

# Thankful This Easter Season

By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

*Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*

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*From an April 2015 general conference address.*

**A**t Easter we celebrate the gift of victory over every fall we have ever experienced, every sorrow we have ever known, every discouragement we have ever had, every fear we have ever faced—to say nothing of our resurrection from death and forgiveness for our sins. That victory is available to us because of events that transpired nearly two millennia ago in Jerusalem.

Beginning in the spiritual anguish of the Garden of Gethsemane, moving to the Crucifixion on a cross at Calvary, and concluding on a beautiful Sunday morning inside a donated tomb, a sinless, pure, and holy man, the very Son of God Himself, did what no other deceased person had ever done nor ever could do. Under His own power, He rose from death, never to have His body separated from His spirit again.

That first Easter sequence of Atonement and Resurrection constitutes the most consequential moment, the most generous gift, the most excruciating pain, and the most majestic manifestation of pure love ever to be demonstrated in the history of this world. Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, suffered, died, and rose from death in order that He could grasp us as we fall, hold us with His might, and through our obedience to His commandments, lift us to eternal life.

This Easter I thank Him and the Father, who gave Him to us, that Jesus still stands triumphant over death, although He stands on wounded feet. This Easter I thank Him and the Father, who gave Him to us, that He still extends unending grace, although He extends it with pierced palms and scarred wrists. This Easter I thank Him and the Father, who gave Him to us, that we can sing before a sweat-stained garden, a nail-driven cross, and a gloriously empty tomb:

*How great, how glorious, how complete  
Redemption's grand design,  
Where justice, love, and mercy meet  
In harmony divine!<sup>1</sup>*

**NOTE**

1. "How Great the Wisdom and the Love," *Hymns*, no. 195.



Born  
December 3, 1940, in  
**St. George, Utah**

Worked as a service  
station attendant,  
paperboy, and  
grocery bagger  
in his youth.



Met his wife in high school.  
She was a musician and  
cheerleader; he was a  
student officer  
and played  
sports.



**Elder**

# JEFFREY R. HOLLAND



Married  
**Patricia  
Terry**  
on June 7, 1963,  
in the St. George  
Temple.



Has 3 children and  
13 grandchildren

Ordained  
a member  
of the  
Quorum of  
the Twelve  
Apostles on  
**June 23,  
1994.**



"I have always loved people, and I think  
while growing up I knew everyone in the  
city of St. George," he says.

He was called to serve in the  
**British Mission,**  
and Elder Quentin L. Cook was  
one of his mission companions.  
While he was there, his parents  
were called to the same mission.



Attended  
**Dixie  
College,  
BYU, and  
Yale.**



Taught **Institute.**



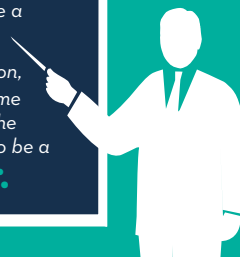
Was the ninth  
**President  
of BYU.**

Served as the  
**Church Commissioner  
of Education.**

Served as  
a **bishop**  
of a singles ward.



He wanted to be a  
**doctor**  
before his mission,  
but when he came  
home, he knew he  
was supposed to be a  
**teacher.**



Was on his high school's state  
championship basketball  
and football teams.



Was voted  
"Outstanding Athlete,"  
lettering in  
**football,  
basketball,  
track,  
and baseball.**

Was co-captain on the  
**Dixie College  
basketball  
team.**

As a young boy, he  
once ran from one end  
of town to the other  
to make it home  
**by his  
curfew.**

