YOUTH MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS | MAY 2020



# CONFERENCE ISSUE

COMMEMORATING THE RESTORATION

A NEW PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

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ON THE COVER: A Pillar of Light by Dan Burr

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### THE MONTHLY YOUTH MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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"WHEN WE SEEK TO HEAR—TRULY HEAR—HIS SON, WE WILL BE GUIDED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE."

PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON

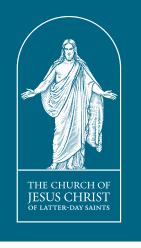
### AMAZING THINGS FROM THIS CONFERENCE

- Eight new temples announced
- A proclamation on the Restoration (see page 49)
- Commemoration of the Restoration with the Hosanna Shout
- Youth speakers (see page 48)
- A new Church symbol introduced (see page 6)
- A blessing from the prophet (see pages 8–9)

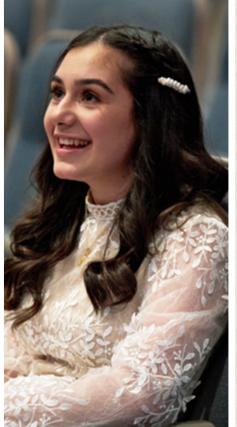


### MISSED IT? Find it at conference. ChurchofJesusChrist. org, on the Gospel Library app, or in the Ensign magazine.











### **APRIL 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

# HOW DO YOU Hear Him?

This conference was certainly like no other! We commemorated the 200th anniversary of the First Vision and Restoration while striving to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the Church around the world gathered for the 190th Annual General Conference in their homes.

The talks themselves were delivered in a location other than the Conference Center: an auditorium in the nearby Church Office Building on Temple Square. Aside from the people who spoke, prayed, or conducted, the auditorium was empty. The music was prerecorded too.

President Russell M. Nelson and other speakers invited us to "*hear* what the Savior says and then to *heed* His counsel," and they promised blessings as we do.

As you study the excerpts from the conference talks, think about how you can follow President Nelson's invitation. How will you "Hear Him"? What will you do differently?



# President Russell M. Nelson

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

### **OPENING MESSAGE**

As you know, attendance at this general conference has been strictly limited. . . .

Though today's restrictions relate to a virulent virus, life's personal trials stretch far beyond this pandemic....

How can we endure such trials? The Lord has told us that "if ye are prepared ye shall not fear" [Doctrine and Covenants 38:30]. Of course, we can store our own reserves of food, water, and savings. But equally crucial is our need to fill our personal *spiritual* storehouses with faith, truth, and testimony....

This year, we commemorate the 200th anniversary of one of the most significant events in the history of the world—namely, the appearance of God the Father and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to Joseph Smith. During that singular vision, God the Father pointed to Jesus Christ and said: "This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" [Joseph Smith— History 1:17].

That admonition given to Joseph is for each of us. We are to seek, in every way we can, to hear Jesus Christ, who speaks to us through the power and ministering of the Holy Ghost.

The purpose of this and every general conference is to help us to hear Him. We have prayed, and invite you to pray, that the Spirit of the Lord will be with us in such rich abundance that you can hear the messages that the Savior has especially for you—messages that will bring peace to your soul. Messages that will heal your broken heart. Messages that will illuminate your mind. Messages that will help you know what to do as you move ahead through times of turmoil and trial.

# "This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!"

Our Father knows that when we are surrounded by uncertainty and fear, what will help us the very most is to hear His Son.

Because when we seek to hear—truly hear—His Son, we will be guided to know what to do in any circumstance.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON

New Era

### SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

### **OPENING THE HEAVENS FOR HELP**

President Russell M. Nelson

I have spoken previously about a needed course correction in the way we refer to the name of the Church. Since that time, much has been done to accomplish this correction...

To help us remember Him and to identify The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the *Lord's Church,* we are pleased to introduce a symbol that will signify the central place of Jesus Christ in His Church...

This symbol should feel familiar to many, as we have long identified the restored gospel with the *living*, resurrected Christ.

... It will remind all that this is the Savior's Church and that all we do as members of His Church centers on Jesus Christ and His gospel.

... As followers of Jesus Christ, living in a day when the COVID-19 pandemic has put the whole world in commotion, let us not just talk of Christ or preach of Christ or employ a symbol representing Christ.

Let us put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ into action! . . .

... During times of deep distress, ... the most natural thing for us to do is to call upon our Heavenly Father and His Son—the Master Healer—to show forth Their marvelous power to bless the people of the earth....

I invite *all,* including those not of our faith, to fast and pray on Good Friday, April 10. . . .

. . . I know that [Jesus Christ] will respond to the pleadings of His people.

→ See the full address at conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.



# ALL WE DO AS MEMBERS OF HIS Church centers on Jesus christ and His gospel.

### PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON

# Hear Him

- IN THE SCRIPTURES.
- IN THE TEMPLE.
- IN FAMILY HISTORY WORK.
- IN RECOGNIZING THE WHISPERINGS OF THE HOLY GHOST.
- IN HEEDING THE WORDS OF PROPHETS, SEERS, AND REVELATORS.

### SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

### **HEAR HIM**

President Russell M. Nelson

Our Father knows that when we are surrounded by uncertainty and fear, what will help us the very most is to hear His Son.

Because when we seek to hear—truly hear—His Son, we will be guided to know what to do in any circumstance.

... To hearken means to "hear Him"—to *hear* what the Savior says and then to *heed* His counsel. In those two words—"Hear Him"—God gives us the pattern for success, happiness, and joy in this life. We are to *hear* the words of the Lord, *hearken* to them, and *heed* what He has told us!...

... Where *can* we go to hear Him?

We can go to the scriptures. . . .

We can also *hear Him* in the temple....

... l invite you to increase your participation in family history....

We also *hear Him* more clearly as we refine our ability to recognize the whisperings of the Holy Ghost....

And, finally, we *hear Him* as we heed the words of prophets, seers, and revelators....

What will happen as you more intentionally hear, hearken, and heed what the Savior has said and what He is saying now through His prophets? I promise that you will be blessed with additional power to deal with temptation, struggles, and weakness. I promise miracles in your marriage, family relationships, and daily work. And I promise that your capacity to feel joy will increase even if turbulence increases in your life.

Dear brothers and sisters,

I express my love for you. During this time of tension and uncertainty, and invoking the authority vested in me, I would like to confer upon you an apostolic blessing.

I bless you with peace and increasing faith in the Lord.

I bless you with a desire to repent and become a little more like Him each day.

I bless you to know that the Prophet Joseph Smith is the prophet of the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fulness.

Should there be illness among you or your loved ones, I leave a blessing of healing, consistent with the will of the Lord.

I so bless you, adding once more my expression of love for each of you, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ. amen.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON



### SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

### **GO FORWARD IN FAITH**

### President Russell M. Nelson

The many inspiring components of this April 2020 general conference—and the sacred week that we now begin— can be summarized by two divinely decreed words: "Hear Him.". . . We pray that you will begin anew *truly* to hear, hearken to, and heed the words of the Savior. I promise that decreased fear and increased faith will follow.

... Our gospel study curriculum, *Come, Follow Me*, will continue to bless your lives. Your consistent efforts in this endeavor ... will change your life, that of your family, and the world. We will be strengthened as we become even more valiant disciples of the Lord, standing up and speaking up for Him, wherever we are....

 $\ldots$  Please use this time when temples are closed to continue to live a temple-worthy life or to become temple worthy.  $\ldots$ 

Dear brothers and sisters, I express my love for you. During this time of tension and uncertainty, and invoking the authority vested in me, I would like to confer upon you an apostolic blessing.

I bless you with peace and increasing faith in the Lord.

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I so bless you, adding once more my expression of love for each of you, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

# President Dallin H. Oaks

FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

### SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

### THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD AND THE KEYS

The principle that priesthood authority can be exercised only under the direction of the one who holds the keys for that function is fundamental in the Church, but this does not apply in the family. For example, a father presides and exercises the priesthood in his family by the authority of the priesthood he holds. He has no need to have the direction or approval of one holding priesthood keys in order to perform his various family functions. These include counseling the members of his family, holding family meetings, giving priesthood blessings to his wife and children, or giving healing blessings to family members or others....

The same principle applies when a father is absent and a mother is the family leader. She presides in her home and is instrumental in bringing the power and blessings of the priesthood into her family through her endowment and sealing in the temple. While she is not authorized to give the priesthood blessings . . . , she can perform all of the other functions of family leadership. In doing so, she exercises the power of the priesthood. . . .

... Fathers who hold the Melchizedek Priesthood should exercise their authority "by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned" (Doctrine and Covenants 121:41). ... Holders of the priesthood should also keep the commandments so they will have the power of the priesthood to give blessings to their family members. They should cultivate loving family relationships so that family members will want to ask them for blessings. And parents should encourage more priesthood blessings in the family.



### SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

### **THE GREAT PLAN**

### President Dallin H. Oaks

[Heavenly Father's] plan—revealed in the Restoration began with a Council in Heaven. As spirits, we desired to achieve the eternal life enjoyed by our heavenly parents....

In the Council in Heaven, all the spirit children of God were introduced to the Father's plan....

God's plan gives us four great assurances to assist our journey through mortality. . . . The *first* assures us that through [Jesus Christ's] suffering for the sins of which we repent, we can be cleansed of those sins. . . .

Second, as part of our Savior's Atonement, He took upon Him all other mortal infirmities. This allows us to receive divine help and strength to bear the inevitable burdens of mortality.... The Savior took upon Him "the pains and sicknesses [and infirmities] of his people ... that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities" (Alma 7:11–12)....

*Third*, the Savior, through His infinite Atonement, revokes the finality of death and gives us the joyful assurance that all of us will be resurrected....

*Fourth* and finally, modern revelation teaches us that our progress need not conclude with the end of mortality....

We know that the Savior will return and that there will be a millennium of peaceful reign to wrap up the mortal part of God's plan. We also know that there will be different resurrections, of the just and the unjust, with the final judgment of each person always following his or her resurrection.

... This judgment will cause all of the children of God to proceed to a kingdom of glory for which their obedience has qualified them and where they will be comfortable. The judge of all this is our Savior, Jesus Christ...

... We who know God's plan and who have covenanted to participate have a clear responsibility to teach these truths.

> See the full address at conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

### Four Great Assurances from JESUS CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

l

We can be cleansed of our sins if we repent.

2

We can call upon Him for strength to bear our burdens.

All of us will be resurrect

will be resurrected.

Our progress continues after this life.



# President Henry B. Eyring

SECOND COUNSELOR IN THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

### **PRAYERS OF FAITH**

Many of the specifics of what we will do and when we will do it in the unfolding Restoration are not yet revealed. . . . Here are a few examples of what we do know will take place:

Through His Saints, the Lord will offer the gift of His gospel "to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people" [Mosiah 15:28]....

We as a people will become more united amid increasing conflict...

Even an unbelieving world will recognize The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and realize the power of God upon it...

How, then, can each of us participate in this work of such magnitude and grandeur? President Nelson has taught us how to grow in spiritual power. When we take repentance as a joyful opportunity because of our growing faith that Jesus is the Christ, when we understand and believe that Heavenly Father hears our every prayer, when we strive to obey and live the commandments, we grow in our power to receive continuing revelation. The Holy Ghost can be our constant companion. A feeling of light will stay with us even as the world around us becomes darker.

Joseph Smith is an example of how to grow in such spiritual power. He showed us that the prayer of faith is the key to revelation from God....

Such prayer, offered in faith in Jesus Christ, ushered in this last dispensation. And it will be at the heart of the part each of us will play in its continuing unfolding.

JOSEPH SMITH ASKED IN CHILDLIKE FAITH WHAT THE LORD WOULD HAVE HIM DO. HIS ANSWER CHANGED THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

"

PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING

# **THE LORD**...GOES BEFORE US. HE KNOWS THE FUTURE PERFECTLY. **HE INVITES YOU TO THE WORK.** HE JOINS YOU IN IT.

### SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

### **HE GOES BEFORE US**

### President Henry B. Eyring

My preparation [for this conference] took me to the record of an event in the Restoration. I had read about that event many times.... But this time I saw in the account how the Lord leads us, His disciples, in His Church. I saw what it means for us mortals to be led by the Savior of the world, the Creator—who knows all things, past, present, and future. He teaches us step by step and guides us, never forcing.

... Much of [Joseph Smith's] account [of this meeting] is recorded in Doctrine and Covenants section 110....



After the keys of the gathering of Israel were committed to Joseph, the Lord inspired the Prophet to send out members of the Twelve on missions. As I studied, it became clear to me that the Lord had prepared in detail the way for the Twelve to go on missions abroad where people had been prepared to believe and sustain them. . . .

... The Lord had inspired Joseph and those faithful missionaries who went to work to achieve a harvest that must have, at the time, seemed beyond them. But the Lord, with His perfect foresight and preparation, made it possible....

I testify that the Lord [sees] far into the future and how He [will] lead us to help Him accomplish His purposes in the last days.... ... He has raised up and prepared faithful people who choose to do hard things well. He has always been lovingly patient in helping us learn "line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little" [2 Nephi 28:30]. He is firm in the timing and the sequence of His intentions, yet He ensures that sacrifice often brings continuing blessings that we did not foresee....

... The Lord is leading the Restoration of His gospel and His Church. He goes before us. He knows the future perfectly. He invites you to the work. He joins you in it. He has in place a plan for your service. And even as you sacrifice, you will feel joy as you help others rise to be ready for His coming.

# REMEMBER THE DDDDC G G G JOSEPH AND HYRUM SMITH

SO YOU AND I COULD ENJOY THE MANY BLESSINGS AND ALL OF THESE Revealed truths we have today. Their faithfulness should Never be forgotten!

PRESIDENT M. RUSSELL BALLARD

Statues of Joseph and Hyrum Smith in front of the Nauvoo Illinois Temple

New Era

President

# M. Russell Ballard

ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

### SHALL WE NOT GO ON IN SO GREAT A CAUSE?

As we celebrate this joyous occasion, the 200th anniversary of the First Vision, we should always remember the price Joseph and Hyrum Smith paid, along with so many other faithful men, women, and children, to establish the Church so you and I could enjoy the many blessings and all of these revealed truths we have today. Their faithfulness should never be forgotten!

I have often wondered why Joseph and Hyrum and their families had to suffer so much. It may be that they came to know God through their suffering in ways that could not have happened without it. Through it, they reflected on Gethsemane and the cross of the Savior...

Before his death in 1844, Joseph wrote a spirited letter to the Saints. It was a call to action, which continues in the Church today:

"Brethren [and sisters], *shall we not go on in so great a cause*? Go forward and not backward. Courage, brethren [and sisters]; and on, on to the victory!...

"... Let us, therefore, as a church and a people, and as Latter-day Saints, offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness" [Doctrine and Covenants 128:22, 24; emphasis added].

As we listen to the Spirit during this 200th anniversary celebration this weekend, consider what offering you will present to the Lord in righteousness in the coming days. Be courageous—share it with someone you trust, and most important, please take the time to do it!

I know that the Savior is pleased when we present Him an offering from our hearts in righteousness, just as He was pleased with the faithful offering of those remarkable brothers, Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and all other faithful Saints.



# Elder Neil L. Andersen

OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

### **SPIRITUALLY DEFINING MEMORIES**

Along with the peaceful direction we receive from the Holy Ghost, from time to time, God powerfully and very personally assures each of us that He knows us and loves us and that He is blessing us specifically and openly. Then, in our moments of difficulty, the Savior brings these experiences back into our mind.

... These experiences may come at pivotal times in our lives, or in what may at first seem as uneventful happenings, but they are always accompanied by an exceptionally strong spiritual confirmation of the love of God.



Elder Andersen shared a story about a teenage girl who, ofter doubting the power of prayer, swept the ocean's surface and found her leader's lost glasses resting in her hands. "She knew that God knew that she knew that she had been blessed."

Remembering these spiritually defining experiences takes us to our knees, declaring as did the Prophet Joseph: "What I received was from heaven. I know it, and I know that God knows that I know it" [see Joseph Smith—History 1:25]....

These spiritually defining moments come at different times and in different ways, individualized for each of us....

Embrace your sacred memories. Believe them. Write them down. Share them with your family. Trust that they come to you from your Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son. Let them bring patience to your doubts and understanding to your difficulties. I promise you that as you willingly acknowledge and carefully treasure the spiritually defining events in your life, more and more will come to you. Heavenly Father knows you and loves you!



# Brother Douglas D. Holmes

FORMER FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE YOUNG MEN GENERAL PRESIDENCY

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

### **DEEP IN OUR HEART**

As we come to see [the] principles [in the Children and Youth program] more clearly, . . . we will see how the Lord is trying to help us—all of us—get His gospel deeper in our hearts. . . .

The first principle is relationships.... We are not expected to find or walk the covenant path alone. We need love and support from parents, other family members, friends, and leaders who are also walking the path....

... As we plan activities, meetings, and other gatherings, let us remember an overarching purpose of these gatherings is to build loving relationships that unite us and help get the gospel of Jesus Christ deeper in our hearts.

... To connect our hearts with heaven, we need individual spiritual experiences.... Those experiences come as the Holy Ghost carries the word and love of God to our mind and heart....

... The word initiates and increases our faith in Christ and fuels within us a desire to become more like the Savior—that is, to repent and walk the covenant path....

This is far more than an exercise in goal setting or self-improvement. Goals are simply a tool that helps us connect with heaven through revelation, agency, and repentance....

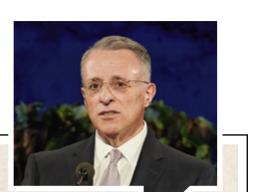
Finally, to get the gospel of Jesus Christ deep in our hearts, we need to engage in it—to give our time and talents to it, to sacrifice for it....

I promise, as we focus on these principles . . . the gospel of Jesus Christ will sink deeper in all our hearts. We will see the Restoration move forward to its ultimate purpose, the redemption of Israel and the establishment of Zion.

# THE LORD IS TRYING TO HELP US...GET HIS GOSPEL DEEPER IN OUR HEARTS.

**BROTHER DOUGLAS D. HOLMES** 

New Era



## Elder Ulisses Soares OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

### THE COMING FORTH OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

Following the First Vision, the miraculous coming forth of the Book of Mormon is the second fundamental milestone of the unfolding Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ in this dispensation....

The historical facts and the special witnesses of the Book of Mormon testify that its coming forth was indeed miraculous. Nevertheless, the power of this book is not based only in its magnificent history but on its powerful, unparalleled message that has changed countless lives including mine!...

Through ... priceless personal experiences, the Book of Mormon indeed became the keystone that sustains my faith in Jesus Christ and my testimony of the doctrine of His gospel....

... I invite you to be part of the marvelous coming forth of the Book of Mormon in your own life. I promise you that as you prayerfully and consistently study its words, you can partake of its promises and rich blessings in your life. I reaffirm once more the promise that echoes through its pages: that if you "ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ," He mercifully "will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost" [Moroni 10:4]. I can assure you that He will give you the answer in a very personal way, as He has done for me and many others around the world.

# BE PART O THE MARV UF FORTH NG HE BOOK OF MORMON $\left| D \right)$ N LIFE.

ELDER ULISSES SOARES



# Elder Dale G. Renlund

OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

### CONSIDER THE GOODNESS AND GREATNESS OF GOD

Our Heavenly Father wants us to recall His and His Beloved Son's goodness, not for Their own gratification but for the influence such remembrance has on us....

... Each of us has received gifts that we could not provide for ourselves, gifts from our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son....

Every time we use, benefit from, or even think of these gifts, we ought to consider the sacrifice, generosity, and compassion of the givers. Reverence for the givers does more than just make us grateful. Reflecting on Their gifts can and should transform us...

Reflecting on God's goodness and mercy helps us become more spiritually receptive. . . .

When we consider the goodness of our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, our trust in Them increases. Our prayers change because we know God is our Father and we are His children...

By acknowledging that every good thing comes from Jesus Christ, we will communicate our faith more effectively to others. We will have courage when confronted with seemingly impossible tasks and circumstances. We will strengthen our resolve to keep the covenants we have made to follow the Savior. We will be filled with the love of God, want to help those in need without being judgmental, love our children and raise them in righteousness, retain a remission of our sins, and always rejoice. These are the remarkable fruits of remembering God's goodness and mercy.

# THESA OF THE STATE OF THE STATE

• RESTORE WHAT YOU CANNOT RESTORE • HEAL WOUNDS YOU CANNOT HEAL • FIX WHAT HAS BEEN IRREPARABLY BROKEN • COMPENSATE FOR ANY UNFAIRNESS INFLICTED ON YOU • PERMANENTLY MEND EVEN SHATTERED HEARTS

ELDER DALE G. RENLUND

# DOES YOUR Spiritual foundation needa seismic upgrade?



# Elder Gary E. Stevenson

OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

# A GOOD FOUNDATION AGAINST THE TIME TO COME

On July 24, 1847 . . . Brigham Young . . . entered the Salt Lake Valley.

Two days later, . . . Brigham Young . . . stuck his cane in the ground, exclaiming, "Here shall stand the Temple of our God." . . .

... Brigham Young offered the following prophetic insight at general conference in October 1863: "I want to see [the Salt Lake] temple built in a manner that it will endure through the millennium."...

The temple renovation that would employ [the latest seismic] technology was announced by the First Presidency last year.... It is estimated to be completed in approximately four years....

An introspective look may reveal that we too and our families could benefit from our doing some needed maintenance and renovation work, even a seismic upgrade!... [Events in our lives], similar to an earthquake, are often difficult to predict and come in various levels of intensity—wrestling with questions or doubt, facing affliction or adversity, working through personal offenses with Church leaders, members, doctrine, or policy. The best defense against these lies in our spiritual foundation....

For me, the principles included in the questions discussed as part of receiving a temple recommend serve as a strong basis for a spiritual foundation—particularly the first four questions. I see them as spiritual cornerstones. . . .

... During the coming years, may we allow these improvements made to the Salt Lake Temple to move and inspire us, as individuals and families, so that we too—metaphorically—will "be built in a manner that will endure through the millennium."



### SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

### HOSANNA AND HALLELUJAH— The living jesus christ: the heart of restoration and easter

In celebrating the ongoing Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we also prepare for Easter. In both, we rejoice in the return of Jesus Christ....

The sacred events between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are the story of hosanna and hallelujah. Hosanna is our plea for God to save. Hallelujah expresses our praise to the Lord for the hope of salvation and exaltation. In hosanna and hallelujah we recognize the living Jesus Christ as the heart of Easter and latter-day restoration....

On Easter Sunday, April 3, 1836, . . . the living Jesus Christ appeared after the Kirtland Temple was dedicated. . . .

Following the appearance of Jesus Christ, Moses, Elias, and Elijah also came....

... Elijah's appearance coincided, though not by coincidence, with the Jewish Passover season, which tradition reverently anticipates Elijah's return....

... Elijah did come as promised, at Easter and the onset of Passover....

... Passover remembers the deliverance of the children of Israel from 400 years of bondage....

... [Passover] represents Jesus Christ ultimately overcoming death....

Today we celebrate restoration and resurrection....

... In these times, we can learn much of God's goodness and our divine potential for God's love to grow in us as we seek Him and reach out to each other....

... At this season of hosanna and hallelujah, sing hallelujah—for He shall reign forever and ever! Shout hosanna, to God and the Lamb!

# HIS REDEEMING PROMISES APPLY,

no matter our past, our present, or concerns for our future.

**ELDER GERRIT W. GONG** 



# Sister Jean B. Bingham

RELIEF SOCIETY GENERAL PRESIDENT

### SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

### **UNITED IN ACCOMPLISHING GOD'S WORK**

[Adam and Eve] were focused on helping their children . . . understand and embrace those principles that would make them happy in this life, as well as prepared to return to their heavenly parents after having increased their abilities and proved their obedience to God. . . .

... One of the first elements of Christ's original Church to be restored was the authority of the priesthood of God. As the Restoration continued to unfold, men and women began to realize anew the importance and potential of working as partners, authorized and directed in this sacred labor by Him....



Unity is essential to the divine work we are privileged and called to do, but it doesn't just happen. It takes effort and time to really counsel together—to listen to one another, understand other's viewpoints, and share experiences—but the process results in more inspired decisions. . . .

... Women do possess distinctive, divine gifts and are given unique responsibilities, but those are not more—or less—important than men's gifts and responsibilities. *All* are designed and needed to bring about Heavenly Father's divine plan to give each of His children the best opportunity to fulfill his or her divine potential....

Seeing women as vital participants is not about creating parity but about understanding doctrinal truth....

May each of us choose to become united in the Lord's inspired way to help His work go forward.





## Elder Ronald A. Rasband

### SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

### **FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY**

NAME:

By divine design, ancient prophets of God, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost, prophesied of the Restoration and what was to come in our day, the last dispensation and the fulness of times. . . .

We live in that time prophesied; we are the people charged with ushering in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ; we are to gather God's children, those who will hear and embrace the truths, covenants, and promises of the everlasting gospel....

... The doctrine of Jesus Christ unites all of us—around the world—as sons and daughters of God, as brothers and sisters in the gospel. Regardless of how we look or dress, we are one people with a Father in Heaven whose plan from the beginning was and is for His family to be reunited by making and keeping sacred temple covenants....

We do not know when the Savior will return, but this we do know. We must be prepared in heart and mind, worthy to receive Him, and honored to be part of all that was prophesied so long ago.

I testify that President Russell M. Nelson is the Lord's prophet on the earth, and at his side are Apostles called of God, sustained as prophets, seers, and revelators. And, my dear brothers and sisters, the Restoration continues.

-> See the full address at conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

### Sister Bonnie H. Cordon

YOUNG WOMEN GENERAL PRESIDENT

### SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

### THAT THEY MAY SEE

By virtue of the Restoration of His gospel, we can be filled with the light of our Savior. However, that light is not meant for you and me alone. Jesus Christ has called upon us to "let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven" [3 Nephi 12:16]. I have come to love the phrase "that they may see." It is an earnest invitation from the Lord to be more intentional about helping others see the path and thereby come unto Christ. . . .

... The Lord's invitation to let our light so shine is not just about randomly waving a beam of light and making the world generally brighter. It is about focusing our light so others may see the way to Christ. It is gathering Israel *on this side of the veil*—helping others see the next step forward in making and keeping sacred covenants with God....

... Remember that the Savior testified, "I am the light which ye shall hold up" [3 Nephi 18:24]. He reminds us that He will bring the light if we will just point others to Him.

You and I have enough light to share *right now.* We can light the next step to help someone draw nearer to Jesus Christ, and then the next step, and the next.

Ask yourself, "Who needs the light you have to find the path they need but cannot see?"

→ See the full address at conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

# You and I have enough light to share *right now.* We can light the next step to

## HELP SOMEONE DRAW NEARER TO JESUS CHRIST,

and then the next step, and the next.

**SISTER BONNIE H. CORDON** 

As a 10-year-old girl, Sister Cordon skipped along a dark path to feed her family's chickens one night. Without a steady light to see, Elder L. Tom Perry, who was visiting her family and had volunteered to help feed the chickens, stepped directly into a ditch, leaving him with a soaking-wet leather shoe.

## EVEN WHEN FACING THE MOST INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS.

ELDER JEFFREY R. HOLLAND

WE CAN

WE SHOULD



### Elder Jeffrey R. Holland OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

### **A PERFECT BRIGHTNESS OF HOPE**

Because the Restoration reaffirmed the foundational truth that God does work in this world, we *can* hope, we *should* hope, even when facing the most insurmountable odds.... We all need to believe that what we desire in righteousness can someday, someway, somehow yet be ours....

... If we finally lose hope, we lose our last sustaining possession.... Truly when hope is gone, what we have left is the flame of the inferno raging on every side....

... May we press forward with love in our hearts, walking in the "brightness of hope" [2 Nephi 31:20] that lights the path of holy anticipation we have been on now for 200 years. I testify that the future is going to be as miracle-filled and bountifully blessed as the past has been. We have every reason to hope for blessings even greater than those we have already received because this is the work of Almighty God, this is the Church of continuing revelation, this is the gospel of Christ's unlimited grace and benevolence.

See the full address at conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.



## Elder David A. Bednar

OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

### LET THIS HOUSE BE BUILT UNTO MY NAME (doctrine and covenants 124:40)

The most sacred covenants and priesthood ordinances are received only in a temple—the house of the Lord. Everything that is learned and all that is done in the temple emphasize the divinity of Jesus Christ and His role in Heavenly Father's great plan of happiness....

Covenants and priesthood ordinances are central in the ongoing process of spiritual rebirth and transformation; they are the means whereby the Lord works with each of us *from the inside out*...

# WE COME TO THE TEMPLE TO CONQUER THE WORLD OF EVIL.

ELDER DAVID A. BEDNAR

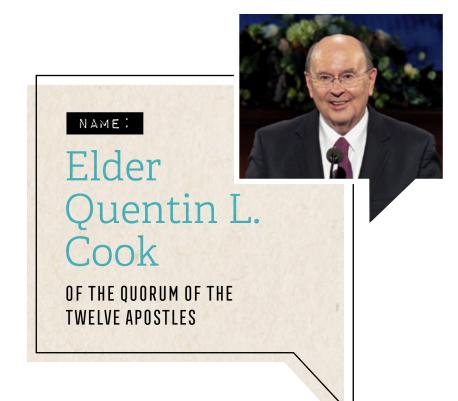
We do not come to the temple to hide from or escape the evils of the world. Rather, we come to the temple to conquer the world of evil. . . .

... Our primary focus should be on the covenants and ordinances that can change our hearts and deepen our devotion to the Savior....

The fundamental obligations that rest upon us as members of the Lord's restored Church are (1) to "Hear Him!" and have our own hearts changed through covenants and ordinances, and (2) to fulfill joyfully the divinely appointed responsibility to offer temple blessings to the entire human family on both sides of the veil. With the Lord's direction and help, indeed we will fulfill these sacred duties. . . .

I solemnly testify that the Father and the Son appeared to Joseph Smith, and Elijah restored the sealing authority. Sacred temple covenants and ordinances can strengthen us and purify our hearts as we "Hear Him!" and receive the power of godliness in our lives. And I witness that this latter-day work will destroy the powers of darkness and bring about the salvation of the human family.

→ See the full address at conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.



### SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

## THE BLESSING OF CONTINUING REVELATION TO PROPHETS AND PERSONAL REVELATION TO GUIDE OUR LIVES

In addition to . . . great foundational scriptures, we are blessed with continuing revelation to living prophets. . . .

Some revelations are of monumental importance, and others enhance our understanding of essential divine truths and provide guidance for our day....

I declare with all solemnity that continuous revelation has been received and is being received through channels the Lord has established. I testify the new proclamation President Nelson delivered this morning is a revelation to bless all people...

Personal revelation is available to all those who humbly seek guidance from the Lord. It is as important as prophetic revelation....

Personal revelation is based on spiritual truths received from the Holy Ghost. . . .

The Spirit communicates in marvelous ways....

Although its impact can be incredibly powerful, it most often comes quietly as a still, small voice....

Some principles that prepare us to receive revelation include:

- Praying for spiritual guidance....
- Preparing for inspiration....
- Partaking of the sacrament worthily....

The Holy Ghost will also provide revelation in our callings and assignments. In my experience, significant spiritual guidance most often comes when we are trying to bless others in fulfilling our responsibilities....

My humble plea today is that each of us will seek continuing revelation to guide our lives and follow the Spirit as we worship God the Father in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

See the full address at conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

# SPIRITUAL GUIDAN MOST OF COMES WHEN WE ARE TRYING TO ESS OTHERS.

**ELDER QUENTIN L. COOK** 

## Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf

OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

### **COME AND BELONG**

The Savior Himself restored His Church to help us on the path to become more like Him....

- ... Come and see! ...
- ... Come and help!...

Come and belong! . . .

Jesus the Christ . . . does care deeply about each and every one of God's children. . . .



There is no threshold of perfection you must attain in order to qualify for God's grace....

... Our loving Heavenly Father has not given us every answer....

He expects us to . . . develop a little resolve—a little backbone—and take another step forward. . . .

... We learn the important lessons of life through experience. Through learning from our mistakes....

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died so that our mistakes might not condemn us and forever halt our progress....

... Our Heavenly Father has not left us to wander in darkness.

This is why, in the spring of 1820, He appeared with His Son, Jesus Christ, to a young man, Joseph Smith. . . .

Joseph was a lot like you and me. Though Joseph made mistakes, God used him to accomplish His great purposes....

It is my hope that, in this bicentennial year of the First Vision, as we contemplate and learn of the Restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ, we will realize that it is not just a historical event. You and I play a crucial part in this great, continuing story....

Our part is to love and serve God and to love and serve God's children.

As you do so, God will encircle you with His love, joy, and certain guidance.

-> See the full address at conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

## SUCCESSION INVITATIONS TO LEARN ABOUT THE RESTORED GOSPEL REQUIRE:

1. YOUR LOVE.

2. YOUR EXAMPLE.

3. YOUR USE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

New Era

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## Elder Todd D. Christofferson

OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

## SHARING THE MESSAGE OF THE RESTORATION AND THE RESURRECTION

The Restoration is not only for those of us who rejoice in it today. . . . The Restoration belongs to the world, and its message is especially urgent today. . . .

While our invitations are without compulsion, we hope people will find them compelling. For that to be so, I believe at least three things are required: first, your love; second, your example; and third, your use of the Book of Mormon.

Our invitations cannot be a matter of self-interest; rather, they must be an expression of selfless love....

I introduce the second requirement for successfully sharing the message of the Restoration with this question: what is it that will make your invitation appealing to someone? Isn't it you, the example of your life?...

... We need to understand and live the principles of the restored gospel as best we can for our invitations to be inviting....

The third requisite is liberal use of the instrument of conversion that the Lord designed for this last gospel dispensation, the Book of Mormon.... When you share the Book of Mormon, you share the Restoration....

The ultimate promise of the Restoration is redemption through Jesus Christ. . . . Because of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Restoration has meaning, our mortal lives have meaning, and ultimately our very existence has meaning.

→ See the full address at conference.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

### **HOW THE PRIESTHOOD BLESSES YOUTH**

### By Laudy Ruth Kaouk

Regardless of your circumstances, you can always have access to priesthood blessings. Through family members, friends, ministering brothers, priesthood leaders, and a Heavenly Father who will never fail you, you can receive the blessings of the priesthood....

Don't hesitate to ask for a blessing when you need extra guidance. It is in our difficult moments that we need the Spirit to help us the most. No one is perfect, and we all experience hardships. Some of us might suffer with anxiety, depression, addiction, or feelings that we are not enough. Priesthood blessings can help us overcome these challenges and receive peace as we move forward into the future. . . .

... When we put God first and have faith in Him, He will lead us through our own wilderness....

If you don't already have a testimony about the priesthood, I encourage you to pray and ask to know for yourself of its power, then read the scriptures to hear God's words. I know that if we make an effort to experience the power of God's priesthood in our lives, we will be blessed.

President Nelson smiles as he watches Sister Kaouk and Brother Petelo share their testimonies of how the priesthood has blessed their lives





### By Enzo Serge Petelo

You can be a beacon of light to all those who are unsure of themselves. The light within you will shine so bright that everyone you interact with will be blessed by just being in your company....

Along with our friends and family, the Holy Ghost is one of our most loyal and reliable companions. But in order to invite His constant companionship, we must place ourselves in situations and places where He will want to be present. This can begin in our own homes as we work to make them holy places by participating in daily scripture study and prayer as a family and, more important, as we personally study the scriptures and pray on our own....

... I know that if we put in the effort, find those who will support us, and repent each day, the resulting blessings will be incredible and our lives will be forever changed as we press forward on the covenant path.

### THE RESTORATION OF THE FULNESS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

### A BICENTENNIAL PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

#### The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

We solemnly proclaim that God loves His children in every nation of the world. God the Father has given us the divine birth, the incomparable life, and the infinite atoning sacrifice of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. By the power of the Father, Jesus rose again and gained the victory over death. He is our Savior, our Exemplar, and our Redeemer.

Two hundred years ago, on a beautiful spring morning in 1820, young Joseph Smith, seeking to know which church to join, went into the woods to pray near his home in upstate New York, USA. He had questions regarding the salvation of his soul and trusted that God would direct him.

In humility, we declare that in answer to his prayer, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph and inaugurated the "restitution of all things" (Acts 3:21) as foretold in the Bible. In this vision, he learned that following the death of the original Apostles, Christ's New Testament Church was lost from the earth. Joseph would be instrumental in its return.

We affirm that under the direction of the Father and the Son, heavenly messengers came to instruct Joseph and re-establish the Church of Jesus Christ. The resurrected John the Baptist restored the authority to baptize by immersion for the remission of sins. Three of the original twelve Apostles—Peter, James, and John—restored the apostleship and keys of priesthood authority. Others came as well, including Elijah, who restored the authority to join families together forever in eternal relationships that transcend death.

We further witness that Joseph Smith was given the gift and power of God to translate an ancient record: the Book of Mormon—Another Testament of Jesus Christ. Pages of this sacred text include an account of the personal ministry of Jesus Christ among people in the Western Hemisphere soon after His Resurrection. It teaches of life's purpose and explains the doctrine of Christ, which is central to that purpose. As a companion scripture to the Bible, the Book of Mormon testifies that all human beings are sons and daughters of a loving Father in Heaven, that He has a divine plan for our lives, and that His Son, Jesus Christ, speaks today as well as in days of old.

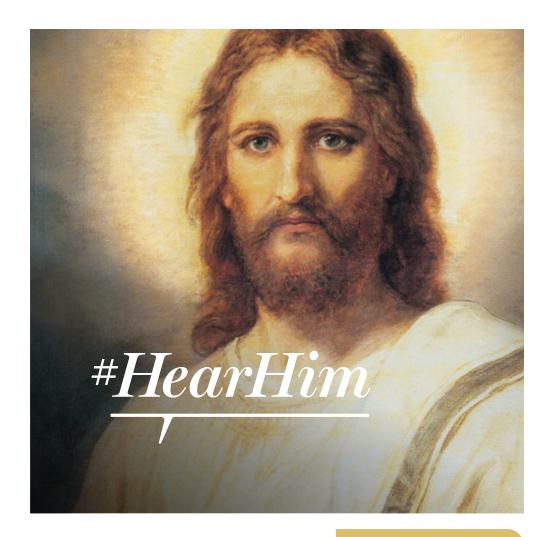
We declare that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, organized on April 6, 1830, is Christ's New Testament Church restored. This Church is anchored in the perfect life of its chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ, and in His infinite Atonement and literal Resurrection. Jesus Christ has once again called Apostles and has given them priesthood authority. He invites all of us to come unto Him and His Church, to receive the Holy Ghost, the ordinances of salvation, and to gain enduring joy.

Two hundred years have now elapsed since this Restoration was initiated by God the Father and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Millions throughout the world have embraced a knowledge of these prophesied events.

We gladly declare that the promised Restoration goes forward through continuing revelation. The earth will never again be the same, as God will "gather together in one all things in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10).

With reverence and gratitude, we as His Apostles invite all to know—as we do—that the heavens are open. We affirm that God is making known His will for His beloved sons and daughters. We testify that those who prayerfully study the message of the Restoration and act in faith will be blessed to gain their own witness of its divinity and of its purpose to prepare the world for the promised Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This proclamation was read by President Russell M. Nelson as part of his message at the 190th Annual General Conference, April 5, 2020, in Salt Lake City, Utah.



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