to leave a little from Brigham Young.

(J of D Vol.16, pg.160-161)

> "The Gospel of life and salvation that we have embraced in our faith, and that we profess to carry out in our lives, incorporates all truth. We frequently testify to each other that we know that this Gospel is

true, and as I have a great many times said to those that listen to my conversation upon the principles of life and salvation, I believe this work, I believe this Gospel. I believe the doctrine that is brought to us through the Prophet Joseph in these the latter days, in this our time, for the simplest, plainest, and most palpable reason that can be given. What is it? Why, because it is true. The Gospel that I have embraced comprehends all truth. How much of it is true? All of it. How much does it embrace? All the truth that there is in the heavens, on the earth, under the earth; and if there is any truth in hell, this doctrine claims it. It is all the truth of heaven, the truth of God, the life of those that live forever, the law by which worlds were, are, will be brought into existence, and pass from one degree or one state and of being to another, pertaining to the exaltation of intelligence from the lowest to the highest state. This is the doctrine that the Latter-day Saints believe, whether they realize it or not.

Well, now, upon apostasy. What have the Latter-day Saints got to apostatize from? Everything that there is good, pure, holy, godlike, exalting, ennobling, extending the ideas, the capacities of the intelligent beings that our Heavenly Father has brought forth upon this earth. What will they receive in exchange? I can comprehend it in a very few words. These would be the words that I should use: death, hell, and the grave. That is what they will get in exchange. We may go into the particulars of that which they experience. They experience darkness, ignorance, doubt, pain, sorrow, grief, mourning, unhappiness; no

person to condole with in the hour of trouble, no arm to lean upon in the day of calamity, no eye to pity them when they are forlorn and cast down; I comprehend it by saying: death, hell, and the grave. This is what they will get in exchange for their apostasy from the Gospel of the Son of God. This is their reward, and it is foolishness, not merely nonsense. A person can have a little nonsense and pass it over, but this is foolishness. There is not a particle of good sense about it, no light, no intelligence, nothing that is most ennobling, elevating, cheering, comforting, consoling, that produces friends, or anything of this kind. I call it foolism. I do it this time; consequently, we will not talk anything about apostasy.

When people receive this Gospel, what do they sacrifice? Why, death for life. This is what they give: darkness for light, error for truth, doubt and unbelief for knowledge and the certainty of the things of God. Consequently, I consider it to be the biggest piece of foolism that can be hatched up, imagined or entertained or followed out by any human being, to leave this Gospel for what they will receive in exchange. So much for apostasy."

We have the greatest opportunity of any people in the world, brothers and sisters. We should be the happiest people in the world. In all of our adversity, we should still be happy if we know that we are striving to get the Spirit of God and keep it with us. There is no other thing that can come into the lives of the Latter-day Saints or into the lives of a people that will lift them up and bring peace to their bosoms quicker than to get rid of the hard feelings one towards another. If we can wipe

that out of our systems, we will find that we will begin to live. If we've never lived before, we'll begin to live then. But that's the thing that we've got to do. We've got to overcome ourselves. We've got to lift ourselves above the foolishness that Brigham Young has told us about.

We've got to bring ourselves into a condition so that we can fellowship one another, that we can have perfect confidence in one another, that when the day comes that we need the protecting hand of our Father in heaven, we can rest assured that it will come. There's no feeling that can compare with the feeling of security in the day of adversity. We've witnessed it in our lives. We've witnessed both--when we have done wrong, we have witnessed the feeling of the hand of oppression upon us, and when we have kept the commandments of God and got close to Him, we have witnessed the spirit of peace. Now, let us remember that the Spirit of God is the spirit of peace, and the spirit of evil is the spirit of contention. Let us get rid of it. Let us get rid of that. Let us live our religion and keep the commandments of God, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 4, 1961, CRESTON, CANADA

I rejoice, my brothers and sisters, in being here with you and partaking of the Spirit of the Lord and the instructions that He has given us this morning through the mouths of His servants. I rejoice, also, in the lives of these my brothers and sisters who are surrounding us in this day and the support they are giving us in this day and hour when all the powers of hell are striving to destroy the work of our Lord and Savior.

When Christ came to the earth, there was no one here to receive Him and to exalt Him into His proper place and give Him assistance that He might carry on His work. He came into a world of opposition. The first thing that transpired in His life was that His earthly father and His mother had to flee into Egypt in order to protect Him and to give Him existence in this world. All of the male children of His age were destroyed in hopes that they would destroy Him because of the testimonies of the prophets and the testimonies of the angels that surrounded Him at His birth.

We want to remember that in that great conflict in heaven, one-third of the hosts of heaven was thrust down to this earth and not permitted to partake of bodies. When our Father Adam came here with our Mother Eve, they came to a den of vipers, who had it in their hearts to destroy Father Adam’s offspring as fast as they came to the earth. These evil spirits fully understood the purpose and mission of the offspring of Adam, to come here and redeem, not only the earth at that time, but the lives of the faithful spirits who were destined to come and take part in the great plan of salvation.

These spirits that were thrust down here without the privilege of having bodies were determined that no one else would go back and possess their bodies and go on to eternal progression.

So the fight has been going on for ages and ages, and it will continue to go on until those faithful spirits that have been destined to come here and redeem the earth and to bring about the day of the great and glorious Millennium shall be sought out from amongst this great concourse of spirits. We've got to understand the importance of their mission here. We have had placed before us this morning this beautiful plan that the Lord has given us to bring about a portion of that redemption work.

Our mission here is to lay before the people and the spirits upon this earth the work of redemption and try to get them to understand that it has begun. It is the privilege of every spirit that comes here to accept or reject the plan of salvation as it was given by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and restored again in our day through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

We're only here, my brothers and sisters, to fulfill the obligation placed upon us before we came to this earth. We fully understood our responsibility when we left there, but our memories were taken away from us at our birth, and when we heard the principles of salvation explained to us, our memory began to come back to us. Today we find ourselves in the midst of the hosts of these spirits of our Father Adam trying to search out the honest in heart and to lay before them again the plan of salvation that they once understood so that they might apply to their lives these saving principles, that they might be prepared to take part in the great and glorious redemption work which is just ahead of us. The Lord will hold us responsible for it if we don't do our work well.

We only understand a little of the great work that's ahead of us. We only begin to comprehend that which the Lord has in store for us. The Prophet Joseph made the statement that if he were to reveal one-half that the Lord had revealed to him,

among the brethren that he had gathered around him, there would be some who would want to take his life because they weren't ready to receive that which the Lord had in store for them.

Today, we are taking a great chance among the children of the earth. We are taking our lives in our hands every time we leave our homes or call a body of people together and commence to teach them. I say that we are placing ourselves on the alter of sacrifice because we know not what is in the hearts of men in our day. The Lord has said that we would hear of wars and rumors of wars in foreign lands, but little do we know the hearts of men in our own land, and this is true.

We know that there are men in our neighborhood who would be glad to see us hung to a tree, and they would be glad to put their weight on the end of the rope to pull us up if they dared do it. They would like to, in their heart, but they lack the courage to come out and do the deed. We find opposition on every hand. We find that every time we turn over our hand to do the will of the Lord that there is some opposition come up, and it's an uphill business.

It's been an uphill business to establish God's work in the earth ever since the beginning of time. Enoch was three hundred and twenty years perfecting a people to a point where the Lord accepted of their sacrifice and took them away from this wicked world that they might continue in their righteousness.

Today, we are trying again to prepare a people that will be worthy to receive the people of Enoch when they come back because we are told by the prophets that they will come back and take their proper place in the earth and that a people will be prepared to go up and meet them when they come. Now this is only a nucleus. The few who are listening, and who will listen and apply to their lives the teachings of the prophets in this day who are trying to keep alive the principles of salvation as they

were revealed to the Prophet Joseph, I say, only those who will apply to their lives those saving principles will be permitted to be among the concourse of people who will be caught up to meet the people of our ancient brother, Enoch.

If you will read the scriptures, you will find that the Lord did reveal to the Prophet Joseph that this would be the case. So, we are not impostors, but we are servants of God sent to the earth to perform this commencement work, and we're here performing our duty. We travel far and wide to try to save the souls of men, to try to plant in their hearts the seeds of salvation. If we can plant in their hearts the seeds of salvation and they can grow and do good, then we feel that we have done our duty.

We find that it is an uphill business. Wherever we go, we can feel the spirit of opposition towards us. We can go into a community and preach a sermon to the people, and in a few days someone else will come in and try to refute what we have said and what we have done. We are continually being harassed by those who seek to divert the minds of the people into by and forbidden paths because of their ambitions to bring glory unto themselves. It is not the glory of this world that we are seeking for. We're seeking for the establishment of the Kingdom of God in the earth and for the preparation of a people that can be used by the Lord in His great redemption work.

We want to leave that message with you. We're only here to prepare a people that the Lord can use in His work. It's not our ambition to build up our own kingdoms, but to see the Kingdom of God established. Our time is well spent this morning, and we want to meet with you this afternoon, so we'll now turn the time back to Brother Oler. I pray the blessing of God to rest upon you that you might catch the message that the Lord has for you and apply it to your lives. I humbly pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, (ABOUT 1962), EDMONTON, CANADA

It’s good to be here, my brothers and sisters. We are grateful to have a place to meet. We will dispense with the singing this morning for our protection, so that the neighbors around this house will not get uneasy. The Spirit of God is easily grieved, and once it is grieved and withdraws from a person, it is hard to get it back again. It’s the desire of the leading brethren that we cease to treat lightly the things that we receive that we might continue to have the Spirit of the Lord with us.

The principles of salvation are sacred more than they are secret. The Savior said for us not to cast our pearls before swine, or in other words to not treat lightly the principles of salvation and to not jeopardize our safety by giving them to people who disregard them or make light of them. The Lord has said that His ways are not man’s ways and that it’s His purpose to bring about the exaltation and eternal life of man. So, in all our efforts to educate our own selves and those near us by nature and apply to our lives the principles of eternal life, let us be careful to keep the things we are given sacred.

Since I’ve been acquainted with the Priesthood work, I’ve been criticized pretty heavy because I don’t get out and proselyte among my friends and try to persuade them to my way of thinking, not because I’m afraid of the opposition that might come, but because I realize the sacredness of the principles of salvation to the extent that I don’t want to mar the Spirit of God by causing any friction, or in other words, causing an argument.

I’ve found, in my earlier life, that whenever I try to defend the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, I almost invariable ended up in an argument when there is no argument. The Lord has plainly told us what to do to round out our

salvation, and if we don't do those things, there is no salvation for us. He said there is a law irrevocably decreed in heaven upon which all blessings are predicated, and it is by obedience to the law upon which the blessings are predicated that brings about the blessing.

The Gospel has been very plainly given to the Latter-day Saint people, and they are the people that we contact mostly in our lives. We don't have a chance very often to find the Gentile that's interested in the Gospel enough to ask questions about it. So, it's our own Latter-day Saint people that we contact more than anyone else. Because of conditions that have arisen in the growth of the Church and the growth of the Priesthood, it has caused a riffle in the system; but I say there is no argument. The word of God is the word of God. As far as I'm concerned, it is undebatable. I've tried to do what the Savior said, to agree with our adversaries quickly and let it go at that, but we find we're human, and we are subject to make mistakes. There are none of us that're perfect. We all make mistakes, and we have to learn by experience how to conduct our lives and how to act under any circumstance that comes up.

I just wanted to mention these things to you this morning because of my first statement that for our protection we will dispense with our singing this morning.

I find that it's quite impossible to live our religion, to keep ourselves in tune with the Spirit of God, and at the same time try to please everyone around us. I find that it's uphill business. At one time, I was talking to President John Y. Barlow. I said, "Brother Barlow, I've got some brothers and sisters that I feel quite concerned about. What about carrying on a correspondence with them?" He said:

> "Roy, the Lord has said that we believe in worshiping God according to the dictates of our own

conscience. Another article of our faith is that men must be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression. Your brothers and sisters have not only been taught that the law of Celestial Marriage is right, but they've been raised under that law. Your father was a man that lived the law, and according to your testimony, he raised two families in the same home, and he did a pretty good job of raising them up to be good Latter-day Saints, but very few of them have accepted the same principles that your father lived. Why carry on an argument with them? That's all it would be if you started writing letters to them. It would just be one argument after another."

So he's the man that planted this idea in my heart, that every man and every woman has got to search out the things that they want most to transpire in their lives, both in this life and throughout the eternities. It is very seldom that we convince people through argument. I've never seen anybody yet give up through an argument. Brother Barlow used to put it this way, "Convince a man against his will, and he's of the same opinion still." So, if there are any of you that can say that you were convinced of the principles of the fullness of the Gospel because you were beaten in an argument, I'd like to know who it is. I have seen a lot of men that have argued themselves out of the Kingdom of God, so these are the things we want to keep away from.

(D & C, Section 133:1-3)

"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."

Here the Lord tells us what will happen to the ungodly. Who are the ungodly? A person has first got to be Godly before he can become ungodly. Every Latter-day Saint, every person that has gone down into the waters of baptism has made a covenant with the Lord that he believes upon Him and His teachings, and the Lord, in turn, agrees to give him the gifts of the Holy Ghost if he will keep his covenants with the Lord. In other words, a man first must have faith, then he must repent of his sins, then he has the ordinance of baptism administered to him to remove those sins in the sight of the Lord. The Lord says that if we will repent, He will forgive us of our sins and He will remember them no more before His face, but if we sin again, those sins will come back upon us.

So that's the reason we say that the Spirit of God is very easily grieved. We go into the waters of baptism, we have hands laid upon us for the gifts of the Holy Ghost, and that covenant that we make makes it binding upon us to keep ourselves clean and free from the sins of this generation in which we live in order for the Lord to grant us that wonderful blessing of being inspired by the gifts of the Holy Ghost. If we break our covenants with the Lord then He is not bound. The Lord says, "When you do what I say, then I am bound, but when you do not what I say, you have no promise." He has said, "Haven't I given you these things in great plainness that a child can understand?"

Yet, before the Church was two years old, He placed the whole Church under condemnation because they had treated these things lightly. What about us today? The servants of God come among us and teach us how to arrange our lives and how to conduct ourselves in order to get the Spirit of God and keep it, and we bicker among ourselves; we argue among ourselves; we envy one another and do all these things that will tend to grieve the Spirit of God; and yet, we claim that we are working to get the Spirit of God and keep it. It's quite a thing.

So, I say, these principles that we are trying to apply to ourselves are sacred. They are more sacred than they are secret. Anybody who will regard them as sacred in their lives and will treat them as sacred instruments and will seek after the words of eternal life can receive them. The servants of God are ready and willing to give any man all that they know if the man is capable of containing what they know. Joseph Smith said that if he were to reveal one-half of what the Lord had revealed to him, it would be sacrilege in the sight of some of the brethren. Brigham Young said the same thing, and we can say the same thing today. If we were to reveal all that the Lord has revealed to us, people wouldn't believe us.

We are saved no faster than we gain knowledge. As fast as we can prepare ourselves to receive it, the Lord is ready and willing to add knowledge to knowledge. We gather here a little and there a little. We learn precept upon precept. We can bring ourselves into a condition where we can finally be added upon until we can receive all that the Lord has revealed to man, but we have to be built up. We have to be tutored and trained from one day to another, from one month to another, and from one year to another.

These are some of the things we ought to think upon. We ought to think upon what the Lord has told us and what the Lord

has said He would do for His Saints if they would keep His commandments. I just read to you some of the things that the Lord said He would do in order to save His people. He says, “I’ll make my holy arm bare in defense of my people in the eyes of all nations if they will just do what I say.” The only way we can find out what the Lord has said is to do the things that we already know to keep ourselves in line and in tune with the servants of God, and be able to draw from them that additional knowledge that the Lord has in store for us. The only way we can get it is by continual work, labor from one day to another, and one time to another.

Now, I don’t feel to say anymore at the present time, but I ask the Lord to bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 4, 1962, CANADA

It’s a great pleasure to be here again, my brothers and sisters, and I trust that the Lord will give us a time of rejoicing together. I pray that He will put the words into my mouth that He wants me to say to you today.

It’s good to see all these little children here with innocent minds. They are ready to be taught. We should understand that our children will follow in the example that we set for them. We have a great responsibility to preserve the sacred principles that have been revealed to us through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Most of these children have been born under the New and Everlasting Covenant of marriage.

I know two men who even went so far as to allow themselves to go to jail for this principle. When they went to jail, I heard both of them say that they knew that John Y. Barlow held the keys of the Priesthood. I heard one of them say that it didn’t make any difference what happened to him, he would never deny that testimony, but he didn’t qualify it by saying, “by the help of the Lord.” So, when he came out of the penitentiary, instead of bearing testimony that Brother Barlow held the keys of the Priesthood, the man wrote a letter and told him he didn’t have the earmarks of a prophet. This man is the father of nine sons. Today, he has one son that is with the Priesthood. The other eight are as bitter as men can be, and so is the father towards this Priesthood. The other man who went to jail is now dead, but he hasn’t a son nor a daughter that is with the Priesthood. Sad are the experiences that we receive, that we pass through and experience from time to time. We’ve seen many men and women come in and bear testimony that John Y. Barlow held the keys of the Priesthood, and we’ve seen those people go out.

These good Mexican people that we’ve been telling you about, some of them I have known since I first went into Mexico.

I first went down there in 1946. Brother Sandoval, and Brother Quatley were then members of the Batista body of people there. They were very devout members of that group. Later on, some other young men came in.

When the division came, and Brother Allred turned from the Priesthood and moved out, he made a trip to Mexico City and bore testimony to that people that he had been set apart as a member of the Council, but the Council wouldn't receive him. When he bore that testimony, he touched the hearts of about five of those Mexican men. They left the meeting very much disappointed because of the testimony that Brother Allred bore to them. They went home and didn't know what to do. So they took it up with the Lord. They went to Him and asked Him what to do. For seven years, those men met every week and petitioned the Lord for light. So determined were they to find out where the keys of the Priesthood were, instead of going and accepting Brother Batista and Brother Allred, they held themselves aloof and petitioned the Lord continually for light for seven years.

One day they met together, and the Spirit of the Lord came to Brother Sandoval and told him if he could get in touch with one Leroy S. Johnson, he could find out where the Priesthood was. It happened at that time that one of the LeBaron boys was in his home. He asked the boy if he knew Leroy S. Johnson, and he said, "Yes." Brother Sandoval said, "How can I get in touch with him?" The boy said, "I don't know." He said, "Where can I write?" The boy said, "I don't know that, but you don't need to get in touch with him. We've got the priesthood." Brother LeBaron left and went back to the northern part of the country where he lived.

This good Brother Sandoval followed him. He followed him home and stayed for several days trying to find out how he could get in touch with us. Finally, one of the LeBaron boys

said, “Why don’t you write to Guy Musser in Salt Lake City?” So, he sat down and wrote a letter to Brother Guy Musser. He wrote, “I want to get in touch with one Leroy S. Johnson. The Spirit of God tells us that this man holds the keys of the Priesthood.”

Brother Guy showed the letter to me, and I asked him to answer it. After we had corresponded for a while, we went down, and found those people there in that condition. They didn’t accept our testimony right off the bat. Brother Sandoval did. He and his good wife were baptized on that trip. The others wanted to wait until they were a little more sure of their footing. Today we have about eighty baptized people, men, women, and children. We have about eleven or twelve men holding the Melchizedek Priesthood. We have done some sealing.

We had one man come in from the Catholic church. He’d been a Catholic all his life, but for some reason, he had an opportunity to take a plural wife and he did it, for which the Catholic Church rejected him. So he lived a wanderer for some time until he met up with Brother Sandoval. Brother Sandoval taught him the fullness of the Gospel. So he came after visiting us two or three times and applied for baptism and fetched both of his women. We baptized both of his wives and sealed them to him. Today, he is one of the happiest men you’ve ever seen. First time we saw him, he was very much depressed in his feelings because he didn’t know for sure he was doing right, but after he heard our testimonies and we baptized him and his wives and sealed them to him, he brightened up and became one of the staunch supporters of the work. It’s a wonderful thing to see the progress those people are making, and the faith that they are exhibiting. They won’t allow any missionaries to come in among them and try to persuade them against the testimonies they have. There have been several missionaries come to be sure and be there when we were there.

Sister Sandoval is a real wise lady. One of the LeBaron boys went down to her place, and he said, “I understand the Musser boys are going to be here to hold a conference.” She said, “Oh, no, not now. They always send us word when they’ll be here. We haven’t had any word. Surely they’ll not be here now.” “Well,” he said, “Then I can’t stay here now. I haven’t got time. I’ll go back home.” So he went back home.

That night we drove in. She said, “Brother Johnson, did I do wrong?” I said, “No, not if the Spirit of the Lord told you to send that man away. We’re glad of it.” She said, “That’s the only words I could say. Thomas knew you were going to be here, but I didn’t. He came and told me after Brother LeBaron left that you were going to be here.” She’s a wonderful woman. She tries to make us feel like her home is our home when we go there. She gives us the very best that she has. (Brother Hammon: We sleep on her bed and she sleeps on the floor, and she’s seventy years old.) And she feeds us good food.

This young man that Brother Hammon has been telling you about that has learned the Mexican language--when we first went down, it cost us twenty-five dollars a day to hire an interpreter--today this boy will sit there and talk as fast as we do; and as soon as we say a sentence, he says it right after us, and he can talk as fast as we can talk. So the Lord has blessed us, and this boy is determined to stay with that people. His father died the other day, and he came up to Salt Lake to the funeral. He came to Brother Guy and told him he had come up to the funeral of his father and now he was ready to go back. Brother Guy gave him a duplicator so he could write something in Spanish and run it off on this duplicator and get it to the people to read. So he’s down there translating for us some of the things that we haven’t been able to get before the Mexican people until now. They’re taking up the Teachings of the Prophet

Joseph, and this boy is one of the teachers. So he takes the lesson that he gives to them, runs it off on this duplicator, and gives each one of them the words of the Prophet in their own language, and they can read it while they study. So he's doing a good work.

We feel, my brothers and sisters, like the work of the Priesthood is being carried on as near like the Lord wants us to as we can at the present time. We try to keep ourselves in a condition so the Spirit of God can work upon us and we can carry the message of the Gospel, not only to you people, but to our people in Salt Lake, Colorado City, and the Mexican people.

We are becoming more prepared all the time to carry on this great and glorious work.

The evil powers are still at work trying to disrupt us and to bring us into disrepute with the government, but we feel that the time has come when the Lord is willing to fight the battles of this people. Anyhow, He has seen to it that we have won every battle that we've fought since the days of the 1953 raid in Short Creek. That was the turning time. That was the time that the great test was made, for not only the state of Arizona, the state of Utah, the Church, but the government of this nation, Canada, and that nation, United States. When President MacKay got up and made the statement that he wanted the people to understand that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was in full harmony with the actions of the state of Arizona in the Short Creek episode, whether he knew it or not, he testified to the heavens that the Church had rejected the fullness of the everlasting Gospel.

From that day until this, we have prevailed in every court case that has come before this Priesthood. There have been one or two cases that refused to come under the direction of the Priesthood that have been ruled against us. Those who have been

under the direct jurisdiction of the Priesthood have won their cases. One of them was one of the most difficult cases that has ever come before the courts of Utah. That was the case of Dave Darger, but a Jew came to his rescue and made it possible for us to get a good lawyer, one who would fight the case and save it. We won the case.

I'm telling you, the words of the Savior are being fulfilled right under our eyes, and we don't recognize it, when He said that the remnant of Jacob would step in and save the day after the Gentiles had rejected the Gospel. You'll see it go on from now, and it will keep going until this whole nation is disrupted and the way prepared for the remnant of the Nephite people to do their work, to walk through this nation and tread them down and none can deliver. Just go and read what the Savior had to tell the Nephite people while He was here. There isn't a word of scripture there that has not been understood by the Latter-day Saints. If you'll read it with the Spirit of God on you, understanding will come forth to you, and then you can look around and see the hand of God being manifest in our day. I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon us and that we will hasten to prepare ourselves that we might become instruments in His hands in furthering His work in the earth. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 7, 1963, CANADA

My brothers and sisters, it is good to be with you again in this country and look into your faces. I trust that the Lord will dictate my words today that we might learn the Gospel and be lifted up in our spirits.

In the early days of the church, the Lord placed the people under condemnation because they had treated lightly the commandment of consecration. He didn't come out in detail and tell the Prophet to tell the people how to do everything, but He told them what to do in order to make it pleasing unto Him. We find ourselves today in a state of confusion because we can't understand the actions of the Priesthood. The Priesthood tell us to seek for counsel, and we take it that we need counsel on every act that we do. The Lord says it is pleasing unto Him that we use our own judgments in regard to some of these things.

I was pleased with Brother Gallup this morning. A month ago we advised him to go ahead and see what he could do on disposing of part of his property to bring him out of debt. The Lord closed up the way. Brother Gallup thought he had a buyer, and he was going to be there and take it off his hands and give him the money to get out of debt; but when Brother Gallup went to close the deal, the man couldn't raise the money, so he was left without a sale. What did he do? He didn't have time to come to Salt Lake and meet with us and ask us what to do. He went ahead and leased his place, and he will receive enough from his lease to meet the payments on his place until something else turns up.

Well, that's the way we want the rest of you to do. When you are told to do a thing, go ahead. If the Lord closes up one avenue, why, take the next one. Be receptive to the spirit of revelation so that you can conduct your own affairs. Follow the line that the Lord and the Priesthood have given you as near as possible.

That is the way all of us have had to do. I have had to do it, and all the other brethren have had to do it. Let's not lose sight of the fact that we want to be directed by the proper authority and the proper spirit. The Lord plainly tells us that it is pleasing in His sight that we use our own judgment. That's why He gave us these minds we have. He gave us these minds to use, and if we lay them aside and try to lay all the blame on the Priesthood for our success or our failure, we are going to find ourselves in trouble because the responsibility is on the individual, not on the Priesthood. The Priesthood will advise you what to do, and if you follow that advice you are still under the direction of the Priesthood. Brother Gallup was still under the direction of the Priesthood when he did what he was told to do. He thought he had the sale and it didn't materialize, so he took the inspiration of the Lord and went ahead and did something else. It is pleasing unto the Lord that we use our own judgment in some of these things.

The Lord is pleased with this people for the effort that is being put forth to bring yourselves into a condition so that the Lord can use you. You older men, you want to remember that you have a congregation of young men coming up here. Above all things, don't set an example before them that will be questionable in their minds about the dictations of the Priesthood to this people. You want to remember that the Lord looks to you to set the example to your children. Be sure that you don't set a bad example for them because the Lord will hold you responsible for the actions of these young men and young women that are here. You are going to be held responsible for the example that you set before them, how you use the right to judgment that the Lord has given you to dictate, to direct, and to manage your affairs. If you will do these things and put into practice the examples that have been set before you in the past and profit by

the experiences of others, you will find that this people will grow and increase faster than they ever have before. I don’t feel to take any more time now, but I invoke the blessings of God upon you and pray that you can come along and prepare yourselves for the advancement that the Lord would like you to take advantage of. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 5, 1963, CANADA

We’re happy to be here again, my brothers and sisters, and enjoy the Spirit of God with you. Whenever men and women are gathered together under the influence of the Holy Spirit, I know that they can enjoy the Spirit of God.

We have experiences from day to day that bring us along and confirm our determination to get close to the Lord and seek for His protection. In my efforts to build up my faith in this work, I find that if I put too much trust in my own strength, too much confidence in my own understanding, something comes up to set me back just a little. It is my desire to live so that the Spirit of God can be pleased to direct me in all that I do. Whenever I rise to speak, I rise with a prayer in my heart that the Spirit of God will direct what I say, for I know that unless a man has the Spirit of God on him, it would be impossible for him to dispense that Spirit to the people.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon me today that His will might be done in this part of His vineyard. I know and realize that we live a great distance apart. It takes hours and hours of driving to get from one place to another, and whenever we undertake to do that, it doesn’t make any difference whether you people go down south, or whether we come up here, it’s expensive in this day.

In my boyhood days, we would throw a bale of hay or two in the wagon and start out, and at this time of the year when grass began to grow, we could hobble our horses out when night came and get a good night’s sleep; the next morning, be on our way again. Sometimes we took only the clothes we wore and the food we ate, but we were able to go from one place to another. It took weeks and sometimes months to go where you can go in one day now. Times have changed. The mode of transportation has greatly improved today over what it was in my early life.

The young people growing up don’t know what it is to spend several days in the wagon going to conference.

When I was a boy, I remember Father taking Mother in the wagon and going from Lee’s Ferry, Arizona, to Salt Lake City to conference. It took them ten days to make the trip from Lee’s Ferry to Salt Lake and another ten days to get home. Today, we go three times that distance and back in a third of the time. But yet, our mode of obtaining the necessary means to make these trips is greatly increased, also.

President Young used to get in his buggy and travel from one place to another. He depended upon the hospitality of the people to get him from one place to another. I met an old man in Springdale, southern Utah, one time. I was passing through the country and it came dark on me. I saw a little barn that was bulging with hay. I thought, “Well, I’ll go in here and see if I can get some feed for my horses.” So, I stopped and went in, and this old man met me at the door. I said, “I was wondering if I could get some feed for my horses tonight. I’ve got my bedroll with me; I can roll my bed down anywhere, but I’d like some feed for my horses.” He said, “Well, if it’s just your horses you want me to put up, No! But if you will stay with me, yes, I’ll feed your horses.” So he took me in.

We got inside after we took care of the animals and sat down by the stove. It was in the fall of the year and chilly. He began to tell me his experiences in the early days of Springdale. He said that he used to keep a team of horses, fed them, kept them in shape, and gave them a little exercise now and then so that they wouldn’t get stale. He kept those horses so that when President Young sent word that he wanted to meet him in Parowan, he could go and pick him up. Then he would take him through the southern part of the state. That was the main thing that team of horses did, carry the president around.

The old man said that President Young pronounced a blessing upon him one day and told him because he was faithful in providing a way for the president to get around, he would never want for the necessities of life. He said, “I ponder upon this very frequently because the Lord has taken care of me. The Lord has taken care of me in a miraculous way. I own this home. I own this little five-acre piece of ground here which produces enough to take care of my cow and a span of horses, and that’s all I need.” He said, “The only thing that I have to buy is a sack of flour now and then because I always raise an acre of wheat. Out in my barn you’ll find wheat enough there to supply my needs, me and my family, for cereal and what wheat flour that I use. So, I only buy a sack of white flour once in a while.”

He was doing pretty good. He had a nice little flock of chickens, and he was selling a few eggs. He had a nice cow and was selling a little milk, so all he had to do was take care of himself and his family, and the Lord provided the rest. The old man’s name was Gifford. Old Brother Gifford said, “I’ve got a set of The Journals there on my shelf. That’s my religion. Those journals are my religion. I’ve buried three wives. I have one left. I tried to teach my children to make those journals their religion, but they’ve deviated from them, and they have gone their way.”

I bore testimony sometime ago that I never knew a man who had kept the commandments of God that had ever died a pauper and didn’t have friends to lay him away. I believe I’m right. Brother Gifford raised a large family. You’ll find Giffords in Springdale, Rockville, Hurricane, Toquerville, St. George, and they all came from this old man’s posterity. He said, “There was a little town over here they called Grafton where they started the United Order in the early days. President Young told the people that they could make this one of the most beautiful and

prosperous communities in the world, and people would come here from all over the world and admire its beauty if they would just live this law and keep it holy. 'If you give it up, you destroy it, because you have undertaken to apply one of the most holy laws to your lives that the Lord has given for the salvation of His children,' and he said, 'Where much is given, much is expected, so if you desecrate this law, the Lord will destroy this city.'" Brother Gifford said for a few years that place grew faster than any place he ever saw, but the people began to get selfish and began quarreling over this, that, and the other. "One day it started to rain," he said, "and I saw the anger of the Lord kindled. Before the rain was over, that little city was under water, every house had water in it, running through the floors." Today, the city of Grafton is dead. If you find one house there, that is about all there is.

Brother Gifford said that he and his family, before this great storm came, moved up the river a little way to Rockville. He said people chastised him for moving out of the Order, but he said he remembered what the prophet said, and he was afraid to stay there. He saw the city destroyed. He saw the river begin to wash away the banks, and finally, the whole town was destroyed.

You can go into the history in the Book of Mormon and you'll find the same story. You'll find the story of the Jaredite nation and how it became a flourishing nation, and finally, the Lord sent prophets among them prophesying that if they didn't repent of their sins and begin to remember the Lord, remember the testimonies of old father Jared and his brother, the Lord would bring His judgments upon them, but the people loved Satan rather than God. They loved the things of the world, worldly pleasures. They loved riches more than they loved the good things that the Lord has blessed his children with--the

testimony of Jesus. We all know what happened to the Jaredite nation. It was completely destroyed.

We read about the condition that existed among the Nephite nations here and how the Lord prospered them when they got close to Him and repented of their sins, and then, how He caused destruction to come upon them when they disobeyed Him.

Today, we are living in the same condition. The Lord has sent His servants among us and tried to get us to repent of our sins and apply to our lives the principles of salvation, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We've been slow to remember the Lord and get close to Him, but the Lord is very kind to us. He has been kind to all people. Whenever He has sent His servants among them, He has always gathered a few people who have applied to their lives the saving principles of the Gospel.

Today, a few people are applying to their lives the saving principles of the Gospel, and we hope to be able through our efforts to bring enough people together that the Lord will once again recognize the good work of the Saints and establish Zion among us. He has said that when He could raise up a people that would serve Him and keep His commandments, He would bless them with a thousand years of peace. The prophecies have been uttered that this generation would not pass away until this time came, but the Lord is working for a people He can put His trust in--a people who, when He speaks, will obey Him.

The way is very simple. It's very simple. All this people need to do is be honest with themselves and with the Lord, and they will be on their way. Now in order to be honest with yourselves and with the Lord, you've got to know what the Lord expects of you. You've got to know what your duty is toward the Lord. So, from time to time, we've seen the Spirit of God rest upon His servants, and they try to explain to us the principles of salvation.

The Prophet Joseph bore testimony that he saw the Father and the Son, and they bore testimony to him that all the churches of the world were corrupt and that none of them were right. They told Joseph if he was faithful over a period of time, the Lord would establish through him the true church which is the power of God unto salvation.

Now this has been handed down to us. Testimony after testimony has been borne to us that we had the authority and the power to go to and build up and establish God's work in the earth. All we need to do is to follow the instructions that are given, not only to multiply and replenish the earth, but to see to it that we ourselves are walking in the line of our duty, that we are faithful in our tithes and our offerings; or in other words, that we are honest in paying our tithes that the Lord might be pleased with us, that He might be justified in fulfilling His covenant with us of blessing us with eternal life. There's no other way. The only reason that United Order failed in the days of Brigham Young, John Taylor, and those men was because the people would not obey those two laws of being honest with themselves and with the Lord. That's all we are trying to teach our people. It isn't so much the place we live, the job we have, whether we're gathered together or whether we're far apart, men can serve the Lord and keep His commandments. They can be honest with the Lord in their tithes and their offerings so that the Lord can bless them. Men have got to be honest with themselves in keeping strict account of what they earn, what they produce, and then be honest with the Lord and see to it that He gets what He has required. He has plainly told us what we should do.

I often wondered why and how it was that my father lived ninety miles from his nearest neighbor, raised his families there. He had a family of twenty children, and eighteen of them

were born on the Lee's Ferry ranch. He only had two that were born before they went there, but the rest of them were born there. He taught his family to serve the Lord. When he left Lee's Ferry, he never had a child that knew what it was to taste of tobacco, tea, or coffee. He never had a boy or girl that swore, or took the Lord's name in vain, and he had just as well educated children as they had in the city because he conducted his own school. He passed through trials. My mother, while she was living there, lost four of her children within six weeks time, and there wasn't anyone there except the family to console them in their bereavement. So Mother made the burial clothes, and she and Father laid them away with the help of some of the older children. There was one other man that was working for Father at the time who helped the boys dig the graves for burial.

So, they had their trials, but I never knew a time when my father refused to answer a call of the Priesthood. I do remember one time when the President of the Church made a call on him for five hundred dollars. This was right after he had gathered his cattle together and decided what he thought he could spare that year besides paying his tithing and his donation to the Church. Then he bought a year's supply of food stuff and clothing, but when this call came for five hundred dollars, he never hesitated. He gathered his cattle again. At that time he had to pay ten dollars a head for his cows, but the Lord blessed him with enough so he could raise that amount of money. He didn't have very much left after he gave it.

It was within a month or so after he made this sacrifice that he had to make another one. At the time he made the sacrifice of his cattle to raise five hundred dollars for the Church, the President of the Church told him to arrange his affairs and move away from Lee's Ferry. He'd been there for twenty-two years. He went out to make arrangements for a place

to move. The President of the Stake, President Woolley, brother of John W. Woolley, had a farm in Fredonia and had taken Father down to look it over and was going to sell it to him. They had looked it over and were on their way back riding on a load of hay when the wheel went down in a ditch. Father fell off the wagon and broke his back. He lived for seven years in a helpless condition. He couldn't move without somebody moving him, paralyzed from his hips down, but he never gave up. I never heard the man complain, and I don't think anybody else ever did. He always praised the Lord.

While he was in that condition, just a year or so before he died, I was in his room when Apostle Owen Woodruff was there. They got to talking on the fullness of the Gospel. I guess it was their testimonies that clinched it on my heart. I heard Father tell President Sessions, the President of the Big Horn Stake in Wyoming, and Apostle Owen Woodruff that no man would ever get into the highest degree of glory in the Celestial Kingdom without living the Celestial Law. He said, "That's not all, if our people don't repent and commence to apply to their lives the law of consecration, they still won't get into the highest degree of glory in the Celestial Kingdom."

He told the story of how he lived the law of consecration. He never did have a dollar in the bank. His bank was the Church's storehouse. I don't believe my father ever spent a dollar, after he sold his cattle, on any of his bills before he paid his tithing. I remember seeing him when he gathered his cattle, he would count out what he was going to sell, then he would go through and pick out the fattest he had, every tenth one, and put them in a separate pen. When buyers came along, he would take them over to that corral, and he got top prices for those cattle because they were the best he had in his herd. That's what he paid for tithing. Then he sold the rest of them

to pay his debts if he had any. He would then figure out what his needs would be for a year being in that place where there were no stores or anything, figured what supplies he'd need and he'd buy them. If he had any money left, it went to President Woodruff.

I remember President Woodruff because I saw him a few times. He came to our place, and he was the man that gave Father the wheelchair that we used to wheel him around in. He was the man that told Father that he would never need to worry, and he sealed him up to eternal life because of his faithfulness.

It doesn't make any difference where you are, brothers and sisters, or what you're doing, all you need to do is be honest with yourself and with the Lord, and all these other things will be added to you. It doesn't make any difference what you need, if you're worthy of it, you can get it.

We had some new people from the Church just recently come and ask for baptism and brought their families along. Their names are Bradshaw and Caulder. They have some children that are married and gone their way, but the children that are to home, most of them, have applied for baptism. These men immediately want to know what about the United Order. They want to move into the United Order. I told both of them what I told you here today. "Dear Brother, you are in a very good condition right now to start practicing the United Order." Both of them have good jobs, making good money, both of them have bank accounts and insurance.

My father never had any insurance, never had a bank account. The only insurance he had was the same kind I have. An insurance man came and wanted me to take out some insurance. I said, "I've got all I can carry." He said, "Well, you can handle just another thousand dollars. This is the Beneficial Life Insurance Company and your benefits will be this and this and

this and that." I said, "I wouldn't give up my life insurance policy for all the policies Beneficial has. You can't begin to duplicate the privileges that my insurance company gives me. I've got all I can carry." After he talked to me for some time (he was an old friend of mine), he said, "Roy what insurance company are you connected with. Get your policy out." I said, "Brother, I pay my tithing. If I've got anything left besides my tithing, I give it as a donation." He said, "Well, you've got to have some of this Beneficial Insurance if that's all the policy you've got." I said, "I want to tell you something. I don't want to hurt your feelings at all. I don't want to be rude to you, but that door is open and you're welcome to stay in here, but if you're going to harp on Beneficial Life Insurance or any other kind of insurance besides the insurance that the Lord offers me, you can go outside." He put his book back in his briefcase and sat there and talked on the Gospel for a little while. When he got up to leave, he said, "Well, in ten years from now, you'll be a sorry man. You'll be wishing you had some of this life insurance." I said, "If I have the Spirit of God on me in ten years from now, I'll be a mighty happy man," and I never took any life insurance. He said, "We'll see who is the best prophet." Today, he respects me. His name is Homer Inglestead. He is still a life insurance man, but he's never ask me again to take out life insurance.

Just a few days ago, I met him again, and he wanted to sell me a ranch. He said, "I've got a ranch that will only cost you two hundred thousand dollars. You can get it by paying a small down payment and make the ranch pay for the rest. It paid a fifty thousand dollar dividend last year." I said, "Why did you come to me. You know darn well that I haven't got that much money. I haven't got enough money to swing the deal." He said, "Oh, yes you have. If you haven't got the money, you've got a

place where you can draw from. I haven't forgotten what you told me when I tried to sell you life insurance once, and I believe you. If everybody had done what you've done, this life insurance company would be out of existence, and our people would be a better people."

I say if we'll just be honest with ourselves and with the Lord, the Lord's life insurance company will be one of the richest in the world. Brigham Young said that if we would keep the commandments of God, we need come under no other government than the Kingdom of God. I don't wish to say any more this morning. I ask for the Spirit of God to be with us that we might learn how to more perfectly serve the Lord and keep His commandments. God bless you, amen.

ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATES GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 10, 1963

COLORADO CITY ACADEMY COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful for this opportunity tonight, brothers and sisters, to attend these graduation exercises. If I said amen to what has been said and sat down, I would be preaching a good sermon. We have been told the truth and now the responsibility is on each individual, not only the graduates, but every member of the school.

There is one thing that we want to keep uppermost in our minds, and that is the principle of truth. If we are true to the principles that we know to be right, there is no power under heaven can keep us from attaining the goal that we desire to attain. Honesty is the best policy. It is one of the phrases that has been propounded to the people as long as I can remember. If a person is honest with himself and with the Lord, there is no reason why the principles set forth by the Lord to accomplish His work in the earth cannot be accomplished. If one person acts upon the principle of dishonesty, he is in trouble. It doesn't make any difference how small or how great; sooner or later they reap trouble.

We have made great strides in this place since this school was commenced. I doubt whether you can go any place in the country and equal the efforts that have been put forth and the accomplishments that have been attained in such a period of time. Yet, there are many of us who try to get through life by taking shortcuts. We find a problem before us; we try to find a way around it, and sooner or later it catches up with us and we find ourselves in trouble, and the result is--we fail.

If there are any of our students who have failed to make the mark, let me drop this word of encouragement. Let this be a lesson to you to do better. I have known students that have been backward in school and missed their mark--that is, they

failed in their final exams and failed to gain the goal that they had worked for, but I have seen those same students come out of the gutter (as you might call it) and soar over the heads of many of those who seemingly were successful. So don't be discouraged. Don't be discouraged. If you want to make something out of your life, you can make it.

I think President Young said he only had about eight days schooling in the grade school, but yet he became one of the greatest leaders that time has produced. Heber C. Kimball, one of the greatest leaders that the Church has had, was a man of very meager learning. Orson Pratt was a self-made man. He took advantage of what education he could get, but he didn't stop at that. When the Prophet Joseph Smith brought forth the Pearl of Great Price, it was after this that Orson Pratt became one of the most noted astronomers that the world has ever produced. In fact, astronomers today are patterning after the theories of Orson Pratt.

All you need to do, my dear young people, is to do what the Lord has told us to do--get His Spirit and keep it. Follow the direction of those whom the Lord has placed to lead you, and you can gain the greatest amount of education of any people. You have the same advantages for scholastic learning as any other people. You have graduates from colleges, teachers who have been trained just as much as any teachers in the world, but you have the advantage over other people because you are being led and directed by men who have been called and set apart to guide and direct the lives of men and women.

All you need to do is follow the direction of those whom the Lord has placed over you. There is no reason for you to feel bad over what has transpired in the past or what might come up in your future life. As long as you have listened to the instructions that God has for us, there is no such thing as failure.

I don’t wish to prolong my remarks, but I pray the blessings of God upon each and everyone of you. May you strive harder from now on to make this school the greatest success in this state. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 12, 1963, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

The time is far spent this afternoon and well spent. I don't know when the saints have ever been fed like they have today. So I am not going to take much time.

There is one point of the Gospel that I would like to bring to your attention that hasn't been very forcibly given today. The other day a lady came to me and asked, "Brother Johnson, why is it that we can't have the Sacrament?" This question has been asked of the Priesthood many times since I have been acquainted with this order of the Priesthood. The Lord plainly says, and I think we all understand it, that when we partake of the Sacrament unworthily, we eat and drink damnation to our souls. Do you realize what covenants you already made with the Lord when you went down into the waters of baptism?

Let us take the first article of faith. "We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His son Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost." Now, let us see what Christ says about this. "He that saith he loveth me and keepeth not my commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him." Let's take another phrase that the Lord has left with us, "He that is guilty of breaking one of these commandments is guilty of the whole." "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, or anything else that belongs to thy neighbor. Thou shalt not envy."

These things have been propounded to us very forcibly this afternoon. But what about the Sacrament? When we partake of the Sacrament, we renew our covenants with the Lord that we will keep His commandments. There aren't very many of us here in this room today but what are guilty of some of the things that have been laid before us. I find that it is mighty hard to hold down that spirit of jealousy. If we allow that spirit to enter into the home, what have we done? We have broken one of the commandments of the Lord.

President Barlow, in speaking upon this same subject, said: “When we get a people that will quit eating and drinking damnation to their souls, we will administer the Sacrament to them.” We tell the Lord that we will keep His commandments, and we go home and pick a quarrel with one of our neighbors. We displease the Lord, and we are guilty of a very serious offense before Him.

The Spirit of God is easily grieved, and once it is grieved and leaves us, it is mighty hard to get it back again. Just examine yourselves and see how hard it is to get the spirit of peace in your hearts after you have had a quarrel with a brother or sister or wife or two wives--see how hard it is to get your feelings straightened out again. This is the reason, my brothers and sisters, that we have pounded on this one thing--be honest with the Lord.

Now, let us try to prepare ourselves for this great work that we are trying to establish in this place because that is what it is going to take. If we will just be honest with ourselves and with the Lord, there is no power under heaven that can disturb this people. The whole United States could come against us. You know what the Lord could do? He could send a hail storm around this place that would destroy our enemies. He did this in the days of Nauvoo. In Zion’s Camp, He sent a hail storm and destroyed the enemy. He has said, “I will protect my saints if I have to send fire from heaven.” In the days of Christ, the history tells us, the whole face of the land was changed. What for? To protect the saints who would believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Even then, it took twenty years to convert all those that were saved. The old prophet said that the more righteous were preserved in that day.

So these principles we are trying to teach are correct. They are according to the word of God. If we will just do the

things we have been told to do today, this work will grow and increase and there is no power under heaven can stop it. Why do I believe this? If Joseph Smith could have raised as many faithful men as there are people in this building today, Zion would have been redeemed in 1836. Do you believe it? That is what the Lord told him, but he couldn't get more than two hundred to believe in him--faithful men that he thought he could tie to, to go up and do the job.

If this body of people will straighten up and do as they are told to do, there isn't anything, no power on earth that can stop them from entering into the Millennial Reign; and the Lord will put a hedge around us that will never be taken away for a thousand years because He has told us so.

I have heard Uncle John Barlow say this: "Where will the Millennial Reign start?" He asked me that question while riding along with me one day. I said, "I suppose in Jackson County." "Oh, no," he said. "Where is Zion? The scriptures tell us that it is the pure in heart." This was when he had quite a number of people around him in this place. He said, "If the people that are here now will purify their hearts and live according to the revelations that we have, we will be well on our way; the Millennial Reign will be started because that is the way it is going to come about."

"If the people will purify their lives and join together and live according to the revelations of the Lord, He will put a protection around them until finally it will extend through this continent. While that is going on, many men will be called to take part in it."

Think it over! These are not idle words, my brothers and sisters, they are according to revelation!

When you find us preaching false doctrine that doesn't square with the revelations of God, come up and tell us about it

and show us where we made mistakes. We will go to the Lord about it, and He will tell us where we are wrong. Let us apply to our lives the principles of salvation. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS, MAY 12, 1963, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

This is indeed a beautiful sight. We should all realize that, in effect, we are sitting in the presence of God, or trying to. It will be a marvelous day when this people is found worthy to so congregate in the temples of God. We've had some wonderful things given here, particularly this morning. I pray that I may be an instrument in the hands of the Lord in only supplementing and adding to these things and that it will be edifying and beneficial to us all.

The theme of this conference, or so I like to think of it, is the United Order. Brigham Young said in the St. George temple on one occasion that the fullness (and Brother Joseph added, the capstone) of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the law of Celestial Marriage and the law of the United Order. This is especially true as one cannot be properly lived and abided without the other, both individually in a family unit, as well as collectively with the body of the Saints. These are the crowning principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These, along with the basic fundamental doctrines that Adam is our Father and God, distinguish this people from all others, as it properly should because this is the Priesthood of Almighty God and after the order of heaven.

This is the family order of heaven we are seeking to live, and the social order of the law of Celestial Marriage. It is the economic order of heaven which is its companion law. The fundamental concept of both of these laws, brethren and sisters, is that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. We are the Lord's--brethren bearing the holy priesthood cannot look in any other way upon their wives and children other than as stewardships, and they are stewards over them. They cannot look upon anything they are using or have the possession of except that it be the Lord's.

Governments and other peoples who have been upon the earth have come and claimed rights which are nothing more than squatters rights. So with this basic concept, brothers and sisters, I'd like to review from a pamphlet which I commend to you which has been sitting on the shelves of the book stores in Salt Lake by the hundreds, and we need to study it. If it's all right with Brother Johnson, I'll review these things.

The Plan evolves around the great commandment. Now, I am going to do considerable reading, brothers and sisters, and I pray that the Spirit of God may dictate, that it may sink in our hearts, because I simply want here today to get over to you, with the help of the Lord, the spirit of this order, so that we may come to love it, that it may never again be a source of contention among this people, for so it has been, lo! these many years since Joseph first introduced it. It was hardly introduced in Zion until they were speculating, and through covetous hearts it was taken away, and it has ever been thus.

"The plan evolves around the great commandments.

1. Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

2. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Fundamentally, man must learn that in God's great economy there is no such thing as private property. The earth, with all that it contains, belongs to Father. This must be accepted as a cardinal truth. Every child born in mortality makes his entrance into life with an equal ownership in the land. These children are God's children, the land belongs to Him, and He is just. He does not dress one in robes and

another in rags, does not glut one with bounties and delicacies and assign the other to a life of despair and starvation."

He says in Section 49 of the Doctrine & Covenants:

"For, behold, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and that which cometh of the earth, is ordained for the use of man for food and for raiment, that he might have in abundance. But it is not given that one man should possess that which is above another; wherefore the world lieth in sin."

Then some say that because they get on the land first and work it that they are entitled to more than those who follow. You remember the parable of the Lord when He says that those who come in at the eleventh hour are entitled to their inheritance as much as the first laborer. "Why should the pioneer go unrewarded?" Should not the pioneer have a greater reward?

"Not at all, for under the Lord's system of economics, as we shall see, all will receive their just reward; the twelfth son is as much as the first in accordance with his just wants and needs. None are discriminated against; none are left landless."

Now this order is one that is voluntary. Brigham told the Saints in his time:

"We are trying to unite the people together in the order that the Lord revealed to Enoch, which will be observed and sustained in the latter days in redeeming and building up Zion; this is the very order that will do it, and nothing short of it. We are

> trying to organize the Latter-day Saints into this order; but I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, that I have not come here to say that you have got to join this order or we will cut you off the Church, or you must join this order or we will consider you apostates; no such thing, oh, no, the Saints are not prepared to see everything at once."

They must learn line upon line and precept upon precept. There is a place, however, for all according to their talents and their ability to understand. Now the question is often raised, What is the correct name of this order?

> "It was formerly called the Order of Enoch, Order of all things in Common; it might be called the Order of Peleg, the Order of Melchizedek, the Order of Joseph, the Economic Order of the Son of God, the United Order--or Order of Unity. Comprehended in the order are the principles of Tithing, Consecration, Stewardships and Inheritances."

Now, I'd like to read a revelation which is the very foundation of this thing that has been described.

> Section 42:
>
> "If thou lovest me thou shalt serve me and keep all my commandments. And behold, thou wilt remember the poor and consecrate of thy properties for their support that which thou hast to impart unto them, with a covenant and a deed which cannot be broken.
>
> And inasmuch as ye impart of your substance unto the poor, ye will do it unto me; and they shall be laid

before the bishop of my church and his counselors, two of the elders, or high priests, such as he shall appoint or has appointed and set apart for that purpose.

And it shall come to pass, that after they are laid before the bishop of my church, and after that he has received these testimonies concerning the consecration of the properties of my church, that they cannot be taken from the church, agreeable to my commandments, every man shall be made accountable unto me, a steward over his own property, or that which he has received by consecration, as much as is sufficient for himself and family.

And again, if there shall be properties in the hands of the Church, (let’s think of the Priesthood) or any individuals of it, more than is necessary for their support, after this first consecration, which is a residue to be consecrated unto the bishop, it shall be kept to administer to those who have not, from time to time, that every man who has need may be amply supplied and receive according to his wants.

Therefore, the residue shall be kept in my storehouse, to administer to the poor and the needy, as shall be appointed by the high council of the church, and the bishop and his council; and for the purpose of purchasing lands for the public benefit of the church, and building houses of worship, and building up of the New Jerusalem which is hereafter to be revealed--that my covenant people may be gathered in one in that day when I shall come to my temple. And this I do for the salvation of my people.

And it shall come to pass, that he that sinneth and repenteth not shall be cast out of the church, and shall not receive again that which he has consecrated unto the poor and the needy of my church, or in other words unto me--for inasmuch as ye do it unto the least of these, ye do it unto me.

For it shall come to pass, that which I spake by the mouths of my prophets shall be fulfilled; for I will consecrate of the riches of those who embrace my gospel among the Gentiles unto the poor of my people who are of the house of Israel.

And again, thou shalt not be proud in thy heart; let all thy garments be plain, and their beauty the beauty of the work of thine own hands; and let all things be done in cleanliness before me. (Nothing is left out, brothers and sisters.) Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer.

Thou shalt stand in the place of thy stewardship. Thou shalt not take thy brother's garment; thou shalt pay for that which thou shalt receive of thy brother. And if thou obtainest more than that which would be for thy support, thou shalt give it into my storehouse, that all things may be done according to that which I have said."

Joseph Musser, who wrote this book, summarizes it as follows:

"(a) They should remember the poor and consecrate of their properties for their support. This to be done with a covenant and deed which cannot be broken."

In those days they entered into a covenant and a promise, the violation of which would result in their being turned over to the buffetings of Satan. It was that important.

> "(b) The consecrations shall be made to the bishopric of the Church.
> (c) Each consecrator to receive a stewardship, by consecration, of sufficient for himself and family."

They were undoubtedly a farming community at that time.

> "(d) If, after the first consecration, there be property in the Church or in possession of any individual more than is necessary for their support, it shall be devoted to administer to those who have not, according to their wants.
> (e) This residue shall be kept in the Lord's storehouse, to be allotted to the poor and needy under the direction of the high council of the Church and Bishopric.
> (f) The residue shall also be used to purchase lands for the Church, building houses of worship and the New Jerusalem, to be revealed, contemplating the gathering of the Saints, and for the support of the families of the members of the Bishopric handling such consecrations.
> (g) Consecrators who apostatize and do not repent shall be cast out of the Church and not receive back that which they have consecrated."

Section 51 of the Doctrine & Covenants goes into the same line of thought. Now I'd like to emphasize one point in that which has been written by reading from another Section.

"The grand purpose of the Economic Order of Heaven is to place men on a proper equality. Speaking of the great inequality existing in that day, the Lord told the Saints of their sins. They sought to counsel in their own ways and their hearts were not satisfied, and you obey not the truth but have pleasure in unrighteousness. Then these convicting charges were thundered forth: (D & C 56:16-17)

Wo unto you rich men, that will not give your substance unto the poor, for your riches will canker your souls; and this shall be your lamentation in the day of visitation, and of judgment, and of indignation: the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved!

Wo unto you poor men, who hearts are not broken, whose spirits are not contrite, and whose bellies are not satisfied, and whose hands are stayed from laying hold on other men's goods, whose eyes are full of greediness, and who will not labor with their own hands!

And after this withering indictment, these comforting words:
(D & C 56:18-20)

Blessed are the poor who are pure in heart, whose hearts are broken, and whose spirits are contrite, for they shall see the kingdom of God coming in power and great glory unto their deliverance; for the fatness of the earth shall be theirs.

For behold, the Lord shall come, and his recompense shall be with him, and he shall reward every man and the poor shall rejoice.

And their generations shall inherit the earth from generation to generation, forever and ever."

Now then, brethren and sisters, all things are the Lord's, including wives and children, you Priesthood men; and they, and all things that we are given possession of to manage, direct, and organize should be managed to the end that God may be glorified. If we prove ourselves faithful over a few things, we will be made rulers over many. This is the way the Lord works and this is the way we should operate in our families and in the Priesthood.

A little more regarding stewardship.

"In the Lord's economic system every man who consecrates, also becomes a steward to manage such of the property, either retained by him, by permission, or that shall be assigned to him from the properties of the Order. This places a personal responsibility upon him. For the management of his stewardship he is responsible to God through the authority appointed to preside.

Every man shall be made accountable to me, a steward over his own property, or that which he has received by consecration, as much as is sufficient for himself and family.--D & C 42:32"

"And whoso is found a faithful, a just and a wise steward shall enter into the joy of his Lord, and shall inherit eternal life.--D & C 51:19. He shall inherit all things.--D & C 78:22"

Section 104 says:

"Ye shall organize yourselves and appoint every man his stewardship; that every man may give an account

> unto me of the stewardship which is appointed unto him. For it is expedient that I, the Lord, should make every man accountable as a steward over earthly blessings which I have made and prepared for my creatures."

The Lord in appointing a stewardship to Joseph Smith, Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery, John Whitmer, Sidney Rigdon, and William W. Phelps, told them in giving them the stewardship of the revelations and the printing and the commandments which were then in the course of being gathered together, said this:

> "Wherefore, a commandment I give unto them, that they shall not give these things unto the church, neither unto the world; nevertheless, inasmuch as they receive more than is needful for their necessities and their wants, it shall be given into my storehouse.
>
> Behold, this is what the Lord requires of every man in his stewardship, even as I, the Lord, have appointed or shall hereafter appoint unto any man. And behold, none are exempt from this law who belong to the church of the living God; yea, neither the bishop, neither the agent who keepeth the Lord's storehouse, neither he who is appointed in a stewardship over temporal things." (D & C 70)

Here's something we should understand, brethren and sisters, while none are exempt from the operation of this law, the Lord says this regarding His servants who had the commandments, the printing, and the publication of His work.

> "I, the Lord, have appointed them, and ordained them to be stewards over the revelations and commandments which I have given unto them, and which I shall

> hereafter give unto them; and an account of this stewardship shall I require of them in the day of judgment.
>
> Wherefore, I have appointed unto them, and this is their business in the church of God, to manage them and the concerns thereof, yea, the benefits thereof.
>
> Wherefore, a commandment I give unto them, that they shall not give these things unto the church, neither unto the world; nevertheless, inasmuch as they receive more than is needful for their necessities and their wants, it shall be given unto my storehouse; and the benefits shall be consecrated unto the inhabitants of Zion, and unto their generations in as much as they become heirs according to the laws of the kingdom.
>
> Behold, this is what the Lord requires of every man in his stewardship even as I, the Lord, have appointed or shall hereafter appoint unto any man."
> (D & C 70:3-9)

So that those who stand at the head are not accountable to the church as such. They are accountable to the Lord for their stewardships. Here's another stewardship that was given in Zion and in Kirtland.

> "Joseph Smith, Newel K. Whitney, Sidney Rigdon, Oliver Cowdery, and Martin Harris. These brethren were to be bound together by a bond and covenant that cannot be broken by transgression, except judgment shall immediately follow, in your several stewardships--
>
> To manage the affairs of the poor, and all things pertaining to the bishopric both in the land of Zion and in the land of Kirtland.

> For I have consecrated the land of Kirtland in mine own due time for the benefit of the Saints of the Most High, and for a stake of Zion.
>
> For Zion must increase in beauty, and in holiness; her borders must be enlarged; (Brethren and sisters, this is our Zion for this time, and let us remember it!) her stakes must be strengthened, yea, verily I say unto you, Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments.
>
> Behold, here is wisdom also in me for your good.
>
> And you are to be equal, or in other words, you are to have equal claims on the properties, for the benefit of managing the concerns of your stewardship, every man according to his wants and his needs, IN AS MUCH AS HIS WANTS ARE JUST--And all this for the benefit of the church of the living God, that every man may improve upon his talents, that every man may gain other talents, yea, even an hundred fold, to be cast into the Lord's storehouse to become the common property of the whole church. EVERY MAN SEEKING THE INTEREST OF HIS NEIGHBOR, and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God. (D & C 82:11-19)

I'd like to emphasize two or three things here, then I am through. It is mentioned concerning the people of Enoch, concerning the people in the days of the apostles in the meridian of time as follows:

> "In the Apostolic Age, the multitude of them that believed were of one heart, and of one soul; neither said any of them that ought of the things that he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." (Acts 4:32)

> ...The Nephites, “there were no contentions or disputations among them and every man did deal justly one with another. And they had all things common among them; therefore, there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free and partakers of the heavenly gift.” (4th Nephi 2-3)

This means simply, brethren and sisters, when they say they had all things in common, they owned all of the property under the Lord in common. They didn’t all take out of one pot as it were. They were stewards, just as the Lord says they are here. They are to be here and now. Now, you notice the ideal that is held out here is the only way that this order can work among the saints of God if they are to be called saints--every man seeking the interest of his neighbor--every man. And if every man does not, then he can have no place in that order, because he won’t have the spirit of it.

What a beautiful thing. You looking after my interest and I looking after yours. What love. What confidence would exist among the saints if we truly lived this order. If we cannot love one another, and above all, love the Lord, our God, with all our hearts, might, minds and strength, then we are not worthy to be in this order or in the kingdom. Charity or love is the greatest of all. As Moroni said, unless you are possessed of it in the last day, you will fail. All else must fail. If you have it, it will be well with you. If you do have it when the Lord Jesus Christ comes in glory, we will see Him as He is for we will be like Him. We must be Christ-like, in other words, and have the pure love of Christ or we cannot live this order. This is why the people of Enoch, the people in the Apostolic days, the people of Melchizedek, and for a hundred and sixty-five years

after the judgments at the coming of Christ to the Nephites, they had no disputations among them, for they had according to their just wants, they held all things in common, and they loved one another. May we, my dear brothers and sisters, live together seeking after the interests of one another, doing away with all selfishness and greediness and covetousness which destroyed the saints in Zion in 1832, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 4, 1964, CARDSTON, CANADA

Once again, I stand before you in great humility for I know that without this humility and being able to be directed by the Spirit of God, we cannot be added upon.

The great message that the Lord has for us in this day is unity, trying to unite a people that can be united. By this I mean that we are trying to prepare ourselves for that great unity that is needed in the perfection of the work of the Lord here.

While the brethren have been speaking, my mind has reflected back on the scriptures. I am quite a hand to try to justify my living by the examples that have been set from other days. I was reminded of some of the instructions of Alma to his sons. I think I shall read a little. I remember when President Barlow was here, and in trying to speak to the people, he very often made the remark, "Let's see what the Lord has to say about it." I, too, take this book as the word of the Lord to this people. When Alma was blessing his sons just before he died, he gave this blessing to his son, Shiblon. Some of Alma's sons were very disobedient and tried to go their own way and make their own way through life, but it seems that this boy was more studious in trying to take the counsel of his father. I like the instructions that were given to this boy.

(Book of Mormon, Alma 38)

> "My son, give ear to my words, for I say unto you even as I said unto Helaman, that inasmuch as you will keep the commandments of God, you shall prosper in the land; and inasmuch as ye will not keep the commandments of God ye shall be cast off from his presence.
>
> And now, my son, I trust that I shall have great joy in you because of your steadfastness and your faithfulness unto God; for as you have commenced in

your youth to look to the Lord your God, even so, I hope that ye will continue in keeping his commandments; for blessed is he that endureth to the end."

Here's a point I'd like to impress upon your mind. There are many of us that desire blessings at the hand of the Priesthood, and we get them. Sometimes we get them when we are young. The Lord pours out his blessings upon us, and before the Patriarch is through, he will say, "These blessings are given to you on the condition that you are faithful unto the end."

"I say unto you, my son, that I have had great joy in thee already because of thy faithfulness and thy diligence and thy patience and thy long-suffering among the people of the Zoramites.

For I know that thou wast in bonds; yea, and I also know that thou wast stoned for the word's sake; and thou didst bear all these things with patience because the Lord was with thee; and now thou knowest that the Lord did deliver thee.

And now, my son, Shiblon, I would that ye should remember, that as much as ye shall put your trust in God even so much ye shall be delivered out of your trials and your troubles, and your afflictions, and ye shall be lifted up at the last day.

Now, my son, I would not that ye should think that I know these things of myself, but it is the Spirit of God which is in me which maketh these things known unto me; for if I had not been born of God, I should not have known these things.

But behold, the Lord in his great mercy sent his angels to declare unto me that I must stop the work of destruction among his people; yea, and I have seen an angel face to face, and he spake with me, and his voice was as thunder, and it shook the whole earth.

And it came to pass that I was three days and three nights in the most bitter pain and anguish of soul; and never, until I did cry out unto the Lord Jesus Christ for mercy, did I receive a remission of my sins. But behold, I did cry unto him, and I did find peace to my soul.

And now, my son, I have told you this that ye may learn wisdom, that ye may learn of me that there is no other way or means whereby man can be saved, only in and through Christ. Behold, he is the life and the light of the world. Behold, he is the word of truth and righteousness.

And now, as ye have begun to teach the word even so I would that ye should continue to teach; and I would that ye would be diligent and temperate in all things.

See that ye are not lifted up unto pride; yea, see that you do not boast in your own wisdom, nor of your much strength.

Use boldness, but not over-bearance; and also see that ye bridle all your passions, that ye may be filled with love; see that ye refrain from idleness.

Do not pray as the Zoramites do, for ye have seen that they pray to be heard of men, and to be praised for their wisdom.

Do not say: O God, I thank thee that we are better than our brethren; but rather say: O Lord,

> forgive my unworthiness, and remember my brethren in mercy--yea, acknowledge your unworthiness before God at all times.
>
> And may the Lord bless your soul and receive you at the last day into his kingdom to sit down with him in peace. Now go, my son, and teach the word unto this people. Be sober. My son, farewell."

Here is one of the greatest examples of the things that the Prophet Joseph tried to teach this people and leave before them. It's an example that we should all study, because we need it in our own homes. We need to teach our children and begin when they're young to teach them to be just like this man wanted his son to be, so that we can build up a faith among the people that will be equal unto the faith necessary for the rise of the Kingdom of God. Let us remember that when the Prophet Joseph was translating the Book of Mormon, he told us of a portion of the book that was sealed that he was forbidden to write. He couldn't write it, and why couldn't he write it? Let's see what the Lord has to say about that. This is what Moroni had to say about the record of the Jaredites.

(Book of Mormon, Ether: 4)

> "And the Lord commanded the brother of Jared to go down out of the mount from the presence of the Lord, and write the things which he had seen; and they were forbidden to come unto the children of men until after that he should be lifted up upon the cross; and for this cause did King Mosiah keep them, that they should not come unto the world until after Christ should show himself unto his people."

Now King Mosiah knew what it was that the Lord had forbidden him to give unto the people. You remember that King Mosiah obtained the records of Ether. Some of his men went back to the land of Lehi-Nephi, and they found this record and brought it to him. He took the interpreters, and under the direction of the Lord, he was able to interpret the Jaredite records, but he was forbidden (according to Moroni here) to let the people know what was in them until after Christ had shown Himself to His people.

> "And after Christ truly had showed himself unto his people he commanded that they should be made manifest.
>
> And now, after that, they have all dwindled in unbelief; and there is none save it be the Lamanites, and they have rejected the gospel of Christ; therefore I am commanded that I should hide them up again in the earth."

This is Moroni. The records fell into his hands, and he was commanded to hide them up.

> "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."

These records are still hid up. I heard a rumor the other day that the Church had received these records, that they were now in the archives of the Church, and they were getting ready to translate them, but until the people repent and show forth the same faith as the brother of Jared, they will never come forth. Our people have got to be prepared in all things. We've got to be able to apply to our lives all the commandments of God and purify our lives as the brother of Jared before these things will be made manifest to us.

Now these are some of the things that we must apply to our lives. We must apply to our lives the blessings of salvation. We should study the scriptures; study the word of God as it was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith. As Uncle Rich has said, we should take to heart these things. We should take to heart the words of the leading brethren today because they are dictated under the direction of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

This work has got to rise! It's got to come forth. It's got to come out of obscurity and be given to the people in a way that will be convincing. That day is near at hand. It'll be

a great day when we see these great judgments passing over the earth to be able to pass through them with the Spirit of God upon us and be able to command the protection of the Lord. The Lord says to draw near him in our day of peace that He might be found in our days of trial. We want to remember these things.

Whenever the servants of the Lord come among you and teach you, you should try to apply to your lives the things that they teach. I find, by this, we can get the Spirit of God so that we can discern good from evil. When He begins to bless us, we'll find that our bodies will be blessed so that we can stand under the persecutions, the trials, and tribulations that come upon us because the Lord has said that His people will be a tried people, and we must be tried in all things. We must be tried in our family life, in our everyday life; we will be tried by those around us who we deal with. We will be tried by the Priesthood. We'll be tried in every way possible for men to be tried to see whether we'll stand true and faithful or not under all conditions.

Now these are things that we should think upon and prepare ourselves through diligence in keeping the commandments of God. Let's keep ourselves free from the sins of this generation in which we live. Now may God bless us. We've been together a good long time today and heard a lot of good things. Let's apply them to our lives, and let us see if we can become that people that will be the first to do these things that we have been reading about.

The good things of the Book of Mormon, the record of the Jaredite nation and the Nephite nations have been sealed up and the people have not been prepared to receive them. Those who had the privilege of looking into the vaults of the Hill Cumorah bore testimony that there were many records that were not permitted to come into the hands of Joseph. There are still many

records that pertain to our eternal salvation that we must be worthy of receiving before that great day.

Let's try, we who are gathered together, those who have brought themselves under this order of Priesthood and have the most golden opportunity offered to them of any people upon the earth, let's continue trying to align ourselves with the true revelations of God to this generation in which we live. We are trying harder than anyone else.

There has been more given to us than to any other people, even the Church. We've had more given to us than they have because we have the revelations of God daily to walk by. We learn no faster than we gain knowledge. We learn no faster than we can prepare ourselves to receive even that which the Lord has given us. He has promised us that we should receive blessings upon blessings. He will add to us the good things of life that are being held back at the present time.

We want to remember, too, that we are under condemnation because we treated lightly the things we received. Let's live so that we can come out from under that condemnation. That's our mission. That's the purpose of the Priesthood today, to try to get the people to redeem ourselves from under the condemnation that we're under.

To put it in Brother Barlow's words, "We may have to raise a generation that has been taught from youth to fear God and keep His commandments." Now these are truths that we should remember. May God bless you until we come again, keep you well, keep you healthy and strong, both in spiritual matters as well as temporal matters, I ask in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 12, 1966,
AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR GUY LESLIE KEATE,
SON OF ELDON KEATE
BORN: JANUARY 11, 1955 DIED: JULY 8, 1966
HELD AT LARKIN MORTUARY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I trust that the few words I speak may be directed by the Spirit of God. I only want to drop a word of encouragement to this family and to the friends and people who are gathered here today.

I look upon death, as we call it, as a missionary call. I am going to tell you a little story, a little experience that I had in my earlier life that has led me to believe in this theory.

If we will remember, soon after the Prophet Joseph Smith received his wonderful manifestation of the Father and the Son, he was commanded to bear testimony to the world of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and Christ said all who would believe would be saved and those who would not believe would be damned. Joseph was commanded of the Lord to commence a missionary program to carry that message to the world.

I was laboring one time at a dairy in Miama, Arizona. Another young man was working there with me. He and his mother had moved into Miama to labor soon after the death of his father. He was the only son in the family, or the only child as far as that goes. They moved near the dairy.

He came to work one morning, and he said, “Roy, I have a peculiar Patriarchal Blessing, and I would like you to read it if you would like to.” I said, “Well, bring it over. I’d like to read it.” In that blessing, after the patriarch had declared the boy’s lineage, he went on to say, “You are a descendant of Lehi who was commanded of the Lord to migrate to this land.” Among other things, he said, “You will be called on a mission, and you will go and perform that mission and be privileged to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the faithful descendants of

Lehi who died without the knowledge of the Gospel." Well, everyone who read the blessing thought that it was something peculiar.

About a week later, we had a thunderstorm. This boy was hanging a door in his mother's home. The lightening was quite frequent and regular. He stepped to the door to look out at the storm when a bolt of lightening hit the house and came down through the door and killed the boy.

This Patriarch was asked to speak at the funeral, and he told of the incident. In his sermon, he told the people that death was only a missionary call. "We all belong to the Kingdom of God in some way or another," he said, "and when we die, we answer the call of our Father."

I like to look at death in that light. It is not death. It is true we lay the body away, and the body will go back into mother elements, but what is our mission here upon the earth? Our mission is to come here and take a body of flesh and bone, to purify it and take it back and present it to our Father in a sacred condition, sanctified through righteous living; and who is more righteous than an innocent boy or an innocent girl, or a man or a woman who has striven through their lives to live close to the Lord and to sanctify the bodies that they live in? These are truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

My brothers and sisters, I hope that we can arrange our lives so that we can go back to our Father in as glorified a condition as we came here, for that is the purpose of life.

Brother Keate and Sister Keate, I want you to look at this as a blessing from our Father and to not think of it in the light that your boy is lost because he is not lost. He lives, and he is going on fulfilling the mission that the Lord has called him to. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 23, 1966,
FUNERAL SERVICES FOR JOHN MUSSER DRAPER,
SON OF BROTHER BILL DRAPER
LARKIN MORTUARY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I'm truly grateful to see so many here this morning to pay our respects to Brother Draper's son, John Musser Draper.

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My brothers and sisters, I feel very humble in occupying this position this morning. However, I can't help but reflect back upon the experiences of life on occasions of this kind and ponder upon the conditions that existed before we came here and took these bodies we have.

I can't help but believe, my brothers and sisters, that we went through a course of training before we came here, and it's through our own choice as to whether we come here and stay long or short.

When I think upon the mission of Christ who came here and was born as this little boy was born, had a very small body and grew to manhood and developed the character that he did, I can't help but believe that we earned in the eternal world just what we receive in this world.

Christ was so trained that the angels of heaven watched over Him, protected Him throughout His life that He might fulfill the mission that He came here to perform. Why? Because, as we understand, when Satan was cast down to the earth, he took away a third of the hosts of heaven; and he, together with these helpers he had, came here with a determination to see to it that the work of God was frustrated.

Take the incident of Job, and we find that after all the suffering that this man went through, then Satan complained that the Lord had put a hedge around Job, and he couldn't tempt him as he would like to. So, the Lord said, Well, I'll take the hedge away, but don't take his life. So, Job went through

another stage of testing. He lost all of his earthly possessions, even his families. When his wife couldn't persuade him to curse God and die, he said, "Though worms devour this flesh from off my bones, yet, will I see God in the flesh."

These incidents show to us, my brothers and sisters, that there was something before we came here that prepared us for this life and for the position that we take here. I think it was J. Golden Kimball who made a remark something like this, "I'm not afraid of getting into the Celestial Kingdom of God, but the position I obtain when I get there is what I'm worried about."

I think that is what we worried about when we came here. Take my own life; great blessings were given to me when I was a small boy, not only by my father and the elders in administering to me, and so forth, but by the Patriarchs. I had two Patriarchal blessings before I was twenty years old; and I dare say that almost all the words that were spoken by those two men have been fulfilled upon my head, but that doesn't say that I've been a pure and obedient boy all my life. There have been many snares set to trap me into by-and-forbidden paths, but because of the teachings of my parents and the elders of Israel, I was able to dodge some of them, and those that caught me, I've paid dearly for. I'm grateful to my Father in heaven that I've been preserved to see this day and to take my place in the establishment of God's work.

I have no doubt but what this little boy had a greater work on the other side than he could perform here. There's one thing that we do know, he has been relieved of the temptations and pitfalls that befall children and young growing men in this earth. We should rejoice upon occasions of this kind. I'm grateful for the occasions that I've had with this wonderful spirit and body that lies before us. This little boy didn't progress in a physical way, but he did progress in a mental way.

He was able to talk, say a few words, at least. He could call his mother or his father. He could ask for a drink of water. Many children in this world in like circumstances would not be able to do it. I've seen a lot of them.

The Lord is kind to us. If we could just see and realize the anxiety that our loved ones on the other side are exhibiting for the children here, I believe we'd be more inclined to be better people.

The thing that I would like to be able to do is meet this boy again on the other side and go along with him, and I believe we will. I believe we will be able to mingle with one another so far as the Gospel of Jesus Christ is concerned and the perfecting of our lives to go on into the eternities and receive an exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom of our God.

Now, I don't wish to speak further, but I do want to say to the parents, be of good cheer and let the Spirit of God distill upon you. Don't mourn over what the Lord has done because the Lord has only done that which he has done throughout all eternity. He has allowed us to come here, take our bodies, perform our work, good or bad, and take us home. The thing for us to do is prepare ourselves for a glorious resurrection. May God bless you, amen.

After the benediction, we will proceed to the City Cemetery where the grave will be dedicated by President Carl Holm. The pallbearers are: Clayton Draper, Brother Draper's son. Ivan Nielsen, Wendell Nielsen, Clayne Wayman. Brother Draper wishes me to thank the Priesthood and all who have taken part in this day of trial for him. Let us do all that we can to make it pleasant for one another. Let's drive carefully when we go to the cemetery.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 14, 1968, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

Let the Lord be praised for what has been said. This is indeed, my brothers and sisters, a day of, should I say, mourning. We find the world today going to great lengths to celebrate the risen Christ. This is a day that should be used to glorify the name of our Lord and Savior and to plant in the hearts of our children the determination to serve God and keep His commandments that they might become instruments in the hands of God in establishing a righteous reign upon the earth.

This people, those to whom we are speaking, have the opportunity of entering into the Millennial Reign--that period of time that the Lord has promised to all the faithful saints from the time of Adam until now, that the faithful would take part in, that the earth would rest for a season, but a great preparation has got to be made.

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

He has said, "My people shall be a tried people." We have those among us who are anxious, very anxiously waiting to receive certain blessings--blessings that cannot be obtained only in the endowment house. They wonder why the Priesthood Council doesn't come out and build a house. We could build a house in a very short time, but are the people ready for those blessings?

The House of God has got to be set in order, and the Lord has promised us the One Mighty and Strong to come and do that work.

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

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

Now, I pray that the blessings of God will settle upon us that we will hasten to rid ourselves of these evils that are still trying to hang on to us. We haven’t fully come out of the world, and it is going to be a long while, it looks like, before we can become fully out of her, but we can keep working, we can continue to work with ourselves until we become more perfect. Let us serve God and keep His commandments. Let us pay our obligations and get out of debt so that the world will not have us under their thumbs any longer. Let us get the Spirit of God and keep it. May God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 12, 1969, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

It’s good to be here, my brothers and sisters, on this beautiful day. The Lord is kind to us as He has been to his saints throughout all the generations of time. I trust that the few moments I occupy may be dictated by the Spirit of God, that I might be able to bring myself to a point where Brother Jessop’s words will be fulfilled.

We are all human. We are subject to mistakes. The Lord says He will forgive those that repent. If they will continue in their repentance, He will remember their sins no more before His face. He says that if we return to our sins, our former sins will return upon us, and then we will have to pay. He says, “Unto you it is required that you forgive all men, but I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will.”

Some men come to us and confess their sins, and we forgive them. Yet, they are under the responsibility of satisfying the Lord. Sometimes the sore is hard to heal. We have many young men, old men, young women, and older women that want to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections. I don’t think the Lord requires a person to come up and tell someone all the things they’ve done, but come up and confess that they have broken the laws of God. They say, “What can I do to get myself in a condition so the Lord can bless me?” The Lord says, “Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins, and then remember to sin no more.” That’s the reason I claim that the ordinance of baptism is one of the most trampled upon ordinances that our people have received because of the great covenants that we make.

For generation after generation, people have felt that if they have to do all things what so ever the Priesthood says they are deprived of exercising their free agency. You will find that the Savior said, “If you will keep my commandments, you are free.” Free from what? Free from sin. “If you will repent and

be baptized and have hands laid upon you for the gifts of the Holy Ghost, I will grant you the privilege of having access to the gifts of the Holy Ghost." But when you continue in your sins, then the Lord withholds from you those wonderful gifts.

President Young says men may have many wonderful revelations, speak in tongues, prophesy, and yet not be worthy of salvation because they won't come under the direction of those who rule over them.

This is a wonderful work, my brothers and sisters, and the Lord requires a great deal from us. We have been into the waters of baptism and come out and had hands laid upon us for the gifts of the Holy Ghost. The Lord has inspired us and brought us into this place and other places where we can be taught under the direction of His servants.

I notice that many of us try to follow the inclinations of our own desires. In doing this, we find ourselves in trouble. Sometimes, we are in great trouble. Sometimes the Lord opens the way whereby we can be liberated and given another chance. Sometimes, He closes the door. It depends a great deal upon the actions of men--what they do, and how they do it. I've heard men tell the prophets of God that it didn't make any difference what they did or what conditions came upon them. I heard one man make this statement, "President Barlow, I don't care what I have to go through or what the Lord requires me to suffer, I will never deny that you are a prophet of God." In less than six months, I read a letter that he sent to President Barlow. In that letter, he said, "You don't have the earmarks of a prophet." That man would love to come back, but he can't get back. It was never in his heart to ask the Prophet's forgiveness and come back and take his place in the confidence of the Priesthood that he once had.

I asked a young man not long ago to come in and let me talk to him about some of his actions. He made this remark,

"I feel like while I'm young I've got a right to a few of the pleasures of life. I'll take my place one of these days and be all right." But the next thing I knew, he was leaving off his Priesthood activities. I talked to him again. I said, "When are you going to do what you said you were going to? You said you wanted your freedom for a while and then you were going to come back." He said, "President Johnson, I've gone too far. I don't feel like I can come back." I said, "I told you at the start that would be the case if you didn't start doing better while you knew that you could."

I don't want to see anymore of that among our young people. When I see our young boys doing things that I know will destroy them in the end unless they leave it off--repent, it makes my heart bleed because I know a little about the preciousness of the souls of men in the sight of our Father.

Sometimes the Lord takes us at our word. I remember a young man about eighteen years old. He was about as fine a boy, I thought, as there was in our town. He was a man that was going to be a power for good in our community. At the time, he was a counselor in the presidency of the priest's quorum.

Quarterly conference time came. President Sessions came by my place and said, "Roy, I want you to be to conference tomorrow." "All right, I'll be there." Conference convened on Saturday morning. I didn't go to the first session. It was in another town. I had a job to do, and I was taking care of it. Brother Sessions was concerned because he was afraid that I might forget that it was conference time. He seemed to have a special interest in me.

Anyhow, I told him I'd be there Sunday. I heard the father of this boy I was telling you about say to his son, "Are you going to conference?" The boy said, "Father, I'd rather die than go to conference this afternoon." The boy drowned that

afternoon during conference. So, the Lord does take us at our word.

We've been together a good long time. I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will listen to the teachings that have been given to us. Let us apply to our lives the truths of the eternities. May God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 23, 1969
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA
(This was given at the beginning of the meeting.
President Johnson's Sermon for this day is in Volume One.)

We're grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the wonderful blessings the Lord has showered upon us. He has promised us that if we would keep His commandments, He would bless and temper the elements for our good. There's not any blessings, He says, that we desire in righteousness that He will not give to us. So in our efforts to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections, and as we grow and increase in faith and knowledge of the true principles of the Gospel, just that fast, we are blessed of the Lord.

He keeps His word with us. If we will just let our minds go back over the past since we've been striving so hard to bring up a people that would carry off the fullness of the Gospel, we find that the Lord has fought our battles for us. He has preserved His people.

From time to time, He has had to weed out those among us who were holding back His work; and, no doubt, there will have to be other weedings because He is anxiously waiting for our people to prepare themselves for that which He has promised the ancient prophets that He would accomplish in this, our day. So let us live from day to day so that the Spirit of God can be upon us, and let's seek more diligently to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections that we might truly learn how to love one another and love our neighbor as ourselves. Let's offer a prayer in our hearts that we might be instructed today by those who are called to speak to us.

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SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 10, 1970, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

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

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

In the latter days, the Lord has given great blessings to His people--His children upon the earth. He brought forth the Gospel through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith. The Prophet was commanded to bear testimony to the world that Christ did live and that He gave commandments for the exaltation and eternal life of man. The Prophet was told 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.

These truths were preached as far back as our record tells us of the Jaredite nation. The people in that day were told to prepare themselves against the day of visitation, that when they were ripened in iniquity, the Lord would wipe them off the earth. As long as they were faithful, they should possess the land upon which they lived, and it would be a blessing unto

them, but the people could not endure the enticings of Satan and his followers upon the earth. It was impossible, seemingly, for them to draw near enough unto the Lord for Him to bless them for any length of time. It seems that when they repented of their sins and served the Lord for a few years, the Lord would bless them abundantly. He sent prophets among them and tried to teach them the ways of eternal life, but the enticings of Satan were so great that they fell away from time to time. Then the judgments of God would move in upon them and cause them great distress.

We find that in the days of the Nephites, it was the same thing. The Lord sent prophets among them and taught them that Jesus was the Christ and that He would come and redeem His people, but they would not believe the prophets. It's true that they served the Lord from time to time, and He poured out His blessings upon them, but when they began to give way to the enticings of evil, they had to be chastised and brought to their knees.

We find in our day, after the Prophet Joseph Smith came and introduced the Gospel of Jesus Christ again, bore testimony to the world that Christ lived and that He was a man like us, that He ruled in the heavens, there were very few people, compared to the many millions upon the earth, believed the testimony. Now the descendants of those who were converted to that proposition have fallen away and rejected the saving principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Latter-day Saints are in the same condition today that the world was when Joseph Smith came. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph that the people had a form of godliness but they denied the power thereof. What do we hear today? We hear the same thing. The power of God is the Gospel of Jesus Christ unto eternal life, and the principles that pertain to our eternal life have been discarded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They have a form of the

Gospel that was restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith, but they deny the power of it--the power of salvation.

What a great blessing you people have of living in this day and being brought in under the direction of the Holy Priesthood of God where you can be taught the principles of eternal salvation and where we do not deny the saving principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord says, “By their works, ye shall know them.” Where can you find another people upon the earth that is trying to live and obey the Gospel in its fullness?

I’m greatly concerned, my brothers and sisters, about our hastening to bring ourselves to a point where the Lord will be pleased to shower His blessings upon us. When I speak of His blessings, I mean the blessings from one day to another. A month ago, I went through my trees, what few little trees I have down there, and I found that they were loaded with live fruit, but today, what do I find? I find nothing but dead stuff. Why is it? It’s because we don’t have the faith necessary unto eternal life. If we did, our trees would bear fruit. These terrible winds would stop. We’d have control over the elements, and we could say, “Pass us by,” and they would pass us by; but we haven’t sufficient faith. Why do we continually cause distress one toward another? Some of us sow seeds of discord among our people--both men and women. Sometimes I wish that we didn’t have a telephone. Why? Because if we hear something, we hasten to tell somebody else about it. The Lord can’t trust us from one minute to another. He can’t give us a secret but what we have to go and tell our neighbor about it.

So we have many things to repent of. We have many things to accomplish before we can bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that God placed upon us in 1832--long before the Prophet died. We’ve been trying. The Priesthood of God have been laboring all these years to try to bring a people up that

God could trust, that He could give a secret to them and they would keep it, that a man could instruct his wives and they'd keep it--consider it sacred--not secret, but sacred.

The Lord has deprived us of the privilege of the ordinances of the House of God. Why? Because He can't trust us. We won't get another privilege of having our endowments and the other blessings of the House of God unless we repent to a point where God knows that when we go through that House, the sacredness of it will not be spread--not even to those who are near and dear to us. Let them find it out when they go through, so they, too, can obtain the blessings.

I'm grateful for this day. I'm grateful for the privilege that we have of gathering as many together as we can--as we have today, to tell these truths to and try to get into your hearts a determination to overcome these weaknesses and imperfections that we have, so that we can raise up a generation of young men that God can use. We had in our Priesthood meeting this morning, two hundred and eighteen elders including the Aaronic Priesthood. We had two hundred and ninety-eight bearers of the Priesthood here. What a power for good this should mean to this people! Because we are the people that God wishes to train upon this earth.

This is only a training place. This is a school you are going through. You are learning the ABC's of the redemption of Zion, learning how to become Saints. Let us all strive with all our might to overcome the weaknesses that we have and bring ourselves to a point where God can smile upon us, and when these cold spells come in the spring of the year, we can turn the frost away from our trees. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 24, 1970, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

Well, to be honest with you, I'm satisfied with what has been said. I've been well fed this afternoon from the mouths of those who have been talking to us. There has been a lot of things go through my mind since this meeting started. I trust that the few moments I speak the Lord will dictate my remarks, for I have nothing in my heart but the welfare and the eternal salvation of this people.

We have all had a great deal of experience since we came into this world. When we go back and look over the experiences that we've had, we can't help but acknowledge the hand of God in bringing us together.

Brother Guy, in one of his sermons a while back, told us that we are only repeating here in this life what we did in the life before. Well, what did we do before we came here? It's been my understanding, ever since I have been old enough to understand, that we were taught on the other side the plan of salvation and the reason for our preparation--to come to this earth and to carry on the work that was taught to us there. So, what are we doing here? From time to time, throughout the generations of time, the Lord has sent men among us to teach the principles of eternal salvation and what our duty is to prepare ourselves for a continuation of what we are doing here; for instance, to search out of the scriptures the character of our Father in heaven and how to become like Him.

These are principles that we have heard from our early childhood until now. This is what President Musser meant when he said we were only repeating here what we did in the life before, and when we leave this stage of existence, we will only be repeating what we did here. We will be preparing ourselves for something greater. This is the reason that we have been taught that God is forever learning. He's always preparing Himself for something in the future.

So the things we've heard this afternoon are only stepping stones to rounding out our education in this life to prepare us to go on to something greater when we leave here.

It's been mentioned that the Lord has blessed us greatly, but there are many blessings that He has withheld from us. One of the blessings that has been withheld from this people is control of the early and late frosts. A month or so ago, I examined the prospects of fruit on what few trees I have on my lot and it was wonderful. I found that it looked like we were going to have a lot of fruit on the trees. Possibly we'd have to thin in order to do justice to the trees and the prospects were fine, but for some reason or another, the Lord allowed a frost to come. Now, I can't find a live fruit except on the apple tree. I happen to have an apple tree over there that's a dwarf kind. There's been one crop of blossoms freeze on it and another one has come out. It looks like I might have a few apples.

This thing can be controlled by this people if they will step up to the line and do their duty. The Lord can stay the frosts and save the fruit, but He is unwilling to shower all the blessings that people need upon them unless they show some interest in Him.

I know that the elements can be controlled if our faith is sufficient. I know the winds can be controlled, the storms, and all this if our faith is sufficient. Go back into history. The story that is told of the Children of Israel going through the Red Sea on dry ground wasn't performed because Moses stuck his rod in the ground, but it was because he had faith that God would do that thing when he put the rod in the ground. The Lord divided the waters and that great concourse of people walked through. The Egyptians following thought, if they can go through while that water is piled up on each side, we can. So in they went, but when they got out so far in the depths of the sea, they

must have kicked the trigger on the trap, because the water came in on them.

In many other instances, we can look through history and see where the Lord has opened the way--provided for the salvation of people. Brother Hammon mentioned that he believed that the time would come when the Lord would send fire to protect this people, but there are a few of these other things that we've got to overcome before we're worthy of that great protection from the Lord. I'd like to see this people begin to do what they've been counseled to do today. The Lord has told us time and again to put Him to the test and see if He would open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings that we couldn't contain.

I believe we've got fruit trees in this place to provide the fruit for this community, but no, we'd rather depend upon our own resources and go to Hurricane and buy our fruit, or other places, than to put a little bit of trust in the Lord and ask Him to provide the fruit on the trees we have. There used to be a little cherry orchard down here on Uncle Elmer's property where he lives. I've seen so many cherries on those trees that this people would have all the cherries they could use--even now. Has the faith of the people diminished to where they think the Lord can't control the frosts, the high winds? We're sitting in a real fine position at the present time--planting time. Almost everyone that has a desire to is working the ground and planting a little garden stuff. Who is going to give the increase? Will it be the great knowledge that you have of how to till the ground and plant the seeds, irrigate it, keep the weeds out? Or are you going to put a little faith with it and ask the Lord to bless it? President Young said, "Don't plant a seed unless you ask the Lord to bless it." For it's only God who can give the increase. We see some people put the seeds in the ground and raise wonderful crops, but little do you know what goes on in their minds while

they are doing that. We see others that plant seeds, irrigate, and their crops are a failure. Little do we know what's going on in their minds while they are trying to raise a crop.

Somewhere along the line, we put so much trust in our own knowledge and understanding that we forget to pray when we get up in the morning and ask the Lord to bless our day's work. And when the night comes, we forget to kneel down and thank Him for the success of our labors through the day. Others ask the Lord continually to give them revelation regarding their condition here in the earth and how they should conduct their lives. Others, when they pray, say, "Father strengthen the testimony that Thou hast given me, that I might be able to meet the opposition of this day."

There are many ways to approach the Lord, and there are many ways that He has of answering the prayers of the Saints. Why is it? Because He has said, "My people shall be a tried people." Sometimes He blesses us with failures in order to test our faith, to see whether next year we'll put more faith in our knowledge and understanding or whether we'll get a little closer to Him and ask Him to bless the labors of our hands. The people who can take adversity and count it as a blessing are the type of people the Lord is looking for.

In giving counsel, I've tried to counsel people the best that I knew how, and sometimes I'm answered this way, "I've done all this, and it doesn't do me any good. I've tried it and it's failed." Think about some of these things as we go along. Let's think about the things that we've been told here this afternoon. Let's put the Lord to the test and see whether or not He will pour out blessings that we are not able to contain and blessings that we have not thought of before.

Brother Hammon asked me yesterday if he ought to sell his sheep herd. I said, "No." I don't believe that the Lord

places in our hands opportunities to test Him out and see if He will open the windows of heaven and bless us, and then is pleased with us if we let them go because the going is hard. I told Brother Hammon if the time came that he had to sell them in order to meet his obligations, that would be soon enough. I'd like to see the faith of this people brought up instead of going down.

We are becoming very numerous in this little place with what little bit of territory we have, but the Lord can easily extend that territory if we live right. We have bitten off quite a big bite to gather in such a small place and raise such large families, but the Lord is sitting out there waiting for us to bring ourselves to a point where He can pour out the blessings of heaven upon us, which He will do if we will only do that which He has asked us to do--have faith in Him--and put our energies to work. Then we will be putting works with faith, and God will bless us. I pray that He will shower His blessings upon us from day to day until we accomplish the great work that He expects of us--to prepare ourselves for a better time. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 13, 1970, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I'm grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the opportunity of being with you again and enjoying health and strength. I'm grateful for this day in which we live. I'm grateful for the prophets that have lived before us and for their testimonies they left. I'm grateful for the life and labors of Jesus Christ and the testimony that He left and caused to come forth in our day that we might know and understand the true principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I'm grateful for my parentage and the teachings I received, for the privilege I had of being at the bedside of my father and hearing his testimony from day to day. Although I was only a boy, I'm grateful for that time. I'm grateful for this day in which we live, and I ask an interest in your faith and prayers that the few moments I occupy this position the Spirit of God will direct my remarks.

I'm greatly agitated in my being over the condition of our people. The many years that I've been acquainted with this order of the Priesthood, we should have a hundred times as many listening to us today as we have. Why? Because this is the last time the Gospel of Jesus Christ is going to be given to the people of this world, and the generation in which we live (so the Prophet Joseph Smith said) shall not pass away until we see all the words of the prophets fulfilled. Christ plainly tells us, and repeats it several times, in Third Nephi what would take place in the latter days. The remnant of Jacob would go through and tread down the wicked--the Gentiles--if they rejected the fullness of the Gospel. When Christ came to the Prophet Joseph Smith, He reiterated His words to the Nephite people, and He told Joseph to go and bear testimony to the world, to the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All who would believe would be saved and those who would not would be damned.

So I'm greatly agitated in my feelings because there are not more people who believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. So quickly--so quickly after he was martyred for the testimony he gave did the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints go into darkness. To put it into the words of Jedediah M. Grant, they are as dark as midnight. Why? Because they rejected the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. Not only did they reject the fullness of the Gospel, but they rejected every other principle that God gave for the salvation of the human soul. So, today we live in a precarious situation.

Are we going to force upon Christ the same situation He found when He came to this continent after His resurrection? Are we going to force Him to have to destroy all except those who will repent, and then have to convert them after that in order to bring up a people that He can use in the redemption of Zion? Or are we going to bow to the requirements of the Holy Priesthood and get down on our knees and pray for deliverance night and day as the Lord has said we would have to do in order to gain His protection?

These are not idle words, my brothers and sisters. These words that have been spoken by the prophets that we would have to bow the knee and pray night and day for deliverance are not idle words. Are we going to wait till that time comes before we start praying in earnest? Yes, we get down on our knees and pray, but how earnest are we? We get down and ask the Lord to bless us during the day, but how many of us reiterate the prayer in our hearts after we get up off our knees? We say, well, we prayed to God for His protection, and He'll protect us. I want to tell you, you've got to have a prayer in your heart from morning until night in order for the Lord to grant the blessings that we so earnestly desire.

Because we have been down into the waters of baptism and had hands laid upon us for the gifts of the Holy Ghost and then been ordained to the Holy Priesthood under the hands of the servants of God is not an assurance that we are in full favor of the Lord. We've got to do something else about our salvation. We've got to be earnest in our prayers. We can't ask the Lord to shower His blessings upon us and promise Him that we will keep His commandments and then go out and play with the world and do the things that they do. Everyone of us does it everyday.

If you had faith sufficient, you wouldn't need to run to the Priesthood Council for counsel and direction anymore than to come under their counsel from the stand because God would inspire you what to do from moment to moment. I've had experience, and I know He will. I've been thrown into conditions where I couldn't get to the Priesthood for counsel every day, and I know a little bit about what's required of us. Every individual here has the same right that I have. If you are given a job to do, you can go and do it if you've got the Spirit of God for your direction in every moment of it, and you can accomplish it. If you need money, He can open the way for you to get it.

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. My brothers and sisters, this is the day in which the Lord is trying to accomplish a great and glorious work. The greatest work He is trying to accomplish is the preparation of a people that He can use--that have perfect confidence in one another, and not have that confidence betrayed. He needs a people that will love one another instead of picking each other to pieces. Every day we hear people torn to pieces because they are disaffected and go away from this place. Whose right is it to pull them to pieces and to criticize? No one. But the Servant of God can correct and adjust any member, and do it with the Spirit of God upon him.

So let’s try to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and get down to business and live our religion. It’s plainly told to us in this book, and all of you have access to it. We don’t need to rehearse it every day, or every Sunday, or every once a month. You’ve got the same revelations that I have. You’ve got the same brain--the same power of thinking if you will only go the right way to get it.

The Angel Moroni, when he finished the record, told us how to get the Spirit of God, how to read and understand the record that he left--go to God with faith believing that we would receive and He will reveal it unto us. When you pray, pray in earnest, and then think about it afterwards. Quit letting the devil take over as soon as you’ve said “amen” to your prayer. These are some of the stepping stones to getting the Spirit of God and keeping it. Now I trust that we can get the Spirit of God and keep it, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 27, 1970, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

We're certainly grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being together again under such favorable circumstances. We're grateful for this room we have to meet in. We're grateful for the health and strength we enjoy, and for the prospects we have of being able to keep ourselves in good condition through the coming winter. I hope that we can commence now to prepare against whatever the elements might bring upon us. We've noted in the past year the many changes in climate conditions even through our summer months, and we can expect most anything through the winter. We have seen it very disagreeable here in times past, and I think these things can be repeated. I remember when I was a youngster, I lived in Kanab, not very far from here, and it was a common thing to see from eighteen inches to three feet of snow on the ground. Everyone had bob sleds, or what we called "cutters", little one or two-horse sleds to ride in during the wintertime. But the last thirty or forty years we've had to do away with that kind of transportation, and we have today the motor age. So, if they take away from us the privilege of running our automobiles, we'd be in distressed circumstances--some of us.

Let's be grateful for the blessings of God and get on His side and have Him bless us throughout our coming lives.

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I'm grateful for the privilege of being here and listening to the testimonies that have been borne. I feel like I've been well paid for coming out this afternoon.

This is truly a wonderful day in which we live. God has been very kind to us in giving us good weather and sunshine. A little wind along with it makes good salt and pepper for the morsel.

I'm grateful for the privilege of living in this time. I was greatly moved by the remarks of these young men. I get a letter from them from time to time, and they express their great determination to represent the Priesthood in its proper manner while they are out. I'll tell you, the efforts that the Priesthood has put forth to instill into the hearts of these young men the spirit of exemplary living is paying off, and what President Hammon said about setting examples is truly the doctrine of the Priesthood.

It takes me back to a sermon I heard by one of our early educators. I happened to be in Susanville, California, and visited a meeting of the saints. This brother came in and talked to the people for about half an hour or so, and at that time, it was his duty to visit other churches and talk. There were several different denominations in Susanville at that time, and his schedule that particular Sunday was to spend a half hour speaking in three or four different denominations. When he spoke to the Latter-day Saints, he told them that the time would come when the Latter-day Saints would quit preaching their religion by word of mouth and preach by example. It would be the only way they could get it before the people.

I have no doubt in my mind but what these boys that are going into the army are preaching by example the promise of the everlasting Gospel. Brother Hammon spoke the truth when he said it would pay off in days to come.

Whether you accept it or whether you don't, you boys are setting the example before other members of the human family, and they can't help but notice it. They can't help but acknowledge that this example is set before them.

I remember when I was a young man, living in Wyoming, I had to work out like other men do. I was working on a canal. It was being built by eastern capital. There was a young man came

into our camp who was an odd character. I thought he was a clean man as far as I could see, but he was odd in his habits and in his nature. And because of that he was quite severely ridiculed. I came to his rescue one day. He was a man that had a gluttonous attitude at the table. He could come in and eat a beefsteak and what went with it and be gone, so some of the boys set on him and ridiculed him for his gluttonous attitude. I came to his rescue one day at the breakfast table. I told them they had no business to criticize anybody. Though I was only a boy, they took notice of what I said, and the boy was able to stay on the job for a while, but he was a boy that had left home and was roaming around the country.

Some seven or eight years later, I happened to go to southern Arizona. I went down to Clifton, Arizona. The postmaster there was a Southern Baptist. I went into the postoffice and called for my mail. There was a young lady at the window. I said, “Is there any mail here for Roy Johnson?” She handed me a letter. Then she said, “Did you ever live in Wyoming?” I said, “Yes.” She hollered out to her mother, “Roy Johnson’s here after his mail.” And here came her mother out from the lobby. They said, “Did you know one Roy Budd?” I said, “Yes, I was acquainted with him. I knew him very well. I thought he was a fine boy.” The mother of the boy threw her arms around my neck, and the girl on top of her, and I thought I was going to be kidnapped.

After they got through demonstrating, the lady said, “We’re so thankful for the assistance that you gave our boy, Roy. We are overjoyed to see you.” This being Friday, the mother said, “We’re going to throw a dinner in your honor next Sunday. We would like to have you come to our home for lunch.” I said, “I have a brother with me.” She said, “That’s all right, bring him along.” So we went and took lunch with them. The boy was

still roaming the country, but they were so glad to see us because of the association that we'd had with him. They wanted to know who we were and what our religious faith was. We told them. My brother, Price, had recently returned from a mission and had an opportunity to bear his testimony to them.

So these examples that we set when we are out go a long way towards spreading the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. It's only in a simple way, but it goes to back up the testimony that is being given to the world.

I want to remind the people again that the Church once more has consented to print again an edition of the Journal of Discourses. They, a short time ago, drew away from the public the sale of the publication of the Journals, but the Spirit of God has worked on them again to put them back on the shelves and print another edition for us. So we feel like our efforts that were put forth to get the Journal of Discourses to work as our missionary for the fullness of the everlasting Gospel is paying off. By the way, they are using the plates that the Fundamentalists had made to print the Journals with.

So as long as we can labor and keep these things going, answering questions that come in from the outside, we feel that the missionary work is going on.

Now, we've been together quite a while this afternoon and we've heard a lot of good things. I trust that the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will take heed to the counsel that has been given us, that we will hasten to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation when God is pouring out His judgments on the wicked and His blessings upon His people. I'm grateful to note that some of the things that we have been praying for lately are paying off. Apparently, from the outside, the Lord still loves this people. Now may God bless us, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 3, 1970, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I greatly feel my weaknesses in trying to speak to you this afternoon. After hearing what I have heard, the testimonies of not only our own elders, but the testimonies of the prophets of God, I feel greatly humbled in my efforts to try to instruct you, but I pray that the Lord will put into my mouth the words that I need to speak this afternoon.

Of late, I have been greatly humiliated in my feelings in regard to some of our elders and some of our women who take it upon themselves to become laws unto themselves and to deviate from the teachings they have received from the servants of God.

Some time ago, a young man came to us and wanted to know what the Priesthood would have him do to better his life and better serve the Priesthood. This happened to be in President Barlow's time. President Barlow asked the young man to go and take a training. He told him if he would be prayerful and sincere in trying to get the Spirit of God and go out with a determination to learn that the Lord would bless him.

Soon after this, I received a letter from the young man wanting to know how he could better arrange his life so that he could get better marks in his learning. I wrote him a little letter. I quoted to him the words of the Savior wherein he said, "Pray always, that you might get the Spirit of God." It went on for sometime, and the young man apparently was failing in his efforts to make the marks that were necessary in his schooling. At the same time, he said, "I have spent two-thirds of my time on my knees, praying for the Lord to give me His Spirit and give me the answers to the questions that I had to answer. For a while, I thought I was receiving answers to my prayers, and I got along fine until it finally shut off." So then I quoted to him what the Savior had said about praying always. You don't have to

spend this time on your knees all the time. He found it difficult to spend all his time on his knees praying and still get his lessons. I said, “If you will stay off your knees and get down to hard work in getting your lessons, but at the same time when you start to work ask the Lord to bless you and help you to get your lessons, and continue your research of the problem that you have, you will find it easier to make the goal that you’re after.”

So this is what I quoted him. The Lord, here in Third Nephi, after the great destruction, told the people to kneel down and pray and to continue to pray and they did so for some time, and then He asked them to get upon their feet.

Third Nephi 20:1-2

> “And it came to pass that he commanded the multitude that they should cease to pray and also His disciples. And He commanded them that they should not cease to pray in their hearts.
>
> And He commanded them that they should arise and stand upon their feet. And they arose and stood upon their feet.”

Now this is the thing that the Lord meant when He said, “Pray always.” Have a prayer in your heart continually that you might keep the Spirit of God to direct you in all your labors. He didn’t mean that we should kneel down before Him and stay on our knees from daylight till dark, but He did mean that we should go into our secret chambers and beseech Him and kneel and pray to Him. He has also commanded that we gather our families around us, morning and night, and kneel with them and pray with them. Teach our children to pray, and then pray always within ourselves that we might keep His Spirit with us.

If we will learn to do this, we will learn how to get and keep the Spirit of God. We have had a lot of the scripture read to us today, but this much I wanted you to know, that we can pray for the Lord to bless us when we are working in the field. We can pray for the Lord to bless our crop, bless the seed that we plant and our crop that it might yield in abundance, to bless the ground without kneeling on our knees to be conspicuous among our neighbors. I believe that there are times when we should kneel upon the ground and ask the Lord to bless it that it might yield in abundance.

I found that, even in my own work, in my life, I have had the experience of having the Lord bless me in the labors that were placed upon me even though I had no experience in it before. He's blessed me abundantly. He's blessed me to the point where I've been able to draw the highest wage in accomplishing the work that I had to do, and I satisfied the employer.

We've had lots of experiences in our lives to teach us that prayer should be the soul's sincere desire, but we don't have to flaunt our prayers before the devils of the earth. I have been thrown into conditions where Satan's spirit ruled. I didn't have to partake of the evil. When I've been in these conditions, I've asked the Lord in my heart to protect my soul from partaking of the spirit of the devil. And I've gone through it in peace and safety. There have been many times that I've had to implore the Lord for His blessings to be able to stand under some of the pressures that were placed upon me. You can do the same.

The things that have been told to us here today are verily true. This people are in dire danger of some of you losing the way unless you can get your feet under you and be able to withstand the temptations that come.

There are a few men that we have had to call into our council and handle them and tell them that what they had to do in order to align themselves with this Priesthood again. Some have confessed their sins, and some have not. Some have come along and tried to overcome, and some have not. We have many conditions come up. We have conditions before us at the present time that are very vexing to us. That's the reason that we talk like we do, to try to get our people to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections, for there are none of us who can say that we have made it.

On one occasion, a man came to the Prophet Joseph and told him that it didn't make any difference what happened to him, that even if he were to lose the faith, he would not say anything against the Prophet, but the Prophet's answer to him was, "You don't know what you'll do, brother. Once you lose the Spirit of God, you don't know what you'll do." I find that to be the case. I've heard men tell John and Joseph that they knew that they held the keys of the Priesthood and it didn't make any difference what happened to them, they would never deny it. But before the year was up, they denied the testimony that they had that John and Joseph were prophets of God. I'll tell you, we don't know what we'll do once we lose the Spirit of God.

I hope that our people will take notice of the sermons this afternoon and that we will repent of the things that beset us and our people. If we are having trials in our families, there is something wrong and we should get to the bottom of it. If I have trials in my family, I begin to look this bird over and see what he's doing, and I very often find that I've stepped out of the way somewhere. If I can get myself straightened up, it's not hard to straighten up the rest of the trials. There's not a man in this audience who is so high and mighty that he knows all that the Lord requires him to do, because when he gets to that

point, he is on dangerous ground. There's not a man here that can say that he has perfected himself to a point where he can rule and rule righteously over his family because he'd better begin to look and see whether he has any faults and failings.

And you women, I want you to understand that it's your duty to strive with yourselves and see to it that you don't have bad feelings one towards another. If you do have bad feelings towards another, then begin to look your own lives over.

Let's do what the Lord has said, "Come out of her, O Ye my people, and be not partakers of her sins," because this is one of the worst sins that deceive the people of the earth today--the sin of criticism, the sin of fault-finding. I'll tell you, it's a hard thing.

It's one of Satan's greatest weapons among a people. It was the cause of the fall of the Jaredite nation. It was the cause of the fall of the Nephite nation.

We want to remember this, that the Lord has said through the mouths of His prophets that those who possess this land shall be a people that serve the God of the land, and this is the land of Joseph. This is the land that received the great blessing by the Lord that it should be a land choice above all other lands and those who shall possess it shall be a God-fearing people or else when they have ripened in iniquity, "I will destroy them."

I don't know how much more wicked the Lord will allow this people to become before He starts His great work of destruction. When we begin to hear of the things that men want our legislature to pass, and they begin to come out in the papers and begin to be mulled over by the public, sooner or later, they come into law. Brother Barlow used to say this, "When they begin to make instruments of war, sooner or later, they'll use them."

So what greater war is there than war against the purposes of our Father?

I read in the paper the other day where they were advocating that our legislature pass laws, not only in the state, but in the nation, that women should be restricted to two children. Anyone having more than that should be prosecuted by the law. One of the senators asked the supreme judge that was advocating the passing of this law what the penalty would be if a woman happened to have three. He said they would have to suffer the condition of the law whatever it was. It would be like any other law. Anyone breaking it would be subject to prosecution. This hasn't come into effect yet, but they are talking about it. Well, we will leave it in the hands of the Lord.

We've been together long enough. I ask God to bless you all, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 15, 1970,
FUNERAL SERVICES FOR ELIZABETH J. COLVIN (AUNT LIZZIE)
BORN: APRIL 26, 1874 DIED: November 11, 1970
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

We've met this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, to pay our respects to Sister Elizabeth Johnson Carling Colvin. This lady has lived a good long life and has been faithful and true to the covenants she has made as well as to the understanding she has had of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

She has lived in my home for the last three or four years. I don't just remember the day she moved in, but we have enjoyed her company. She hasn't been in such a state of health that she had to be waited on continually. From time to time, she had occasions where she had to be looked after, but on account of her hearing and her eyesight, she preferred to be in the house most of the time. She was conscious right up to the last breath of life. An hour before she passed away, she recognized me, and said, "How are you, Roy?" Then just a short time before she passed, she said, "Tell all the folks goodbye and good night." Then she went home to rest and to sleep.

This lady has a posterity worthy of mention. She was the mother of seven children. She had thirty-two grandchildren, one hundred fifty great-grandchildren, forty-four great great-grandchildren, making a total of two hundred and thirty-three.

These services will be conducted as follows:
Elizabeth Johnson Carling Colvin born April 26, 1874. She died November 11, 1970, at the home of Leroy S. Johnson, her brother.
Prelude music - Gwen Johnson and Rachel Cooke
Invocation - Elder Carl Holm
One Sweetly Solemn Thought - Choir
First Speaker - Elder Richard S. Jessop
Next Speaker - Elder Price W. Johnson
Organ Music - Mary Neeves, her daughter.
Remarks - Rulon T. Jeffs

Remarks - J. Marion Hammon
Vocal Solo - Lee Darger "Before The Sun Goes Down"
Remarks - Elder Guy H. Musser
After the program, President Johnson said:

I want to take this opportunity, brothers and sisters, to thank everyone who has participated in the care of Aunt Lizzie throughout her latter days. We have had many people come long distances to see her, comfort her, which she has received in a wonderful spirit as has been told to you here this afternoon.

We want to thank the mortuary for its wonderful assistance to us here in this community. We're grateful to have their services and to be able to call upon them at any time and they are ready and willing to assist us. We greatly appreciate this.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of those who made it possible for this wonderful display of flowers. I think it's a glorious thing to show our appreciation to those who go to the other side. We want to thank this choir for its wonderful music. And those who have participated in the program of this service, we want you to know that we appreciate your efforts.

We appreciate the efforts of everyone who has come long distances to be here today. I'm sure that the family is grateful for the wonderful time that we've had together even upon this occasion.

The remainder of the program will be as follows:

Choir - Sweet Hour of Prayer
Benediction - Elder Alma A. Timpson
Dedication of the Grave - Patriarch Warren E. Johnson, brother
Pall Bearers:

Francis Carling, grandson	Lloyd Colvin, grandson
Orson Black, grandson	Leonard Barlow, grandson
Millward Barlow, grandson	Orval Johnson, nephew

After the benediction, we will go to the cemetery. We have also today another burial to make--reburial, rather.

We had a dear sister buried in Mexico a few years ago. She is another one of our faithful sisters. She, too, is worthy of mention. She has many descendants in this room--Sister Luella Hunter. Brother Edson Jessop just returned from Mexico with her body, removing it from there, and it will be reburied here this afternoon. So after the services at the cemetery for Sister Lizzie, we will repair to the graveside of Sister Hunter where a graveside service will be held, and she will be reburied while the grave of Aunt Lizzie is being prepared. Then you can return to that if you desire.

However, after these services, refreshments will be served at my home where we had the viewing of Aunt Lizzie. All who desire to come are welcome, especially those who have to travel. They can come there and have lunch before they leave. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 13, 1970, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

It's good to be here in health and strength and listen to the things we have heard this day. I pray that the Lord will put into my mouth the things I should say at this time. I am grateful for the testimony I have of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Joseph Smith said that this testimony must be given to the people and all who would believe would be saved, and those who would not believe would be damned. This has been the charge from the beginning. There has been quite a lot said today upon the principle of Celestial Marriage. Celestial Marriage doesn't only include the marriage of one woman to a man, but the marriage of many women to a man. The Prophet Joseph Smith set the example during his short life here because he knew that without this principle, he and his people would be damned and cut off forever, for that was the commandment of the angel to him when he hesitated to enter into that principle.

So, this is a command in our day. I very often have brought up before me the passage in the second chapter of Jacob in the Book of Mormon wherein Jacob chastised the people for not being able to understand the scriptures. He condemned them for their wickedness in polluting the principle of plural marriage, but we find also recorded in the third chapter of Jacob where he talked to those who were pure in heart, and he told them--I think I'll read it. In one chapter he condemns the wicked people, and in the next one he encourages the righteous. I'm going to read just two or three verses from the third chapter of Jacob.

> "But behold, I, Jacob, would speak unto you that are pure in heart. Look unto God with firmness of mind, and pray unto him with exceeding faith, and he will console you in your afflictions, and he will plead your cause and send down justice upon those who seek your destruction."

"O all ye that are pure in heart, lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God, and feast upon his love; for ye may, if your minds are firm, forever.

But, wo, wo, unto you that are not pure in heart, that are filthy this day before God; for except ye repent the land is cursed for your sakes, and the Lamanites, which are not filthy like unto you, nevertheless they are cursed with a sore cursing, shall scourge you even unto destruction."

Now then, what did Jacob tell the people when he was speaking to the wicked?

(Jacob 2:22-30)

"And now I make an end of speaking unto you concerning this pride. And were it not that I must speak unto you concerning a grosser crime, my heart would rejoice exceedingly because of you.

But the word of God burdens me because of your grosser crimes. For behold, thus saith the Lord: This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son.

Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.

Wherefore, thus saith the Lord, I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph.

Wherefore, I the Lord God will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old.

Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none;

For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts.

Wherefore, this people shall keep my commandments, saith the Lord of Hosts, or cursed be the land for their sakes.

For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things."

Now what did the Lord tell the Prophet Joseph Smith regarding this same thing?

(D.& C. Section 131)

"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."

Now I'm going to read a little 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--”

Listen to the difference of what I read to you out of Jacob and what I am reading now. The Lord was speaking to a perverse and wicked generation through the mouth of Jacob. He also spoke to the honest in heart and those who were pure in heart. Here the Lord is speaking to a man that was pure enough in heart to see Him and speak to Him face to face.

> “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.
>
> 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."

Does that sound like plural marriage is done away with? Does it sound like the Lord is going to take it away from us? He said that this Gospel of the Kingdom was given never again to be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer an offering again to the Lord in righteousness. He was speaking of the Priesthood.

We want to remember that we are living in a different day than Jacob was. We are living in a day of the fullness of times when God has said that He was going to redeem Israel. We must have a people prepared to receive the One Mighty and Strong when he comes to set the House of God in order. We hear it preached from the stand that the One Mighty and Strong came in the days of Bishop Partridge. No, that time hasn't come yet. But it's in the near future. The people have got to be prepared to receive him and be prepared to live and obey the Celestial Law in its purity. The Lord took it away because the people desecrated it, for one thing; for another thing, others wouldn't accept it. There wasn't faith enough to accept that law and practice it in the way that God desired it to be.

In Section 84, you'll find these words, that God had placed the whole Church under condemnation because they had treated lightly the things they received. If you'll search the scriptures, you'll find that this law was given somewhere near that time to the Prophet Joseph Smith, but that wasn't the only thing that was treated lightly. We have treated lightly the ordinance of baptism, and we have treated lightly many other ordinances that we received at that time. God was not pleased with us, so we are under condemnation, and He said that we will remain under that condemnation until we repent.

So, God is looking for a repented people, and I would like to know where you can find them on the earth today. In 1836, the Lord tried to find enough people to redeem Zion. He told the Prophet Joseph that if he could find five hundred men that would go up to Zion without murmuring, He would redeem Zion then. But the Prophet couldn't find them. So, the Lord is still trying to find a people that will be united in all things. He's not able to find them yet. He says in another place, My people shall be a tried people.

So, let us look to our knitting. Let us look to our lives and see wherein we can improve them and become men and women that can be trusted by the Lord. Let's get over our petty notions that we have. You women begin to look to your husbands for counsel instead of trying to counsel them, and you men begin to look to the Priesthood for counsel instead of trying to counsel them; and let the Priesthood look unto God for counsel instead of trying to counsel Him! Let's see if we can come out and raise up a people that God can use. Brother Barlow said we would have to raise a people, and when I search the scriptures, I find that the Lord has said that He would take the young and middle-aged and redeem Zion. Now, let's hasten to prepare ourselves that we might be used in the redemption of Zion and the establishment of Israel in the land. May God bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 25, 1971, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I feel very humble, my brothers and sisters, in occupying this position this afternoon and trying to speak under the direction of the Holy Spirit, for I know that unless we can command the Spirit of God to be with us and be so that the Lord can direct our remarks, I feel that we are under a very solemn situation.

The Lord has been very kind to us to bring to our minds the weaknesses and imperfections of our people and to teach us how to bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that the Lord has placed upon us.

These conditions have confronted the saints of God throughout all the generations of time. From time to time, so great has been the determination of certain men of God to build up and establish the Priesthood of God among His people, that the Lord has had to bring great distress upon some people to get them to realize the seriousness of the condition under which they live and to find the way out from under this condition.

We have very little of the history of Enoch and what he had to pass through during the three hundred years that he took to perfect a body of people who were acceptable to the Lord. So we don’t know the conditions that existed. However, we know that he was persistent in teaching the Celestial Law to his people. Finally, he got enough together to satisfy the Lord, and he was taken away with his people, and he obtained the blessing from the Lord for his great work. That blessing was that he and his people would be permitted to come back and take part in the redemption of Zion. Inasmuch as Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, we have a great responsibility upon our shoulders.

Each and every person--all who have gone into the waters of baptism and had hands laid upon them for the gift of

the Holy Ghost have the opportunity to prepare their lives to take part in this great and glorious work, if they will but take the Holy Spirit for their guide and apply to their lives the saving principles of salvation. We've been told time and again that enough has been given to us to round out our salvation and take us back into the presence of our Father and give us a position in the highest degree of glory in the Celestial Kingdom of God. If this be the case, then it is up to the individual as to what he does and how he lives in order to bring about this great and glorious condition in his life. It matters not how much we are criticized or how much we are tempted to do wrong, the Lord expects every person to apply to his life the Celestial Law. We who have access to the whisperings of the Holy Ghost have the right to live and obey that which the Lord has commanded. He has commanded in the latter days that people should gather around the Priesthood and give their support to the servants of God who have been called to lead and guide their footsteps in this great work.

It matters not to those around us what we do to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections. Every man and every woman is blessed with enough of the Spirit of God to know when they do wrong and whether they are supporting the Priesthood of God or not. They know by the Spirit of God that the Lord has set up His kingdom in the latter days for the perfecting of the saints and for the perfecting of His work in the earth to bring about a condition whereby the saints can enjoy a period of peace for a thousand years.

What's going to have to take place in your life and mine, we know not. The Lord has not told us what He is going to do. I imagine that it is going to be a good deal like it was when the Savior came and visited the people on this continent--that we will put off the day of our probation or the day of our

repentance until God has to bring His judgments upon us and those around us in order to bring us to our knees in great humility; because He has said that His saints will barely escape the judgments that He will send upon the wicked.

This Gospel of the Kingdom has been 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. This we firmly believe. If that be the case, there are going to be some among us who have prepared themselves to take part in this redeeming work.

We are told again that there will be two working in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two will be working at the mill; one will be taken and the other left. All these things point to the fact that people must prepare themselves against the day of visitation when the Lord is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked.

So it looks to me like we are in the condition that the Lord has said the children of Israel were in. We are Israelites, and we hate to be told what to do. We hate to be told when we are doing wrong and when we are doing right, so the Lord has left it up to the individual. He placed the Gospel in its fullness before the people, and they have the right to go into the scriptures and search out what they must do in order to provide salvation for themselves and those they love.

He has also said that it is our duty to love the Lord, our God, with all our heart, might, mind, and strength. This is the first commandment. The second is like unto it. Love thy neighbor as thyself, and upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. So it is upon these two commandments that we have to rely.

Now, if we can overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and learn how to love the Lord with all our heart,

might, mind and strength, and then learn to love our neighbor as ourselves, we will have the battle mighty nigh won. These are the conditions that surround our people. Some don't like to go into the scriptures and read them, but they were given for the salvation of mankind.

The early leaders of the Priesthood were commanded to go teach these things to the world, and all who would believe would be saved, and those who would not believe would be damned. I find in this day in which we live that when we start teaching the full law to our people, we place ourselves in jeopardy with those who appear to be our friends as well as the government, because the government has concocted laws against the advancement of God's work in the earth. For that reason, we are not permitted to go out and preach the fullness of the Gospel to the Gentile world at the present time.

The only thing that we can do is lay the Gospel before those who believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and try to get them to repent and bring themselves out from under the condemnation that God placed upon the whole Church in 1832, long before the Prophet was taken away. I don't know where there is a people who have lived their lives to a point where they have been brought out from under this condemnation. I think very few men have lived so that they can say, "I know that I'm not under that condemnation anymore." How many of you can say it? A man might perfect his life to a point where the Lord is pleased enough with him that He can speak through his mouth, but does that mean that he has brought himself out from under the condemnation that God has placed upon us for treating lightly His words? I don't think so.

He is going to prosper this work through the mouths of His servants, and it is going to be the same from now on as it was from now back. The servants of God have got to bring

themselves out from under this condemnation enough so that God can speak through their mouths.

John Taylor died in exile because he didn't have friends enough among the Latter-day Saints to protect him in public. Brigham Young died a broken-hearted man because he couldn't get his best trusted friends to back him up in all things. We will find out that this is the trouble in all cases. Joseph Smith could have lived a good deal longer had all those who the Lord placed around him accepted him as their file leader and placed all their confidence in him. Brigham Young said, "I thought for a fraction of a second that Joseph was incapable of leading me temporally, but I repented as fast as I thought it, and I was afraid I had entertained the thought too long."

This is a day of repentance for every man, woman, and child that loves the Lord or believes that they love the Lord. Our time is very short to bring ourselves out from under the curse that God has placed upon us. We want to be mighty careful that the spirit of self-justification doesn't take hold of us and try to justify our stand before the Lord because of our treating lightly the things we receive.

Now, let's get down to business. The Lord says we will have to pray night and day for deliverance, and I believe that time is right upon us. We had better start early and pray to God night and day in order to bring ourselves to a point where He can pour out His blessings upon us and fill our mouths with the saving principles of salvation.

I pray that God will bless us with understanding and with a firm determination to perfect our lives to a point where we will be acceptable unto Him. It matters not what men say or what we are accused of by our enemies. This is God's work and He has said He would protect His saints if it was necessary for Him to send fire from heaven to do so.

I pray, my brothers and sisters, that we will lend ourselves diligently to the proposition of perfecting our lives so that God can bless us and protect us when He pours out His judgments upon the wicked and that we might be numbered among those who the Lord will use to make up His great army, for He has said that He would delay His time until His army became very great.

Let’s prepare ourselves against that time, and let’s become united in our efforts to serve God and keep His commandments, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 1, 1971, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I just want to say again that I am grateful for the privilege of being here, and I feel greatly my weaknesses in trying to edify you.

The Lord has been very gracious to us. He is kind enough to bring to our attention some of our weaknesses and imperfections and to remind us of our responsibilities. However, we have a responsibility to the Lord to bring ourselves out from under the condemnation He has placed us under. It has been mentioned here today of the condemnation of God upon our people as early as 1832. In order for me to search out the reasons for this condemnation, I am forced to believe that up until this time, the law of baptism for the remission of sins and the United Order were practically the only commandments God had given to His people.

Our attention has been called to the fact that we are not ready for the United Order. I'm wondering how many of us fully realize the importance of baptism. Very often we are confronted with people who want to come and join up with our society. One of the first things they ask is what must they do in order to be ushered into the society of this people.

The Lord has said, "Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins." On the surface, this is not a very hard ordeal, but when you study the ordinance of baptism for the remission of sins, you find that it is far reaching. Men say, "Well, I can overcome my use of tobacco, my use of tea and coffee. I can quit swearing, taking the Lord's name in vain. If I can do this, I am ready for the Celestial Law." But are we? What is baptism--baptism for the remission of sins and laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost? This is what Christ received at the hands of John the Baptist. As pure a man as He was, He had to submit to the ordinance of baptism.

A man came to me the other day and talked to me for a while. He said, “Brother Johnson, I feel that I am ready for the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost.” I said, “Dear brother, what did you prepare yourself for when you went into the waters of baptism and had hands laid upon you for the gift of the Holy Ghost?”

Do you realize that when you went into the waters of baptism that you covenanted with the Lord that you were ready to be cleansed by fire and receive the ordinance of the gift of the Holy Ghost in return for that full sacrifice that you were giving--sacrifice of every sin that you had committed from the time of your birth until now. You also covenanted with the Lord that you would never sin again.

If this people could realize the significance of the ordinance of baptism for the remission of sins and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, you would take care of these obligations that have been mentioned to you this afternoon. Do you realize that before God can redeem Zion that He has got to have a people who are as pure as those who enter into the celestial kingdom of our God, for the Lord says that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. Then, my brothers and sisters, we have a job on our hands. No wonder the Lord said, “My people will cry night and day for deliverance.” Deliverance from what? From the temptations of evil.

How many are there in our congregations that can resist the temptations of evil? We will never be ready for the United Order until we have prepared ourselves to a point where we can resist evil when it shows its face among us. Not only that, but we have got to be able to discern evil in men when they come among us. We have had some experience along these lines. We have had men come among us and want to join up, declaring with soberness in their minds that they were ready to do something

about their salvation. We have believed their words and taken them in. One man came into my home, and I took care of him for months, and all the while I was taking care of him believing that he was sincere in his efforts to do something about his salvation, he was taking note of the surroundings of not only my place but John Y. Barlow's, too.

When the 1944 raid came, he came up missing three or four days before the raid, and they used the data that this man gathered against John Y. Barlow to convict him and send him to the pen. How many of you are able to discern the spirits of men? It is something you've got to be able to do. Can we do it? No, because we don't have the Spirit of God on us continually. We may have it from time to time, but there are times that we get confused as to whether we are doing all things that the Lord has commanded or not, for the Lord speaks in divers tongues. You ask Him for a testimony on some point of doctrine or upon some project that comes up, and He speaks through my mouth and what do you do? You laugh at it and treat it lightly, and the Lord is not pleased.

I saw this in the administration of John Y. Barlow because I was close to him a lot of times. And I saw the work suffer because we treated lightly the things he received and gave to us. Now, some may think I am teaching false doctrine. I am going to call your attention to a few passages of scripture.

(Mosiah 2:38, p.139)

> "Therefore if that man repenteth not, and remaineth and dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine justice do awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt, which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord, and doth fill his breast with guilt, and pain, and anguish, which is like an

unquenchable fire, whose flame ascendeth up forever and ever."

And then because of what the Lord has said, we apply the principle of mercy because we feel that we have done all we could and the Lord ought to be merciful to us. The law of mercy reaches far and wide and in many cases will be applied to the individual.

(Pearl of Great Price, Moses 6:51-68)

"And he called upon our father Adam by his own voice, saying: I am God; I made the world, and men before they were in the flesh.

And he also said unto him: If thou wilt turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice, and believe, and repent of all thy transgressions, and be baptized, even in water, in the name of mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth, which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men, ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, asking all things in his name, and whatsoever ye shall ask, it shall be given you.

And our father Adam spake unto the Lord, and said: Why is it that men must repent and be baptized in water? And the Lord said unto Adam: Behold I have forgiven thee thy transgression in the Garden of Eden.

Hence came the saying abroad among the people, that the Son of God hath atoned for original guilt, wherein the sins of the parents cannot be answered upon the heads of the children, for they are whole from the foundation of the world.

And the Lord spake unto Adam, saying; Inasmuch as thy children are conceived in sin, even so when they begin to grow up, sin conceiveth in their hearts, and they taste the bitter, that they may know to prize the good.

And it is given unto them to know good from evil, wherefore they are agents unto themselves, and I have given unto you another law and commandment.

Wherefore teach it unto your children, that all men, everywhere, must repent, or they can in nowise inherit the kingdom God, no unclean thing dwell there, or dwell in his presence; for, in the language of Adam, Man of Holiness in his name, and the name of his Only Begotten is the Son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous judge, who shall come in the meridian of time.

Therefore I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children, saying:

That by reason of transgression cometh the fall, which fall bringeth death, and inasmuch as ye were born into the world by water, and blood, and the spirit, which I have made, and so became of dust a living soul, even so ye must be born again into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten, that ye might be sanctified from all sin, and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come, even immortal glory.

For by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified, and by the blood ye are sanctified;

Therefore, it is given to abide in you; the record of heaven; the Comforter, the peaceable things of immortal glory; the truth of all things; that which quickeneth all things, which maketh alive all things; that which knoweth all things, and hath all power according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice, and judgment.

And now, behold, I say unto you; this is the plan of salvation unto all men, through the blood of mine Only Begotten, who shall come in the meridian of time.

And behold, all things have their likeness, and all things are created and made to bear record of me, both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath; all things bear record of me.

And it came to pass, when the Lord had spoken with Adam, our father, that Adam cried unto the Lord, and he was caught away by the Spirit of the Lord, and was carried down into the water, and was laid under the water, and was brought forth out of the water.

And thus he was baptized, and the Spirit of God descended upon him, and thus he was born of the Spirit, and became quickened in the inner man.

And he heard a voice out of heaven, saying: Thou art baptized with fire, and with the Holy Ghost. This is the record of the Father, and the Son, from henceforth and forever;

> And thou art after the order of him who was without beginning of days or end of years, from all eternity to all eternity.
>
> Behold, thou art one in me, a son of God; and thus may all become my sons. Amen."

Here is the word of the Lord to us on baptism. Brigham Young said upon one occasion that we could be baptized a hundred times, but except we repent, it availeth us nothing, and this is true. I claim that until we can recognize the sacredness of these ordinances the Lord gives to us and be able to keep our covenants with the Lord to obey His commandments and to keep ourselves clean and free from the sins of the generation in which we live, we still have a work to do. We have that work of laboring with ourselves until we do repent and come unto the Lord clean before Him. Until we can do this, we will have to labor under the conditions that exist today.

The Lord sent His servants, during the days of the early rise of this work, to all the nations of the earth crying repentance and baptism for the remission of sins, and bearing testimony that all who would repent and be baptized would be candidates for salvation, and those who rejected the call would be damned. I wonder what is rejecting the call. Are all who are baptized candidates for eternal life? Let us take stock of ourselves and study the scriptures and see whether we are or not.

If we will start keeping the commandments of God, the servants of God will not have to call us to order for not paying our debts, because we will want to pay our debts, for failure in this is one thing that the Lord condemns. If we're guilty of sin, we are guilty of not paying that which we owe. I am afraid we owe a lot to our Father in heaven, and until we can pay that debt, we are going to have to labor under these other debts.

We are going to have to cry night and day for deliverance from the bondage of sin.

Now, I don’t wish to say anymore, but I pray God to bless us and help us to see the errors of our ways. Let’s get down to grass roots and start from the bottom and build ourselves up and become that people the Lord is trying to raise up in the latter days to redeem His great work. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 15, 1971, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I can say amen to what we have received this afternoon. I pray that the Lord will dictate the words of my mouth that what I say may be in accordance with His will. When these brethren were talking, my mind went back to an experience I had in California one time, way back in 1924.

I happened to be over there working in Susanville, California. One of the leading brethren was there on a short term mission, and he happened into meeting where I was and gave a lecture. During his remarks, he made this observation, “The time has come when the Latter-day Saints must cease teaching the Gospel by word of mouth, but they will have to teach it by example.” He said, “We are ridiculed for the doctrines we teach. Every Latter-day Saint who believes that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God will have to seek out the saving principles of the Gospel and apply them to their lives and live them that the outside world might see our good works and be lead to imitate our example.”

I have thought about that sermon a lot. I have thought a lot lately of the condition of the little town called Colorado City. Many people are watching the growth and the actions of the people of Colorado City. There have been a few people come in and visit us. A few have come into our meetings. Quite a number have come into our town and gone through it when we weren’t looking, and they’ve been amazed at the growth that has taken place in this little city. One man that is quite a financier, when I told him of the great expense that this people were put through in the 1953 Raid and that today we were out of debt from that raid, two or three times he remarked, “It’s impossible that a community of your size could raise that amount of money and be able to free yourselves from the great persecution that was heaped upon you!”

I'm led to reflect upon the revelations of God through the Prophet Joseph Smith when He told the Prophet that God and one man was a majority. Another time, He told the Prophet that it is now pleasing unto Him that men should use their own judgment regarding the matters of eternal life and the living of the Celestial Law. When I know and understand that the Lord has said that except we live and obey these saving principles we cannot obtain the blessings, then I am led to believe that the Lord means what He says. He tells us that of us it is required to forgive all men and He will forgive whom He will, but we are to leave judgment to Him, for He says, "Judgment is mine."

I continually have to remind people that it's our business to learn to love our neighbor as ourselves, and that means that it doesn't make any difference how badly we are treated by other people or how much we are criticized, it is our duty to keep ourselves in a condition so that we can be calm in our minds and in our actions and be able to overlook the actions of others and apply to our lives the principle of self-control.

The brethren have touched upon many points of doctrine that are vital to this body of men and women. I would like to express a little more the importance of kindness in the home. I find that there are not two characters that are exactly alike. If a man has more than one lady in the home, he has to study them and learn how to treat each one in a way so that she will be pleased to come under his direction, and he should teach them to love one another and overlook one another's faults and to be able to live in each other's society. This can be done. We have some characters that are continually complaining. Where we have this character in our home, we should labor with them, and continue to labor with them with love and long-suffering that they might overcome it if possible. I think that some characters have gone

so far that it is almost impossible to get them out of the habit of complaining of the situation in which they live.

President Barlow used to say that it's one thing to enter into the covenant and another thing to be able to abide in the covenant. Remember that the Spirit of God is the spirit of peace, and the spirit of evil is the spirit of unrest and faultfinding and criticism and these other little things that beset our people and cause disharmony among us. If this people would work upon these things and overcome them, then we would begin to become that people that would be prepared to be used by the One Mighty and Strong when he comes. I want this people to remember that until we can overcome these evils that have been spoken about here today, we are not ready for the United Order, and it would be impossible for you to live it if you were organized. This is the reason that the Lord placed the whole Church under condemnation within two years after the Church was organized, simply because of the people not being able to overcome the evils that have been spoken about here today.

All the prophets from the time of Joseph until now have tried to get the people to understand and apply to their lives the principle of love toward one another. You cannot love the Lord and hate your neighbor. This is impossible. We might think that we love the Lord. We cry to Him night and morning and noon, so we love Him; but we condemn our neighbor as many times as we pray. So, pray tell me how you can love the Lord and hate your neighbor.

These are things we've got to learn to overcome. I believe that the Lord loves us for the effort we put forth to bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that has been placed upon us; but as President Barlow used to say, we are a good people, but we're not good enough. We are not good enough because we are still beset by these temptations that come among us.

Let us seek for the Lord’s Holy Spirit to be upon us so that we can keep it with us from one moment to another, that we might be able to condone one another and live so that we can have peace and harmony in our homes.

I don’t think that the men are any worse than the women. I think that a man that has had a girl sealed to him should study that girl and labor with her. If she’s a girl that’s prone to complaining, he should labor with her to overcome her complaining habits. And he should do all he can to convert her to the proposition that love is greater than hatred, because sooner or later, the complaining spirit is going to develop the evil of hatred. Once we get that engendered into our soul, it’s hard to get it out. The Spirit of God is easily grieved, and once it is grieved and leaves a person, it is hard to get it back. Remember this! This applies to each individual, man and woman, girl and boy. You fathers and mothers should start when your children are young to stamp out the spirit of hatred one towards another, or complaining one towards another. They should be taught to love one another.

We’ve been together a good long time, and I only want to invoke the Spirit of God upon you and the blessings of our Father in heaven to attend us from one moment to another and from one hour to another and from one day to another until we meet again.

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

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 29, 1971, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I realize we've been together a long while. We need a little refreshment, fresh air as well as food. I don't wish to detain you long. I only want to say that which the Lord has for me to say. I pray that the Lord will bless me with words of consolation and encouragement because of the situation in which we find ourselves today. I am greatly pleased with the appearance of this people who have been tutored and trained so long under the direction of the Priesthood. I believe that we are trying, at least most of us, to repent of that which is not right in us, and to bring ourselves to a point where the Lord will be pleased with us.

I also see many needs for improvement in our lives. There are those among us who try to take advantage of their neighbors. Others try to tell men to do different than they have been counseled to do. Some criticize. Some complain about the conditions under which they have to live. The Lord has told us that we should love our neighbor as ourselves and that we should overcome our evil doings and the little things that beset us and cause us to have bad feelings rise in our bosoms one towards another. These are the things that we need to work upon and to stamp out of our lives that the Lord might be able to give us His Spirit and we could keep it. There is not any of you but what ought to know when you are possessed by the Spirit of the Lord and when you are possessed by the spirit of evil.

The Lord has so arranged it that He has brought this body of people together here today that they might be instructed and that they might be built up in their determination to serve God and keep His commandments. Repentance is unto all men everywhere, so says the Lord. He that repenteth and applies to his life the principles of righteousness, the Lord has said that He would forgive, and I believe He means what He says. I believe

that any man, woman, or child, that feels within themselves to overcome a weakness or imperfection and they will go to the Lord and ask Him to confirm it, He will confirm it.

I believe that we can bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that the Lord has placed upon us and become a people that He can use.

We can think of many parables that the Lord has given us in days gone by, but we are living in a day of the parable of the redemption of Zion when the harvest is ripe. The time has come when He is going to have to separate the wheat from the tares. That's the great job that the Lord has at the present time--separating the wheat from the tares. We're going to find, my dear brothers and sisters, that the words of the prophet Joseph W. Musser in this place are going to be fulfilled, that those who will not bring themselves under the direction of the Priesthood and the requirements of our Father in heaven to straighten out their lives will get discouraged and move away.

There will be many temptations for our people to be enticed by the ways of the world. Those who will not align their lives with the servants of God and the requirements of the holy Gospel will go their way. Many have come and many have gone. We've seen it in our lives in this place. This thing will continue until we are separated and those who will keep the commandments of God will be blessed with the Spirit of God or the spirit of peace, for the spirit of evil cannot mix with the Spirit of God and continue to thrive among the Latter-day Saints. Those two spirits cannot mix.

So let us strive, my brothers and sisters, to overcome the things that are besetting our habitations and causing confusion in our homes. We find from day to day that there are those among us who still have confusing ideas in their minds about some of the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have to remind the people continually of these conditions and continually ask them to strive with themselves to prepare to meet their God. The prophet Alma meant what he said when he said, “This is the day in which we must prepare to meet our God.” Even though it was many generations ago, long before the time of our Christ, it was still a time for people to prepare to meet their God. That same charge goes with us today; the day in which we live is the day for us to prepare against the day of visitation when God brings His judgments upon those who do not have the power to repent.

Now, this is the thing that we should strive to bring about in our lives--a condition where the Spirit of the Lord can be with us continually, that we might be guided, not only from day to day, but from hour to hour and from minute to minute, that we might be steered around the many pitfalls that come in our way to lead us into temptation and give us trials and tribulations.

If we will strive with ourselves continually, after while we will overcome and we will become a people like unto the people of Enoch. It took that man three hundred and twenty years, so the scriptures say, to prepare a few people that would be acceptable to the Lord. So let us keep on striving. As long as we have life, we have hope of preparing ourselves for a glorious salvation. I don’t wish to speak any longer, but I pray that the Lord will bless us with a determination to go forward and to apply to our lives the saving principles of the Gospel that we might not be found wanting when the Lord causes tribulation around us. May God bless you, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 7, 1971, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, I am grateful for the privilege of being here today and listening to what has been said. I greatly realize the situation under which we live. I have been greatly edified by the sermons that have been given this afternoon, but still, I am greatly grieved over some of the conditions that we have been told about that exist in our community.

Here's a people that have been taught for many years. This body of young people here today have been brought up and reared under the direction of the Priesthood. Why the fathers and mothers of these children would allow conversations to go on in their homes criticizing the actions of men, I don't know. I don't know why they do it. I don't feel to chastise the children for what went on at the school grounds, but I feel to chastise the fathers and mothers of those children. They have no business to let a word drop in the ears of a child in their homes about the apostate conditions of any man. I don't care who he is. If you will stop to listen or think just a moment, it puts you in a worse condition than the apostates are because you should be further down the road than they are. If you don't repent, you are going to find yourselves going the same road they are.

The Priesthood has preached repentance from this stand for many years, and it doesn't matter how much a man criticizes the Priesthood, we have no business teaching our children to criticize or find fault. Our children should be taught to not find fault with men or the conditions we find ourselves in. So we had better sit up and take notice.

You fathers and mothers of the girls and boys that were responsible for these situations in the schools, you had better sit up and take notice and repent of your sins. Whether it's my

children, or whether it's my son's children or my daughter's children, they should be instructed to have compassion upon all their schoolmates and love one another.

The first great commandment is to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind and strength, and the second is like unto it--love thy neighbor as thyself.

The Lord plainly tells us that this is the case. If we criticize our neighbor for his faults and failings, it places us in a worse condition than our neighbor is. We are guilty of the greater sin, so the Lord says.

I know that we are laboring under great odds as far as the world is concerned trying to bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that God placed upon us and to bring ourselves to a point where God can shower His blessings upon us as He would like to, but we've got to look to our own homes and see what goes on there.

Let us learn this one thing, that before we criticize someone else, let us look to ourselves and see whether we are worthy to criticize or not. Let's see if we are doing all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded us to do.

I have been greatly distressed in my feelings over the actions of men who have come to see me lately, knowing that they know the Gospel is true, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and they've been tutored and trained in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They've had access to the doctrines of the holy Priesthood through the teachings of early leaders of this work, and knowing that it is their privilege to apply the square to that which they hear to see if it squares up with the revelations of God or not, yet they have by-passed the order of Priesthood that God has been trying to get before them, not only the TRUTH Magazine, but the Journal of Discourses so that they could be properly instructed. They have gone to every faction

that has broken away from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and in doing so, their minds have become confused because there are no two factions that teach the same doctrine. Each one of them say they have the truth and nobody else has it. So they finally wind up coming to the Priesthood for their blessings.

I have used pretty hard words to some of these people, because knowing that they know as much about the Gospel as I know, or they ought to, yet they by-pass us, and when they get into trouble or their minds are troubled and they don't know where to look, they come to us to get straightened out. Some of them wish that they hadn't come to see me. Some of them are trying to get their minds straight, but they have a lot of questions to ask. I told one man that he just as well quit asking the questions because he had as much right to the Spirit of God to answer these questions for him as I have. I said, "You have gone out and got yourself confused by every wind of doctrine that has been preached. Now you come back to the fountain of truth to find out what is the truth, and you don't know the truth when you hear it. Until you can get the Spirit of God, you won't know the truth because what I tell you will only add to the confusion of your mind."

Now this is all I will say today. We will stop here and let it sink in. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 6, 1972, ROSEMARY, CANADA

Again, my brothers and sisters, I am grateful for this opportunity of being here with you. The Lord is certainly kind to us to give us a little more time to prepare ourselves. It is human nature to be dilatory in our everyday lives. I don't know how it is with others, but every time I wake up in the morning, one of the first things I think about is asking the Lord to be with me during the day to guide and direct my efforts. I find it is quite a stimulating thought to practice in our lives.

I don't think I've met with an accident or had reverse conditions come in my life but what I've been impressed prior to the incident, and if I had heeded the promptings of the Spirit in some cases, conditions could have been averted. Brother Ray brought to our minds how we fail to heed the promptings of our guardian angels.

Along about 1945, right after the '44 raid, some of us men were still under indictment being hunted by authorities; the Prophet asked some of us, in order to get out of the way, to go into Old Mexico. There were four men in the car. Brother Leonard Black was one, my brother Elmer, myself, and Newel Steed on this particular trip. We got over near the border of Mexico. I said we had better buy a gas can and carry extra gas. We drove up to a service station and told the man we were going into Mexico. I asked him for a gas can. He said, "No. What do you want with a gas can? You won't need extra gasoline. You can get all you need at the border."

We took his word, went on our way. It was two hundred miles to the border. When we got there, our gasoline was low, but there was no gas there. We had been misinformed. We didn't have enough to get back to the gas station. We thought we'd be just as well off in Mexico as anywhere. We noticed every truck going by had several barrels of gas on it. We stopped several

trucks and asked to buy gas, but they wouldn't sell any. We offered fifty cents a quart for gasoline, but they wouldn't take it. We drove on. Leonard got quite excited. Finally, he pulled off the road and said, "We're not going any further without more gasoline." It was night time by then. We made camp and waited until morning.

The next morning, we got our breakfast, loaded our belongings on the car, and Leonard said, "Now what shall we do?" I said, "Leonard, see that little road over there?" "Yes." "We'll take off on that road." "All right." He drove two miles then stepped on the brake. "I can't go any further. We know nothing about this country." I said, "Let's go on a little further." So we did until the road forked again. "Now which way?" he asked. Brother Steed said the left hand road looked best, so we took it for about a hundred yards. I said, "Leonard, you're on the wrong road." He stopped the car again. "We've got gas enough for about one more minute or so, then we're out." I said, "Leonard, see the top of that hill? Go up to it and see what is there." He started the car and went up there.

We looked down on a valley, the prettiest farm you ever saw. Three tractors were going, one cutting hay, one raking, one loading. Leonard let out a holler then went on down the hill. We unwired a gate and went in, and went around to the house. The man came out, and I said, "We're out of gasoline and wondered if we could buy some to go into Casas Grandes." He said, "Yes. It takes about five or six gallons. I can let you have it." I said, "Do we have to go on the main road to get to Casas Grandes?" He said, "See that gate up along that hill? That's the main road. Now I have a question to ask you. How come you started following a cow trail to find gasoline?" I said, "Well, to put it in your language, I followed a hunch, came on your road to get gasoline." He said, "That's the way with me. When I don't follow a hunch,

I get into trouble. Not only did you come on an untraveled road, but you cut off about fifteen miles of travel."

If we would follow the inspiration we get everyday, we would learn to heed the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord. We would avert these pitfalls that get us into trouble. Not only that, but if we would learn to obey the promptings of the Spirit of God, we would not have to travel four or five hundred miles once a month to be fed. We'd be fed every day. We would be able to do the things necessary for our salvation. It's the salvation of our souls that we're after and nothing else. There's not a man or a woman who doesn't think of what they need to leave this world. We have to so order our lives to be guided and directed by the Spirit of God in these incidents of our lives.

Nothing more or less than following the whisperings of the Spirit of God got us out of our predicament, even though we had been mislead and believed what men told us. The Spirit of God told me I had better take a gas can, but we allowed ourselves to be persuaded differently. The Lord had a point to put over to someone in our party. From that time on, we had no trouble getting where we wanted to go and getting the information we needed. Why? Because there wasn't a man in our party but what believed we were being directed by the Spirit of God.

I don't wish to take more time right now. I'll turn the time to President Holm.

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I'm grateful for the testimonies that have been borne. I'm grateful for the privileges the Lord has given me for my edification and the building up of this work.

In my early experiences after I had arrived at the age of seven years old, my father met with an accident which rendered him helpless, being paralyzed from the hips down. It caused a condition in our home where someone had to be close to him all the time to take care of him. I was right at the age when my services to him could be very helpful. I guess I had been quite a problem to my mother because of my attitude. When Father became sick, and I could see he wasn't able to help himself, it made a difference in my attitude in the home. My desire was to be close to him. So they favored me to stay close to him, and that is how I became well-trained, I call it. It was my privilege and job to stay in the room and take care of his needs. He died when I was fourteen.

The training I obtained from seven to fourteen years old probably helped me in being where I am today. I had the benefit of sitting in on conversations with prophets and great men who came to see my father. So, I had the training others haven't had.

When I was seventeen years old, the Lord, in answer to my request for a Patriarchal Blessing, gave me some great promises. We knew a patriarch by the name of Brother Bertelson. He was living plural marriage. He was the patriarch of the stake. My mother recognized the importance of his life and asked him to come in and give me a blessing. He sat down and told me, "Now, you've asked to know your standing with your Father in heaven. When I give you this blessing, treat it as a sacred covenant between you and the Lord. Don't let everybody read your blessing." Then he told me that because the Lord wanted me to be obedient to the things given to me, I should prepare my life to receive them.

Like other boys, I was thrown into all kinds of company, and not altogether right, but all in all, I kept a clean

mind and a clean physical body. I might have been a little rowdy on the fun side of life. I remember one time after some experience building canals, working on railroads, I got mixed up in the use of dynamite and black powder. It was a Fourth of July celebration. We played some harmless tricks on the man that had been salute man in our community for several years.

Another time, there was a man by the name of Nalder, an old rancher on the river. He had a fine piece of land and sold half of it to a man named Jones. Brother Jones had his boys make a cross fence between their places. One of his boys happened to be a smoker. He dug a post hole, lit a cigarette, threw the match in the post hole. It started to burn. The flames came up in another hole where another brother was digging. He said, “This is the first time I’ve ever seen the earth burn.” They got an inch pipe, set it on a board and tamped dirt around it, got a torch and lit the end of the pipe and went on digging post holes. After a while, their father saw the torch burning. He came down to see what was wrong. They had two or three other holes burning. “The earth’s a fire. I wonder what’s taking place,” the father said. “Build the fence, but leave the pipe and see how long it will burn.”

That was one of the first discoveries of oil in that area, and now it is one of the biggest oil producing areas in the United States. Brother Jones leased his land to the oil company, and they came in and drilled.

Brother Nalder thought he’d do the same. He went to the driller and said, “I’ll hire you to do it by the day or for the job so much.” So he hired them by the day. He came in the store one day. I said, “Brother Nalder, how is your oil well coming along?” “By the day, slowly, but by the job faster.”

We go along by the day. We hear what the servants of the Lord say, think it over by the day, get together once a month

and have a good time thinking of the servants of God and getting all enthused. When Brother Quinton chastised us for not listening, I thought of what the Lord says in this book of His. We thought Brother Quinton was sharp, but let's see how sharp the Lord is.

(He read Section One of the Doctrine & Covenants.)

We read and pass over, not stopping to analyze it, but there is a chastisement to this people a whole lot sharper than what Brother Quinton said because we read the word of God, and He goes on to tell us what to do about our salvation. He gives us the word of God, but very few of us think of what we read or how important it is to listen to what the Lord gives us. We go along from day to day feeling pretty good. We don't smoke, chew tobacco, quarrel in our families. The Savior said, "It is good to do alms to the poor, but take heed to not do alms to be seen of others, they have their reward. Do not sound trumpets to have glory of men, or ye have your glory. Do not let thy left hand know what thy right hand is doing."

One of the most important chapters in the Book of Mormon is in Third Nephi, thirteen. Fourteen is as good. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where moths and rust corrupt and thieves break through and steal, etc."

When I was a young man in Kanab, in order to get something for my family to live on, I worked almost night and day. I knew it was my duty to help the Priesthood and the Church. This was before I knew about this order of the Priesthood. I had a young family. I was out of work, and we were quite destitute for the necessities of life. I persuaded two of my brothers-in-law to go with me to find a job. One was married and had a young family, too. I had four children. Where could we go? We heard of the lumber mills in California, so we gathered a little money. I had a model T Ford car. The three of

us gathered about ten or fifteen dollars between us. I left a pile of wood chopped for my folks. I felt that by the time their food was gone, I would have more money to them.

We went to Susanville, California, a lumber district. The morning after we landed, my two brothers-in-law got a job for five dollars and fifty cents each day--pretty good wage in those days. I had to wait for a job. I went down every day for ten days. Finally, their boss gave me a job for four dollars a day. I worked for a couple of weeks at that wage. The first check I cashed, I bought a money order for my tithing and sent it to the bishop. Then I bought one for five dollars to send home to the folks. When I got my next check, I did the same. I got criticized by my brothers-in-law the first time and the second time. The third time, I got more criticism. They said my first obligation was to my family and the next to the bishop. I said I felt that it should be first to the bishop and then to my family. “We don’t pay tithing,” they said. I told them I would pay my tithing and when I left there at the end of the summer, I would have more money in the bank and would have sent more home than they had. They laughed. I was drawing four dollars, and they were each making five dollars and fifty cents a day.

One day the boss came on the job and offered me a drink of beer for his birthday. I refused. He said, “Nobody refuses to drink with me. You go down and get your time.” I said, “Thank you, I will.” I put down my tools and went to get my check. I walked down where the others were working. They said, “Pay your tithing!” I said, “I will.” I made out my money orders to the bishop and my wife then walked over where they were tearing the roof off a house. I asked what they were doing. The boss told me they were tearing down houses to build a hotel. He hired me as a common day laborer at four dollars and seventy-five cents. He was paying carpenters eight dollars. The next

Saturday, when I got my paycheck, it was for eight dollars a day. When I got back to the boarding house, I put my check on the table. The boys each looked at it and said the company had made a mistake. But the next week, the company gave me the same amount. So the boys tried to get a job there but neither could, and they had to stick with their jobs at the lumber shop.

The boss came along and told me to go down to the office. After a while, he came and asked me to be his steel man. He laid out a blue-print and told me he had twenty carpenters building outside forms and twenty carpenters building inside forms. As soon as these forms were ready, we had to slap the steel on. I picked three men from the crew to help me. The boss told me I was to be paid twelve dollars daily, and my crew would be paid eight dollars a day. One of them said, “This is right down my alley; this is the first job I have worked on not a steel job. I can read a blue print like a book.”

So, from the first of June until the last day of November, we worked there. The boss asked me how long I would stay. I said, “Until the last wheelbarrow of cement is poured.” He gave me the privilege of pouring it. Then he told me to go down to the office and pick up my check. He gave me a hundred and fifty dollar bonus for my work. My one brother-in-law left and didn’t tell us where he was going. The other one said, “I’m worried about Alfred.” I said, “I’m not worried about him. He’s home.” The next day, I got a letter from my wife telling me that Alfred was home and had a job on the railroad. When I left for home, I had more money in the bank, had sent more home to my folks, and had paid my tithing. This was in the spring of 1924 when we went to work. Orval was born in 1923.

After we came home, this boy went to work at the usual job of carpentering. They put him in as counselor in the Sunday School, then counsel man in the Bishopric, then high counsel man.

Two years ago, my brother-in-law died. Two days before Clair died, he called all his children around to tell them a faith-promoting story. A true story of his life. He said, “Uncle Roy--as mean a man as we think he is--we will have to travel down the same road if we catch up with him.” Then he told them the experience I’ve just told. His wife told me. She never believed in plural marriage and told Clair if he ever lived it, she’d leave him, but she wanted me to know what Clair thought of me. I think it’s good to relate some of these experiences. These boys were partakers of these incidents along with me, although they didn’t learn too much.

Since I met up with John Y. Barlow, I never went out to solicit a job. One winter, we were subjected to great destitute circumstances. We tried to get a few potatoes to tide us over the winter, but all we could get were turnips. We dug them on shares and brought them in--about four ton in our cellar. We rationed them out to our people. Turnips and gravy for breakfast, fried turnips for lunch, turnip soup for supper and very little bread. I got John Y. Barlow in the little pickup; he said, “Where are we going?” I said, “To find something to eat.” We went to Orderville to Hans Chamberlain’s store and told him we needed groceries. He told me to take a book and keep track of what I took and get a load. I got flour, rice, sugar, and so forth. I took the list to him and he signed it. Brother Barlow said, “Brother Chamberlain, we’ll have money for you in thirty days.” Brother Chamberlain said, “Don’t worry about it. I’ve had dealings with Brother Johnson before, and I know he will pay.”

I guess we have never taken a load of groceries more needed or appreciated. Brother Barlow was as good as his word. The people gathered round, and he paid the bill.

In our trials of 1953, we had one of the greatest tests of faith ever placed on a people. We had our wives and children taken away from us, and we had to fight our way out of court. We had to have the best lawyers we could get, and we paid the price whatever it was. We didn't flinch over the price. We didn't flinch over the legal help. The Lord opened the way to get the very best, and he opened the way to obtain the means to pay for it. Today, we are still reaping benefits from it.

When they took our case in 1953, three lawyers, Kinney, Gibbons, and Tipton, they had three secretaries taking care of all the business for all three men, but when they took our case, they had to increase the secretary department. Today, they occupy a third of the seventh floor of the First National Bank Building in Phoenix, Arizona. They have seven lawyers, and each lawyer has his own secretary, and one at the front desk to take care of the people coming in. They are not only known locally, but they are now known world wide and are fighting cases all over the world, Europe, Germany, Canada, and all the states. When I asked Mr. Kinney the other day for some legal advice, he said, "I haven't had experience with this, but I'll get you a man who has. He's the best in the state."

I said, "Mr. Kinney, I want you to send me a bill for your work." He laughed. He said, "This office is yours when you come." I called him one morning to find out when I could see him. He said, "I've told you before, you are first in our books. We will make time for you anytime." He got us an appointment with another man, introduced us, and so forth. He said, "Don't think for a moment that I don't know why we've been able to expand like we have."

So, this is the way things are going and will if we lend ourselves to supporting the work of God. He wants to bless us in our stewardships. If we will let Him, He will build them

up to assist the servants of God in performing their labors. Then we can be used to help the One Mighty and Strong fulfill his labor. We have to have men full of faith, women full of faith, and children growing up with faith to build up the Kingdom of God. That’s our mission. I hope we can understand our work and let our light so shine that others will see our good works and join us. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 23, 1972, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I'm grateful again, my brothers and sisters, for this wonderful privilege of being here and bearing my testimony to the truthfulness of this work. I'm grateful for what I have heard, and I pray that God will bless us with understanding that we might be able to understand the words that we hear. The Lord is very kind to us.

As I travel to and fro among the people, I find that we are greatly blessed. The people, in general, throughout the length and breadth of this state are wonderfully blessed this year because of the wonderful crops I see after such a long and weary drought. The Lord is very kind to this people, but there is room for great improvement in our lives. This order of the Priesthood should be very grateful for the wonderful privileges that we have.

Every man that has enrolled himself with this order has covenanted with the Lord that he will do all he can for the establishment of Zion, and this means a great lot. When I read the scriptures and think of the signs that the Lord has brought to our minds through the scriptures, I find that we are living in a time that is a little greater than any other. We read of the wonderful experience of the prophet Enoch and how he was taken away with a portion of the earth, and I wonder how many of us would like to read the rest of the record--just what took place in that time. We read of the wonderful work of Noah. We have a history of what he did, to some extent, but I would like to see a little more of the record.

We come down to the tower of Babel. The people were trying to prevent the Lord from destroying them again. We have a little of the record when the Lord confounded the languages of the people, but there are some more records that I would like to see. Records have been kept, my brothers and sisters, of these

events. When Joseph the Prophet went before the Lord and received his wonderful visitations and then the visitation of the Angel Moroni, he saw many records. It's that portion of the record that was sealed that I would like to know more about.

That wonderful man, Moroni, when he was finishing the records of his father and sealing them up, hiding them up in the earth, the Lord told him to seal up that portion of the record that he was permitted to see, the records of Jared and his people. He also told him that those records would not come forth unto the Gentiles until they repented and showed faith equal unto the prophet, the brother of Jared. I think there are many of us that would like to see these records. Joseph the Prophet might have been permitted to see some of them, maybe all of them, no doubt he did.

There is a great lot of repenting to be done. I don't think that all the blame should be laid upon the women. Every man who has entered into this order of Priesthood should have faith enough to know how to teach and train his women. I don't think the women can save the man. The man has got to do something about it, but they can go a long way towards helping him. They can use their great opportunity to serve him and to make his life happy, but worldly happiness doesn't always bring salvation. Many people throughout the world are happy. They seem to be happy, but they will lose their salvation through it. Happiness, according to the ways of the world, is not happiness according to the ways of God.

So a man should seek that happiness that will bring him eternal life. In doing that, he will bring his wife, or wives, whichever he has around him, and seek diligently to teach and train them in the line of their duties. This is one of their duties--to seek the happiness of the man that is placed over them. Any man or woman that won't seek for that eternal happiness, the Lord says they are not worthy of the Kingdom.

We wouldn’t have the many trials and tribulations that come before us if we had the faith necessary for our salvation. Get the Lectures on Faith and read them. Don’t only just read them, but ask for the Spirit of God to accompany you while you read them. Do what the Angel Moroni said, Read this record with the Spirit of God desiring to know whether we speak the truth or not, and the Lord will reveal it to you, and you will be filled with that happiness that is required for the salvation of the souls of men.

There is a great lot of learning to be done. Many of us think that we are learned. We’ve been out to school and we’ve passed the grades necessary to give us a diploma, but what are we schooled in?

How many of us are schooled in a line that will train us who God is and how to become like Him? He told the Prophet Joseph Smith to join none of these churches, for they were all wrong. Then He said, “If you will listen to me, I will show you how to set up the true Church of God.” That is what Joseph was praying for. From the day of his first vision until the day that he received the Priesthood, which was eight years later, he was taught by the angels of God, and he was severely chastised when he didn’t listen to those teachings. He gave his life for the testimony that he bore of the existence of God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Now inasmuch as the Lord has said that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, how are we going to know what the principles of the Celestial Kingdom are if we have to go out and prove to ourselves from other religions that we are being tutored and trained under the right direction. I can tell you this, that we will never succeed in doing what the Lord has asked us to do in preparing ourselves for the redemption of Zion if we have to go out and find out what is

in all the other denominations in the earth before we get down to business and find out how to become like God. We'll never get there if we do that.

We are living in a great day, my brothers and sisters, and we had better come to the realization that we are, for the time is shortening up a great deal faster than we think it is. The conditions of our nation and our people will mighty soon be where we will be praying night and day for deliverance, for the Lord has said so. I'm only telling you what the prophets have said before. The time has come, my brothers and sisters, when time is running out on us.

In September of 1886, the prophet, John Taylor, received a revelation. This was four years before the Manifesto was signed by Wilford Woodruff, and among other things the Lord said, "And furthermore, it is more pleasing to me that men should use their free agency in regards to these matters." And I believe that to be true. I believe this is an individual work. Every man who has hands laid upon him by this Priesthood for the reception of the priesthood will be held responsible for his acts. He knows what he has to do. We have no organized ward or stake, but we do have a Priesthood to support. The Lord has placed leaders here, and they will give you the word of God as fast as you can drink it in.

When the One Mighty and Strong comes to set in order the House of God, he is going to call for valiant men. The Spirit of God will rest upon His servant, and He will call them. They will be called by revelation to take their places. How many of you are going to be prepared for it? You don't have to learn the rot of this world in order to purify your lives, I'll tell you that! You've got to purify your lives first, and then if Satan can have power over you, why, you're doomed. If you are going to wait until you partake of the evils of this world and then repent, you're doomed anyhow.

So, let us repent of our sins. We know the evils that exist among us. We know the good that exists among us. Now, let's hold fast to that which is good and add to it until we perfect our lives, that we might be found worthy to take part in that great and glorious work--the redemption of Zion.

We know a little bit about what took place when the Savior visited this continent. The record tells us of the many, many thousands of people who were destroyed. Why? Because they weren't worthy. How many thousands are going to be destroyed this time? And how many worthy are there among us? Is the Lord going to be lenient with us to save sufficient that in twenty years after the great destruction comes, we might all be converted to the truth? That's what took place after the Savior visited the American continent. It took twenty years, so the record says, for all the people to be converted that Jesus was the Christ.

I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will hasten to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation and that we might be prepared to take care of that which the Lord has blessed us with. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 14, 1974, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

Well, here we are again, out to be instructed and try to incorporate into our minds the blessings of eternal life. I feel very humble this afternoon in occupying this position and trust that the Lord will let me know what to say. I know that this work is true. I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and came in the time that he did to restore the everlasting Gospel so that all those who could be gathered out from the nations of earth would be. It is also gratifying to know that we are being led by the direction of the Holy Spirit of our Father. There is no doubt but what this is true. The evidence is all in our favor, and we have nothing to fear if we will follow the instructions we receive from month to month.

We had some wonderful counsel given to us a week ago, and we had an outpouring of the Spirit of God upon us. One of the greatest evidences that the Spirit of God was with us is the weather that we enjoyed. While other parts of the country were receiving heavy storms and cold weather, we had pleasant weather. Saturday morning, I got up early and went into Cedar City and back before noon. On the way back, I run into a sand storm between here and Hurricane. I thought, “Oh, Oh, if this is the kind of weather we’re going to have, we’re in for it.” But when I got this side of the Canaan Ranch, the winds began to die down, and by the time I got home, we had calm weather. Now this was a great blessing to this people that we didn’t have one of those terrific sand storms that day or the next day, Sunday. Our Father calmed the weather for us. We should take these incidents as blessings of God upon us and let Him know that we know that He is guiding us and tutoring us and trying His best to show us that the testimonies of our Priesthood fathers are true and that we need to do something about our getting into the harness and doing what He has asked us to do.

He hasn’t asked us to send out missionaries and convert people, but He has asked us to teach repentance to the people who will gather around. Since the time of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Priesthood has tried to carry on under as great an opposition as it ever has since the beginning of time. This has been the case all through history. There have only been a few people through the dispensations that have existed that have done the things that the Lord has commanded us to do to round out our salvation and to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation. Now He is visiting the earth with destruction, and He has told us for many, many generations how He would bring about the destruction of the people if they wouldn’t repent and turn unto Him. He told the Prophet Joseph Smith to go out and bear testimony to the world that all who would believe his testimony would be saved and those who would not would be damned; and damned, in His words, means to be destroyed. Those forces that he mentioned are beginning to work today.

From one end of the continent to the other, the Spirit of God is working toward the redemption of Zion. We have been amply warned and amply instructed as to what to do to prepare ourselves against that time when He is preparing the earth for a Millennial Reign, but we have waited until this late hour. Now we must hasten to prepare ourselves for this time. He says that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, and if I understand the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, there is no sin there; but sin covers the earth at this time.

I’m grateful for the testimony that the Lord has given me, and I trust that I can stand and be an instrument in the hands of my Father in trying to bring about His purposes in the earth. I’m here, and all I can do is talk. I can’t perform any great miracles that would convince people because people will not

be convinced over miracles. Miracles happen every day in the lives of men and women, but we pass them off as incidents in life, and they are natural, we say--these incidents are natural. We see a severe accident in our family, and the lives of people are preserved. We say it's a miracle that they lived. Why don't we take note of the miracle and begin to do the things that we've been instructed to do and get out of our lives those things that are holding us back.

The Lord likes to be recognized. He likes to be sought after, and He likes to be praised when we need to praise Him; and that is from morning till night, day in and day out, week in and week out, and so forth. There are very few of us that recognize when we arise in the morning that it's a miracle that we are all alive with the great amount of wickedness that is going on around us. We can't help but recognize that these are blessings if we are Latter-day Saints and we understand the work of our Father, which we should. We study them from morning till night and night till morning. I'm grateful for the efforts that are being put forth by a great number of our people.

When our boys were going out into the army, I tried to get into the hands of all who came to see me before they left, a Three-in-One. I don't think very many got away without me asking them if they had a Three-in-One to take with them, and if they didn't, I put one in their hands. I didn't charge them for it either.

The Lord has been kind to this people. He's left us without excuse, my brothers and sisters. We won't be able to come up in the morning of the resurrection and say that the servants of God didn't tell us, didn't preach hard enough to make us understand that these things had to be done. The Lord says that they've got to be done. He says all blessings are predicated upon law; and if we receive a blessing, it is through

obedience to the law upon which it is predicated. We think, Well, the Lord owes me a wife. A lot of these young men think when they get to a certain age they ought to be married; they ought to have a woman set by the side of them.

The Lord has set good girls by the side of many young men--girls that could have been lifted up and exalted if they had been treated right and received the right instructions in the home. Now we have a lot of girls that would give anything in the world if their husbands would turn around and begin to do right instead of going out and seeking the pleasures of the world. They're crying night and day for the Lord to open the way whereby their husbands might teach them correct principles, not because they want to pull away, but they know the way of destruction and they know the way of eternal life. Don't you boys think for a minute that these girls have willingly thrown away their lives just to be somebody for you to come home to at night and stay with and tomorrow get up and get your breakfast for you and you go off to work and not come back again until twelve or one o'clock at night. You say that's none of their business, that's your business to go out and have all the fun you want. But I want to tell you that you are reaping damnation to your souls. These girls should be recognized in your home because you won't have the privilege of seeing the Celestial Kingdom if you throw them away in such a manner.

This is only one of the evils that exist among our young people and among our older men. We have older men here that go out and seek entertainment other than in their homes when they ought to be home teaching their families. After awhile, their boys will grow up and want to do the same thing, and then they come to me and say, "I don't know what I can do; I've done all I could to teach these children, but they are going this way. What can I do about it?"

The thing we can do is repent. That's what the Lord says, repent of our sins and cry night and day for deliverance unto Him, seek Him to help us solve our problems. He knows how to handle people. He knows how to handle the problems that we have a lot better than we do if we would take Him into our confidence and ask Him to help us out of them. He will help us if we will do what He inspires us to do.

So let us gird on our armor and let us go down the road. Let us chase these evil spirits and these false and delusive spirits out of this community and out of the valleys of these mountains and drive them out into the wilderness and then drive them out to the ocean and push them in and let the waves wipe the shores clean.

This is what has got to be done before Zion can be redeemed, because Zion is the home of the pure in heart. That's what it means. The pure in heart is the city, the nation, the continent that the Lord has been seeking to prepare for a good long time. These same doctrines have been taught from generation to generation, from the days of Adam to the days of Noah when God consummated His work and killed off the wicked and saved the righteous. He started a new dispensation of people. Now He is coming to a point where He is going to finish His work, so He tells us. He is going to finish His work. How long it's going to take nobody knows, but this we do know, that if we are partakers of the blessings of eternal life, we've got to do something about it while we live.

This body of people here won't have another chance after they pass on for a good long time. Why? Because they have the servants of God to lead them, and the servants of God are teaching them the principles of eternal life, the principles of the Celestial Kingdom. Unless we take advantage of the opportunity while we're here, these bodies will be destroyed and

we won't have the privilege of obtaining them after we are resurrected. We'll be resurrected with them, all right, but how many of us are going to stand the ordeal of that second death that's spoken of?

So let us look to our knitting, my brothers and sisters. Let us start in our own homes and begin to clean up. Let's clean up our own minds and get our children to do the same. Let's get rid of the instruments in our homes that are destroying our people. We might say that we don't want to go back and be backwoodsmen again. There's no need of it. What we are after is eternal life.

This mortal life of ours is only a little while. After we've finished that, we want to be able to go on. The Lord has plainly told us that we can't go on unless we purify these bodies He has given us. We've got to have them. We can't go on without them. He says He will bring us up in the morning of the resurrection, but if we have destroyed our bodies, done things to destroy them, He can't use us. We'll be no good to Him. These are the things that we should look at, my brothers and sisters. When I get on the other side, I want to mingle with my friends, those who I knew here, and those who have lived the same laws that I'm trying to live. I hope that I can do as good a job as they have so I can mingle with them and know how to do the same things that our Father in heaven has done--create an earth and people it.

These are the things that I'd like to accomplish in my life, and I'd like to see you do the same, my dear brothers and sisters.

Now I ask God's blessings upon us to help us recognize the blessings that He is showering upon us. Let's not let that thing, wealth, get the best of us. Let's use all the money that can be poured into our hands for building up and establishing the

Kingdom of God. Let’s do the things that He has asked us to do to prepare us against that day of visitation. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 23, 1974, FUNERAL SERVICES FOR BROTHER JOSEPH RAYMOND BLACKMORE, CRESTON, B.C., CANADA

My dear brothers and sisters, I deem it a great pleasure this afternoon to mingle my voice with others in behalf of this dear brother. I have been acquainted with Brother Ray since early in 1950. I have worked close with him. I have felt his spirit. I have traveled with him. We have talked over the principles of eternal salvation. I found that this man has never wavered in his determination to do what he believed he had to do in order to round out his salvation.

I would like to admonish his family to follow the counsel that he has given them. He has labored long and hard to teach his family the principles of eternal salvation--the way to the highest degree of glory in the Celestial Kingdom of our Father.

I had the pleasure one time to scan over his Patriarchal Blessing, and I could not help but compare it with one I received way back in 1905 by a great patriarch in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The blessing that he gave me at that time is now history--with the exception of three or four promises which he gave me, and I firmly believe that if I continue faithful in the compliance of the Gospel of repentance that these will be showered upon my head. I remembered one part of Ray’s blessing when Brother Quinton was giving his biography. This portion of his blessing he has attained to in this life. He has attained a large and faithful family because of his faithfulness to his father and mother and compliance with all the requirements of the Holy Priesthood. Every person in this room, no doubt, has had a Patriarchal Blessing, and every person will attain to the blessings they have been promised if they will live for them.

One time, I heard President J. Golden Kimball of the presiding seventies quorum make this statement: “I am not afraid of getting into the Celestial Kingdom, but what is worrying me is the station I attain to when I get there.” That is what has worried this man during the days that I talked with him. “I sometimes wonder,” he said, “whether I am going to make the grade or not.” But he has made the grade, or he would not have attained the blessings that the old patriarch placed upon his head.

We all have a work to do. We covenanted with our Father that we would come down here and work out our salvation in fear and trembling before Him. We fully understood the conditions under which we would have to labor, because we were told before our memory was taken away from us. As we applied to our lives the principles of righteous living, we were guided and directed by the Spirit of God to live and obey as we promised to before we came into this life, but we had to do it through sacrifice, as has been told to us here today. We have had to sacrifice our feelings, our association with those we were acquainted with, and we have had to fight the battle alone, as did Christ. “I have trodden the winepress alone,” He said. There is one thing that we do know. We know that the Lord has told us that every person was born into the world with enough of the Spirit of God to discern good from evil. The Lord has said that He will not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. When we do things that are not according to the will of God, we know it. Every person knows when he has done wrong.

The Lord has left us with the spirit of repentance. He has said, “All who will repent, I will forgive.” Repentance means to leave off our sins and never do them again. The Lord says that if we keep His commandments, He will forgive us, but if we sin again, the old sin comes back upon us. This is our

trouble. We ask the Lord to forgive us today, and tomorrow we commit the same sin over again, or we give way to our weaknesses again. It is a continual effort throughout our lives to perfect ourselves to a point where the Lord will be pleased with us.

Brother Ray has had to suffer the pangs of trials and tribulations all the day long. In his good days, he suffered; in his bad days, he suffered, but never at any time have I heard that he has complained of the situation that he found himself in, or in other words, that he has blamed the Lord for his trials and tribulations.

If you young boys and girls will commence today to listen to the whisperings of the Spirit of the Lord and do the things that you are prompted to do, it will not be long until you will be walking by faith; for this is faith, to know and understand the Spirit of God when we feel it, remembering always that the Spirit of God is the spirit of peace. When we have the spirit of unrest and feel in our hearts to criticize or complain, we know then that we need to ask the Lord for His Spirit to be upon us that we might overcome.

The old prophet Enoch was three hundred and twenty years, we are told, in preparing a people that could be one in all things. They had a lot of repenting to do and a lot of applying to their lives the principles of eternal salvation. This will have to be done before the Lord can accomplish His work and finish it in the earth. The Lord says that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, and in the Celestial Kingdom there is no sin. We will have to work with ourselves, labor with ourselves night and day. If we injure someone, we should not sleep until we make it right. This has had to be done time and again in the lives of men in order to perfect their lives.

Brother Blackmore has been determined to keep in the minds of his wives and children this thought, that they have got to overcome the weaknesses of the flesh before they can please God and keep His commandments. The charge to us in this day is to get the Spirit of God and keep it. I like to read the instructions of the Lord to His servants in the early days of His Church in telling them how He would like to have them live, so that He could bless them, and how He had to take these blessings away from them when they have willingly rejected Him. We are living today under a broken law. Before that law can be restored, a great lot of sacrifice has to be made. Every individual has the opportunity of perfecting his life (or her life) to a point where he knows (or she knows) that he pleases God. This is the Gospel of repentance, and this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I love this people. I have lived among them for many years. I have heard the counsels of the Priesthood to the saints, and it has always been the same. I opened the Book the other day to about the sixth chapter of Moses. I read there where Enoch made a journey to see Father Adam. He asked him what he should teach his people in order to prepare them. What was the answer of Adam to Enoch? “Teach nothing but repentance to this people.” So Enoch had to go back and teach nothing but repentance to his people. The Prophet Joseph Smith was told to preach nothing but repentance to this generation. We have been told in our day to preach nothing but repentance. Every man, woman, and child has a job to do as long as they live. Here is the example. Here is a man that lived every law that God has required, according to his belief, to give him an eternal salvation. He has had to suffer. Right up to the last, he has had to suffer.

My mind goes back now to my own father. He was a man that was loved of God. He was loved by the presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was called when he was a young man to go to Lee's Ferry, Arizona, and take charge of the ferry when John D. Lee was taken away. I have his call signed by Brigham Young to go there. He was released from that mission after twenty-two years. Twenty-two years he labored and served under President Young's administration, through John Taylor's administration, and Wilford Woodruff's administration, almost to the end. President Woodruff came along one day and gave my father a release. He told him, "You have done the will of God. You have served Him and kept His commandments. God is pleased with your work. Now, you go find a place and provide for your family among the Saints." So, he went out to find a home. While he was out dickering with the president of the stake for a place to move his family, he met with an accident and broke his back. He lived for seven years in a wheelchair, then he passed away.

What was his counsel to his children? I was only a boy fourteen years old when he died, but his counsel to me was, "Whatever your condition, it doesn't make any difference what you have to pass through, never complain." I don't think anybody ever heard him complain of his condition. These are some of the things that men are called upon to go through in order to round out their salvation. I don't think for a moment that men will lose their salvation in serving God and keeping His commandments. But I know this, for it has been revealed to me, that if I want a station in the highest degree of glory in the Celestial Kingdom, I will have to pay the price for it, and so will you.

Now, I don't desire to speak any longer, but I ask the blessings of God upon this large and great family--these boys. I want to admonish you to remember the instructions of your father.

Get yourselves together and get rid of the differences between you and learn to love one another. Make it a practice when you meet in the morning to shake hands with one another. It will go a long ways toward helping to bring the Spirit of God among you. You young girls, keep yourselves clean and free from the blood and sins of this generation. Those instructions are the instructions your father gave you, both boys and girls, and I want you women to know that the Lord loves you for the sacrifices you have made in order to live as you have. Now, may God bless you, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 23, 1975, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

Again, I am grateful for the blessings of the Lord to us, for the preservation of our lives and for the health and strength we enjoy. I'm grateful for all the blessings the Lord has showered upon His people. He's been merciful to us and brought us up, tutored and trained us, and we ought to be people that are the most grateful of any people upon the earth.

I trust that the few moments I speak to you the Lord will put words in my mouth that I might answer your questions and build you up in your determination to serve God and keep His commandments. Before I go any further, I'd like to make an announcement that these meetings will be continued on the regular time except for the first Saturday and Sunday in April. Saturday comes on the 5th of April, and upon that day, we'll meet in General Priesthood Meeting in the evening. The time will be announced a little later. Sunday morning, we will meet in a General Conference provided the Lord will open the way that we might meet in peace. This will be held according to the change of time.

We're living in a changing world. We're living in a time when great confusion covers the minds of the people; this is not only confusing to people of the world, but it's confusing to people who are trying to serve God and keep His commandments. So, remember, on the 6th of April, we'll meet on Utah time. These other meetings will be held like we've held them before on the Arizona time inasmuch as we're subject to that time more than anything else in this place.

I've been very much interested, my brothers and sisters, in the testimonies that have been given this afternoon. We're living in a changing world. The Lord is preparing this continent to fulfill its mission, for He said to His prophet, the brother of Jared, that He would lead him to a choice land, a land

choice above all other lands. And the people who would inhabit the land would be a God-fearing people and would keep the commandments of God, or when they were ripened in iniquity, He would have to destroy them. Now these were not idle words. He has promised throughout the generations of time that He would redeem His people, Israel, in the latter days, that there would be a period of time when this earth would rest. This being the land upon which Adam lived, it necessarily is a choice land. It has been revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith that Adam-ondi-Ahman is the spot where Adam dwelt, and that Jackson County Missouri is where His work will be redeemed.

This earth, the continent upon which we live, has got to be prepared for this great redeeming work. He has told us that there would be a thousand years of peace or a Millennial Reign, during which time, the redeeming of the Lord's work will be accomplished. This is the reason for us being here today.

Brother Carlisle brought to our minds the main reason of our being here. I've said it before, and I'll say it again, that every person in this building today is here because they've been led here by the Spirit of God. You've desired to come and hear what the Lord has for us to do about our salvation. Whether you are a believer or not, you are here because you've been led here by the Spirit of God to hear the word of God, and what you hear today will either condemn or exalt you. Now it's up to you. You've heard the word of God and how it works upon the minds of men and why the Lord has given it to us to edify us and to bring us along.

There are many instances in the Doctrine & Covenants where the Lord says, "What I say unto one, I say unto all." The same principles of salvation that will save one person, will save another person. So, when we read the word of God, we'd better do what Moroni said, "Ask God in faith if He will reveal to you the

truthfulness of what you read." If it be for your edification, let it be so; if it's for your damnation, let it be so, but, let's ask God to reveal to us the truthfulness of what we hear.

Let's prepare ourselves against the day of visitation. Let's prepare ourselves against the day when the Lord will call us home. Let us be prepared to receive a glorious laying away, and let us seek within ourselves and pray that the Lord will give us strength to prepare ourselves for that time, for we know--every Latter-day Saint that has any knowledge at all of the Gospel knows--that as we are laid away, so shall we rise. Everyone is going to be resurrected. The Lord has plainly told us that we will be resurrected unto eternal life, or we will be resurrected unto eternal damnation. Damnation means that we will have to be destroyed.

Now, let's seek for an eternal salvation, one that we can go on from generation to generation, for this work that the Lord has established is an eternal work. It not only pertains to this life, but it pertains to our lives throughout the eternities of time. For, as man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become. If we intend to or have it in our hearts to become like God, then let us begin to prepare ourselves for an eternal salvation.

Let us live according to the teachings that we receive from Sunday to Sunday. Let us not let the time waste. Let's make good use of our spare time. Let's clean up our minds. Let's get our thinking right. The Lord has told us that His ways are not man's ways, so why do we try to perfect ourselves in the ways of man when the Lord has plainly told us that we should seek to become like Him?

This world is full of scientists trying to prove that God is not God, that we are here by chance and that unless we learn how to create the things of this world, we are of no use.

The Lord says, “Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you,” and so forth.

I say, let us repent of our sins and short-comings and let us become a perfect people that God can use. He says, “Try me and see if I won’t open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings that you can’t contain.” The only way He can do this is for us to seek His company and apply to our lives the saving principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It’s simple and easy. The Savior says, “My yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Which it is if we will discard the evil powers that are weighing us down. When your heart is heavy, you should seek some way to lighten it, and how can you lighten it? By replacing your thoughts with the deeds of salvation. Let us prepare ourselves against the day of visitation when God is pouring out great judgments upon the wicked, for they are coming. They are on their way, and no power can stop them until the way has been prepared for the One Mighty and Strong to come and take over and perform his work. He is going to come. The Lord has said that He is going to send One Mighty and Strong to set in order the House of God and to accomplish the rest of His great work that He has promised to the faithful. This is going to take place!

All you who feel like you’ve got to go down and learn all about Caesar and all about Darwin and his theories and where the Catholics come from, remember the Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that these people were all wrong and, “If you will listen to me, I can grant you salvation. Otherwise, I’ll have to destroy you.”

So, let’s seek for an eternal salvation, and let us cease to fool away our spare time. Let us make good use of it. Let’s rid our minds of all evil and replace it with the good things of eternal life, not the joys of the day as we speak of them in a worldly way. Let’s seek for the joys of the day the way the Lord wants us to live.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not a dull gospel; it's full of life, and its full of pleasure, eternal pleasures if we will seek for them and apply them to our lives. If we seek for the pleasures of the world, when we die, where are we? If the students of our schools are full of worldly ideas, who is going to replace that with the knowledge of eternal life? Please tell me.

This warfare has been going on ever since the world began, and it will continue to go on until our people do what the Lord says, "Come out of her, O ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins." Then we can please God and keep His commandments, and we can have a better world to live in. As long as we dilly-dally along and say, "Well, I've heard this all my days," where will it get us? I've heard it all my life, and I'm still hearing it, and it is sweet to me. There have been a few people that I know who have done what they could to purify their lives. There are a few among us who are trying to purify their lives, but we want a lot more. When the time comes, I'd like to meet every person that I have known in this life on the other side. I'd like to meet them again, and I'd like to see them in the throng. If I can prepare myself for an eternal salvation, that's where I'd like to see them, but I know there has to be a lot of repenting done. It's got to be done quickly because the great destructions lie right at our door, and unless we hasten, it is going to be very sore to endure.

Now, I pray that God will bless us with the spirit of repentance, that He will give us a firm determination within ourselves to rid ourselves of the evil that we have incurred through worldly education because it is not going to get us anywhere. You are only going to take that with you when you are called home that pertains to your eternal salvation and your knowledge of God and how to become like Him. That's all you are

going to retain, and it’s upon these principles that our eternal salvation will be based. It won’t be on how much we know about science, music, and entertainment in a worldly manner, or worldly pleasures of any kind, but it will be based upon our knowledge of God and how to become like Him.

Now, let us take good care of our spare time from now on and see to it that we don’t waste it, for it’s valuable--valuable to every individual--and a great deal more valuable than we realize. Now, I pray God to bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding and a determination to round out our salvation in fear and trembling before Him. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 25, 1975, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I'm grateful, my brothers and sisters, for this wonderful privilege of being here and seeing this room filled with the children of our Father. I hope the Lord will bless me with words that I might interest you for a few moments, for I know and realize that we are living in a perilous time. We're living in a day when great tribulation covers the whole earth. It's not only our own nation, but the whole earth is in commotion.

We've received the word of God from time to time through the mouths of the prophets of God. Very few people have paid attention to them, but this, the Lord expected. After He placed Adam in the garden of Eden and he began to multiply and replenish the earth as he was commanded to do, there was another spirit in the earth--the spirit of evil. The mission of this spirit was to destroy the faith of the children of our Father. We are told that God walked and talked with this man, Adam, and told him to teach the people about God and how to come back into His presence. Those that would believe would be saved and those that would not would be damned. This charge has been given throughout the ages of time. It's the same today as it was in the beginning.

The Lord sent a prophet in our dispensation, in the dispensation of the fullness of times. He gave him commandments and told him what to do. We find these words in the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants.

(Doctrine & Covenants, 1:1)

> "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."

So the voice of the Lord in this dispensation was unto all men to repent and be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Many men have had blessings given to them, have received great blessings, and then they have fallen away--lost the faith--and they've had to take their portion. Conditions are the same today, and they will always be the same until He whose right it is to rule comes and takes the reigns of government.

The Lord has placed men here and had them here ever since the Prophet Joseph received his wonderful vision of the Father and the Son. He's had men standing at the head of His work teaching the people, but the people have turned a deaf ear to the words of the prophet. I'm speaking today to a body of young people--young and middle-aged, as we called it--who have been born and raised under the new and everlasting covenant. How much greater blessing could a person desire than to be born under the new and everlasting covenant? The Lord gives you the right to choose to serve God and keep His commandments.

I was in a courtroom one time where several people were being prosecuted for disobeying the law. One man was listening to the charge that was placed upon him, and before his trial was over, the judge said this to him, "Young man, you have no right to do wrong."

Some of us carry the idea back here somewhere that we have just as much right to do wrong as we have to do right. This judge wanted to impress upon that young man that he had no right to do wrong. When I get to studying the scriptures, I find that to be true.

We go into the waters of baptism and are baptized for the remission of our sins and have hands laid upon us for the gift of the Holy Ghost. We make a covenant with our Father that we will not sin any more. He makes a covenant with us that He

will give us the Holy Spirit for our guide and companion. And He tells us, in some of these revelations, that His word is a deed that cannot be broken. He expects you to do the same. Because of covenants that we have made, we who have been born under the new and everlasting covenant, we have no right to do wrong. And sometime we are going to have to account for our wrong doing. The Lord has been kind enough to us to allow us the privilege to repent and to turn away from sin and serve Him and keep His commandments. He has said that he who will forsake his sins and turn unto Him, the Lord will remember those sins no more before His face. What greater promise could the Lord make to a person than that?

When the Lord had the Church organized, He organized it with different orders of Priesthood. If you know what the duties of these different orders of Priesthood are, you will find that no member of the Church has a right to do wrong. The duty of the teachers is to go forth among the people of the ward and see that no wrong is being done. If they find people doing wrong, causing commotion in the ward, they are supposed to report them to the Bishop. This is what will be done when the House of God is set in order. Every order of Priesthood will be set in order and each man will have his duties to perform, and they will be performed. Then all things will become peaceable in the Kingdom of God.

The father of the Prophet Joseph Smith wanted his son to enquire of the Lord what He wanted him to do. This is what the Lord said to him.

(Doctrine & Covenants, 4:1-2)

> “Now behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men.
>
> 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."

That's only part of it, but there's a great sermon. I take it that every person in this room has embarked in the service of God. Now the thing for you to do is to see to it that you serve God and keep His commandments and relieve the burden that is upon the shoulders of the servants of God at the present time of having to persuade you from day to day, from Sunday to Sunday, and from month to month to overcome your weaknesses and imperfections and keep the commandments of God.

If you young boys and young girls will just take this book and read it--it's simple. The Lord says, "Haven't I explained my word so simple that a child could understand?" But we have teachers among us that claim we are being raised inside a wall, as it were. What difference does it make? The Lord says, "Come out of her, O ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins." You cannot be saved in your sins. You've been told this a lot of times today. You've got to repent. When you go into the waters of baptism, you make a covenant with the Lord that you will not sin any more. So, let's see to it that we don't displease the Lord any longer. Let's repent of our sins and receive the blessings which God has to pour out upon the heads of the faithful.

This body of people today have the most wonderful opportunity at the present time of any people on the earth. You have the servants of God to direct you in the path of truth and righteousness, and right here, the Millennial Reign could commence if we could seize upon the opportunity that is before us and cease to do evil in this place. I don't mean altogether in your homes, or on Sunday, but every person that claims this place as his home should see to it that he ceases to displease the Lord

our God. Then the Lord could put a hedge around us that the enemies of righteousness could not come near. He's done it before, and He can do it again. He put a hedge around Enoch and his people, and He removed them from the earth that they might continue to prepare themselves for a glorious resurrection.

Let us keep the commandments of God. Let us cease to do evil any longer. Let's "Come out of her, oh ye, my people, and be not partakers of her sins." Let's cease to speak evil one towards another. Let's cease to criticize or to do anything else that is displeasing to the Lord, and let us serve God with all our heart, might, mind and strength that we might be prepared to receive the great blessings that are pronounced upon the heads of the faithful when God is preparing the earth for a Millennial Reign, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 7, 1975, CARDSTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

I trust, my brothers and sisters, that you will bear with me today. I've been laboring under a siege of flu for several days. I stand before you in deep humility. I know my weaknesses and imperfections before my Father, and I pray that He will bless me with words of encouragement while I speak.

I couldn't help but think back upon the conditions that existed when I first met President John Y. Barlow and Joseph Musser. My first introduction to this work was in the home of John W. Woolley, just a few months before he passed away. I went in his home, was introduced to him by one of my brothers. It was there that I first heard the story of the 1886 revelation and the eight-hour meeting that took place. From that time to this, I have been part of this order of the Priesthood. Before that, I held several Church positions. At one time, I was president of the Deacon's Quorum, was president of the Teacher's Quorum, president of the Priest's Quorum, First Counselor in the Quorum of Elders. I remained an elder until I became part of this work. I was called into the Superintendency of Sunday Schools.

So, I've had a little experience in both Church and Priesthood. My father came out of the world. He was the only one of his people that he knew of that joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In fact, he was disowned by his father and told that he could come back and visit, but he would come as a stranger into his father's home. He would be treated as a stranger, not as a son, but he was glad to go back as a stranger in his father's home.

The Lord works in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. I've noticed throughout the experiences of my life in this work that it's the truth. The Lord has put miracles in my life to bring me to this point, to instill into my heart the testimony of the true Priesthood of God. I was impressed with

some of the testimonies that were borne this morning. If I can see, I'll read a little.

(J. D., Vol 1, p. 226, John Taylor)

> "Abraham was a man who dared fear God and do honor to His authority, which was legitimate. God tried and proved him; the same as He has tried many of us, and felt after his heart strings and twisted them around. When He had tried him to the utmost, He swore by Himself because He could swear by no greater, saying that, "In blessing, I will bless thee, and in multiplying, I will multiply thy seed. And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

So each one of us is being tried daily. There isn't a man or a woman in this building today that hasn't been tried and tested by their faith in order to be here--those of you who want to be here today. You've listened to the whisperings of the Spirit of God to direct you here.

In all your walks of life, see to it that you do nothing that you know will displease the Spirit of God. When you can do this, you know that you are being lead by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is the spirit of peace. The spirit of evil is the spirit of unrest and confusion. When our minds are confused, we need to begin to ask the Lord to help us get His Spirit.

During the last month, I took a trip from Colorado City to Los Angeles, up the coast to Portland, back down through Boise, Idaho, and home. I couldn't help but notice the difference in the condition of the country today from what it was four years ago when I made the same trip about the same time of year, and everything was green at that time. The country was green

and beautiful. North of San Francisco, there are vast grape vineyards where four years ago these vineyards received their moisture from the ocean, a good many of them, and they were green and beautiful. I don't know but what all of them were watered at that time by the moisture they got at night from the ocean. But today the only grape vineyards that we could see that were bearing fruit were the grape vineyards that were being irrigated or were under sprinkling systems. There were lots of grapes that were green and rich and bearing fruit last time, but this year, there were thousands of acres that wouldn't produce grapes because they were just too dry. Dry stalks were sticking up and they wouldn't grow fruit. Some of the fields where the grain has been cut look the same way.

The only green we could see were the trees. There were spots once in a while where there had been a storm just go over and wet the ground where a little green grass was growing, but the great majority of the country was just as dry as it could be near the ocean edge--something I've never seen before, and I've been to the ocean many, many times during my lifetime.

We went to Mexico City a year ago last spring overland. We couldn't help but notice the droughts at that time. From the United States clear into Pueblo (a hundred miles south and east of Mexico City) everything was dry. Some parts of the country had a lot of rain. In northern Utah, some parts have had an abundance of rain. Up in this country, you've had quite a lot of moisture. I want to read you something more out of the Journal of Discourses. This is by Heber C. Kimball.

(Volume 3, p. 227)

> "You have been warned, beforehand, and by revelation from God through Joseph Smith and afterwards through Brigham Young, who is our president. You have

> been warned, time and time again, to take care of your grain. In future, build yourselves good storehouses and save your grain for times of famine and sickness and death upon the nations of the wicked to get rid of the evil doer.
>
> I have noticed these predictions. I have referred to them ever since they were told to us. There will not be many calamities come upon the nations of the earth until this people first feel their effects, and when hard times commence, they will begin at the house of God. And if there is any house of God on the earth, where is it? It is here, is it not? It is where the people have assembled together according to the commandments of God. We have got to feel the effects of these things. And if we do so patiently it will be good for us. No serious loss or injuries will arise from calamities if we do as we are told."

So, we can't say that we haven't been warned and forewarned time and again. I remember pretty well during the First World War when the Church of Jesus Christ had three or four million bushels of wheat stored. The government came in and seized it, took it away from them and used it. I suppose they paid for it, but that's what they did.

In another sermon of Brother Kimball's, he said the time would come when the people would pour into these mountains by the millions, and what are you going to feed them when they come? It seems as though when the Lord has given us a commandment to do something the evil powers have worked hard to see that the commandment is not obeyed. We've seen it time and again throughout our experiences, not only in years gone by, but we're experiencing right now some of these very things. Many of our

people are being tried to the core because of the strong delusions that the Lord has allowed to be given to the people.

"The Coming Crisis" speaks very plainly of a strong delusion that would come, and many would believe a lie and be damned. The Gospel is true, whether we believe it or not, as President Jessop is often telling us. I'm glad that this is an individual proposition.

About the time of the Manifesto, when the Church turned down the great Celestial Law, the Lord made this statement through the mouth of His prophet, "It is now pleasing unto me that men should use their own judgment regarding these matters." I've very often reflected upon that statement. The Lord had already told the Prophet to make no further concessions to the enemy. He said, "I'll fight your battles." But the people bowed to the enemy and sold their birthright. They exchanged their birthright of a Celestial Glory for the honor of men. This is what happened. Then the Lord made the statement that it was now pleasing unto Him that men should use their own judgment regarding these matters. That's why you and I are here today, because our fathers and mothers have used their own judgment regarding the matters of eternal life. There might be a few converts here to the truthfulness of the Priesthood and the Gospel, but the majority of this audience today is the result of men and women that were willing to use their own judgment regarding their eternal salvation.

One of the holy prophets said that the Priesthood would be driven into the wilderness, and that's where we are, we're in the wilderness--in the wilderness of eternity--a handful of people trying to struggle for their eternal salvation. So, let's do as Abraham did. Let us make up our minds that we're going to be bold enough to fear God and keep His commandments--fear to offend Him and tremble because of His judgments upon the wicked.

We're entering into one of the greatest scenes of bloodshed the world has ever seen, so said the Prophet Joseph Smith. So great was the scene, said he, "I could not look upon it any longer. So I asked God to close the scene from before my eyes."

Zion must be redeemed. The Lord has said so. It doesn't matter what happens on this earth, Zion will be redeemed. Who is going to redeem Zion? The Lord said, "I will take the young and middle-aged and redeem Zion." We're here in the midst of the work of God. We're here to work out our salvation in fear and trembling before Him. Every man and woman that desires to be crowned with a celestial crown must be able to stand under the pressure of whatever name or nature it might be. It was hard for the Prophet to look upon the scene; it will be hard for you and me to witness it, but we are about to witness something that the world has never seen before. We have seen the bloodshed and all this and that, and men have been wiped completely off this earth, so the record tells us, but the Lord told the Prophet Joseph that never again will the Priesthood be taken from the earth.

When I read Third Nephi, I believe the words of the Savior, when He said the remnant of Jacob would walk through the Gentiles if they wouldn't repent, and tread them down, and none could deliver. "I'll throw down their strongholds, destroy their chariots, destroy their cities, their orchards," and so forth.

So it's going to be terrible, and great famines will be upon the land, but we have one thing, one thread to hang to--and no other people have it. It is that God has said that He would protect His saints if He had to send fire from heaven to do so, and He's a man of His word. He did it when Christ visited the Nephites upon this continent. The record tells us that all the wicked were killed and only the more righteous were saved. So He has ways and means of protecting His saints. We should go down

the road with our heads up and our minds clean and free from turmoil and confusion. We should have a prayer in our hearts continually to the God of heaven to protect us from the evil doer.

I'm grateful for this day, my brothers and sisters. I'm grateful for the testimony that God has given me of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for I believe what Christ said. He said to the Prophet Joseph Smith, "Go bear this testimony to the world, and all who will believe your words and live and obey my commandments shall be saved, and those who reject it will be damned." I believe that is what is taking place at the present time.

You younger girls should begin in your youth, you should commence right now to rid yourselves--your minds--of all evil. If you use the privilege of going out in the world and filling your minds with the pleasures of the world, you'll have to get rid of them and replace it with the pleasures of eternal life, for this is true love and true devotion one towards another.

Pray to God for wisdom and knowledge and understanding that you might please Him in all things. Then we can become righteous and have faith and power with the Lord like Elijah and Elisha who prayed unto the Lord, and through their great faith the rains were stopped. When they needed rain, they prayed again, and the Lord gave them rain.

In my short life, I've seen this happen. I had my crops destroyed by severe rain for two years in succession. The next crop I raised, I went into the field and told the Lord that if He wanted to try me further I would be willing to be tried. Then I said, "If I have found favor in your sight, please let me grow this crop and pay off the debt." I had a beautiful crop; such a crop had never been raised in that country before--

Old Mexico. I had it ready to harvest. The Lord heard my prayer, and we were able to harvest it all. Rain would come as far as the fence and go back. We kept hauling hay. A shower would come up around us. The man that owned the property was helping me. He'd see the rain coming and run out into the field hollering at the Mexicans that were hauling the hay into the stacks. He'd cuss them and tell 'em to work harder, that it was going to rain on us. Then he rode over to the stack where I was and said, "Brother Johnson, how much tithing did you pay last year?" I said, "Never mind, Brother Wood, about my tithing. Let's get that hay in here before the storm gets here." The storm continued to come up to the fence and quit.

I know, brothers and sisters, that this thing called faith is no plaything. When it is used right, it is right at our command.

I had a man come to my office. He was a stranger to me. He called me on the phone and wanted an interview with me. I told him to come to my office and talk to me. He said, "I've heard a lot about you, and I'd like to talk to you." He came in and sat down. After a while, he began to squirm around in his chair. He said, "What's the matter here, I can't get out of this chair. I came here with the full determination to beat the hell out of you, and now I can't get out of this chair. What's wrong?" I walked around him, in front of him, and opened the door. I said, "Now you can get up and walk out." He got up and walked out, and he said, "I'll come back in a day or two, and I will beat the hell out of you."

I said, "Well, walk down the stairs where the air is fresh and you'll feel better." It's been about four years now, and he has never come back. I feel like the Lord will protect His servants. I don't think that man could even get in the first door again.

This Gospel is true, and we can have just what we want in it. We can have eternal life; we can have a lower kingdom if we want it, or we can be destroyed if we want it. So, let's want the highest that we can get. I pray that God will bless us with a determination to do what Abraham did. I pray that we will begin to work out our salvation in fear and trembling before our Father.

Now we have a funeral to prepare for when we get home--Brother Davis Lloyd Hunter, the father of Lynn Hunter, Wayne Hunter, LaRue Jeffs, Francis Hammon, Margaret Jessop, and Sharon Holm. We have four of his girls and at least one faithful boy in our midst. He didn't take part himself, but he has done a lot for this work. We buried last week Brother Neils Hansen, one of our faithful men in the work. He was walking across the street and a car hit him. He has lived a long and faithful life.

We will close these services and say good-bye to you and see you in two months from now. Let's go down the road together and serve God and keep His commandments. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 26, 1975, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I'm grateful again, my brethren and sisters, for the privilege of being here this afternoon. I stand before you in deep humility because of the conditions that exist in the earth today. I trust that the few moments I speak to you I might be led and directed by the Spirit of God to give unto you His word concerning us.

While the brethren have been speaking, my mind has gone over a great deal of territory. I often go back to the time of Christ when He came upon this continent and visited the people to try to visualize the great importance of the day in which we live. The prophet Nephi, who was in charge of the Lord's work at the time Christ made His appearance here, was a great man. He tried for many years to get the people to prepare themselves against the day that Samuel the Lamanite prophet had prophesied of when great things would transpire--in the day that the Lord would show himself to that people. The people were so worked up in their feelings when these things did not transpire as they thought they ought to, they sought the life of the prophet Samuel. They also sought the life of the prophet Nephi, but the Lord was able to take care of him and preserve his life until the proper time came that Nephi could take a great part in the work of the ministry.

When the proper time came, the record tells us, the earth shook. The earth trembled; great storms arose with wind storms and earthquake. A terrific destruction took place among the mighty cities of the earth upon this continent. Then, after the great destruction, there was a calm came over the land, so the record tells us, and a voice spoke. These were the words that they heard, "How oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you would not." And He repeated it over and over again.

The record tells us that there were, out of the many millions of people that were upon this continent, about two thousand five hundred of the people left who were the more righteous, those that could be converted that Jesus was the Christ. Christ came and visited them and appointed men to rule in His stead, and then He left. In a short period of about twenty years, He made His appearance again. What did He find? When He made His appearance, He came to a body of men who were gathered together trying to decide among themselves what to call the church that they were going to organize among the people. They were arguing one against the other. Christ had to call them to order again. "Why do you wonder among yourselves what to call my church?" He said, "In Moses' time, if they called a church by Moses' name, then it be Moses' church. If they called it by a man's name then it was his church. Whatsoever you do, do it in my name, that my name might be glorified as my Father in heaven is glorified." He spent much time teaching the people that they should love one another and cease to bicker and quarrel among themselves over the principles of righteousness.

Even after seeing such great things as they saw, they had to be continually in the presence of a shepherd before they could learn how to live like Christ wanted them to live.

How similar is the day in which we live today! Joseph Smith came in the early 1800's. He saw the Father and the Son, and it was through him that we obtained the records that I have been telling you about. In 1830, he organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Two years later, the Lord placed the whole Church under condemnation because they had treated lightly the things they had received. He told them that they would remain under this condemnation until they repented and remembered the Book of Mormon and the former commandments that they had received and had applied them to their lives.

How much better are we today than we were in 1832 when the Lord placed us under this condemnation? Since that time, the Celestial Law has been rejected. The Lord has been trying to get us to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation ever since the Prophet Joseph Smith received his first vision. How many are there upon the earth today that can say that they are ready for the Lord to bring the day of visitation, as He calls it, or a preparation of the earth for a Millennial Reign?

This Gospel of the Kingdom was restored for the last time, the record tells us, never again to be taken away or given to another people until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. Where upon the earth can you find a people that are obeying all the laws and ordinances that the Prophet Joseph Smith gave to the people? The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has rejected them. We've just witnessed the changing of the House of the Lord, changing of the ordinances in our near community. They are going about changing the ways that the Lord has revealed that certain things should be done.

What kind of a people are we? We say we all believe in the same principles. I'm holding up here before you, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine & Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. These are the first principles and doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which you people are a part of. How much better are we today than the people were in the days of the prophet Nephi that God had to protect in order to save his life? They sought his life, so the record tells us. If they could have got him, they would have stoned him to death. That's what they did to all other believing saints that they could catch up with.

I beseech you, my dear brothers and sisters, to begin to bow yourselves in deep humility before it is too late.

After the great destruction took place in Christ's time, He told the people that He was glad for them. He was pleased that there were that many left. "I'm grateful for you," He said, "but those who I have buried will have to wait for their redemption."

How many of us can say that we know that we have found favor with the Lord to the extent that we know that He will protect us even though destruction comes at our doors today or tomorrow? Are we going to wait until the destruction days come before we commence to bow in deep humility and cry night and day for deliverance? Deliverance from what? From the destructive elements of unrighteousness, for that day is coming. The Lord has said that those who dwell upon this goodly land will be a God-fearing people and serve the God of the land, or when they are ripened in iniquity, "I will have to destroy them." Since He made that statement to us, we have read the record here that He destroyed two great nations. Two of them! Is history about to repeat itself again? The Lord has plainly told us to clean up our minds, clean up our lives, and cast away all iniquity from among us that we might be prepared against the day of visitation when He is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked.

I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, we are living in a day when great unrighteousness covers the land, from one end of it to the other. I've told you before, and I'll tell you again, that it's an individual obligation to prepare yourselves against the day of visitation, for God has said that He is the only one that knows your thoughts, or the hearts of men. He told the prophet John Taylor in a revelation in 1886, "Now it is more pleasing to me that men should use their free agency regarding these matters." That's the condition that we've lived in ever since.

My brothers and sisters, the Gospel is true. Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. He saw the Father and the Son; he conversed with them, and the Lord established His church by him. But the people rejected him, and he died a martyr's death.

You have the Gospel. You have the opportunity to go forward and prepare your lives against the day of visitation. You have your opportunity to prepare yourselves to be used in the redemption of Zion if you will do the will of our Father, if you will do what Christ said to do. If you will just go to this book, and take Third Nephi, alone, and read the words of Christ, then begin to prepare your minds and your hearts according to the teachings of that book, I have no fear but what you will be able to take part in the redemption of Zion. But if you don't, you're going to go down with the wicked, just like that book tells you.

The way is being prepared at the present moment for the great destruction of this people. If we don't believe it, let's just keep on going and wait a little longer to get down on our knees to ask God for a testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now I pray that God will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and that He will plant in our hearts, each and every one, old and young, a firm desire to serve Him and keep His commandments--and cease to do evil! There's too much evil in this place among the Latter-day Saints throughout the length and breadth of the world wherever they are. Unless you repent, unless they repent--every one that does evil--unless they repent, what chance have they for the Lord to send fire from heaven, if it's necessary, to preserve their lives? Think it over! Go home and get your books and read them, and then read them over again, and again, and again. And let's hasten to prepare ourselves to be used in the redemption of God's work, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 3, 1976,
CONFERENCE PRIESTHOOD MEETING, SATURDAY EVENING,
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

This is wonderful sight, my brethren, to see so many here this evening. We have seating capacity in this room for eight hundred people. The count at this moment is six hundred and sixty men, bearers of the Holy Priesthood. What a wonderful power for good the Lord would have if He could count on us to carry off His work.

I pray that we can draw in the wanderings of our minds and be instructed from on high tonight that we might be better prepared people in another year. Our opening song tonight will be “We thank Thee O God for a Prophet.”

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I trust that the few words I speak will be dictated by the Spirit of God. I’ve been very interested in the remarks of the brethren, especially the subject that we are Gentiles and we’re trying to rid ourselves of our Gentilism and make ourselves Israelites.

The Lord’s promise to Abraham was that all of the nations of the earth would be blessed by his seed. He gave the same blessing to Isaac. He gave the same blessing to Jacob. So the sons of Jacob became the fathers of the tribes of Israel. These tribes of Israel were given certain missions to perform in the earth. Because of their disobedience in not ridding themselves of the Gentile blood that was in them, they were not permitted to receive the blessings that the Lord had in store for them, and they were scattered throughout the nations of the earth. Some of them gathered together and were taken away. We understand that we have half of the tribe of Joseph scattered through the nations of the earth, and we have the tribe of Judah scattered through the nations of the earth. So, there are ten

and a half tribes that are off somewhere being taught by prophets of God, the same as you are being taught today.

It was Joseph Smith's mission to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentile nation and to gather out the blood of Ephraim. We want to remember that the blood of Judah is not to be gathered at the present time; but the blood of Ephraim, we are trying to bring out of the nations of the earth. So, we are all of the Gentile people until we rid ourselves entirely of that Gentile blood and purify our lives so that we can be called pure Ephraimites. It's just as hard to become a pure Ephraimite as it is to prepare ourselves for the Celestial Kingdom, because the same principles have got to be implemented into our lives. We've got to rid ourselves entirely of the Gentile blood before we can become pure Israelites.

Although hands may be laid upon us and we be pronounced the blood of Ephraim, yet, that doesn't make us pure until we have shown by our works that we are worthy of it. So, this is the reason that we have such a hard time accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and applying it to our lives. It's a constant labor, my dear brethren, to accept the Priesthood of the living God and be worthy of that Priesthood. We have a great responsibility upon our shoulders.

When we go down into the waters of baptism, we make a covenant with the Lord that if He will forgive us of our sins, we will sin no more. That's a great covenant to make when you analyze it and think upon it. The Lord, in turn, allows us to receive the gifts of the Holy Ghost, but we don't receive these gifts unless we prepare ourselves to receive them. If we did prepare ourselves, we'd be a better people quickly. But we've got to rid ourselves of these Gentile traits and traditions that have followed us down through the ages of time.

So the thing for us to do is to get down to business and rid ourselves every whit of the dross that is within us because this is the day of preparation. This is the day of preparing a people for the redemption of Zion. It's going to take the pure blood of Ephraim to do so, because it's Ephraim's place. It's Ephraim's responsibility to preside over the other tribes of Israel as far as Priesthood is concerned. These other tribes have their jobs to do, but as far as Priesthood is concerned, it is Ephraim's job to preside. What a wonderful opportunity you men have. This whole audience, no matter what your age is, you hold some office in the Holy Priesthood. Even the youngest deacons hold an office in the Holy Priesthood, and they should commence to work while they are yet young to stamp out of their lives the evil that is within them. The Lord can't use us any other way.

I want to draw your attention to this. What has the Lord said? And what has He done? We have the records of two other great nations upon this continent, and why didn't they remain upon this continent? Simply because they didn't do what the Lord asked them to do. He told Jared and his brother that He would lead them to a land that was choice above all other lands to preserve their identity in the earth. Among other things, He told them that the people who lived upon this choice land would be God-fearing and serve the God of the land, or when they were ripened in iniquity, He would have to destroy them. He doesn't like to destroy His people. Those who will do that which He has asked them to, repent of their sins, and live according to the teachings of the Gospel of Christ will obtain eternal life, but those who will not will have to be destroyed.

What happened to that great nation, the Jaredite nation? There did come a time when they were ripened in iniquity and the Lord could no longer forgive them of their sins.

The record tells us that He had to destroy the whole nation or cause them to be destroyed. They destroyed themselves. The wicked killed the wicked. The same thing happened to the Nephite nation. They fought until no one was left but the Lamanite nation, and the Lord allowed them to roam to and fro for two thousand years upon the land. Now He is about to fulfill His promise again. When that nation that possess this continent ripens in iniquity, He will have to destroy it.

What a wonderful opportunity you have--everyone of you that is here tonight--to cease to do evil and apply to your lives the righteousness of our Gospel and prepare yourselves to live and become useful in the redemption of God's great work in the earth. This is the day, this is the generation in which Zion must be redeemed! The Lord has to have people to man His work! We were told here tonight that in no other nation, no other place on the earth, is there a body of people who have these same opportunities that we have upon this continent. We don't know what's going on among the ten tribes of Israel. We don't know what's going on among the people of Enoch, the people of Peleg, but we do know what's going on in this nation and the other nations of the earth because we're kept up to date with the signs of the times. We do know this, at least this body of people, we have been taught that we must clean up our bodies and minds and become a pure people because the Lord has said that Zion cannot be redeemed only upon the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, and in the Celestial Kingdom there is no sin. To put it in the words of the Prophet Joseph, we will never--if we live to the age of good old John the Revelator, we will never be called into the solemn assembly and receive our endowments until we have cleaned up our lives every whit from all wickedness and applied to our lives the principles of righteousness.

So, this is the responsibility that is upon this body of men tonight. The Lord had this message to give to you and leave with you, and by the mouths of two or three witnesses will all things be established. He wanted you to hear this message, that you have to clean up your lives every whit before you can be partakers of this great blessing of eternal life or take part in the redemption of Zion. Those who will not will be taken and destroyed and you will lose the opportunity of purifying your lives.

The old prophet Alma said, This is the day--the day in which we live is the day for us to prepare to meet our God. So let us prepare ourselves to meet our God and to become workers in the redemption of His great work in the earth. I hope that out of this body of men will come the nucleus of the Millennial Reign because it's our opportunity if we will take it and walk off with it. We have all that is necessary to prepare ourselves for this great and glorious work. I pray that everyone of you will take to heart the message that has been left here tonight by the brethren, for the Spirit of the Lord has been here in abundance. He loves this people for the efforts that they are putting forth. Now, let's not let Him down.

Let's be pushers of His work, and let's prepare ourselves for a glorious resurrection, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS, JULY 7, 1978, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

Again, I desire the Spirit of God to direct what I may say. The Spirit of God penetrates more effectively than anything else. If you are not compatible with the Spirit of God, anything that can be said by the power of the Spirit will have no effect. Light cleaves to light. If you have the Spirit of God, you can receive instruction from it. If you don't, you cannot. So I pray the Spirit of God will rest upon all of you and upon me, for I desire but to be an instrument in His hands to teach the truth that we may be edified thereby. The Holy Ghost is the spirit of truth.

My dear brothers and sisters, we have need to communicate with God. Without revelation, there is no salvation. Without faith, there is no salvation. Without faith, we cannot obtain revelation--one of the greatest gifts of the Spirit of God we get through faith.

I'm grateful to have heard what I have today on the glorious principle of repentance which follows faith. We cannot come unto God except we be meek and humble, and that is the means by which we obtain the Holy Spirit as it pertains to ourselves. We must first draw near to God, and we accomplish that by drawing near to His servants, especially His servant, Leroy S. Johnson.

The revelation was read, "Whether it is by my voice or the voice of my servants, it is the same." The channel then by which we obtain the Spirit of God is through the Priesthood over us, the key-holder over all of us, and through the Priesthood head in the families. That Priesthood head must be one with his head. All of this, my dear brothers and sisters, through faith--one of the glorious attributes of the Holy Spirit, the attributes of God. In order to have power with this faith, with God, we must know that our course is pleasing to God. We come to know

our course is pleasing to God through obedience to all of the commandments, and by the sacrifice of all earthly things, through meekness, and lowliness, a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Then we will be endowed with the Holy Ghost, with charity and love which covers all. What I am trying to come to today, by the grace of God, is to call upon you and myself, especially, to pray without ceasing, lest we be entering into temptation. If you want to know how to avoid or overcome temptation, get on your knees in meekness and lowliness of heart, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, get and keep the Spirit of God, which is power over the devil and all his imps and every temptation that can come to us.

(Lectures on Faith, Lecture Seven)

"As we have seen in former lectures that faith is a principle of action and power in all intelligent beings both in heaven and on earth, it will not be expected that we shall, in a lecture of this description, attempt to unfold all of its effects. (I want to talk about its effects which leads into prayer.) Let us here offer some explanation in relation to faith, that our meaning may be clearly comprehended. We ask, then, what are we to understand by a man's working by faith? We answer--we understand that when a man works by faith, he works by mental exertion instead of physical force. (Mental exertion, the mind of the Father and the Son is the Holy Spirit. That's mental, isn't it?) It is by words, instead of exerting his physical powers, with which every being works when he works by faith. God said, "Let there be light, and there was light."

This, and all of the other great things that have been accomplished in this earth have been accomplished through prayer, through words and mental exertions. Have we learned, brothers and sisters, how to exert our minds? If the mind of the Father be in it, we certainly will learn how, very readily, and most effectively. Joseph Smith stands as glorious example to us. After he had read from James, and desiring wisdom to know where to go and what to do in his religious endeavors, in the exertion of his faith in his God, he went to the woods feeling and knowing that he would get an answer, with faith and praying most fervently. Do we know how to pray fervently? Through our minds and through words? He did, and he got the answer.

Everything that has been restored by way of priesthood ordinances and blessings of the Holy Gospel of the Son of God has come through prayer, the exertion of the mind of this chosen prophet of God, the witness and testator. Everything that came was through fervent prayer, and faith in his prayers.

Now, I say that if we do not enjoy the blessings of the Holy Spirit, we are not fervent in our prayers, we don’t have faith in our prayers, and we are not living up to the light that God has given us. We complain, why don’t we have more? It’s because we do not have faith.

We need the One Mighty and Strong to come and set in order the House of God. This, of course, agreeable to the will of God, according to His time and His way. Believe me, brothers and sisters, that will not happen until someone has sufficient faith in their prayers.

What a mighty force it would be, what a power we would have with God if a sufficient number of priesthood, elders of Israel, one with God’s anointed, all of the same mind, same heart, the same power of faith, could approach God, these blessings would be granted. I say, we are mentally lazy. We have

things too easy. God is going to bring a persecution against this people. Those who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. Are we suffering persecution today? We have it so easy that we have become mentally and physically lazy, speaking of us a whole, but there are those that have true faith, true love, true fidelity to the words of God and His servant.

I don't think we need to be reminded of the statement of Lorin Woolley to the effect that if the Lord had twelve men who were one--faithful and true in all things and had faith in the Lord God--He would shake the earth.

Now, brothers and sisters, we are not going to make much progress unless we are able to approach God in faith and love. Hope, faith, and charity--these three--the greatest of these is charity and love, the pure love of Christ, which I say is the Holy Spirit. Do we love God and His servants? Do we love God and Leroy S. Johnson? If so, we should love one another. We can never be one, brothers and sisters, until we love one another, our neighbor as ourselves and seek the interest of our neighbor. So, we must have faith in God and in a living Priesthood.

The Lord tried to redeem Zion very shortly after the restoration of the Holy Priesthood and the Gospel of the Son of God, and the first law that they were called upon to abide was the Holy United Order. They were sent to the center place to do it, where there could be one people, and where they could have overcome all opposition and persecutions and prosecutions. After they were driven out, here's what the Lord had to say, and I ask you now to see how near like them are we as a people.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 101:1-8)

> "Verily, I say unto you concerning your brethren who have been afflicted and persecuted and cast out from the land of their inheritance.

> I, the Lord, have suffered the affliction to come upon them, wherewith they have been afflicted in consequence of their transgressions.
>
> Yet, I will own them, and they shall be mine in that day when I shall come to make up my jewels.
>
> Therefore, they must needs be chastened and tried, even as Abraham who was commanded to offer up his only son."

That was done in a similitude of the sacrifice of God's only begotten son.

> "For all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me cannot be sanctified.
>
> Behold I say unto you, there were jarrings and contentions and envyings and strifes and lustful and covetous desires among them."

Are these among this people? They certainly are, and they are in our families. Lustful and covetous desires. Do we brethren engaged in businesses and economic enterprises have these afflictions? Are we seeking the interest of our brother, or our own interest? Now the Lord says:

> "By these things, they polluted their inheritances."

These are common everyday things that occur in our families and in our community enterprises and our associations. Now, here is what I want to emphasise with all the power that is in me, as a warning to this people. President Johnson has given it many times before.

> “They were slow to hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; therefore, the Lord their God is slow to hearken unto their prayers, to answer them in the day of their trouble.”

We don’t have many troubles today, except the things that I have just read about, jarrings, contentions, and strife, but they had those troubles because they had been slow to hearken to the Lord.

> “Therefore, God is slow to hearken unto their prayers, to answer them in the day of their trouble.
>
> In the day of their peace they esteemed lightly my counsel.”

Hasn’t the Lord told us through His servant that we have taken lightly the things of God, the sacrament, the holy law of Celestial Marriage, the covenant that brother Timpson has talked about today?

> “In the day of their peace they esteemed lightly my counsel; but in the day of their trouble, of necessity, they feel after me.”

Now, brothers and sisters, how in the world are we going to come to God and get help in our trouble if we do not know that our course is pleasing to him? If we are full of sin and disobedience and rebellion, jarrings and contentions and strife, it is as though we never spoke, when we pray under those conditions. Why? Because we are without the Spirit of God. These things by which they polluted their inheritances in Zion and of which so many of us are guilty bar the Spirit of God. We cannot have them both.

One of my family came to me the other day and said she had learned something in a discussion we had, a most simple truth--you cannot have the spirit of criticism and the spirit of charity at the same time. Doubt and faith cannot exist in the same person at the same time, so Joseph told us in these Lectures. So, we get right down to the final answer to all these problems, the Holy Spirit of God--do we have it, or don't we have it?

President Johnson has told us so many, many times that the Spirit of God is the spirit of peace, of love, of kindness, and pure knowledge. The Spirit of God dwells in one who is pure and clean before God. The Holy Ghost cannot dwell in an unclean tabernacle, and we are the tabernacles which clothe spirits which are sons and daughters of God. Our Father is the father of these bodies as well. Now let us be good stewards. We have been given this life and probation as stewards of God. Let us honor and purify these bodies. Let us honor and purify the holy ordinance that we have entered into. Let us magnify God and His holy ordinance by our faith, by our steadfastness, and our faithfulness unto the end.

Remember, dear brothers and sisters, this holy ordinance of matrimony, the covenants of which have been recited to us here today, is the most sacred and holy ordinance that has been given to us. It requires that we be faithful and true unto the end in order to realize the blessings of thrones and dominions and powers and the glorious blessings of the holy resurrection, through our faithfulness unto the end. Are we breaking any of the laws or ordinances of this holy bond of matrimony? If we are, then we stand in a terrible condition before the Lord because we have treated lightly these things, and we have not come to a point that Enoch and Abel came to, and all of the holy prophets.

They had this testimony that they pleased God. We can come to this point. Then we will have power with God through faith in our prayers, and we can come to Him and move as one people to redeem Zion. This is what President Johnson is trying to accomplish, to prepare a people for this glorious purpose.

Joseph Smith came in 1886 to begin the setting in order process. How many years is that down to now? Seventy-eight years this century and fourteen in the other--ninety-two years. Joseph Smith is still behind the veil working in our behalf and his fellow-servants are trying to accomplish the things that God has asked us to do. President Johnson is the key-holder and the mouth-piece of God to us today. Let us sustain him and follow his admonitions and his instructions and be one with him, love him with all our hearts. Brothers and sisters, we love because of our love of God, the attributes of God as they exist in one another. I love that person most who is most like God. We cannot escape it. Brother Johnson is the most Christ-like among us.

Now let us be of one heart and faith. Let us be encouraged. Let us overcome all evil, and let us approach God with faith in our prayers by coming to know that our course is pleasing to God to the sacrifice of all earthly things, and let us accomplish that work that God has set forth to be, I pray in Jesus' name, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1978, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I'm grateful to be here in association with Presidents Hammon and Jessop under assignment and direction of President Johnson, to meet with you in considering the things the Lord desires us to understand and know and to be guided by.

I was deeply impressed last May when the Council was all here with President Johnson, and he, our President and head, called upon us in all earnestness and seriousness to read and study and be guided by these scriptures that the Lord had commanded us to teach, for in them ye have eternal life. I can't think of anything in keeping with the instructions of President Johnson, viewing as I do the Gospel as he has so frequently laid it out before us, of separation. Basically, that is what Joseph Smith intends for us to do--prepare the way of the Lord, and we had better believe it. He saw the Father and the Son. He was told that he would be the instrument in preparing the way of the Lord.

Joseph was sent forth to prepare the way of the Lord preparatory to His glorious coming and to prepare us against the day of visitation of the judgments of God, that we might be a prepared people against those judgments and times that are now facing us.

In March of 1831, the Lord was preparing His people for a time when they should go to the borders of the Lamanites, which was the city of Zion, where the great temple was to be built. He was continually foreshadowing to the prophets and his saints what they were about to be sent forth to do. I'd like to preface the main point of what I feel impressed to give you here today. The first few verses of Section 84.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 84:1-5)

"A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant

> Joseph Smith, Jun., and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high.
>
> Yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last day for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem.
>
> Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jun., and others with whom the Lord was well pleased.
>
> Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation.
>
> For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house."

That was in 1832, September. The Lord told Joseph to tell the saints that these things are at our door. Now we must realize, brothers and sisters, that the Lord was speaking according to His measurement of time. What is a generation? It has many different time connotations. In the time of the Lord, we must realize that it has an extended meaning--generation involved in this dispensation of the fullness of times. I feel that we have in Section 45 of the Doctrine & Covenants, the word of the Lord to us. Jesus is spoken of as having told his disciples in answer to their query, what would be the signs of

his great and glorious coming--if that were at the door then, how much nearer is it now, a hundred and forty-seven years later? I ask that the Spirit of God will be with me as I read this voice of warning, this voice of warning to us, brothers and sisters!

We are trying to live the law of the Church of the First Born, brothers and sisters. The true church of God is where the Priesthood of God is and the people who follow it.

(Section 45)

> "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.
>
> 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--"

I'm satisfied that our Lord, Jesus Christ is pleading our cause before our Father in our behalf. He is pleading our cause through the mouth-piece of God, President Leroy S. Johnson.

> "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."

This message wasn't only to the saints then, it is to us now. The Lord has said frequently, "What I say unto one, you who can hear, I say unto all who follow." The message is still to us as it was then.

> "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;"

Hardening our hearts is the direct opposite to being humble before the Lord and receptive. Those who harden their hearts are those who apostatize against our Lord.

> "For verily I say unto you that I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the light and 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, to be a light to 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 was 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 fulfill the promises that I have made unto your fathers,

For as ye have looked upon the long absence of your spirits from your bodies to be a bondage, I will show unto you how the day of redemption shall come, and also the restoration of the scattered Israel.

And now ye behold this temple which is in Jerusalem, which ye call the house of God, and your enemies say that this house shall never fall.

But, verily I say unto you, that desolation shall come upon this generation as a thief in the night, and this people shall be destroyed and scattered among all nations.

And this temple which ye now see shall be thrown down that there shall not be left one stone upon another.

And it shall come to pass, that this generation of Jews shall not pass away until every desolation which I have told you concerning them shall come to pass. Ye say that ye know that the end of the world cometh; ye say also that ye know that the heavens and the earth shall pass away;

And in this ye say truly, for so it is; but these things which I have told you shall not pass away until all shall be fulfilled.

And this I have told you concerning Jerusalem; and when that day shall come, shall a remnant be scattered among all nations;

But they shall be gathered again; but they shall remain until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men’s hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth.

And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound. (This, we have!)

And when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fullness of my gospel;

> But they receive it not; for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men.
>
> And in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

President Johnson has said this time has been accomplished. The times of the Gentiles have been fulfilled, and that the Manifesto and the turning away from the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ was done. Now the Gospel is unto the House of Israel and the gathering of Israel.

> "And there shall be men standing in that generation, that shall not pass until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land."

That is the overflowing scourge, a desolating sickness covering the land, the land of Joseph.

> "But my disciples shall stand in holy places."

We are supposed to be his disciples, brothers and sisters. Shall we hearken and stand in holy places? Sanctify our homes, the places we inhabit, and make them holy unto the Lord? For only they shall stand.

> "...and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die.
>
> And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another.
>
> And now, when I the Lord had spoken these words unto my disciples, they were troubled."

We have a very good account of these things which the Lord told the apostles, called disciples, in Chapter 24 of Matthew, which was translated again by the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Pearl of Great Price. I commend this to your reading, of which this has a great deal to do with.

> "And I said unto them: Be not troubled, for, when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled.
>
> And when the light shall begin to break forth, it shall be with them like unto a parable which I will show you--"

These parables apply to us.

> "Ye look and behold the fig trees, and ye see them with your eyes, and ye say when they begin to shoot forth, and their leaves are yet tender, that summer is now nigh at hand;
>
> Even so it shall be in that day when they shall see all these things, then shall they know that the hour is nigh.
>
> And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man.
>
> And they shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath.
>
> And they shall behold blood, and fire, and vapors of smoke.

And before the day of the Lord shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon be turned into blood, and the stars fall from heaven.

And the remnant shall be gathered unto this place; and then they shall look for me, and behold, I will come; and they shall see me in the clouds of heaven, clothed with power and great glory; with all the holy angels; and he that watches not for me shall be cut off.

But before the arm of the Lord shall fall, an angel shall sound his trump, and the saints that have slept shall come forth to meet me in the cloud.

Wherefore, if ye have slept in peace blessed are you; for as you now behold me and know that I am, even so shall ye come unto me and your souls shall live, and your redemption shall be perfected; and the saints shall come forth from the four quarters of the earth.

Then shall the arm of the Lord fall upon the nations.

And then shall the Lord set his foot upon this mount, and it shall cleave in twain, and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro, and the heavens also shall shake.

And the Lord shall utter his voice, and all the ends of the earth shall hear it; and the nations of the earth shall mourn, and they that have laughed shall see their folly.

And calamity shall cover the mocker, and the scorner shall be consumed; and they that have watched for iniquity shall be hewn down and cast into the fire.

And then shall the Jews look upon me and say: What are these wounds in thine hands and in thy feet?

Then shall they know that I am the Lord; for I will say unto them: These wounds are the wounds with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. I am he who was lifted up. I am Jesus that was crucified. I am the Son of God.

And then shall they weep because of their iniquities; then shall they lament because they persecuted their king.

And then shall the heathen nations be redeemed, and they that knew no law shall have part in the first resurrection; and it shall be tolerable for them.

And Satan shall be bound, that he shall have no place in the hearts of the children of men.

And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.

For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived--verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation. (That's the Millennium.) For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver.

And now, behold, I say unto you, it shall not be given unto you to know any further concerning this chapter, until the New Testament be translated, and in it all these things shall be made known.

Wherefore, I give unto you that ye may now translate it, that ye may be prepare for the things to come.

For verily I say unto you, that great things await you;

Ye hear of wars in foreign lands; but behold, I say unto you, they are nigh, even at your doors, and not many years hence ye shall hear of wars in your own lands. (Yea, in this land.)

Wherefore, I, the Lord, have said, gather ye out from the eastern lands, assemble ye yourselves together ye elders of my church; go ye forth into the western countries, call upon the inhabitants to repent, and inasmuch as they do repent, build up churches unto me.

And with one heart and with one mind, gather up your riches that ye may purchase an inheritance which shall hereafter be appointed unto you.

And it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the Most High God.

And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion.

And it shall come to pass among the wicked, that every man that will not take up his sword against his neighbor must needs flee unto Zion for safety.

And there shall be gathered unto it out of every nation under heaven; and it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another.

And it shall be said among the wicked; Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible; wherefore we cannot stand.

> And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy.
>
> And now I say into you, keep these things from going abroad unto the world until it is expedient in me, that ye may accomplish this work in the eyes of the people, and in the eyes of your enemies, that they may not know your works until ye have accomplished the thing which I have commanded you;
>
> That when they shall know it, that they may consider these things.
>
> For when the Lord shall appear he shall be terrible unto them, that fear may seize upon them, and they shall stand afar off and tremble.
>
> And all nations shall be afraid because of the terror of the Lord, and the power of his might. Even so. Amen."

God help us to prepare against these things as we have been called upon so many times to do, that we may be humble and contrite, offer a sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and repent and come unto Him with full purpose of heart, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

WORDS OF PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 6, 1978, AT A BIRTHDAY PROGRAM FOR PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I want to express my gratitude and pleasure at being invited to this wonderful entertainment. I hope that the Lord will bless me with words that I might be able to express my feelings at this moment. I'm grateful for the life and labors of President Rulon T. Jeffs. Brother Jeffs has been a real companion to me and to all the brethren and all the saints as long as I have known him. We have traveled together through the length and breadth of North America. We have been from one end of it to the other many times together. The only part of North America that we haven't yet traversed is Alaska. So, we have traveled together, and we understand one another in regards to the principles of salvation as they were given to us by the Prophet Joseph Smith.

I, too, Brother Jeffs, am very much pleased with this wonderful family of yours. This is a model family. It will go down in history as one of the outstanding plural families of all time. We have fought many battles together in this great work, to try to keep alive the principle of plurality. Brother Jeffs and other brethren, as well as myself, have tried to do something to prove to the people of the world (especially the Latter-day Saints) that this law of the Celestial Kingdom can and will be lived. As Heber C. Kimball said at one time: "This law will yet sail over the head of all opposition." Although at the time when he made the statement, it looked like the United States government was going to stamp it out, if possible, but the servants of God knew at that time that it would be impossible because God had established this Gospel in the earth never again to be taken away or given to another people.

In our day today, we are struggling very hard to stamp out the evil that is creeping in among us. We find evil cropping

out every now and then, but wherever we find it, we labor hard to get it out of our society. It grieves us very much when we see some of our own people delving into evil practices and evil teaching because we have been told plainly: “Come out of her, O ye My people, and be not partakers of her sins.”

You young people, you young boys and girls, should do what the Lord has asked us to do. He said: “Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” This is one of the Ten Commandments. It was had during the days of Israel, and it is still one of the requirements of our Father in heaven in our day. “Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”

In ancient times, men lived to a good old age, and so did women in those days. They lived to be very, very old, because they tried to get the Spirit of God and keep it. The Spirit of God is the spirit of peace. These are not only John Y. Barlow’s words, but the words of the Lord through the mouth of the Prophet Joseph Smith to the people in his day, and it has been handed down from generation to generation. It was had by Brigham Young, who followed in the footsteps of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, and I suppose all the leaders of the Priesthood clear down to our day have had that inspiration to give to the people: “Get the Spirit of God and keep it.” That is what we should strive to do.

Let us all strive to more diligently do right and cease to do evil. It is our duty, and the Lord has put the responsibility upon us to prepare a people who are pure in heart. If we analyze the phrase “Pure in heart,” we will find that it covers a lot of ground. Nevertheless, the Lord requires it. It was required of Him before He could become a God, and that is what you and I are working for, to be Gods and Eves of earths in the eons of time ahead of us.

We are forever learning. We know not how old our spirits are, nor how long we are destined to live; but this we do know, that our forbearers have told us, as well as the prophets of God, that this is not the end when we lay this body away. It is only the beginning of our existence, and if we can catch the picture right now, that's what we came to this life for--to purify the bodies that we have, that they may become useful to us throughout the generations of time ahead of us. When we go from this life, we only lay in the grave a little while if we are worthy of a glorious resurrection. It has been promised to us by the Lord that we would gain eternal life if we would come here and purify our bodies and our minds, and bring them back to Him in a purified condition as they were given to us when we were born into the earth. We want to remember that our spirits are eternal, and only the body that we have is mortal, subject to death. Our spirits go on unless we commit some sin that will cause the Lord to disorganize them. This we don't want to do. There isn't any of us that want to.

So, let us press on and keep the commandments of God, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS, DECEMBER 2, 1979
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I'm very happy to be here with you today, brothers and sisters, and desire to be an instrument in the hands of the Lord to bring the light of truth into our understanding, that we may go forward to accomplish the purposes and the will of God in furthering this great work in which we are engaged.

We are at a very crucial point in the work of God, and we need to, above all things, get and keep the Spirit of God. There is one thing that has impressed itself so much upon my mind of late, and I keep repeating it in my mind. We cannot have the Spirit of God except we be meek and lowly of heart. Thus was Jesus Christ, the great prototype. He was meek and lowly of heart, as was Joseph Smith in this his dispensation. Are we acknowledging the hand of God in all things and coming to know that our course is pleasing to God through the sacrifice of all earthly things, the sacrifice of our personal feelings in favor of the work of God and raising up and serving those that the Lord has given us in this family order of heaven? The spirit of discernment is one of the great gifts of the Spirit of God and is what is needed. We need all of the attributes of the Holy Spirit, faith, hope, and love or charity which is the pure love of Christ. This, I take to be the Spirit of God, and I commend to us all a continual reading of the last verses of the seventh chapter of Moroni to enable us to lay hold upon this great gift.

The spirit of humility is brought out in a very beautiful way by the Prophet Joseph Smith in his address to the Twelve, July 2, 1839. It's in the Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, page 154, and it's in the History of the Church, Volume three, page 383. It says a great deal about humility as well as giving encouragement and strength to the brethren looking forward to the last days and bringing it right down to our time and is applicable to us.

This was after Thomas B. Marsh had been handled. Others of the Twelve had fallen. I don't know whether you understand this or not, but because of the apostasy of Thomas B. Marsh and the part he played among the Saints in Far West, in his bitterness, he wrote a letter to Governor Boggs giving information concerning the Saints which was lies and was very instrumental in bringing down upon the Saints the extermination order--exterminating the Saints from the state of Missouri.

(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.155)

"Ever keep in exercise the principle of mercy and be ready to forgive our brother on the first intimations of repentance, and asking forgiveness: and should we even forgive our brother, or even our enemy, before he repent or ask forgiveness, our heavenly Father would be equally as merciful unto us." (That's a great character that can do that and a truly humble person.)

Again, let the Twelve and all Saints be willing to confess all their sins and not keep back a part; and let the Twelve be humble, and not be exalted, and beware of pride, and not seek to excel one above another, but act for each other's good, (love our neighbor as ourself) and pray for one another, and honor our brother or make honorable mention of his name, and not backbite and devour our brother. Why will not man learn wisdom by precept in this late age of the world, when we have such a cloud of witnesses and examples before us, and not be obliged to learn by sad experience everything we know. Must the ones that are chosen to fill the places of those that are fallen, of the quorum of the Twelve, begin to exalt themselves,

until they exalt themselves so high that they will soon tumble over and have a great fall, and go wallowing through the mud and mire and darkness, Judas-like, to the buffetings of Satan, as several of the quorum have done, or will they learn wisdom and be wise?

O God! give them wisdom, and keep them humble, I pray. When the Twelve or any other witnesses stand before the congregations of the earth, and they preach in the power and demonstration of the Spirit of God, and the people are astonished and confounded at the doctrine, and say, “That man has preached a powerful discourse, a great sermon,” then let that man or those men take care that they do not ascribe the glory unto themselves, but be careful that they are humble, and ascribe the praise and glory to God and the Lamb; for it is by the power of the Holy Priesthood and the Holy Ghost that they have power thus to speak. What art thou, O man, but dust? And from whom receivest thou thy power and blessings, but from God?

Then, O ye Twelve! notice this Key, and be wise for Christ’s sake, and your own soul’s sake. Ye are not sent out to be taught, but to teach. Let every word be seasoned with grace. Be vigilant; be sober. It is a day of warning, and not of many words. Act honestly before God and man. Beware of Gentile sophistry; such as bowing and scraping unto men in whom you have no confidence. Be honest, open, and frank in all your intercourse with mankind.

O ye Twelve! and all Saints! profit by this important Key--that in all your trials, troubles, temptations, afflictions, bonds, imprisonments and death, see to it that you do not betray heaven; that

> you do not betray Jesus Christ; that you do not betray the brethren; that you do not betray the revelations of God, whether in the Bible, Book of Mormon, or Doctrine & Covenants, or any other that ever was or ever will be given and revealed unto man in this world or that which is to come. Yea, in all your kicking and flounderings, see to it that you do not this thing, lest innocent blood be found upon your skirts, and you go down to hell. All other sins are not to be compared to sinning against the Holy Ghost, and proving a traitor to the brethren."

The sin which is unforgivable is brought about through being a traitor to Jesus Christ and denying the Holy Ghost, yea, becoming the sons of perdition.

> "I will give you one of the Keys of the mysteries of the Kingdom. It is an eternal principle, that has existed with God from all eternity: That man who rises up to condemn others, finding fault with the Church, saying that they are out of the way, while he himself is righteous, then know assuredly, that that man is in the high road to apostasy; and if he does not repent, will apostatize, as God lives. The principle is as correct as the one that Jesus put forth in saying that he who seeketh a sign is an adulterous person; and that principle is eternal, undeviating, and firm as the pillars of heaven; for whenever you see a man seeking after a sign, you may set it down that he is an adulterous man.
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> About this time, in reply to many inquiries, I also gave an explanation and many principles connected

therewith of which the following is a brief synopsis." (You see this was written by Joseph Smith as a history of the Priesthood and Church.)

The Priesthood was first given to Adam; he obtained the First Presidency, and held the keys of it from generation to generation. He obtained it in the Creation, before the world was formed, as in Genesis. He had dominion given him over every living creature. He is Michael, the Archangel, spoken of in the Scriptures. Then to Noah, who is Gabriel; he stands next in authority to Adam in the Priesthood; he was called of God to this office and was the father of all living in his day, and to him was given the dominion. These men held keys first on earth and then in heaven.

The Priesthood is an everlasting principle and existed with God from eternity and will to eternity without beginning of days or end of years. The keys have to be brought from heaven whenever the Gospel is sent. When they are revealed from heaven, it is by Adam's authority.

Daniel in his seventh chapter speaks of the Ancient of Days; he means the oldest man, our Father Adam, Michael."

We might be better informed if we read the quotation from Daniel:

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth

from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened....

I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."'

(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.157)

Michael will call his children together and hold a council with them to prepare them for the coming of the Son of Man. He (Adam) is the father of the human family, and presides over the spirits of all men, and all that have the keys must stand before him in this grand council. That may take place before some of us leave this stage of action. (That has to be fairly soon.) The Son of Man stands before him, and there is given him glory and dominion. Adam delivers up his stewardship to Christ, that which was delivered to him as holding the keys of the universe, but retains his standing as head of the human family.

The spirit of man is not a created being; it existed from eternity and will exist to eternity. Anything created cannot be eternal; and earth, water, etc., had their existence in an elementary state from eternity. Our Savior speaks of children and says, their angels always stand before my Father. The Father called all spirits before Him at the creation of man,

and organized them. He (Adam) is the head and was told to multiply. The keys were first given to him and by him to others. He will have to give an account of his stewardship, and they to him.

The Priesthood is everlasting. The Savior, Moses, and Elias gave the keys to Peter, James, and John on the mount when they were transfigured before him. (Elias in this actual case was Elijah. Elias and Elijah were synonymous in the scriptural history.) The Priesthood is everlasting--without beginning of days or end of years; without father, mother, etc. If there is no change of ordinances, there is no change of Priesthood. Wherever the ordinances of the Gospel are administered, there is the Priesthood.

How have we come at the Priesthood in the last days? It came down, down, in regular succession. Peter, James, and John had it given to them, and they gave it to others. Christ is the Great High Priest; Adam next. Paul speaks of the Church coming to an innumerable company of angels--to God the Judge of all the spirits of just men made perfect; to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant.

I saw Adam in the valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman. He called together his children and blessed them with a patriarchal blessing. The Lord appeared in their midst, and he (Adam) blessed them all and foretold what should befall them to the latest generation. (That is Section 107 referred to.)

This is why Adam blessed his posterity; he wanted to bring them into the presence of God. They looked for a city “whose builder and maker is God.” Moses sought to bring the children of Israel into the

presence of God, through the power of the Priesthood, but he could not. In the first ages of the world they tried to establish the same thing. There were Eliases raised up who tried to restore these very glories, but did not obtain them; but they prophesied of a day when this glory would be revealed. Paul spoke of the dispensation of the fullness of times when God would gather together all things in one, and those men to whom these keys have been given will have to be there, and they without us cannot be made perfect.

These men are in heaven, but their children are on the earth. Their bowels yearn over us. God sends down men for this reason. "And the Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that give offense and them that do iniquity." All these authoritative characters will come down and join hand in hand in bringing out this work.

The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed. The mustard seed is small but brings forth a large tree, and the fowls lodge in the branches. The fowls are the angels. Thus angels come down, combine together to gather their children and gather them. We cannot be made perfect without them, nor they without us; when these things are done, the Son of Man will descend, the Ancient of Days sit; we may come to an innumerable company of angels, have communion with and receive instructions from them. Paul told about Moses' proceedings; spoke of the children of Israel being baptized. He knew this, and that all the ordinances and blessings were in the Church. Paul had these things, and we may have the fowls of heaven lodge in the branches.

The “Horn” made war with the Saints and overcame them, until he Ancient of Days came; judgment was given to the Saints of the Most High from the Ancient of Days; the time came that the Saints possessed the Kingdom. This not only makes us ministers here, but in eternity.

(And that’s the great days of the Millennium.)

Salvation cannot come without revelation; it is in vain for anyone to minister without it. No man is a minister of Jesus Christ without being a Prophet. No man can be a minister of Jesus Christ except he has the testimony of Jesus, and this is the spirit of prophecy. Whenever salvation has been administered, it has been by testimony. Men of the present time testify of heaven and hell and have never seen either, and I will say that no man knows these things without this.

Men profess to prophesy. I will prophesy that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man are already commenced. (That’s something of a new revelation.) One pestilence will desolate after another. We shall soon have war and bloodshed. The moon will be turned into blood. I testify of these things, and that the coming of the Son of Man is nigh, even at your doors. If our souls and our bodies are not looking forth for the coming of the Son of Man; and after we are dead, if we are not looking forth, we shall be among those who are calling for the rocks to fall upon them.

The hearts of the children of men will have to be turned to the fathers, and the fathers to the children, living or dead, to prepare them for the coming of the Son of Man. If Elijah did not come, the whole earth would be smitten.

There will be here and there a Stake (of Zion) for the gathering of the Saints. Some may have cried peace, but the Saints and the world will have little peace from henceforth. Let this not hinder us from going to the Stakes; for God has told us to flee, not dallying, or we shall be scattered, one here, and another there. There your children shall be blessed, and you in the midst of friends where you may be blessed. The Gospel net gathers of every kind.

I prophesy that that man who tarries after he has an opportunity of going will be afflicted by the devil. Wars are at hand; we must not delay, but are not required to sacrifice. We ought to have the building up of Zion as our greatest object. When wars come, we shall have to flee to Zion. The cry is to make haste. The last revelation says, Ye shall not have time to have gone over the earth, until these things come. It will come as did the cholera, war, fires, and earthquakes, one pestilence after another until the Ancient of Days comes, then judgment will be given to the Saints.

Whatever you hear about me or Kirtland, take no notice of it; for if it be a place of refuge, the devil will use his greatest efforts to trap the Saints. You must make yourselves acquainted with those men who like Daniel pray three times a day toward the House of the Lord. Look to the Presidency and receive instruction. Every man who is afraid, covetous, will be taken in a snare. (Fear is the opposite of faith. Those who fear are covetous and will be taken in a snare.) The time is soon coming when no man will have any peace but in Zion and her stakes.

I saw men hunting the lives of their own sons, and brother murdering brother, women killing their own daughters, and daughters seeking the lives of their mothers. I saw armies arrayed against armies. I saw blood, desolation, fires. The Son of Man has said that the mother shall be against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother. These things are at our doors. They will follow the Saints of God from city to city. Satan will rage, and the spirit of the devil is now enraged. I know not how soon these things will take place, but with a view of them, shall I cry peace? No! I will lift up my voice and testify of them. How long you will have good crops, and the famine be kept off, I do not know; when the fig tree leaves, know then that the summer is nigh at hand. (Doesn't this sound familiar to the sermons of President Johnson all through the past?)

We may look for angels and receive their ministrations, but we are to try the spirits and prove them, for it is often the case that men make a mistake in regard to these things. God had so ordained that when He has communicated, no vision is to be taken but what you see by the seeing of the eye, or what you hear by the hearing of the ear. When you see a vision, pray for the interpretation; if you get not this, shut it up; there must be certainty in this matter. An open vision will manifest that which is more important. Lying spirits are going forth in the earth. There will be great manifestations of spirits, both false and true. (These are our times, brothers and sisters.)

Being born again, comes by the Spirit of God through ordinances. An angel of God never has wings.

Some will say that they have seen a spirit that he offered them his hand, but they did not touch it. This is a lie. First, it is contrary to the plan of God: a spirit cannot come but in glory; an angel has flesh and bones; we see not their glory. The devil may appear as an angel of light. Ask God to reveal it; if it be of the devil, he will flee from you: if of God, He will manifest Himself, or make it manifest. We may come to Jesus and ask Him; He will know all about it; if He comes to a little child, He will adapt himself to the language and capacity of a little child."

Regarding these things, I think we might be instructed by knowing the keys that Joseph Smith gave.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 129)

"There are two kinds of beings in heaven, namely: Angels, who have resurrected personages, having bodies of flesh and bones--

For instance, Jesus said: Handle me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Secondly: the spirits of just men made perfect, they who are not resurrected, but inherit the same glory. (They are retained for a special work.)

When a messenger comes saying he has a message from God, offer him your hand and request him to shake hands with you.

If he be an angel he will do so, and you will feel his hand. (He is embodied.)

If he be the spirit of a just man made perfect, he will come in his glory; (and that is appearing in fire.) for that is the only way he can appear--

Ask him to shake hands with you, but he will not move, because it is contrary to the order of heaven for a just man to deceive; but he will still deliver his message.

If it be the devil as an angel of light, when you ask him to shake hands he will offer you his hand, and you will not feel anything; you may therefore detect him.

These are three grand keys whereby you may know whether any administration is from God."

(We are told that Satan is to be revealed in this time.)

(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 162)

"Not every spirit, or vision, or singing is of God. The devil is an orator; he is powerful; he took our Savior on to a pinnacle of the Temple and kept him in the wilderness for forty days. The gift of discerning spirits will be given to the Presiding Elder. (Mark that.) Pray for him that he may have this gift. Speak not in the gift of tongues without understanding it, or without interpretation. The devil can speak in tongues; the adversary will come with his work; he can tempt all classes, can speak in English or Dutch. Let no one speak in tongues unless he interpret except by the consent of the one who is placed to preside; then he may discern or interpret, or another may. Let us seek for the glory of Abraham, Noah, Adam, the Apostles, who have communion with (knowledge of) these things, and then we shall be among that number when Christ comes." Which I pray may be our lot in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS, AUGUST 17, 1982, TUESDAY EVENING, CRESTON, B.C., CANADA

I can't tell you, my dear brothers and sisters, how grateful I am to be here at the side of President Johnson on this beautiful occasion. It's wonderful to sit and be in his presence and feel the spirit of God coming from him and passing through to us. I'm grateful for his great life and labors and the great mission that he has been sent forth to accomplish at this time, and he is doing it; he has never stopped! He has accomplished more from his bed of affliction than at any other time. In these days when there is so much disbelief and disputation, this great work is going on.

Brother Johnson told us tonight about the great wickedness that is in the earth, and it is creeping in among us. The Lord, in Section 112, spoke to the apostles who had been sent out to gather Israel and preach the everlasting Gospel to all who would believe and accept the same and they would be saved.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 112:23-26)

> "Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face.
>
> Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.
>
> And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord;
>
> First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord."

That's where it starts; from thence it will go forth. The great test that was prophesied by Heber C. Kimball is upon us. We are in the midst of a great sifting. There is not going on, so much, what has been called a division, but a sifting, brothers and sisters. Truth, and this prophet of God who has been sent among us, will prevail!

I thought it would be a splendid thing to read a very significant sermon of President Johnson's given at Salt Lake City, February 18, 1979. He says in this what he has been calling upon the saints to do--lo, these many years.

This is typical of all Brother Johnson's sermons, as far as I can remember, since he came to the key-holder position. What follows is the word and will of God. The spirit of revelation has continued and continued down to the present time and will with greater power in time to come.

(He read the sermon, 2-18-79 found in Volume 4.)

Brothers and sisters, there is one thing that Brother Johnson has laid upon me, and that is to establish the truth of Section 132, verse 7; and there's more in this section.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 132:7-8)

> "And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: (Pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant which was instituted for the fullness of His glory.) All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made and entered into and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on the earth to hold

this power (and I have appointed unto my servant Joseph to hold this power in the last days, and there is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power and the keys of this priesthood are conferred), are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead.

Behold, mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion."

These keys and powers are conferred upon one man. The keys of the power of sealing and of the Holy Priesthood are conferred upon one man. By whom? It's all right here.

(132:45)

"For I (God speaking) have conferred upon you (speaking to Joseph) the keys and power of the Priesthood, wherein I restored all things, and make known unto you all things in due time." (The same is done for those who are appointed in his stead by God Himself.)

(132:46-48)

"And verily, verily, I say unto you, that whatsoever you seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever you bind on earth, in my name and by my word, saith the Lord, it shall be eternally bound in the heavens; and whosesoever sins you remit on earth shall be remitted eternally in the heavens; and whosesoever sins you retain on earth shall be retained in heaven.

And again, verily I say, whomsoever you bless I will bless, and whomsoever you curse I will curse, saith the Lord; for I, the Lord, am thy God.

> And again, verily I say unto you, my servant Joseph, that whatsoever you give on earth, and to whomsoever you give any one on earth, by my word and according to my law, it shall be visited with blessings, and not cursing, and with my power, saith the Lord, and shall be without condemnation on earth and in heaven."

There it is!

(132:49-50)

> "For I am the Lord thy God, and will be with thee even unto the end of the world, and through all eternity; for verily I seal upon you your exaltation, and prepare a throne for you in the kingdom of my Father, with Abraham, your father.
>
> Behold, I have seen your sacrifices, and will forgive all your sins; I have seen your sacrifices in obedience to that which I have told you. Go, therefore, and I make a way for your escape, as I accepted the offering of Abraham of his son Isaac."

President Johnson stands in the same position to the people of Zion in this day as Joseph did in that, and we are to have those ministrations done through the keys and power conferred upon him by the Lord God. It has been the same through Joseph Smith's legal successors from his day until the present.

Section 28 of the Doctrine & Covenants makes it very, very clear. I suppose you have had this read to you many times, that no one but Joseph, and therefore, no one but his legal successor, is to receive revelation for the people. Oliver Cowdery had been believing some revelations given through a stone in the

possession of Hiram Page. The Prophet inquired of the Lord and got this great word that comes down to us in this day.

(Section 28:1-2)

> "Behold, I say unto thee, Oliver, that it shall be given unto thee that thou shalt be heard by the church in all things whatsoever thou shalt teach them by the Comforter, concerning the revelations and commandments which I have given.
>
> But, behold, verily, verily, I say unto thee, no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this church excepting my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., for he receiveth them even as Moses."

I have said for three years that Leroy Johnson, to me, is as Enoch in this last day of gathering to redeem a people and build up Zion preparatory to the coming of Enoch again. He is as Moses in this day and time to gather Israel.

(Section 28:3-7)

> "And thou shalt be obedient unto the things which I shall give unto him, even as Aaron, to declare faithfully the commandments and revelations, with power and authority unto the church.
>
> And if thou art led at any time by the Comforter to speak or teach, or at all times by the way of commandment unto the church, thou mayest do it.
>
> But thou shalt not write by way of commandment, but by wisdom.
>
> And thou shalt not command him who is at thy head, and at the head of the church;
>
> For I have given him the keys of the mysteries, and the revelations which are sealed, until I shall appoint unto them another in his stead."

And I testify to you that President Johnson stands in his stead today. Brother Johnson has told some of you that the effort has been going on now for some time to replace Section 132 with the 1880 revelation by Wilford Woodruff. Wilford Woodruff had no authority nor power to receive and write that revelation. John Taylor didn't send him. What he got at the first was the true word of God, and that was to tell him: "I have already revealed my mind and will regarding these matters to my servant Joseph." That's about all it said in the first few paragraphs by the word of the Lord. So what follows is received illegitimately and from below.

I know, as I know I live, brothers and sisters, that this Council does not hold the keys in common, nor do any of the apostles have the right to receive revelation for the people except Leroy Sunderland Johnson. John Taylor was the only one then in 1880.

We have been led by revelation from Sunday to Sunday and month to month, as he said in this sermon; and he served notice to begin with asking God to put words in his mouth. Yes, He has put words, calling upon the saints to repent and to prepare to redeem Zion, and that is the great message he has been giving.

I have said to the people in Short Creek and Salt Lake many times, until I have been silenced in Salt Lake from speaking to the people; I have said that President Johnson will come through this illness that came upon him by the will of God and to serve the purposes of God. He will come through stronger than ever to finish his great mission to gather a people to redeem Zion. That message is greatly fortified by these words in 3rd Nephi, Chapter 21. I have been standing on it. This is Jesus Christ speaking to the Nephites.

(Book of Mormon, 3rd Nephi 21:8-11)

"And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them.

But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him, for I will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil.

Therefore, it shall come to pass that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, which the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (It shall be done even as Moses said.) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant."

There it is. This is that servant sitting before you tonight. They are waiting for him to die. But I tell you in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, that he will continue in this great work of redemption with Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith, Jun., preparing the people and leading them back to Zion.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, the great thing we have to do is to become pure in heart. Zion is the pure, and none will go who are not pure in heart. Have you ever thought of this?

My favorite scripture, I think, in the Book of Mormon is the 7th Chapter of Moroni. It's very prophetic. Jesus Christ, in teaching His disciples said: I am meek and lowly in heart. He could say that because He was perfect. We must become like him to stand in His presence. In order to obtain the great attribute mercy, and charity, the pure love of Christ, we must be meek and lowly in heart. What have we heard from the stand? Anything but what was in meekness and lowliness of heart in dealing with the saints.

(Moroni 7:42-47)

"Wherefore, if a man have faith he must needs have hope; for without faith there cannot be any hope.

And again, behold I say unto you that he cannot have faith and hope, save he shall be meek, and lowly of heart.

If so, his faith and hope is vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly in heart; and if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity.

And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail--

> But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him."

What great love and charity have we witnessed in the administrations and blessings that have been given us by and through President Johnson--most Christ-like is my humble testimony.

(Moroni 7:47-48)

> "But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.
>
> Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love...."

This says the same things to me as, "Be ye filled with the Holy Ghost." The Holy Ghost has all the attributes of God. If we are filled with it, we will have the same attributes, and be God-like.

> "... which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen."

The pure in heart shall see God. So, Brother Johnson has been trying to tell us, clean up our lives, lo! these many, many years. He said it again tonight. You young people who have habits that need to be overcome, overcome them. We had better be about it.

Jesus Christ and His angels will go before to accompany and shall go back to redeem Zion. He said so in Section 103. He is to go before; the saints are to go behind Him. We have got to be like Him, or we can't see Him. This brings to mind Section 93:31-40.

> "Behold, here is the agency of man, and here is the condemnation of man; because that which was from the beginning is plainly manifest unto them, and they receive not the light.
>
> And every man whose spirit receiveth not the light is under condemnation.
>
> For man is spirit. The elements are eternal, and spirit and element, inseparably connected, receive a fullness of joy;
>
> And when separated, man cannot receive a fullness of joy. The elements are the tabernacle of God; yea, man is the tabernacle of God, even temples; and whatsoever temple is defiled, God shall destroy that temple.
>
> The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth.
>
> Light and truth forsake that evil one.
>
> Every spirit of man was innocent in the beginning; and God having redeemed man from the fall, men became again, in their infant state, innocent before God.
>
> And that wicked one cometh and taketh away light and truth through disobedience (Have you ever thought of that?) from the children of men, and because of the tradition of their fathers.

But I have commanded you to bring up your children in light and truth."

Fredrick G. Williams, Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith, Jun., were all chastised by the Lord. Let's read the one to Joseph. (Section 93:45-48)

"Verily, I say unto my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., or in other words, I will call you friends, for you are my friends, and ye shall have an inheritance with me--

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;

Your family must needs repent and forsake some things, and give more earnest heed unto your sayings, or be removed out of their place."

It's getting down right where we are today. We must set in order our houses, brethren. You wives, help, and you children, be obedient. It was quoted to me by Joseph Barlow the statement of President Johnson when he was asked to define the Celestial Law of marriage. He said, "The Celestial Law is that the man is the head of the women." God told Eve, "In sorrow shalt thou bring forth children. Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." I am told that whenever a disobedient wife would go to Brother Barlow, he would quote that, "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee," and he must rule in righteousness.

Brothers and sisters, let us all repent, get down on our knees and cry day and night for the Spirit of God and keep it that we might be delivered from our sins and from the judgments. Let us overcome.

In the Book of Revelations, Jesus said, “He who overcometh shall sit down with me in the temple.” As Christ overcame and was perfect, be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect in His sphere, we in ours, that the Holy Ghost may be our constant guide and companion to all honor and glory of God in sustaining this great man who leads us, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 6, 1983,
AT THE FUNERAL OF SISTER HILDA DUTSON,
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I hope that the Lord will put into my mouth the things that I should say here this morning at these services for Sister Dutson. I have been acquainted with this dear sister since 1952. Sometime in January, 1952, there was a notice came out in the Phoenix papers in bold letters that six women had been arrested and would have to stand trial. I think it was Brother Guy Musser that called and told me that there was going to be a trial down in Mesa, Arizona. He wanted to know if I would go down with him. So I went with him along with some of the other brethren. We went to the court house and there we met these ladies. I don't just remember which one we met first, but they were all sitting on a seat, and we went by and shook hands with them and were introduced to them. Then we took our seats.

The first witness was called to be questioned. It happened to be the bishop of their ward. During the questioning of the prosecuting attorney, he asked this question to the bishop, "Do you know Mr. Merlin Dutson?" The bishop said, "Yes, sir. I know him very well. I could tell you in an instant if I saw him." Well, after more questions from the prosecution, he turned the witness over to the defense attorney. The defense attorney said to him, "You said that you could tell Mr. Dutson on sight." "Yes, sir," he said, "I can tell you I know him very well. He is a member of my ward." The attorney said, "Will you look around this room and see if you can see Mr. Dutson here. Is that him?" And he pointed towards Brother Guy Musser. Brother Guy stood up, and the witness leaned over and looked and said, "I don't know whether that's him or not." So there was a laughter went up over the audience.

The judge then turned to Brother Guy Musser and said, “Are you Merlin Dutson?” Brother Guy said, “Well, your honor, I’m confused. I don’t know whether I am or not. Some say I am and others say I’m not.”

Another laughter went up over the audience, and the judge reached for his gavel. He pounded on the desk and said, “There’ll be order in the court room.” They came to order. He said, “Court will be adjourned.” So that was the end of their trial. They were liberated immediately. Since that time I have had quite a broad experience with the Dutson family.

In 1953, you older people will remember, the state of Arizona came in and took all the women out of this little town and their children. They took them into court. They placed a bond upon us of 40,000 dollars which we furnished by buying a bond for that amount of money. Then the court wouldn’t receive it until we had put up a property bond to equal the chattel bond. We couldn’t get anyone to go our bond. We worked for several days. Finally, Brother Merlin Dutson came up and said, “I’ll put up my home and my farm for security for these people.”

So, that’s the way I got acquainted with these people. Since that time, I’ve had a lot of experience with this dear lady. I know how willing she has been to go when she was called upon and do without tiring anything that was necessary to help take care of the sick and afflicted and those who needed her assistance. I have had experience with several of the boys. I know them pretty well.

This dear lady has earned her reward. She has gone to meet her husband, and I don’t see any reason why she shouldn’t be reunited with him, because she has done everything she could, everything she knew how to prepare herself for an eternal salvation.

Now, I don’t wish to speak any longer, but I wish to leave my blessings with the family who are left. It is a large family--many women and children. I would like you to know my heart goes out to you in the laying away of this good lady. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 13, 1983, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, I want nothing said but what the Lord wants said at this meeting today.

I have been incapacitated for so long that it is almost shaky to stand before you, but I pray that the Lord will put words in my mouth that I should say to you today. I hope that we can be built up and encouraged in our efforts to prepare ourselves with that which the Lord has to take us through from now on.

We are living in a time when the Lord is preparing the earth for a new dispensation--a dispensation of peace--a dispensation of a thousand years when the earth will rest from wickedness and the Lord will do His work in the gathering together of the Lost Tribes of Israel, as well as the people of Enoch and other tribes that have been taken away and have been secluded from our view.

He wants the elders of Israel, when they are called upon, to preach nothing but repentance and preparation for that which is coming upon the earth. The judgments of God have begun and they will continue to spread and become worse and worse, and unless we have the Spirit of God upon us, we will not be able to stand. Those of us who have not prepared ourselves through these last five and a half years that I have been out of circulation are going to find that their time is about up. From now on, the Lord is going to be more specific in demanding obedience to His word--of preparation--of remembering the two great commandments that He gave; First, 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. Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the Gospel.

This is a day when great tribulation is covering the earth; and greater tribulations are being prepared for the

people. We read of earthquakes in foreign lands. We read of earthquakes in our own country that are being more prevalent, and this is one of the things that the Lord has said He would bring upon us in the latter days--that He would shake terribly the earth and it would reel to and fro like a drunken man. His word must be obeyed so that people may work out their salvation while they have an opportunity in this life.

Now, I pray that the Lord will bless us with wisdom knowledge and understanding, and that those who are called upon to speak will speak according to the commandments of God. I want you young people to remember that the Lord is preparing a time of peace, a thousand years of peace, when children will be born and live to the age of a tree. And this is just ahead of us--not very far off. Time is getting mighty short and the judgments of God are already upon us.

Now I pray for the Spirit of God to settle upon us all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 20, 1983, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Once more, I am greatly gratified for this opportunity of meeting with you, my dear people. I don't know the reason why I have not been able to be with you before for so long a time, but I am gratified for being here today. I hope that what I say will be dictated by the Spirit of God, that you might be edified, built up in your determination to keep up your preparation.

The Lord told the Prophet Joseph when he asked Him what he should have the elders preach to this generation of people, "Preach nothing but repentance and preparation." So this is a preparatory period of time that we are in. We are here to prepare ourselves for an eternal salvation, the salvation of our families, the salvation of all who have the blood of Israel in them. We should come and listen to the word of God and be instructed by Him. This is the day that we must be prepared or we will go down and out with the wicked.

The Lord has already commenced His judgments upon the earth, and except we repent of our sins and shortcomings and do as the Prophet Joseph Smith told us--become clean every whit and be prepared to receive our endowments at the hands of the servants of God, we will not be permitted to receive those endowments. I hope and pray that this generation of people who have had the privilege of having the servants of God bear testimony to them that Jesus was the Christ and that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God will be prepared. All the holy prophets have testified of the time in which we live, and would have liked to live in this time.

During my short acquaintance with this people, which has been about fifty years, at least, since I met Brother Barlow, I have heard these same principles taught. I have heard the testimonies not only of John Y. Barlow, Brother Joseph Musser, Charles Zitting, and others, but I have heard the testimony of

John W. Woolley. He was the one that told me the story of how this Priesthood was set up.

I want to bear my testimony to you that Jesus is the Christ, and He is preparing the earth for His appearance again upon it. He has promised us throughout the ages of time that the seventh period of time would be a period of peace. It would be a thousand years when the earth would rest. From what? From wickedness, at least this part of the earth. Upon this land was where He gave the blessing. When He comes the next time, He is going to come to His own people, the Jews, and they are going to know that He is Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

I want to tell you, my dear brothers and sisters, the time will come when we will sit up and take notice of what is going on around us. You can see the workings of the judgments of God at the present time. He has told us plainly, “After the testimony of the elders, then I will preach My own sermon.” That is what He is commencing to preach at the present time, and He will continue until every tongue will confess that Jesus is the Christ and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. This is the continuation of the work that Joseph the Prophet started. It has got to be kept alive. The words of Joseph are true. There are none of these words that are not the words of eternal salvation.

Because of my weak condition, I will have to give way now and see you again in the near future. I pray that God’s blessings will settle upon you and that you will continue to prepare yourselves against the day of visitation, as it is called, when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked.

Now, I pray that God will bless you and keep you well and build you up in your determination to serve Him and keep His commandments. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 25, 1983,
FUNERAL SERVICES FOR THREE SONS OF TRUMAN I. BARLOW,
WHO DIED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT NOVEMBER 21, 1983,
LEE ROY BARLOW, BORN 9-2-66 (17)
MANTI JOSEPH BARLOW, BORN 12-21-77 (6)
RUSSEL DENNIS BARLOW, BORN 3-8-79 (4)
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters and friends, and all who have assembled here today. I assure you that I am greatly humbled upon this occasion. I feel grateful for the privilege of saying a few words to try to comfort the people--not only those who have gone to the other side, but to those who live, for this is the life of preparation. We come here for the special purpose of taking bodies and purifying them, that we might have some opportunity to go on throughout the generations of time as it goes on and be added upon from time to time for the great and glorious purposes of our Father in heaven.

The Lord is God and beside Him there is no Savior, so says the scriptures, and we are His children. We are God’s children, sent here to fulfill the purpose of this probation that He has allotted to us. He has said, throughout the generations of time that He has allotted to every man his time. So, upon occasions of this kind, I don’t feel to mourn excessively. I feel to mourn for those who have gone, and I feel to mourn more for those who are living because we are commanded by our Father in heaven to prepare ourselves, overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and our evil ways, evil desires and all that is evil. For He has plainly told us that He looks upon sin with no degree of allowance. We have to prepare ourselves that we might become clean every whit, and then He can add upon us and give us an exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom that will be a joy, not only to us, but to our loved ones and all who we know, and those who we have been acquainted with will like to be in our midst.

Now, I pray that God will bless each and everyone that is here that they might have a desire to do something about their salvation while they live, for this is the purpose of God to every man and woman that has been born upon this earth, to come here and take a body that they might have something to be resurrected with. He has offered to all His children the privilege of coming forth sometime and repossessing their bodies. “Those who have prepared themselves,” He says, “will be added upon and those who have not prepared themselves will have to suffer and pay the debt that they owe.” For we have to pay a debt for all our sins and imperfections, but we can be forgiven if we will prepare ourselves and live righteously all the days of our lives. He says if we will repent of our sins, He will never remember them any more before His face, but if we sin again, then is when our former sins come back upon us.

Now, may God bless you and help you to overcome the weaknesses of the flesh and be prepared as much as possible for an eternal resurrection, for that is what we look forward to.

I want Brother Truman to know this, that these children are only in the other room. They are not very far away, and they are in better hands than they were in this world. So there is nothing for you to feel overly sorrowful for. Although it has taken several away, it matters not. These things are taken care of by our Father in heaven, and when you go over there, you will be reunited with them. This goes for all who prepare themselves as much as they can for an eternal salvation.

Now, I don’t wish to speak any more at this time, but I want to leave my blessings with you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 27, 1983, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My brothers and sisters, I am grateful for this opportunity again of speaking to you. I hope the Lord will put words in my mouth that He would like me to say, for I want to do nothing but what God wants me to do. He has called me to this position I have, and it is up to me to do the work that He has for me.

This is a great and glorious work. We are living near the end of our time. What I mean is this, that God has promised to His people throughout the generations of time that the seventh period of time would be a period of peace and that the earth would have to be prepared for this time--especially the continent upon which we stand. For this has been a glorious continent in the sight of God. He has promised us that no king should reign upon this part of the earth until He came to reign. He is the only king we have--God Almighty. He has seen fit to bring us together and teach us according to His word for some time. Ever since I met up with President John Y. Barlow, God has tried to teach and train this people to come along.

I have been out of your midst for about five and a half years--nearing six years now. He gave us that period of time to see what we would do with our lives--to see if we would listen to what His word has been and repent of our sins wherein we find that we are not coming up to the mark, and then prepare ourselves to come up to the mark. During that period of time, we have been dilatory, very dilatory.

Now our time is very, very short, but yet, the Lord has told us that if we would repent of our sins and do them no more, He would forgive us. He has given us that privilege of repenting of our sins. He told the Prophet Joseph to preach nothing but repentance and preparation to this generation of people. As long as we live, we have a right to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections and live close to the Lord.

Now, I pray that we will hasten to remember the teachings we had and bring our lives to conform with the words of our Father in heaven and be baptized. It is a time of preparation for the great and glorious Millennium. We all know what the Lord has said through the mouths of His prophets what this Millennium means, and we can go there and read it--read His words and find out. All the holy prophets, we are told, wished to live in the day in which we live. We should be the most thankful people in the world to have this opportunity.

So let us go forth. Let us not spend another dime or another nickel building up the kingdom of the devil. Let us build and establish the Kingdom of God in righteousness, that when the time comes wherein He has said He would protect His Saints if He had to send fire from heaven to do so, we will be prepared for it. He has told us how. He said 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. Upon these two great commandments hang all the law and the Gospel. To me, that means that if we can learn to love ourselves while we are petitioning the Lord for forgiveness, and then, if we can live to get ourselves to love our neighbor as ourselves, we will be doing a great work. We will be doing a great work towards our preparation.

Now, I pray that God will bless us and bless all of you, and I hope He will bless Brother Hammon and Brother Timpson that they will see the truthfulness of this Holy Gospel of ours, that we might be taught according to the directions of the Lord. I ask God’s blessings upon us in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 27, 1983,
FUNERAL SERVICES HELD AT THE HOME OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON
FOR JASON DANIEL BARLOW (BABY),
SON OF JACOB AND WINNIE BARLOW,
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA 10:00 A.M.

My dear brothers and sisters, I feel greatly honored in being asked to say a few words of condolence to these wonderful parents of this wonderful child that has gone on to his Father in heaven. This boy has come here and set an example that is far beyond our knowledge and the knowledge of the physicians that attended him.

You might say this is the second death for this little fellow. He laid in the morgue for some four hours after they pronounced him dead, and yet, he revived and lived for--what was it?--twenty-one days. This astounded the people who attended him. They couldn't understand it, but we who have been taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness understand that the Lord can do these things according to the purposes that He wants to come about. There is no doubt in my mind but what He had a purpose in this boy's life--teaching us that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true.

We know that Christ was crucified and in three days, He arose from the tomb. What for? To bring about the purposes of our Father in heaven. This little boy has done the same thing. I don't care who opposes it, it has come to pass under our observation, and we had better believe that the Lord is God and beside Him there is no Savior.

This little boy has lived his probation and has done a greater thing in his life than a lot of our older men have done. I have no fear at all for his going home to his Father and reporting his mission here in the earth. I don't want his parents, grandparents or anyone else to think anything else but that this is the will of the Lord. He sent him here for a purpose and it was fulfilled. So he has gone home to report.

I pray that the blessings of God will be upon our people and that we will hasten to prepare ourselves through repenting of our weaknesses and imperfections. The greatest thing for us to repent of as we apply the Gospel to our lives is not loving our neighbor as ourselves. Let us learn how to love one another and become like our Father in heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Now, I pray that the blessings of God will be upon you and give you a knowledge of the truth of our existence here, for which I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 18, 1983, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I hope you don't question me too much or too close on how I lost my hair. (laughter)

The Gospel is still true. We are here, and we are here to work out our salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord. It makes no difference what the Gentiles do or say, or what our enemies do or say, we have still got to live as the Lord has designed for us to live in order to get a position in His Kingdom, and there is where we want to go.

It is said that Brother Kimball said on one occasion that he wasn't worried about getting into the Celestial Kingdom, but what worried him was the station he got after he got there. That is what we ought to be most concerned about at this time--how high we get in the Celestial Kingdom of our Father. We remember that in the Celestial Kingdom there are three heavens or degrees, and in order to get to the highest, we must live and become clean every whit.

This is what concerns us today--cleaning up our lives, cleaning up our bodies that we might be clean every whit when we are called up in the solemn assembly to receive our endowments. The Lord plainly tells us in the Teachings of the Prophet Joseph that before we receive an endowment, we must be clean every whit. So that's what concerns us today. We find in this cleaning up process a lot of people who are trying to by-pass the responsibilities that He has placed upon us, and they try to find a short-cut to His kingdom of glory. We all want to get into a kingdom of glory. The Lord speaks of kingdoms that are not of glory. These are not the ones we want to get to. So, my great concern is what station are we going to get when we are called to meet our Maker. Let us go, brothers and sisters, and continue to prepare our lives, overcome our weaknesses while it is yet today. It is today while we live, for when the night comes is when we

depart from this life. So while we live, let us keep on striving so that we might get a celestial glory when we meet our Maker.

Our time is far spent, we have little remaining, both today and in this probation of ours. There are none of us that know when the Lord is going to call us to come home. So let us go forward while we have an opportunity, for the opportunity is ours. Let us make haste and use our opportunity in the best way that we know how. Let us clean up our bodies and our minds that we might come clean before the Lord, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 22, 1983,
FUNERAL SERVICES FOR BROTHER DOWAYNE NEOR JESSOP
BORN:9-9-1895 DIED: 12-20-1983
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for this wonderful opportunity of having the privilege of being asked to say a few words at these services for Brother Dowayne Jessop.

He has been a great man in our community. I trust that the Lord will bless me with words to partly express my feelings. Brother Jessop has been a wonderful help to us in our choir. He had a fine voice. When he first came here, he came at a time when our people were needing the help of such a man. We had a group of young people coming up that needed nourishment. Those who have families know what it means when they are not able to get milk for their family's use. This man came when we were in great need of this product. He brought his cows with him and he placed them in our dairy which solved the problem for us. He has maintained a steady watch over our dairy herd. He was a man that believed in getting the best, and I, for one, was grateful for this wonderful man's help--to bring up a dairy herd that was not equalled in the state of Arizona. He helped us clean it up, with what few cows we had. He brought in cows that were in good condition.

This man has been one who has been faithful and true to his convictions. He has worked hard to overcome his weaknesses and imperfections, as far as I could see. I have dwelt upon this proposition very much throughout my life and labors in the Priesthood. I have found this man very faithful in reporting. If he didn't report every month to his head, whoever he was, he asked for an excuse.

I would just like to dwell upon this for a few moments. The purpose of our lives here is to overcome our weaknesses and imperfections. We came here at the request of our Father in

heaven. He has plainly told us that we must clean up our lives and become clean every whit before we go home again if we want an eternal salvation. This man has done the best that he knew how, as far as I could see, and I have greatly enjoyed his presence in our community.

I just want to say a few words to his loved ones who are left here. You should not spend another day putting off your preparation for the purpose of this life. We came here to take our bodies and clean them up and take them back to our Father in a clean condition. Some come and go back when they are very young. Others live to a good old age, but it makes no difference. The Lord says He has numbered the days of our probation here and when that is ended, He calls us home. So don't think for a moment that when our young boys and girls are called home that they have gone prematurely, for I don't believe there is any such thing as a premature death. I think our days are numbered--everyone--because the Lord has told us so.

We come here and fill out our probation in fear and trembling before Him, and we who have been born and raised in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints know these things. We know the purpose of our existence here, and when we are not doing the things that we know to be right, we know we are not keeping the commandments of God.

So, it has been my belief and my ambition to teach the people what the Lord told the Prophet Joseph to tell the elders to preach to this Gentile generation--preach nothing but repentance and preparation. That is what we should do. We should repent of our sins, our shortcomings, and those things that pertain to us that are not right; we should repent of them and do them no more, for that is what the Lord means when He says to repent. Repentance means to overcome our sins and do them no more. He has plainly told us He would forgive us and remember

our former sins no more before His face, but it is when we sin again that our former sins come back upon us. Then it is hard to get the Spirit of God and keep it with us. For the Spirit of God is the spirit of peace, and the spirit of evil is from below. That is the reason that our Father in heaven has promised us a time of peace, and this time of peace is to come forth in the seventh period of time. The seventh period of time is almost here. When the year 2000 comes, we are going to have to be prepared for the protection of our Father in heaven, for, before that day, wickedness has got to be swept off from this great continent that we live upon.

Let us remember that and go forth and be prepared that when He makes His call for us to go home, we will be prepared to meet Him.

Now, I pray that you who are left, the relatives of this good man will take note of the example that he set and be as prepared as he is to meet his Maker. I pray that the Spirit of God will soften your hearts and make you feel at peace in your homes and wherever you are called to labor. I don’t wish to speak longer, but I ask God’s blessings upon the dear relatives of Dowayne Jessop, and I do it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 25, 1983, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I hope that what few words I speak might be dictated by the Spirit of God, that He will put words in my mouth that will be beneficial to someone here.

I am grateful for the way that He has blessed us in the past few years. He has seen to it that we had plenty. I don't know of a people who have been blessed more than we have. We have good cars to ride in. We have good homes to live in. We have plenty to eat and plenty to wear. There are none of us that are destitute. If there are, we want them to make it known to our leadership, that we might take care of your needs. We are trying to make it possible for our people to have the best things available for us to have.

We are trying to perfect a dairy here that will produce grade A-1 milk, as good as any you can get anywhere else in the world. We have a good cow herd, and we are trying now to provide this item for our people--the best that can be had anywhere.

We have striven carefully throughout the years to bring up our people to a point where they can live in homes that are equal to other homes in the cities around us, and we are getting this done. We have striven hard to bring about a water system that would be equal to our neighbors, and we are not through striving yet. We have a ways yet to go in order to perfect some of these things. We have further to go to provide for our eternal salvation. This is the thing that concerns me more than anything else--the eternal salvation of this people.

I am speaking to a body of young people. There are very few here that took part in the '53 raid. Possibly the bigger part of them are here today, but we have not kept the significance of that raid before our young people enough. That was one of the most miraculous incidents in the history of our latter-day work, the '53 raid.

The Governor of the state of Arizona told the world over the radio that they would imprison the men of this community, put the women to work out in work projects, and adopt out our children, and after two years their identity would be lost. But this, the Lord would not listen to. They were going to sell the property of the United Effort Plan to defray the expenses of the 1953 raid, but when they came up against the articles under which the United Effort Plan was organized, they found they could not break it--legally break it, they still know this thing. This cannot be done.

The homes that our young people are building today will belong to the United Effort Plan, and these people can live there as long as they will conform to the requirements of the United Effort leadership. Those who do not want to comply with the plan of the United Effort leadership--I want them to prepare themselves to move out of this place, because the Lord told us when He gave us this organization that those who would not support the Priesthood would become dissatisfied and move away. I want to tell you that He is going to back us up in this because it is one of the instruments that Brigham Young spoke of. He said, “When we get an instrument that lawyers cannot pick to pieces, then we can begin to be prepared for the United Order.”

That is what we have got to have. We have got to have young men and women in this place that believe in the words of the prophets--especially the Prophet Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, and others of the leadership of this people.

We believe that the United Effort Plan was inspired of the Lord under the direction of the leadership at that time who were working hard for the continuation of the Celestial Law which was rejected by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the Church is still against the work of God. They not only rejected the Celestial Law, but they also rejected the Priesthood. What kind of priesthood have they been operating under?

We hold those keys, and we will continue to operate under the Spirit of God in all things. I am determined to fill out my administration in fear and trembling before the Lord in defending the work of Joseph Smith and against those who want to change his words.

The Prophet Jacob tells us that those, in the latter days, who try to change the word of God will have a curse placed upon them that they cannot carry.

I want to tell you that we have a great work to do--the deacons, the teachers, the priests, and the elders of this day must prepare themselves and come up before the Lord clean every whit that He can add upon them and that He can give them the endowments that are necessary for their eternal salvation. This work will have to be done. Our time is getting short. We have been told several times that our time is getting short, and we must come to earth and think more about our eternal salvation than about our financial advancement because that isn't going to save us. We will find out that money is not going to save us, and it will not be long until money will be hard to get.

Conditions, upon this continent especially, will get so that it will be hard to get a dollar. So, let us pay attention to what the Lord says. He says He will protect His saints if He has to send fire from heaven to do so, but we have to be prepared for it before we can receive that kind of protection.

I want to encourage you to keep on with your preparation, for as long as life lasts, you have a chance to be forgiven of the Lord. He says if you will throw off your sins and do them no more, "I will forget them. I won't bring them up anymore before my face, but it is after you sin again that your former sins come back upon you." He means what He says. You will find that He is a man of His word. He has promised us a thousand

years of peace, and we are almost at that time. He has told us that it is the seventh period of time. That's not very far off!

Let us keep on striving, dear brothers and sisters, and see if we can please the Lord this once enough so that He can shower down His blessings upon us, so the enemy cannot come in and disturb us again. I pray that these things will be ours from now on. I do it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 1, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

First, I want to wish you all a happy new year. I hope that the Lord will bless my mind today that I might say the things that He wants me to say, for I want to do nothing but to encourage you to go on with your preparation. The Lord has said that after the testimony of the elders, “Then I will preach My sermon.” If we look back over what has happened in the last year, we can see some of the Lord’s sermon that He is preaching to the people. The Lord says in another place, “Surely I will do nothing except I reveal it to My servants, the prophets.” I believe that He does nothing except He sends a warning out to the people of what is about to take place.

We had a little wind storm in this place last week that took the roof off a place here, another one there and another one there--one of those twisters that lights and then jumps up in the air and goes a little ways and then lights again. That is the first one that we have ever seen that came right into our town. We have seen several that went across the desert out south of here. I have sat in my home and watched them. So let’s not get to thinking that this can’t happen to us, because it might happen to anyone.

The Lord caused a mountain to move last year. It made a great dam across the canyon (Thistle Canyon). Today there is a great lake back of this dam. This was a warning to the people, but in the face of this warning, they have gone to work in Salt Lake City and begun building a high-rise building, spending a lot of money, I understand. At the same time, He allowed the weather to decorate the mountains in that vicinity with more snow than has ever been known since they started keeping track of how deep the snow was on the mountain.

Word came over the radio the other day that there was thirty-seven feet of snow at Alta and Brighton. They also said

over the radio that the water content of the snow that is falling up there is 300% more than normal. So I am wondering what the Lord is allowing to be done in that place. We will have to live and see what takes place. I know that the Lord had me move my family on to higher ground for some reason which is yet to be seen.

I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, there is one way that we can avert these judgments that the Lord brings upon a people, and that is by preparing ourselves against the wicked imaginations of the people of this day. Do what the Lord has told us to do--get down on our knees and pray for His protection. Clean up our lives, our bodies, and let us see if we can get prepared to turn away the judgments of God.

The Lord said, “I will protect My saints if I have to send fire from heaven to do so.” So let’s put our confidence in the Lord, and let’s see if we can prepare ourselves this once to turn the judgments of God from bringing further persecution upon us.

Now, I don’t feel to say anymore. It is not an easy thing for me to stand on my feet. I have one leg that is tired of holding my body up, so I will give way. Let us be encouraged, everyone of us, because we have got all the marbles on our side if we will just keep them there. Let us keep them there and see if we can turn these judgments away when they come.

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

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 8, 1984, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I assure you that I greatly feel my weakness in standing before you this afternoon. I ask God to put words in my mouth that He wants me to say, for I don't want to displease Him in anything. I have been greatly interested in the testimonies of these young elders this afternoon, and I am truly thankful for the faith and confidence that they exhibit in our Father in heaven and in His work in the earth, for this is His work. It isn't mine, but it is the work of God that we are interested in.

Throughout the generations of time, God has tried to raise up a righteous people that He could have confidence in. We have but one case that I know of, of this kind--the case of Enoch when he labored so hard for three hundred years to perfect a people that would be one in all things. He finally made it, and when he did, the Lord took him away and part of the earth with him. He obtained a promise from the Lord that in the latter days he should come back and take part in the redemption of Zion, which is not far off. The redemption of Zion, according to our reckoning, and according to the revelations of God, is to commence in the seventh period of time. According to our reckoning, that seventh period of time is only about sixteen years off--the year 2000.

My brothers and sisters, we have been under the hammer for many, many years. The Lord has tired to perfect a people in these great mountains that He could have confidence in, but He is angry now. He is angry with the people who live here, who have gathered here and taken the place of those who came here to live and build up and establish His Kingdom in the earth. He is not satisfied with them.

Now, I want to say that we are not speaking in order to condemn anyone or to scare anyone, but the preparation that we

must make is to clean up our bodies and our minds that they might become clean before the Lord. While we live, we have an opportunity to clean up our minds and our bodies and never defile them anymore, for the Lord says that if we will repent, He will remember our sins no more before Him, but it is when we commit them again that our former sins come back upon us.

We live in a time that all the old prophets wished to live in. They wished they could live when the redemption of God's work was to come. Now, we are about to go into it. Why don't we look at this thing as it is and prepare our minds. Let's be grateful to the Lord for the privilege of living now and do all we can to clean up our minds and our bodies and become the people that God is looking for.

He would have redeemed Zion in 1836, but He couldn't find people enough who were of one mind to do the work. So the Prophet Joseph Smith had to go on as a disappointed man, because he couldn't find enough people after they had been tutored and trained for many years in the Gospel. He thought he had enough faithful that could do what the Lord wanted them to do, but he couldn't find them. And it looks pretty grim at this time because we only have a short period of time to do this work.

I pray that this people will hasten to clean up their minds and bodies and become a pure people--every whit--that we might be ready for the endowment when the One Mighty and Strong comes to set in order the House of God, for the Lord has promised that He would do this.

Now, I pray God's blessings upon each and every one of you. I don't want to see any person that is under the sound of my voice fall by the wayside. I want you to come up to the mark and be a united people in the principles that Joseph Smith taught for the eternal salvation of the human family. God bless you now, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 15, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I trust the Lord will bless me with words that I might express my thoughts correctly this afternoon.

We read in the 84th Section of the Doctrine & Covenants that the Lord placed His Church under condemnation soon after it was organized, and He said this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all. He expects us to apply to our lives the principles of salvation as they were given to the Prophet Joseph Smith in order for us to come out from under that condemnation.

In another place, He said that His judgments would start in His own house: “For in My House shall it begin.”

I have been out of the pulpit for about five years--soon starting on my sixth year, and the doctors tell me that I will have this condition to fight for at least another two years before I am completely healed up. During those five years I have been away from speaking to the people, I have found out in listening to the tapes and other things that we have been severely criticized for the way we are living.

The Lord told the Prophet Joseph to teach nothing but preparation and repentance to the Gentile nations, and we are all Gentiles until we prove by our actions that we actually love God. The first great commandment is to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind and strength.

These are the things that should have been preached to you during my absence. I have got to start in now where I left off and try to salvage out of this body of Priesthood those who have the will and the determination to bring themselves out from under the curse that God placed upon us in 1832.

Let us get off our high horses and come to earth and prepare ourselves for that which is to come. I say that this is

one of the judgments that God has given us--to clean up a people who otherwise were not paying much attention to what was being said. Now, we have a chance to get to work. Let's get down on our knees and pray night and day for deliverance that we might come out from under that great curse the Lord placed upon us by telling us that we would be under condemnation until we repented.

Repentance means a lot. It means that wherein we have done wrong, we overcome it and never do that wrong again. But we go down into the waters of baptism and are baptized, and we come up and we forget the covenants we have made with the Lord. When you go down into the waters of baptism, you covenant with the Lord that you will forsake your sins and you will not do them anymore. When the boys are twelve years old, they are supposed to receive the Aaronic Priesthood. The Aaronic Priesthood means that we are servants of the Lord. We are here as monitors to help keep peace and to keep in order the House of God.

The Teachers have a work to do. Search out what the Teachers have to do; search it out when you are ordained a Teacher, and then apply it to your life and see if you are doing what is required of you.

The Priests also have a work to do. It is their responsibility to keep the peace, and if they don't, then they will have to serve the other master. We can't serve two masters and go into the presence of our Father in heaven. We have to throw off the one and serve the other, and so forth.

Let us hasten our preparation, hasten to bring about the people that the Lord is looking for to assist in the redemption of His great work, for preparation is what we have to have before we can do the work that He wants us to do.

I pray and hope that this people will hasten to rally to the Standard of God and do His will and keep His commandments; for this is our last chance before He cleans the wicked off this

land, and those who profess to be Latter-day Saints and have gone against His word are in a mighty serious condition.

Read what He says about it. We can all read. My eyes have been closed to reading, and I haven't been able to read for five years now--almost six, but I still remember what I read before that time--a lot of the things, anyway. I understand what the Lord requires of His people. He requires us, before we are worthy of an endowment, to be clean every whit. How many of us can do that? Are there any of us that are prepared? I hope we can hasten to do that which the Lord has required of us to round out our salvation.

I want to leave this message with you--that as long as you live there is hope, and you can go from now on and keep the commandments of God and be found on His right hand in the day of judgment.

Now, I want to say, God bless you all, and let us all try to see if we can become the people that the Lord requires. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 29, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the opportunity I have of being here this afternoon and hearing what I have heard. I ask the Lord to bless my words that I might not say anything that will displease Him in any way. I would like Him to put words in my mouth that I should say to you, for we are living in a time just prior to, shall I say, the coming of our Father, at least the opening of the dispensation of the great Millennial Reign. He has promised us that we should have this in the seventh period of time which, according to our reckoning, commences in the year 2000.

Knowing this, I feel greatly the responsibility that is upon my shoulders as well as what is upon your shoulders because the Lord is not pleased with the generation in which we live. If we have found favor in His sight sufficient for His protection, I hope that we will be able to stand under the great pressure that is about to be placed upon us.

The question was asked today, why were we placed under condemnation so soon after the Church was organized in 1830? But, if you will remember, the Lord placed us under condemnation about two years after the Church was organized, and there was not very much given at that time. We didn't have an endowment house. We hadn't received many of the blessings that the Lord has offered to us since then, but we had received the ordinance of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. That is wherein we are all under condemnation--the big part of us. There might be a few, a very few, who have been able to keep their covenants made at the water's edge when they covenanted with the Lord that they would repent of their sins. He offers repentance of our sins, and He will remember them no more before His face if we will be clean in every instance, but it is when we come out of the waters of baptism and go back into our old habits again--

that is where the sticking point comes. That is the reason that He placed us under condemnation and told us we would remain under that condemnation until we repented.

We have had the opportunity to repent ever since the day of our baptism, but a lot of us forget quickly the covenants we make. So let us bring ourselves out from under that condemnation.

You parents who have boys and girls who are eligible for baptism, it is your duty to commence right now, or long before, to teach those children the sacredness of the ordinance of going down into the water and being baptized. The Lord is going to hold the parents responsible for the actions of their children after they are baptized. I know men and women who have been rebaptized and rebaptized, but they have failed to come up to the mark, and they are not with us anymore. They are out there in the world somewhere. Let us not let any more of our boys and girls go out in the world to obtain their education--anymore than is necessary for us to provide teachers for our children. If we have men and women who want to go out and seek a better education, I have no objection to that if they will keep themselves clean and free from the sins of those around them. This can be done if we have willpower to do so, but it takes a lot of willpower. We have to exercise it.

My brothers and sisters, the Gospel is true. I believe that this people is a great deal more eligible in the sight of our Father than the other people in the world because they show by their actions that they are determined to come out and hear what the Lord has for us. He is a gracious Father. Uncle Fred said He is a Father that is mighty kind to us, because He can overlook our faults and failings. A lot that we feel like are faults and failings are mere habits to us, and if we can overcome our bad habits, the Lord will forgive us of our sins. The only

reason they become sins is because we hold on to our habits that are not good. Let us hold onto the habits that are good that we might bring ourselves out from under the condemnation that is upon us. Let us discard all our bad habits and those habits that if we continue with them will sooner or later cause us to do something worse. Let us get rid of them. Let us hold onto the habits that will tend to give us the privilege of working out our salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord.

When I see what is taking place around us, I can't help but believe that these are the last days prior to the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We know what happened when He came here before upon this land. We all have access to the Book of Mormon. Let us read it once in a while and see what happened to the people just prior to His coming. Let's not be in the same condition that they were at that time. He has said that He would protect His saints if He had to send fire from heaven to do so, and He will do just that thing if He has to in order to protect those who are determined to work out their salvation in fear and trembling before Him.

It is hard for me to talk because of the condition that I am in, but I am determined in my mind to serve God and keep His commandments as long as I have the power to do so, and I will continue to give the word of the Lord to the people as long as He will grant me the privilege of speaking to the audience of the faithful Latter-day Saints.

Now, I pray that God will bless us and pour out His Spirit upon us that we can see with our own eyes the conditions that exist around us and see what He is doing to the wicked generations of the earth. He has said that these judgments will start in His house, and that is where they have started. From there they will spread to the rest of the land upon which we live. I don't know how much farther it will go, but it will go

that far--the land upon which we live. I pray the blessings of God to be upon you and upon all who want to go down the road and work out your salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 31, 1984,
FUNERAL SERVICES FOR JENNIE JOHNSON BISTLINE,
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I feel greatly honored today in being called upon to say a few words at these services for Sister Jennie Bistline. I trust that the few words I speak may be dictated by our Heavenly Father. We are all Latter-day Saints.

Sister Bistline has filled her mission according to the requirements made of the Lord for the passing of any individual here. She has done the best she knew how all her life, and today we pay our respects to her.

I am reminded now of the passing of my father who was incapacitated through an accident and spent the last seven years of his life upon his bed. From time to time, we got him in a wheelchair and wheeled him around, but he couldn’t live in a wheelchair; so he spent the latter part of his life on the bed. I, being one of the younger sons, was called upon to stay by his side and take care of his needs. I was replaced by other brothers near my age, who took their turns; and this is the way he lived. While I was by his bedside, he said this, “In all your adversities of life, do not complain of the situation that you find yourself in.” I don’t know of a time when I heard that poor soul complain of his condition. I have never heard of this lady complaining of the condition in which she lived.

I would like to leave this message with this body of people. We are here to work out our eternal salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord, for this has been an admonition to you as far back as I can remember. The servants of the Lord have admonished us from time to time to get the Spirit of God and keep it. In all your actions be sure that you act under the direction of the Spirit of God, and then you will always be prepared for the call that is made of you.

We understand that there is no such thing as a premature death. Why? Because God has said that He has numbered the days of man in the earth. When He speaks of man, He speaks of women, too. When our time comes, we are called upon to go home to our Maker.

We have had it said here today that those who are faithful and true, when they are called home, are judged according to their works in the flesh. If they have done good, they have a glorious resurrection. If they have done bad, if they have broken the commandments of God, then they are raised unto eternal damnation. So the Latter-day Saints have all been trained and tutored under these directions, and if we live up to our covenants and live true to them throughout our lives, then we are prepared to go home and do as the scriptures say wherein He says that we must give an accounting for our works while we are here in the flesh.

I pray that the Spirit of God will rest upon this congregation of people and that we can have words of praise said of us when we are called to meet our Maker. Let us be prepared every night, that should He call us in the nighttime, we can be prepared, for preparation is the great call. It is unto all the nations of the earth at this time--repentance and baptism by immersion for the forgiveness of sins and the laying on of hands for the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Let us all be prepared. I pray, brothers and sisters, to do this, and I humbly pray it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 5, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I have been greatly impressed with what has been said today. I ask the Lord to bless me that I might say a few words to you this afternoon that might be comforting to you. The Lord is very kind to us to allow us to meet together under such favorable circumstances.

There is great commotion in the earth today, not only among the people, but the earth itself is groaning under the stress of the wickedness that travels to and fro upon it.

I am grateful that the Lord has given us a few more years to draw near to Him and to bring us out from under the condemnation that has been placed upon us. He has granted that every person who will clean up his life, or her life, can have access to eternal life if they will keep themselves clean and free from the sins of this generation. Now, I know that this is an important thing in our lives--to be granted a little more time for us to so order our lives that we might be counted worthy when the One Mighty and Strong comes to set in order the House of God, for it is not very far away. None of us knows the time or the hour that great changes may be made in the land around us.

We have been told that this land will become as it was in the beginning. Whether it be before the reign of peace or after, it makes no difference. That doesn’t make any difference to us, but we do know that the Lord has spoken these words, and we should be prepared against them. We should be prepared at any moment to depart from our homes and go where the Lord wants us to go. We are supposed to be faithful enough to demand the respect and the protection of our Father in heaven whether it be now or later on. Because He has said that no one knows the hour or the day, not even the angels in heaven, but it will come as a whirl-wind upon the people when He comes.

One thing we do know is that it is coming in the seventh period of time; and the seventh period of time is not very far off. He also tells us that His word is powerful and truthful, and when He says He will do a thing, He will do it. Just before Christ came to the people upon this continent, the Nephite people, it was thought by a lot of people, and I don't know but what most of them, that the time of His coming had passed, or the time of His crucifixion had passed, but when the proper time came, then the signs came. Even then, it took quite a period of time in order to convert all those who were left and who saw the face of the Savior.

So we had better get a hold of our lives and live according to the covenants that we have made with our Father in heaven, because He is a truthful man, and He meant what He said when He said that the seventh period of time would be the day of peace when the earth should rest and the people who live upon this land at that time would have to be a righteous people--people without sin. So great--so much greater will be the calamities than those the Nephites witnessed at His appearance here before that we will remember them for a thousand years. When the destructions came and killed off a people at His appearance before, they remembered it for two hundred years, and they had all things in common. This time it is going to be greater and more terrible.

So let us take note of ourselves while the day lasts. Let us get a hold of ourselves and see wherein we can improve our lives according to the designs that the Lord has caused to be written in the Doctrine & Covenants, the Book of Mormon and the Pearl of Great Price. We all have these scriptures at our fingertips where we can see them. If we haven't, there are places where we can get them. Let us study what we have to do to straighten up our lives and bring to pass that which the Lord has to accomplish in the near future.

Now, I pray that the blessings of God will rest upon you, all of you, and that you will prepare yourselves against the day of visitation, as the Lord calls it, and I do this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 12, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I stand before you today in great humility, having been humbled by my Father in heaven to suffer some six years this coming April since I was struck down with the shingles. I don't want to say anything that will displease my Father in heaven, so I am asking Him to put into my mouth the words that He would like me to say because I only want to do that which is necessary for me to do to bring about the purposes of God in the earth.

I have been called into this position by the revelations of God by a man who held this position before me, and he was a prophet of God. So, I feel, my brothers and sisters, that I have a right to speak.

I was struck down in the early part of 1979. I had been called upon by some of my brethren to have the word of God changed in our Doctrine & Covenants, and this, I objected to. Shortly after that, I was branded as a fallen prophet. I want to say a few words to these men who sit here on the stand today. (He turned to face J. Marion Hammon and Alma A. Timpson.) The Lord gave you men five and a half years to change your thinking on this principle of having one man holding the sealing powers in the earth at a time, and you have made a miserable mess of it by coming here and preaching over this pulpit that I was about to die because of my attitude towards this principle. (Turning again to the audience).

Now then, if the Lord doesn't want me to speak, I want Him to take me out of this pulpit. If He wants me to speak, I want to speak freely, and I don't want to be high-minded or raise my voice so high that I can't talk, but I want to talk plainly to this body of people.

I know there are people here today who don't believe in me. They feel like I have forfeited all my privileges to the

Melchizedek Priesthood, but as long as the Lord will allow me to speak, I will tell you that I am not afraid to speak. There is only one man at a time, and that is the way it has been throughout all the history of God's dealings with people, both in this world and the world before this one, and the world before that one. Only one man at a time holds the keys and power of the sealing power, and those who act during his administration are only acting under a delegated authority. That is what I told these men.

I am coming back now. I am going to take my place, my position at the pulpit as long as God will allow me to, and I am not afraid to speak for Him. I'll tell you why--simply because it is only a short time until He is going to come and visit this earth with great judgments. They have already started. He said, "In My house shall it begin." I'll tell you, it began with this council--six years ago this coming April. This Priesthood Council was broken up. Since then, we have suffered the death, first of Brother Richard Seth Jessop, and then Brother Guy H. Musser. So there are only four of us left. For about three and a half years, neither I nor Brother Rulon Jeffs were allowed to speak to the people. Why? Because I was stricken down and I couldn't speak, but I am speaking today. They would not allow Brother Jeffs to speak because he sustained me.

I want to tell you, the Lord did a great thing. His judgments started in His own house; they started with the Priesthood, and He cleaned us up. From now on, there will be nobody in the Priesthood Council only those who sustain the words of the Prophet Joseph Smith. There is only one man at a time that holds the keys of the sealing power while he lives.

It is hard for me to speak because of my heart condition, but I will talk as long as the Lord will let me. The work of God must go on! Great judgments are coming upon this great

Church of ours. When Wilford Woodruff signed the Manifesto, he didn't only sign away his rights to the Celestial Law, but he also signed away his right to the Holy Priesthood. Now what kind of priesthood has the Church been operating under for ninety years?--yea, ninety-four years? Is the "Coming Crisis and How to Meet It" being fulfilled right under our eyes and there is nobody here to defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

We will see the judgments of God poured out more and more from this time forth until this part of the earth is empty of its inhabitants--those who are not able to say, "I am clean every whit," and have the Lord call us up. So we are working under a great handicap, my dear brothers and sisters. If this people that I am speaking to today don't hasten to lay away their sins and their wrong-doings and come clean before the Lord, they are going to find the Lord is not pleased with them, and they will have to go down with the wicked.

Now, I pray that God's blessings will be upon us, because He has granted us a few days more to clean up our lives and get down on our knees and pray night and day for deliverance as He has said. <u>This</u> is the time we will have to begin that practice. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 18, 1984,
PRIESTHOOD MEETING HELD SATURDAY EVENING, 7:30 P.M.
AT THE HOME OF BROTHER RULON T. JEFFS, SANDY, UTAH

I have been greatly interested in what President Jeffs has just told us, and if we were to close our meeting now, we would all be well paid for coming out. I trust that the few moments I speak God will put the words in my mouth that I should say to this great audience of Priesthood holders, for I only want the will of God to be shown forth in this day and age.

This is one of the greatest ages of all time. The Lord is preparing the earth for a period of peace. He is preparing it for the great Millennial Reign; and to do so, He has got to clean up all wickedness from off the face of this land in order to bring about His righteous purposes.

We have been greatly tried and tested for a number of years now, and there has got to be a great reformation in the minds of our people. We have been called upon by the Lord to clean up our minds and our bodies, that they might be clean every whit, that when He sends forth His orders to do certain works, He will have someone prepared to do that work. We have been very dilatory in the past few years in trying to bring about the purposes of God in the earth.

There has been a great division made in the minds of a lot of people, but I want to bear testimony to you that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and his orders must be obeyed before we can expect the Lord to come out of His hiding place and protect those who call themselves saints. He said that He would send fire from heaven, if necessary, to protect His saints in the latter days when His judgments are being poured out upon the wicked. He has also said, “In My house shall it begin.” His house comprises the Priesthood and the Church, as far as I know and understand. These are two of the great organizations that are going to have to be cleaned up before the Lord will be

justified in cleaning up the rest of the land. Why? Because more has been given to this people than to any other people. More has been given to this Priesthood than any other people on the earth. “And in My house,” He says, “it shall begin.”

It began six years ago next month. Six years ago next month, the Lord saw fit to start in on His Priesthood Council to clean it up, and from there it will go on to the Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, because it was once the Church that was organized under the hands of Joseph the Prophet. He did all he could to bring about the purposes of God as long as he lived. When he had gone so far, then the evil powers came in and took over.

This is a little different time than that. This is preparing a people now for the great Millennial Reign which the Lord has promised to all the generations of time that would be for a thousand years, and this is what He expects us to do. He expects us to clean up all unrighteousness and to get a people together that can be tutored and trained in all the arts of living, all the arts of building, all the arts of mechanics. These are the ones that are going to have to be prepared when this great work-call comes for us to go and to perform the work that is ahead of us. We haven’t got very many years left to accomplish this work. We are right in the throes now of one of the greatest destructions that has ever taken place among God’s people, and He is going to clean up not only the Priesthood, but the Church, also.

I am greatly concerned over these things, my dear brethren, greatly concerned, because I know what the Lord requires of His people. I want to tell you, the first thing that is going to take place is the cleaning up of the Priesthood Council. I want to tell these men on the stand--Brother J. Marion Hammon, and Brother Alma Adelbert Timpson, that from now

on, I am throwing you off my back, and I am not going to carry you any more.

This work has got to go! It has got to go on, and we have got to go as the Lord has ordained for us to go. Brother Jeffs read it to you here tonight what God expects of us.

This whole earth of ours, this land as well as the air we breathe has got to be cleaned up.

My dear brethren, I have done something tonight that has greatly weighed upon my mind for some time, but it had to be done, for this Gospel of Jesus Christ has got to be cleaned up so that the work of God can go on. Now, I don’t wish to say anymore. I’m not able to stand before you for very long at a time. But I ask God’s blessings upon all of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 26, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My eyesight doesn’t allow me to see who is here and who is not here, but I ask the Lord to put into my mouth the things that I should say to this people, for I know that we are living in a time when great stress covers the earth. I know what the Lord has promised us that He would do--would have to do--in order to accomplish His work. I know those times are upon our heels right now. I know that this Gospel is true, my brothers and sisters. I know that Jesus is the Christ, although we have had men stand up and tell us that we are not Christians anymore, but you will find out that we are deeply indebted to Jesus the Christ.

I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that he bore testimony to the truthfulness of the mission of Jesus the Christ. Because of his faithfulness, he was called upon to establish the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and because of his faithfulness to do what the Lord told him to do, it cost him his life.

Today, we are called upon to prepare ourselves for that which is to come. I hope that we can make the grade, that we can draw out of this great Church that Joseph organized enough of the young people and the middle-aged to accomplish the work that he was called upon to do at one time--to redeem Zion. The redemption of Zion is just around the corner. The Lord is not pleased with how things are going, but still the responsibility is upon our shoulders to do the things that He asked Joseph to do, and that is to prepare enough young and middle-aged men and women to accomplish His labors.

As long as the Lord blesses me with health and strength, I will try to do what He has asked me to do. This is not a pleasant position for men to wish they were in, but I have been called upon to stand in this position that I hold. I am

under the necessity of doing what I can to accomplish the labors that are upon my shoulders. I want you to know that I love all of you. There isn't a person here today that I don't have a feeling go out to them that I would reach out and do what I could to lead them back to Zion, for I am speaking to an audience of young and middle-aged people.

I have been laboring the last few days trying to ward off another attack of the flu. It hurts me to speak, so I am going to give way. But I want this people to know that what I try to do is the will of the Lord. Now, I pray His blessings to be upon you, each and everyone, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 4, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am grateful to stand before you today, and I hope that the few words I speak the Lord will dictate to me so that the same spirit that has been exhibited here before me will continue. I am grateful for the day in which we live. I remember years ago in talking to some of my brethren--Brother John Y. Barlow was one of them--I made the remark that I hoped the time would come when the word of the Lord could come through my mouth like it does other people's. Brother Barlow said, "Don't worry, the time will come when you will speak as a man having authority." I hope that time is about to come--when I can talk and command my words and have them dictated to me by the Spirit of God that all things that we partake of might be according to His will and wisdom.

I am moved upon today to say a little to you that might encourage you to keep on going to round out your salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord, for He is looking now at this Priesthood He has here to prepare a people for the great Millennial work that is about to be ushered in.

The reason I speak this way is because I know our time is short. There are many happenings to take place between now and when the call comes for us to go back and build the city. That land has got to be cleaned up. Brigham Young, at one time, made a statement like this, that when we go back to Jackson County to redeem Zion there won't be as much as a yellow dog to wag its tail in our way. So there has got to be a lot of cleaning up done, and this is going on right today.

The Lord has said that there would be earthquakes in diverse places; there would be hailstorms to destroy the crops; there would be windstorms and other methods of destruction that would take place until the earth is empty of its inhabitants. So this has all got to transpire within the next few years.

Our time is not very far off. It might vary a little. It might vary a year or so, but even at that, our time is very short to make the preparation that we have got to make. So it behooves every person here to see to it that he does nothing more than keep the commandments of God. We haven't time for foolishness any longer.

You young men, boys, and girls that think you are smart --doing smart things to cause disharmony among our people--I want you to stop long enough to listen to what the Lord tells you over the pulpit, to straighten up your lives so that you can be counted in the great army that has got to go back to the land where the Lord has designated that Zion will be built up.

I am grateful for the great preparation that is being made among our young boys in crafts--in building houses--in building cabinets and all other kinds of crafts that can be used in the building of a city. We want our boys to be among those who are most efficient in these things. If you have an opportunity to learn a trade, learn it and learn it good. If you have an opportunity to excel in woodwork, excel in it, and give the Lord the credit for it, for He is the one that guides our hands when we are working. It is by His power that we walk from one place to another. It is by His power that we are able to saw a straight line or use a plane in a straight and pleasing way.

I am grateful to the Lord for the privilege of being able to stand before you for a few moments today. He is blessing me in a marvelous way. I am not a well man yet, but each day I can see a little advancement in my strength, in my voice, and in my ability to fight off the diseases that are going forth among us. I hope that the Lord will bless us with wisdom, knowledge and understanding and let us accomplish the labors here before us. I pray for these things in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 11, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I'm grateful to the Lord for the blessing of health that He has given me at this time. I pray that He will bless me with words that I might instruct this people according to His will, for I only want His will to be done in all things. I'm grateful for the way that He has preserved my voice and preserved my body over the past few years. I've been down with a terrible siege of disability for five long years now. I don't know how much longer I'll be called upon to suffer.

I only want to encourage this people to keep on striving to prepare themselves against the day of visitation when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked. I know there are great and terrible things coming in order to bring about the purposes of God in the earth in the next few years. I know that the words of the Savior to the Nephite people when He visited them are true. You'll find it recorded in Third Nephi. While He was giving instructions to the Nephite people, He told them about the great destructions that will come forth among the people at His second coming, or just before the great Millennial Reign. He says there will be a city built called the New Jerusalem. A temple will be built, and the remnant of Jacob, all who will come and repent, will be invited to come and take part in it. This is what we are striving to get our people to realize--that we are eligible for the great Millennial Reign if we will repent and prepare ourselves to be.

The Lord tried to get the people to carry on the teachings of the Prophet Joseph, but we know what took place in his day, he was taken away. The Lord said that His work would have to wait a little longer. Now we are trying to keep alive that which the Lord gave to the Prophet Joseph. We are trying our best to prepare a people for the thousand years of peace that has been promised throughout the generations of time. All the

holy prophets in ancient times looked forward to it. Time is getting shorter everyday, and our opportunity to be prepared for that which is to come is getting shorter everyday. So let's get our thinking straight. Let's get on our knees and begin to pray night and day for deliverance from the evil powers of this time, that we might be permitted to enjoy those great and glorious times that the Lord has promised to the faithful saints in the latter days.

Let us listen to what is being told to us from day to day, from time to time by those whose right it is to teach and train people for the great and glorious day of the Millennial Reign. Let's listen to them. Let's don't think for a minute that they are not telling the truth, because the Lord's word has never failed. When He has promised a condition to come upon a people, it has come, sooner or later. These conditions will come upon us sooner or later, and if we are not prepared for them, what are we going to do? Who are we going to blame?

Let's take heart. As long as the Lord will bless us with wisdom, knowledge and understanding, let's take heart, and "Come out of her, O ye, my people," as the prophets have said. "Come out of her, and be not partakers of her sins." So, let's get our thinking straight and get our feet under us squarely. Let's walk the line of righteousness. Let's clean up our lives and our determinations to serve God and keep His commandments, that we might be able to round out a salvation that will be pleasing unto Him.

Let's be found praying night and day for deliverance from the evils that are around us, that we might be found guiltless when He comes to make up His jewels. I pray that God will bless us with wisdom and knowledge and understanding in all the things that we undertake to do to clean up our lives. Let's become clean every whit, and when we're called up in the solemn

assembly we will be worthy of the endowment that He has for us. You'll find it recorded in the Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith that we must become "clean every whit" before we are worthy of an endowment. So let's do that. Let's overcome our weaknesses and imperfections. This is a great audience of people that I'm talking to today--mostly young people. There are not many old people among us. So you don't have a lot of time to make up your mind that you are not going to do another thing that would displease our Father in heaven. Then He might be able to round up a body of young men when the time comes to go and do His work.

I said here before that we need men who are skilled in all arts of workmanship. So let's hasten to prepare ourselves. You young boys, cease to be idle. Be diligent in trying to train yourselves to be doing something that is valuable to you and that you can be proud of when the call comes, and you can say, "I'm prepared to do this work." Let's have a body of young men, young women that are prepared to carry off the work of God in these last days. This is a call that the Lord has called us to do. Now let's see if we can do it! Let's let the call go out to all young men and women who want to prepare themselves against the day of visitation when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked. I humbly pray for these things in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 8, 1984, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I only want to speak the words that the Lord places in my mouth, because I am not capable of speaking any other tongue at this time. I hope that the Lord will bless me while I stand before you and talk to you this afternoon.

The Lord is kind to us, my brothers and sisters, to bring us out and let us hear the testimonies of the elders and what He has for us to do to carry on our preparation for that which He has to take us through. I can see the Lord's hand stretched out to protect His saints. If we will only avail ourselves of this opportunity, then we can lay some claim upon protection when these great calamities come upon the earth.

We find recorded in the Doctrine & Covenants something like this. When the disciples of Christ were upon the mount with Him, He told them of the great calamities that would come upon the people in the latter days if they didn't repent of their sins. Speaking to the Gentile nations of the earth, He said that no man knows the hour or the time when these things shall come, but "In My house shall it begin." And it will be carried from there to the other nations of the earth. We are living in that time now.

He said in another place, "Stand ye in holy places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest." He has provided these guideposts to let us know when these things are taking place in our day. His promise to Enoch and his people was that when the seventh period of time came about, He would let the earth rest for a thousand years. We are just about to the ushering in of the seventh period of time. The only safe places we have, my dear brothers and sisters, are our dedicated homes. When they have been dedicated, let's keep them in a dedicated condition. If there comes a time when these homes have been desecrated, then is the time for you to have them dedicated again. Let us keep

them in a dedicated condition at all times, so we can lay some claim upon the Lord for His protection. I am grateful for the privileges that the Lord has given us to obtain these great and wonderful blessings, especially in this day and hour.

The Lord said again, “With great windstorms, hailstorms, and great flooding of the earth and great disasters in all parts of the earth will I sweep the wicked from off the earth that the righteous might have a chance to perform their work when I come again.” I don’t believe that there will be a time in our lives that we will see wickedness completely off the face of the earth, for I understand that after the great Millennium is ushered in, the Lord will commence His great missionary work in carrying the Gospel to all the different tribes of Israel who have been taken away and give those who have not had a chance, who are living at that time, a chance to have their work done, so that our genealogy can be kept in a way that God can perform His great and glorious work of redeeming our dead relatives.

My dear brothers and sisters, I have stood here as long as I can stand, so I will close my remarks by saying, God bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 15, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I trust that the Lord will put into my mouth the words that He would like me to say, because I don't want anything to go on in this meeting unless it is by His will. I am grateful to Him for the privilege of being here. Since I spoke to you before, I have been quite ill. It seems as though the Lord sees to it that I get strength enough to come to the stand when it is necessary for me to be here.

We are living in a day that all the prophets throughout history have looked forward to as a time that they would like to live and be partakers of the blessings of that time. We are here and in the midst of it, and now it is up to us to perform our work as well as they performed theirs, so that they might not be left wanting for the things to transpire that they thought would transpire at this time. It is going to take men with backbone, with nerves of steel and constitutions of iron to be able to stand the great things that the Lord will bring to pass in order to convince the people that Jesus is the Christ and that it is our duty to serve Him and keep His commandments.

I am looking forward to a time when there will be more people upon this land than there are today, and they will be those who can be converted that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God, and that we have carried on the work thus far. I look for great changes to take place in the surface of our great country here and especially where the Latter-day Saints--members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints--are situated. They have got to come to a knowledge of the fact that they have broken the law and they have to suffer for the wrong they have done. I don't know how that is going to come about. I only hope that I can live so that the Lord can bless me with words of wisdom and knowledge and with understanding so that the people can be brought to a point where

they will be able to stand up under any circumstance that might be brought upon them. We are here and we have the Priesthood of the living God, and now we have the opportunity to show the Lord that we do believe Him and that we are determined to show by our actions that we do believe Him. He has said that He would take the young and middle-aged and redeem Zion. We have a great many young people. We have a great many young boys. We have a great many young girls. I hope that we can instill into their hearts the fact that they must learn to love their fathers and mothers and honor them so that they can be counted in that body of young and middle-aged.

I will be glad when the time comes that I can stand up here by myself and speak like I would like to speak. It seems like the Lord has arranged it so that when I speak, I have to speak for only a few moments and encourage the people to keep on striving to clean up their lives, their minds, their bodies, that He might have a clean and pure people to accomplish His work of the redemption of Zion.

Not very long ahead of us, we are going to be called upon to go through experiences that will bring us to our knees and let us know that the Lord has spoken in our day, that He has given us plenty of warning to straighten up our lives and to accept His word as it was given through the Prophet Joseph, and as it has been handed down to us through a true and faithful line of Priesthood. I hope that we will be able to stand under any condition that the Lord might bring upon this people.

I don’t wish to speak any longer at this time, but I ask the Lord to bless each and everyone of us, especially the young and middle-aged boys and girls and give them the Spirit of God. Let it settle upon them that they might be protected in this day and hour in which we live, for I believe that we have among us some of the most choice spirits that have ever come to

the earth, and it is up to the parents to teach them correctly, teach them correct principles. I want to see the women, the mothers of these children, do all they can to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers, their faithful fathers, so that they can be properly brought up and tutored and trained for the great work ahead.

Now, I pray that God will bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 6, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am certainly pleased to be here this afternoon, my brothers and sisters, and I pray that the Lord will be merciful to me and put words in my mouth that I might say something that will be encouraging to you people.

I have been very much interested in the testimonies of these young men that have been called upon to bear their testimonies today. I, too, have a testimony of this great work the Lord has called upon us to perfect. I know that Jesus is the Christ. I know that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God and those who followed in his footsteps--Brigham Young, John Taylor--were men of God. They were prophets of God. They tried to keep alive the Gospel that the Lord gave to the Prophet Joseph and told him to establish in the earth. And he was told to preach nothing but repentance and preparation to this Gentile nation.

I wondered throughout my life many times why it was that the Lord told the first elders to go out and preach nothing but repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ--repentance of their sins and baptism for the remission of their sins. Why didn't they teach more than this to them? But I find throughout my experiences here in this life that this is an individual work. This is a work that no man can follow unless he has a desire to do something about his salvation by keeping the commandments that the Lord has given to the earlier prophets of teaching repentance and preparation. This means a lot! It means a lot to me.

Somewhere in the scriptures we are told to read all good books and hold fast to that which is good. That has been one of the things that has brought me to the place where I am today. I sought throughout my life to read all good books that I could get hold of that pertained to my eternal salvation, for that was taught to me by my father. He said something like this, Whenever you read a book, read something that will encourage you

to become like your Father in heaven, something that will bring you along and help you to overcome your weaknesses and imperfections, for these are the things that you have got to comply with in your life--the remission of your sins and your faults and failings--and apply to your life the teachings of Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith and the elders of Israel who were called and instructed to go out and preach the Gospel to the nations of the earth.

We can have the Gospel taught to us, but it is going to take something within ourselves to get us to do something about it and to do something about preparing ourselves for the day of visitation when God is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked.

When Christ met with His apostles and they saw that He was about to ascend again to His Father in heaven, they wanted to know what would be the condition surrounding His second coming. He told them, “No man knows the day or the hour, not even the angels in heaven, but when you see these things I have been telling you about coming to pass, you can tell that it is about time for My appearance again.” Or words to that effect.

Today we are living in the day that Christ was telling the apostles to look for--when great tribulation covers the earth, when great windstorms, rainstorms, hail storms and winds, high winds begin to wipe the people off the earth--then you can commence to look for His coming. So what have you been hearing lately that is going on across our great nation? Earthquakes and great floods, sickness and disease will wipe away the people until they are all gone.

This is what we are trying to prepare our people against, to prepare our people that they might know and realize that in order to command the blessings of God upon us, we have got to do something about preparing our lives the best way we can--overcoming our weaknesses and imperfections, living pure

lives so that the Lord will be pleased to bless us when He pours out His judgments upon those around us.

So we can see the necessity of this cleaning up; not only our people, but all the people of the earth are going to find that God means what He says when He says He will clean the wickedness off the earth and prepare the earth for a Millennial Reign, or for a thousand years of peace that He has promised to all the prophets throughout the ages of time.

Now, I don’t feel to say anymore, but I ask God’s blessings to be upon you, each and everyone, and especially you young people. Cease to do evil and cause things to transpire that hadn’t ought to in our midst, but seek to be monitors for the Lord and see to it that we don’t spend another day antagonizing those who rule over us.

I pray that God will bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

REMARKS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 10, 1984,
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF THE ALTA ACADEMY,
HOME OF PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS,
SANDY, UTAH

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for having this wonderful opportunity. I have been greatly interested in the exercises that we have heard here this morning. I couldn't help but think that throughout the generations of time like assemblies as we have here today have been held. Take Adam's time and the holy prophets that lived in his day, they taught the same doctrine that has been taught to these little children. Take Enoch's time, he taught the same doctrine that has been taught to these children in this time. Noah did the same thing during his administration.

We can follow it right on down through the annals of the prophets from the beginning of time until now--that these same principles that will save the people in one age of time will save the people in another age of time. We are now winding up, doing the words of our Father in heaven wherein He said, "My work is one eternal round," and what will save a man in one period of time will save him in this period of time, or any other period of time as we go on through life.

I would like to have the strength to stand and talk as long as the Lord would permit me to talk, but I have to give way because of my condition. I want you to know, my brothers and sisters, that this has been a wonderful time for me, these exercises today.

Now, I pray that God will bless each and everyone of you, and I do it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 13, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am glad to be here, my dear brothers and sisters, and to hear what I have heard. I am glad I have a testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am glad for the privilege the Lord has given me of working in His work and trying to arrange my life so that when I go home I can go home in honor before him. That is what I have been trying to get before the people in all my sermons that I have preached. They haven't been long sermons; they have been short, but I have done the best I could. I am not a man of many words. I can't stand up here and keep an audience completely satisfied for hours at a time, but I do try to come before you in a humble position. I trust that the Lord will put words in my mouth today that might be of some good to some of you.

We are living in a time when the Lord is winding up His work--His work among the Gentile nations of the earth. He is about to usher in a time of peace upon the earth for a period of a thousand years. This is what I have been trying in my weak way to get before the people--the responsibilities that are upon their shoulders to do something about their salvation while they live here. We are told in the scriptures that this is the time to prepare to meet our God--while we live. After I have lived my life and gone back to my Maker, I won't have a chance to go through this life again. Neither will you, or anyone else. It is while you are living upon the earth today that you have an opportunity to prepare yourself for an eternal salvation, which the Lord has promised to the faithful.

It isn't the mistakes I have made in my life that are going to save you, but it is the good I have done that enters into the picture. If I can do some good one day after another and people can see it, then I am doing something. If I can set an example of living in peace and harmony, then it is worthy of

emulation by my neighbors, and so forth. I want to say further that the Lord is fast drawing His work to a close as far as the Gentile nations are concerned. They are going to have to move over now and make a place for a righteous generation to live and to operate and set an example for the world to live by for a thousand years, and then His Gospel will go on at the commencement of the year 2000.

There has got to be a lot of work done. A temple has got to be built. A city has got to be built, called the New Jerusalem. The Lord has plainly told us in the Book of Mormon that after this city is built and this temple is built, then the work of the Father will commence in carrying the fullness of the Gospel to all the nations of the earth, including those who have been taken away as was Enoch and the Ten tribes of Israel and others that have been taken away with a part of this earth. They will have to come back and take their places and receive their blessings. Those who live will come back with them, and we are going to see upon this continent a different generation of people.

So what is our work to do among the Gentiles? Our work is to gather out the faithful, preach the word of God to them--faith, repentance and baptism for the remission of sins and the laying on of hands for the gifts of the Holy Ghost. These are the first principles of the Gospel.

We have to be converted first that Jesus is the Christ, then we have to go through the waters of baptism and be baptized for the remission of our sins. Then we have got to prepare ourselves for this other great work that the Lord has promised to us that would go on and on and on.

Now, I don’t wish to speak any longer, but I want to encourage you to keep on preparing yourselves for an eternal salvation and to learn the first great commandment--Love the Lord

thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength; and the second is like unto it--Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the Gospel. I would like you to remember that and commence to overcome your weaknesses and imperfections. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS, MAY 13, 1984,
COLORADO CITY ARIZONA

President Johnson asked me to speak today as long as the Spirit dictates. I pray for that Spirit and hope he will pray for me. I desire with all my heart to do and say only that which is dictated by the Spirit of God from him to me. He has that Holy Spirit of God, the spirit of revelation, with him all the time. That's my faith and confidence in him. He is my head, and I desire to serve and be one with him as he is one with God. Could I ask more?

So we may understand a few things, brothers and sisters, that have been spoken of by our President in his sermons; let me remind you that you and I will be judged out of those books. He has said so.

(Teachings of Joseph Smith, p. 97)

> "Another parable put Jesus forth saying, [which parable has an allusion to the setting up of the Kingdom in that age of the world also], The Kingdom of Heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field, but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also; so the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence, then, hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. (Remember that!) Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."

The Prophet applied this parable which has application in our time to the large review by saying:

> "Now we learn by this parable, not only the setting up of the Kingdom in the days of the Savior, which is represented by the good seed, which produced fruit, but also the corruptions of the Church, which are represented by the tares, which were sown by the enemy, which His disciples would fain have plucked up, or cleansed the Church of, if their views had been favored by the Savior. But He, knowing all things, says, Not so. As much as to say, your views are not correct, the Church is in its infancy, (Remember that!) and if you take this rash step, you will destroy the wheat, or the Church, with the tares; therefore, it is better to let them grow together until the harvest, or the end of the world, which means the destruction of the wicked."

And that has an application to our time, which President Johnson has warned us of. And the wicked shall be destroyed and swept off from the face of this land of Joseph, or North and South America, to make room for the return of Israel, the ten tribes, the City of Enoch, and a division from the days of Peleg. Let me go back a little.

> "As much as to say, your views are not correct and if you take this rash step, you will destroy the wheat with the tares; therefore it is better to let them grow together until the harvest, (That's where we are, both as to the history of the world and the work of the Kingdom of God.) or the end of the world, which

> means the destruction of the wicked, which is not yet fulfilled, as we shall show hereafter, in the Savior's explanation of the parable, which is so plain that there is no room left for dubiety upon the mind, notwithstanding the cry of the priests--"parables, parables! figures, figures! mystery, mystery! all is mystery!"
>
> But we find no room for doubt here, as the parables were all plainly elucidated."

This has an application to the days of Joseph and from him on down through to the present day under Leroy S. Johnson. In 1886, John Taylor, a third from Joseph, holding the keys of power, was visited by the Lord Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith, Junior. An order of Priesthood and apostleship was set up to keep alive that which was about to be destroyed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints--the Celestial and Holy Law of Marriage. Men were ordained after the Holy Order and put under covenant to keep alive this glorious and highest principle of the Gospel in connection with Holy United Order, which must be lived under that Holy Order of Marriage.

Contemplating that a delusion would be given to the Church, which would be accepted by them--they were doing away with the practice of Celestial and Plural Marriage--John Taylor provided a group of men placed under covenant, John W. Woolley, Lorin C. Woolley, George Q. Cannon, Charles Morrell, Samuel Bateman, and Joseph F. Smith. These men had to go underground after the signing of the Manifesto.

The marriage of my father and mother, a plural marriage, was performed during those days; 1908, March 2nd, Father took a third wife, and they had to go underground, but my father stayed true to his covenants, and he vouchsafed them

to me in 1938. After he came from the underground, serving faithfully in the Church again, he sent me on a mission. That's how things were in those days--the days of John W. and Lorin C. Woolley, who survived all of those men. Two left, and they began to talk and teach. In the meantime, they were continuing to perform sealings under the Celestial Law, seeing that children were born under that covenant, which was made to the effect that they should do so until the coming of Christ in glory.

John and Lorin called others to this order of the Priesthood by the revelations of God. Among them, I just as well name them all, Leslie Broadbent, John Y. Barlow, Joseph W. Musser, Charles Zitting, LeGrande Woolley, and Louis Kelsch. John and Lorin Woolley sowed the good seed in coming forth with the fullness of the Gospel in the late twenties and early thirties of this century, John W. Woolley having presided as the one man from 1887 until 1928. These and others were designated to fill up the Priesthood Council.

Let us remember that Jesus chose twelve, one of whom would betray him. And so, in Joseph Smith's day, twelve were called. Half of them apostatized within three years, apostles of Jesus Christ, chosen and ordained by the Prophet Joseph Smith and the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon. Joseph had to cut those men off. They were called by the voice of God through the Prophet. Half of them, at least, apostatized in 1837 or around that time. Brigham Young had to deal with twelve apostles of whom he was president, and he had to chastise and correct them. He made the statement that he had not been able to get them together and united in thirty-two years. If I'm not mistaken, he didn't even have them together for the last thirteen years of his administration.

Being ordained an apostle doesn't make a man infallible or immune to apostasy. Well, to bring it down to our time and

this Council that was set up by John W. and Lorin C. Woolley. They sowed the good seed, and while they slept--or when Lorin was ill--the 1880 Revelation of Wilford Woodruff was brought forth by Leslie Broadbent and Joseph W. Musser and published as the word of God. This was the sowing of the tares.

I speak now from what has been told me by President Johnson, and I feel to speak by good authority when I speak. Joseph Musser was told not to publish the 1880 Revelation anymore, and when it came out again in part in January of 1940, John Y. Barlow, who had given that instruction, took Roy Johnson up here to Salt Lake, met with Joseph. John said to Joseph, "Why did you do it?" when they came into his office. Roy Johnson was not ordained yet. This was in 1940, early, but John could only rely on Roy Johnson to bring him up here; others begged off. John and Joseph went into Joseph's office. What they had to say wasn't revealed to me, but afterward, Joseph continued to publish the 1880 Revelation--the Four Hidden Revelations and all its parts in the Priesthood Issue. That one in 1940 was what brought it to a head between John and Joseph, but John did not have anything done about it. This work was in its infancy, and to have plucked out the tares then may have destroyed the work. So it was put to silence as far as John Y. Barlow is concerned. He wanted to live to correct it, but he said Leroy Johnson would have to do it at the proper time and in the due time of God.

So, on March 18, 1978, the Lord told Leroy Johnson to correct some very serious things that had been said over this pulpit and the one in Salt Lake, part of which I played on a tape to you folks the last time I was here, put out by Alfred Olschewski.

So now, we are in the day of the harvest. The tares are being plucked up. President Johnson has been required to act by the Lord by handling those who are clinging on to that 1880

Revelation and trying to destroy the revelations of God through Joseph Smith, Junior, in particular, Section 132, verse seven.

> "There is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power (the sealing power) and the keys of the this priesthood are conferred."

President Johnson has called these men to account for changing the word of God. The tares are being plucked up, and we are at the very place of the great destructions that are coming upon the wicked, which must be swept off the face of this land. Some of the worst and greatest are going to take place in Salt Lake Valley. You will see them soon, and its almost too late to repent in order to be protected from these destructions, these forces that are going to be brought to bear and are increasing in the land from east to west on these two continents--earthquakes, floods, lightning, hail, and all the rest, but above all, an overflowing scourge, a desolating sickness, a desolating sickness! And other desolations, He says, in Section 45 and 112.

I have it on good authority that the Doctrine & Covenants has been repudiated as applying only to the people in their day, the days of Joseph.

Brother Johnson said I could go on for an hour if I wanted. Do you want to hear the rest? Sometimes it isn't well to say some things under certain conditions, but I think it's time we heard this.

Jesus, talking to his disciples, the twelve, who were asking when would he come again, spoke thus:

(D.& C. 45:28-38)

> "And when the times of the Gentiles has come in a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fulness of my Gospel;

But they receive it not; for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men.

And in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

(Brother Johnson told me that was done in 1890. The Gospel was now to Israel, the Jews.)

And there shall be men standing in that generation, that shall not pass until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land.

But my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die.

And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations. (Do you know what a desolation is? Complete destruction!) Yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword one against another, and they will kill one another.

And now, when I, the Lord, had spoken these words unto my disciples, they were troubled.

And I said unto them: Be not troubled, for when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled.

And when the light shall begin to break forth, it shall be with them like unto a parable which I will show you.

> Ye look and behold the fig trees and ye see them with your eyes, and ye say when they begin to shoot forth and their leaves are yet tender that summer is now nigh at hand.
>
> Even so, it shall be in that day when they shall see all these things, then shall they know that the hour is nigh."

President Johnson has told us here and in Salt Lake that the first thing that had to be cleaned up was the Priesthood Council and the House of God. Section 112 speaks of that.

(Doctrine & Covenants, Section 112:24-26)

> "Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind, it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.
>
> And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord;
>
> First among those of you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, (Does that ring a bell?) and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord." (Does that ring a bell?)

From there, it shall go forth to the Church of Jesus Christ, of which we are true members, whether they like it or not, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Because they have blasphemed in the midst of His house, they are going to be destroyed first, and the judgments will take place in

concentration in the areas where the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is established.

I hope I am not saying more than I should, but these are the words of Leroy S. Johnson, for whom I'm glad to be a spokesman. He has said, lately, that it's almost too late to repent and clean up and become pure in heart. It takes time. If we are guilty of the least of these commandments, we are guilty of the whole, saith the scriptures.

Now, I don't want to take anymore time, brothers and sisters, but these things have been revealed to me through the Prophet and through the Holy Spirit of God which has confirmed it. And I pass it on to you, praying God to have mercy on our souls, that we may be found standing in holy places where God may be justified in protecting us. These are the words of our prophet of which you will take notice, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 20, 1984, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am grateful to be here, my brothers and sisters, and bear my testimony along with these other brethren. I have been very much interested in what has been said this afternoon. I am very much concerned about the salvation of our Father's children, and especially those who are now coming forth in the earth in the lineage of my own father; for I realize to a small extent the importance of our coming to this earth and living out our probation before our Father in heaven in obedience to the things that He created us for. I trust that the Lord will bless me with understanding and bless me this afternoon while I speak that I may speak what He dictates to me.

I have been out of the pulpit for a long while now, but I haven't been idle during this time. My mind has been busy thinking upon the things of eternal life. I have come to the conclusion that all men and women have an obligation toward their Father in heaven. It is my impression that before I came to this probation of my existence that I was taught the principles of eternal salvation. I agreed to come here and do the best I could in order to comply with the requirements of the Lord in my time, and that is to come here and obtain a body, purify it and bring it back with me that it might be sanctified, glorified and purified--a tabernacle for me to go on with throughout the rest of my existence, and nobody knows the end thereof.

The Lord showed the old prophet Moses, when He had him upon the mount, the generations of time through the end thereof. He said to Moses, "All these I have created, but only of this earth upon which you stand will I tell thee."

Now, we have been told, or we have been led to believe, that in order to get back to our Father, we would have to be obedient, as has been told us today, to the things our Father gives us--the commandments of God. In order to do this, we have

to have a spirit upon us desiring to obtain the end that God has offered to us. Those who come here and take their bodies and then think they are here for a good time and go out and do the ways of the Gentiles, live out their probation here and close their lives in a worldly glorification are going to be greatly surprised when they get over on the other side and find that they must be destroyed.

I don’t want to be destroyed. I want to go on. I have had time to think it over. My time, in the last five or six years, has not been idle, although I have been on the bed the greatest portion of this time--but my mind has been alert, and I understand to some extent the importance of bringing up a people, teaching a people to serve God, keeping His commandments, and preparing ourselves for a glorious resurrection.

Now I want to leave my blessings with this people and bear testimony that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that the Priesthood has been handed down to us in a glorious way that it might be protected, and we have it with us today. If we want to be glorified in the Kingdom of our Father, then we have a job to do to work out our salvation.

I pray that God will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and with a determination to serve Him and keep His commandments, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 3, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

We had a wonderful feast this afternoon. I trust that the Lord will put in my mouth the words that He would like me to say. The first thing I would like to do is call your attention to the fact that school is out now. We have a body of young boys who we have tried to control throughout the years. We want to keep up this controlling program. So I would like to call upon the parents of these preschool boys and these boys that are out of school now and on their own to roam around the town to come forward with your boys. We would like those who want to join in this boy program to do so, and we would like the parents to cooperate with us in this wonderful program.

My mind today has been wandering back to the beginning. The Lord is a man of His word. He has always done what He has said He would do. He told the old Prophet Noah to call the people to repentance; and if they wouldn't repent, the Lord would have to destroy them. After Noah had preached for a long while and they paid no attention to him but laughed at his teachings, the Lord told him to build an ark, and He, the Lord, would destroy the inhabitants of the earth. So Noah built an ark and a few people got into it. When the floods began to come, then the Lord fulfilled His word with Noah. He cleaned the people off the earth.

We come on down a little farther, and the record tells us that during the days of the Nephites, Samuel the Lamanite got upon the wall of the city and called the people to repentance. He told them that there would be a Christ come in four hundred years. He set the time for it. And what happened? In four hundred years, Christ came, and this continent was almost shaken to pieces. We are told in the history that after this great destruction took place upon this continent, the rocks were found in seams, which we see in these mountains today. There is

nothing solid that we can see with our eyes. Once in a while we can see a ledge of rock that seems to be solid, but if you get close to it, you will find seams here and there. The Lord kept His word with the Lamanite Prophet--in four hundred years, this great destruction came.

Then the Lord made another prophecy. When one of the apostles asked the Lord what would be the sign of His second coming, He said that there will be great destruction take place throughout the world--hail storms, rainstorms, high winds will destroy the people from time to time, and great destruction would take place among the people. Finally, a time would come in the seventh period of time, which has been set apart by the Gods as a day of rest for the earth which, according to our reckoning, commences in the year 2000.

At that time, great destruction will come upon the earth, and all the wicked will be swept off and only the righteous left. During that destruction, we are told, two will be working at the mill, one will be taken and the other left. Two will be walking along the road, one will be taken and the other left, and so forth. We have all read these scriptures and know what they say. They are recorded in our books, the Three-In-One, the Doctrine & Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, and the Book of Mormon. You will find in there that this time is right upon us now.

We are only about sixteen years from the year 2000. So let us not underestimate what the Lord has told us. Let us get down to business and prepare ourselves against the day of visitation which is the day of destruction that the Lord has pronounced upon this generation of people--the Gentiles.

I would like you to get down to business. Be humble; pray night and day for deliverance. And let us be prepared as the Lord has asked us to do, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 17, 1984, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Brothers and sisters, I am very grateful to the Lord for the way He has brought me along and allowed me to be here today and to conduct these services. I hope we can draw in the wanderings of our minds and be instructed today. Our opening song will be “Redeemer of Israel.”

I am grateful, brothers and sisters, for the testimony I have of the Gospel, for I have had time to think things over. I have had time to think whether I have done my work well, and I have come to the conclusion that I have at least pleased the Lord a little. I have followed the example of my elders--those who have led me along--my father and my mother in my early life, presidents of stakes, bishops of wards as I have grown along and traveled from one place to another.

The Lord blessed me for the devotion that I showed to President Barlow when I met up with him. The first time I was introduced to him by one of our faithful elders, Brother Isaac Carling, he took a hold of my hand, and while he yet held it, turned to Joseph Musser and said, “Here is a man we can tie to.” I didn’t know what he meant by this, but I made it a point that he never called upon me to do a thing but what I went forth and did it. It has been a great strength to me to think that I had the fortitude of being obedient thus far to those who ruled over me. I would like to see you people do the same thing--be capable of showing forth the spirit of love and kindness toward one another in your determination to serve God and keep His commandments.

I want to bear testimony to you that we are living in the day that Christ spoke of in Third Nephi in the Book of Mormon when He was speaking of the redemption of Zion. In the beginning of time, the old prophet Enoch left the earth and took his people with him. How I would have liked to have lived in that day when he was gathering his people together.

But, we have a work to do now! I realize that the Lord has placed upon my shoulders a work similar to that of Enoch, to gather a people together and teach them the principles of salvation, and to tutor them in a way that they can be used in the redemption of Zion.

A city has got to be built, a temple built, and all this done before Zion can be redeemed, and then the redeeming process will begin. The Savior told the Nephites that at that time the work of the Father would begin in carrying the Gospel to the tribes of Israel and all the lost tribes that have been carried away; and then the work of the Father would begin in carrying the Gospel to the nations of the earth.

We have been told many times in the scriptures that the Jews would be the last of the House of Israel to be gathered out. In the beginning, when Cain killed his brother, Abel, the Lord came to him, chastised him for his wickedness and placed a curse upon him, a black skin, and told him that his children would be the last of all God's children to receive the Priesthood.

When I heard the revelation on giving the Priesthood to the Negro by Spencer W. Kimball, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, wherein it was reported to me that he said that he sat on one side of the table and the Lord sat on the other side of the table and told him what to write and he wrote it, I knew that President Kimball was not able to discern whether it was the Lord or the devil he was serving.

Now, the judgments of God have started, as God told Peter they would. They started in God's House. He says, "In My House shall it begin." Six years ago, it started in the House of God. He cleaned up His Priesthood, and now He is commencing His judgment against the Latter-day Saints.

I pray that we will draw in the wanderings of our minds and pay attention to the scriptures that we have. These words

that I have spoken are not mine, but they are the words of the prophets who have been upon the earth before me, and I am only reminding you of the things that must be done. I pray that God will bless you with life, health and strength and with power to overcome your weaknesses and imperfections and be prepared for that which is to come, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 23, 1984,
SATURDAY EVENING, CRESTON, B.C., CANADA

I want to thank all of you for this wonderful entertainment we have had. I have certainly enjoyed myself. I hope that the Lord will bless you and keep you in the hollow of His hand. Whatever comes or whatever transpires, I hope that the Lord will watch over and protect you. God bless you, amen.

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SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 24, 1984,
SUNDAY, 9:00 A.M. CRESTON, B.C.

I am grateful for the health and strength that I enjoy, for the privilege of being here today, and I ask the Lord to bless the words of my mouth that they might be in accordance with His mind and will, for I want to say nothing but what He would have me say.

The Lord has said--you will find it recorded in the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants--“What I have said, I have said, and I excuse not Myself.” And, “Whether it be by My own voice, or the voice of My servants, it is the same.” The Lord has taught us now for 6,000 years. He has been trying to teach us the Gospel, but we have paid little attention to it.

The things of God are understood by the Spirit of God, and if we get the Spirit of God and keep it with us, there is no reason why we should entertain any other spirit. The old prophet Jacob, in the Book of Mormon, gave us a parable of the olive tree, and I wish you people would get it and read it. Ask the Lord to bless you that you might understand it. It is one of the most beautiful descriptions of the Gospel of Christ throughout the generations of time--from Adam until the end of the world.

I love the Gospel. I love to read--when I have been able to read. I have worn out several books reading the Gospel,

and it has helped me wonderfully in these last few years of my life. If you will do the same thing, you will see the Gospel the same as I see it, but we have to do as Moroni said in the Book of Mormon, “Read these things and ask God to bless you that you might understand them, and He will bless you with an understanding.” This, I firmly believe.

The reason I have to stand like I am is because I am blind in one eye. I can see a little out of the other; but the Lord will heal me up one of these days, and I will be able to see the people as they are. I hope and pray that we will certainly realize that we are living in the last days. Heretofore, we have been asked to teach nothing but faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the gifts of the Holy Ghost. The Lord plainly tells us in the Doctrine & Covenants, “After the testimony of the elders, then I will preach My sermon.”

We are living in that day now. The elders have borne their testimonies to the Gentile nations, and the Lord now is preaching His sermon. He is pouring out His judgments upon the wicked. He has got to clean the earth up for a Millennial Reign. The Millennial Reign will start in a few years from now. The year 2000, according to our reckoning, is the time set by the Lord that the earth would rest and we would have a Millennial Reign, for that is the time set for the redemption of Zion. We must be prepared for the redemption of Zion so that we can be partakers of that blessing, for it is going to be a great and glorious blessing to live at that time.

I can’t stand very long at a time, so I will give way and ask the Lord to bless each and everyone of you and pour out His blessings upon you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 24, 1984,
SUNDAY, 2:00 P.M. CRESTON, B.C.

I want to say a few words more before I go. I don't know the day or the hour that the Lord's judgments are going to be such that we can't get together, but they are coming upon us. I want to invoke the Spirit of God upon me, because what I say I want to say because He put the words in my mouth.

The Lord has certainly blessed me through my sickness with a determination to serve Him and keep His commandments. He brought me along, built me up, and trained me for this day and hour, and I don't want to let Him down.

We are going to see these disasters continue throughout the land until the wicked are completely destroyed. I would like you to read Third Nephi--see what the Savior said was going to transpire, because His words are true and faithful, and we can depend upon them. At the present time, we can see them being fulfilled in our own land, in the United States and in this country, Canada, and the other nations of the earth.

The Lord has said, "Stand ye in holy places and watch the arm of the Lord made manifest." The only holy places we have are our dedicated homes. The Lord is very angry with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the way it has acted and operated throughout the last hundred years or more. Since the days of Brigham Young, they have rejected the Celestial Law. Not only that--when Wilford Woodruff signed the Manifesto, he not only signed away his rights to the Celestial Law, but he signed away his rights to the Priesthood, also. That being the case, what priesthood have they been operating under? They claim they have been operating under a priesthood. Read "The Coming Crisis and How to Meet it." It will tell you exactly who they have been serving and what has transpired in the last few years.

It is our place now to clean up our minds and get the Spirit of God and keep it, because the Spirit of God is the only

protection that we will have. The scriptures tell us that there will be two working at the mill; one will be taken and the other left. Two will be working in the field; one will be taken and the other left, and so forth. This is true. We will have to have the Spirit of God upon us enough to be caught up when the judgments of God go over the earth, then we will be let down again. That is the only way the Lord can protect His people. He says He will protect His saints if He has to send fire from heaven to do so; and this, He will do.

Now I pray God will bless you with wisdom, knowledge and understanding, and with the revelations of the Holy Ghost to guide and direct you throughout your lives and prepare you against that which is to come, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 11, 1984, SATURDAY, AT THE NEWEL STEED RANCH, WIDTSOE, UTAH

This has been a wonderful occasion. My heart is so full that I can hardly talk, but I will do the best I can.

My mind has gone back over the pages of time and what has happened to our people. In my perusal of the scriptures, I find in the Doctrine & Covenants where the Lord tried to set up the United Order, and He explained in detail how to do it. This was in 1830. By 1832, the Lord placed us under condemnation and said we would remain under condemnation until we repented. Here we are--a hundred years past--we are still under this condemnation. A little later on, He gave us another revelation. You will find it in Section 119, where He told the people that they were nigh unto cursing because they had still treated lightly that principle. He said that the least He would require of His people was one-tenth of their annual increase, and this would be a law unto the people as long as they lived.

I realize that several attempts have been made since that time to bring ourselves out from under the curse of a broken law, but we are still under that broken law; we are still laboring under it. There is only one thing left now for us to do before He accomplishes the great work of destroying the wicked upon this land and bringing to pass His promise throughout the ages of time to His people--that He would set aside the seventh period of time as a day of rest, a day of peace, when wickedness would be done away for a thousand years, and we would have a period of peace for that time. Now we are entering into the door of that day. We only have a few years left to accomplish anything about it.

Brigham Young, one time, made a statement something like this, “Until we get an instrument that lawyers cannot tear apart, we will have to continue under this broken law; we will never be able to come out from under it until we get an instrument that lawyers cannot pull to pieces.”

About fifty years ago, the Priesthood came and made a call to someone to offer a starting place for the preparation of the Millennial Reign. They chose the place of Short Creek to commence that great and glorious work. About a month ago, we made a call. We needed a lot of work done--a sewer system put in, the waterworks system, and we made a call for help. The way the people responded and came with their machinery and with their men and went to work on that job showed to me that this is the time when the Lord is trying to prepare a people for that great and glorious day--the Millennial Reign. They worked together without a word of criticism or complaint and finished that job. Not only that, but they did some more work for us. We have a storehouse going. We have a dairy that is equal to none. We are capable of producing a grade of milk that will make our children healthy and bring them up with the proper kind of milk to live on, but we have got to have help.

I am making a call now--another call. I am calling upon the men of this order of things, all who believe in the United Effort Plan, to come forth and help us push it on. We only have a little bit of land, but as time goes on, we might be able to add to it. We have got the instrument that lawyers cannot pull apart! Even criminal lawyers have studied it to try to bring us under persecution again, and now they won’t touch it. The lawyers say that they won’t touch the United Effort Plan in their evicting men and women from the property. They won’t touch it, for we have the whole right to do so, and we don’t have to give a cause for it. Every man that does not live according to the rules of the Order can be evicted. We have got the instrument now; let us push it forward with our monies, with our work, help, with our faith and in every way that is needful for the advancement of our community.

I have talked about as long as I can, so now I will have to quit. I pray the blessings of God to be upon this people, Brother Newel and his family, those who have gathered around him, and those who have gathered around the management of the United Effort Plan, those who will back it up and help to push it. The Lord will come to our rescue, and the evil powers will not have power to destroy us. I pray that the Lord will bless everyone who will offer their help and come forward. May God bless you all. I will have to quit talking. Amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 12, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I want you to know that I come before you today in deep humility, for I have been instructed by the heavenly influences to do what I am doing. I know for a surety what I am doing. I am not afraid to talk because I have the Lord of Israel behind me, and if there is anyone in this house who feels to oppose the work that I am doing in this place or the words I am speaking, I want them to get up and move out of the house and leave the Spirit of God in here. The Spirit of God is the spirit of peace, and I want the spirit of peace in this building today.

Now I won't say any more at the present time, but I will turn the time back to Uncle Fred.

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If I can get where I can see you a little better--I assure you, my brothers and sisters, that I am not here to scare you or to bring you anything new; for the Gospel I teach is as old as the Gospel of Christ. I am only taking up what was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and he didn't have the opportunity to go on with it. But it has got to go on now!

We were placed under condemnation in 1832, and the Lord has said that He will not be mocked. He said in Section 63, of the Doctrine & Covenants, words something like this: "In the latter days, I will not be mocked." And He will not be mocked! For He has said that His work is one eternal round and He does not step to the right nor to the left. He does not walk in crooked paths. What He has spoken, He has spoken, and He excuses not Himself. So, what I am trying to do is not new; it is as old as the Gospel.

The preparation for the great and glorious Millennium has got to be made. This little stone that Daniel saw cut out of

the mountain has started to roll, and I have been told to start it rolling. So that is why I speak to you today. I am starting that ball rolling. It is going to roll from this place on. With the help of God, we will do it!

I want you to understand that I am not afraid of the evil powers breaking through us any more, because they have had their day. The time has come when God will throw a hedge around His people, for He has said He will send fire from heaven to protect them if He had to. We are living in a time when He is preparing the earth for the Millennial Reign, and wickedness has got to be done away with in this land.

He told me three years ago to clean up this city of ours--start a cleaning system and clean it up. I have been trying to clean it up, but I have had opposition. The opposition has been great, but I am not afraid of it now. I have been assured that I am on the right track, and I am going to go down the road.

I want you to take this to heart. The blessings that have been pronounced upon this place will be realized, and you will see it in the near future. You can go to the record and find out what they are. I haven’t time to tell you all that I know and all that I have been told to do. But I am not fooling! I am not lying to you! I am telling you the truth, and I want you to swallow it hook, line, and sinker, because that is what you have got to do!

God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 2, 1984, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I very humbly come before you this afternoon. I am hard of hearing. I caught some of what has been said, but not all. I only want to inform you that I depend upon the Lord for all my blessings, and I ask Him to bless me while I speak that I might not say anything that will displease Him, for I know that this is the work of God that we are in.

Somewhere in the scriptures, the Lord has told us that obedience is greater than sacrifice. Our elders should teach their families to be obedient to them, teach their wives to be obedient to the counsel they have given and teach their children to be obedient to the counsel given them by the leadership that the Lord has given to them. The first great commandment the Lord gives says to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind and strength; and the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the Gospel.

So we are not trying to teach anything new, but we are trying to keep alive the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith. We have been accused lately of preaching false doctrine. My books will bear me out that I have not taught anything that is contrary to what was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and others. I am trying to keep alive those sacred principles that were given to them.

We have a great work to do. We have got to learn to serve God and keep His commandments. We have got to cease our criticism one against another, cease fault-finding one against another, cease to gather together and gossip over the principles of the Gospel, or any other principles, about our neighbors, or anything that is evil. When we gather together and start to gossip about the Gospel, we are very apt sometimes to displease

the Lord. So let us have the word of the Lord come from the pulpit, from the elders of Israel.

I have been greatly pleased with what I have heard today, and I hope that we can bring in the wanderings of our minds and learn to serve God and keep His commandments.

I pray the blessings of God to be upon this people--all of you who are striving to work with yourselves and to bring yourselves under subjection to the teachings that the Lord has given us from time to time. That is the reason we seek out some of the sermons of our early leaders, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, John Taylor and others--Joseph the Prophet. We want you to know that we are interested in your salvation as well as ours. We want to push to the fore the Kingdom of God in its righteousness as much as we can. We only have until the year 2000 to do this work, and the Prophet Joseph, the One Mighty and Strong, will take over, and carry this Gospel to the world.

We have the evil spirits to fight; we have Satan to deal with yet. He is not dead, but he is angry with what we are trying to do and doing all he can to destroy us. Let us not cease to pray night and day as the Lord has told us in the Doctrine & Covenants--pray night and day for deliverance. Deliverance from what? The evil powers that are trying to destroy our minds and our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that we might bring ourselves under subjection to these holy principles that the Lord has told us we must live in order to bring about our eternal salvation.

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

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 23, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I am greatly pleased with the remarks I have heard today, and I am built up in my determination to go on and continue to push this work to the fore. I trust that the Lord will bless me with words that I might say something that will help us all to keep on striving.

We are told in the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants that this Gospel of the Kingdom is unto all men, regardless of where they live. Every individual is responsible for the knowledge that the Lord has given him of the truthfulness of His great work. The first and great commandment, the Lord says, is to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength; and the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the Gospel. So here we are. We were placed under condemnation two years after the Church was organized. We are told that in the Doctrine & Covenants. I think it is about Section 84. You can read it for yourselves. We were placed under condemnation because we had treated lightly the things that we had received, and these are two of the commandments that the Prophet Joseph had received.

Now the thing for us to do is to come out from under that condemnation by learning to obey those two commandments. So my message today is to every individual to strive with himself to learn to love his neighbor as himself. If you can learn to do that, the Lord will bless you beyond your expectation.

God is just. He says, “My work is one eternal round. What I have said, I have said, and I excuse not myself.” So we want to remember these things. You young people, you young boys and girls, you should start in learning to love one another right now. Quit your criticizing one another and quit your complaining and fault-finding one against another that you might please the

Lord, because that is the only way we can come out from under the condemnation that God has placed us under.

This is the message that has got to be given to us now to do and to keep before we are prepared to go back and help redeem Zion. Zion is this American continent, both north and south America, and the Lord has set it aside. As to the year 2000, there will be a period of peace upon this continent for a thousand years. We have got a lot of work to do before that time, and it is getting very short.

Now, I don't feel to speak any longer, but I ask God to bless us that we might get the spirit of this great work which I see is commencing to show forth in our young men who have spoken here today. You young men that are coming up, I want you to learn to love the Lord and keep His commandments, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, SEPTEMBER 30, 1984, CRESTON, B.C., CANADA

I pray that the Lord will bless me in my efforts to prepare a people that He can use in the redemption of His great work, Zion. We want to remember that North and South America was given to Joseph, the son of Jacob, who was the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham, as his inheritance. The Savior tells us in the Book of Mormon that after the city is built and the temple built in Zion then the great missionary work will commence in carrying the Gospel to the Tribes of Israel, those that have been lost, and to the surviving Gentiles upon this continent and to the foreign nations, the Jews and others. This land was given to Joseph as an inheritance, and it will be called, “The City of Zion” or “The People of Zion.” That will be the time during the Millennium when nations afar off will say, “Let us not go up to battle against Zion, because the armies of Zion are terrible.”

Now then, in order to prepare ourselves for that great work of helping to redeem God’s people--the children of Israel--we have got to do certain things. When the Church was first organized under the direction of the Prophet Joseph Smith, it was organized in the year 1830. By 1832, the Lord placed us under condemnation and told us that we would remain under that condemnation until we repented. Here we are, a hundred and fifty years or more since the Church was organized, and we are no closer to bringing ourselves out from under that condemnation than we were then. So, it is our job to do it.

The job has been laid on my shoulders to start rolling this little ball that Daniel saw cut out of the mountain without hands and keep it rolling until we reach Jackson County, Missouri. In order to do that, we have to obey those laws and ordinances that the Lord placed us under condemnation for treating lightly, and those laws were these: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength.

That is the first great commandment, and the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

He said that we would remain under that condemnation until we remembered the Book of Mormon and the other commandments that had been given to us. “Not only to say, but to do according to that which I have said.”

So this is the message that I have been impressed to give to you today--learn to keep these two commandments: Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind and strength, and Love thy neighbor as thyself. Cease all backbiting, all criticism, all fault-finding and all gossiping one towards another, because these are tools of the devil. We cannot mix the tools of the devil with the commandments of God because they won’t mix.

Now it is up to us to remember the Doctrine & Covenants from Section One to the last section. Not the revised one like the Church has today, because they have in there the revelation given to the President of the Church regarding giving the Priesthood to the Negroes. The Lord told Cain in the Garden of Eden that he would be permitted to roam to and fro in the earth as long as the earth stands, but Cain’s children would be the very last to receive the Priesthood. Now the Church is already offering the Priesthood to the Negroes, and the Jews have not yet been approached. The Jews will be the last of the sons of Jacob to receive the Priesthood if they will repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their King and Ruler.

Now, I pray that God will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding and that we will take these Church works, the Doctrine & Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, the Book of Mormon and stay with the Lord’s work in those books. He says, “Read all good books and hold fast to that which is good.” We don’t have to hold fast to the wars and bitterness that existed

among the people from time to time in the Book of Mormon, but we can read the great work that the Lord did among them and take that for our guide.

Let us not bring into our community the gospel of other people, other denominations. They may be ever so good. They may have so much good among them that we love it, but it is not for us at this time. We have only a few years until the year 2000 to prepare ourselves for a great Millennial Reign. Now let us go to and mind our business and stand up to the mark of righteousness is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 28, 1984, SUNDAY, IN THE SACRED GROVE, WAYNE (FORMERLY ONTARIO) COUNTY , NEW YORK

The wind is a lot calmer here than it was over at The Falls. The Lord told me that I hadn't ought to be off over there on Sunday, breaking the Sabbath, looking at the sights that I'm not supposed to see on this trip. So He sent that wind to remind us that we were out of order. Now we're here, and see how calm it is.

This place, you'll find, in this vicinity, is where many great events happened throughout the generations of time on this earth that we've read about in the Bible. This is the vicinity where Jared and his party, Jared and his brother, landed and started to populate this globe. This is where you'll find that a lot of the things we've read about in the history transpired. When we receive the rest of the record that was sealed that Joseph was not permitted to translate--when we receive that record, we'll find out more about the history of this country. He only told about the travels of the Priesthood from the time that Jared came until his people were destroyed. When Lehi came, it was the same. Lehi sent his boys back to Jerusalem to get the sacred records, and in them, you will find out more about the history of this beautiful land that we have seen in the last six or seven days' travel--seven days today since we left home.

These woods tell us a story if we would listen to it. We saw where Adam blessed his posterity the other day, and it wouldn't surprise me to find that in this part of the country is where Noah built his ark, and out of this kind of material that you see around you.

When Joseph Smith was here and had his experiences was when the Gentiles were the most wicked--if they could be any more wicked than they are today. But the Lord wanted to restore the Gospel and the Priesthood that there might be a way to carry the

Gospel to the remnant of Jacob that was left upon this part of the country. Remember that nine and a half tribes of people were carried away and a tribe and a half was left among the Gentiles. The Priesthood was established here that we might be able to gather out the blood of Ephraim that was left upon these two continents, this one and the eastern continent.

We know who the Jews are; the tribe of Judah was left and half of the tribe of Ephraim. They were scattered among the Gentiles. When Lehi came over, being of Manasseh, he brought this tribe of Indians that we see. The Lord allowed the other blood of Israel to be slain, and He left the blood of Manasseh here. The blood of Ephraim was with them, too. So, these Indians we see are of Manasseh and also of Ephraim, or of Joseph through the loins of Ephraim.

When I left home, about one-third of our town, Colorado City, were up in arms against us and they were getting very vicious. They were trying to get a lawyer of the Gentile people to fight their case against the United Effort Plan; they also resorted to use a man who is a bitter enemy to the Mormon Church and to our people, to help fight their case. He was the cause of that piece that was in the paper. Sam read it over the phone to me. This man is all out to destroy our people in Colorado City. These men that visited me in Salt Lake City two or three weeks ago (Jerry Williams and Marko Dutson) are the instigators of his having that piece written in the paper.

So when I get back home, we may have quite a different situation than we had when we left there. We don’t know just what will take place, but the Lord is now determined that a people be brought out from among the Latter-day Saints who will be determined to push the work of God to the fore, and that is what I am trying to do. I’m trying to prepare that people.

We only have fifteen years after the first of January before the change of the century. We don't know just when the Millennium will start, but that is when the seventh period of time will be ushered in according to our reckoning. So we've got to be prepared for what is to come. I look for the time--and the Lord has told us in the scriptures--that the first will be last and the last will be first. I look at it this way, that the children of Israel must be brought out to do the missionary work of converting the rest of the world, all that can be converted. That will start after the city is built and the temple is built in Jackson County. So we've got a great work before us.

I look for the ten tribes to come back and take their place first. When they come, it will cause a great tidal wave that will go over most of this country here that we've seen today. The Atlantic Ocean is not very far east of us. The prophets have said that Boston would be destroyed by a tidal wave. Isn't that right, Brother Jeffs?

Brother Rulon T. Jeffs: That's what I understand--Albany by fire and New York by earthquake.

President Johnson: Yes. So we are going to see some great things happen in the near future. The ten tribes will come back first, and they will be here to help convert not only the surviving Gentiles upon this continent and South America but the other tribes that will come back and take their places. Enoch was promised by the Lord that he would come back and take part in the redemption of Zion. I suppose He has given the same privilege to the other tribes that have been led away, the tribe of Peleg and Abraham and others who have been led away from this land. When they come back, they are going to come back with a terrible shaking of the earth. That is when the earth will reel to and fro like a drunken man as the Doctrine & Covenants tells us. So we are going to see some great things happen in the near future. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, NOVEMBER 11, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am thankful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here today, and I hope that the Lord will allow me to speak as He desires. I know that if I say anything that displeases Him, I am accountable to Him for it.

He has told us in the scriptures that the reason Zion has not been redeemed before is because men were more afraid of men than God. Now I want you to know that I am God's servant. I am here and I am accountable for every word that I say and every act I do. I have been accused by our people of doing things that are against the word of God; but I have not done anything but what God has told me to do, and I want you to know it!

The United Effort Plan was organized by the President of Priesthood and others that were in harmony with him many years ago, and it was for the purpose of a holding place for the properties of the Saints and for the Saints to live upon. I have tried to hold it sacred for that purpose. Every man that has a house built upon the United Effort Plan property made promises, great promises, that he would support the United Effort Plan, but we find that some have broken those promises and have gone now to our enemies and got the dogs on us. We have the enemies of righteousness working night and day against us.

These men who have had anything to do with getting information against this people that will bring further persecution upon us had better watch out for they are fighting against God and not me! I am not going to tell you what He will do to you, but you are fighting against God and it is not me that you are fighting against because this is God's work. He ordained it under the hands of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, and handed it down to us.

All that I have done is try to protect and continue the principles that Joseph Smith put in the Doctrine & Covenants, and

my enemies have ruled against me in it. They think they are working against me, but they are not! They are working against God, and God is the Ruler! He said that it is my privilege to forgive every man at the first intimation of repentance, and He will forgive whom He will. I am not accusing any man, but there are those among us who are doing these things, or our enemies wouldn't have the information they are putting out against us.

I won't have to evict anybody else. I have evicted and done what the Lord told me to do. I have evicted those that confessed that they were sinners among our people, and they have moved out. Some have repented, and I am thankful for it. I am thankful that they have come and told me they wanted to repent and do better, and I have extended the hand of fellowship to them; but there are others that have not. They have their minds set to destroy an instrument (the United Effort Plan) that God gave to the Priesthood, and the fire is burning. If they don't go right now and begin to put out the fire they have started, which I doubt they can quench, they are in the hands of God, and God will handle them--everyone.

Now, a word to the righteous among us. Those who are striving to keep the commandments of God, those who are determined to support the work of God--the United Effort Plan and the Priesthood--need not worry, for God has a way to accomplish His work.

I had Brother Truman read the 7th Chapter of Moses, in the Pearl of Great Price this morning. I had Brother Parley Harker read the 8th Chapter. We find there that God is a man of His word. He has never said He would do a thing unless He did it. In the Doctrine & Covenants, you will find that God said, "I have said what I have said, and I excuse not myself." I can say the same thing. I have done what I have done, and I excuse not myself. I am not boasting in my strength, for I have done

the will of God as He has dictated to me. I have sought all my life to get the Spirit of God and keep it, and He has recognized me in it.

The greatest miracle of this time was when I was sent to Mexico to have my helpers down there come out. Brother Barlow said, “You go down there and send those men (W. Elmer Johnson and Edson P. Jessop) out with their families, and then you pay the bill.” How many of you would have taken it up and done it? I said to him, “I’ll do it, John.” I got up from my seat and started right then, and I didn’t stop until I finished the job.

I am not afraid of my enemies because the Lord has said He would protect me, and He will. If they start to lay a hand on me, they had better look out because God is near. Now, I am not afraid of anyone; I am not afraid of man; I am not afraid to talk. This was proven in the days of the raid of 1953 before the lawyers that we hired. They knew I was not afraid to say what I had to say whether it hurt their feelings or not, but they found out that I was a man of my word. That is what God says He is. He is a man of His word.

Now, I pray that every person who has set his mind to the building up and establishing the Kingdom of God and preparing themselves to go back and help build up the City of Zion will have the privilege of doing so, come hell or high water. This is a little bit slang in my language.

There is a man living in Salt Lake City who I have been acquainted with since 1953. He used to live in Detroit, Michigan. He called me on the telephone the day before I went on this trip back to New York. He said, “Brother Johnson, I have heard by the grapevine that you are going on a trip to New York. Now, if you take my advice, I am not as old as you are, but I am more experienced in the ways of the world; and I know that weather back there is worse than you think it is.”

Before he went any further, he said, “But, I know you. I know that when you put your mind to do a thing, you do it, come hell or high water.”

So I went back and the Lord provided the way. He gave us the covering of clouds to protect us from the heat for the first four days, then He gave us sunshine. We had a little sprinkle one day, but it did not amount to much. Then after while on our way home we had three hours of heavy rain, and then we came out into the sunshine and had sunshiny weather all the way home.

When I got home, I called this man. I says, “I am home now. I am safe and sound.” He said, “I knew you would do it, but I worried every minute you were gone.”

So, I want to tell you, my brothers and sisters, I am not afraid to do the work of God because I know who God is and how to become like Him. I am here trying to raise up a people to know who God is and how to become like Him. At this hour of time, He has set apart the seventh period of time as a period of peace and rest for the earth for a thousand years, and He is going to do it. He is a man of His word, and He will do it. You might think to our way of reckoning that when the year 2000 comes will be the time for the Millennium to start, but before that time, He said certain things have got to happen. He told the people as far back as Enoch that He is going to do what He said He would do. I don’t need to boast, and I am not going to boast, but I am going to do the work that I have been called to do.

I thank you now for your attention. I ask God’s blessings to be upon you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, DECEMBER 30, 1984, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I want to assure you, my brothers and sisters, that I feel very humble in attempting to speak to you; for there are many things that I would like to talk upon that would encourage this people to go on.

The Lord has set His hand to redeem Zion, and Zion is the faithful in heart, faithful in spirit, faithful in determination to serve God and keep His commandments. We have been taught that we should get the Spirit of God and keep it. It is one thing to get the Spirit of God, but to be able to keep it is another. I have found it is a great and mighty task to get the Spirit of God and keep it on me at all times, but this is what we must do before we can expect to do anything about the redemption of Zion.

I trust that the Lord will continue to put words in my mouth that I should say to you that I might speak what He wants me to speak. This much has been on my mind ever since this meeting started. Once we get the Spirit of God upon us, we feel a spirit of peace come over us, and it strives with us unless we do something to offend that spirit. That is the reason that the Lord has said, “Pray always that My spirit might continue with you.” That is what you young men, young boys, young girls should get in your minds quickly, to get the spirit of peace upon you, and then strive to keep it with you all the time.

Don’t let your feelings get hurt over anything. If someone speaks harshly to you, just hold your tongue a little while, then the spirit of peace will come over you, and you can speak calmly and defend yourself calmly. You don’t have to raise your voice to defend yourself. I have found that out through my life--that I can defend myself quicker with the spirit of peace on me than I can with the spirit of evil, for the spirit of evil teaches us to resent what has been said. So, you should learn

that--to not pay any attention to what has been said against you, but ask the Lord in your mind to give you the spirit of peace that you might be instructed by Him to overcome your weak ways.

I often think of what the Savior said to Peter. Peter was a fisherman, and he was out fishing one day. He looked up and saw the Savior coming towards him walking on the water. Peter said to Him, “Master, let me walk out and meet you.” The Master beckoned to him to come. “Come on, Peter.” Peter stepped out on the water and started to walk. He walked a little way on the water as the Savior did, but then he looked down and saw the waves going under his feet; he let it come into his mind, “What if I should sink?” And he started to go down in the water. The Master reached out His hand and said, “O ye of little faith.” He caught hold of Peter and raised him up and He walked with him to the boat.

So we want to watch our faith. Let us have faith in this city, faith in the Lord and in His son Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit who is ever near a person. After a person is baptized and had hands laid upon him for the gift of the Holy Ghost, the Lord is nearby, and we should stop long enough when we are tempted to do something and say, “What will this do to me? If I do it, will it hurt me this way or that way?” If it is something that is going to deprive you of your salvation, you had better leave it alone. If it is something that is going to exalt you if you resist it, then you want to resist it.

I am grateful for the testimonies I have heard this afternoon. They were wonderful testimonies. I believe the Spirit of God is here in this meeting, and we want to always keep it here by doing what we have done today. You have come here and sat quietly and let the Spirit of God settle upon you, and we would like to keep it this way always. Don’t let anything come in to disturb us while we are in services like this.

Now, I pray that God will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. I want you to take heart and build up your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost. I bear testimony to you that Jesus is the Christ and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God called and ordained to set up His Priesthood in the earth. We are recipients of that Priesthood today. We have it with us, and we are trying to keep it sacred and do nothing to displease the Lord in our efforts. I pray the blessings of God will be upon every one of you and bless you till we meet again, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JANUARY 6, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I pray that the Lord will bless me with words of encouragement to you while I speak, for I know that we are living in a very precarious time--when Lucifer is trying again to destroy this people. Every time the Lord's work has come out in the open, the evil powers have been there to try to knock it down. We have undertaken to bring ourselves out from under the curse that was placed upon us soon after the Church was organized in 1832; and the Lord said we would remain under that condemnation until we repented and remembered the commandments, the Book of Mormon, not only to say but to keep according to what He has written. We have the record, so you can go to it and find out just what that was.

Now, today, we are trying to bring up a people that will prepare their bodies for a greater day. That little line between us and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has got to be greatly widened so that the Lord will know what we are trying to do. I think He is anxiously waiting for us to bring up a people that will cease to criticize and cease to find fault and learn to love their neighbors as themselves. Then they will be ready for further instructions such as the United Order and other commandments the Lord has asked us to do.

It is my belief, my brothers and sisters, that we will win the battle that is being fought at this time if we can prove to the Lord that we mean business. All who feel to support me in this great work will win the fight. The Lord has done it before when we have humbled ourselves to a point where He could work with us. He can't work with a people who are divided among themselves. He has to have a unified people. This thing has come in such a way that today it has divided the people. There are only a few in comparison with the many millions upon the earth today who are striving with their might to come up to the line and serve God and keep His commandments.

I hope that this people will this once come to the fore and pray night and day for deliverance that we might be delivered from this great monster who has thrust out his hand and laid it on our shoulders.

I have gone over this thing in my mind quite thoroughly in the past two or three months, and I can find no place where I have had it in my heart to do harm to any man or woman, but I have tried to teach the spirit of peace and the Spirit of God to the people so that they could come up to this mark at this time. My great concern is, brothers and sisters, how we can carry out this counsel at this time--pray night and day for deliverance from the evil powers that are trying to destroy that which the Lord has given us for our safety in the earth (The United Effort Plan) during these last few years of time.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon us and that we will strive with our might to assist in this great battle with our faith and prayers. I am talking to the boys, the young boys, and the young girls, as well as the older people. When you say your prayers, ask the Lord to bless Brother Johnson in his efforts to save this great United Effort Plan which the Lord has placed here for our benefit if we treat it right. So ask the Lord to bless me and hedge up the way of those who seek to destroy it.

Now, I pray the blessings of God upon you all, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 3, 1985, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I am certainly grateful for the opportunity to come before you at this time. I come in deep humility because of the great responsibility that I feel upon my shoulders, not only in a physical way, but by the calling that I have from the Lord our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I trust that while I speak, the Lord will put words in my mouth that I might not displease Him, for I know that we need His help at this critical hour. The Lord is God and beside Him there is no Savior. We are here in this day and hour to prepare ourselves for the great Millennial Reign which is to take place in the very near future.

For about a hundred and fifty years, the Lord has tried to get the people to do what I am asking them to do at this time. First, to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength. That is the first and great commandment, then to love thy neighbor as thyself is the second. Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the Gospel. These two laws have certain standards that have to be complied with. First, to love thy neighbor as thyself means to quit complaining and quit our criticizing one another. The next is to repent of our sins and be baptized by immersion for the remission of our sins, then have hands laid upon us for the gifts of the Holy Ghost.

I find through my perusal of the scriptures that all through the generations of time that is all the Lord has asked our people to do--first, love the Lord and then love our neighbors as ourselves; repent of our sins and be baptized by immersion for the remission of them and have hands laid upon us for the gifts of the Holy Ghost, and continue to do right.

There are only two ways to go. One is down to degradation through the channels that carry us down to the depths of hell, and the other carries us to the channels of eternal life

by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel as they have been given to us. We have had a hundred and fifty years to do this, and we are no nearer the fulfillment of bringing up a people that love the Lord with all their heart, might, mind, and strength. We are no nearer the time of having a people that love their neighbors as themselves. The Lord says that upon these two commandments hang all the law and the Gospel.

Why don't we have a people of twelve or thirteen million strong who have lived these laws, who have learned to love the Lord and then love their neighbors as themselves? Where are they? They should be here, but they are not. It has been prophesied that there would come a people out of the midst of the Latter-day Saints who would want to put these principles to the fore and see that they were lived. That is what I am trying to do. I am trying to bring up a people that will bring themselves out from under the curse that the Lord placed upon the Church as early as 1832, when He said, "Because of treating lightly the things they have received, the whole Church is under condemnation, even all, and they will remain there until they repent and remember the two great commandments and the Book of Mormon and the other scriptures--not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written."

This is our obligation. I don't care how heavy the opposition gets against us. This is God's work! They are not fighting me, they are fighting God. He has prepared the way for us to provide for our people that they might live according to the will of God. The more our enemies attempt to fight it, the worse the Lord is grieved toward them; but when He lays a heavy hand upon them, that is His work and it isn't mine.

In the days of the '53 raid, there were two men who came to my place just after the officers had been in there and taken our wives and children away from us. The officers took all

the men out and took them to Kingman, put them in jail. Then they proceeded to take our wives and children away. When they got them out of Short Creek, they released the men from prison, and they came back to empty homes.

I hadn't been home but a day when these two men came to my home. One of them was named David Anderson and the other was Jay Huntsman. They talked to me, told me what a great sin I had committed by trying to live the way we were living. They talked for a few minutes. I interrupted. I said, "Are you two men Latter-day Saints?" They said, "Yes, we are good Latter-day Saints. We hold high offices." I said, "Well, if I were you, I would be ashamed of myself. I would go home and wash my hands of the whole thing and not have anything more to do with it. If you don't, the Lord will lay a heavy hand upon you."

Well, they went home laughing because they did not believe my words, but soon after they left Short Creek, a pain caught them. When they got to St. George, they began seeking the doctors to see what was wrong, and they never got over it.

Well, anyhow, Brother Zitting came down. He got a hold of me and he said, "Roy, I want you to get down to Phoenix and find out where our women and children are and stay there and keep track of them and visit them and keep them under your thumb." That is what I did.

After the war was over, our wives and children returned home. Some of us were placed under a court order to not ever go back to Short Creek. I was served with one of them along with some of the others. After that was over, I moved one family up to Salem and one into American Fork. I went to visit my people at Salem one day and stopped into a grocery store by the side of the road between Springville and Salem. I was getting a few groceries. This was three years after these two men had met me in Short Creek. I saw a man all bent over pushing a grocery cart

and a lady putting things off the shelves into the cart. He saw me get a cart and start to do the same.

Pretty soon, he made his way over to me. He had a cane. He was all bent over and could hardly walk. He came up to me and said, “Are you Roy Johnson?” I said, “Yes, I am Roy Johnson.” “Well, do you remember me?” I said, “I have seen you somewhere, but I can’t tell your name.” He said, “I am Jay Huntsman, and I haven’t seen a well day since the moment you told us that the Lord would lay a heavy hand on us if we continued our work. We continued our work until we took Vera Black’s children away from her. But I haven’t seen a well day since I left your place in Short Creek. I want you to know that I recognize why I am sick.” So, we can see how this thing works. That has been done several times during the history of the Church.

Now, I want to encourage you, my brothers and sisters, to hasten to remember these two great commandments, to love your neighbors as yourselves and to quit your criticizing and your fault finding. If anyone feels to be rebaptized and get a new start, now is the time to do it. The Lord says, “If you will repent of your sins and do them no more, I will forgive you, and I will remember them no more before my face.” So, this is a promise of the Lord to us. If anyone feels that he ought to be rebaptized, he should be and get a fresh start on life.

Now, I pray that the blessings of God will be upon us and that we will hasten to do our chores and bring ourselves out from under that condemnation that the Lord placed upon the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 10, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I feel very humble, my brothers and sisters, in trying to say something to you, and I pray that the Lord will put in my mouth the words He wants me to say.

This ship that has been portrayed to us today is under fire--the United Effort Plan. I can't see who is in the room, but I hope that there is someone here who will carry this message to the opposite people, because they haven't had manhood enough to come out in the open and let us know who they are. We know who some of them are, but we don't know who they all are. So, I am talking to you today to let you know that there is not going to be any deeds to any part of the United Effort Plan given to the enemy of the United Effort Plan. You can take it or leave it!

The United Effort Plan was given to us by the Lord for a protection to His people--His saints--and I am not afraid to speak in defense of it. Because every man who has lifted his hand against the United Effort Plan and against this work that I profess to be the head of, is fighting against God and not against me. They had better look out because if they push it any further, God will lay a heavy hand on their shoulders, and I am not afraid to say it because I have the Spirit of God upon me, and He is dictating my words at the present time, and they had better take it. They had better not push me any further towards the wall until I can get on my feet and get my people behind me and get the non-believers out of this place. I want everyone of them to get discouraged and leave right away.

Now, I want to say a few words to the faithful. The Lord is pleased with your actions so far--you who have determined in your minds to serve God and keep His commandments at all hazards and believe in the Lord our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in the Prophet Joseph Smith and his works.

But those who try to change the words of Joseph Smith as they are contained in the Doctrine & Covenants had better walk carefully, because the judgments of God are terrible when they come upon a disobedient people. Now, I pray that the Lord will bless you all, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 16, 1985,
PRIESTHOOD MEETING HELD SATURDAY NIGHT, 7:30 P.M.
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am certainly pleased to be with you again tonight and to partake of the sacrament with you to renew my covenants with the Lord to remember Him, remember Him day by day. I was just thinking about the day in which we live. In another year now, it will be one hundred years since our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Prophet Joseph Smith visited a night with President John Taylor. They wanted this order of the Priesthood preserved.

During that period of time, we should have had a great many more Priesthood bearers who were determined to love their neighbors as themselves. Here we are a hundred years later--just beginning to get started on doing what the Lord told the Prophet Joseph when he first organized the Church in 1830. By 1832, we were placed under condemnation because we treated lightly the things we received. I'm surprised that we haven't been more diligent in applying to our lives the principles that Joseph Smith, the Prophet, gave to us.

The Lord is not pleased with our actions altogether. He is pleased that we are making an attempt now to learn the two great commandments: Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength; and the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Those were the two great commandments given to the Prophet Joseph. The Lord says that upon these two great commandments stand all the law and the Gospel.

No wonder it's hard for us now to learn to bring ourselves into line with these great commandments, but it has got to be done! If we think anything of our eternal salvation, we have got to get down on our knees and cry night and day for deliverance. Deliverance from what? From the chains of darkness, or Lucifer, and allow the Lord a chance to fight our battles for us.

When the Church was fighting for their right to become a state, the Lord told the Prophet Wilford Woodruff to make no further concessions to the enemy and He would fight their battles; but he went straightway and made concessions to the government and sold their rights to the Celestial Kingdom of our Father for statehood.

Now we are living at the time when the Lord is going to clean up the earth, at least this part of it, North and South America. This is the land of Joseph who was sold into Egypt. This is his inheritance. He had two sons. One is named Ephraim and the other, Manasseh. This is the land that Joseph's seed will occupy, part of it at least.

We are told in the scriptures that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory after Christ finishes His mission here, the mission that the Lord gave Him. So there are a lot of things to be accomplished according to the scriptures, according to the words of Christ in the Book of Mormon. There are a lot of changes that have got to be made before that time can come, but the Lord has also promised us a Millennial Reign when we will have peace for a thousand years.

So, let us get our thinking straight. Let us get our feet under us and hasten to bring ourselves into a condition where the Lord can bless us, so that when we ask for a blessing, He can give it to us. He has blessed me wonderfully through my life, directed my footsteps so that I could be of some good in the day in which I live. I hope that I can carry out His will concerning our eternal salvation. I hope that each and everyone of us and the remnant of Jacob who occupy these two continents will accomplish His will.

I pray that God will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and let us hasten to bring ourselves to a

condition where we can ask the Lord for a blessing, and He will give it to us immediately, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 3, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I've certainly enjoyed myself here this afternoon. I'm glad to see what we have accomplished in getting our store ready to start moving tomorrow. I want to thank everyone who has participated in any way with the building of this store and the wonderful stock of commodities that is in it. I ask that God will direct my tongue that I might not displease Him in what I have said or what I am going to say.

Tomorrow morning, in order to satisfy unbelievers, there will be a ribbon in front of the door, and I will be there promptly at eight o'clock to snip the ribbon; and in this way let the public know that the store has been opened according to the laws of the land and also according to our own thinking. Whether you buy anything or not, I want you to go through and see what is in the store. We'd like to have everyone who feels like they would like to go to Hurricane to buy their goods tomorrow to buy them out of this store whether they believe in me or not. That's what the store is for. It's to accommodate anyone who would like to participate in buying goods out of our store.

Now, I want to say a few words of encouragement to our people. I learned a few words one time when I was a boy. "The Lord is God, and beside Him there is no Savior." These are the words of ancient as well as modern prophets. We know that God lives, that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, that He was sent here on a mission to be crucified and hung on a cross according to the will of men--the unbelievers. He came here to teach all who would believe. He has said, from time to time, "I would have gathered you as a hen gathers her chickens under her wing, but you would not." We've seen this go on in our day. We've seen it many times, but today, we have a job to do that is different than any other organization that I know of in the earth today. That is to teach our people to love the Lord their God with all their

heart, might, mind, and strength which is the first and great commandment; and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the Gospel, for the Gospel is to cease to criticize, cease to complain or do anything that is contrary to our Ten Commandments and our Articles of Faith.

Now, I pray the blessings of God will rest upon you who are gathered here today and upon all who have contributed to our success, both in the store and in the dairy. I want you to know that these are built upon the United Effort Plan ground, and they were built here for the express purpose of providing for the people who dwell upon the United Effort Plan domain. That's what we expect to do with them, to provide for the needs of our young children, our sick and afflicted, and also the general run of our people whether they be old or young or middle-aged.

I pray that God will bless us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that we might carry on this work in a way that will be pleasing unto Him. I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 10, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I am certainly pleased to be here today and to hear what I have heard. While there are a lot of other people that I would have liked to hear from, time will not permit because of our situation. I want to leave this word with you, keep on striving to overcome your weaknesses and imperfections, and cry mightily for the forgiveness of your sins that you might not be found wanting when the Lord calls to make up His jewels.

I want to encourage you to keep on learning to love one another as yourselves and quit criticizing and faultfinding that we might bring ourselves out from under the curse that has been placed upon us by the Lord. This could have been done many years ago, but it hasn't. People have been so dilatory in their feeling after their eternal salvation that they've forgotten what the Lord told us to do when He placed us under condemnation because we had treated lightly the things we had received.

Now, I'm grateful for the testimonies of these young elders, Brother Harker, and others, and I pray that you will go home now and think over the condition that we live in. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 17, 1985, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I hope that my voice will do me well at this time, for I want to do nothing that will displease the Lord. I ask that His Spirit will be here to dictate what I say. I have been greatly interested in the testimonies that have been borne today, especially the young men, as well as President Jeffs and Patriarch Steed.

Of late, I have been asked some questions about the Church of the First Born. I want to let this people know that what the Doctrine & Covenants says about the Church of the First Born is true and faithful. There is only one baptism, one confirmation, one laying on of hands for the gifts of the Holy Ghost. That is where you enter into the Church of the First Born. If you prove faithful in the first stage, you are prepared for the next stage, and the next stage, and the next stage, and finally in the end, you enter into the Church of the First Born. All these are steps that we take, being baptized, having hands laid upon us and being confirmed members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Kingdom of God, then proving faithful in learning what we can from that part. If we've been faithful and true, whether we live or not, it's all the same, for the Lord has only one baptism for the Church of the First Born. You can learn as you go. The Prophet says, "We learn here a little and there a little until we come to the full knowledge of God."

I don't know how much plainer to tell you how we enter into the Church of the First Born. There's no such thing as a different church called the Church of the First Born. There's no such thing as the Church of Jesus outside of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as we understand it today. That's the only church that holds, in the end, any eternal salvation for the children of men.

So, today, we are starting where Joseph Smith left off. In 1832, two years after the Church was organized, the Lord placed us under condemnation because we had treated lightly the things we had received. Up to that time, all that we had received was to learn to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind and strength; and then learn to love thy neighbor as thyself.

The Lord says that upon these two great commandments hang all the law and the Gospel. Everything after that is an appendage to them. We've got to learn how to enter into the Church of the First Born first of all, and that is through baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and then prove by our faithfulness that we certainly do love the Lord our God with all our heart, might, mind and strength. Then we have learned to love our neighbor as ourselves. Everything else is appendages to it. The Sunday School, the Priesthood meeting, the different orders of priesthood are all appendages to it. We've got to learn to live all of them and keep them sacred before the Lord before we can gain our eternal salvation.

My voice is giving away. So, I'll stop and give you more later on. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MARCH 31, 1985
COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I'm sorry that I yet can't see your faces. I can see a houseful of people, but that's all. I can't see your faces. I can see some of these right here, these boys. I can't see your faces, so I'll have to do like I've done before, depend upon the Lord to put words in my mouth, for I know I am subject to Him for all that I do and say. I pray that I will say nothing that will displease Him.

I'm sorry for those who have pulled away from us and taken an opposite position against us. Yet, the Lord says, love thy neighbor as thyself, and I have to overlook their imperfections and rejoice in the good that they have done in our community.

I'm grateful for the testimony that the Lord has given me to keep this work going. "Cease not until you accomplish what I have told you to do," is the word of the Lord to me and to you.

In the days of the Nephites, the Savior gave to His disciples a commission to go among the people and teach them those two great commandments. The record tells us that for two hundred years they had perfect peace and loved one another and had all things in common among them. Keeping these two commandments and ridding ourselves of all evil are the things that we have got to accomplish before we are ready--before we can even look toward Jackson County and the building of the great city and the temple before the great Millennium.

So, it's up to you and me to work with ourselves and learn to love our neighbors as ourselves. Not only that, but to cease our criticizing one against another, cease our faultfinding one with another, and cease to do any evil whatsoever. Let's get it out of our make-ups.

I've got my books out amongst all you people, and you can read what the Lord had told me to tell you before. I'll have

to recuperate a little more before I'm able to stand before you and preach a real sermon. (President Johnson was sitting in a wheelchair at this time.)

I ask the blessings of God upon all of you, each and everyone under the sound of my voice, together with those who occupy this great land of ours. I'll now say, God bless you all, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 14, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I have greatly enjoyed this meeting today. I've greatly enjoyed the appearance of a houseful of people to hear what we have to say--what the Lord has to say to us. I wish that my voice was such that I could speak so that you could understand me. I hope that the Lord will put in my mouth the words that I should say to you this afternoon.

I've been reminded today of the situation under which we find ourselves at the present time. I look back over the different periods of time and try to compare ours with them. I know this, the scriptures tell us somewhere that the Lord is God and beside Him there is no Savior. He tells us also, in the First Section of the Doctrine & Covenants, something like this, "What I have said, I have said, and I excuse not myself." And, "Whether it be by my own voice or the voice of my servants, it is the same. What I have said shall all be fulfilled according to my will."

The Lord told us in the days of the Prophet Joseph that the two great commandments were, first, to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength. The second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, and upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets; but the people couldn't do it. So, within two years after the church was organized, the Lord placed the whole church under condemnation because they had treated lightly these two laws. He told us that we would remain under that condemnation until we repented.

That's what I'm trying to do today, to raise up a people who have repented of their former sins and are willing now to push those two great commandments to the fore and listen to what the Lord has told us, not only through the mouths of His servants, but He has had written the Gospel in its purity long before the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith. We have it on record in the Book of Mormon.

Now, today, the Lord has said to warn the people again of what is about to take place, for He has said, and you will find it in the Doctrine & Covenants, that a desolating sickness will cover the land. Now that desolating sickness is about to begin to operate throughout this great nation of ours if it hasn't already started. Two people will be taken here, another will be taken there, until the nation is void of inhabitants if they don't repent and clean up their lives, clean up their bodies.

You young girls and boys should listen. If you have any bad faults and failings, overcome them, that when you grow to maturity, you will have them behind you and you can go on and keep yourselves clean and pure so that when this desolating sickness comes, it will pass you by and take those around you. I think the scripture says something like this, "There will be two working at the mill. One will be taken and the other left. Two will be walking along, one will be taken and the other left," and so forth.

Now, the call is for us to look to our knitting and commence immediately to clean up our lives--both young and old, male and female. Clean up your lives so that when the destroying angel goes through, he will pass you by and leave those who believe in God the Eternal Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ, to carry the message of that great prophet, Joseph Smith.

Now, I can't speak any longer, so I will say, God bless you all. Listen to what has been told you today and build upon it, and hasten to prepare yourselves so that the Lord can pass you by when He is pouring out His judgments, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 21, 1985, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Dear brothers and sisters, I will not be able to detain you long, but I want to express my thanks and gratitude for what has been said here today. We have a lot to overcome yet--we as a people--before we are able to say, “We are ready now, Father.” I find that it is a hard thing for some of our people to overcome some of their faults and failings.

I want the Lord to put in my mouth the words He wants me to say because I don’t want to say anything that will displease Him. This, I have said time and time again when I have come before you to speak.

Every man and every woman has got to be tried. The Lord says plainly to us that He will have a tried people. He calls people to positions to try them out, to see what they will do. Some young ladies will want to try the Prophet by saying to themselves, “I want a certain man.” When they come up before the Prophet, he asks them to be truthful and not be afraid to say where they would like to be placed, but in a lot of instances, they say, “I’ll go wherever the Lord wants me to go.” When the Lord has tried that person out to see whether she really believes what she says, He will place her in a position where a man can exalt her; but as soon as she is placed, she doesn’t like it. She wants to go somewhere else.

It’s the same way with men. They are called into positions of trust, and they feel like they want something higher than that; so they linger along and don’t exercise their authority as they have been instructed to. Finally, they are not satisfied.

I want this to stop among our elders and among our ladies. I want our ladies to be satisfied with where the Lord places them because He is not going to place you where you cannot be exalted. Whether it be by me or somebody else that places

you, if you will go there and behave yourselves and do the best you can, you will gain your exaltation whether the man proves himself all right or not. The woman that will go there and prove herself true and faithful will never miss anything.

I had a sister. She was a good deal older than I. She was Father's oldest daughter. Her name was Mary. A young man came and ask Father to give her to him for a wife. They called the lady in, and she said, "I'll marry you under this condition, that you will live the plural law when you have an opportunity." He agreed to it. Later on came the Manifesto, and he told her that it released him from that obligation, and he stayed by it. After while, President Barlow came along. I told him of the situation. He said:

> "You go and tell that lady to stay faithful and true to her covenants and she will never lose anything. But I'll say this much, unless that man changes his mind and enters into the Celestial Law, he will never see that woman again. She will be taken and given to one that is worthy of her."

So that's what I want you people to believe. You are placed in a position to try you, and your trials are what will count more than anything else in the world. It isn't the number of children that you have that will save you in the Celestial Kingdom because there will be a lot of people who go there who don't have any companion at all, both men and women. You will find this to be the truth when you get over there.

You people continue on with your preparation. Don't allow yourselves to be persuaded by anyone that this thing can't be done because it can be done, or the Lord wouldn't have given it to us. He wouldn't have given it to Joseph Smith if it couldn't be lived. It could have been accomplished if the people

had believed him and done what he told them to do--believe in God and love Him with all their heart, might, mind, and strength, the first great commandment; and the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Now, I pray that this people can continue their preparation, quit criticizing, quit faultfinding and love your neighbor as yourself, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, APRIL 28, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

My dear brothers and sisters, I don't know when I have enjoyed the Spirit of God anymore than I have today. The only further instruction I have for this people is to keep striving, for it is through striving that we obtain a knowledge of who God is and how to become like Him.

Somewhere in the Doctrine & Covenants, I believe it is in Section 84, (beginning with verse 53 to verse 57) the Lord spoke to us and told us that we were under condemnation because we had treated lightly the things we had received. In Section 119, He goes on further to say that the least He would require from His people was one-tenth of their annual increase. This proves to me that we are living under the curse of a broken law, for the Lord gave us in Section 42 the law of consecration, and we treated lightly that law.

The thing I am trying to do is bring us out from under that condemnation that the Lord placed us under in 1832, only two years after the Church was organized, so that we can be able to live the whole law as He has given it and bring ourselves out from under the confines of a broken law.

I have been incapacitated for six years now, and I am still suffering under a partial paralyzation of my right side. It is not easy to endure, but I hope I can go through it and do what the Lord has required of me and be patient, long-suffering and endure that which the Lord causes me to go through. I hope that this people will bring in the wanderings of their minds and listen to the words of the Prophet Joseph as they are given here in the Doctrine & Covenants and also the teachings of the prophets in the Book of Mormon, for it gives us a little inkling of history from the tower of Babel until after the crucifixion of Christ.

We have a great record. The Lord held back the more precious things that happened during that time (from the tower of Babel until the present time) to come forth in a time when people would believe what the Lord has for His people. That is what I am working for. I want to see all of you there when I go. I want to see these brethren who have talked today in the group that goes back to Joseph and hands the work to him that we have accomplished.

Now, I'm not able to speak longer because of my condition, but I pray that the Spirit of God will settle upon each and every person here to a point where you young people, it doesn't make any difference how young you are, will be inspired to be at peace while you are sitting in our meetings and not be rowdy. Let's not have that said of us anymore.

I hope you people will hasten to prepare yourselves that the Lord might add to you any time He desires; and that we will all be prepared to receive whatever the Lord gives us, and I do this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 5, 1985, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I am so full, I don't know whether I can talk or not. This has been a wonderful meeting this afternoon. I trust that what I say will be dictated by the Lord, for I want nothing done except the Lord requires it. He required the Church to obey certain laws and commandments, and they treated them lightly. So He had to place them under condemnation within two years after the Church was organized. All they had received were the two great commandments. To serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind and strength is the first and great commandment. The second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. And upon these two commandments stand all the law and the prophets. He goes on further to say, "Obey my commandments, and the Book of Mormon, not only to say but to do according to what I have written."

So, let's keep up our preparation. Let's learn to love the Lord and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let's cease our criticism and our fault-finding, and so forth.

I have a little story in my mind that happened since I've been in the Priesthood Council. A young man came to me one day. He said, "Brother Johnson, I've been called by the government to go and get an army training. I wanted to come and talk with you before I go." I said, "God bless you, dear brother. Remember this, when you get out there, pray to the Lord every night and morning that His spirit might be with you in all your performances." He went. After while I got a letter from him. They had sent him over to Germany. He might be in the room today. But in that letter, he declared his allegiance to me and the Priesthood Council. He's never wavered from that counsel. His name is Wendell Nielsen. That man has been tested and tried, not only by the Priesthood, but by the army of the nation.

He kept himself clean, and he's with us today. I say, God bless him forever. That's the kind of men that we've got to have before we can perform the work that the Lord has for us to do.

I am continually receiving words like this, "Brother Johnson, when are we going to start the United Order?" But we've got to learn these three commandments first before we are capable of living the United Order. You've got to love the Lord. You've got to love your neighbor, and you've got to be able to overlook other men's faults and failings.

I don't wish to say any more. My strength is giving away. So I'll say, keep up your preparation. God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 17, 1985, AT THE ALTA ACADEMY IN THE HOME OF PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS, SANDY, UTAH

I am grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here today and of hearing what I have heard. I trust that the Lord will put in my mouth the things I should say during the few moments I speak.

Possibly I will speak more to the fathers and mothers than to the children, but I want to say first that when the Savior was upon the earth, He said something like this, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of God.” Reflect upon it a little bit as I have done over the years and see what it means to you. I find that a little reflection as I read the scriptures is more enlightening to me than just to read them. Try it.

I want the fathers and mothers of these little children that have come out of the first and second grades and the other grades to gather your children around you and teach them this song: “Ere You Left Your Room This Morning, did you think to pray?” See what an impression it will make upon them.

Excuse me for being so tenderhearted. I had a little granddaughter a few years ago. She was crawling upon the floor. I was lying in my bed suffering. I could hardly move around, but I had bought her some little toys to play with. She came over and was playing with her toys. My bedroom door happened to be ajar a little bit--about halfway open. I said, “I wish somebody would close my door for me.” That little girl looked up at me, and then she looked at the door. She left her playthings, crawled over to the door, pushed it a little, crawled a little further and pushed it closed.

I had another incident happen to me just a few days ago. I have a little grandson. His name is Leroy Joseph. Apparently his mother had been telling him about the ‘53 raid

when the officers came and took me to prison. He could hardly understand her. Anyhow, he came over to see me. He came in the door, and he rolled up his sleeves and doubled up both fists. He said, “Grandpa, did the mean men ever put you in jail?” I said, “Yes, they put me in jail, but they let me out the next day.” “Oh, all right.” He pulled down his sleeves and opened his fists and said, “I’m glad they didn’t keep you in jail.” He is only three years old.

These little children know what you talk about. They know what you act about. So be careful how you act around them and how you allow other people to act around them because they can catch on right quick.

I’m grateful for the way this school has operated this year. I tried to get one just like it in Colorado City years ago, but I couldn’t make it. The devil got the advantage of that school, and we lost it; but I think I’m getting a little the best of him now, so I will try to keep the little ball a rolling that the Lord has told me to roll until it fills the earth.

I think we will make it if I can get the cooperation of this body of young people as well as the young people of Colorado City. I have a great following down there of young men and young boys. Even though their fathers are against me, some of them are coming and wanting me to teach them, and I am teaching them. I don’t know what the results will be, but just the same, when a little child comes and wants to know something, I will tell him because I know he will understand me.

I don’t wish to say anymore at this time, but I ask the blessings of God to be upon this body of young boys and girls and keep them within the realms of the lines of the Priesthood.

Learn to obey your fathers and mothers and do what they say and then do what President Jeffs says. I certainly am pleased with Warren’s operations this winter. I am pleased with

the way he has handled things. I am pleased with all the teachers, how they have come in from all walks of life and done their little bit to help teach these little boys and girls. We won't save them all, but we will save most of them.

President Barlow told me this once when we were riding along together. He said, "Brother Johnson, this work is going to soon fall on your shoulders. You will see many eruptions like we are having just now." That was when the United Trust broke up. The United Effort Plan was organized when the United Trust was broken up. He said, "You will have many break-ups like this, but every time it breaks up, you will have more than you had before, and finally, you will have a body of men and women that you can take up to the Prophet Joseph and say, 'Here they are.'"

So, I ask the blessings of God upon you all, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, MAY 19, 1985, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I feel very humble, my brothers and sisters, and I trust that the Lord will put the proper words in my mouth that I should say at this time. We have had a wonderful meeting. I have enjoyed the testimonies of the elders and President Jeffs. I pray that my words will be as comforting to you as these others have been.

There are only a few things that I would like to dwell upon. There is a great, great monster going to and fro in the earth. All people, I have noticed, are apt to partake of the spirit of this monster. Now, I am speaking at this time of this great monster mesmerism. It has many branches--many fingers, and on each finger is a hook that will grab you--another finger will grab you another way. One of the things is this monster--criticism. Stop and think about it a little while. Another finger is reaching out here and another there. People think they are doing a great thing getting the Spirit of God upon them, and they will put this person to that person and see if it won't come out right. Now, this is a part of this great monster. Another one--well, the Lord tells me not to speak upon that at this time. So, I will speak a little longer on some of these others. Take criticism--I noticed in the South a few years back that when our elders, some of them, got up to talk, they criticized the people for the way they were doing. This is not an elder's position--to get up and criticize the people. It's not my place to get up and criticize the people. It is my place to get up and bless them.

When the elders are called to get up and preach, they are called to get up and admonish the people to do good, and not to criticize them. I would like to see these things done away with among our people. That's what I am trying to do. I'm trying to get the people to love one another and not criticize them.

The Lord is very kind to us. He showers His blessings upon us day after day. We partake of His blessings and thank Him for them, but we find before night comes that somebody is saying something about this person or that person. This is not right. Gossip is not right. (He coughed hard.) You'll have to bear with my weaknesses. Gossip is another finger of this great monster. I would like to see it stopped among our families--all of them.

In the days of the Nephites, after the Savior visited them, the record tells us that they lived for two hundred years and had perfect confidence in one another, and they had all things in common. Now why can't we be as good as the Nephites were at that time? We can if we will, so let's try to see if we can do it.

When we get up to speak, let's see if we can encourage the people. Let's see if we can leave them with a determination when they go out of the meeting to do something more about their salvation.

God bless this people who are striving; I hope they can hasten to overcome their weaknesses and imperfections and live so that the Lord can shower down just as great blessings upon them as He did the Nephites. You will find it recorded in the Book of Mormon, I think in the words of Mormon or somewhere in Third Nephi, you will find how He blessed them.

I had better quit talking, so I will ask the blessings of God upon you all. I want to encourage you to keep on doing--keep on doing. We learn to do by doing. I said that in Colorado City one day, and it came right back to me that I was cursing the people. I think it was printed in the paper, but we do learn to do by doing--doing the things of God--keeping the word of God. I ask the blessings of God upon you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 2, 1985, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I assure you, my brothers and sisters, I won't detain you very long, but I have a few words to say to this body of people. Repent! Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins and have hands laid upon you for the gifts of the Holy Ghost that the Spirit of God can dwell with you from day to day. Then remember the great commandments and the Book of Mormon, not only to say, but to do according to that which has been written. Cease to criticize, complain, find fault with one another, and cease all manner of wickedness among our people that the Spirit of God might take place and be with us every moment of our lives to protect us from evil.

All you who are working and receiving a wage for your labors, the Lord has said that the least He would require of His people is one-tenth of all their annual increase. "And this shall be a standing law unto my people forever and ever."

Now, let us go to and see to it that our names are found written in the Lamb's book of life. What is the Lamb's book of life? It is the tithing record. If your name is not found there, the Lord says, "You will not have rights to the Priesthood from generation to generation until the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." So, the Lord hates those who do not pay one-tenth of their annual increase for the building up and establishing the work of God in the earth.

Now, I pray that we will hasten to get the Spirit of God upon us and hasten to prepare ourselves against the day of visitation when God is sending His great judgments across the land clearing off the wicked who will not repent and come unto Him. I don't wish to say anymore, but I wish God's blessings upon each and every person here in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 9, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I certainly don't want to detain you very long because of the most wonderful things we have heard this afternoon. I have enjoyed every testimony that was borne because I believe it came from the heart.

There are a few things that I would like to speak on if the Lord will allow my voice to hold up so I can. I have been accused of being way off in left field in some of my teachings, but I want to call your attention to some of them and see whether I am off in left field or not.

We have had sentinels standing at the door of our Priesthood meetings to keep the long-haired men and the whiskers and sideburns out of our society. We have been criticized heavily for it because men believe that they have a right to act and do as they please in these matters. Why didn't God call a man with long white whiskers and long white hair to lead His work instead of a boy like Joseph Smith that was slick shaven with his hair well groomed? Now, answer me the question, please. Why didn't He do it? I'll tell you why.

I am going to let the old prophet John the Revelator speak. He was the man that Christ said would be able to live until He came again to bring souls to Him--I call your attention to his words.

First Corinthians, eleventh chapter. I don't know why my mind allows things to lie dormant for a while, but you will find in that chapter something like this: It is a shame for a man to have long hair or have his face covered with long whiskers. It is a shame for him; but for a woman--long hair is a glory to her because it was given to her for a covering and for other sacred purposes. There will come a time when you girls who are determined to cut your hair and have no long braids will wish mighty hard that you had listened, and you will be mighty sad

that you don’t have long hair that you can have two braids--one right one and one left because you’re going to be taught that certain ordinances have got to be performed with those braids before you can pass the gate.

You men who think you have to have a beard before you can pass the gate, I want to tell you that what the Apostle John said is true. It came from God to him, and he left it in the Bible--The New Testament--for this people in this day when they are preparing for an eternal salvation and all the people between that time and this.

From now on, sentinels will stand at the door, and men and boys with long hair will have to go home and have a haircut before they can come into meeting. I don’t want their fathers to step up and say, “Listen, that’s my boy. I’ll take care of him.” Any man that does that is not worthy to come to Priesthood meeting until he repents.

Our Priesthood meeting is an invitational meeting. It is not a public meeting. It is an invitational meeting, and we invite people there who are faithful followers of the Priesthood. If a boy wants to show his great manners by letting his hair grow long and then come and show his superiority over other boys that are trying to serve God and keep His commandments, we don’t want him until he learns to be obedient to those over him in the Priesthood. I want you girls to understand, you young women that are not married, let your hair grow and then make as many braids with it as you can. I had my ladies let their hair grow, and they make a big bob on top of their heads, and it is a glory to them because they are obedient to the man that rules over them.

Now, I don’t wish to keep you any longer. I pray the blessings of God to be upon each and everyone of you who wants to go down the road and help me preserve that which the Lord has given us to protect us and our homes from destruction. May God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JUNE 23, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I won’t keep you long. I only want to say a few words of encouragement to you, for I love you all--good or bad. I wish that the good would do better and the bad would be better.

We have the same order to do with now that the people of Enoch had in his day and all the Israelites from the beginning to the end. We are still Israelites, and we are being gathered out from among the Gentiles. All who will put on the armor of Christ and do His biddings will bring themselves out from under the Gentile rule.

I find that in our time, we have a problem to solve, and I am trying to solve it in the best way I know how. I don’t want to hurt anybody. I don’t want to bring distress upon anybody. Unless it’s the will of the Lord that they should be chastised, I don’t want to chastise them. I have told them that this is God’s work, and God will rule for the good of His work, and I am not afraid to go on and prosecute it the best I know how.

I need the faith and prayers of all who believe in me at this time that I might accomplish the work that God has for me to accomplish.

Now, I pray for these things, and I pray for all of you that the Spirit of God will be your constant companion in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 7, 1985, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I hope the Lord will bless me with words of peace to you this afternoon. He has blessed my body to a point that I am sitting before you without any pain, but I am a weak mortal. It is in that condition that I sit before you today.

I have been very much interested today in the remarks of the brethren, especially the young men, as well as the old. I want to still encourage you to keep on striving to learn how to love the Lord with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, which is the first and great commandment. The second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, and upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Upon these two commandments hang all the law, which is all the word of God--all the word of God--and the prophets, because they know that there is only one way that we can serve God and keep His commandments, and that is by loving the Lord with all our heart, might, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. That means cease to criticize, cease to find fault, cease to do any evil whatsoever that might displease the people around you, or even say anything that will displease the Spirit of God. Let’s get that all behind us.

Let’s go down the road serving God and keeping His commandments, praying night and day for deliverance from the evil powers that are trying to destroy the work of God. That is the only way we can win the cases that are before us today, simply by learning how to love the Lord with all our heart, might, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves; then we are on the safe side of the fence with our Father in heaven.

I pray that this people can go down the road and learn these two great commandments as well as remembering the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine & Covenants, and the other books that have

been written by the finger of God for the benefit of His saints that they might be edified in that which is right and dissatisfied with that which is wrong, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, JULY 28, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I feel grateful, my brothers and sisters, for the privilege of being here, but I don't know whether I'll be able to say much or not. I have heard so many good things this afternoon.

The Lord is kind to us. He is kind to allow us to live in this day and age when He is bringing to pass His great and glorious purposes to the children of men, when He is winding up His work among the wicked generations of our day. All we know now is what has been revealed to us of our past lives and generations, so now it is up to us to round out the rest of our probation upon this earth.

We are living in the day called the fullness of times, and little do we know about it. A lot more will be found out in the near future. I want to examine myself before the Lord and those who go with me that we might be found on the side of truth continually. This is the greatest desire of my life--to be found in the line of my duty and be found doing right continually.

I'll bring my sermon to a close now by saying, God bless you all, and may the Spirit of God settle upon everyone that we might be found on the right side of our Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 4, 1985, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My brothers and sisters, I assure you I will not keep you long because I have very much enjoyed these services. I want to thank you all for coming out and listening to what the Lord has to say to us.

Every man that has been ordained an elder has or ought to have a Three-In-One which comprises the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine & Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price, which contains the fullness of the everlasting Gospel. If I can dig it out of those books, every elder in the room can do the same thing. The responsibility is upon every man that has a woman sealed to him for time and all eternity to see that he does. It becomes the responsibility of that elder to do all he can to save that wife and those children as they come.

I want to say to you people today that I am pleased with the pouring out of the Spirit of God upon us every time we meet together to assure us that we are on the right track.

So, let’s not depend upon this man or that man to answer our questions for us. Let’s dig it out of the books, and let’s dig it out quickly, for no one knows the time or the hour that this old earth is going to shake.

Now, I pray that the Spirit of God will take a hold of us--each and every individual--and give us a more firm determination to work out our salvation in fear and trembling before the Lord I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, AUGUST 11, 1985, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

I think, my brothers and sisters, enough has already been said to give you what I could try any further to give to you. I only want to encourage you in these words: Let's get our armor on and figure that this life is real because it is real. It depends upon the outcome as to whether we hold the titles to our homes or whether we have to give them up. Let's hold the titles to our homes as we have done because they are the only safe places the Lord has upon the earth for a people like us.

Now, I pray that we will learn the two great commandments and how to keep them, and the Book of Mormon and so forth, as the scriptures tell us in Section 84 of the Doctrine & Covenants.

Now, may we all profit by what has been said today in this meeting and in other meetings, and let's go down the road together and win this battle I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RULON T. JEFFS, FEBRUARY 16, 1986, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

I earnestly pray for the Spirit of God to be with me as I desire to build you up and encourage you in the great work in which we are engaged.

The thing that keeps ringing in my ears, brothers and sisters, is the words of the Lord, “If ye are not one, ye are not mine.” How do we become one? By all having the power of the Holy Spirit of God upon us all the time. Now, the Holy Spirit of God is the power of the Priesthood, and that is the power that we have got to have to stand alongside and follow President Leroy S. Johnson. The Spirit of God is the spirit of revelation, and we have had it given to us all these forty to fifty years that President Johnson has been speaking to this people. The great burden has been to repent and to prepare for that which is to come--the visitation of the great judgments that are about to come upon us. He has called upon us to have nerves of steel to meet this great challenge. We cannot meet it unless we are one. Many may be lost in the great holocaust, but those who survive will be those who hang on to the iron rod spoken of by the Prophet Lehi, and which Nephi carried out in his life in leading his brothers and sisters in building up a people that the Lord could use upon this the land of Joseph.

Joseph Smith made it very clear on one occasion and made the announcement and revelation to the saints with a great deal of emphasis. The whole of America is the land of Zion, and we must gather to the place which has been designated by the Lord God of Israel, the place where Zion shall be built and the great temple and temples and the land redeemed.

Every prophet beginning with Joseph Smith in this last dispensation has tried to get a people to be one sufficient that they could abide the Holy United Order, along with abiding the other highest principle of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the

Celestial Law of Plural Marriage. They are the crowning principles and they cannot be lived except by the guidance and direction and the power of the Holy Priesthood. The power of the Priesthood is the Holy Ghost, and if we are going to follow our Prophet, we are going to have to have the Holy Ghost and be one with him as Christ tried to make His disciples one with Him; but they failed, and I often think of the great journey after the saints had been driven from the land of Zion which had been designated in August of 1831. The people then were called to go up to Zion and redeem it.

I would just like to point out the things that prevent us from becoming one and the thing that President Johnson has been striving with all his might and main to get this people to accomplish. After the saints were driven out of Jackson County and into the wilderness and from one place to another, the Prophet cried unto the Lord and asked why? Why had they been driven out? The Lord said:

(D & C 101:1-6)

> "Verily I say unto you, concerning your brethren who have been afflicted and persecuted and cast out from the land of their inheritance--
>
> I, the Lord, have suffered the affliction to come upon them, wherewith they have been afflicted, in consequence of their transgressions;
>
> Yet I will own them, for they shall be mine in that day when I shall come to make up my jewels.
>
> Therefore, they must needs be chastened and tried, even as Abraham, who was commanded to offer up his only son.
>
> For all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me cannot be sanctified.

Behold, I say unto you (speaking of the people in Zion), there were jarrings, and contentions, and envyings, and strifes, and lustful and covetous desires among them; therefore by these things they polluted their inheritances."

Zion, it is said, (Section 97) is the pure in heart. They have to be clean every whit. Here these things that are contrary to the Holy Ghost were being practiced among those who had been chosen to go out and help to redeem Zion. Then He goes on to say:

(D & C 101:7-23)

"They were slow to hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God. Therefore, the Lord their God is slow to hearken unto their prayers, to answer them in the day of their trouble.

In the day of their peace they esteemed lightly My counsel; but, in the day of their trouble, of necessity they feel after me.

Verily, I say unto you, not withstanding their sins, My bowels are filled with compassion towards them. I will not utterly cast them off; and in the day of wrath I will remember mercy.

I have sworn, and the decree hath gone forth by a former commandment that I have given unto you, that I would let fall the sword of mine indignation in behalf of My people. And even as I have said, it shall come to pass.

Mine indignation is soon to be poured out upon all nations. And this will I do when the cup of their iniquity is full. And in that day all who are found

upon the watch tower, or in other words, all Mine Israel shall be saved.

And they that have been scattered shall be gathered.

And all they who have mourned shall be comforted.

And all they who have given their lives for my name shall be crowned.

Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion; for all flesh is within My hands; be still and know that I am God.

Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered.

They that remain and are pure in heart, shall return and come to their inheritances, they and their children with songs of everlasting joy, to build up the waste places of Zion.

And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled.

And behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed; neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed, for the work of the gathering of My saints.

Until the day cometh when there is found no more room for them; and then I have other places which I will appoint unto them, and they shall be called stakes for the curtains or the strength of Zion.

Behold, it is my will that all who will call upon my name and worship me according to mine everlasting Gospel shall gather together and stand in holy places.

And prepare for the revelation which is to come when the veil or the covering of my temple in my

> tabernacle which hideth the earth shall be taken off, and all flesh shall see me together."

Now, in 1834, very shortly after this revelation was received, in December, the Lord called upon the Prophet to gather five hundred elders of Israel to go up to redeem Zion (called Zion's Camp). They were to go without murmuring and follow their great head. That is one great trouble with most of us, we murmur and complain.

In all the suffering that our Prophet has been through these last seven years, I have never heard one word of complaint. Whenever he has failed in any of his labors, in farming and other things, he would say, "Well, I have been blest with a failure." Then he turns around and accomplishes the thing that is needed to be done.

In February of 1834, the Lord called this Camp of Zion together. I don't know whether the Lord had in mind what is spoken of here at verse fifteen for that camp, but I am sure He would have done had they gone forth and been faithful and true and followed the instructions which were given them by the Lord through the Prophet, and I am sure that this is how Zion will finally be redeemed.

But while on the way, Zion's Camp--they hardly got to the Mississippi River until there were murmurings and complaints and criticisms of the Prophet, which brought him to stand in the back of a wagon and tell them, "There is a chastisement coming for these things which you have done."

Wilford Woodruff, at a conference in April, 1898, recalling this as he was going in the Camp of Zion, said:

> "I will refer to one instance. A short time before we landed in Missouri, Joseph called the camp

> together. He there prophesied unto us and told us what lay before us. He gave us the reason why chastisement was before us. He said, 'You consider me a boy with the rest of you. You have not realized my position before the Lord. But there is a chastisement before this camp.' He told us that this would come upon us because he had not been obeyed in his counsels. Not one hour after we landed in Missouri and pitched our tents at Mr. Burkett's, one man began to fall here, another there. He said, afterwards, 'I told you what was coming to pass, and when affliction came, I stretched out my hand to stay it, and I came very near falling by it myself.'"

Now in calling this camp together, He said these words, "Behold, I say unto you, the redemption of Zion must needs come by power." Had those two hundred and five men been one with the Holy Ghost upon them, with the power of the Priesthood that they bore, they would have been irresistible and could have gone and overcome the enemy and redeemed Zion, because God had already set the time for that to be done, which was in September, 1836. But they failed, although it left some blessings. From among the faithful in that Zion's Camp were chosen the general authorities of the Church which was organized in 1835, the Quorum of the Twelve, and the First Council of Seventy. These faithful men were those who were called to lead in that organization of the Church which was completed then.

The Lord made this promise, and I am sure He had reference to when He would get a people who could be one, and we have got to prepare ourselves for this because our Prophet, I testify unto you, is going to lead a faithful people from among this people to redeem Zion. When that happens, I have the faith that this promise is going to be fulfilled.

> "Behold, I say unto you, the redemption of Zion must needs come by power. Therefore, I will raise up unto my people a man who shall lead them like as Moses led the children of Israel." (And, we are the children of Israel and of the seed of Abraham.)
>
> "And we must needs be led out of bondage by power and with a stretched out arm. And as your fathers were led at the first, even so shall the redemption of Zion be.
>
> Therefore, let not your hearts faint, for I say not unto you as I said unto your fathers, 'Mine angels shall go up before you but not my presence.' But I say unto you, 'Mine angels shall go up before you and also my presence. And in time ye shall possess the goodly land.'"

Now, this people that will be led by our Prophet must be such that they can stand the presence of the Lord and go up and be led in this manner.

Brothers and sisters, President Johnson is trying to prepare us for these times that are directly ahead of us. There is little time left. According to our time, the Millennium, the seventh period of time, is to commence about fourteen years from now. Think of what has got to happen between now and then. The Ten Tribes must come from the north and a remnant of Jacob from the south, and the Ten Tribes shall come down from there over a highway that is thrown up and come and lay their rich treasures at the feet of Ephraim.

President Johnson is trying to find and gather together Ephraim, which Section 64 tells us about, the rebellious are not of the Tribe of Ephraim, and those who are rebellious will be cast out. That is how our people are going to have to be cleansed.

We cannot come together and live the Holy United Order without being one--loving our neighbor as ourselves. This is the great secret of our being able to abide the Holy United Order. First of all, of course, loving God with all our heart, might, mind, and strength. I don't see how we can love God truly without loving our neighbors; they are our brothers and sisters; they are children of our God.

It grieves the Lord to see His people scattered and breaking up. This is the last chance and the last time these things are going to be accomplished that the Lord has promised which I have read to you here now. That man mentioned in what I have just read to you, I testify to you is Leroy S. Johnson.

For many years, our people have treated this man lightly. They have not realized his position before the Lord. We, as a whole people, have been like the Camp of Zion got to be, if not greater--or worse. Until we recognize that, my dear brothers and sisters, we are without leadership, and we will break up and go hither and yon. If President Johnson were to pass over now, this people would go in all that many directions (Holding up his hand with spread out fingers), and I have been called--I pray God that I have been faithful to that direction and commandment which President Johnson gave me--to establish once and for all the one-man rule.

There is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power, the sealing power, the keys of Elijah and the keys of the Holy Priesthood are conferred, and that has grown out of what had been urged upon the saints with the 1880 revelation of Wilford Woodruff, which the Lord permitted Satan to give to him, that they who love not the truth might believe a lie and thus be damned. Then the great lie that was couched in those words of the 1880 revelation were, "While you have a president to preside over you..." speaking to the brethren; then the first presidency

hadn't been formed, but John Taylor was the keyholder, the President of the Twelve. Later on, in the year 1880, he was chosen by the Twelve to be the President of the Church, but he already had the keys, the keys of power. This man (Wilford Woodruff) obtained revelation that he had no right to receive as being intended for Zion and her cause.

There is not but one man who can hold these keys. It has been ever thus throughout all eternity. We can think of Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah; Jesus Christ appointing Peter to be the keyholder after He should leave. So it was Peter then; and Peter it was who came with his counselors, James and John, and conferred the keys and power of the Holy Priesthood upon Joseph and Oliver.

In the organization of the Church, Joseph was designated the first elder, the keyholder, and Oliver the second elder, who failed and apostatized, and later, in Nauvoo, Joseph's brother, Hyrum, was put in that position--the second elder--once occupied by Oliver.

So, when Joseph was martyred brutally, the Lord had in store a man upon whom he had conferred the keys, Brigham Young. When Sydney Rigdon came to claim the guardianship of the Church, in August, of 1844, Brigham Young made the remark, "You can have Ann Lee as your president if you want her, but I know the mind and will of God." When he got up to speak, the mantle of Joseph fell upon him and he was the one man.

When Brigham Young passed on and indicated the proper order of the apostles with John Taylor at the head, he was designated as the next keyholder; and through John Taylor we have been brought forth. After Jesus and Joseph came and visited John Taylor, he told the brethren that the Lord would not change the law of Celestial Marriage, or not change about requiring it. Those who desire the highest glory must abide that law or be

damned, and so John Taylor refused to sign a manifesto which was prepared.

Wilford Woodruff, prior to this, had received a revelation which was in his journal. It was not put forth as the terms of the 1880 revelation called for by the Prophet John Taylor. He let it die in the journal of Wilford Woodruff, but it was resurrected, shall we say, by Joseph Musser when he copied it from the journal. Joseph Musser's father told him he might need it some day and that was urged upon them. Well, that is likely the wheat and the tares. The Lord has sown the wheat; the tares came along and were sown, and later on when they said, shall we pluck them up? The Lord said, "No, let them grow together." The work couldn't stand a division then.

Now is the time of the harvest when the wheat shall be gathered into His barn and the tares burned. That is what happened when President Johnson came to the Council and told us of the true nature of the one-man rule and the true nature of the 1880 revelation by Wilford Woodruff which said that the keys were held by the apostles in common. Can you imagine anything that would bring chaos any quicker than that? That idea has been pressed upon this people for sometime, but now we have that over with and there has been a division over the 1880 revelation. The Prophet now is going forward with all the exertion that he has to build up a place of gathering in Northern Arizona, Southern Utah. He is building it up as fast as he can, and while he is doing all of this, he continues to carry on his labors in bringing couples together in the law of Celestial Marriage and performing the ceremonies from his sick-bed, perfectly memorized.

Now, I declare unto you, my dear brothers and sisters, that this man is that one man who holds the keys of power in this our day and time. He is going to go on and prepare this people if they will be prepared to redeem Zion. I say this in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

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President Johnson spoke, and after his sermon, President Jeffs remarked:

God bless our Prophet dear. I love him more than life itself; only to be by his side is all I desire. I pray that we may all rally to this great man. He is the rallying point for us to become one and go down the road, as he says, together as one people in the great and mighty power of God and the power of the Holy Priesthood and of the Holy Ghost to accomplish this great mission.

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SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, FEBRUARY 16, 1986, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

My dear brothers and sisters, I hope the Lord will bless me with words of peace this afternoon. I come before you in deep humility over what has been said today. You had heard the straight line of my descent from President Jeffs this afternoon.

I am grateful to the Lord for His great blessings to me, and I hope that what I say will be in accordance with what He wants me to say because I want to say nothing that will harm His Spirit from being with us. I want nothing done in our work that would displease the Spirit of God. I know that we are a weak people. We are continually impressed to do things that are not right. We want to remember this, that the Lord has said that before that day comes that is spoken of--the day of the great redemption--Satan will be turned loose and given a full length of rope that he might secure to himself all who do not seek after their salvation.

All who will go to with a determination to do something about their eternal salvation God will preserve. What have we got to fear? All we have to do is be at peace in our minds and in our hearts and do right. Cease to covet our neighbor’s dress, our neighbor’s automobile, or anything else. Cease to find fault, cease to talk back and forth getting different ideas and letting them settle in our hearts.

God has given us many chances. He has given His people many chances to bring this about in their lives. Many people have accepted it while others have rejected it. Now we are at the end of our probation in this world. The Lord is about to bring it to a close and to take us across the line and let us go on in the great work for a thousand years.

So let us give heed to what has been told us this afternoon. Take to heart the experiences of others and receive

good. Let us receive all good that we hear and cast away all that we know that the Lord despises. Cast away anything that would cause us or someone to apostatize because we don’t want any more apostasies from our work.

I will have to say, God bless you till we meet again. I am glad for the blessing that He has placed upon me to bring me this far, and I do not know when I can come again, but I won’t be very far off as long as He blesses me. One thing He has done, He has blessed me with a good memory of the things of God all though my sickness, and I haven’t allowed evil powers to overcome me. God bless you, amen.

SERMON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON, OCTOBER 19, 1986, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA
(This was his last public address)

My brothers and sisters, we have got an opportunity now to show by our faith that we can accomplish something. God has given us an opportunity once more to show by our faith that we mean business. I say that because of this building we are in.

I trust that the Lord will put in my mouth the words of how I feel. I know that Jesus is the Christ, that He came here and played His part on the program. I know that the Prophet Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. I hope that I can prove myself as well as other men who have held this position.

I don’t feel like holding you any longer. I pray the blessings of God upon all who are striving for the advancement of the work of God in the earth. I assure you that the Lord is pleased with the offering we have made. God bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR PRESIDENT LEROY S. JOHNSON
HELD NOVEMBER 30, 1986,
IN THE LEROY S. JOHNSON MEETING HOUSE AT COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA
BORN: 6-12-1888 DIED: 11-25-1986

President Rulon T. Jeffs presiding and conducting.

President Jeffs:

This is a funeral service for President Leroy S. Johnson, Prince of Peace. He was born at Lee's Ferry, Arizona, June 12, 1888. He passed away at his home in Hildale, Utah, November 25, 1986. The following program will be carried out without interruption.

Invocation: Elder Louis J. Barlow
Song: We Thank Thee O God For A Prophet - Choir and Congregation
First Speaker: Elder Fred M. Jessop
Second Speaker: Elder Vergel Y. Jessop
Ladies Trio: We Ever Pray For Thee - Shirley, Thelma, Evelyn
Third Speaker: Elder Parley J. Harker
Fourth Speaker: Elder Rulon T. Jeffs
Quartet: I Know That My Redeemer Lives - Steven, LaMar, Jody, Howard
Remarks: Elder Truman I. Barlow
Song: Choir - Oh, My Father
Benediction: Elder Dan Barlow

Elder Louis J. Barlow:

Our Father in heaven, we present ourselves before you this day to honor and respect Thy servant, our prophet and father, Leroy S. Johnson. Father in heaven, we acknowledge before you the integrity and strength of character of this Thy great servant, of the wonderful mission that he has fulfilled, and we say that we know that he has been and is a great man of peace, of love, and of truth.

We acknowledge before you that he has the simple, sweet, but firm, attributes of our Savior. We acknowledge before you that he has brought Thy people out of bondage in years gone by, even out of the bondage of false traditions and superstitions and set our feet upon the path of truth and peace. We acknowledge before you that he has carried with him your Spirit through these years in teaching and training and leaving to us a heritage and an example to follow.

Now, Dear Uncle Roy, we know that your spirit and influence is felt throughout this people and throughout this land, and we pray that it may go on and be felt through generations yet unborn. We want to be able to follow after you when our work is completed, each individually, that the same admonition that you have received, we may receive. “Well done,” the Lord would say and has said, “Come, and enter into my Glory, and be one with me.” Uncle Roy, we know that you have opened the door and shown the way and that it is up to us to follow your teachings.

Now, Father in heaven, we pray for this congregation of people, each individually, for those who speak today and those who listen, that each and all may be lifted up to a higher way of life and that we may go forth on this beautiful Sabbath day and partake of the abundance of the Spirit of God and keep it with us. We pray that everything will function properly, that your Spirit will rest down upon all who are close and near and dear and give them comfort and assurance that he has indeed completed his work and has gone on to his glory and that we need not sorrow but for ourselves, for we know that he is well. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

Song: We Thank Thee O God For A Prophet - Congregation

Elder Fred M. Jessop:

Dear brethren and sisters and friends, and others if there so be, I bring you a tribute of peace, and a testimony of long-standing experience with the greatest man on earth--until a few days ago. For fifty-one years minus only a very few months at a time have I walked with this noble soul. I've seen him in trial, in poverty, in peace, been with him behind bars, known of his anxieties, his trials and pleasures, and all things that happen to a good man. It's been a marvelous school. Truly, he was and is a Prince of Peace, for in those most trying circumstances that have been my fortune, blessing to behold in him and with him, I have never seen him vary from ways of propriety in every circumstance. Truly, Uncle Roy has demonstrated the way. He has personified the attributes of Christ and been His most faithful servant.

This wonderful turnout to his graduation is a token of the respect that he has won among all peoples with whom he has dealt, the honorable and the unhonorable have been moved to respect him. If anybody didn't like him, it's their own bloomin' fault.

He was a well rounded man. He had industry in his nature, thrift in his practice, benevolence in his doings. There isn't a thing that anybody can point to, in truth, that he didn't do right in. The best we can do in this service is infinitesimal in comparison to what's going on over there. Whether you know it or not, I know it, that he stands among the great ones that the Lord told Abraham about.

I leave you this testimony and these brief and, I feel, inadequate remarks and pray that the Spirit of God might convey to your hearts the truth of what I have said, that you may look and see the effects of his life and doings and pattern your life thereafter. This I pray for myself and for all men, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Patriarch Vergel Y. Jessop:

I wasn't aware that I was on this program until I entered this building, but I am grateful for this privilege. I am very sincerely and humbly grateful for the association I have had with this good man.

Everyone that is in this building today has had some kind of a view of the celestial order of things which I appreciate. I appreciate the presence of every friend that is here that has been in the attitude of supporting this good man and carrying on the work of our eternal Heavenly Father.

I hope the Spirit of the Lord will take possession of my mind and my whole system while I stand before this body of people. I hope that I can realize that I am before my Maker, not only while I'm here, but after this occasion is over.

I have to admit that I expected Uncle Roy to stand here on this stand while I laid before him in a casket. I fully expected that, but be that as it may, he has finished his work, and I have work yet to do. So I pray God and invite the interest of every friend and supporter of the work to help me to do my part. We'll help each other to do our part.

I had the privilege one time of filling a mission in the Kanab Stake of Zion and talking to the assembled saints in the Conference meeting and bearing my testimony. I remember a few things that I said and I meant it--that I was grateful that we had a practical religion. What I mean by that is there's no quitting time. It doesn't end the evening of the Sabbath day. It is practical and applicable, just as well on Monday as it is on Sunday, or Saturday, and every day clear through, and I appreciate that. I appreciate the fact that I have a testimony that Uncle Roy lived his religion every day.

I reflect in reading the scriptures that Christ himself made this declaration that He learned obedience by the things He

suffered. Think of that, of that character, even the Son of God learned obedience by the things he suffered. Through reading history and hearing testimonies of other people, I know that the Prophet Joseph went through the same experience. He learned obedience by the things he suffered. He learned it sufficiently that he quit being disobedient. When the Spirit of God prompted him to do something, he did it. It didn't matter whether his ideas were popular or unpopular, he learned that.

I have the testimony that Uncle Roy has had this same experience. He has learned obedience by the things that he has suffered--obedience to the direction and the Spirit of God. Now, I have heard many times, yes many times, people accusing Uncle Roy of catering to other people, and somebody else suggested what he should do, and telling him what to do under various circumstances. Probably, he's had that experience sometimes and learned obedience by it. It's my testimony that he had enough experience in that, that he got to a place where it didn't matter to him who made suggestions, who tried to dissuade him or tried to change his course in life. When he knew the requirements of our Heavenly Father to him, he responded. He did it. Therefore, he learned obedience by the things that he suffered. Now, this is proven facts in relation to the Prophet Joseph. It's recorded in Church History in plain terms, and I appreciate very deeply the mission of that man.

I appreciate the privilege that we have of living in this dispensation when the Gospel of the Son of God has been restored in this latter-day period of time. We have a part to participate in it, if we will. I hope we can learn obedience and not too much from the things that we personally suffer. We should be smart enough, through reading history, if nothing else, to learn obedience by the recording of other people's disobedience. We shouldn't have to learn it all by our own personal disobedience.

I couldn't help but reflect when we sang that song "We Thank Thee O God For A Prophet" that it would be well worth every person's time to think of the words of that song. I would be content to sit here and listen to the beauteous strains of music and feel well paid for being here on this occasion. I have attended quite a lot of funerals in my life in various places and under various circumstances, and I have heard the expression a lot of times that we come to pay our last tribute of respect to the body of the person lying before us. To me, I could never harmonize with it. I hope this is not my last respect to this goodly character. I will not have it to be my last.

I want the association of this good man after I leave this state of existence, and I hope to keep trying to comply with the requirements of God to that extent that I will qualify to have his association and be under his direction.

I've had quite a lot of experience with Uncle Roy. I don't remember exactly; it's not clear in my mind the first time I saw him. I and my two older brothers came down in this country the first time in July of 1926. We went down to Lee's Ferry and met some of our people there. I didn't meet Uncle Roy. I met Uncle Elmer and Uncle Price and some of the other people that we hadn't known before, but I didn't meet Uncle Roy at that time. I have understood that in the fall after we were here in July, he moved from Kanab over to this location.

He's been a pioneer; a real one in more ways than one. This beautiful building--this group of people here--I don't hardly know how to say what I think. It's a tribute of respect to Uncle Roy.

I remember, one time, we got a mild chastisement over the pulpit in our meeting. It was mild, but it was a chastisement for speaking of this good man as "Uncle Roy." I took it that the one giving the chastisement thought we should address him as "President Johnson." I'll never forget the feeling that I

had then, although I recognized him as my President, and have all the time since, but I thought at the time when that statement was made--never for ages to come will people forget “Uncle Roy.” There will be people--thousands of people that will know him and will speak of him as “Uncle Roy” and that, reverently. So there’s no disgrace to me in calling him “Uncle Roy.” I don’t think it is to him. He’ll be known for ages as “Uncle Roy.”

I hope the Lord will temper my words and my thoughts that they will be somewhat like velvet. In other words, not too rash and offensive, but be smooth and comfortable. I know we are going to have experiences from this hour on that will require us to have nerves of steel. We’ve already had some experiences, and as far as I am concerned, I want my nerves of steel and that well tempered. I mean well tempered. Steel that is not properly tempered won’t stand what we are going to face--what we have been facing. I have a testimony that we are in the hands of our Father in heaven. He has control of this whole works. He will maintain His presidency, and He will govern His affairs no matter what people say or who says it, and I’m grateful for that. I’m grateful for Uncle Roy’s determination, and that in the spirit of deep humility, attitude and disposition, he had the determination to do the will of our Father in heaven as he was directed.

This is an important occasion right now, and I feel like if the President of the United States had an invitation to come here on this occasion, he could well afford to come from Washington, D. C., to witness this affair. President Benson, the President of the Church could well afford to be here and witness this affair, and I have respect for him. I want you to know that.

I’ve thought for a long time that most of us really didn’t know who this character was. I feel like there are a lot of things yet that I don’t know about him, but he is great.

He's proven his greatness, and he's done it in the spirit of meekness and humility, but he's been determined. I noticed in reading the Church History, many times, as the time grew closer to the martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch, his brother, the Prophet's anxiety grew more tense. His concern was intensified as time went on for the preparation and welfare of the people. I witnessed the same thing right here in our day, the intensity of Uncle Roy for the preparation, the development of our people to prepare, as he has said lots of times, for a glorious resurrection.

I am well satisfied that Uncle Roy has prepared to receive a glorious resurrection. I'm inclined to think because of his preparation he can come to us in immortality in what is sometimes termed "in the twinkling of an eye." This is a comparative expression with eternity, and I really believe that he was prepared for the resurrection in the twinkling of an eye. He has prepared himself, and he's tried to prepare us, everyone of us that would listen to his counsel and teaching, for the same thing. So, we've got something to be grateful for. We've got something to look forward to in our continued preparation. I feel lots more like I could pray than I could preach. I don't feel like I am a preacher. I never have felt like it. I appreciate the experience that I've had with this good man.

I've had experience with him personally in the old forty-four raid, and that's quite a long time ago. I remember the Federal officers hauled me into the Salt Lake County Jail. As the officer shut the door, he said, "Vergel, I'll see you again." He turned right around and came back to Short Creek to get Uncle Roy because he didn't pick him up at the same time that I was picked up. We were in jail together. I can remember well the experience that I had at one time when we went in there, and that old jail was full of our people. I say full, but there were

quite a number of our people in there. My own blood relatives as well as a lot of others. The Spirit of God was there as plain as it was in the temple. Of all the times that I felt like--and there were very few times in my life--that I could speak freely, that was once. I felt like I could talk for at least an hour easily because of the spirit that was in that old jail.

Well, as the experience progressed, people came and bonded us out one at a time, and sometimes a number of us at a time until Uncle Roy and I were the only ones left in the jail at one time. I guess a lot of you have heard him tell of the experience that we had. I'll never forget it, anyway. There were just the two of us left in jail. We were up in the upper floor of the old Salt Lake Jail. A man came in to take our criminal records. He had his photograph machine set up. He had already taken my picture. He had my convict number across my chest. He set up the stool and everything focused right. Everything had to make us look like real convicts as much as possible--took our finger prints--all the data that they had to have. I was already processed and sitting to one side. He got Uncle Roy up on the stool and got him all fixed exactly ready to pull the trigger on the picture machine. I said, "Now, smile." I'll never forget the scorching I got. The man that was taking the picture--I just threw him off from the way he wanted it, and Uncle Roy smiled just as he snapped the camera. That old fellow looked at me and turned around cross eyed and, "Never mind," he said. I felt like I wished I was a mouse a long ways away. So, I fouled things up when I said to Uncle Roy, "Now, smile." We were supposed to look like real convicts. Well, I'm glad for that experience with Uncle Roy as well as other times.

I've been with him in the Kingman Jail. I was with him right there, and it's very vivid in my mind, the affairs of the old '53 raid when they came in and took possession of our whole

community of people here. I was right by Uncle Roy's elbow and stayed there. I heard what he said. When there was some suggestion made that we flee or get away--move away--I was right by him. Somebody suggested that we run, speaking of the community of people, to get out of the way or hide up. He said, "Run? We have no place to run. My feet are tired." He meant every word of it, and he's proven it.

I am a witness, and I'm sure there's a lot of other witnesses to the fact that Uncle Roy carried the weight of the care of this community of people in all the affairs of that '53 raid. It was very plain who carried the load. He did it honorably and humbly and diligently.

During the time that I was working for the government in Mount Lemon out of Tucson for a couple of years, some of our people were gone down to Mexico, and occasionally, some of them would come up there on the mountain. It was twenty-eight miles out of town where the prison camp was, and some of our people would stop and see us once in a while. Uncle Roy never did come, but I felt sure and satisfied that he was doing his work all the time. I never expected him to come. I remember Brother Musser came, and Brother Guy Musser came one time, but Uncle Roy was carrying on with his assignment.

There have been times in my life and various circumstances that I felt like I required some help beyond my power to endure. I remember a time or two when Uncle Roy put his hand on me and said, "God bless you." It was as real to me as if I was plugging into the power line, the electric power line. I felt that it was real when he said, "God bless you," in some of the trials of life that I had. I appreciate very deeply my appointment in this grand work under the hands of President Leroy S. Johnson. I hope and pray, and I work, to fill that assignment and do it humbly and honorably.

I can't help but wonder--it's natural for me, I guess--when I first learned of Uncle Roy's passing I wondered about the grand occasion and the reunion of our people that have gone before, many of them, that Uncle Roy was personally acquainted with. I've been personally acquainted with quite a lot of them. It's refreshing to wonder and think of the reunion, the counsel meetings, the instructions that will take place on the other side of the veil. I've been well satisfied in my mind for months and months past that the servants of God who have gone before our day from this sphere of action have had reports and have had actual visions of the affairs of our people, our community of people, I am satisfied of that.

I hope that I can learn how to keep that first great commandment. I'm sure all of you know what it is, and the second great commandment is to learn how to respect and honor our neighbor and our associates as we ought to. Uncle Roy has proven that he did just that. I positively know that he has had the concern of every individual to make the preparation which will entitle them if they continue faithful to a glorious resurrection. That's something to work for.

I appreciate the fact that we have been fed the bread of life lots of times, referring to the Gospel as the bread of life that has been fed to us, that we have had the privilege of partaking of. I believe that I am a witness to the fact that some of this bread of life that we have had to partake of has had crusts on it, and it requires some mastication, real chewing to properly digest it. So all the bread of life to me hasn't been just the middle of the loaf. Some of it has crust.

I don't know that I should say anymore. I reverence this character. I have prayed long and earnestly for his family, and I still do, and continue to do it. I pray that I will honor and respect everyone of our good friends who are trying to

respond to the requirements of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ under proper authority. I feel certain that the Lord has all these things under His personal control. He has agents to do His work who will respond according to His direction.

I feel like Uncle Roy knows enough that I would like to have his introduction to go on my way in life. I feel like he is qualified to give me an introduction to somebody above him, and they above him.

I have never doubted, I don't doubt now, and I don't expect to doubt but what Uncle Roy has had experience with immortal beings to direct him, to bear him up through his trials of life, and I know he's had plenty. Nobody needs to think that he hasn't had his trials because I know he has, but he is determined to carry on. So I express my appreciation to his family, for all his friends, for these people who have assembled here to pay respect to him on this occasion. I pray the Lord to bless us with the desire and the determination to do our individual parts to the accomplishment of the work of our eternal Heavenly Father. God bless our faithful people, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Ladies Trio: We Ever Pray for Thee

Elder Parley Harker:

I feel highly honored to take part on this program. I feel very humble and pray that the Lord will direct my thoughts and my words. Ever since I became acquainted with President Johnson and came to some degree of realization of who he was, I can honestly say that I have had but one desire, and that was to please him.

I remember visiting Uncle Roy in the Cedar hospital at one time. He'd been in surgery and was convalescing. I had the opportunity of visiting him, and he was grateful for the visit.

As I tried to imagine what might have gone through his mind while he was there waiting, getting better, I thought to myself, “Well, when President Johnson has an opportunity to address the people again, the first thing that he will say is what has been on his mind while he has been here lying on his sickbed.” So, I paid special attention. I believe that the first opportunity that he had to speak was right shortly after he came out of the hospital. After he had thanked the Lord for his many blessings and for the privilege that he had and all the opportunities of life, then he addressed the brethren in this language. He said, “Brethren, we’ve got to do something to take care of our poor.”

About twenty-four years ago or there about, I had an occasion to ask some advice and counsel from President Johnson. In those days, it was a little bit of a question as to how much information we should give to the public in relation to our affairs and our religion, and on this particular occasion, I wanted to know what information I should give on a birth certificate. My first plural child was born, and I wanted to know what his counsel was to me. He said, “Brother Harker, all of my children go by my name.” I loved him more because of that courageous statement that he made at that time.

In the vision that Nephi had in the Book of Mormon, six hundred years previous to the coming of the Savior, he was shown the tree of life. He was shown that many people would come and partake of the fruit of the tree of life, but because they were ashamed, they wandered away and were lost. President Johnson was not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was proud to follow in the footsteps of the Prophet Joseph Smith and try to carry on and establish the work that the Prophet Joseph Smith had instituted in this last dispensation.

In conclusion, I would like to read from the Book of Alma in the Book of Mormon.

(Alma, 34:32-34)

> "For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God. Yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.
>
> And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that you do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end, for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed.
>
> Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for the same spirit which doth possess your bodies when you go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your bodies in that eternal world."

This, my brothers and sisters, is a day of preparation. May we remember the many times that we have been told to prepare, prepare, prepare. May God help us to do so, and if we do, we will add honor and glory to the memory of this our beloved Prophet, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

President Rulon T. Jeffs:

I pray that God will put words in my mouth to say that which is most appropriate at this time concerning my beloved Prophet and friend, Leroy Sunderland Johnson.

He once told some brethren visiting him that he considered Brother Jeffs to be his “Heber.” That is how I wanted to continue serving him and being one with him and performing the great work that he was performing, and of course, it hasn’t ended.

Heber said this:

> “Perhaps some of you do not believe that the Spirit of the Lord goes and comes throughout every portion of a vine, even to the smallest and farthest extremity thereof, but it does. Now could the members of my body exist if the blood did not pass to the extremities? Then it has to turn and go back to the vitals.
>
> Now say that I am a branch, how am I to partake of Brother Brigham’s spirit and know his mind unless I also partake of the fatness of the true vine and permit its sap or essence or spirit to flow through me without obstruction, that my mind and will might become amalgamated and come together with the mind and will of Brother Brigham, that our spirits may freely and fully unite through the same genial influences of truth.”

In the same vein, he further went on to say:

> “Every man and woman that will not yield to passion or to any evil practice or principle will become filled with the Spirit of God and it will pass from one to another. This is why I have often said I love Brother Brigham Young better than I have loved any woman on earth because my will has run into his and his into mine. And there is a free interchange of feelings.

> There are but few men that will do that for they generally want their own way and their own will. Therefore, their wills do not run into ours. This free interchange of pure feelings should run through all the organizations in this church and through every member in every family throughout all our borders."

I love that man more than any man or woman upon the earth. We say he was the greatest man living in his time upon the earth. Brother Fred spoke of Abraham. I'd like to read:

(Pearl of Great Price, Abraham 3:22-23)

> "Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these, there were many of the noble and great ones;
>
> And God saw that these souls were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, Thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born."

And I'm satisfied that Leroy Johnson was one of them in the grand council before he came to fill his mission as a ruler of all Israel, standing among the great prophets of God. Joseph Smith said all the prophets were ordained by God himself. He is among that great concourse of men--Gods, if you please--before they came to fulfill their part in the great work of God upon the earth. In further substantiation of this, I'd like to read some words of the Prophet Joseph:

> “In relation to the kingdom of God, the devil always sets up his kingdom at the very same time in opposition to God. Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained for that very purpose in the grand council of heaven before this world was. I suppose I was ordained to this very office in that grand council.”

It is the testimony that I want that I am God’s servant and this people His people. The ancient prophets declared that in the last days, the God of heaven should set up a kingdom which would never be destroyed or left to other people. Leroy Sunderland Johnson was likewise ordained before he came here in that grand council to fulfill his part as a ruler over Israel. I just wanted to express my feelings regarding this very dear, very dear and great man. How he suffered for us, brothers and sisters!

Well, I don’t want to go into things that would not be proper, but I say to this congregation that I have felt always to dedicate my life of service to him as his servant and God’s servant. I’m sorry to be emotional, but I can’t help it, brothers and sisters.

I want to read again the character of this man that is given in the seventh chapter of Moroni. He and his mentor and predecessor, John Y. Barlow, were the greatest examples of men meek and lowly in heart, which is what Jesus Christ said he was when speaking to the people in His time.

(Book of Mormon, Moroni 7:40-48)

> “And again, my beloved brethren, I would speak unto you concerning hope.”

This was after having discoursed upon the first and glorious principle of the Gospel, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and in God, the Father, and in the Holy Ghost.

> "And again, my beloved brethren, I would speak to you concerning hope. How is it that you can attain unto faith, save ye shall have hope?
>
> And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you, that you shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of His resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal, and this because of your faith in Him according to the promise.
>
> Wherefore, if a man have faith, he must needs have hope; for without faith there cannot be any hope.
>
> And again, behold I say unto you that he cannot have faith and hope save he shall be meek and lowly of heart.
>
> If so, his faith and hope is vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly in heart; and if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he has not charity he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity.
>
> And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

How he endured that great pain and suffering for seven long years and eight months! For reasons that we know not, or cannot appreciate.

> “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail--
>
> But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.
>
> Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, (faith in our prayers) that ye may be filled with this love, (which is the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit of God. All of these things are the attributes of the Holy Spirit.) that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of His Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when He shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see Him as He is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as He is pure. Amen.”

These were his attributes, which are the attributes of God out of the Holy Spirit. Now, I pray that God will bless his family who stood by him through all his days faithful and true and especially in the days of his suffering. In effect, he was giving of his life for this people and for his family.

God saw fit to take him Home. He said, on the last day when he was suffering the greatest, “I want to go home and go to my rest.” In that great hour, I am convinced that he was healed. What greater way could a man be healed--called upon to suffer as he did for his brethren and his friends and his people--to pass over to continue his work on the other side among the prophets of God, among God’s rulers, to finish his work. I want to testify to you that he stood with his predecessor, John Y. Barlow, and

his, Lorin C. Woolley, John W. Woolley and John Taylor and Brigham Young and Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith was at the elbow of all of these, head of this last and glorious dispensation.

So, he has finished his work among us. But I am sure he is going to be working for us as he goes on in his labors on the other side. God hasn't finished with him yet.

Occasionally he made statements as I have here in a sermon of his which I wanted to read but felt that it wouldn't be appropriate at this time. He will go on, and we will go on for and with him, which I pray may be our happy lot and our great blessing from the God of Israel and his son, Jesus Christ, and Joseph Smith Junior standing in the office of the Holy Ghost in the Godhead of this earth.

May we draw near to them and be obedient and faithful and true and abide in their love to the end, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Men's Quartet: I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Elder Truman I. Barlow:

My dear friends, we have lost a great friend who did nothing except to bless every soul he touched. If you had the opportunity to have touched him, I promise you, you are blessed that much. I have known Uncle Roy for fifty years. That's all of my life, and I bear testimony to you that he was truly a man of God.

If he were here and could speak today, I believe he would say, "Dear Brothers and Sisters, love the Lord with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. Put away evil among you. Don't criticize. You fathers," he would say, "set an example before your wives and family. You mothers," he would say, "teach them to honor their father and to honor themselves." He would say to us, "Be modest,

be clean, be kind, do all the good you can." These are the things that Uncle Roy would say if he were to speak to you today.

Uncle Roy was not a very big man in stature. He was only five feet eight or nine inches tall. Probably the heaviest he ever got was a hundred and forty-five pounds.

I was privileged to be there in 1953 at the Raid when one hundred officers from the state of Arizona came into the schoolyard where we were, surrounding Uncle Roy standing there. They came with their guns, and their clubs, and their flashlights; and they were to arrest us for some evil that somebody thought we had done. Uncle Roy stood there before a row of men, us included, and he said, "This sand will drink our blood before we give up the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ," which included United Order, Celestial Marriage, and all the other principles of the Gospel including honesty and decency. He laid his life on the line.

He taught the people what it was like to stand up for right and live in the spirit of peace. I have been very privileged to have an opportunity to stand by him in a small way, and not once through this long siege of sickness have I ever heard him complain. He went through a terrible pressure a while back where he had to adjust certain conditions in the work. It was a tremendous weight upon him, but not once did he criticize. He pointed the way. He demonstrated the way. He showed the way. Not once did he curse any man. I have never heard him say an ugly word about some other man.

Since he got sick, he has done a mighty work. He, in the last five years, being sick all the time, has built two houses and built this auditorium. I am sure that this building standing today is worth over two million dollars. It represents the hearts of the people that love Uncle Roy.

Here are a few of the things that Uncle Roy has done in the last little while--since 1980. He made six trips into Canada, which took forty-five days. He made fifty trips to Lava Hot Springs, which took two hundred and twenty-nine days. He took nineteen trips into Phoenix, which took forty-nine days. He went to New York and Nauvoo, which took twelve days. He went to Indiana to help us pick up the big fire engine, which took eight days. He took nine trips into California, which took thirty-one days. He went back to Kansas, twice, which took eleven days. He went to Denver twice, which took seven days. He went to Walla Walla, Washington, once, which took three days. He went to Flagstaff three times, which took seven days. He went down to Lee's Ferry with a concourse of people, six trips. He went to Kingman, twelve trips. He went to Las Vegas, two trips. He went to the hospital seventeen times, which took a hundred and eight days.

I want to tell you, this man has been busy doing all he can for the people. I say to you, let Uncle Roy's life mean something to you, for you from now on to have a better life--to do better than you have done, to do like he did. For truly, as it has been said, he lived the principles that the Savior taught. He would be as honest in a deal if he was dealing with his father, his brother, with Uncle Fred as he would if he was dealing with a Chinaman down in California. In the exchange of monies and in the exchange of deals, he was honest and forthright and he taught this to his people. We can do nothing more than go from here and try to do the things that Uncle Roy taught and stood for.

I promise you that there will come a day when every single person in this room, and I say it tenderly, whether you believe it or not, will have to have the stamp of approval of Uncle Roy, or your life in the hereafter will stop. He had that

position in our lives. I bear testimony of that, and I bear testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and of the Gospel Plan.

I say to Uncle Roy's family, his immediate family, his ladies, bless you. Continue on. Make Uncle Roy pleased with you. I say to Uncle Roy's sons and daughters, press on. You had a wonderful father, a great leader. We are now like we are on the edge of the Grand Canyon and Uncle Roy is over on the other edge. He is saying, "Come on, I've shown you what to do." Now we have got to do it. We have got to go down. We've got to go up. We've got to go over. We've got to work. We've got to keep body and soul together. We've got to do all those things, and then we have to cross a great river, and then we have to climb--for us to fulfill what this man did if we ever expect to strike hands with him again, which I hope we can do.

Uncle Roy would say to all the people, "Come, follow me down the road, and I'll show you the way to earn your eternal salvation." May the Lord bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Choir: O My Father

Elder Dan Barlow:

Our Father which dwells in the heavens, in gratitude we stand before you for the beautiful service we have had this day for your servant and our great prophet. We are thankful for his life and for his words of encouragement over the years. We are thankful for his example. We feel a deep gratitude in our hearts at this time as the spirit of peace now settles upon us that we might go forward and serve you and keep your commandments.

We acknowledge your hand in every affair of our lives, and we pray that you will watch over the family of President

Johnson and touch their hearts that they might have courage, that they might have faith and comfort. Bless this people that we might go forward and do as he has called upon us to do, to go down the road with him. We pray at this time that you will bless those who have driven from afar and return them in safety. Guard over us continually, and let your will be done, we humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Brother Jeffs:
The dedication of the grave: Son, Elder Orval L. Johnson.
Trumpet Solo at the graveside: An Angel from on High, Paul Holm.

Pallbearers, Sons:	John Johnson	Ralph Johnson
	Steven Barlow	LaMar Johnson
	Jody Johnson	Morley Johnson

Honorary Pallbearers:

Louis Barlow	Dan Barlow
Truman Barlow	Alvin Barlow
Fred Barlow	Dell Barlow
Joseph Barlow	Alma Barlow
Nephi Barlow	Edwin Barlow

Brother Fred wants to give us some directions as to our procedure leaving this place going to the cemetery.

Brother Fred Jessop:

Please remain seated and listen carefully. Let the audience remain seated until the family and casket leave the room. Then please follow in this order.

The horse-drawn hearse will lead the way. The honorary pallbearers will follow and walk behind. Special guests and patriarchs next. The congregation will then walk behind them to

the cemetery where the grave will be dedicated and the congregation will remain at attention for the trumpet solo.

Now folks, we want to improve our manner of going to the cemetery and not having some rush out and go out ahead, but follow reverently in order. Those that cannot walk may ride in cars and take the road that leads to the north entrance to the cemetery. The walking procession will go and enter the cemetery area from the west.

After the service at the cemetery, luncheon will be served at the Cafeteria. Pallbearers and the family will now exit the building.