

INDEX

KIRTLAND TEMPLE MEDITATIONS AND TESTIMONIES

	Page
NO. 1 The Grand Sacrament Service.....	3
NO. 2 Endowed Preaching Can Influence The World	4
NO. 3 Envisioning A Richly Blessed Prayer And Testimony Service	5
NO. 4 Offering Up Our Most Holy Desires	6
NO. 5 Lives Can Be Wonderfully Changed	7
NO. 6 The Broad Way Narrows. The Narrow Way Broadens!.....	9
NO. 7 Working Within A Hallowed Presence	10
NO. 8 Zion's Businesses And Industries	11
NO. 9 Prophets Can Be Developed!	12
NO. 10 Abiding The Ministry Of Angels	14
NO. 11 There Is The Fire Of The Holy Ghost	15
NO. 12 Defeat Can Be Tremendous Victory	16
NO. 13 Tierras de Ningun Provecho	18
NO. 14 Great Ideas, Concepts, And Projects Are Bought With A Price ,	19
But They Are Wonderfully Rewarding	
NO. 15 Greater Than An Army With Banners Is An Idea Whose Time Has Come.	20
NO. 16 The Evolution Of A Prophet - Isaiah.....	22
NO. 17 Stakes Of Zion Must Influence Upward All Aspects Of Life	23
NO. 18 Zion Is The Goal Of The Ages	25
NO. 19 One With The Lord Is As Ten Thousand	26
NO. 20 The Making Of Great Men And Women	27
NO. 21 Gift And Attainment Of Spiritual Radiancy.....	29
NO. 22 Grand Spiritual Experiences "Set All The Creative Forces Of The	30
Soul To Work"	
NO. 23 Rocks, And Shoals, And Shifting Sandy Beaches, Or Obstacles.....	31
That Hinder Divine Endowment	
NO. 24 The Lord Whom You Seek Will Suddenly Come To T-HIS Temple.....	34
NO. 25 The Best Is Yet Ahead	35
NO. 26 God Has A Marvelous Destiny For His People.....	36
NO. 27 Where There Is No Vision The People Perish	38
NO. 28 The Lord Holds Out Great Promises To Us.....	40
NO. 29 Except The Lord Build The House, They Labor In Vain Who	41
Build It	
NO. 30 The World's Golden Age	43

KIRTLAND TEMPLE MEDITATIONS AND TESTIMONIES

By Earl R. Curry

FORWARD:

The House of the Lord, in Kirtland, is dear to the heart of all Latter Day Saints. Great events have happened here, are beginning to happen now, and many of us confidently expect will happen much more gloriously in the future.

In speaking about the Temple, as we usually call it, we quite often call it a shrine, or a mecca. These are altogether inadequate, because of the connotations these two words suggest. Rather, I find myself hoping that we shall increasingly speak of this House of the Lord as a Mount of Transfiguration! These words suggest an abiding spiritual Presence, and there is. They cause us to remember that there was, and is, an extremely far-sighted intention for its ultimate use - a use that would cause the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ to stand out in all its tremendousness! All of these meditations and testimonies are part of my association with the Temple, and most of them written in the Temple, for first draft.

There follows now, what one of my dear friends calls a Psalm to the Temple. I regard the Temple as a prophecy of God's High Intention, and of things yet to be!

1. Blessed are all they of strong faith, who shall come reverently into the House of the Lord. Their hearts and their minds shall be deeply moved.
2. Blessed are all who shall experience this uplifting presence of the Holy Spirit. This presence is a witness from the living God. Seek Him.
3. Richly blessed shall they be who come to the Lord's House as to a Mount of Transfiguration. Such shall know the divinity of Jesus, and the validity of his message. Such shall move the world toward God.
4. More blessed shall they be who perceive the Lord's Magnificent Intention - that through the use which the Lord intends, an extraordinary priesthood and people shall be raised up. Man is weak. God is amazingly intelligent and strong.
5. Yet more blessed than all these, are they who shall be chosen to have part in lofty inspirational worship in the Temple's lower court, plus an amazing prophetic development in the upper court, that shall raise them to the level and maturity of the noblest prophets of the ages. Jesus is the great lifter! He is the great leader! He is the Son of God!
6. Blessed, beyond words to express, shall they be to whom Jesus Christ, fresh from the presence of the Everlasting Father, shall appear, when He fulfills the ancient promise of the Holy Scriptures, to come suddenly to His Temple. This the providence of God will bring about. This the church needs. This the world needs.
7. Growing out of all these, supremely blessed shall they be, whom the Savior of the world shall mightily endow, and send forth in tremendous spiritual power with a wonderful message of pleading invitation, and of utterly clear warning, to an extremely sinful and heedless generation of men and women: all this before the end shall come which is the destruction of the wicked and the overthrow of wickedness. Evil must be banished from the world. Goodness must reign triumphant.

8. May all who love the Lord, and His coming reign of righteousness, even you and I, increasingly try with all our hearts, to live very near to Him and all He stands for. Verily, He yearns with an immense desire and yearning to usher in the World's Golden Age, where goodness, and the marvelous, and the beautiful, shall be creatively achieved. Then shall there be 1,000 years of splendid living, even as the all-glorious Creator has intended shall grace the world.

9. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts shall perform this! Amen.

To all who shall read these meditations, I testify to a strong spiritual uplift and joy, as I wrote in the Temple. May this same illuminating and comforting Spirit bless all who read. The need of all of us is indeed very great.

These Meditations and Testimonies are distilled from a life time, and many years of caring for the Temple and its repair. I hope that in years to come many shall find inspiration, uplift, and delight in them.

They were written during my 82nd year of life.

In polishing each one for printing, Sr. Emma Phillips of the guide service, has been a very real help.

So ----- turn the page and begin.

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NOTE:

The first four Meditations concern the four particular uses of the lower room of the Temple, as pointed out in Doctrine and Covenants 92:3.

It is highly desirable that all of us should try to perceive the lofty and ideal intentions in the minds of our Heavenly Father and of the Lord Jesus, as they began to bring the Church, at long last, out of the sleep of the centuries.

Surely their wisdom and foresight are infinitely beyond the thinking of any of us mortals.

* * * *

NO. 1

THE IDEAL SACRAMENT SERVICE

Inasmuch as the glory of God is a superb intelligence, and ultimate truth centers in Him as in none other, and, since it is His delight to illuminate the human mind of all who know Him and trust Him, surely, He and the Savior must have intended that Temple Sacramental services should be extraordinarily worthwhile, deeply moving, and disclosing the supreme personality of His Son. They know that the lives of men and women, young people and children, are tremendously influenced by great spirits, great personalities, particularly when such are adequately understood.

Whatever divinity does, is always, therefore, on a high level of perception. As expressed by Isaiah, Gods thoughts and ways are higher than man's as the heavens are higher than the earth. How then can it be otherwise than that there are ideal sacrament services? Services that can be characterized by the word grand! Services that are immensely superior to humanly conceived ritualistic ones! Services on such a high level that they have much above ordinary motivational power!

It is thus much more than an "invincible surmise", in order that this high experience may be achieved, for ministry to seek the mind of the Lord and the very special blessing of the Holy Spirit, particularly for sacramental services in the House of the Lord. Spiritual guides need more and more, under and in this seeking to go in to a "holy of holies", in strong faith and in mighty prayer, and in utter humility. We need experience of preparation comparable to Zacharias of centuries ago, who came forth from the altar of incense and the angelic experience clothed with spiritual radiance. More and more, as the years go by, we need endowed servants of the Lord who come forth from lofty communion with the Creator of the universe, with countenances aglow, with souls set on fire by the Spirit of the Lord, with minds lifted up to prophetic heights, and with their entire persons transfigured. If we would move toward such times both ministry and people must increasingly call on God in mighty prayer. There is a fasting and prayer that ought to engage us all. We, all of us, tremendously need to "nourish and enlarge the province of the divine".

Jesus in that first sacramental service, so long ago, said to his apostles and the ages - "This do in remembrance of me". His was immense love and unselfishness. He completely understood the basic issues of life. He was utterly devoted to his calling as the Messiah. He lived very near to God, and was therefore mighty in spiritual power. He had an exalted vision of life and its possibilities. No one has so greatly transformed the lives around him as did he. In him dwelt unparalleled compassion. He had (and has), lofty goals for the ages, and He is the magnificent personality of those ages. He is the greatest spirit of all time! He is the top-most guide to noble human destiny!

Finally, for this meditation, which is just a little glimpse of the possible, it is good to think about the grand sacrament service, the kind the Lord Jesus would have for the House of the Lord! Sacrament services ought to be richly blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit, for it is this Spirit which burns out the dross, purifies personalities, enables lofty perceptions, helps to set godly goals and projects, and makes possible noblest appreciation for that matchless person we call Jesus, and for Him who is altogether loving and lovable, and for all that is their highest intention for the sons and daughters of men!

ENDOWED PREACHING AND THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Endowed preaching can tremendously influence the course of human events, and in the very nature of God's high expectation, nothing less than this is appropriate to the Lord's House. May I affirm that what the Master would have done in the Temple, ought to be done in the finest of all possible ways. Otherwise there is no logic in having a Temple. Neither can there be brought to pass God's "strange act", his extraordinary uplifting, "that I may pour out my Spirit upon all flesh", 92:1c of the Doctrine and Covenants. Remember Peter, and all the others on the day of Pentacost!

It is easy to find fault with the usual kind of preaching. Someone called such "an interminable threshing of the straw". It is perhaps well to do this, since such tends to keep preaching from the curse of ordinariness and inconsequentiality. I would qualify Paul's remark about the foolishness of wordy preaching, devoid of great ideas, humdrum, short-sighted, unmoving, and far short of God's profoundly spiritual glory of intelligence.

What is endowed preaching, and how can such preaching tremendously influence the world, even more than the finest prophetic preaching of the past has changed the course of history? Even more? Yes! for we are living in the closing age, when humanity needs a mighty spiritual revival! Revival? Yes! more than that! The going away beyond the revivals of the past. Only such can inspire and move this present generation in such an age as this! The most fitting place for the beginning of a great movement of this nature is the House of the Lord. I am profoundly assured that such is the Lord's intention. Surely we need to give ourselves to envisioning and developing procedures such as the inspiration of the almighty alone can provide.

The answer to the question - what is endowed preaching - insofar as I can describe it, will only be partially delineated in this Meditation. Hopefully those which follow will add to a growing understanding and capability. Somewhat as rivers develop from the outflow of many springs, it may be expected that the roots of endowed preaching will arise from many sources, ultimately making possible a powerful and widespread evangelistic outreach.

It should be utterly clear, then, that it is completely worthwhile to try to perceive, what is an endowed preacher. I think of such a minister as being on fire - not merely with just human enthusiasm, but rather, because of his empowering experiences with God. He is therefore a man of intense and well-founded conviction. As Thomas Carlyle observed - "What this parish needs, what every parish needs, are men who know God at more than second hand".

Endowed preaching can only be based on an inspired depth and breadth of understanding - of the scriptures, of human needs, a spiritually won knowledge of the eternally applicable aspects of the message of the prophets of the ages. Above all these, he must be aware of and understand God's Magnificent Intention for the Restoration, and, can we add, for the far-sighted and inspired use of the Lord's House as a means toward empowerment.

Endowed preaching can only be expressed by a profoundly spiritual ministry - and people. To be spiritual in the large sense, is to increasingly have expanding experiences with the Holy Spirit. The means and facilities of spiritual development must be discovered and used. In part, this development arises out of association with spiritually minded people. There are many ways of this kind of needed development.

The inspired design of the Temple, the House of the Lord, totally warrants the affirmation that a real School of the Prophets can be immensely effective in developing spiritual mindedness, and endowed preachers. Prophets can be developed! I unhesitatingly predict that the concept that prophets can be developed by the Lord's kind of schooling, will yet be appreciated as one of Joseph Smith's major contributions!

This Meditation is just a beginning, an opening of a door to amazing enlargement!

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NO. 3

ENVISIONING TOP-NOTCH PRAYER AND TESTIMONY MEETINGS

Continuing attendance at such meetings, which lack spiritual presence, tend to become an exercise in futility. Just possibly this explains why so few, in general, attend, at least in part. Services where the Holy Spirit is abundantly present, on the other hand, are richly fruitful and rewarding.

More and more, as time goes on, it is desirable and even imperative, to increasingly envision how the Lord would have these services be. Where else should this be better demonstrated than in the special place the House of the Lord is intended to be.

First of all, what should this kind of service do for those attending? They can do little to add to the stature and majesty of Him who we worship. Jewelled pinpoints of light, vast orbs far out in space, unsurpassingly declare his glory. Unnumbered galaxies which make the milky way a distant blaze of light, bear witness to God's amazing creative power, far better than mere words. How limited are our words of praise. Rather, because He is so completely loving, God's great longing must be, what he can do for those to whom He has given the gift of life on earth, those created in His likeness. We can add little to His immensity. His immensity can do much for us. As thus viewed, these meetings can be made to open doors to super special experiences, or as a poet expressed it, open windows on immensity! Because great love shares greatly the Infinite, the Holy One of the Universe must want to "pour out", not dribble, the uplifting, transforming, illuminating power of that marvelous facility called the Holy Spirit, upon His people, almost without measure, if they have faith and love him greatly. There is wisdom in the Lord's instruction, regarding these services in His House that we should come to them in "fasting and prayer". Perhaps many of us think of fasting only as total abstinence from food. Ideally, fasting is much more than that. D. & C., section 59:3 opens up a much broader concept. Surely God's concept must be much broader than even this - turning aside from ordinary worldly ways of living, from the many lusts of the flesh that divide us from Him and make our eyes "holden", from spiritual laziness and heedlessness concerning all that is very precious in the sight of God, from sinful ways of thinking and doing - and many more like unto these. Even beyond this, just as repentance is both a turning away from evil that destroys to goodness that preserves and is creative, just so can we think of fasting as abstaining from the imperfect and the ugly, and turning to the perfect and the everlastingly worthwhile.

What does it mean for God, with all His matchless characteristics of sharing, uplifting, blessing, to "pour out" His Spirit? The longer I live the more I become aware that your human concept in this regard is abysmally limited. Contrarywise I more and more become aware that the Lord has almost limitless ways to broaden our horizons of faithfulness, our efforts of perception, our limits of vision, our struggle toward ennoblement, our prophetic upreach and empowerment, plus much else besides.

In view, the, of the immense possibilities in coming most reverently and humbly before the everlasting One, in the House of the Lord, in holy and broadly understood fasting, and in prayer much beyond the ordinary in its content and fervency, I can readily envision desiring to share with us - mighty gifts of prophetic illumination, inspirational gifts of knowledge and wisdom, lofty generalizations and insights into truth, immensely appealing and sweeping conceptualizations as in the early paragraphs of D. & C. 85, the opening of doors to future achievements, the clarification of inadequate vision, the setting of personalities on fire by the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. All these can be just a part of a magnificent whole!

If we will but have faith to seek the spiritual gift of inspired imagination, a vast panorama of possibilities will be opened by Him who loves to abundantly bless His people.

It is just as possible now, as on the Isle of Patmos, to be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and other days - and nights as well.

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NO. 4

THERE IS A DEPTH OF MEANING TO - "OFFERING UP YOUR MOST HOLY DESIRES"

This is the fourth use of the Temple, indicated in the 92nd. section. Certainly after all these centures, the Lord knows how easy and convenient it is to ritualize religion, and to encase or eliminate its power of uplift in forms of worship, perhaps quite beautiful to watch, but affecting life scarcely at all. John W. Rushton once wrote - "The Church must not be a mere museum of fossilized ecclesiasticisms nor a collection of moribund ideas, but, rather, a center that shall inspire the soul to heroic effort." It seems to me that this is the exalted intention of this phrase - "offering up your most holy desires".

Probably most of you who may read these meditations, will agree that most of us live away below our full potential, of mind, heart and personality. Arthur Oakman, in one of his books writes about "the contagion of great spirits". Surely, Jesus is the transcendant personality of all the ages! It is therefore the evident intention of the Almighty that through an extremely high type of sacramental observance, and through highly inspirational preaching, and by means of richly spirit-blessed prayer and testimony meetings - that out of these shall noble and holy desires be born and nurtured, for individual lives. Religion is thus brought down from the nebulous, to become a very saintly way of life. Surely this is as it ought to be!

Still further. Someone has written concerning preaching - "What good is preaching if it is not worked out in deeds". Just so, little that is worthwhile is achieved if the finest of inspirational insights, or lofty visions of how wonderful God-led life can be, or the eloquent preaching and writing of an Isaiah, or the immensely uplifting blessings of the Lord showered upon His people - of what good are all such if human personality is not transmuted from the lead of worldliness to the gold of lives like unto Christ's. So often and so easily, as is expressed in a book called "The Murmurings Of A Discontented Parson", about like this - The fire which Jesus came to cast abroad in the world, has been put out by the little janitors of religion, with their administrative complications.

A good sister in the faith, recently observed to me - "There is no possibility of Zion, unless, somehow, we are lifted above the ordinary traits that mar human personality, and hinder our association

as of now, and largely preventing rapid progress in saintly development".

In view of all this, I unhesitatingly affirm that these words - offering up most holy desires - mean that the Lord, with an intense longing, wants his people to become forward looking, prophetic minded! if you please. It must be his intention that through an exceedingly vivid appreciation of Jesus, and all he stands for, that through intelligent and deeply spiritual preaching, and through extra-ordinary prayer and testimony meetings - by all these and his divine guidance, his people shall find their special place in the working out of the Lord's unfolding purpose - in the Zion that awaits our growing up, and in capturing the hearts of men for God!

Surely, surely, the Lord not only wants his people to envision all this, perceiving the tremendous worthwhileness of it all, but He wants most of all for our understanding to become so vivid and clear, and our motivation so overwhelming, that we shall set about using our individual capacities and powers, wonderfully augmented by the Holy Spirit, to individually and collectively change the Lord's high vision of what ought to be into a glorious reality!

What a goal to work toward - to be prophetic in the grand sense! to be farsighted! to be able and competent! to be doers of the Word of God! The resources of the universe are on the side of and available to this kind of people!

It is a great vision - but - great obstacles also stand in the way - ordinariness, spiritual lethargy, laziness of mind, incompetency, refusal to become spiritual minded, worldliness, contentment with things as they are, trust in human wisdom, and the opposition of all the forces of darkness!

Which way will we go? Which shall we choose?

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NO. 5

LIVES CAN BE WONDERFULLY CHANGED!

When we estimate the estate of mankind as a whole, as far as characteristics of godliness are concerned, and as we think of past history, we are compelled to dolefully agree with the remark of some history student minded person - "Taken as a whole life on earth has been a brief and dis-creditable episode on one of the minor planets." Such a situation is certainly not the design of Providence, and if it can be changed by all means it ought to be! God always creates with a lofty purpose. There ought to be, nay more, there must be perhaps hidden yet providential ways to upgrade human personality, provided people want to be.

It is the purpose of this meditation to do a little thinking about these ways. Such techniques of change as may be, need to be discovered and noted. Study of outstanding persons of history, or of greatly changed lives of those about us, can help. I like to think Peter, of the New Testament. Before Christ found him he seems to have been an impulsive, blustering, aggressive, perhaps domineering character. From that he changed to become a sturdy apostle - bold in the face of priestly antagonism, determined all his life long to make up for his denials and desertion of the Master in those last dreadful and tragic days and hours of the Lord's life. What changed him? Undoubtedly the personality of Jesus, mainly. Yet, tragedy and catastrophe also played their part. Added to these was the tremendous mystery, and miracle, and triumph! of the Resurrection. No wonder he changed!

I greatly admire the change and development that took place in the life of Christiana Salyards - from a lowly teacher of small country schools, to a reverent,, Spirit-guided, careful writer of quarterlies and books for Sunday School. Here, too, the influence of a very fine person - Marietta Walker, played its part. I apprehend also that the perception of a very real need, was a vital aspect of her motivation.

Searching out such examples and noting the ways causing the change, is a goodly pursuit.

Now, I'm sure we agree that techniques of change, can be discovered and formulated, and used. Surely, real, on fire prophets of the good life, can perceive and express dynamic ways and means to hasten upward change. The limits of this meditation permit only this brief emphasis, and suggestion.

William James, the pioneer psychologist, once wrote about a young woman who seemed to be a flighty, scatter-brained personality. When she married and had children, however, she became an excellent mother. Here, it would seem that a strong sense of responsibility and love triggered the change.

An intriguing and great idea, planted in the mind, can initiate change. Christ used this with Peter - Come, I will make you a fisher of men.

Also, there is "the contagion of great spirits", already mentioned. Great spirits are motivated by great and provocative concepts and ideas, such as Christs' concept of the Kingdom of God. H. G. Wells, the english historian once asserted that Christ's idea of the Kingdom of God, was the greatest idea ever presented to the mind of man.

This last principle is used in the Kirtland Temple Host Program for visiting young people (usually plus some older). God's Magnificent Intention for the use of Kirtland Temple, is strongly emphasized and held before them. The principle works!

Clearly, a stimulating environment can greatly influence lives, therefore the need of Zion.

My own testimony is that profoundly intelligent and far-sighted spiritual experiences bring about upward change more effectively than any other means. Therefore the great need of a growing spirituality, leading toward preparation for God's promised Endowment.

Achieving a lofty ideal of perfect saintliness can greatly motivate change in manhood and womanhood, particularly if the ideal is clearly envisioned, glowingly expressed, richly incarnated, and in harmony with all that is noblest and best.

God longs to guide in the pursuit of truth! A pilot can only guide a moving ship! The Lord of Hosts will guide a reverent, searching soul! Lives can be wonderfully changed!

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THE BROAD WAY NARROWS - THE NARROW WAY BROADENS

This Meditation is based on a Reunion Prayer Service Testimony, and is the above heading. This saying, all will recognize, is from the Master's master Sermon on the Mount. "Repent for broad is the way that leadeth to destruction. Narrow is the way that leadeth unto life." Like all Christ's sayings or precepts, these statements are founded on the bed-rock of truth. The somewhat elderly brother who thus affirmed spoke out of the experiences of a lifetime. He gave the sayings of Jesus a new emphasis. It has stood out in my memory as being worth remembering. May it so stand in yours.

All those who rush heedlessly and headlong find out sooner or later, that the easy way of those who drift, yield but poor returns. The ways of wisely conceived effort toward worthwhile projects, do require struggle and sacrifice, but they lead to lives of usefulness and success. Happy is he who early in life becomes aware that the broad and easy ways narrow and lead to futility and defeat, and, consequently he leads into the narrow ways of life that ever broaden out into the worthwhile and the enduring. I remember that this same man, waxing eloquent, said to we who were there, that the good resolutions his Temple - Reunion experience had brought to him, were like crying babies in church, they ought to be carried out at once.

Success is more than the gaining of material possessions. There is the story of a pope, of many centuries ago, whose heart rejoiced in the many treasures coming to his office. He was showing these to a young priest. Gloatingly he pointed to his gold, silver, precious jewels, rich raiment, and the like and said to the young man, "Ah, it's great to have all these!" "Yes, Father", replied the novice, "but we can no longer say to the lame and the halt, arise and walk, and to the blind, The Lord gives you to see!" In the realm of spiritual things, consequences are always rewarding, creative, and empowering. Massive possession of worldly riches eventually palls. God's deeply spiritual never palls. Like hiking up mountain trails, there is an ever enlarging vision of beauty, an ever widening horizon of magnificent scenery.

In this time of permissiveness, surely we need to cry out against the sins of the world, as did the prophets of Israel! Doing this, by the way, requires more intelligent, Spirit guided, sacrificial effort of preparation, than at a mere glance might seem necessary. I seldom hear any emphasis, done with clarity and certainty, as to aspects of present day civilization which are not right in the sight of the Lord. The elders of the early Restoration were admonished to set forth clearly and understandingly the desolation of abomination of these last days. In the idiom of the present this would seem to say - declare the utterly destructive destroying power of all abominable wickedness, specifying the abominable sins of the age that need castigating.

There is another side to such declaration, that is rather humbling if faced. Not many of us have lived so close to the Lord that we can show the narrow way of life in all its beauty, its delights, its empowering spiritual development, its perception of wonderfully worthwhile far-sighted projects of attainment, its ennobling association, its transforming power, its intense concern for holy communities of Zion, and a surpassing desire that God's will be done on earth as in heaven. Perhaps we feel quite sinful ourselves, and want to walk away, as did the accusers of old who quailed before the bar of judgement, when they were told - "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

Perhaps! Nevertheless the sins of the world must be clearly, but compassionately reprov'd. A recent letter asserted the need of a present day Daniel.

As something to think about, I wonder if our system of appointing speakers enables the clear and understanding setting forth of issues and alternatives . Quite often I fear it does not.

Truly, the broad way narrows as anyone continues in that pathway of living. Surely the narrow way broadens wonderfully, both in life here, and on into the life of eternity.

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NO. 7

WORKING WITHIN A HALLOWED SPIRITUAL PRESENCE

As one who has spent almost countless hours repairing the Lord's house, I do solemnly testify that there is a hallowing Spiritual Presence abiding there. Please reread the Forward. Spiritual minded people within and without our church have experienced and "felt" this Presence. Why should this be? One possibility could be that the Latter Day Prophet, in the dedicatory prayer, asked such a heavenly blessing to continue in His (the Lord's) House. A deeper reason may well be that the Lord wants one special place on earth where the altogether marvelous Presence of the Holy Spirit may abide, in a rather special way. Think of this, in view of the fact, that there is not one community in the wide, wide world where a gloriously redeemed people glowingly radiate this tremendous Spirit.

I have had the rare privilege to carry on the upkeep, repair and restoration of this sacred building from 1935 to somewhere around 1956, doing a great deal some years, and not so much in others. This work took me all the way from the basement to the top of the copper dome of the tower. At no time did I have the feeling that I was working in an ordinary church; but, rather, in a House that is precious in the Lord's sight. Also, there has developed a deep conviction that notwithstanding the extraordinary experiences of the past, much more extraordinary experiences be in the the future. This deep conviction has built up from several sources, a wealth of scriptural predictions, a discernment of our present great need, an over-view of the possible, and assurance that God's word does not return unto him void, an overwhelming logic in its charter for being, a growing perception of the Lord's Magnificent Intention, my own completely assuring spiritual experiences, and the like experiences of many whose integrity I completely trust!

As I worked I felt I was preparing the Temple for great things yet to be, such as the sacred promise of the Lord Jesus Christ appearing to and instructing, face to face, His ministry, as well as His Endowing His ministry and people. Should this last startle anyone, let him remember that the Son of God appeared many times after his resurrection, that He visited and taught in Land Bountiful, and that He is marvelously alive for ever more! We need Him so. The world needs Him so. His promised amazing Endowment can bring about changes otherwise impossible. I constantly felt that I was getting the Temple ready for a very special coming of the Lord. What greater joy in working than that!

An inevitable consequence of this impression and feeling that grew and grew, has been a growing comprehension of qualities of mind and spirit, of vision and understanding, of means and facilities, of spiritual development and prophetic power that can bring great things to pass, and implement

their outworking. All this, working within a hallowed Presence!

Nor is this all. While so working, I experienced the rich ministry of the Holy Spirit, in seeking learning by faith. In a peculiar way, that reminds me of the scripture that the Lord can cause the wrath of men to praise Him, there came to me the spiritual gift of inspired writing and study. I know that this kind of illumination can bless in special ways, day after day. Under this blessing I have been able to understand about divine Endowment. This has been and continues to be a mountain top experience, a sort of climbing Mt. Nebo and looking over into the Promised Land!

Thanks be to God, many other topics of deep concern have been opened to my understanding, God sharing His wisdom and far-sightedness! And this far beyond my worthiness! God does unfold his mysteries!

May I express a beatitude, growing out of all the preceding. Blessed are they who can work within the overflowing blessing of a hallowing Spiritual Presence, for unbounded shall be their joy!

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NO. 8

ZIONIC BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIES

Quite probably, most people think of industries and businesses as facilities to make money, to meet the physical needs of life, and to support our families, (and perhaps pay taxes). Such is largely the viewpoint of the world in general, or else we would not have so many things manufactured that do not contribute to human welfare, such as alcoholic liquors.

We must have industries and businesses to produce homes, build cities, provide food, make clothing, as well as some of the delightful things of life, that distinguish man from lesser creatures. The intent of this Meditation is to suggest that there are larger concerns than just these - than just making money. Self interest alone begets all sorts of disagreeable situations and conditions that plague industrial and business establishments - extreme selfishness by all concerned, dirty and even blasphemous conversation, destructive discontent, perhaps at times exploitation, and many other evils.

In order to set forth the positive and creative possibilities this Meditation would present, I would like to share with my readers from my own experience, some of the hopes and ideals had in mind in training myself as a Ceramic Engineer. Certainly I was aware of the material aspects of my chosen field. The production of terra cotta building materials particularly appealed to me. Not the monumental type of Terra Cotta facing for great buildings. In this material, there is possible an almost infinite variety of design, modeling, coloring, glazed surfaces, stony - like facing, as the plastic clay is shaped to whatever the mind can conceive, then fired at high temperatures to produce almost eternal durability. It was my fond hope that I could adapt beautiful Terra Cotta to the building of zionic homes in zionic communities. Somewhere, I once read that Augustus Caesar, Emperor of Rome, boasted that he found Rome made of brick, but left it made of marble. Just so, I dreamed of replacing perishable wood with exceedingly beautiful imperishable Terra Cotta. Homes were to have a certain kind of durable, extremely attractive, fire-flashed roof tile. I could envision, and still can, this glorious use of plastic clay in the achievement of amazingly beautiful communities, for a beautiful people!

While this dream of these entirely alluring possibilities enthralled me, yet, because of the spiritual motivation back of it all, I gradually became aware of highly desirable objectives above and beyond the just materialistic. Why not make my envisioned development a place where people could rejoice, in working in a goodly environment, with other noble-hearted people. This, in turn opened into a concept, immensely difficult to achieve, but tremendously needed! — that is establish places where God's people may labor and develop together, places where an inspiring spiritual atmosphere prevails!

The preceding meditation described in part the joy of working where there is a hallowed spiritual Presence. This meditation broadens out and expands this holy concept to include all zionic association, including business and industry. Can it be done? There must be some rather big changes in human nature, if such is to be done! If there are businesses and industries in the Millenium, they certainly will operate on this high level of excellence.

A unique concept opens to the mind, out of a prophetic utterance to a young man some years ago, suggesting to him that if faithful he would have the privilege of helping to lay the foundation of industrial zion, a foundation on which others would build. More and more, as I try to understand this experience of this young man, a growing perception bids me to declare that this foundation is a very sound and spiritual development, rather than collegiate training, or industrial and business experience, or an abundance of money, although all these have their necessary place.

As God lives, the foundation for industrial zion, or business zion, or social zion, or cultural zion, or zion as a colony of Heaven, is in the realm of the Spirit! May we all perceive this, and seek to rapidly qualify for such foundation laying!

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NO. 9

AMAZINGLY, PROPHETS CAN BE DEVELOPED

Is such a concept scatter-brained and impossible? Very evidently the Lord does not think so.

The second floor meeting room of the Temple was given two names, in the days of 1836. One was the School of the Prophets, and the other the School of the Apostles. Of the two names, the first carries the most significance. Why? Because a new and rather tremendous concept is here intentionally set forth. PROPHETS CAN BE DEVELOPED! I wonder if the church leaders and people of 1836 comprehended the dynamic significance of the concept, or do we today? Probably not. They were too busy, and so are we. These early folk, it would seem, had itchy feet, and were always ready to move on. Besides there was religious antagonism and persecution to slow them down, and dissention within to hinder.

If the affirmation of the above title is correct, and it must be, since the Lord inspired it, then it is immensely important that we try to perceive and understand its breadth and scope. Before attempting to do so, let it be emphasized that for this concept to fulfill its affirmation and promise, all that was loftily envisioned for the floor below must inspire and illuminate all that is done in the floor above. Spiritual insight, combined with intelligent implementation, make possible above ordinary achievement. Also, may we remember that it is keen, prophetic minded men who open doors to new ages. Doors need to be opened now!

Quite likely, most people think of prophets as being headed toward their larger destiny, by experiences such as came to Enoch, or Moses, or Isaiah, or John the forerunner, or Nephi, or Joseph Smith of our day. Perhaps the working out of this concept had to wait for a time that could make possible its achievement. That is, until a day of available facilities, available resources of communication, available means of moving about - and most of all, a very demanding and urgent set of world conditions, such as immense numbers of people, and an extremely troubled environment, such as prophets have assured us will precede the return of the Lord.

Let us try to indicate, as clearly as we can, the steps and procedures that could develop prophets, as our concept affirms can be done. Let's suppose an example. The Lord, knowing the need of the times, moves upon quite a number of His servants, making them aware that big events are about to take place. Leadership is likewise made aware. In due time the aware men are summoned to a very real School of the Prophets project, with intent to make a special preparation and development, adequate to the needs of the time. Think of steps such as these being taken.

1. They carefully, very reverently, always seeking the guiding light of the Holy Spirit, study and review the prophetic ministry of the prophets of the ages, selecting all aspects of their message that have universal application in any age.
2. Next, they develop ways that this basic universal prophetic message can be "set forth clearly and understandingly", for this generation of the world.
3. The pursuit of these two objectives will open to them the fundamental aspects of God's prophetic outreach. It will provide content for their outreach, in turn. Also, standards for prophetic experience, development, judgement, and presentation will come out of their efforts - all tending toward making them prophets in ever expanding ways.
4. Now think of these men, out of their enriching experience, moving out into regions round about, preaching, sharing, emphasizing what God has wanted emphasized since the beginning of human life on earth. In so doing they would become prophets in a once removed sense, a secondary sense.
5. Next, think of them returning to a brilliantly, spiritually alive School of the Prophets, sharing their experiences, and continuing their development. This sharing and continuation would inevitably broaden their individual and collective horizons.
6. Thus along the way, their secondary propheticness would evolve into glowing prophetic experience of their own! All this would result in high levels of prophetic maturity.

NOTE: This theory is developed in much more detail in my Condensations of 12 classes about Endowment, See #9

- It takes men on fire to set others on fire!
- In the grand sense prophetic ministry is grandly intelligent
- Evident on-fire-ness, that is intelligent will be persuasive!
- In this closing age, only God's rich guidance can bring about a deeply moving and profound prophetic message, grandly witnessed to by the Holy Spirit.

ABIDING THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS

This phrase is found in D. & C. 67:3 The possibility of this kind of ministry is found far and wide in all our Scriptures. In the early Restoration the elders were promised that if they would become deeply spiritual and prepared, Jesus himself would appear to them and they would see Him. As of Nov. 1831, they were not ready for such exalted experience. So, the Lord said to them - ye are not able to abide the presence of God now, neither the ministry of angels; wherefore continue in patience until ye are perfected."

After 140 years, what would the Lord say to us now? These early men could not abide the ministry of angels. Sometimes, it seems to me, we do not even want to ask for, and receive, and "abide" the spiritual gifts that are of perhaps a lesser order than the ministry of angels. Why? Ignorance of what is possible? It could be, as Paul once wrote, "blindness in part hath happened to Israel!" This may be quite true of us today. Certainly, satanic influences would have us ignore these gifts. After all these years this situation must greatly distress the Lord. In his very nature, he wants us to live on a very high level of nearness to him.

This personal ministry of Jesus Christ, mentioned above, assuredly is God's Magnificent Intention!

The above scripture postulates that there are progressive steps in development, which if taken by all of us, who thus desire the Lord's presence, will result in the fulfillment of his promise, in this present day when we need him so, to set us aright and empower us.

It is therefore exceedingly important that we perceive with all certainty what these steps are, which, if taken, will bring the Lord's presence to us. May I plead with all who try to delineate these steps, to do so in all faith and earnestness. Insofar as I can see now, some of these steps could be such as follows:

1. Nurture our desire. Start climbing the mountains of the Lord.
2. Learn to use "mighty prayer", as those in Land Bountiful.
3. Associate with spiritual minded people. Seek them out.
4. Search for a growing understanding of spiritual possibilities. I have done considerable exploring in this area, and know there are enormous possibilities. These I'm glad to share with concerned people.
5. Selectively and in deep faith set projects, putting your growing insights to work. Step by step you will become able to do above ordinary things.
6. Looking forward to and engaging in big projects, that contribute to the progress of the Kingdom of God, seek the unseen, and the seen ministry of angels, "abiding their ministry". Angels are bright beings who live on a higher level of experience and glory than do we, and waiting to bless those of great faith, who attempt great projects of service.

7. D. & C. 104:9, projects, that in the wonderful providence of God, ministry of today can have elevated association with noble and outstanding personalities of ages past.
8. It is by such means and experiences as these, and others like unto them, that we can perfect ourselves, making possible the fulfillment of the Lord's amazing promises.

It is good discipline to search out all the ways we can, each of us.

If we are to fulfill our high destiny, intended by providence, we must reach up with untiring faith, with a strong sense of urgency, and with a very deep dedication. We can learn to "abide" the altogether loving and marvelous overflowing ministry of the Holy Spirit, that Spirit that radiates out from the presence of our everlasting Father.

As I consider, and search, and meditate on these concerns, I am made to know that a richly developed prophetic spirit will increasingly enjoy the illumination of a wide range of problems, perceive projects of a lofty nature, envision what ought to be done with how to do such, perceive lofty ideas, be able to phrase lofty conceptualizations, know how to meet difficult times - and a whole host more!

What a marvelous people will arise when such days come! To these I testify!

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NO. 11

THERE IS THE FIRE OF THE HOLY GHOST

This Meditation is the abbreviated record of an experience that caused me to know there is this fire. New Testament writers made reference to this profoundly moving and confirming experience, calling it the Baptism of Fire and the Holy Ghost. This experience of those days seems to have had great cleansing and witnessing power in those to whom it came. As of today it is not mentioned very often, and that is our loss, for there is both an establishing and stabilizing power that comes with it and remains with those who are thus baptized.

My experience with this fire came to me about 1956, as part of a lengthy inquiry before the Lord, as to the meaning, the possibilities, the promise, the fact, the characteristics of divine Endowment. I am quite aware and have made use of the facility of seeking learning and understanding by the methods of worldly scholarship. This effort was an attempt to seek learning concerning a little known principle and way of uplift and empowerment, by faith, as suggested in the Word of the Lord.

The Reunion of 1956 was being held at Kirtland, and the Temple. Arthur Oakman was the Apostle in charge. At the time I was about half way through the inquiry - an effort that covered many weeks. On Monday morning, during the prayer and testimony meeting, the Holy Spirit impressed upon my mind ten characteristics of the Endowment, and Endowment the God of Heaven very much wants to share with His ministry. Bro. Oakman with his keen gift of discernment became aware that light had come to me, and after the service, suggested that I prepare myself to

share this during the Friday morning meeting. This, I earnestly tried to do.

Friday morning, I arose at 5 o'clock to care for some loving and lovable goats which I had at the time, surely in a prayerful frame of mind. As I started across two rustic bridges, that very great power that radiates out from the presence of God - the Holy Spirit began to rest on me. It rapidly increased in intensity, and I felt, physically, as if I were about to be burned to a cinder! Just as earthly fire consumes, just so did I feel I would be utterly consumed. This holy fire, though, did not destroy. It was tremendously exhilarating! It cleansed the soul! I could experience with Moses "take off thy shoes from off thy feet! the ground whereon thou standest is holy!" Ever since, this has been a holy spot for me. So great was this presence and power and holy fire that it was more than I could continue to bear and live. I was compelled to ask Him who was thus witnessing to me so tremendously, to lessen the intensity of His spiritual presence to that degree I could endure. He heard my prayer, and the fire decreased to what was bearable, yet leaving me thrilled as no words can describe.

Then, like as to Elijah of old, there came "the still small voice" of God's marvelous Spirit, expressing the Word of the Lord. I was made aware of the desire and intention of the Lord Jesus Christ to show himself and loftily commune with leaders of his church, even as He did with Joseph and Oliver in 1836, stating that a like time was nearing. Then, beyond this, my mind was carried back to Calvary, and to the Savior appearing to the apostles for the first time after His resurrection. Then I was shown that the Son of God, in the not too distant future, would come "suddenly to His Temple" to a wonderfully Spirit blessed School of the Prophets, in the upper room of the House of the Lord. He will teach them, he will prepare them, and will endow them with such spiritual power as this world has not known. Then, He will send them forth with a grand message of invitation and warning, to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, in the last great witness, before the end comes.

There was a lot more detail, not here expressed, but written elsewhere.

Lest I be misunderstood, I was not told where else He would show himself to his servants in a tremendous cause.

Thus do I know and testify that there is still the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost! GLORY BE TO GOD! that there is!

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NO. 12

DEFEAT CAN BE TREMENDOUS VICTORY

Not everyone succeeds in achieving all that he hoped to, in the earlier years of life. This Meditation considers the fact that sometimes a seeming defeat may turn out to be a very real victory, especially when we put our trust in the Lord's providence. We, in the sometimes uneven journey of life, are compelled to make changes not to our liking, to sort of roll with the boat, as the phrase is. Someone has written that Columbus started out sailing over the western seas, seeking a way to India, but ran into an obstacle that proved to be of much greater value to the world instead.

There can be no finer example of what we want to express, than the experience of Jesus. As he suffered those last hours on Calvary's cruel cross, almost certainly all who had loved him so, said to themselves, all is lost. Perhaps his grieving mother may have cried in the depth of her grief, to those about her - my God! that the life of my son should end like this! His bitter enemies sneeringly observed - "others he saved. Himself he cannot save", yet - in that hour of tragedy, who among that motely crowd of those who crucified him, could have surmised the miraculous triumph of Jesus Christ over bleak death, and his resulting tremendous influence on the aged!

Sacrifice for a great cause, in itself rather implies defeat, but it's largely by sacrifice that civilization and the nobler manifestations of religion are advanced, as our own Joseph Smith.

The intent of this meditation is true in many ways, in the small as well as the larger issues of life. As a Ceramist, I recall searching for a special cerulian blue glaze, one time. I did not find it, in my experiments - but I found one better.

As already sketched, my main reason in training myself as a Ceramic Engineer, was, that I might be able, joining with others, to develop a zionic business, employing zionic people, in zionic communities, in a loftily spiritual zionic environment. But, dismayingly, somewhat like Columbus, I ran into obstacles, chiefest of which was the long depression that started in 1929.

Nevertheless, out of this distressing situation, there came the opportunity of caring for Kirtland Temple, at that time much in need of repair. It was while so engaged in working over several years of time, and under the hallowing spiritual presence of that place, that gradually some great ideas and concepts began to open my mind to some of the Lord's great thoughts and Magnificent Intentions! There the greatest motivating and inspiring spiritual experiences of my life came to me, including the long-extending one about divine Endowment. Just in the last three years or so, I have felt impelled to share with others this rather tremendous mountain top experience with the Lord. Some call my so sharing the Endowment papers. It is also published in booklet form, called The Endowment. Some thousands of these have spread far and wide, from England to Australia.

In addition to the preceeding, and growing out of my Temple experiences, I have become very deeply concerned about all that is involved in the word Spirituality, and have had opportunity to share from what has opened to me with many thousands, in sharing preaching and classes. Out of it all, I now comprehend and know that anything and all we do about Zion, and much else besides, must be based on a profound spiritual development!

It is thus clearly apparent, weighed on eternal scales and balances, that as things have worked out, my life and ministry has benefited many, many more than if I had succeeded in building up a zionic industry. Yes, surely, defeat can be tremendous victory, in God's providential ways of blessing and guiding of those who love Him!

There is the true story of a man, who with God's blessing could have made a rich contribution, in a greatly needed way, and have done a good work for Him, but seemingly, was prevented, perhaps by conflicts of personality, as all too often happens. Yet he was seen by one of the brethren, in a dream, going into other fields, gathering diamonds and jewels.

If we truly trust Him who created us, with all the marvelous potentials we have, He can turn defeat into enduring victory, by His wisdom and His power.

TIERRAS DE NINGUN PROVECHO

Regarding this title, I do not know Spanish, and am setting it down from memory. It is in a story read many years ago. There was said to be an old map of Florida, made by the early Spanish who came to the area, probably in their search for gold, or maybe for the fountain of youth. It was said to be quite accurate as a map of Florida. But, the land to the north, about which they knew nothing was labeled Tierras de Ningun Provecho, which translated meant Land not of the slightest value to anybody. How mistaken they were!

These early map makers, with their completely setting aside as without value, that about which they knew nothing, were, sad to say, quite like humanity in general - and perhaps all of us at times. We tend to distrust whatever is different from our way of thinking. That is what makes missionary work so difficult, and also makes divine Endowment so absolutely necessary to effective evangelization and reaching out to others.

Some shocking tragedies of history have been caused by this attitude in leaders. The destructive sweep of the army of Genghis Khan of China westward into India put whole populations to the sword. Attila the Hun, called the Scourge of God, caused untold loss of lives, as his armies conquered the Italy part of the Roman Empire. Pizarro murdered Peruvians without mercy, as he overthrew a civilization much more advanced than his own. Or even Hitler, of our own time, blotting out the lives of 6,000,000 Jews.

It could have been such examples as these, scattered so profusely over the pages of history, that caused a writer to gloomily declare - "In view of the immense and protracted sorrows of mankind, it would have been better had he never been born".

This kind of fuzziness of perception may have been the prompting of the saying attributed to Alexander Campbell, in which the Kirtland Temple building of 1833-36, was called the Mormon folly.

What does this review of some of the horror experiences of history, have to do with these Temple Meditations? Just this! can we say after 140 years have gone by that we are free from narrowness, or from spiritual blindness? Consider these questions:

1. Do we have the vision or the will to make the Temple the spiritual center the Lord intended it to be? Where there would be a balanced blending of the spiritual and the intellectual? Or -
2. Do we accept and believe that the wise and careful use of the two Courts, as indicated by revelation, would result in a comprehension, preparedness, farsightedness, spiritually equipped ministry of power and effectiveness? Or have we leaned rather heavily on human wisdom and ways" Or -
3. Do we have confidence in the School of the Prophets Concept, set forth by the Lord? Or are we like a highly placed official, who when urged one time to make an ever so small beginning of such an endeavor, replied - "Oh, no, no, the people would expect too much." Or -
4. How many of us really believe in the principle and possibility of Endowment, equal to or far exceeding all that grew out of Pentacost? Do we have an abiding faith to look forward and work toward such a time again? Or -

5. Do we even apprehend that in the hands of Almighty God, there is a massive, tremendous, universe - building, majestic power, we call the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, and that the Eternal One, the Holy One of all the ages, wants to share a portion of this immense creative controlling power with a holy and exalted ministry and people made ready for such encompassing empowerment?

Do we believe, or want to believe in such astonishing concepts as these? Or are we tempted to shrug them aside, perhaps asserting they are but the fantasies of an inflamed imagination? Or do we tend to write like the map makers of the early Florida - Tierras de Ningun Provecho, thus annulling that which is so plain in the Word of the Lord?

May God grant that increasingly we shall see the working out of His supreme ideals and goals and purposes, and admit to ourselves that the intelligence of heaven far exceeds that of we little mortals of earth.

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NO. 14

GREAT IDEAS, CONCEPTS AND PROJECTS, ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE, BUT ARE WONDERFULLY REWARDING

There is a saying dear to atheistic communism, to this effect - "Religion is the opium of the people". When Religion degenerates into forms and rituals, and an unrealistic other-worldly emphasis, we grant there may be truth in their assertion.

The Restoration, at its best, is not like that at all. Much of the Lord's instruction in those early days was intended to lead to creative action. The concept of Stewardship, at its broadest and finest, motivates achievement of projects and goals for life here, that will cause rejoicing in the great, all-inclusive judgement yet to be. The development of ideal communities - they have been called colonies of heaven - requires the highest kind of far-sighted preparation and constructive effort. The development of a nearness to God, unequalled since the days of Enoch is not an undertaking for the heedless nor for those of little desires and faith. None of these are a lazy man's dream.

In the very nature of divinity, it must be the Lord's exalted intention, that all who accept both the Father and the Son, shall engage in activities characteristic of and motivated by the supreme ideal of the Kingdom of God. Can we paraphrase Winston Churchills' hardy assertion that the winning of World War 2 required blood and sweat and tears, and declare that for the immensely worthwhile ideal of the Kingdom of God to be achieved require not only blood and sweat and tears, but far sighted preparation and exertion above and beyond any of these! Even as high mountains tower above the plains!

Great ideas! Great concepts! Great projects - how can we discover them, formulate them, nurture them, and in ways that enable each of us to find our creative place in the great scheme of things yet to be?

We do not, as of now, at all adequately perceive these ways. Nevertheless, we can try to increasingly and clearly envision them. Such attempting could be along these lines, for each of us, or better.

1. We can go to our Heavenly Father, in great faith, asking his guidance. There is pervasive revelation, Christ wants to guide into ever expanding truth.
2. We can try, seeking spiritual illumination, to carefully think things through. We seldom do.
3. We can talk with far-sighted people, whom God is preparing. See Amos 3:7
4. A group of sober minded, enquiring minds could think through and, cooperatively set up an expanding list of great ideas, great concepts, and great projects. Out of these could come careful selection of what seems appropriate to our interests and abilities - perhaps in teaching, business, engineering, cultural activities, professions, and on, and on, and on.
5. Much of (4) could be done on an individual basis as well. Blessed is he who builds his house on the rock.
6. One aspect of divine Endowment, is each finding the place where he can best serve: Inspired and inspiring counselors, for such a work could be developing even now. We need such!
7. Help can come from the inspirational development and use of spiritual gifts, remembering there are scores of such gifts. Such could be either on the basis of individual experience, or through gifted personalities (in the finest sense of that phrase). Ideally gifts from the Lord put us to work achieving Kingdom goals. They even, at times, will head us toward projects that are above our known abilities. Much is possible here!

As indicated in the title of this meditation, all such effort is bought with a price - knee work - stick-to-it-iveness, sacrifice of lesser interests, and much, much more. All such effort does repay! There is the joy of personal development and use of abilities and powers of personality. There is the joy of being helpful in a great cause. There is the reward of interesting, expanding and uplifting association. As constructive and creative achievements become evident, this, too; is a joy. Most of all, God blesses in very special ways all who work with Him, in achieving His tremendously worthwhile goals.

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NO. 15

GREATER THAN AN ARMY WITH BANNERS, IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME
 — Victor Hugo

One of the delights of wide ranging reading is the discovery of such gems as above. One of the risks of such reading is indicated in the story of a little girl who was asked to tell the difference between an educated man and an intelligent man. After a little thought, she replied, "an educated man thinks somebody else's thinks, but an intelligent man thinks his own thinks," gems of wisdom are sometimes found in unpromising surroundings, too. One such explains the sometimes seeming failure of prophecy. This was found among otherwise quite meaningless chatter (at least to me). "Prophecy sees, but does not compel". Here is another I ought to share. It is a

philosophers' intimation of a time of spiritual Endowment, and is taken from Conduct of Life, by Lewis Mumford, p.91. "Without excessive pride, we may still nourish the hope that one day man will discover a more viable way than even the saints have yet found to nourish and enlarge the province of the divine. What man still finds within him only at rare moments he may yet project and establish in the world outside: the beginning if not the completion of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Victor Hugo's affirmation is valid, because armies prevail on the basis of brute force, while great ideas win out because they are based on eternal rightness and truth!

In these Meditations, many big ideas are set forth, and here I am again heading our thinking toward the truly great idea of Endowment, because of the immense possibilities that can arise, when this principle is appreciated and understood! But, first, let's look at some of the great ideas that are stronger than an army with banners.

1. What are the characteristics of these conquering ideas?
2. How may they be discovered, nurtured, and made persuasive?
3. How can we hasten a widening perception and implementation?

Without attempting to be exhaustive, may we suggest.

For No. 1

- a. They must minister to basic needs, and be based on truth.
- b. They must be far-sighted in content and envisionment.
- c. They must be within the realm of the possible to achieveable.
- d. They must contribute to the higher human needs.
- e. Certainly they must harmonize with the lofty intents of divinity.

For No. 2

- a. Prophetic minded and gifted personalities ought to be looking for them.
- b. Watch for them in reading, talking, and research, remembering they will vary in degree of greatness.
- c. A very special kind of Scripture Study can help.
- d. There are always open channels of pervasive revelation, flashes of insight, intuitive perceptions, and the like.
- e. Such discovery, etc., could be a concern of a real School of the Prophets.
- f. Persuasiveness would grow out of intelligent delineation - scope, usefulness, how to use them, plus their spiritual appeal.

For No. 3

- a. Develop a climate that encourages finding and use.
- b. Put spiritual gifts intentionally to work.
- c. Require intelligent delineation and formulation before the publicity of sharing.
- d. Perhaps seek the endorsement of competent personalities.
- e. Seek competent personalities to explain them.

Just a few reasons why divine Endowment is "a great idea whose time has come!"

1. The world and the church are in need of such a time.
2. Methods of spiritual discipline put to work, enlarge personalities, and empower them.
3. Growing spiritual Endowment will result in an intensive preparation for all that lies ahead.
4. A high order of mature prophetic personalities will evolve, resulting in prophetic expertise.
5. Pentacost indicates what could happen.

So, looking forward, can we exclaim — greater than many armies with banners is divine Endowment, whose time has come!

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NO. 16

THE EVOLUTION OF A PROPHET ! - Isaiah

What a topic for consideration and discussion, especially with priesthood. Is there any group of men in the wide world, more than they who should be prophetic minded, and spiritual minded? It seems to me a discernable development took place in the life of Isaiah. Extensive analysis is beyond the limits of this meditation, yet, if an evolving prophetic maturity is possible, such could have a bearing on the Temple's second floor affirmation, prophets can be developed.

First of all we note a quality of mind and heart that ought to characterize all ministry, particularly prophetic ministry - He, Isaiah, lived close to the Lord and consequently had profound spiritual experiences with Him. Such are necessary not only to bring about a growing breadth of perception, but also to generate a strong motivation, for scarcely ever are prophets of a higher order of life received with open arms.

It is asserted by some scholars that there were two Isaiahs, that parts of the book were written by two different persons. The latter part does seem of a higher prophetic order than the earlier, and the concept of growth explains such readily. If a prophet is faithful to his calling, evolution of depth and of breadth, and even facility and beauty of expression would seem inevitable.

The content of chapter 1 is worthy of note. In rebuking his people for their sins, his language is rather harsh. Yet this is followed by a very beautiful and appealing invitation to repentance. To support both of these approaches, he cries out that zion, the ageless longing of the Lord, can only be built upon the eternal verities, "Zion shall be redeemed with judgement, and her converts with righteousness". Chapter 2 reverses the order of presentation. The stating and restating of a prophets message should open up new ways and depths of content, in ever changing and expanding power.

For today, the live coal being placed on Isaiah's lips would seem to say to us that there is great cleansing and uplifting power in experiences with the Holy Spirit, and that expanding experiences is an essential part of prophetic evolution, for such so warm the heart, and confirm the soul that when the Lord asks, "whom shall I send?", the reply leaps to the lips, "Here am I, send me.!"

Chapter 8 offers a guide to evolving prophetic personalities. There is always confusion in every age, a Lo here and a Lo there. "To the law and the testimony, if they speak not according to his word, it is because there is no light in them", Administrators seem to forget this. Prophets should never forget.

The future coming of Christ into the world, is emphasized again and again, and with a growing envisionment of what Christ's personality would be like. We of today, having the record of that coming, if we would present him to the world after the manner of Isaiah, need to prophetically declare the grand outreach of Christ in this closing age.

He called not only his own nation to repentance but all nations. Prophetic evolution needs to increasingly comprehend how to reach out to all mankind. All are part of God's creation and love. The mature prophet is a universal kind of man.

Chapter 29 predicts the Lord's bringing forth what we call the Book of Mormon. Just so do prophets of today need to live so close to the Eternal, that He can show them ways of His future outreach.

As we study Isaiah we become aware that part of prophetic methodology is to appeal to humanity by setting forth what great things they can do, as coworkers with God. There is therefore the need to be able to truthfully promise — "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, "saith the Lord".

One of the glories of prophetic maturity, is the perception and setting forth of great ideas, and concepts and truths. "Come let us reason together saith the Lord" and your sins shall become as white pure snow. God's thoughts are higher than man's thoughts, as the heavens are higher than the earth. "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. "

There is thus much to be gained, in theoretical perception of how prophets can evolve.

Isaiah wrote and spoke in persuasive language, which is certainly a desirable quality in any servant of the Almighty's high purpose!

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NO. 17

STAKES OF ZION MUST INFLUENCE UPWARD ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE

Down through the milleniums of human history, the resourcefulness and ingenuity of outstanding minds, has developed, perhaps, many hundreds of ways to organize and combine the efforts and powers of individual people. Probably the main reason for failure, where there has been failure, is the lack of a dynamic motivating purpose. In all that lies ahead, if we are to prevail, surely there must be supremely worthwhile and far-sighted purposes. One of these is the title of this Meditation.

It seems the part of good sense to admit and say that Stakes of Zion are not altogether adequate as yet, and that in all probability they have possibilities for the future that are yet to be discov-

ered and nurtured. Why do we thus affirm? Simply this. Stakes are an inspired facility, and the Lord's glory of intelligence would forbid his setting up a facility that is narrow and ineffectual.

This Meditation affirms and envisions that when Stakes of Zion are fully comprehended as to their place in the great scheme of things, they will lift up all aspects of the life of God's people.

The word Stake goes far back in Bible history. Isaiah used the term in his 33rd. chapter. In this chapter he envisioned ten or twelve very desirable goals and characteristics of the godly community. Quite probably this is where the early Restoration picked up the term. It is a good chapter to study. There is a comparison of Stakes to the stakes which held the tabernacle tent, of the wilderness years of wandering, and even down to the time of Solomon. From this tabernacle it was intended that inspirational counsel and guidance, and the motivational uplift of the Holy One of Israel, should freely flow, in the most extraordinary of ways. The symbolism is rather beautiful.

Now, I'll try, as best I can, to indicate some of the ways that Stakes of Zion can be instruments of precision, sources of lofty prophetic perception, centers of implementation, dynamic motivators of better ways of life, and places where God may be seen at work among a chosen and choosing people. Such a broad prospectus can only be indicated in small part here. A fuller expression has been prepared, and may be asked for.

1. Exceptional communities and living need centers of inspiration, somewhat similar to the function of Israel's Tabernacle, on the way to the promised land. Fully developed it would seem a Stake could approximate this.
2. Resulting from the spiritual level and exalted use of such a Center, the people of the Stake could become increasingly God-centered, with consequent ennoblement of all ways of community living. High religion is always intended to transform life upward.
3. In view of Christ's way of life, the characteristics of the organizational involvement of Stake membership, should be on the highest levels of brotherhood, and where all the uplifting resources of the Stake can benefit the life of all.
4. Ideally, a Stake can have a leadership that is growing in all that prophetic leadership enables, or better, that prophetic evolution can make possible. This is indicated in a limited way in (5).
5. A major facility can be a richly developed School of the Prophets, where the light and immense resources resident in the Holy Spirit are sought, for the improvement and uplift of all areas of life. Intensive, reverent, dedicated effort can enable perception of great and extremely worthwhile goals. The Lord wants to respond to human upreach, making possible perception of what ought to be done, and how to achieve the ought-to-be-done. Surely, an amazing spiritual development, far beyond that of the present, and of the kind the Lord wants, is part of what He would desire for his people.

There can be a lot more than this!

Surely, the Lord intends that Stakes of Zion shall influence all aspects of life upward, eventually making them "colonies of heaven".

ZION IS THE GOAL OF THE AGES

Beyond the least shadow of doubt, it is not God's intention that human history shall end in a massive explosion of violence and annihilating catastrophe, such as is now quite possible. Alas! that the great achievements and triumph of the scientific mind can also be a terrific instrument of horrible, obliterating genocide.

Surely, it is the hope of the Holy One of the universe, that those created in His likeness, shall live in an exalting environment. He has created a beautiful world as man's dwelling place. He sent Jesus into this world that man might know what ideal life can be. It is an "invincible surmise" that the mighty Creator does not move heedlessly or in vain, and that therefore a noble Zion is the goal, the divine intention for the ages. It is not to the credit of our generation, to whom this concept has opened, and with whom the promise has been renewed, that we must regretfully, and perhaps shame-facedly say, with David of centuries ago, - "Out of Zion the perfection of beauty, God HATH, shined." Not is shining!

Can it possibly yet be that the almost universal corruption of human nature, plus the unnumberable incidents and times of revolting savagery, may yet be the final reason and factor for bringing about Zion, the hope of the ages? Admittedly, the finest motivation toward Zion ought to arise from "springs of living water", not dirty, filthy ones, yet the tremendous fact of a pressing necessity, cannot be set aside. Shall the life of many scores of millions of people be erased from the face of the earth by the culmination of all the hates and utter disregard, that could lead to an almost world wide holocaust of destruction? Erased like chalk from a blackboard? Shall the creative capacity of millions be dedicated to ends and pursuits of little or no value? Shall the increasing permissiveness of our times, rotten our moral fiber and destroy us? Shall even the elect be deceived by philosophies and notions that are sugar-coated and disguised, but lead to an utter evilness that is damnable in the sight of God? God forbid!

Now, now! is the time to appreciate the concept of Zion, as never before! Zion is the holy goal of the ages! The ways of Zion are the hope of the world!

Maybe we ought to understand more clearly the factors that make us so slow and hesitant in what we think and do about Zion. That means each of us asking ourselves some questions. Are we quite satisfied with the materialistic environment around us? Are we truly converted to Christ's way of life? Are we all too heedless in the values we cherish day by day? Are we too selfish? Are we sold on the great principle of love, a love that has many facets? Are we vastly ignorant as to what Zion means, and how to achieve it? Do we put our trust in human wisdom for our empowerment.

On the other hand in view of God's stupendous resources of intelligence and Spiritual power, it is not only good but imperative that we perceive and use all that can make us abundantly capable, for ours is the greatest opportunity that can be given to any generation of men and women.

Therefore:

1. May we learn to call on God in mighty prayer, for Zions sake!
2. May we most earnestly seek for scriptural and Spiritual illumination, making clear the task!

3. May we remember that baptism by fire can cleanse us of our sins and iniquities!
4. May we become more aware that the Lord has ways that are far above human ways, and seek these ways!
5. Perceiving this, may we be assured again, and again and again that the Lord's way of a Holy Spirit blessed School of the Prophets, can be an immensely empowering facility in Zion's achievement!
6. Here we are again - above all, may we remember the promise of the Lord of a great Endowment, for those of great faith, who will prepare themselves! And that it can come to leadership, to priesthood, to manhood and womanhood, and to young people!

There is no greater achievement! Zion is the goal of all the ages!

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NO. 19

ONE WITH THE LORD IS AS TEN THOUSAND.

It seems that this phrase should be in the Old Testament, but, as yet I have not found it. However, there are scriptures that warrant this affirmation, as below. Men of old, at times, expressed some rather sweeping insights, such as the topic for this meditation. If this assertion is factual, we need to be entreated by it, for, we are not very many.

1. Lev. 26:8, declares of those who live exceptionally close to the Lord - "A hundred shall put ten thousand to flight". Regrettably, the insight was not also tied to creative development, not just the flight of enemies.
2. Deut. 32:30, asks a momentous question - "How shall two put ten thousand to flight?" This meditation attempts to see an answer, at least in part.
3. Psalms 91:7, thinking of the Lord's power to preserve, asserts - "Ten thousand shall fall at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh unto thee." This reminds us of the 2000 sons of Helaman and their miraculous preservation in battle. How dreadful that men in all nations and climes are so prone to fight one another!
4. Isaiah 30:17, explaining what the Lord can do for a righteous people, when there is need, exclaims - "One thousand shall fall at the rebuke of one." Aware of the high prophetic quality of Isaiah's ministry, may we imagine that in so saying, he was thinking of more than war, even of the ever continuing battle between good and evil.
5. Eccl. 9:18, sorrowfully observes, "One sinner destroyeth much good". This could be rephrased to - one outstandingly righteous man doeth a world of good.
6. Gen. 14:27-31, unites the affirmation of this meditation, with a very great faith in God, and predicts the amazingly amazing, all-out use of that faith in the experience of a truly godly people. These verses, and this chapter in the Inspired version, need to be appreciated, read, studied and used.

7. Doctrine and Covenants 108:11, speaks of the Lord preparing the "weak for those things which are coming on the earth; and for the Lord's errand in the day when the weak shall confound the wise and two put their tens of thousands to flight; and by the weak things of the earth, the Lord should thresh the nations by the power of his Spirit. "

Now, reasoning from these deep-sighted perceptions and affirmations, may we confidently assert that individual personality, when blessed by the Intelligence and Spirit of Almighty God, can change and lift up the lives, of tens, hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, or, peradventure, even millions. Just this great is the potential of the individual human soul, when that soul is in touch with the Power House of the Universe! May we herein try, somewhat like Kiplings "painting on a ten league canvas, with brushes of comet hair", to indicate the implications of this concept - one with the Lord is as ten thousand.

This phrase suggests an awareness of, a building on, and using to the uttermost, the basic laws and truths the Magnificent Creator uses in establishing and controlling a stupendous on-going universe! The greater our awareness, the greater the individual empowerment. It is, of course, only the Holy Spirit that can make possible such amplification of a personality.

Surely, there are many hundreds of ways that on-fire personalities can exert and wield their power and influence. There is the way of uplifting by personal association. There is the way of richly Spirit-blessed Preaching. There is also the way of putting lofty thoughts and sublime perceptions, and great ideas, into words of writing, of depth and breadth, and vision, expressed with the moving comprehensiveness and heart warming facility of an Isaiah. This too can help set others on fire. There is sublimating stimulation in the printed word, provided those who write, write in the Spirit, as John on the Isle of Patmos. There is, in these days, radio and television. Hopefully, some day, there will not be so much drivel. They, too, could be sublimated and reach great numbers of people. May that day come!

Beyond all the preceding, as emphasized so often in these meditations, there is the fact of more than Pentacostal promise. As of this present, there is all too little awareness of this - but awareness is growing. May there be a rapidly growing sense of urgency that builds up in us all, in this regard!

Verily, truly, certainly - One with the Lord is as ten thousand!

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NO. 20

THE MAKING OF GREAT MEN AND WOMEN

Perhaps, even the Lord has his "doots" in his efforts to raise up a special noble hearted people, and is often puzzled to know how to reach us because of the dimness of our souls. I have a rather appealing quotation from Charles H. Malik, a former president of the U.N. General Assembly. In it he uses a phrase "the pursuit of greatness". What is it to be great, as the world looks at greatness. H. G. Wells once wrote that greatness is not only a matter of innate ability, but also of opportunity. On this meditation I am thinking of men and women who are great, as the Lord views greatness. It would seem that this kind of greatness is not plentiful.

Probably very few comprehend just how great men and women are made. It ought to be possible,

however for good people of maturity and stature, to either individually, or collectively, or both, to delineate many of the procedures that lead to greatness of spirit and personality. There must be such ways! Forward looking people, if they are wise, will seek to discover and use them.

As for myself, now 84, as this meditation goes through its last refining, I can hopefully express my own testimony of ways I have found, and observed, or that the loving compassion of the Lord has enabled me to see.

It helps very much if we are born into the homes of Godly, spiritual minded parents. It must be very pleasing to our Heavenly Father, when parents pray that he will send capable and rare spirits to us as part of the procreative process, and that He will nurture us in nurturing them into lives of goodness and usefulness.

Looking back to my own childhood and youth, a number of noteworthy aspects stand out. Both my parents loved the Lord as best they knew, and somehow transferred that attitude to their children. I remember with appreciation our oft held family prayer together, and particularly one fine hymn about Joseph of Egypt, that we often sang. We were quite isolated from our church in Pittsburg, Pa., attending only occasionally. Out of this limited association, there developed a strong appreciation of the deeply spiritual, that has greatly motivated my life, making me confident of help from the All-wise One in the working out of my destiny. Now, after many dynamic experiences, I know that He does. These have immensely aided me in my journey of life.

Again, looking back, I recall with gratefulness that my parents invited outstanding ministers and people to our home. I remember with special gratitude one whom I affectionately called Uncle D. Ed Miller, and the interest he took in we boys.

The first words of public ministry of Jesus, the beatitudes - attitudes of being, have meant much to me. It is good to think out further beatitudes ourselves. I recall a delightful phrase of Albert Einsteins', as I think about Jesus who is truly our elder brother - "I am enthralled with the luminous figure of the Nazarene". Jesus is the friend and inspires extra-ordinary. How can there be greatness in the noblest sense, outside his influence!

Seeking out high-minded friends and associates, has been most helpful in such attainment as I have been able to make.

Good poetry, poetry with an uplifting content, certainly has had its delightful part. Such can head us toward greatness of character. I have quite a collection. I wish I could share it with you, gentle reader.

Of all shaping influences of life, I think that spiritual experiences have meant the most, for as the years keep adding to my time on earth, these experiences have kept expanding in the depth of their content. These can vary very widely in what they encompass. The ones that inspire you most are the ones that set you to work doing helpful projects that bless you and the world of other people. For years I have been a collector of these experiences - my own, and others. My own, I call my "Ebenezer" collection. Can you guess why the name? When such come to you with highly intelligent content, and with heart-warming testimony, at times baptizing you with fire and the Holy Ghost, or the Lord asks whom can I send - you can never be quite the same again, as you try to respond to the Lord's beckoning!

Blessed are all they who discover and nurture the seeds of greatness - the Lords kind of greatness in their youth and all through their lives, for their lives shall be filled with holy purpose. They, will lift up others who will lift up others, on and on as the years go by. Eternal shall be their rejoicing and their reward.

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NO. 21

THE GIFT AND ATTAINMENT OF SPIRITUAL RADIANCE

This word Radiance is a delightful word to think about! In the living room of my home, in the late afternoon, the waning sunlight floods through the picture window. Its mellow rays caress the picture of Christ standing before the United Nations Building, knocking for entrance in. The whole end of the room becomes beautifully radiant, and more than ordinarily attractive. How beautiful are snow-capped mountains, when sunshine floods through the clean upper air, lighting up mountain valleys with their crystal clear streams, bordered by brilliant meadows. Light radiating out from our sun, though more than 90,000,000 miles away, makes life on earth, and the beauties of earth possible. The glory and the illuminating Presence of the Holy Spirit, resting on a person or scene transfigures both! Blessed, immensely blessed, are all they to whom God gives the gift of Spiritual Radiance!

Pausing, to think about it, is the Radiance altogether a gift? It must be conditioned on a personality development that makes its bestowal by the Lord possible! If Radiance is a precious quality of heart and mind, what are the characteristics of this heart and mind? Can there be ways and procedures, which, if understood, enable the achievement of a glowing Radiance? Inasmuch as this quality can wonderfully influence life upward, all of us should desire it, and work for its attainment!

I first became aware of that there is this gift, many years ago while making an in-depth study of Spirituality. Two persons have particularly impressed me as having this kind of development and blessing. Bro. F. G. Pitt, of other years is one. His countenance and personality can best be described as having a pleasing, gentle glow. The other was that very unique person we all called C. Ed Miller. I think of him and this Radiance applying to his total personality. These reflections suggest that this bright gift will manifest itself in many delightful and useful ways - as a gentle glow, as an intangible uplifting force, as an outstanding purity and goodness of life, as an encompassing gentleness, as a loving inclusive compassion, and even in winsome ways that cause people to desire to go up to the mountains of the Lord!

I could wish to be an artist, capable of painting the Mount of Transfiguration - the supreme example of Spiritual Radiance. Not only would I paint a glow around the head of Jesus, but there would be mellow light glorifying his whole personality. I would try to depict the faces of Peter, James, and John reflecting extraordinary amazement, surprise, and adoration. I would try to indicate their exaltation. I would try to paint flooding over persons and scene, the uplifting glow of an exquisite sunrise, or the vivid freshness of a mountain meadow after rain. As I try to envision this, I am made to appreciate the Lord's promise to Joseph the Seer, of the time when life and earth shall be transfigured!

I am persuaded that notable Spiritual Radiance must be the consequence of a heavenly compensation that rewards above ordinary effort to live near to God and Christ, and all they stand for in the universe.

Whom may it include? Young people becoming increasingly aware of mankind's great need of uplift. Young parents who are whole-heartedly creating a home in such a way that they can far-sightedly nurture their children, as gifts from God, and potential exemplars of the Kingdom. Womanhood who are alive to the great ideas and issues of life, and the possible high destiny of humanity. Womanhood, who because of their innate purity and spiritual sensitiveness, are developing beautiful, uplifting, exalting personalities, dedicated to the Lord of Hosts! Manhood who live above the deceitfulness of worldliness, the jungle of human notions, and the false philosophies that have made the world what it is. Manhood increasingly aware of the divine mind and purpose, and reverently cooperating with these. People who nourish and build up high ideals, cherish great concepts, and work toward altogether noble objectives. Priesthood devotedly living very close to God, becoming ever more spiritual, more prophetic minded.

Radiant people such as these will influence unnumbered lives. God will look upon them with rejoicing!

Would that my word picture were much more complete. As one still trying for this blessed gift of Spiritual Radiance, and I hope achieving at least some measure of it, I testify the effort is most rewarding!

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NO. 22

GRAND SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES "LETS ALL THE CREATIVE FORCES OF THE SOUL TO WORK"

The genesis of this Meditation is a quotation from a book by Martin Buber, a Jewish Rabbi, whose last days were spent in Jerusalem. The book is published by Harper and Brothers, New York. In his thinking about the miracle of the burning bush, and what was told Moses about his work for the future, the experience that made possible Moses the Prophet, the Liberator, the Lawgiver, the founder and leader of a "peculiar" people and nation, and Moses the statesman. On page 14 he makes this unqualified assertion — "It is a primitive state of amazement which sets all the creative forces of the soul to work." On page 54 is this — "A tremendous vitalization in the relation of the people to the name (Jehovah, E.R.C.) clearly took place on Sinai". And this "The certainty of the presence of the God as a quality of his being began to posses the souls of the generations". I have rephrased the page 14 quotation to — grand Spiritual Experiences set all the creative forces of the Soul to Work.

Just a few references to sacred history will emphasize the evident truth of the Rabbi's affirmation. The Inspired Verson tells us of Enoch, to whom the Lord spoke, as he journeyed, and who thereafter became a mighty prophet and leader, a man of great faith, and the builder of a city so holy that it was translated. Moses, because of the burning bush experience and subsequent contacts with God, was transmuted from a lowly shepherd of Midian to an outstanding prophet of the ages. Isaiah's vision of the 6th. chapter took him from the princely activities of the court of the king to a unique prophetic life, that included the vivid foretelling of the coming of the Messiah, and the perception of some of the loftiest insights of all time, and much else that has been a blessing to the world. Also, there is the experience of Saul of Tarsus, the strong persecutor of the very early christians, who because of the blinding but humbling down-reach of the Lord on the Damascus road, changed wonderfully, and became Paul the Apostle, the one who did so much to take Christ to the gentiles. Then, think of Nephi. He sought his own encounter with God, in the quietness of desert places,

and the silence of the mountains. And, because he found the Lord, he developed into a strong prophetic leader and far-sighted guide in the establishing of the Nephite nation. In our own era, there is the experience of the boy, who because the Lord spoke to him, became the prophet of the Restoration.

Now, broadening out of the base of those who have participated in this "setting of the creative forces of the soul to work", I think it is fair to observe that in the early days of the Restoration and Reorganization, grand spiritual experiences were greatly prized. As of the present, however, that prizing has been diluted, and often almost lost. It would seem that we too ought to remember that the Scriptures forewarn that a time would come when churches would have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof, the power of the Holy Spirit. Keeping ourselves aware of this tendency, and remembering the examples mentioned, and the tremendous consequences when God moved in their lives. Surely we ought to be able to see that if this profoundly spiritual motivation can be enlarged, and the number of prophetic minded souls increased, then, inevitably, tremendous consequences in the achievement of the Kingdom of God, must follow! Out of such can come a marvelous flowering of wonderfully christlike personalities the church and the world so greatly need!

As already mentioned, perceiving somewhat these potentials, led me years ago to a study of Spirituality, endeavoring to discover an enlarged understanding, a mountain to view, of the developments and achievements a dynamic spirituality could make possible. Then, and since then I have become increasingly aware that eye hath not seen, nor the human mind conceived, the utterly marvelous consequences that shall come about, when we wisely seek, receive, and use the superlative spiritual experiences God can make possible, that "set all the creative forces of the soul to work! Humbly and reverently, I confess and affirm that such effectiveness as my own ministry has had, has been the result of the blessing of the Holy Spirit!

A dismaying sadness sometimes almost overwhelms me, as I sorrowfully become aware of the many forces that hinder, and of the depressing difficulties we experience in trying to work together! Viewed in the large, inconsequentialities so often seem to dominate our purposes and goals! And, I cry out in agony of spirit, how, oh how, can Zion ever be! Or, how can a marvelous empowering Endowment ever be reached, or, how can a magnificently righteous people ever be developed!

Yet, always the agony and the hopelessness is muted, and my spirit is lifted, as there sweeps over me, like a giant wave rolling in, a mighty conviction that human ordinariness, and short-sightedness, and obstinancy, and littleness, must not prevail. It is only as God moves in majesty and power, and the tremendous light and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, "sets all the creative forces of our souls to work", then, and then only will there be Zion, or Endowment, or Salvation, or all the grand achievements with which God intensely desires shall help mankind.

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NO. 23

ROCKS, AND SHOALS, AND SHIFTING SANDY BEACHES.

There are obstacles in the way, that hinder the achievement of God's mighty Endowment. If we are wise we ought to recognize what they are.

In Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park, there are the skeletal remains of a wooden sailing ship, cast up there many years ago, on the sandy, shifting Outer Bank. The captain and the sailors must not have known they were in an area of treacherous storms and dangerous shoals and beaches. And, so, they paid for their ignorance with the loss of ship and quite possibly many lives. The slowly rotting timbers of the wreck are an arresting reminder that those who sail upon the seas ought to be aware of the dangers in the area where they sail.

Is it not like this, also, for all who set out to become exceptional instruments in the hands of God, in a time that greatly needs to see the demonstrated loving outreach toward all mankind by Him who has created us all? As we meditate about this need we are made sorrowfully aware that there are few, very, very few, who are even beginning to be prophetically enlightened to envision the far above ordinary, the even immense possibilities, of the Lord's empowering Endowment of the Holy Spirit. Surely, in the very nature of their glorious personalities, the Great Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ must be intensely longing to share their enabling, uplifting, empowering and guiding Spirit, with a deeply dedicated and spiritual ministry and people!

More than 130 years of failure to perceive, appreciate, and develop the concept of Endowment, that in all sureness must be God's Magnificent intention, is positive proof that there are obstacles of massive dimensions, that stand in the way! In view of all this, all who greatly trust in the Lord's amazing promise of divine empowerment, ought to by all means become aware that the Ship of loftily perceived ideals, and all the envisionment of utterly amazing possibilities, can be thwarted, and become like unto the broken vessel, the rotting beams and timbers cast up on Cape Hatteras!

Among enlightened nations, wherever dangerous rocky cliffs and shores prevail, or there are shifting sandbars, lighthouses are built to safeguard those traveling the highways of the sea. Somewhat comparable to this, ought we to set forth in all clearness, the obstacles which for almost seven score years, have prevented the fulfillment of the promise of Endowment.

1. Worst of all obstacles is spiritual blindness that can so easily enshroud us all. Shutting out the Light that comes from the very presence of God! Desire is not sustained nor nourished. There is insensitivity to the impress of the Holy Spirit. The kind of lofty vision the Lord would have his people have is not sought. The "Spirit of the prophets of Israel" is not part of life. Jesus wants his people to be "visited with fire and the Holy Ghost."
2. An old saying has it that "Satan sleeps on the pillow of the powerful". The forces of deceit and guile are not far from everyone of us, to lull us to sleep, to inactivity, or worse. Any movement of anyone toward God making bare his mighty arm will be cunningly and vigorously opposed by the forces of evil. Jesus warned - "fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."
3. There is a laziness of mind, a sluggishness of interest, a lack of "get up and get", that tends to afflict us all. It is so easy to drift, to be ordinary, to be like the average people about us. It is not easy to be an extraordinary person. Said Jesus "blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness."
4. It is a dismaying fact that very few are urging us toward scintillating spiritual development. Very few are seeking a prophetic enlightenment that enables digging deep into boundless mines of Gods everlasting, illuminating, empowering truth. Jesus urged, saying unto them - "Ask God; ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

5. In the busy world of the present many pressures are laid on people. Produce. Produce!! Produce!!! This in turn drains the natural energy of our persons, so much so that at the end of the work day little energy is left for godly pursuits, or the deep concerns of the Spirit, or the disciplines that the immense concerns of Endowment preparation require. Jesus counseled - seek first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness."
6. In an unbelieving world, we tend to readily and unthinkingly adopt prevailing attitudes and concepts of faith of those about us. Unless we come under the influence and "catch the contagion of great spirits", extraordinary personalities, or the tremendous Spirit of Almighty God stirs us to the depths of our beings, or we are brought face to face with extremely difficult situations that make ordinary attitudes and concepts altogether inadequate - - we tend to drift with the tide, or roll with the boat, or to just let ourselves be overwhelmed by all that distresses and burdens us so. Jesus invited - - "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden."
7. As of today, there is a seemingly rather large group of church members in positions of influence who would make this Restoration Movement "over into the image of liberal protestantism", forgetting that God's thoughts and ways are higher, infinitely higher, than man's perceptions, or notions or theologies, even as the distant spaces are so far above the earth. This is a blindness that is worse than physical blindness, since its consequences are so devastating and eternal. Protestantism nor Catholicism has not, cannot and will not bring us close to the heart of God's Far-sighted Intentions!
8. Somewhat akin to this last, there is a very strong tendency in most personalities, as they forge ahead into the upper reaches of current educational procedures, to place ever greater reliance on their own attainments and wisdom, and on that of their highly educated associates and exemplars. The needed uplift, motivating power, and lofty vision that can bring an energizing salvation to decadent civilization, has not been found in an arid intellectualism hitherto, and will not be found in the future. Besides this, the time demands on those who so place their trust is so great, that in large measure the deeply spiritual tends to be neglected and largely set aside. Even beyond this there is the ever accelerating, expansion of the literature of intellectualism, that demands time and attention. Ruskin once wrote - "If I do this, I cannot do that!" It is as simple as that. All this brings to mind Jesus' parable of the sower.
9. It is so easy to make lesser choices. So often in the days of our youth we do not choose wisely or farsightedly. As we grow older we continue to be plagued by this enervating weakness, particularly when faced with a supremely demanding concern. Extraordinary spiritual development that leads toward Endowment is therefore rarely seen. Please read D. & C. 76:2 and 104:9
10. We tend to be fearful of the presently unknown. Endowment means effort, the broadening of horizons, the discovery of hidden powers, the acquirment of empowering knowledges, the development of and the entering into inspiring and on-going associations, growing spiritual experiences with God, the reaching out to lift others, the climbing of mountains seldom ascended, the wrestling with a world of unbelief, the taking on of responsibility, the bearing of heavier and heavier burdens, the continual drawing near to the very heart of the universe, the walking together with God and Christ. Endowment means all these and much, much more than these. And, as the lofty vision almost overwhelms us, we are afraid!

Brothers and Sisters, all who would climb the massive dimension, that crowd the upward way, remember, this testimony - God can so richly and wonderfully bless and help that great logs across

the pathway up, become as matchsticks. The everlasting hills and the vast snow-capped mountain become as mole hills, when God enables and empowers!

Can we say - here am I, send me?

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NO. 24

THE LORD WHOM YOU SEEK WILL SUDDENLY COME TO T-HIS TEMPLE!

From a number of years ago, comes a testimony that should be part of these Temple Meditations, especially for those who are deeply concerned about the future. It was shared with me by a sister who heard the experience related by the person who had it. This person was Elder A. E. Stone, who later in life served as a Patriarch. He was an appointee, but for the number of years I do not know. I have full confidence in the one who told me, and in the integrity of Bro. Stone, especially because his testimony is in accord with the scriptures and with the experience of others. Let it be said here that all these experiences do not preclude the appearance of the Savior at other places, as at Independence or elsewhere, should He so determine. It seems to me there should be no playing down of function, or use, or the possible above ordinary experiences at either, Kirtland, or Independence. The Lord Jesus Christ is the determiner, not any of we mortals. Glory be to Him!

It is appropriate at this point, to set down a few of the standards that assist us in either accepting or rejecting experiences related as coming from the Lord.

1. Do they exalt the name and purpose of God and Christ?
2. Are they reasonable and intelligent in their content?
3. Are they in agreement with the scriptures and solid past experience?
4. Do they move those to whom they come toward the eternally worthwhile?
5. Do they put you to work in Kingdom building projects?
6. Do they enlarge and expand spiritual horizons?
7. Do they carry with them a spiritual warmth and conviction?

Now for Bro. Stone's experience. Just a little after the beginning of this century, he was asked to move to Kirtland to serve as Temple guide. It just so happened there was no one around when he arrived at the old Hotel, across the road from the Temple. So, anxious to go into the sacred building, he picked up the big key then used, crossed the street, unlocked the door, and stepped into the entry hall - when lo an angel stood before him, and delivered this message to him - "The Lord whom you seek, shall suddenly come to This Temple. You will note that this is the same as in Malachi 3:1, except that the letter T is added to His. I am convinced that Malachi, like others of the prophets of Israel, was writing of the last days, especially so as I read - "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for his is like a refiners fire, and like fullers soap; and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, (ministry, E.R.C.), and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. "

To this I would add my own testimony, as described in Meditation #11, about the Lord coming to the Temple He commanded the very early Restoration to build. In the almost consuming fire of

the Holy Ghost, I was assured with all certainty that He would yet come to this building and Temple of His commanding.

Again let it be said, with all emphasis that such a coming here does not at all preclude his coming elsewhere. That is in the Lord's providence!

As just a little bit of a parallel, I quite often quote to Temple Hosting groups of young people (with a sprinkling of older folk), from the Labrador Doctor, by Wilfred Grenfell. He wrote of a saying that was current in the time of Oliver Cromwell - "Nothing is more terrible than an army of Presbyterians fresh from the knees of prayer". And, we affirm that for the future nothing could be more effective than God's priesthood going resolutely forth into all the world, fresh from seeing, being instructed by, and commissioned by a mighty Endowment, even by the Lord Jesus himself.

Should anyone who may read, encompassed by doubts, exclaim impossible, may such a one be reminded, Jesus met with his disciples, many, many times after His resurrection! He appeared and taught in Land Bountiful - and what a tremendous change ensued! His coming to the Latter Day Seer, initiated the Restoration! I repeat - nothing less than Christ coming suddenly to his Temple to prepare His people for the last great evangel, and to enable the full achievement of Zion, out from whose perfection of beauty God can shine - nothing else will suffice but this grand fulfillment of the Lord's ancient promise! It will take an event far above the ordinary to lift us, or the world, out of the ordinaryness that engulfs us all.

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NO. 25

THE BEST IS YET AHEAD!

To become adequate before the Lord, for all that He wants to do for the world, all of us have a lot of growing up to do! We need to be assured that whatever distressing judgements upon wickedness there may be, whatever break-up and disintegration of orderly civilization may come about, that whatever fear may overwhelm distraught humanity - yet for all who will live close to the ways of the Lord - THE BEST IS YET AHEAD!

This phrase is a personally apprehended truth, an affirmation that entreats for creative action, and a dynamic idea. It is almost always used in talking with Temple Hosting groups of young people, and describing to them in such glowing terms as possible, the Lord's Magnificent Intention for the Restoration and Kirtland Temple. I declare to them - The Best Is Yet Ahead! Then I ask them to say it with me, maybe two or three times, until it is said as if we meant it. In these perplexing days these young people need affirmations of hope, for the living constructively of their lives. Incidentally this phrase tends to helping older people keep a youthful spirit. Moreover, it is true.

Saying this does not mean or imply that there will not be difficult times for God's people, as the world turns. For example Frederick M. Smith's expression - "Zion the difficult beckons us on! Both are true. But, who in his right senses wants life to always be a bed of roses. Roses are beautiful, but they also have thorns on the stems. I distinctly remember Patriarch John H. Lake, saying some sixty years ago - "Any old dead fish can float down stream, but it takes a live one to swim up!"

No, any Spirit-guided servant of the Lord knows from study of the scriptural prophecy of the last

days, or from his own prophetic experience of things yet to be, or from his awareness of the Signs of the times, that there are ahead difficulties innumerable, blundering statesmanship and leadership, a disintegration of the higher standards of life, a spreading degrading permissiveness, savage aberrations of hate, catastrophe upon catastrophe, "Blood and fire and vapors of smoke" as civilization falls apart, war and bloodshed and destruction, and even pestilences beyond control. All such as these must be, as a loving Father permits preserving eternal laws and forces of righteousness to chastise the world of sinning men and women. The hearts, and minds, and lives of the erring sons and daughters of men must be cleansed and purified - and we of Christ's church need our cleansing and purifying too - for the great things ahead.

In view of all this how can I affirm - The Best Is Yet Ahead! Mark this, as God lives, times of great difficulty are also times of great opportunity - for a church and a people disciplined and made strong by the Lord! This apparent, but not exaggerated view of the future just expressed, may seem to controvert our affirmation. But, remember, there is a strange but true bit of scripture, that reads something like this - God can make the wrath of men bespeak his glory and his praise.

Now, in inspiring contrast, and as best we can, let us set down the reasons back of the phrase - The Best Is Yet Ahead!

1. Truth and goodness inevitably prevail, for they sustain and preserve.
2. The Lord has the loftiest of intentions and purposes for human life. He can empower a dedicated people.
3. There are as yet uncomprehended amazing possibilities of spiritual power to enable what the Lord wants.
4. The Lord will abundantly enlighten and reward all sacrificial efforts toward preparation.
5. There begins to be a growing recognition of need and a desire for spiritual growth. This will augment.
6. The Lord's thoughts and ways are infinitely higher than ours. He therefore has tremendous resources of light, intelligence, wisdom, know-how, motivation, and the like. He yearns to share with us and make us strong. All this can be unlocked, if we will.
7. We have mentioned again and again the Lord's kind of prophetic development, and His mighty Endowment. Such will come to those of great faith.
8. These two will be electrifying and dynamic factors in the evolution of the best that is yet ahead. Out of them will come prophetic ministry of extraordinary caliber, intelligence, and spiritual power. Inevitably such qualities will lift up God's people and make them strong to serve in the Lord's great work of regeneration. There will be immense opportunities.

Therefore can we all say together - The Best Is Yet Ahead!

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NO. 26

GOD HAS A MARVELOUS DESTINY FOR HIS PEOPLE WHO LEARN TO LOVE HIM GREATLY!

This word Destiny has stimulated my thinking almost as long as I can remember. When we think about Destiny with the word marvelous added, new vistas for contemplation open wide. Then, as we join these two words to the concept that as the Lord views life, He has the highest of hopes

and intentions - and possibilities - for those who love Him greatly, wide avenues open wide! Glory be! what a topic for meditation, for reverent, and Spirit illumined research, and even for prophetic inquiry. There needs to be brought down to earth, from the deep blue yonder, great concepts and ideas, that can be expressed in persuasive words that we ordinary mortals can understand! To so attempt is difficult, because we seldom try to perceive God's amazing intentions. So with tongue in cheek, being limited as I am, I shall try.

Reflect, if you will, on man's situation and condition. Let our minds review from history how civilization after civilization, has arisen, flourished for a time, then vanished, because in blind stupidity, they have lacked a high sense of destiny. This ought to suggest to us the uttermost importance of projecting our minds into this so dimly comprehended aspect of man's higher destiny.

As a start, in an attempt to so do, let us set down some of the facts that indicate man's potential. What a creature is Man! Wide ranging physical capacities are his. His intellect can weight the stars and predict their courses. He can see into the far depths of space. He can develop astoundingly intricate theories to explain what he sees - such as an expanding universe, or a Periodic Table of the Elements. He can develop methods and powers that enable him to hurtle thru space and land on the moon. On his drawing boards he can develop plans for buildings which in his pride he calls sky scrapers. He builds Leviathans to cross the great deep. He builds planes that cross continents almost while a mother does her shopping. He designs intricate machines to almost automatically make anything he needs. He unlocks the secret of the atom and erases cities to smoldering rubble - but, alas! he cannot rule or save himself!

A part of our envisionment of a high destiny is suggested in this quotation from General Omar Bradley - "With the monstrous weapons man already has, humanity is in danger of being trapped in this world by its moral adolescents. Our knowledge of science has clearly outstripped our capacity to control it. We have many men of science, but too few men of God". Too Few Men of God! Real, noble, far-sighted, the perceptors of the Lord's high sense of destiny, immensely transformed Men of God!!!

What a tremendous responsibility the church, our church, and its people have, to draw so near to God that He can share the rich illumination of His Spirit, that will enable perception of the dynamic characteristics of the marvelous Destiny God intends for those who greatly love Him, and work with Him! When we so see then we can declare to a dying world the guidance man needs in the development of his immense potential.

As of now the envisionment of the magnificent Destiny, the ideal Destiny, our magnificent Creator sees and intends for man, is but dimly discerned. Nevertheless, the Creator must have an ideal destiny toward which man must be beckoned, for, otherwise the universe is adrift, and we are the pawns of a mindless fate. Our needed increasingly clearer envisionment is not easy, but it is not impossible, for, we are told that the time will come when we shall "comprehend even God!" Clearly we need high Destiny Pioneers to arise. Hopefully, may these suggestions aid such arising.

1. Pray earnestly for the Lord's help. Become concerned. Dream about the needed envisionment. Try extrapolation, from where we are to where we ought to be. Keep our minds open for enlightenment from all possible sources, especially from God!
2. God will respond to such upreach. He will raise up priesthood, dedicated intelligent men and women, whom He can illuminate, in their reverent endeavors of perception. This is the spirit of prophecy at its finest. As perception proceeds the process will accelerate!

3. These Destiny Pioneers will help all whom they can persuade to find their place, as the great ideas perceived are put to work lifting up life!
4. An emerging application of the tremendous power of love, will crowd out debasing, destroying hate, by the tremendous worthwhileness of the life-uplifting projects increasingly undertaken and carried on.
5. Sacred communities of brotherhood will translate this expanding Word of God, over into holy enterprises of application. High concepts of Destiny will increasingly evolve!
6. Selfishness will fade out. Evil be put in chains!
7. Projects of many kinds, offering opportunity for expression of all worthwhile potentials of human personality, will be sought out, encouraged, and undertaken!
8. Health will be abundantly enjoyed, as never heretofore. There may come a super Word of Wisdom! The laws of health will be taught and practiced! They will find hidden treasures of knowledge!
9. There will be training, teaching, schooling of a high order of content and effectiveness, beyond all hitherto known!
10. Increasingly, there will be association with grand personalities, a perfecting environment makes possible, with the noble of the ages, with those bright beings we call angels, and, as time goes on with the altogether perfect One, Jesus Christ.

And all This is Just a Beginning!

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NO. 27

WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH!

This wise observation is attributed to the Wise Man of long ago. It is easy to unctiously repeat. It is far from easy to describe what vision is, or to apply the word to a given situation and time. We need the kind of vision that will save, not destroy. Lacking this quality of mind and spirit, we tend to live as brutes do, on the same level of life, generation after generation.

Probably most of us think that some rare personality must arise to show the way, somewhat like this story. During Civil War times, a negro minister is said to have exclaimed while preaching - Mr. Lincoln can do the undoable and unscrew the unscrutable. On the other hand, the Psalmist confidently affirmed that man is created a little lower than the angels. My brother, L. F. P. Curry, probably in a moment of discouragement, once wryly remarked, "yes, and just a little higher than the monkeys." We mortals sometimes do absurd and even asinine things, you know.

Vision? A railroad is built across a continent, and the west is opened to settlers. Vision? "A man went down to Panama, where many a man had died, to slit the eternal mountain, and lift the eternal tide. A man went down to Panama, and the mountains stood aside." Vision? Thomas Edison dreamed a dream of lighting by electricity - and worked at it, and the day came when he

could say, let there be light, and there was. Vision? Henry Ford saw a nation on wheels, and now the amazing auto of today - and the energy crisis. Vision" The founding Fathers of our nation foresaw a finer sort of nation than the world has known - and now America, that stretches from ocean to ocean.

Our Heavenly Father assuredly hopes for a holy and righteous world - but largely the works of mankind dims that hope. The Restoration envisioned sacred communities of brotherhood, the Kingdom of God on earth, if you please - but the cause of Zion languishes, awaiting a people of adequate vision. Why? Why? In the world of the physical and material, we have succeeded, because we have perceived the ways that lead to success. In the world of the ideal - the spiritualization of life, we still have a long, long way to go. Without doubt, one of the prime reasons must be, that we very much need to perceive an encompassing and empowering vision, adequate to achieve the greatest goal of the ages - Zion.

So, may we cry out, in God's name, what is this lofty vision we so greatly need? This is not a rhetorical question for generations of unending debate. It surely must be one needing heavenly illumination! May I suggest that this could well be a project - a fruitful project, for the School these meditations have so often mentioned? But to even begin to establish this special Lord's kind of School requires this finest kind of vision!

This Mediation can only suggest in part, as to the answer. Obviously, the contribution of many spiritually illumined men of God is needed. The remarks that follow may help.

1. Let's admit our vision is limited, and in faith search reverently for solutions.
2. We cannot expect to delegate to administrative personalities, this greatly needed delineation. These should be associated as far as administrative pressures will permit.
3. The church needs a facility for inspired research.
4. We must remember the Lord's perceptions are vastly higher than ours as mortals, absolutely intelligent, and based on the fundamental laws of the universe. This means we must search, in God's Word, and for God's Word and Counsel.
5. May I be pardoned, if I affirm once again, a real School of the Prophets can wonderfully help in the achievement of empowering vision. A School of the Prophets - vibrant! alive! blest by the Holy Spirit in ever unfolding expanding ways! Wonderfully intelligent! Alert to truth wherever found! wide-ranging in its garnering of useful knowledge! Grandly alive in its projects of prophetic inquiry! All this and much more! There is so much to find and learn! And we have so much growing to do!
6. Part of this vision is clearly stating desirable goals.
7. Part of this vision is to find ways to achieve these goals.
8. Part of this vision is perception of who, what, and when.
9. Part of this vision is setting down resources available.
10. Part of this vision is perception of ways to seek the marvelous Lord's help.

May we be increasingly able to say - Wonderful, Wonderful! is the View!

"Where there is no vision the people perish!"

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THE LORD HOLDS OUT GREAT PROMISES TO US

The intention of this Meditation is to examine the place of Promises of the Lord in the exaltation of human life. Seemingly, discouraged people who do away with their own lives, do so because they see no goodly promise ahead for their future. Conversely, those who live as on the mountains, live creatively because the future for them does hold promise. An English statesman is said to have once remarked that those who are aware how quickly the course of events can be changed, must not refuse to have hope.

Sometimes there are negative aspects to promises making choices has to be in the light of the consequences of those choices. Laws of health obeyed promise well being. Disregarded they can even lead to our death. Christ's way of life, when followed promises altogether worthwhile results. Disregarded, the consequences can be most unwelcome. Let no one fool himself as to the double edged nature of promises.

Here we want to emphasize how the wonderful promises of our Heavenly Father can beckon us on to ever enlarging life. All who desire to transform their lives can be assured that they can find real help in searching the Scriptures for the promises there to be found. Moreover, if we will look carefully we will find them also even in the wide universe. Personally, as well, I greatly cherish promises that have been part of spiritual experiences. Promises, which when lived for, have richly rewarded.

EXAMPLES FROM SCRIPTURE.

Please turn to the first chapter of Isaiah, and write down the results of the Lord and man reasoning together. Wonderful! Then turn to chapter 55, and again write down the fruits of seeking the Lord while he may be found. Beautiful! The beatitudes have promises with each one if made part of life. This invites obedience! Jesus admonished his disciples to say unto all, in their evangelistic outreach - ask, seek, knock. Ask and it will be given. Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened unto you. Dynamic words! Topping all promises, is that of the Lord Jesus' return to the world. I've read somewhere that this promise is reiterated hundreds of times in the Scriptures. This is as it should be! There is the faithful promise of Jesus that the Holy Spirit will take the great concerns of God and show them unto us; he will guide us in our search for truth; and he will show us things to come. What more could we ask! I particularly treasure two promises of present day scripture - one that the time will come that we will know the processes by which this earth was made; the other that in time yet to be, we shall comprehend even our God. Marvelous! Someone should go through all the Scriptures classifying the wide variety of promises. "There's gold in them thar hills!" as western miners used to say..

EXAMPLES THE WORLD AND UNIVERSE EXTEND

In these there is the implied, the written-in promise that the Lord has marvelous ends in view - else why all this vastness and magnificence? Surely the Lord will provide for the future - else why this beautiful world that so abundantly supplies our needs!

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EXAMPLES FROM SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES WITH THE LORD

This opens up a whole world of most appealing promises - those that declare the glory of God, as in the experience Bro. Arthur Oakman relates about creation. There are those that hold before us the rich promise of lives dedicated to God, and His lofty and immense purposes. There are those that come when we are seeking to know the validity of a calling. There are experience - promises that are a constant source of inspiration for service, such as was spoken to myself in my last ordination, close to this wording - "If you will live close to your Heavenly Father, He will so richly bless your ministry that you will be able to lift up others, who will lift up others, who will lift up others! , also that in so doing your life will become as a cooling stream in the midst of barren desert!

More and more I am being persuaded that our altogether lovable and loving Father indeed wants to shower His blessings and His promises upon us when we love Him and serve Him greatly!

It is thus clearly apparent that a broad knowledge of promises of the Lord, helps to provide far-sighted vision, depth of perception, tenacity of purpose, enduring stability, and endowing power to keep going in uplifting service before God, and to our fellow man!

Truly, the Almighty does have great promises for us, that beckon on, and on, and on, and always up!

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NO. 29

"EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT"

Completing the quotation from Psalm 127 - "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." This is a good saying, and true as can be.

It applies to individual life, to husband and wife and home and family life, to congregational life, to village or city or nation, to Zion and any future communities of brotherhood. In fact, it applies to every aspect of man's life here on earth.

How fine it would be if I could talk face to face with all of you who may personally read these meditations and testimonies. Then we could study together and be enlightened together. As is, here in the quietness of the Temple, with the hallowing abiding spiritual presence that abides here, I reverently ask the One who is at the center of all things, to be my co-writer, for knowledge in the absolute is His!

Can you see with me the inspired assertion in David's words, that somehow and in all ways the Supreme One wants to be an intimate, very vital part of all our lives. Surely, had we lived when Jesus was on earth, and had the privilege of association with Him, and His completely ideal personality, we would have been uplifted by His exaltedness. That kind of personal contact with the Christ is not for us now. There are, however amazing possibilities of uplift and guidance in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, which speaks for the Lord Jesus - He who is alive forever more! One time in a unique way, I was made aware that the Lord knows our thoughts. Surely we must all want to live within the awareness of that perception.

Personally, I regard this quiet, serene, loving, uplifting presence, that in some uncomprehended way, enables the Master to know our thoughts, as a vital influence toward nobler living. In one of the Meditations, I also wrote of an experience that caused me to know there is also the burning, cleansing fire of the Holy Ghost, that can lift us far above human ordinariness to heights otherwise impossible. If we will try to humbly and earnestly live very near to the Lord, he will minister to us as occasions demand, and according to what we are doing.

All this I see implied in the words of the Psalmist, and it is a holy concept, worthy of careful nurturing. There are many ways by which the Lord helps us in our individual building. Let's consider them.

There is not space here to adequately discuss the kinds of prayer that touches the heart of our Maker. It can be said, however, that prayer that is offered under the refining blessing of the Holy Spirit, is answered, because its content is pleasing to the Lord. Prayer for kingdom of God objectives, is answered. The Lord will help us build, provided our building objectives are good. There is "mighty prayer" that prevails.

This kind of building suggests action on a high level. Day dreams, nebulous idealism, multitudinous words, never build real structures. We are sometimes tempted to feel that religious folk tend to be like Gladstone observed of Disraeli - inebriated with their own verbosity. Building real houses, or building personalities requires rigorous effort. The remaining part of this Meditation is concerned with a kind of effort, which can offer large returns.

I confidently affirm that the scientific method can be used in practical religious development, something like this. The theory developed in my mind years ago, when I observed how difficult it is to hold late teen age young people. Quite likely it would work with mature people as well.

I see very great value in taking the ideals, the counsel, the principles, the suggested ways of life, the concepts of saintliness, the holy attitudes of personality, the expressing of religion in kindly helpfulness - and all that is the gospel of Jesus Christ - and helping set up projects in application in daily living. In actual experimental trial see whether they will work and bear good fruit. For example, take the Sermon on the Mount and in classes or smaller groups, starting with the beatitudes, cooperatively develop projects in application, in our living. If and as needed, return and in conference reshape projects, trying again, patiently, taking all needed time. Return bearing testimony as to what happens, in class or group even in midweek meetings. I am certain amazing consequences would result from this kind of wise and dedicated effort. I feel that this kind of effort would begin to remake the world of mankind. Projects would become wide-ranging. They would be applying the teachings of our Lord to life.

Please read "In His Steps" or "What Would Jesus Do" by Charles M. Sheldon. This book is fiction. What is here envisioned would be for real. If you ask, have I ever tried it out" the

answer is no. I have never been able to persuade a group or congregation to go with me and try the idea out. Perhaps it is felt that in this busy world it is too much trouble.

As I think of this idea, thus applying the scientific method to religious training and development, I am convinced that results would far exceed what the method has produced in the field of science.

"Except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain who build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

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NO. 30

THE WORLD'S GOLDEN AGE

And I John saw the holy city . . . coming down from God out of heaven . . . Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with his people. . . and they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

From Revelation 21

Not only men of good will desired and longed for the City of God to be among men, as age has succeeded age, but the HOLY ONE of all creation, too, has yearned for its achievement. He, too, is aware, even more than are we, of the distressing facts of history that made one dismayed student of history observe dolefully that "Life on earth has largely been a brief and discreditable episode on one of the minor planets." David, remembering the more than epic Zion of Enoch, in wonderment declared - "Out of Zion the perfection of beauty God hath shined!" Now, our Creator, the Holy One of all past ages and all ages yet to be, would declare unto all mankind - Out of glorious, perfecting, triumphant Zion, I WILL SHINE!

Does the world need noble-hearted Zion, that beckons us on? Like as Peter, sinking into the sea, cried out to Jesus, "save me Lord lest I perish", even so will the world cry out, distraught and drifting, "save us Lord lest we destroy ourselves". H. G. Wells asserted that Jesus was too big for the worldly priesthood of his day, too big for his disciples, and too big for the world of our time. Insofar as I can comprehend the Lord's Magnificent Intent, I say unto you that when forces, and powers, and influences, of the superior nature that God alone can provide, are truly and adequately developed, it shall no longer be said that Jesus is too big for this our age.

the WORLD'S GOLDEN AGE - what a concept for concern! What a project for illuminated study! What an immensely important subject for prophetic enlightenment in a Spirit-blessed School of the Prophets! What a tremendous ideal to engage our finest powers of being! as well as the noblest kind of dedication!

Now, inasmuch as the world has found such an age is difficult to achieve, it ought to be apparent to every one that much above ordinary power, vision, enabling foresight, persuasiveness, depth of understanding, a heavenly order of intelligence, widespread group enlightenment, a wide-spread unity, and all like unto these, must be brought into procedures of enablement, if a better and godly society shall ever be. What in all God's universe can bring all these qualities of personality into dynamic empowerment, you ask? The answer is simple yet profound. A real, spiritually alive School of the Prophets can" A priesthood to whom the Lord Jesus has come, and taught, and who therefore have had their personalities enlarged, these can!

Endowment is enablement extraordinary! Endowment is carefully garnered, and perceived, and built-up knowledge! Endowment is the testimony of many welded together! Endowment is the perception of what ought to be done, and how the what ought to be done can be achieved! Endowment is mountain top vision! Endowment is wisdom incarnate! Endowment is pioneering faith and courage! Endowment is Spirituality at its finest! Endowment is Jesus sharing the amazing powers of the Holy Spirit, with those whose integrity and unselfishness he can completely trust! Endowment is working together with God! in more marvelous ways than the world has known! Endowment is all these and more! Behold, with a priesthood and people thus made grandly capable, nothing is impossible.

The way has been prepared. Enabling facilities are at hand. Many achievements of science can be used. A wide ranging technology is available. There is knowledge of the resources of the earth, as never before. Any truth, or word, or inspiring message, or ways of procedure, or enlightening directions, can be easily put into print. There are speedy ways of transportation. Facilities of communication encircle the earth. Machines multiply the skills of human hands a thousand times. Surely, the way is prepared.

My brothers and my sisters, my young people, if we will bring God into all of life, if we will seek him with all our hearts, if we will let an all encompassing love for God and Jesus and all they stand for, enlarge our lives, if we will prepare for empowering ENDOWMENT - Lo, the day is now when the Almighty One will make bare his arm of power. With a noble, very Christlike people, He will bring about Zion, move the world toward millenium, and beyond, when the tabernacle of God shall be with men, and God shall dwell with his people!