

Lives & Teachings of Latter-Day Prophets

Based on the Writings of Madsen, Haycock,
Swinton, McConkie & Others



Nate Richardson

RichardsonStudies.com

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Insights shared in this book often draw upon the writings of others. When they do, it is clearly stated where the ideas are coming from. The ideas are also summarized in my own words, and my added commentary is clearly distinguished in separate paragraphs beginning with “Note:...” I’ve also selected excerpts from those writings which are particularly meaningful to me, and as such my notes here do not represent book summaries so much as highlights of parts I liked.

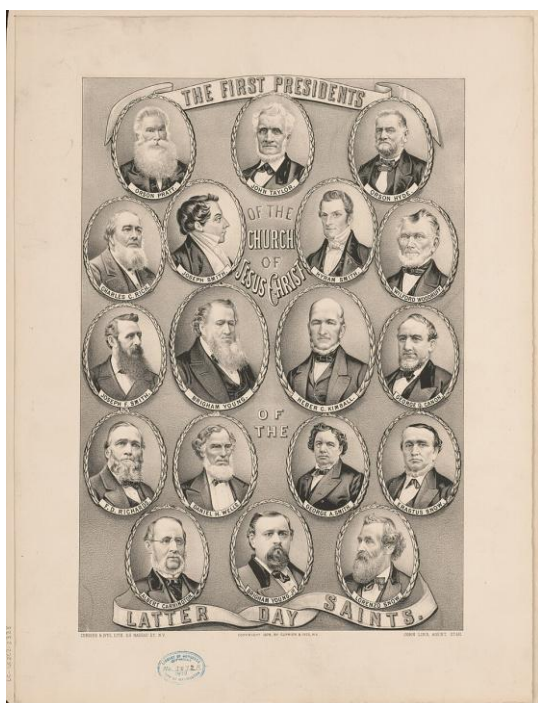
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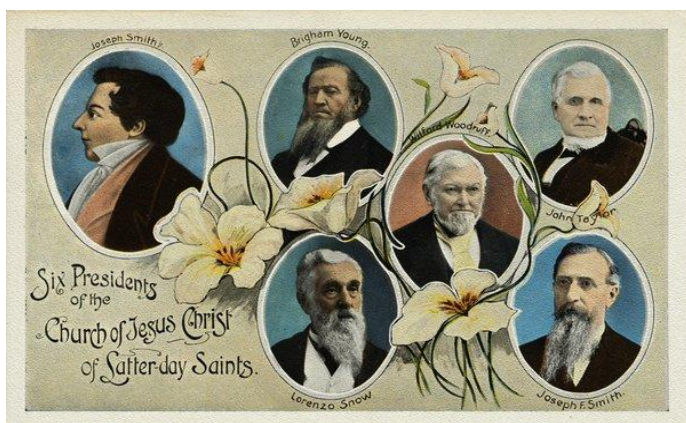
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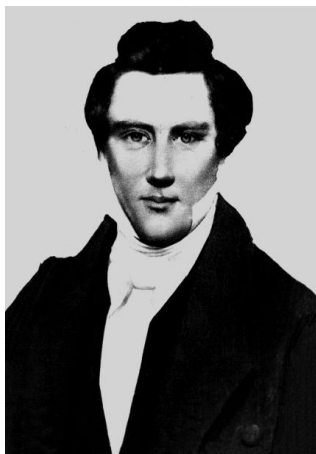
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Depiction of young Joseph reading his Bible.

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Visited by the angel Moroni.

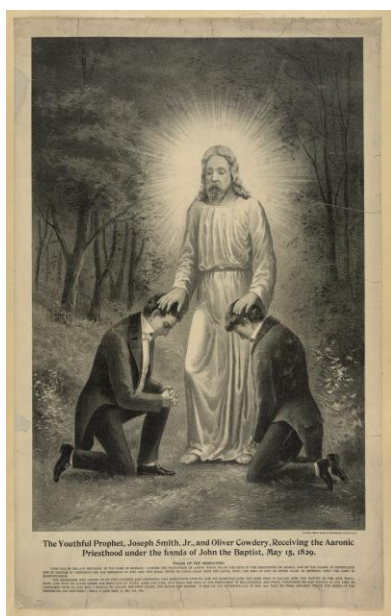
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Joseph receiving the plates from the angel Moroni.

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Receiving the priesthood from John the Baptist.

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Joseph in his Nauvoo Legion uniform.

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Death masks of Joseph (left) and Hyrum Smith.

Personal Glimpses of the Prophet Joseph Smith by Hyrum & Helen Andrus – Book Notes

Hyrum Andrus is a well-known Joseph Smith scholar who taught at BYU and gave stirring lectures on the doctrines of the restoration.

This book adds to quotes from Andrus' book "They Knew the Prophet," another brilliant resource.

One family was promised by Joseph Smith that the mob wouldn't hurt them, 3 torches were put to their home, but none would light the home on fire.

One boy was clubbed all the way home because he believed in the prophet Joseph Smith. This boy also was a target for an assassin to drown in a river, but the assassin said the boy could go after the boy insisted he had done no evil to him.

Joseph Smith once quickly disguised himself when a mob approached as an old lady to be able to escape from the mob.

Joseph Smith as General rode a black horse and wore a tall feather in his hat as he led his men sword in hand.

Once Joseph Smith entered the room you knew it; his gaze seemed to pierce you, his humility and innocence shone.

Joseph Smith quoted scriptures in Greek Hebrew Latin and German.

Joseph Smith told the people you don't know me and never will till you see me weighed in the balance.

Joseph Smith said I wish I could release my feelings; there are things I could tell you which some on the stand would kill me were I to speak.

The prophet had 24 youth who could go up a mount and speak with God face to face as did Moses on Mt. Sinai to help find the Saints a place to locate; One boy prayed weather he should accept the calling when he was asked to be a part of the group, he stood to object and a voice told him stay and rest a while though no one was close to him to speak it. He was also shown a vision of the USA as it would be in the future, entirely as the Garden of Eden, and other travels he was to do were shown to him, including how he would have to pass by guards who would ask him passwords, the which would come to him by inspiration as he approached the guards.

Joseph said this gospel gathers up some of the meanest creatures of this creation and some of the finest.



Joseph, after having given the authority to the twelve said I'm going to rest now a while; they didn't quite understand what he meant.

On the way to Carthage Joseph Smith rode over to his farm workers and said, "How are you boys!" He noticed them even in this dire moment; he loved to be among the farm animals; he was the lover of a good horse; he told those soldiers that were marching him to Carthage, "Gentlemen, these are my friends!" then he told them their names, shook the hands of the farm workers and bid them a good day and farewell. The farm workers of Joseph called him **the most frank man** they had ever known.

Joseph rebuked a guy, and the guy wanted to fight him, so Joseph went ahead and fought him.

Egyptian mummies were kept in the prophet's home.

A boy would sit in the prophet's lap and look in the Urim and Thummim.

Porter Rockwell would come to Joseph's home and if he would wave his hat it meant all is well if not it meant a mob was coming; there was a book shelf that would appear full, they would put such in front of a cellar in which Joseph would go hide.

Sara Elizabeth Homes, a young gall, would sit on the porch of Joseph Smith's home and watch for mobs.

Not in the form of a dove but the sign of a dove did the Holy Ghost ascend upon Jesus at his baptism.

Joseph said the German rendition of the bible is better than the Saint James version.

At the time of the tower of Babel when the tongues were confounded, each tongue had a part of the pure language, and when the pure language is restored, it will have a part of each language (as we now know them) Joseph says.

Joseph said I am an innocent man. If I have to go I will go like a man, if I have to die I will die like a man.

When Joseph was going to be in very dangerous circumstances he was going to go into hiding but his friends didn't want him to so he said, 'if my life is of no worth to my friends it is of no worth to myself' and he didn't go into hiding.

Joseph was so considerate and manly and sympathetic you couldn't help but like him.

Joseph would play ball with the boys for a considerable amount of time then he would say 'well boys I must go home and work' then the rest of the boys would go at the same time. This showed his considerable influence.

Joseph said that the Constitution of the USA is part of his religion and a good part too.

Joseph said if needed he could go and lead the abled bodied men and the world would see what they could do.

Joseph said 'brethren if any of you have anything against me come and tell me and make it right do not be backward come publicly or privately be satisfied that I talked to you about anything against me.

Joseph said when your enemies call for quarters be sure you give them the same and you'll have power over the world.

Joseph said if you are called to fight make sure to not stain your garments with the blood of women and children.

Joseph said our persecutions are like a wheel of fortune, that if the wheel is on top of us right now (being persecuted presently) then eventually the wheel will roll on and we will be on top of it.

Joseph asked the people 'are you willing to die for me?' they all said yes. Joseph said, 'I am your father. **Shall I not be your father?**' they all said yes. Joseph said, 'I am willing to lay down my life for you.'

Joseph said 'I have unsheathed my sword and it shall never again be sheathed until there be vengeance upon all of our enemies. The earth shall tremble and the with earthquakes shall the earth be shaken and the seas will heave themselves beyond their bounds. These things shall be brought against your enemies for your preservation as the people of the Lord. Now I deliver myself up to their hands.'

One man was about to die he was carried on a sheet to a place to be baptized he knew if he could be baptized he could live. When he was baptized he felt as good as he ever did.

For D&C 104 it was a revelation Joseph got; someone walked in with Joseph in their arms he being limp; Joseph was in a revelation at the time.

One family borrowed to Joseph 50 dollars, they told Joseph 'if we don't go then we won't need the money.' Joseph said 'it is the will of the Lord that you should go. I don't know how we will get the money, but it will come.' Joseph was able to sell a half acre lot and said, 'I told you I would give you the money!'

Joseph would teach and his face would seem almost transparent.

Joseph said, 'if I would make known what God has revealed to me to some of these who pretend to be my friends they would seek my life' (to kill me)

Joseph was teaching so powerfully even the young boys came to hear; a policeman came to take them away but Joseph said, 'let the boys alone, they will learn something they will never forget.' (Journal of Harvey Harris Cluff)

Joseph had the people travel sometimes with arms, sometimes without. They didn't travel on Sundays but stopped and held meetings.

Joseph prophesied that the cholera that was going to come upon them as a scourge right before it came. He tried to get rid of it.

-One man was screaming a prayer so all could hear, Joseph Smith told him not to pray like that, braying like a jackass, and said don't ever let me hear you praying like that again. The man went away much upset.

Joseph said when a man crosses a place where much blood has been shed he will feel depressed and uncomfortable.

The company found 3 rattlesnakes and were going to kill them, but Joseph stopped them saying that the lion will lie down with the lamb when man ceases to wage war with the reptiles. Then the serpent's disposition would change. They then carried the snakes across the creek on sticks. During the journey they didn't kill any kind of game unless they needed it. There was a rattlesnake by the head of one sleeping the

folks gathered round and were going to kill it but the man woke and said ‘no you shan’t kill it for he and i have had a good nap together. I will protect him.’

Some were jesting with swords and one cut the skin from anthers hand and Joseph told them to be careful and control their spirits and never to hurt one another in such situations.

Joseph got sweet bread from a cook while the others got sour bread; Joseph reproved the cook and chose rather to eat the sour with the rest.

Some said they didn’t think a college could change people as much as did this camp.

Whenever spies came into the camp they picked out the weakest one in the camp to quiz.

They found what they thought to be turtle eggs; Joseph said don’t eat them, they could be of a poisonous reptile like snake eggs; they ate them anyway and got sick.

Joseph had a faithful watchdog; people wanted to kill it for barking in the night; Joseph said ‘I will give you a sampling of the spirit that is among this camp. If a dog bites them they want to kill it. If a man offends him, they want to kill him. That is the spirit which is keeping this world bad.’

Martin Harris playing with a black snake to show how he had power over serpents as the scriptures said, he was bitten.

Joseph said not to do that, that such protection is void when we egg on the danger.

The promise was only for when a man of God accidentally was bitten.

At times they had to wade through mud and water waist deep and some without even stockings.

They usually ate mush, and once when there was some ham but not enough for everyone they didn't use it.

They would gather dry leaves to make for a bed.

They would wet the tent so that water would run over it.

Water ran over some until their blankets were 6 inches in water.

250 men came to attack the camp, but a huge storm came; one was killed by lightning, another had his hand torn off by a horse; the men of Zions camp had all their pistols working dispute the rain. Had the storm been as strong in Zions camp falling branches would have no doubt killed many of the members of the camp. The enemies fled.

One man was more concerned with his food and his family than the welfare of Zion and was rebuked.

The appearance of Joseph was very kind noble and compassionate.

When people would hear Joseph explain the bible they would wonder why they had never considered it in that way or in that light.

When Joseph would wrestle a certain man, the other guy would win when it was Joseph the man he was wrestling, but when it was Joseph the Prophet he was wrestling, yes when Joseph was thus under the spirit of the Lord, Joseph would always win.

Joseph shook hands with the members of Zions camp and carefully took care to their comforts with a happy smile and a cheerful countenance.

Joseph was the busiest man in the camp yet when he saw a child he would turn and say a word of comfort to them.

Joseph would go to a little boy in the camp and say 'is there no place for you my boy? If not, we must make one.'

Joseph was fond of children. He would not cross a child without speaking to the child; even if one was across the street, if it was alone, he would cross the street to speak with the child.

Joseph also helped the aged with his strong arm.

They had come across a book they were going to write the history of the church on, well bound, good pages, but they counted the pages it had to see if it would be cheaper to buy the pages in a ream. This shows how poor they were. (they

also recorded revelations on scrap paper when they couldn't afford other paper, one page lined, another not lined, one white, one yellow, one torn, etc. (see Madsen's Joseph Smith lectures))

One wanted work Joseph told him 'I'll give you work enough for twenty men.'

In the middle of a temple dedication prayer, the angel Peter came inside to approve of such. They felt an astonishing influence come over them during the prayer, a swift thing, which Joseph explained was Peter entering the temple for such.

Some who had bodily afflictions had such glorious visions that they basically forgot about their bodily afflictions.

One saw a vision of a grave opened up for him; he was very ill at the time of the vision; but then in the vision the earth filled up the grave instead of himself. From that time on he quickly recovered.

The faithful in the church would inspire their children with much respect for the prophet.

One boy at age 14 when the prophet Joseph was murdered, felt that he was willing to lay down his life for the kingdom as well, he felt that way the rest of his life.

It was a privilege to look upon Joseph, a man who had seen angels.

Wicked men hunted Joseph like a wild doe in the mountains and he had to flee before them into the holes and rocks and dens of the earth.

Joseph said to speak in your natural tone. Don't do gestures that are unnatural.

He taught that if we are all obedient, the word of God is truth, so we are all one man, and like the angels and have communion with them.

Phrenology, Joseph thought of, but was rebuked by the Lord. God said it's of the devil. It was the works of the devil and there is no reality in such a science.

He taught that this is not God's first world, for Jesus teaches that he does nothing but what he has seen His Father do, so he must have seen the Father creating worlds.

He said it's not a vice for you to defend yourself when your country is attacked.

He heard that one in coming to rescue him his horse got hurt and was breathing loud; Joseph said I will yet compensate you for that service.

2 men had arrested Joseph and abused his rights and so forth. He had them stay for dinner before he would let them leave and he introduced them to his children and treated them just like anybody.

Joseph told the brethren that it was time that the prophecy of the hearts turning to the fathers it is time for such; he told them to pray for it until they receive it; one brother prayed for it each morning at a time set apart for such and he eventually a feeling encompassed him about how he is nothing compared to God and a conviction that to get salvation he needs to be exactly obedient.

One man was getting after his cow. He said, "Get on you old fool!". Joseph Smith happened to be riding by. Joseph got off of his horse and came and patted the head of the cow and said, "you aren't a fool are you little missy?" the man never forgot that, and it would always make him cry when he told it to his grandchildren.

He said that when the earth was created it was too big; in the days of Peleg it was decided, then again when the ten tribes went to the land of the north it was divided.

Joseph said that the earth will come into contact with more matter, another planet or something, and that will cause it to reel

Joseph loved fish and the outdoor life.

One man had an unlawful cow; he asked Joseph Smith about it; Joseph said to return the cow to its rightful owner, and soon you will have cows more than you can feed. (from the life sketches of Moses Emit from BYU library)

A storm was coming once when Joseph Smith was preaching, he told those in attendance to just stand up, and that

everything would be alright. They did so, and the sun came out and all was well.

Joseph had a cheerful countenance and always seemed to be happy.

When Joseph died, Brigham Young stood to speak. As he did, the voice of Joseph was heard from him. Other accounts state that the face of Joseph was also seen. (This was a sign to the saints that Brigham was the next leader of the saints and is referred to as the transfiguration of Brigham.)

Joseph had 48 lawsuits and none of them could bring any wrong against him.

Joseph went to a cave where there were as many plates as could fill wagon loads; the sword of Laban was on the wall; it was bright as day; they didn't know if the sunlight was there or if it was artificial light, they didn't think about it.

Joseph said the good love me weak and humble as I am, and the evil hate me. I will lead people to salvation if they will let me. I'll take them by the hand like a child and lead them like a father in the way that will bring them to salvation.

Joseph got revelation line upon line until he had everything he needed for the salvation of people.

One man spoke of how it was worth traveling 400 miles to see the prophet.

Some went to find Joseph Smith and they thought he would just be sitting in some sanctum giving out spiritual blessings and instruction for the Kingdom, but they were told when they went to his house that he was a half mile away chopping firewood. They had forgotten the temporal part. When he saw them he said, “brethren I am glad to see you!” He threw down his axe and said, “boys take care of my axe.” (an account from Joseph Young)

Joseph told Joseph Young how Sidney Rigdon will go to hell until the day of redemption since he is always trying to take my place.

One man had to work his crops before he could go help with the publication of the Book of Mormon. He woke in the morning to go do that, and all of his cropping was done. He didn’t know who did it, but it was done just as he would’ve done it.

As they were departing there was an old man sweating and he said “good morning gentlemen! It’s a warm morning!” he had a brown woolen clothe suit, was heady set, had a white beard. They invited him to come with him, but he said, “I am going to Cumorah” and then he disappeared.

On the way home with the plates Joseph got smacked by someone with a club demanding the plates, Joseph knocked the man down and ran home.

Joseph moved the plates from being under the floor the day before someone came and tore up his floor.

One detractor said of Joseph, “Damn him! Angels appearing to this day in age?! Damn him! He ought to be tarred and feathered for telling such a lie!”

Abraham Lincoln said if you should tar and feather all the liars you should soon run out of funds to purchase all the material. He said how it doesn’t matter what people believe, it doesn’t hurt you.

Joseph said that he was told to quit the company with the money diggers, that they were evil people and that he must have nothing more to do with them. He must not lie or swear or steal.

Joseph was instructed that he was to look in the spectacles to see that man that would assist him and he did and he saw Martin Harris. Martin Harris said, “you ought to be careful.” Joseph told him “I saw you standing before me as plainly as anything.” Harris then said “if it’s the devil’s work I want nothing to do with it, but if it’s the God’s work, I’ll help you get all the money you can to help put it forward. If the Lord shows me that this is his work, you can have all the money you need to put it forward [from me].” he prayed telling God that if he would make it known to him whether this was the work of God he would give all he had to put it forward. At that point it was made known unto him that this work was true.

In translating the Book of Mormon, a sentence would appear. Joseph would read it. It would be written by a scribe. If it was written correctly, the sentence would disappear, and

another would appear. If it was not written correctly, the sentence would not disappear.

During the translation of the Book of Mormon, they would go out and throw stones into the river for exercise; there was a stone Martin Harris found that looked like the one they were using to translate; Harris put it in place of the stone they were using to translate. Joseph looked down at the translation table with the stone on it for a time, he usually was quick but this time he paused. He told Harris, "All is as dark as Egypt! What have you done?" Harris said he had replaced the stone with a fake one to stop the mouths of fools who were claiming that Joseph Smith had merely been memorizing the sentences.

The Spirit is able to make much known in a short amount of time. The world thinks that Joseph Smith's publications are false for there is so much material in them, and normally it takes a long time to learn information.

As they got visions they spoke of how doubt fled forever never to rise again. They said the words of the angel who came to give them the Priesthood were so lovely and powerful that no mortal could speak that way.

One word from the mouth of the Savior from the bosom of eternity strikes all the evils down.

On Sacred Ground: Reflections on Joseph Smith by Truman G Madsen – Documentary Highlights

When darkness happens, you can rejoice knowing light is about to come. Joseph Smith had such an experience just before his First Vision, and when he heard one missionary had such an experience, he rejoiced knowing that soon the work would go forward well in that region.

At Joseph's first vision, he first see's one being come down and touch his forehead, then another descends. The first person says pointing to the other, "This is my beloved Son".

Physicists have found that there are planets with one trillion times the brightness of our sun. This goes with what Joseph Smith said that a person must be transformed to endure the presence of God, the radiation from Him, that brightness.

The angel Moroni has light gathered around him when he leaves Joseph Smith's room, this suggests that light is an intrinsic part of the personality of resurrected beings, and that they can spread that light.

There is record of at least 23 subsequent visits of Moroni to Joseph Smith; he was his tutor, a full semester of one on one training.

John Taylor said that Joseph Smith was as familiar with ancient prophets as we are with one another

Hyrum Smith said that there were prophets before, but Joseph Smith has the element of all of those prophets. There were things of the prior prophets which had to do with elements of the life of Joseph Smith.

One revelation says about Emma Smith the wife of Joseph Smith, “whom I have given unto you” which suggests that the Lord made that marriage.



Adam and Eve together understood what they were doing in The Fall; it was to keep procreation going; marriage, contrary to what was the current opinion, was good, and to prepare for heaven, and could continue after death, and is required

for the exaltation of a person. Hence the latter-day saint religion is known as a family religion.

Urim and Thummim means light and truth; anciently it was used in determining the innocence of guilt of someone; also at times Urim meant yes, the Thummim meant no for cases where they were seeking divine guidance. But it did more. There was visual aspects to it. Toward the end of the translation process he didn't need this tool, since he himself became a sort of a Urim and Thummim, a seer.

When Martin Harris lost the manuscript, Joseph Smith doesn't blame Harris, but himself. He asked the Lord too many times and didn't accept the Lord's first answer.

In Hebrew terms, John the Baptist means John the immerser.

John the Baptist thought of Jesus Christ in ancient terms, anointed one, Messiah. Hence, he says in the name of Messiah when he confers the Aaronic Priesthood to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdry.

Joseph said that when he was baptized and got the Holy Ghost, he understood the scriptures like he never before could, even though he had visions and divine tutoring before this point.

There were 160 at least trials against Joseph, these were frivolous.

Twice the Old Testament says in good Hebrew, that Moses communed with God panim v panim, face to face. Then it goes on to say, “as one man converses with another.” This is the ultimate blessing of the Melchizedek Priesthood.

The book of Third Nephi can be called a 5th gospel.

Why do we have the angel Moroni on the temples? For he is the messenger spoken of in the book of Revelation who tells of the coming of the Latter-day Kingdom.

Book of Mormon is called a golden bible, replacing the bible, but that's the reverse of the truth, for this book is to help establish the bible. It's not like Jews who say it's all closed after the Torah, or the Islam who says it's all closed after the Quran, or the Christians who say it's all closed after the bible. Books have been coming forth, Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Phillip, these have echoes of the authentic teachings of Christ. Scholars say there is just as much reason to trust these as words of Jesus as the other gospels in the bible. So why not look at more potential scriptures like the Book of Mormon?

Unorganized religion isn't living; isn't vital. There must be a people meeting together fulfilling the purposes of God, where the ordinances of the scriptures are performed.

Being baptized is merely being born again; then we must grow up unto Christ, and this requires higher and higher ordinances.

Many saw the Prophet Joseph Smith or parts of the restoration in vision before missionaries arrived to them which helped them know that these were messengers from the Lord

Joseph learned that the fullness of the Priesthood is only available in the House of the Lord.

John Taylor in the early Church said that if we understood the restoration of the gospel, how the ancients saw it, we would spend all of our time to promote it. He insisted we don't comprehend its magnitude, nor have we caught the vision.

Without the powers of the higher Priesthood, the powers of Godliness are not manifest unto men says the scripture Joseph Smith brought forth.

The ancients have looked forward to this time of Joseph Smith and the restoration, they rhapsodized about it and sang about it. Now it's for us to roll it forth.

It takes discernment to know which spirits are of God and which are of the devil.

The school of the prophets which Joseph Smith set up was because they could not be saved in ignorance.

There was a formal greeting of brethren which spoke of their love and covenant to uphold each other remembering the

New and Everlasting Covenant which they were to say to each other upon meeting one another.

When the Word of Wisdom was revealed, the brethren present took their pipes and threw them into the fire.

Perfect love entails our love to God and recognition of the love to God toward us. Joseph Smith said that until we have this love we are liable to fall. This entails getting our names into the Lamb's book of life, into his book of remembrance, then it's impossible for false Christ's to deceive us.

Those who have not seen God are considered "in the wilderness."

Some of the witnesses had visions where they actually saw Christ on the cross. They could stand with Joseph Smith and say they knew he lives; they know the gospel is true. These are the "Special Witnesses."

Joseph taught that if you are faithful in the gospel of Jesus Christ, ALL of your losses will be made up to you.

God cannot force us to heaven, we can resist him forever. It's not only that he will not, he cannot. This is what Joseph Smith taught. Such would be contrary to the nature of God.

When we don't honor the power of Christ, in the eternities, the powers of procreation will be denied us.

The only time Christ referred to himself as perfect (3 Nephi) was after his Resurrection when he had a body of flesh and bones. This shows such is essential, and reminds us that God the Father has a body of flesh and bones.

Anything you can say about Christ you can potentially say about mankind. This is blasphemous in the traditional Christian theology.

As the Jews see it, when you kill a person you kill a nation, or when you save a person you save a nation, and they view themselves as accountable to God as a whole, as a people.

Some see salvation as 41% good and 51% bad you go to hell, and vice versa, but not so. You are rewarded according to your deeds, it's not a line in the sand.

There was the Kirtland temple dedication where the building looked like it was on fire, the Holy Ghost was so strong poured out upon it.

What's different with a temple compared to a normal meeting house? God had promised to reveal himself in the temple.

Some people tried to set fire to the temple at one time and it didn't work. God was protecting it till his time with it was finished.

At the dedication of the Kirkland temple angels were standing in and on the temple, children and many others could see them.

When Christ comes you'll shout with your whole being Hosannas.

After great blessings will come trial; such Joseph Smith taught after many spoke in tongues etc. at the Kirkland temple dedication; indeed persecution came.

They saw Jesus Christ standing on the pulpit of the Kirkland temple; His hair white, His voice as that of the rushing of great waters.

Daniel speaks of the Ancient of Days coming to sit at a great meeting. We proclaim it will be at Jackson County Missouri at the meeting of Adam-ondi-Ahman.

Adam was told "in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surly die". Considering that one thousand years is a day to God, indeed, Adam died within our thousand years of the time he ate that fruit. (*No man has ever lived more than 1000 years on this earth, though some have come close.)

The word Eve Joseph Smith translated as "Lives", suggesting plurality of her motherhood.

Joseph was charged with treason, but in courts today, that would have been considered flimsy and not had against him.

Joseph played sports with the boys he said ‘this will help the boys and the boys will become trusted’ that became true. Joseph Smith said that we should not think that he is unaware of the issues in the church etc. just because he plays sports etc.

When boys vandalized a fence, the court wanted them in jail for six months. Joseph Smith said no, that would only make them hardened. Let me be responsible, I’ll have them filling in pot holes in the road till they make enough money to pay for the damages. The boys did so, and in their journals they said they became better men for it.

When newcomers came and they had children, Joseph Smith first greeted the children, almost ignoring the parents, then he would greet the parents.

Joseph was always the first to jump to his feet when he heard a child crying.

Joseph said, “if a man is not honored in his own home, the only reproach is on him.” he would often help with all the household chores.

Joseph would have people listen to other preachers and tell them to take all well of what was said well, then Joseph Smith would fill in the blanks from the restored gospel.

One man couldn’t confound Joseph Smith with his preaching, and went and called for God to send fire down to consume Joseph Smith. Joseph said “your God does not hear you”

The man on the cross question, Joseph Smith was asked that by a preacher who said that man was not baptized. Joseph laughed and said 'how do you know he was not baptized? But that is not the point. He went to the world of spirits.'

Joseph would often come home with guests for dinner with little or no warning.

Joseph had an incredible recuperative power, as he went through trials he seemed not to age but to get even more exuberant and lively.

Joseph would never ask what the consequence would be to him, rather what the right thing to do would be. He was a man of principle.

Joseph could concentrate well even with children playing in the room.

Joseph was not hard to get along with or odd, just the opposite.

Joseph taught his family that they should pray together 3 times a day

Basically there were always guests in the Joseph Smith home.

When people heard Joseph kneel and pray, they observed he did so humble as a little child, recognizing his total dependence on God. He didn't much change his voice tone, just a humble conversation with the living God

Joseph said that if you don't feel the spirit by the end of your prayer it wasn't very good, not all the way heard by God, or not to expect it totally to be answered.

While Joseph prayed some stood and rubbed their knees then knelt again since it was so long.

Once they had only Johnny cake (corn bread) to eat. Joseph prayed thanks for it, and that they might have something better. There something of new food was on their porch, a turkey and a ham. Joseph said "See Emma? God has answered my prayer!"

Make a list of all the headings Jesus Christ did, they can all be matched in a column alongside it by what Joseph did, including raising the dead.

Joseph prayed to be like Enoch, that he could prepare a people for the very presence of God.

Joseph promised the Saints a new manna and a new name and to be kings and priests unto God if they were faithful. These are temple promises. The white raiment promise is given, such is worn in the temple to foresee that.

Joseph taught the Saints that they needed the temple endowment in order to overcome all things. Where is this in the scriptures? Joseph taught that Peter in the day of Pentecost even after the temple had been defiled, he obtained a house and practice baptism for the dead and ordinances of washing and anointing etc.

Bible scholars today agree that Paul wrote of baptism for the dead because it was practice of the Christian church.

Joseph taught the Saints that they could not begin to comprehend how grateful people are for whom we do work for in the temples. He said those people would one day kneel at your feet and express such gratitude to you that it's hard to comprehend.

Joseph taught that our ancestors know our feelings and are often pained by such.

Joseph taught that Adam and Eve partook of the fruit somewhat knowingly, so they could help the human family come to the world.

Joseph taught that to have a body was a step forward in progression rather than being a form of a prison.

Joseph taught that family relations will be intensified for the faithful in the next life.

Joseph taught the biblical idea that if the wife of a man die, then he marry again (*these marriages being sealed in the temple; recall the scripture saying none have the wife if it's not sealed), then the man will have several wives in heaven, and that such would be a blessing to the family raising up more posterity. This seems bitter at first, but one comes to see it is from the Lord.

An angel with a drawn sword came to Joseph and told him that he could not move the church forward one more inch without this principle of plural marriage. Like the book of Jacob says, it's what the Lord uses at times to raise up seed unto Him.

Eliza Snow was asked how she put up with plural marriage, she said she learned to love the beauty of that principle.

The women were not able to live the law of plural marriage without getting a witness from the spirit that this principle was true. They learned that it would cause them to have righteous posterity, and other blessings. They would in turn be the army of missionaries that could build up the gospel in the world. This is what they believed.

If you think plural marriage was for lust, think about it. Polygamy required you to provide for your wives, and to serve them daily in your home. There are easier ways to get lust than that.

Joseph changed the bible passage saying love not things on the earth to love not things of the world. This is because the earth itself is a temple, it is created of the Lord.

Joseph knew that stage by stage, covenant by covenant, Christ was waiting. He brings blessings for each covenant. For baptism, get fire and the Holy Ghost. For Priesthood, get endowment. For sacrament, get the spirit to always be with you. At temple, get promise that He will give us all He has. You see, being born again comes by ordinances of the

kingdom of God. These are found at the temple and all Saints are invited there through their whole life.

They would meet with the prophet almost daily, it seemed he would not leave them alone. When asked why, Joseph responded “The Spirit urges me.”

Joseph conferred all the authority to lead the Church on the heads of the 12 Apostles before he died, having a sense that he was going to die, so that they could carry on the ministry. He did the laying on of hands like the bible says. He said he was going to rest. They didn’t understand what that meant. He told them they have all the authority to lead the Church toward the Celestial Kingdom of God. He said he didn’t expect to live to see the temple finished but sensed he would be killed. He was.

Joseph told the Apostles that they must round up their shoulders and bear off the kingdom or they would be damned.

An audio recording of 1897 of Wilford Woodruff is on the film, John Taylor then being the only person still living who knew Joseph in person.

Joseph said to the Apostles, ‘if you have to die, I pity you, but remember, Christ had to die first.’

Joseph said always go with the majority of the 12 Apostles and the records of the Church and you will not go astray.

Joseph said he could trust Willard Richards with everything

Joseph told people your journals will be sought after as history etc.

BH Roberts said Journal of Wilford Woodruff is one of the greatest historical treasures we have.

Joseph wouldn't sleep until he had written down sermons he gave, this has been a great blessing to us. (This might be a typo on my part, it might be that Woodruff wouldn't let himself sleep until he had transcribed Joseph's speeches.)

Joseph said children are what Abraham was promised; Abraham said I want quality children; the Lord said that his children would be like the stars, meaning that kind of magnitude, that quality, and also many in number.

When we do ordinances in the temple, it helps families which had been divided by hate come back together; the abused persons can plea to God for the mercy of their abusers, and God will hear their cries and forgive them for the sake of the abused persons. This is how people come together, and merit the sanction of God, and become as the stars, majestic.

Hyrum Smith said to Joseph, In the name of Jesus Christ, I will go where you go, and I will die where you die. Joseph said Amen. Joseph plead with Hyrum to leave him on the road to Carthage, Hyrum said he could not, for he promised that he would not.

Willard Richards offered to be hung in the stead of Joseph.

One who saw Joseph die said that he died with a smile on his face.

It has been said that a true martyr doesn't seek nor resist martyrdom; Joseph falls into that category; Joseph had been told by the Savior, even if they do to you what they have done to me, blessed are ye for ye shall dwell with me in glory.

Joseph said that were it not for the love he had for his family and friends, death to him would be as sweet as honey

Brigham told Joseph that he was laying out 20 years' worth of things to do; then Joseph responded "yes, and you are going to do it!"

When it was near the time of the death of Joseph, Joseph said 'I could do more to build the kingdom on the other side of the veil than I could here.'

Joseph saw visions of the resurrection so vivid, he saw people come up out of their graves, the grave open, the person sit up, then embrace the person by them exclaiming 'my mother! my father! This is why Joseph commanded Brigham to bury him near his family.

People describing Joseph often used superlatives when describing Joseph. For example John Taylor said Joseph was the most learned man he ever knew despite having traveled continents.

Brigham called the sermons of Joseph sweet like honey.

Brigham wanted to hear all Joseph had to say even if it was merely his own opinion.

Wilford Woodruff said Joseph was like a bed of gold hidden from the view of his generation, that people didn't recognize him for what he was.

-Franklin D Richards said that Joseph was the most healing in his personal presence; simply to shake his hand or be with him a few minutes as a healing uplifting experience.

Emeline B Wells wrote that she hardly knew how to live without occasionally hearing the prophet; she said he was like the prophet poet mixed together.

Emma Smith said the greatest miracle of Joseph was Joseph himself.

Bathsheba Smith said that Joseph's blue eyes seemed to penetrate the deepest hearts.

Madsen: Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith said were he the emperor of the world he would guarantee all people religious rights. (He wanted to

give to others what we have sometimes been denied.)

You think of me as a boy like one of you, Joseph said to Zion's Camp members, but I'm in a position where I'm governed and controlled by the Lord.

If they send us to hell we'll turn the devil out and make a heaven out of it. (This is basically what happened when leaders of the Church were sent to prisons.)

Madsen says that people say there are 2 Joseph Smiths and that Madsen only teaches the good one. The truth is that **all the firsthand accounts speak of Joseph Smith as being a good man.** The second Joseph Smith is fictitious and a fabrication of evil conspiring men.

They were strict to keep journals from the beginning days of the Church for they knew that they were making history and that one day people would refer to those as scripture.

If they take his rights, fine, but if they go after those of the Saints, he would stand for them. He said this with sword in hand.

The Smith family had verbal threats for their lives. Hence Emma Smith must have wanted to stay back so as to not jeopardize the entire camp going west.

Joseph Smith was said by another prophet to manifest the power of all the prophets.

The revelation said his life wasn't YET as Job, and it increasingly came to be as time went on.

He was kissed by a man who would betray him.

People broke the law to slay him.

People met in secret to plan his death.

About 150 people were ready to swear with their hand on a bible to not rest until he was killed.

Joseph gave Hyrum a blessing of long life and what would come. But Hyrum forfeited that blessing in order to go with Joseph.

The relationship between Joseph and Hyrum surpasses anything you'll read of any two mortal people in history.

Joseph walked CALMLY toward the window, knowing that whether inside or outside of the jail he would be killed. He was shot in the back and pulled himself through the window, and fell down; in so doing, he managed to save two other people who were in the jail, for once Joseph had fallen out the window, they yelled "he's out!" and left.

Hyrum made a covenant with the God of Israel to be where Joseph was, and to die where he died.

Joseph told some with him near his death: don't worry, they cannot do to us more than they did to the Master. They can only kill our bodies. We and our message will live on.

He said Hyrum demonstrated the very meekness and love of Christ.

One of the prophets said soon the church would be 10 million then one hundred million, in an extension of Joseph Smith's words that the church would grow to fill North and South America, and eventually to fill the world.

All truth belongs to Mormonism; that if there is any truth in hell, it belongs to the Mormons. That the devil has no attractive kingdom, the devil merely distorts truth. The devil has NOTHING.

Another prophet said that WHEN (not if) the law fails to avenge the blood of Joseph Smith, leave it to God.

The day will come, another prophet said, that Joseph will be known as a temporal and spiritual deliverer of this dispensation like Joseph in Egypt was in his.

When asked "who are you?" He said, **"Noah came before the flood. I have come before the fire."**

Note: No, the fire didn't happen in Joseph's lifetime, but he set the stage to prepare people for it, so he is rightly classed with Noah on this level. He was and is still the head of this dispensation, is still involved with the saints, and will yet be among them, as several prophecies tell.

At the time when things were tense and Joseph was about to be killed, Joseph saw some packing their wagons and leaving the gathering of the Saints. He said as he watched them leave, "there go the cowards."

No one was convicted for any crime in the murder of Joseph

Smith.

The murder of Joseph Smith was an obvious conspiracy.

After Joseph Smith was killed, mobsters continued to rape and plunder the Saints.

Joseph said he doesn't care what they do to him so long as they don't hang him. Hearing this, a 300-pound man (a close associate George Smith I think) offered to be hung in the stead of Joseph Smith.

If you can get the LDS to agree on any matter, you can know that such a matter is of God.

He and Emma moved about 14 times.

He revealed to Eliza Snow that we have a Mother in Heaven.

He said once when strongly influenced by the spirit, that it's as though we were in the presence of The Father and the Son and others who have given their entire lives to build up the Kingdom of God and heal and seal family relationships.

He believed we likely have relatives (now dead) who are our guardian angels who care more for us than we can for them and they have influence in our lives and aren't far from us.

He spoke of the Godhead as the matchless governing quorum over all the creations of the Father.

He taught earnestly against using black and mourning clothes

at death and funerals; instead wear white! Eliza Snow said he taught her this.

On Porter Rockwell: Bodyguard & Friend of the Prophet Joseph Smith



Charles Roscoe Savage, Public domain, via Wikimedia
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(These are assorted notes I've taken on Porter Rockwell.)

Brigham Young said Porter Rockwell is the most honest man
he ever knew.

Sources say Porter killed 25 people, but he was never accused of murder they were all in self-defense or legal executions of law. He would always put the dead body in the back of his wagon and bring it into the judge and would be ruled correct.

Some men were coming to kill him they said are you Porter he said “no, but these are his dogs” and so the men went to kill the dogs and while they did that, he killed them.

One man came to shoot Florida and Porter said you can't kill me the cops still on your gun and while the guy looked at his gun Porter shot him so quickly that he didn't even have time to take the gun out of his coat pocket, so he shot through his coat and killed the guy in the heart.

Porter spared a guy in a duel because of who the guy's parents were.

When Porter saw someone in the Smith family who had lost their hair due to sickness he cut off his hair and made them a wig and gave it to them. He loved the Smith family.

On one occasion a man was firing directly at Porter and another man saw the flame go in through the front of him and out the back of him and yet he stood unscathed in fulfillment of the covenant promise.

Porter could not read or write but was a very good businessman and became very rich from selling tools to prospectors and running motels and bars.

Joseph called Porter 'Ol Port. Joseph and Porter grew up together.

Porter was a scout that led pioneers and blazed trails to Utah and California.

When he decided he needed to start carrying a gun with him to protect his second amendment rights of life and property he went out into the woods he didn't know how to use it he went out into the woods and practiced shooting for a long time until he became one of the best.

He **donated all of his wealth** to the church

It was that money that financed The Exodus of the Saints out of Missouri.

There was an assassination attempt on Governor Boggs they accused Joseph Smith Joseph Smith wasn't around so they accused his bodyguard Porter they brought Porter to court and they said but Evans do you have that it wasn't you and Porter said well he is still alive the judge agreed that yes Porter is the best shot around he wouldn't still be alive if it was Porter and Joseph heard about this of them accusing Porter Joseph said the same thing it wasn't Porter because he's still alive.

Porter was being taken to jail as an attempt to lure Joseph Smith in as they were very close friends and the sheriff driving the carriage was drunk and crashed it several times so Porter finally took over and **drove himself to jail**.

In jail Porter was locked for 6 weeks with his right rest to left ankle and left wrist to right ankle. eventually someone gets

locked up with him who snuck in a file, he escapes. After escaping he jumped the fence and then he saw that his friend fell down and needed his help so he went to help his friend and while he was doing that he ran into the wife of the jailer and he said oh excuse me I'm sorry I would help make sure you're not injured but I'm escaping jail so I have to go and then he tried to run but got caught and went put back in jail but while he was in there he overheard men talking about an assassination attempt on Joseph. He prayed for a way to get that message to Nauvoo he prayed very hard he was a man of great faith and the next day Porter's mother came to visit him and she was able to take the message. The conditions in the jail were very bad Joseph Smith went to the temple lot stood on top of a sunstone that was being carved waved his hat around and told everyone to make donations to help get Porter out of jail. Then he took and saw there was some wrestling and stick pulling going on and so he found the biggest strongest man around and he told everyone I'm going to stick pull this man and who will bet that I can do it I bet all the money in this hat that I can do it and so every buddy puts more money in the hat on that bet and then Joseph won him in the stick pull threw him over his shoulder and then as if that wasn't enough he went and picked up the man by his shirt collar and his belt and hefted him into a stream nearby then he went over and hugged the man and said that was good clean fun. He was able to raise \$200 to get Porter free. When free Porter went to Joseph's house, hadn't bathed or shaved or cut hair in 8 months. Porter acted drunk, Joseph told some men to "get that drunk Missourian out of here" the men could not, so Joseph went to escort him by his collar out of the house, their eyes caught and Porter began to laugh. Joseph brought a chair to the middle of the room and told everyone to listen to Porter's story of the past 8 months.

Terrible rotten food, etc. It was then that Joseph promised Porter that if he was trye to his COVENANTS, the church and his God, no bullet or blade would kill him. In token of accepting that covenant promise of that day, Porter vowed to never cut his hair. So, his power wasn't directly from his hair (but that was the sign of his faithfulness).

One time Emma was out for a few days and while she was gone Joseph had some Carpenters come and build a bar in his house and Porter was there working that bar and when Emma came home she saw it and said either that goes or I go so Joseph had the bar disabled and rebuilt across the street and Porter worked there.

When Joseph fled, he wasn't doing so out of cowardice he was going with Porter to get some horses so he could go to Washington DC to voice his grievances against Governor Ford on the mobs.

Porter was going to go to Carthage with Joseph, Joseph said they will kill me Porter said I will come Joseph said you must not Porter said I must Joseph said I command you to not come so Porter didn't come. Porter got word that there was trouble at Carthage so he sped out on his horse to Carthage this was the only time he disobeyed the prophet, but they had already been killed.

Porter was a deputy, so we had to legal obligation to protect people there was a mob coming to kill Brigham to Porter shot the leader of the mob and killed him as was his legal right and obligation. The man who killed was the main person who let the mob to Carthage to kill Joseph Smith he was probably the man who killed Joseph Smith. Frank

Warrell, leader of the mob being down the mobs quieted down and took a while to reassemble this gave the time the Saints needed to escape the state. Brigham Young told Porter to turn himself into Illinois as he was wanted for the supposed murder of Frank Porter says **I'll do whatever you say you're the prophet**, so he goes into town and brought daylight he's walking around nobody really does anything so he thinks well maybe I need to commit a crime so they'll arrest me so he finds one of his old enemies and he says I'm Porter and I'm going to kill you the man runs away Porter shoots shots well over his head just to draw attention finally the sheriff comes and knocks on Porter's door to arrest him Porter pretends to put up a stink and says no you've got to come in here and get me and Porter finally comes out with his hands raised and a smile on his face and is arrested. this serves to draw the attention of the mobs away from killing the Saints and toward the trial of Porter. Later it was found that Porter was in self-defense in the case of Frank and so Porter was let go and joined the Saints again.

Emma was 5 months pregnant when Joseph died.

He died of a heart attack with his boots on. Prophecy of Joseph was fulfilled that he would not die by bullet or blade as he remained faithful to his covenants his church and his God.

2 BRIGHAM YOUNG



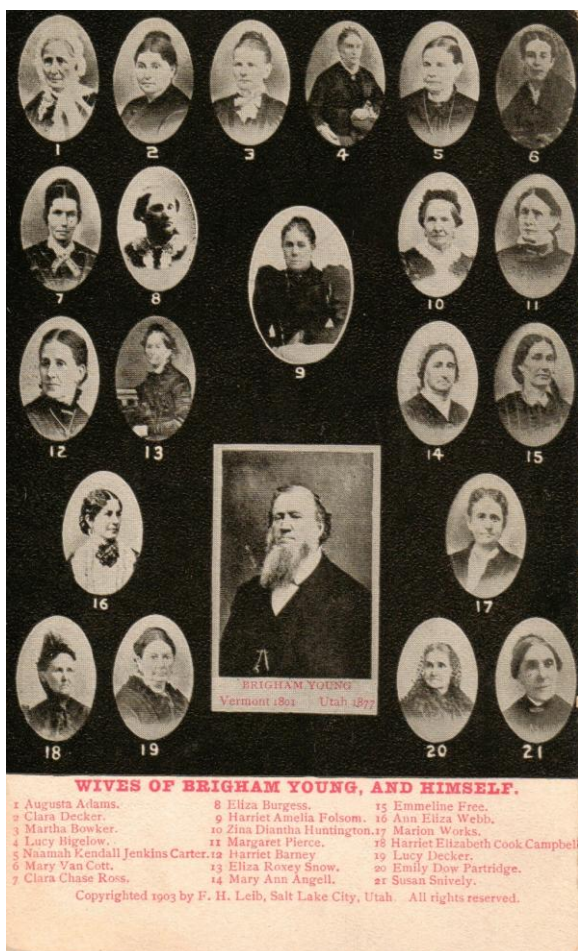
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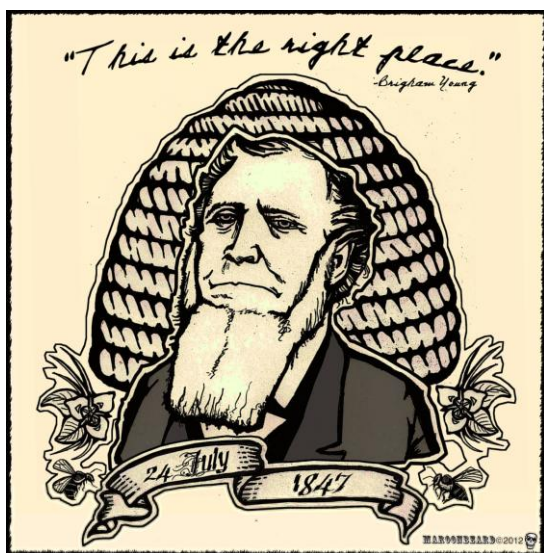
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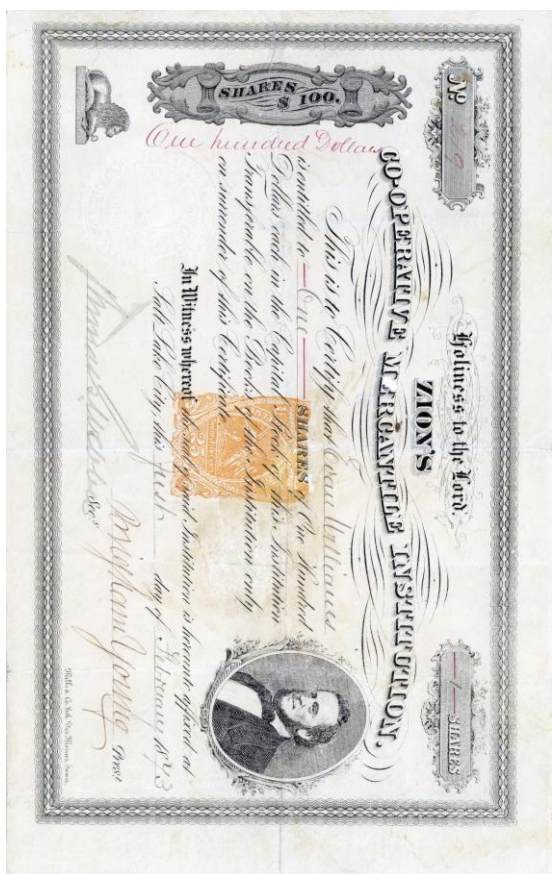
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Madsen: Brigham Young

When God calls a man to a work, nothing can stop it.

He said “now we are to rest here” while on the trail. Then he said, “now we dance.” Porter Rockwell said “first he tells us we can rest, now he tells us we must dance!”

A person full of the Holy Spirit never grows old.

Brigham Young as a young man learned to care for horses, clear timber, and work in the cold (they would often milk their cows in 30 below zero in a T-shirt) as those of Vermont, “the final frontier of the Yankee” were common to do. They were fiercely independent people there. There the Constitution and rights were strongly respected, and Brigham was sad to see those be violated against him and the Saints through his life.

One missionary was asked how many wives Brigham Young. He had yelled it over and again in a congregation. It was relentless so the missionary said, “I don’t know I’ll have to ask him when I get to heaven.” The man responded, “oh no, he’s not going to heaven”. Then the missionary said, “Then you ask him!”

He said at his baptism he felt like fire was running through his body and he couldn’t help but get up and preach.

On the night Joseph Smith went with his wife Emma to the Hill Cumorah and received the plates that would

become the Book of Mormon, it was Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year holiday. This record signified the beginning of a new dispensation, the restoration of the knowledge of the days of old. Brigham Young at this time didn't even know who Joseph Smith was, but he and Heber C. Kimball went outside because a woman beckoned them to come see the stars, and they went and **saw in the sky armies of soldiers dressed in American revolution clothing with guns, and they were marching toward the west.** It went on for about an hour. They could hear the marching. They seemed intent about something, concerned about something, and were preparing to participate in a great battle.

Many of the Saints had to burn the very homes and bridges they built to protect the Saints from an army coming to get them though they lived in peace in the west where no one else wanted to be.

Joseph Smith heard him pray for the first time when they first met and said that he would be one of the greatest teachers of redemption this world has ever seen.

He preached that Jesus went beneath all things so that no person, no matter how sin stained, could be out of the reach of Christ.

He taught that human kind are generally good, doing away with the doctrine of original sin, which he had also heard Joseph Smith preach. Most of the falling of the human race came at the time of Cain. Adam and Eve didn't fall very much, and they knew what they were doing. Yes there are consequences of that action but it's what we need. He taught that humans are generally good in nature, all with the candle

light of the Lord in them, even the worst of people having some of that. In other words, people are inherently good, not inherently bad.

He taught that we should picture Christ in our minds, and that in doing so, it makes every part of our lives spiritual. When we involve God in every part of our lives, even the menial parts of life become hallowed. This thinking of Christ will ALLOW (not make) our spirits to become hallowed and holy.

In England many were baptized into the Church. One prophet said that the forefathers in Israel had prayed for their families that they would get the gospel. The reason that there were many baptisms in England was fulfillment of the prayers of their forefathers, that they would one day find the fullness of the gospel. Many of these people are the blood of Israel, and it's their forefathers that prayed for them. They baptized all day long, and more than 6 thousand baptisms were performed.



In response to others who say that they couldn't have endured what the pioneers did, he said that he was at the very heart of those trials, and that he had never felt better in his

life. The spirit of God was poured out upon them so heavily during those times, and it was exquisite and precious.

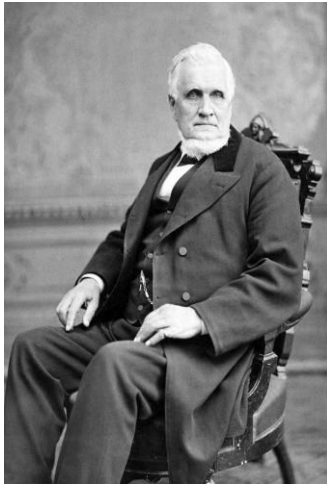
We will put in our roots here (in the Utah area) so deep that not even the devil himself will be able to drive us out.

One saint was **barefoot and in scraggly clothes and standing outside** of a conference the Church was having, too embarrassed to go inside because of how he looked for it was all he had. He learned that in that conference President Young had asked for men to go and get more stone for the Salt Lake Temple, this man said **yes, I will go!**

He told one man that his calling was to “go and colonize Mexico. **You’ll be released when you’re dead. God bless you!**” The man went and eventually died colonizing Mexico.

At one time he had 7 counselors to him as President. Not all of them had to be Apostles.

3 JOHN TAYLOR



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Watch he wore during martyrdom of Joseph Smith, which was struck by a bullet, which watch saved his life.

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Madsen: John Taylor

John Taylor came from England.

He felt that he was to **come to America to preach the gospel.**

He organized a group of people called the Seekers who were looking for New Testament Christianity. They were taught about the Church by Parley P Pratt and joined.

At one point Pratt spoke badly of Joseph Smith, and John responded, although a new convert, that if Joseph Smith was a prophet at first, he still is now, and that Pratt was out of line. Pratt later came back into good terms with Joseph Smith and did more great missionary work.

John went on an **8-year mission** and only got to return to visit his wife very seldomly. When he did return from those 8 years, she was ill.

He liked to debate with people as a missionary, particularly that this Church is the only one with the authority, offices, miracles, and spiritual gifts of the New Testament. He didn't avoid debate and this sort of contention.

Take care to nourish the smaller roots and the bigger ones will take care of themselves.

Tithing was given in kind in those days. He would look at the baskets of his fruit and see the best one and say, "There, that is the tithing for the Lord."

He was known to say the Kingdom of God or nothing. He searched for the New Testament Church until he found it.

He translated the Book of Mormon into French and German.

Joseph Smith told him he needed to give his wife to Joseph for sealing. John responded that if it is the Lord who wants her in this thing, ok the Lord can have her in this way as asked, but that if it's merely Joseph's desire then no. Joseph wept and told him that the Lord was only trying him as Abraham, asking for what he held most dear and seeing if he and his wife were willing to give everything up for God and His Christ.

He only did the plural family principal because it was from the Lord, otherwise he wouldn't. It was to raise more righteous prosperity to go preach the gospel.

He would not be a slave to anything, so he quit tobacco and alcohol.

He would not be a slave to anyone, not even to God. He would be a servant to God and the son of God, but not a slave to anyone. He would die first.

He wrote the Times and Seasons which is the newspaper they had, the Deseret News of the time for the church.

He was a very skilled writer.

At Carthage, as mobbers were shooting through the door at

Joseph Smith, John used a stick to whack the pistols up into the air from the crack in the door. Joseph said that is right, parry them off as long as you can. Those are the last words he heard from Joseph.

When it comes to the gospel and eternity, our nation knows about as much as an iron railing.

The phrase “the Lord suddenly appears at his temple” means the Jews await his appearance at the Jerusalem temple, it will happen.

Basics of The Life of President John Taylor from Living Scriptures Presentation

The following are a few notes on basic facts about the life of John Taylor. The Living Scriptures video on Taylor was used to gather most of these notes, which represent common records about the life of John Taylor.

All church presidents were of English extraction. He was the only church president born in England. England from the reformation was more diverse in religions than France and Germany. The missionaries were received well there.

He often read scripture from a young age. As a young man he prayed often and got others to join him in secret prayer. He was a lay minister in the Methodist church for a while.

He felt an urgent impression that he needed to immigrate to America to preach the gospel. He migrated at 25.

He proposed to Leonora, a high-class lady, and she at first refused. She had a dream vision of being married to him, and she accepted his second proposal.

He was converted by Parley P Pratt. At first he turned away Parley being skeptical, but later accepted him. John was determined to investigate Parley's message and accept it no matter the consequences if true, and expose it if false. He wrote Pratt's sermons word for word and compared them and the Book of Mormon with the bible.

When the bank of Joseph failed, even Parley P Pratt was upset about his financial loss. John helped encourage Parley, saying that **if Joseph was a prophet before, he was a prophet now.**

He had a spiritual experience where he spoke in tongues and had a revelation that he would someday be an Apostle.

John presided over the church in Canada. At age 29, Joseph wrote him calling him to the 12 Apostles. He saw his work as something to demand his all both in life and eternity. A year after his calling to be an Apostle he was sustained by the church, and set apart. But he preached whenever he could even before that.

John's business was failing but he was to leave on a mission, and he didn't have any means but set out anyway.

He knew that at a sermon several there planned to tar and feather him. He preached on freedom, and addressed those who came to tar him and asked if that was the liberty they had inherited. He told them he was ready, so come on and tar him. None did. He went on to preach for 3 hours.

He didn't carry a weapon but soon learned he needed one so he borrowed a gun and prepared himself for defensive measures. John and 23 others prepared to defend themselves against over 100 mobbers.

On a mission he had to leave behind his wife and sick children who all had malaria. He had only a penny to his name. He said he had enough for his needs. Parley said he needed a few hundred to publish a pamphlet. John said he could have all he had, and gave Parley the penny. They traveled without purse or script. When they had no money, he still booked passage on ships they needed to travel on, and they'd come up with the money by various donations by the time they needed to pay the fare.

John preached and debated with anyone, anywhere. He preached in congregations, and when the members believed him, the ministers of those churches had him leave.

He converted a congregation of 200 in England. He organized the converts as they migrated to America.

John knew that he could only accept plural marriage as Joseph taught him if he accepted all the doctrines of the gospel. He was 35 and his wife was 47. Many of the brethren

had difficulty accepting this but had testimonies of the prophet Joseph and followed through.

He had at least 17 wives.

William Law and John C Bennet stirred up contention against the church.

None of the presidential candidates would defend the saints so Joseph ran for president. Joseph had John as his campaign manager.

The Nauvoo Expositor was full of lies. The city council declared it a public nuisance and had that press destroyed. Mobs were angry and Joseph Smith the mayor of Nauvoo declared martial law. Shortly later Joseph was sent to Carthage jail. John Taylor and Willard Richards chose to stay with Joseph and Hyrum at Carthage. John sang all 14 verses of Joseph's favorite song, A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief, and Joseph had him then sing it again. Mobs came and were shooting at Joseph through the door, John knocked their guns down with his cane. He saw these efforts wouldn't last, and went to the window. John was shot in the thigh and was paralyzed, then shot in the heart where his watch was hit and saved him. A piece of flesh the size of his fist was taken from his hip.

When traveling west to the Rockies, John had to go back to England to help solve problems in the church there, and had to leave his wives and children in wagons and tents.

John saw the trials they went through as nothing compared to the glories to come.

The first year in the Salt Lake Valley was a harsh winter, then in the spring the crickets came. This is when the seagulls came and ate the crickets miraculously, preserving the crop.

He went on a mission to France. They were robbed by Indians of all their blankets and clothing. He said they weren't robbed, they were tithed. He said they preferred being tithed by bishops rather than those who officiated without authority.

John prophesied that the kingdom of God, the church, would stand long after France would be crushed.

John was upset about the French preferring the philosophies of men. There was a cake that wasn't filling, he called it 'philosophy.'

John said Babylon was developing in the political, not just the religious world, so they got into politics. They had to represent themselves so they wouldn't be represented by others. He stood up to the various newspapers. Brigham complemented John for being a strong editor and writer defending the church.

John expected his sons to do their part to care for the family garden. They were to carefully measure the rows, etc. One son was careless, and the rows showed it. John saw this and said to the son, 'well, we are not very proud of this. We had better dig it up and start over.'

There were stolen chickens, the criminals were sentenced to **pay back 7 fold.**

One chicken John didn't think was his and threw it over the fence. Wilford saw the chicken wasn't his and threw it back over the fence. John saw the chicken had returned and threw it back over the fence.

John **forbade his children from using face cards or reading novels.** John reviewed a novel his son had, and admitted his misjudgment in that case saying, **'that's a good book son. You may read it.'**

The national government was relentless in trying to destroy the church. There was the Utah war and continued false charges. John responded to claims in the press and wrote that the government of the United States was at war with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

John taught that bishops should have weekly council meetings, and that stakes should have quarterly conferences. This is continued today.

John held a 50-year jubilee of the church, and forgave many debts of members, including debts of those who used the immigration fund to join the saints, and some tithing debts of the poor.

The Edmunds act made heavy fines and jail for polygamists, and denied polygamists the right to vote, hold office, and be in juries. John said they would wait out this storm and not try to reason with the government during it. Many all-night raids took place, dragging men from their homes. America was no longer a land of liberty and equal rights. John told the saints not to get caught by the government, and he went into hiding himself. His motto was "The kingdom of God or nothing." The last 2.5 years of his life was on the **underground**, and he

was moved from home to home for safety as federal marshals hunted for him. Once he needed to go from Kaysville to Taylorsville, he put himself in a shipping crate and was shipped to the location successfully. He often traveled at night. He communicated with the saints by writing. His counselors George Q Cannon and Joseph F Smith were also hiding. Joseph F was sent to help the church in Hawaii.

A farmer gave his home for John's headquarters in hiding, and the farmer moved into a small cabin.

John would disguise himself in a woman's dress and bonnet so he could go outside and feed the chickens.

John's last words were, "Joseph, Joseph"

Only 3 members of the 12 could attend John's funeral, all the others were being hunted for plural marriage.

At his funeral, it was recognized that John was killed by the cruelty of the government.

4 WILFORD WOODRUFF



By Charles Roscoe Savage - Immediate image source: C. R. Savage collection at the L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, call number MSS P 24 Item 323, Public Domain,

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Wilford Woodruff (standing), George Q. Cannon (seated, left), and Joseph F. Smith (seated, right)

*By Charles Roscoe Savage - Immediate image source:
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Madsen: Wilford Woodruff

Hugh B Brown was asked who he would deem a Saint based on the regular qualifications in Catholicism of devotion to the Church, radiance, and being productive. He said Wilford Woodruff.

He was a miller in Connecticut.

Plead to God to find someone who can say like the characters in the bible, they don't just know of Christ, rather that they KNOW Christ.

He felt prompted to go to Rhode Island but didn't go. If he had gone he would have heard the preaching of the LDS missionaries there. But later in the next year he did go, and a missionary Pulsipher went there, and felt impressed to go directly to Wilford's house. Wilford went to a church meeting then was baptized in icy water with clothing on but he said he didn't feel the cold.

A friend of his called "Father Mason" had a vision before his death that the New Testament Church would return and he would not get to see it, but that Wilford would be a large participant in it.

A small number of choice spirit sons and daughters of God have been kept to come to earth now and inherit this Church. They've been kept in store for 6,000 years (that's when Adam was in Eden) to come forth in this time to build up and organize this Church, to receive the Everlasting Priesthood.

He had many injuries growing up; he felt like a marked man,

partly because he was a very avid journal keeper. He took notes of the Joseph Smith sermons and couldn't rest until he went and put them from shorthand into legible prose.

His **daily journal** is over 7,000 pages.

Unless we have the spirit, our religion is a farce.

Those with the spirit can see whether others they meet with have the spirit. You'll feel safe in their atmosphere.

He was told he would be numbered with the 144,000 who will sing the new song on Mt. Zion.

He was a president of a horticultural society.

Everything that brings joy and gladness is for us, if we use it well.

There **is no singing or dancing in hell**; no joy there. There is only singing and dancing in heaven.

Note: Much of today's evil entertainment can't be called true music or true dance. But I suspect even these debauched deeds will not be tolerated, and the souls damned to hell will not dare to participate in such evil, knowing in full sight the damnation of it. Nevertheless, we do read of evil spirits delighting in sin. This much is sure – they've got nothing on the saints.

You can build all the buildings you want but there will never be enough to hold the LDS.

He was visited by the founders of the USA and those who put their lives on the line to sign the Declaration of Independence in the temple of St. George, Utah. They “pleaded” with him as a man pleading for his LIFE that he would do their temple work, so they could have those blessings. They said, “We did not apostatize from the form of government that God gave us, but we have no form of earthly representatives for us to do this temple work, please help do this for us.” George Washington and Benjamin Franklin “argued with me and said they were choice spirits not wicked men.” Woodruff did their temple work, and loved the Constitution and the American way, partly because he spoke to those who created them.

He did some reading in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew; he was well read.

He would say things in public meetings regardless of how it would affect him personally or affect the audience.

Rather than troubling the government, they stopped plural marriage.

He founded Utah Power and Light Company.

He was a statistician and at the end of each year said the number of people he visited, number of sermons he had preached, etc. We know of at least 4367 baptisms and confirmations he did, 817 administrations of the sick via the Priesthood, sealing 11,388 couples (living and dead) in the temple. That is an average of administering 2 ordinances per day of his life. Said he never did an ordinance without the Holy Ghost.

He dedicated a railroad. He believed that temporal and spiritual things are tied to each other.

He constantly spoke of the spirit world (Madsen calls him a spiritual amphibian, spending as much time in the world of spirit as the temporal world). One example of this is that he said to one man "Hello Mr. Jones. (a pause). You know, I don't think I've talked to your father since he died!"

As we dedicate and shout "Hosanna" at temple dedications, they also do so in heaven, and it echoes to the very throne of God.

Isaiah speaking of the house of the Lord in the mountains: he was seeing and referring to the Salt Lake City, Utah LDS Temple!

There have been 2 powers: one to slay me and one to spare me.

The Lord used me because he couldn't find a weaker vessel.

We must read novels, but we can't call the bible a mere novel; it contains revelation.

He said that Joseph Smith will be crowned as a martyr in the presence of God and the Lamb.

He bore his testimony into a talking machine (voice recorder).

At his death he wanted no one to wear mourning clothes

because he was a faithful person and for those types of people, death is a good thing.

He said he would try to attend his funeral.

5 LORENZO SNOW



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Text Appearing Before Image: *WILFORD WOODRUFF. PRESIDENTS OF THE MORMON CHURCH. LORENZO SNOW* 19 **Text Appearing After Image:** 1. PRES. LORENZO SNOW. 2. GEORGE Q. CANNON. 3. JOSEPH F. SMITH. 4. MATHIAS H. COWLEY. 5. A. OWEN WOODRUFF. 9. 6. BRIGHAM YOUNG 10. 7. ANTHON H. LUND. 11. 8. JOHN W. TAYLOR. 12. JOHN HENRY SMITH. 13. HEBER J. GRANT. 14. FRANCIS M. LYMAN. 15. GEORGE TEASDALE. 16. FUDGER CLAWSON. 17. MARRINER W. MERRILL. 18. F. D. RICHARDS. FIRST PRESIDENCY AND TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Madsen: Lorenzo Snow

Lorenzo Snow is a descendant of Sephardic Jews who, at the time of Spanish inquisition, were told they had to leave or die.

He came from a family of 9.

At his school, one had to do 3-4 hours of manual labor a day. They were geared toward language study, and he was interested in Hebrew. However, he was not impressed by the religion he saw. He said **“If this is all there is in religion, then goodbye to religion!”**

He didn’t believe in Joseph Smith at first, having heard bad rumors of him.

He was stunned at promises Joseph Smith Sr. was giving to people in Patriarchal blessings. He told Lorenzo **“You’ll become as great as God and you couldn’t wish to be greater.”**

He gave up his military ambitions and his plans of further education to set out on his first mission for the Church.

After some time in the jail (at present day Sugar House SLC) for polygamy, one thought he would be full of wrath and a spirit of rebellion. Rather he was calm like a saint. The saints held in this prison taught math lessons to each other, art lessons, and enjoyed each other’s association. They held church, including the sacrament and sermons, on Sundays. They wore black and white striped outfits common to

prisons. He led them in a **Hosanna Shout which they did at the top of their lungs.**

He had a **vision he went to Kolob** (the star nearest to the throne of God, see the Pearl of Great Price), and was clothed with a celestial body. The joy that came from that was beyond description.

He went with 4 women to be sealed in the temple.

He colonized Brigham City, Utah. He told the Saints that they would indeed return to Jackson County, Missouri (Where the New Jerusalem will be built), but not today or tomorrow, so they should build in Utah for now.

He healed a dying child in Italy.

He converted a group of people in Italy who were rebelling against the current protestant churches. This group of people was living in strict adherence to the New Testament despite the protestant ideas that were going around.

He translated the Book of Mormon into Italian.

After the death of President Wilford Woodruff, he came home and woke all his children and family. He knelt in prayer with them so that they would be able to understand what he was about to testify to them. He had seen Jesus Christ! When praying in the temple about how to organize the Church upon the death of the President, Christ appeared to him in the hallway of the temple. Christ stood on something a little above the floor, similar to the Kirtland temple account of Christ standing on a paved breastwork of pure gold when

Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdry saw him there. Christ told him how to lead the Church, to reorganize it straightway and be President. Christ also told him plainly whom his councilors were to be.

If we knew all our trials in advance it would discourage us. God ever helps us in the time of our greatest need; whenever we are threatened with discouragement. He saw glorious blessings awaiting.

He had 41 children and adopted 3 more, making 44. His youngest child was born when he was 81 years old.



He was away from home often, sometimes several years at a time.

“As man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become.” He taught this, and after that revelation, he saw it in the scriptures as well, in the writings of Paul and John. The early Christian Fathers also taught that doctrine.

In Hebrew it says we are created “a little lower than the Gods (Elohim is the word)” not angels (malak is the word for that).

Jesus was a God before he came here to this earth. Knowledge of that was taken from him when he was born. Similarly, knowledge of who we were before we were born is

withheld from us in this life. Jesus in pre-mortality (who was Jehovah) knew of the mission he would perform during mortality. We also knew the mission we would perform in mortality while we were still in the premortal world.

Being like Christ means suffering for others rather than dominating over them. This is how we access the ultimate power in the universe, the Priesthood.

There is no God in eternity that has any governmental rights except over his own children.

Being the president of the church meant nothing to him in comparison of what his calling would be in the next life.

He raided a girl from the dead after she had been dead for 2 hours.

He was 5'6" and 140 lbs. He also had respiratory problems.

If we are faithful, we will at some time be doing our own work, but for now we are doing the work of our Father in Heaven.

A mother who has brought up faithful children should be saved even if she does nothing else.

He had a diplomatic, friendly, scholarly, gentle and Christlike appearance.

6 JOSEPH F SMITH



By First_Presidency_1905_large.jpg:Charles Roscoe Savage (1832–1909)Alternative namesC. R. Savage; Chas. R. Savage; Charles R. SavageDescriptionAmerican-British photographerA landscape and portrait photographer who produced images of the American West, and it is best known for his 1869 photographs of the linking of the first transcontinental railroad.Date of birth/death16 August 18324 February 1909Location of birth/deathSouthamptonSalt Lake CityAuthority file: Q11723097VIAF: 15075395ISNI: 0000000066606444ULAN: 500005101LCCN: n84131226Open Library: OL2609939AWorldCatderivative work: Entheta (talk) - First_Presidency_1905_large.jpg, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8525961>

Madsen: Joseph F Smith

Joseph F. Smith is the son of Hyrum Smith, and nephew of Joseph Smith Jr.

When Joseph F Smith was a little boy of 6, Hyrum and Joseph were going to Carthage Jail where they would be murdered. Hyrum pulled Joseph F up onto his horse and gave him a big hug. Joseph said, “Hyrum, he looks pale. Have you been feeding him skim milk?” It wasn’t that, it was because of the sorrow in seeing his father leave, and that they had been living in hiding because of the death threat for any Smith to be found.

His mom, Mary Fielding Smith, prayed in faith over an ox and it healed. She died when he was 14, so he was sort of an orphan.

There are more than 6,000 righteous posterity that have come from the lineage of JFS.

He was self-taught after his mother taught him to read. All he had to read from was the bible. He became a master of the English language. When his children who were on missions would write home to him, he would send their letters back to them marked with red pen in places where they had misspelled things.

Schools were maintained in the covered wagon trail.

He had a fiery temper in his early life; a school teacher threatened to whack his sister, and he threatened the teacher. The teacher came after him, and he beat up the teacher. He was expelled.

The leaders of the Church decided to channel this energy in another direction, and sent him on a mission to Hawaii at age 15. He received his endowment before leaving.

He was promised to master the language, but it came at great struggle for him.

That mission was so challenging that even the mission president gave up, but others did not and had great success.

At one point on this mission he became very ill and was taken in by a lady who nursed him for 3 months like a mother would have. Later as president of the church, he returned to Hawaii at around age 90 and saw her there and ran to her hugging and kissing her calling her “mamma, mamma!” over and over.

When he was leaving to go on this mission he wouldn’t get on the small dingy boat unless they commanded him in the name of the Lord to do so. They did, and he did.

A woman was seizing up and having contortions from an evil spirit. He said, “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I rebuke you.” She fell down and later recovered.

His first wife was barren. She divorced him. Later he married 6 others, and had many children. (Plural marriage was still current.)

In a vision, he saw Joseph and touched his bosom as he went to take a child Joseph had blessed and return the child to its mother. He said that the contact with Joseph brought much

excitement, discerning that it was a life form of a perfect order. (*this is after the death of Joseph, perhaps suggesting he is resurrected now, or an illustrative vision to teach of the future, or of the nature of spirits.)

He had all his children call him papa. The most affectionate term he had for his wife was mama.

Having children gave him a deeper appreciation for everything about life. He was very affectionate with children.

In the tradition of his father, he kissed all his children on the lips with a quick smack whether they were adults or not.

He was made an apostle at age 27.

Carthage jail has a blood stain on the floor of Hyrum Smith, his father. When he saw that he sat on the bed there, put his hands in his face, and wept uncontrollably until water came pouring out of his hands. He said “Charlie take me out of here.” On the 20-mile buggy ride back to where they were staying not a word was said.

Every morning the JFS family had prayer together then he kissed each one of the children.

One morning JFS got a copy of a mean note his son had written to a bully who had beaten him up and almost drowned him in a puddle of water. The letter had every cuss word his son had ever read or heard in it. That morning JFS gave a kiss to all of his children except this one. To him he said, “See me in my office.” **He opened the scriptures, pointed to one and said, “Now what does that say?”** He

did this showing passages of forgiveness and “swear not at all” for 20 minutes. Then he said come here and he gave him a hug and a kiss then said no more of it. The boy never swore again.

Note: Different kids need a different approaches, but the default should always be this type of affectionate and gospel-centered training.

He shook hands with people from newspapers who had written bad things about him and the Church. One man said of him that he would shake hands with the devil himself. He was able to make better relations with people, and those who wrote ill of him often later wrote good of him because of these things.

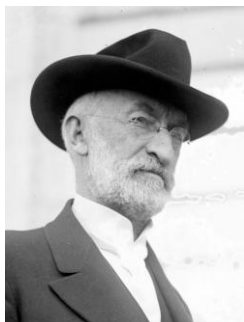
With some people you feel an instant trust. With some songs they strike you so deeply as if you knew them from somewhere before. We knew some people and songs in pre-mortality, that is why. At times when we are close to the spirit, celestial memories fill us with the spirit and feeling of pre-mortality.

He taught that Jesus Christ didn’t visit people in the spirit world other than the worthy. These were to be the missionaries to the other spirits. This implies that no one can see Jesus without being ready or it’s terrible for them. On a similar note, his sister sees his parents after their death and they are veiled. He asks why and is told by them that it was because she couldn’t endure their presence.

Teaching the gospel is the primary activity in the spirit world for the righteous. (This shows that you can’t escape. You go

on doing what you do in this life in the next life, you keep being who you are even after death.)

7 HEBER J GRANT



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Madsen: Heber J Grant

Jedediah Grant, his dad, said the USA is the best place and the best people under the heavens. He died when Heber was a baby.

His mother went to an LDS sermon on a Sunday out of a dare then went home and prayed to God for forgiveness for

breaking the Sabbath by going to a congregation of false doctrine on the Sabbath. Then she went to church and her pastor told her that if she did that again she would lose a seat in his church. She said, “how do you know they aren’t right?” being upset and defending herself. This caused her to be curious and really investigate the LDS faith, and then she was baptized into the LDS faith.

When he was 2 years old, Eliza Snow told him, "You will grow to be an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ." His mother heard this and always told him growing up that if he would behave himself he would be a leader in the Church. He said he did not want to, that he wanted to do other things.

He grew up in severe poverty.

When he was a lad, his family home had six leaks in the roof. A bishop came and told his mother that she should not give fast offerings, that those fast offerings should be for her to fix her leaking roof. She said who are you to deny me the blessings of obeying this commandment of God to give fast offerings? She said, **“If I need my roof fixed, my son will do it.”** The bishop said Heber was lazy and wouldn’t do it. Heber was angry about this and built his mother an entire new home, and invited that bishop over to do the dedication prayer over it, and thanked him for his motivating statement earlier which inspired the project.

He was called to be a stake president at age 23.

His mother wept at the idea of him going off to school at the prestigious universities he was offered to attend. He prayed all night about it and thought it would be a good thing. In the

morning he saw that his mother's eyes were bloodshot, she had been crying all night at the idea. He decided not to go but to **stay and take care of his mother who needed him** there.

He wanted to go on a mission, but President Brigham Young said no, stay and take care of your widow mother.

He turned down a position as Senator since he realized he only wanted that position for pride to prove to someone who had called him stupid that he could do it. He was already deeply involved in the Church and wanted to stay in that.

As a stake president he was asked if he absolutely knew the gospel and the Church were true. He said, "No." Some said he can't be a stake president then. President John Taylor said that Heber was the only one in the room that didn't know he had an absolute witness. Pres. Taylor said, "**Heber does have one, he just doesn't know that he does yet.**" As he did his calling, he realized that he indeed did have an absolute witness.

Once he had some beer and the bartender asked him, "Do you keep the word of wisdom?" He responded, "Yes." The bartender said, "Really?" He said, "**Yes, as of right now.**" And he never had any more alcohol.

He had an obvious stock trading opportunity to get rich with. He was afraid of how riches could corrupt him so he prayed about what to do. He asked God which stocks to sell and God told him. He didn't make a lot of money. He was glad about that and saw it was from the Lord.

Even as a boy he was good at business. He was good at playing marbles, and for every ten marbles he won he would only lose one. He took the marbles he won and sold them and used that money to hire others to do his chores.

In his patriarchal blessing it was said that the spirit of his heart is integrity and for that reason the Lord honors him and that he would be blessed because of that all of his days.

He had many prophetic insights throughout his life. For instance, the spirit would tell him which callings he would get.

He tells the story of a man who was asked by his bishop to give his best ham at a church banquet. He thought to himself “If I don’t give my best ham, who would know?” He realized that was the devil speaking and he said, **“Shut up Mr. Devil, or I’ll give two hams!”** Then the man was troubled no more.

One day he was fasting before attending his Thursday temple meeting with the rest of the apostles. He was in the car on the way to the meeting when a man came to him with cold fresh frosted cherries on that hot summer day. The man put them through the window and said, “you want some?” Heber’s eyes raised, and he was excited and reached out for some then said “oh no!” and didn’t take any, and explained to the man why he had to refuse. Heber then **turned to the empty seat next to him in the car and said, “Knocked you out there, didn’t I Mr. Devil!”**

As an apostle he had not had an open vision of Jesus Christ. **Later he did**, but before that he had to push away the devil

who tempted him by saying “you lie, you have no absolute witness.”

He felt so unworthy and unqualified to be an apostle. He had a vision of Christ in heaven with his father and Joseph Smith and other righteous men counseling in heaven about who would fill the vacancies in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. They said **they would have the son of Jedediah Grant do it because of the faith of Jedediah Grant.** He saw this vision not with his eyes but with spiritual eyes like Lehi who said, “I thought I saw God on his throne surrounded by concourses of angels praising him.” He then wept for joy for he felt so small compared to the others in the Quorum and rejoiced to see this was a big part of why he was called to this office.

There was a time when several councils decided a certain way on an issue twice. He was in charge of the decision, however, and decided to do it the other way, contrary to the counsel of the council. He said **when he thought of doing it the way they said, he only saw darkness** and only saw light when thinking of doing it the way he felt it should be done. He decided to do it his way and it worked out for the best in the long term.

One time he **offered his life if it could somehow save the credit of the church. He prayed all night.** One person came through and saved the banks.

Get out of debt and stay out.

He saw it as dishonest to declare bankruptcy. To him, he owed that money and he was going to pay for it. **He had all**

his children work menial jobs to help pay for things.

Pres. Taylor told Heber Grant that in accepting a mission call to preside in Japan despite his financial difficulties, he had made a financial sacrifice comparable to Abraham, and it was acceptable to God. Pres. Taylor said to him not to plan how to get out of debt but to wake each morning and ask the Lord what to do and He will put ideas in your head of what to do. He did this and his 13-year plan to get out of debt was done in 6 months. Pres. Taylor said he would be able to go on his mission, be helped in paying for the mission expenses, and return a free man, and so it was.

He was tone deaf (standing at the piano facing away from it, if you played the top key and the bottom key, he would not be able to tell the difference between the two), but he wanted to learn to sing because he knew the song of the righteous is a prayer unto the Lord, and he wanted to pray. He sang 5,000 times the hymn “Oh My Father”, and 5,000 times the hymn “The Flag Without a Stain”. He was able to master these songs and sing them with great feeling and power.

He had chicken scratch handwriting and was criticized for it, so he went on to master it and taught penmanship.

The 3 Nephites would help carry the gospel to the Japanese.

He had a vision of his son being taken to heaven by his deceased wife and a church leader interpreted it for him. One night his son was ill, and he asked his current wife if she felt something strange. She said yes, she felt like his first wife was in the room to come take the son to heaven. Heber was so filled with peace that he didn't shed a tear as the son died.

In those days, when one was about to die they spoke of death intimately and said tell such and such person this and that message when you get to the other side.

He didn't have much grammar skills.

We didn't need to get involved in WW2 the way we did. If the leaders of the country were better it wouldn't have been the way it was. He said this on record in a Conference Report.

He sustained the US Constitution as well as anyone ever did.

He spoke so much of the word of wisdom commandment that people wrote him letters to ask him to stop talking about it and go on to something important.

He didn't want alcohol to be legal in Utah. People in that day had all the same arguments for legalizing alcohol as people do today for legalizing marijuana. Heber felt that alcohol needed law force against it or it would get out of hand and be a plague. When news came to him that alcohol had become legal in Utah, he slammed his fist against the table and said we will pay in misery and sorrow for this!

When he became President of the Church, he chose Melvin J Ballard to be an apostle rather than one of his lifelong friends to fill the position. This helped him see that the Church is led by God and not by him, for he didn't even know who Melvin J Ballard was.

He had an LDS friend who started with a little alcohol and

ended up dying with liver poisoning from alcohol at age 30. From then on, he swore to be an eternal enemy against alcohol.

On a ride with J Golden Kimball, Heber asked if he could practice singing all through the ride. J Golden Kimball gave him his word that he could. Half way through the journey Kimball was going crazy from it, but Heber always held people to their word, and insisted that he keep his promise, and kept singing the rest of the way.

He was in favor of menial work, and said that nothing is below our dignity. He pushed a wheelbarrow of dirt in his earlier life and one said "Why do you do that work? It's below your dignity." He responded "Why is it beneath my dignity? I paid for it!"

He believed that music could open hearts when all else failed.

He became paralyzed on one side. The doctor told Heber that there was nothing he could do to heal it. Heber said, "Is there really nothing I can do?" The doctor said, "I suppose you can take a sponge and try squeezing it." That day, Heber had someone go get a sponge for him. They put it in his hand and it rolled off. He said "again" over and over all night long. By trying this, he was able to get the movement back.

He had this to say about driving cars: He would rather be 30 minutes late to a meeting than be 30 years early to eternity.

He said some neglect duty and replaced it with seeking mysteries.

He advised to pass on to your children a good name and a testimony of the gospel, and to save nickels and dimes investing for the temple for such would teach them glorious things.

Jesus wasn't a mere good moral teacher. If such were the case and he was not divine, he would be telling the biggest lie ever, that he is the Son of God, and such a lie would not make him a great moral teacher.

The only royal virtue here is humility.

The most common disease is "the big head."

When people praised him he would walk away and say under his breath, **"that's devil talk! Devil talk! Pride will get you..."**

His thoughts on evolution were: let's leave it to the scientists and get on with preaching the gospel.

Note: Many recognize that evolution has central messages directly relating to the gospel as it treats subjects of the first man, origin of life, and many topics on life and earth directly taught in scripture. Contrary to what evolutionists claim, the Lord has revealed much on this subject! For more on what Grant taught on the subject, see his 1925 First Presidency statement on the subject, which echoes the clear teachings from the 1909 First Presidency statement, clearly denouncing evolution as a false theory of men.

He tells of a man who prayed for 1 million dollars and promised he would give \$300,000 of it to charity. The man

went on to say, “God you don’t even have to trust me. Just give me \$700,000!”

He spoke of a man getting ten apples and holding one of them up in the air saying, “Here you can have a bite of this one”. He compared this to how people aren’t willing to pay the 1/10 tithing that God has commanded.

He quoted Wilford Woodruff saying **“If my head aches (while fasting), let it ache.”**

He gave to temples rather than an estate for his posterity. When asked why did this, he said, “I want my posterity to be sorry when I die.”

He saw Maeser teaching the gospel to children and getting their attention and keeping it. Within the first minute he had taken their minds to a wonderful place. He spoke of how he spends his time in worldly, business-natured things. He said he would not be worthy to black the boots of Maeser in the next life, seeing as there was a man who dedicated his whole life to lifting mankind.

8 GEORGE ALBERT SMITH



By George Albert Smith - Liahona: The Elder's Journal:
"Conference Address of Elder George Albert Smith", Page
1., Public Domain,
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Madsen: George Albert Smith

Most men in his day were married before going on a mission.

His wife was devastated without him, so they sent her to be his mission companion.

His wife grew flowers and gave them to hospitals.

Someone spread bad rumors of him, and that caused him to lose an election to be president of the local National Guard. He was so angry about it that he did not take the sacrament

at Church. He went to the man who slandered him and asked his forgiveness for being so angry at him. They became friends.

He received the highest scout awards.

He was good at business. He was on many boards, and became a very busy man.

When he was called the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, it was announced in a conference before he was told himself. The room was full, so he didn't go inside for that session of the conference. Afterward people congratulated him, and he replied, "Oh no, there must be some mistake!" He hated the idea of being an apostle because his father was in the First Presidency and he worried about people thinking he was in because of that. The other members of that quorum were giants he had looked up to all his life and sustained as a child. It shook his faith so he prayed about it, and God said that his leaders are all known to him.

The thing he had going for him was he had lived a moral life and tried to keep the commandments.

He had a self-creed of commandments for himself to live by including helping the poor, visiting the sick, friending the lonely, teaching the truth, seeking the erring one and trying to love him back, not forcing but loving people into what's right, live with the masses and help the world be pleasant, not offend people even if they offend him, and not be an enemy to any living soul.

He had damaged eyes so helped develop blind program in

the church.

He gave laundered and starched shirts in the welfare program. People were putting them back in his closet thinking it was a mistake. He said no, that's the way I like my shirts, so it's probably the way they would like them as well.

Someone stole his car and he said “**I wish he would've asked me** for it then I would've given it to him and he wouldn't be a thief.”

He donated to the Salvation Army saying “they reach some that we miss.”

He came home blue and cold from having given his coat away to a man on Main St. in SLC.

People of other religions are so good and beautiful and that we ought not to say that we only have the truth, but that we want to add to what they have. We do not want them to leave behind any blessing, only come and let us help them enjoy blessings from Heavenly Father which they have not been experiencing up to this point.

He was a historian. **He said that without memorials, we tend to forget**

Note: And this is why we read books and such, we forget so easily.

He told Matthew Cowley never to prepare a sermon, just stand and say what the Lord tells you (*could mean prepare, have materials, but at delivery, don't read it, rather say what

God gives to your thoughts).

He taught that music can reach the heart when prose cannot.

He didn't have a centurion voice, but rather a gentle one.

You couldn't get him angry or hostile no matter how hard you tried.

One said of him, he often was known for giving hope to the hopeless.

When others spoke of "very important people" around him, saying "Yes such and such a person is a very important person," He would say "No, we are all very important people."

He said that the belief that there was no holocaust of the Jews, would be worse than the holocaust itself.

He taught that we need to stay on the Lord's side of the line.

We, the LDS, will lead all the world in all regards because we have everything they do, but in addition we have the inspiration of the Lord.

What does it matter if we understand Homer, Milton, Newton, etc., if we fail to know the scriptures, for they are the better part.

The home is a mini temple; we can use it to resist evil.

Our dead are just as anxious for us as the Lord is, and

they are praying for us.

Our eternal happiness will largely be based on what our children attain.

“Give the Lord a chance.”

He focused on how much growth and development is ahead of us and how to that point, the Church had only been in its infantile stages.

He didn't care about school degrees.

Spencer Kimball said that he was a good Indian, for they sat together **for 48 hours on a hard bench waiting to meet with an Indian chief** (those chiefs have a way of testing people). He was an advocate for the Indians.

When asked if he had any last counsel near his death he said “Yes, I know that my Redeemer lives!”

At his death, a 7 year old paper boy knocked on their door and said “I've lost my best friend, what can I do?” They had him be one of the pallbearers. (He made friends with those who others would call insignificant people.)

It was said of him that his journey from death to the next life was the shortest journey he ever took (meaning he lived a heavenly life).

He was a great reconciler. He made not just friends, but dear friends. He spoke of the aristocracy of righteousness.

President McKay said he was one of the most Christlike men who ever lived.

Haycock: George Albert Smith

“Unlike most other westward-bound emigrants of the time, these pioneers (LDS settling in Zion) came not for wealth, but to create homes where they could worship God unmolested....Bound by recognized ties of brotherhood and guided by Christian ideas, which were part of their very fiber, they knew how to live and work together without suppressing individualism.” (George Albert Smith, NBC radio broadcast, Church News, July 26, 1947, pp. 1, 10.)

Pres. George Albert Smith had Arthur drive a more direct route. A guard at the private road entrance whistled for him to stop and waved his arms, but he went on, wanting to do what the president said. He said he would drive up the steps of the administration building if that's what the president asked. p19-20

‘Hope to see you again’ was not superficial, he meant it when he said it.

“Wherever I have gone, I have found noble men and women.” (George Albert Smith, Improvement Era, Apr. 1950, p.263)

He would lift the burdens of others' shoulders and put them on his own. p20

He never heard him swear. The meanest thing he would say about someone is that they are "a first-class scrub."

He was one of 11 children.

His health was poor; he went to live in a tent over a summer in St. George so the heat to heal him. He decided that he would give what he could how he was. God preserved him.

"You could put me in jail and I would always look for an opportunity to escape. But if you put me in a room with doors and windows, unbarred and unguarded, and you draw a line and ask for my promise that I will never try to escape, I'll never step across that line." (George Albert Smith) p23

He went to bid Lucy farewell as he was about to go on his mission, she said "George Albert Smith, if you think you're going to the Southern States without me, you're wrong. **Let's get married and go together.**" They did.

"One of our difficulties in this world today is that too many of our Father's children do not believe in God. They have an idea that they can do just as they please and they throw their lives away....The [pathway] of righteousness is the highway of happiness." (George Albert Smith, Church News, Oct. 20, 1948, p. 2-c)

“It’s always better to have notes and not need them than to need them and not have them.” (George Albert Smith to Arthur Haycock)

He kept a stack of children’s books in his desk, and silver coins to give the children, and a blessing if they wanted one. p29

He had Arthur take an old lady pulling sticks to her home despite Arthur’s contesting, saying “You go and take her home. Remember, Arthur, **she’s somebody’s mother.**” p30

“I declare” was one of his favorite phrases. p31

When he got a good sermon or something in the mail, he would say, “I wonder what Reuben would think about this?” Then he would give it to him. He relied on his counselors much. p32

He always ate steamed wheat for breakfast, with warm cream or prunes. for lunch he had a soft boiled egg, milk, homemade bread, and bottled fruit. They always brought a jar of wheat, the longer they were going to be away, the larger the bottle would be; At dinner Arthur would say, “**We are having roast beef, he is having boiled wheat.**” At night he would eat a bowl of bread and milk with white seedless grapes. For a real treat he would have a chocolate shake or malt with a raw egg mixed into it. p32-33

One couple had **no children. He knew they would hence be lonely**, so he said he would keep them in his prayers. p34

Instead of rushing home to check his mail or to take a nap after a strenuous trip, he would go to be with the sisters who were alone, being concerned for their wellbeing.

He loved to dress in full boy scout regalia and attend scout meetings where youth would advance in rank.

He advised General Authorities to speak from the heart. At one conference session Elder Cowey read his talk. He called and said, **“Don’t let me ever catch you doing that again!** You and the Lord do this. Don’t get up and read. You get up and let the Spirit guide you.” p36

His favorite phrase was “we are all our Father’s children”. Such is written on his tombstone.

In WW2 time, he sent wheat to Europe. President Truman asked how they had this ration. George said, “We’ve been saving the wheat, while you’ve been plowing it under. We’ve got our granaries and our storehouses full, and we just need a ship to get all we’ve set aside for our destitute members in Europe.” p40

He stayed at a rancher’s house once. This rancher didn’t make time for church or the Sabbath day since he was making his farm more prosperous. When George knelt and prayed at breakfast time, a child in that home asked his father what George was doing and what he was saying to the chair. p41

“I have no desire except to help you carry on the Lord’s work ... I don’t think my girls have any idea how near I’ve

been to the other side. I haven't felt like my work was done at all. When my work is done, I want to go. One of my regrets is that I have been unable to organize a library and dispose of itAs long as I have the money, I want to pay my hospital expenses; I don't want the Church to do it." p42

9 DAVID O. MCKAY



By David O. McKay - Liahona: The Elder's Journal:
Address of President David O. McKay, 110th Semi-Annual
Conference, October 8, 1939, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=13201125>

Madsen: David O. McKay

His parents were ostracized for joining the Church.

He was a bishop for 20 years.

His dad would **change the subject whenever people would start talking bad things about others.**

He prayed for self-assurance of the truthfulness of the gospel as a lad. The answer didn't come right then, but eventually it did.

Someone told him he would grow to be in the leading councils of the Church. He tried to live for that.

While working in the field he would memorize whole passages of Shakespeare and other poetry. He knew much British literature.

His father was politically and educationally involved. The vocational training of their home was centered around education. He knew he was to be a teacher.

He was class president and valedictorian. **In those days to be valedictorian it involved moral character strengths as well,** not just academic strength.

Of all the people he met as prophet, his parents were the most influential.

Motherhood is the most beautiful and noble occupation.

He had a supportive and powerful family growing up.

His girlfriend couldn't resist his dancing and his quoting

poetry. They were married. He said of his girlfriend that she was his queen.

Take your wife out once a week; let her count on that. He did this all through life and when he had to be away from home he would call her and tell her that he would make it up to her.

He always helped his wife into her seat. Never let your wife's hand touch a doorknob.

He always kissed his wife goodbye. Once he was put in a wheelchair to be taken out of a hospital and carefully taken all the way out to a car. Much effort was given in helping him get in and out of the wheelchair and out to the car. However, when they got there he said, "Oh no, we have to go back." He had forgotten to kiss his wife goodbye. They accordingly did go back.

He was kind, courteous, and trusting. He **never raised his voice in his home.**

He said no one would dare leave a TV on when leaving the house. That would be considered so slothful.

He never asked his boys to do anything he didn't do himself; He said it's useless for a father to punish his child for swearing by swearing at his son.

He blessed a man who was in a terrible accident, who obviously would have great scarring, that he would have no scars; it was fulfilled.

He developed teacher training in the Church. He insisted on an outline of lessons where after a principal is taught, the application of that principal is taught and discussed.

A certain leader in the church would always start meetings late. He told the constituents to not correct him, but to praise him greatly when he did start on time. Using that method, the man was encouraged to continue to start on time.

He speaks of lofty ideals and the sublime and ecstasy.

He dreamed of a city where people of white robes and headdresses were. The Savior was there, and he had peace about him which was sublime. It was Christ's city. The people who were there were those who had overcome the world and truly been born again.

Becoming partakers of the divine nature as Peter taught happens in process as we take the sacrament and go to the temple until we can say we have truly been born again.

About 200 people joined the Church from one sermon he gave on an island.

He often said the veil is very thin.

He was the president of the European mission.

He was a trustee of one university and a regent of another.

This is what he said to Apostle Benson regarding accepting the government position as secretary to Eisenhower. "My mind is clear on it. I know what the Lord would have you

do.” He said that Elder Benson should accept the appointment, and much good came of it.

One Polynesian man went to his office to see him. It wasn’t common to be able to just go in, but he went in, past everything and to his door. The door was opened a little bit, and McKay said, “Come in brother.”

One interviewer asked, “Are you a prophet?” In response he said, “Look me in the eyes and you’ll know.” He did, and it was confirmed to him.

If we want to love God, we must love and serve his children.

Jesus Christ is the source of The Priesthood.

His secretary said she never saw him depressed or saw him lash out. People came to him depressed, but they left differently. He had a great effect on people.

He said he never thought of death because he was so enthralled with life.

Few who he calls as mission presidents are surprised about that call.

When his wife was set apart for them being mission presidents she was blessed with health. As a result, her cancer was healed.

He said he was president of the church, except for his wife.

He advocated that **even little children fast**, thus helping

them learn that they must **do things at times even if they don't want to.**

He was an advocate of science and technology.

He was against Niche philosophies which spoke badly of Christianity; this couldn't be said of original Christianity, but nevertheless it gives a wrong idea to people.

He was against communism.

He said, "Every member a missionary." (If all members then converted one person each for a year, it would take 14 years before the whole earth were members, then each one of those people would only have to do 40 names in the temple, and everyone from Adam would have their temple work done. In one sense the prophets are the gatherers of gatherers, and the common members are to gather everyone else.)

He didn't slow down until he was in his 90's.

The scripture says that when Moses came down from Mt Sinai that 'he wot not that his face shown' meaning he didn't realize it was shining. Pres. McKay had gone to the holiest room in the temple to pray about who was to fill the vacancy in the First Presidency and was told who it was to be. President Hugh B. Brown spoke with Pres. McKay after that and said that his face shone but he knew it not--just like Moses.

No one can stay clean in this world without the Holy Ghost.

Earth was created by a personal, divine source and not by mere creation. He said scientists can say what they will about the creation but let there be no mistake about this one thing: it was not by chance, it was by God. There was divine intervention.

The temptations of Jesus are typical of all types of temptation we experience in life: 1. appetite 2. fashion and pride 3. money and leadership.

Few people, even temple workers, understand the importance of the endowment; it's the steps to get into God's presence. If our young people understood that, it would be the core of their spiritual motivation. (*I think what he is saying here is that the doctrine is that this is the only way, there is no other way. We must go to the temple if we are to return to the presence of God to dwell with him after this life.)

He went to the temple each week throughout his life and it showed.

Haycock: David O. McKay

He was eloquent in quoting scripture, Shakespeare, Browning, Burns.

He became an apostle when he was 32 years old.

“In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one takes the place to which one is duly called, which place one neither seeks nor declines.” (President David O. McKay p45)

“Always be sure that you get as many converts as you do baptisms.” President J Reuben Clark to Arthur, p48

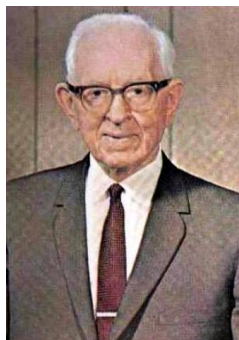
McKay said of his wife 54 years after their marriage, “[she] is 54 years lovelier than when I married her.” p49

President McKay has Elder Hinckley put the endowment to film. p54

“Every member a missionary” -President McKay p55

“Only through individual effort and divine guidance may true access and happiness be obtained. There is no blessing based upon another’s achievement. Everyone must work out his own salvation.” (President David O. McKay, Cherished Experiences, pp.9-10)

10 JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH



By Editors: Cathy Tillack and Karen Still - The Rixida: annual publication of the associated students of Ricks College.: Image found Page 133, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16947053>

Haycock: Joseph Fielding Smith

“His manner appeared strict and exacting, yet he was tender and warm. He was driven to preach the gospel, to tell the world, “There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, and one true church, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.” p56

He was the Church Historian for 45 years.

He was the grandson of Patriarch Hyrum Smith. He was the grandnephew of the prophet Joseph Smith.

When dedicating a temple he said, “May I remind you that when we dedicate a house to the Lord, what we really do is dedicate ourselves to the Lord’s service.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Church News, Jan. 22, 1972, p.3)

Speaking of his father, Joseph F. Smith, he said, “My father never had time to be a boy.” p58. He had driven an ox team across the plains with his mother when he was just a boy, at age fifteen, orphaned, he was sent on a mission to Hawaii where he served for four and a half years.

Arthur ran into a door opened by Elder Smith to get into another building without having to search for his key. He told Elder Smith, “I’m kind of hoping that’s how it will be on the other side. If I can catch the pearly gates before they close behind someone like you, I may make it.” Elder Smith said, “If I were you, my brother, I wouldn’t count on it.” p59

“He wasn’t flashy. He never made anyone laugh in conference. I can’t ever remember him telling a joke at the pulpit. His was always a solemn gospel dissertation that was a result of his intense family tradition of faith and service. He had something to say to the Saints, and it was always serious.” p61

“We believe that worship is far more than prayer and preaching and gospel performance. The supreme act of worship is to keep the commandments, to follow in the footsteps of the Son of God, to do ever those things that please him. It is one thing to give lip service to the Lord; it is quite another to respect and honor his will by following the

example he has set for us.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Conference Report, Oct. 1971, p.6)

His wife would say, “Now lie down and take a **nap after church. All the other presidents did.**” He would say, **“Well, where are they now?”** (*He was saying that he was alive and wanted to work.)

His wife loved to sing and had him sing with her. He would say, “She calls it a duet; I call it a Do-it. I have to Do-it whether I want to or not.” p62

“I plead with you young people...to keep yourselves clean and pure so that you will be entitled to go to the house of the Lord and together with the companions of your choice, enjoy all [the] greatest blessings the Lord offers to you.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Church News, Apr. 24, 1971, p.6)

“I can’t wait to get to the other side and thank Mother Eve for what she did. We wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for her. Then I think of the Savior born in a manger. I think of him sweating drops of blood and hanging on the cross. You know, he did that for me. He did that for us all. How can we ever repay him for his redeeming sacrifice?” (President Joseph Fielding Smith to Arthur Hancock, p64-64)

He had 3 wives die on him, one after the other. He was married to one of them at a time.

“We are members of a world church, a church that has the plan of life and salvation, a church set up by the Lord himself in these last days to carry his message of salvation to all his

children in all the earth.... Not only shall we preach the gospel in every nation before the second coming of the Son of Man, but we shall make converts and establish congregations of Saints among them.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Manchester Area Conference Report, Aug. 1971, p.5) p66

He lived with his daughter before he died.

All his life he was up by 6am and in his office by 8am.

The last week before his death he was still working in his office.

“The saving of the souls of men is the greatest work that is going on in the whole universe. It is going on both sides of the veil; and I think sometimes that it doesn’t matter which side of the veil we are working on.” (Elder Ezra Taft Benson, Mission Presidents Seminar, June 29, 1972) p.67

Madsen: Joseph Fielding Smith

At one meeting he told the Saints that they needed to repent or few of them would be saved in the world to come. People complained so he came back and said he had changed his mind, and told them that if they didn’t repent NONE of them would be saved.

He told some temple square guides that they needed to be more humble guides.

He loved the concept that through Christ the yoke can be lightened.

He loved the scripture about how we can become like Jesus in order to see him at His coming.

He loved the scripture that we can learn more and more, making us become lighter and lighter until the perfect day; that we may have bodies shining bright as the sun in a day to come.

One woman knew Joseph Smith, the prophet, but didn't know of him being one. She got to shake his hand and felt spiritual power in him.

One said to him, "I'm a convert." He responded that he was too.

One came by his office in the temple depressed. Thinking President Smith was not there, walked on. Then he put his arm on his shoulder of the depressed man and said, "it's rough going isn't it". The man told him his plight, and Smith told him, "God bless you brother."

The supreme act of worship is keeping the commandments.

He never came to a meeting late, though he did complain about the length of some meetings.

He sat on the hump seat in the back seat of cars so others

could be comfortable.

The word “integrity” comes from “integral” and means pulling things together in your life and being consistent. He wouldn’t act like signing a letter for a picture to be taken of him, but found a letter he needed to sign anyway and had them take a picture of him signing that

He taught us to avoid mysteries. He spoke of not thinking about whether the gates of heaven are on a hinge or are rolling.

He quoted himself twice in discourses.

People thought that Einstein had all the right answers but now much of what he said is out of date. Like how Widtsoe thought of Ether being what’s referred to in D&C 88 but that theory is out now but the D&C goes onward.

Pres. Smith interviewed a man for being a teacher at BYU. He asked, “Do you like my book Man his Origin and Destiny?” The man said “no,” and Smith asked why he said that. He replied that he thought some of it out of date or something. Smith asked the man if he would teach some of those things he said he doesn’t like. He said he would and defensively. Smith responded well I guess you’ll have to, have a good time teaching at BYU.

He would go out of his way to say hello to people.

He wrote a book, Signs of the Times. He was constantly reading the prophecies.

The fire at the second coming will be as real as the water that was at the time of Noah. He went on to say that the water was H₂O and that the fire to come is the kind we now know also.

He taught that in the premortal world there was an organization there just as there is here, and that there were men in authority holding the priesthood, a pre-mortal church.

He taught that the fullness of the priesthood only comes to those men and women who are sealed to each other as spouses in the temple.

He wanted people to kneel and pray about their gospel questions, rather than calling him all of the time.

His daughter would call him, then set the phone down and read a book for a while then pick up the phone and say hello dad! It was because they let the phone ring 33 times before picking it up. Since he was so bombarded with calls, they would wait to answer knowing that if a caller stayed on the line that long they had something urgent.

He was known to not be able to have a conversation without bringing the scriptures into it; likewise his son-in-law, Bruce R McConkie.

When Bruce R McConkie was 19, Joseph Fielding Smith gave him a blessing foretelling that his doctrinal commentaries would be known in the 4 quarters of the earth, and that he would one day be in the leading councils of the Church. Bruce R. McConkie determined 100 doctrines in the Book of Mormon then obtained 100 copies of the book and tore out

the pages pertaining to said doctrines and placed them in 100 folders, and read them half an hour a day with his spouse.

He wouldn't drink the coffee with no caffeine, or other supposed toxins, because he wanted to avoid the presence of evil, and it still looked and smelled like normal coffee.

He ate very little meat, taking the word of wisdom seriously.

He played handball until his 70's. He was so good at it that he could hit the ball and have his opponent running around, wearing out his opponent.

He liked to fly jets.

His first wife died. He married a second time and she died also, and then he married a third time.

When asked if marriages are made in heaven he said, "It's in heaven now."

He married Jessie the same year his prior wife died. President Grant firmly believed that it's not good for man to be alone and told him to remarry.

Women have the most exciting and noble calling.

Women will be given authority when they are priestesses.

The Lord offers every gift and blessing to both his sons and his daughters.

He served 64 years as church history record keeper; 20 years

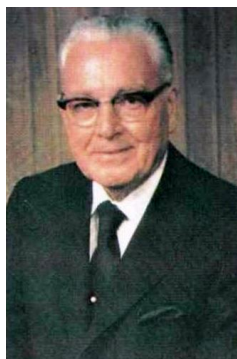
as a counselor in a temple Presidency; 4 years as a temple president; 19 years as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

He insisted on rising early from bed.

His wife was bedridden and spent much of her time on family history. He said he will ever bless her for how she helped him with doing that.

When asked how he got so much done at work he said, “It’s in the bag,” referring to how he would bring a sack lunch and never take that hour off.

11 HAROLD B LEE



By Editors: Cathy Tillack and Karen Still - The Rixida: annual publication of the associated students of Ricks College.: Image found Page 133, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16946930>

Madsen: Harold B Lee

He told Ludlow to get the curriculum done by the beginning of the year and said if you need more motivation to do this just **consider that you would be shot if you don't**. So Ludlow took a sleeping bag and stayed at the Church offices for 30 days and got it done.

He taught that auxiliaries won't be needed in a future day when the parents are doing more.

Elder Romney submitted to the words of the leaders of the church. When they didn't like his political platform, he stopped trying to win an election because they had different political views. They saw that he was willing to submit to the counsel of the leaders of the church and they called him to be an apostle in the church.

The titles we get in this life aren't really important, but the real importance is whether we truly lived the gospel, and how we treated our families.

He played the piano as did several of his children.

He was an educator but started full time church service at a very young age.

He served in the Denver, Colorado English speaking mission.

When his daughter died he said, "The Lord keeps stirring me up."

On an airplane, he felt hands on his head twice and looked back to see who it was. Upon landing, he found out that he had bleeding ulcers and without administration of a priesthood blessing, he would have died.

One time in the hospital, he was told to get up, put on his clothes and walk out. This made the doctors and nurses angry.

Elder Spencer Kimball, one of the Twelve Apostles, was having great health problems. He was saying that perhaps he had lived long enough and that he would not do the risky surgery. President Lee banged his fist on the table and said, “You have been called of God, you must live as long as you can.” Elder Kimball then agreed to the surgery if President Lee would give him a blessing the night before.

There were 8,000 people in the tabernacle when a man said he had a bomb. Lee responded that there was no bomb. Indeed.

He glued papers into his scriptures with important things and quotes on them.

He did interviews until 2 am, then had more at 5 am. He prayed that the 3 hours of sleep would be enough.

Referring to people’s reactions to the blacks receiving the priesthood, he said that **those who understand revelation, to them there is no problem.** To those who do not understand revelation, there is no solution.

In animals the light of Christ is instinct.

He was told if he would get physically close to other people they would trust him, so he would say be close in our homes and invite people in your homes. Additionally, you should show familial closeness and your family will befriend and trust you.

He says the most profound thing he had heard any prophet say is that those who defame Joseph Smith will die and ever have their stink, but the glory of Joseph Smith lives on forever.

Even the President of the Church eventually gets released from that calling, but **the calling of father and mother are forever.**

He had **problems so difficult that he had to pray all night** about them.

Upon the question of medication which would numb his mind, he said that we should not alleviate all suffering, for the scriptures say that Melchizedek and others learned by the things they suffered.

He was a strong supporter of the Constitution of the USA.

The Smithsonian Institute had a display of the LDS religion as being typical of a faith which has a religious understanding of the Constitution of the USA.

The gospel has all answers to complex life questions.

When people see Mormonism in action, they tend to be more tolerant of our faith.

Haycock: Harold B. Lee

He felt like Nephi, not knowing beforehand what to do p69.

When asked the greatest challenge for Church leaders, he said “Keeping pace with the growth of the membership.” p69

“The safety of the Church lies in the members keeping the commandments. There is nothing more important that I could say. Keep the commandments and blessings will come.” p69

He was so close to the other side that he often said there was no veil for him. p70

“Pray for me, young people. I plead with you to pray for me, and I promise you that I will try to so live, that the Lord can answer your prayers through me.” (President Harold B. Lee) p70

He was a seminary teacher, and took his work very seriously. He knew it was important.

He was secretary and treasurer at Deseret News.

Arthur was approached by Elder Kimball and a few others to take a certain position. Arthur asked President Lee for advice. He said, "The offer may not be coming to you by inspiration, but if Spencer W. Kimball is asking you to do it, it's the closest thing to it. He is the biggest short man that I know anywhere. Anything Spencer W. Kimball wants, I'd listen." p71-72.

"I have the responsibility to speak by the Spirit of the Lord, and you have the responsibility to listen by the Spirit of the Lord." (President Harold B. Lee, Church News, June 16, 1973, p.3)

"Men may fail in this country [USA], earthquakes may come, seas may heave themselves beyond their bounds, there may be great drought and hardship as we may call it, but this nation, founded on principles laid down by men whom God raised up, will never fail. This is the cradle of humanity where life on this earth began in the Garden of Eden. This is the place where the new Jerusalem is; this is the place which the Lord said is favored above all the nations in the world. This is the place where the Savior will come to his temple. I have faith in America. You and I must have faith in America if we understand the teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ." (President Harold B. Lee, speech at Rick's College, see 'In the Company of Prophets' by Swinton p72)

"He looked impeccable and stood with such imposing stature. You seldom spoke lightly or facetiously around him. He set a formal tone in his meetings, yet no one was more gracious or more considerate. He was formal in his relationships." p73

He was a forceful and able administrator. p73

“He was driven to do all he could as fast as he could,” like speaking to 4 groups in one night. p73

“It seemed as though the heavens opened, and I could encompass every member of the church and my love went out to every member of the church and in fact to the whole world.” (President Harold B. Lee) p73

His service as Church President was marked by announcements of new missions and new building projects. p73

He pushed himself to the limit. p73

He called people, who sent him letters, on the phone and spoke with them about their problems and concerns. p73

He cared deeply about issues facing people universally and individually. p73

“The real strength of the Church is to be measured by the individual testimonies to be found in the total membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (President Harold B. Lee) p75

He spoke of the hastening of the Lord's work being manifest in finding many of the blood of Israel in Mexico, “The evidence of hastening of which the Lord spoke (D&C 88:73) can be found in no greater measure than in this land of

Mexico and in the countries of Central America as witnessed by the overwhelming superabundance of the blood of Israel to be found here.” (President Harold B. Lee) p75

He was the primary author of the area conferences, the system of regional representatives, and the correlation program. Arthur says, “He brought the worldwide Church together in one whole, ready to move ahead with force and energy. That was his major contribution.” p75

He was a door-to-door encyclopedia salesman.

He taught the leaders of the Church, when faced with issues of Church growth, “all that was necessary was already established: simply follow the priesthood lines of authority.” p76

“I know, with a testimony more powerful than sight, that as the Lord declared, ‘The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth [from the Prophet Joseph Smith through his successors down to the present], and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.’” (President Harold B. Lee, Conference Report, Oct. 1972, p.20)

President Harold B. Lee and President Marion G. Romney were carpenters of a sort. p77

President Marion G. Romney took apples from a neighbor’s tree, his mother chastened him and told him to give them

back at once. Since that lesson he has never taken a stamp or a paper clip from an office which does not belong to him.

President Lee was healthy, vigorous, and kept a busy schedule. p78

“Every one of you can become great ancestors. This is the important thing. The only honor to your name is the honor you bring it.” (President Harold B. Lee, BYU Seminar) p78

Speaking of the accomplishments of the early pioneer leaders, he said, “We can equal them in dedication and keeping the commandments of the Lord.” (President Harold B. Lee, dedicating a stake center near downtown SLC) p78

In Munich, President Harold B. Lee didn’t tour the Olympic gardens, they were there to work. It was hard to keep up with President Lee. p78-79

President Lee told Arthur and his wife not to take the detour touring Spain and Portugal on the way home from one trip with the prophet. The next morning President Lee told them he had reconsidered and said it would be alright with him if they did such. Arthur responded, “No, President Lee. Just to know that you had even the slightest question at the wisdom of such a visit is enough for us. We’re going home.” p79

Speaking to Saints at Athens on Mars Hill President Lee compared them to those at the time of the ministry of Paul, “As we come to positions of trust and responsibility centuries later, bearing the same message, teaching the same gospel, worshipping the same God, faced with the same

opposition, we must not hesitate nor slacken our zeal to project the word of the Lord.” (President Harold B. Lee, Church News, Dec. 16, 1972, p.5)

His first wife died and he remarried.

When President Lee died, “There was no campaigning, no electioneering, no jockeying for position, no speeches- just a simple process the Lord himself has directed, that upon the death of the president of the Church, the president of the Twelve should become the next prophet and president.”

“The source of his greatness was his knowledge that he lived in the shadow of the Almighty.” (President Marion G. Romney speaking of President Harold B. Lee his funeral) p82

“I’ve found in this world, if you don’t look out for yourself, no one else will.” (Elder Harold B. Lee to Arthur)

12 SPENCER W KIMBALL



By Editors: Christie Williams and LeeAnn Roberts - The Rixida: annual publication of the associated students of Ricks College.: Image found Page 39, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16947392>



Newlyweds

By Unknown author - Meridian Magazine: Spencer W. Kimball A Photo Essay, 2005, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19983463>

Madsen: Spencer W Kimball

After the death of Harold B. Lee, Elder Kimball, who would be the next president, visited with him half a night long. This seems to be the pattern of all the prophets that preceded.

Elder Spencer Kimball, one of the Twelve Apostles, was having great health problems. He was saying that perhaps he had lived long enough and that he would not do the risky surgery. President Lee banged his fist on the table and said, **“You have been called of God, you must live as long as you can.”** Elder Kimball then agreed to the surgery if President Lee would give him a blessing the night before.

The surgery was done by Russel M. Nelson (an Apostle). There were about 250 cuts in this open-heart surgery. Usually about 25 cuts go wrong. However, this was the only surgery Nelson had ever done, of the 8,000 surgeries of his career, that he had done perfectly. Before or after, he was never able to do another perfect surgery.

He told parents who had adopted Chinese children to **learn Mandarin Chinese because the Church will be in China someday.**

He was avid in doing family history.

He had to do the hardest chores in the family. His mother said that he would get extra blessings for helping on the farm. (This may be why he was so short, working so hard in his youth.)

He was good at athletics, and got in a few fights, but grew out of that.

He never overcompensated or complained about being short. He didn't walk in extra-long steps. He refused to go through the door first. He was humble and identified with humble men.

His wife Camilla was a teacher.

Never let anything get between you and Jesus Christ. He said you **young people are too infatuated with degrees and grades**. Twenty years from now no one will care if you got A's or E's in school. He was himself a **self-taught man and a VERY avid reader**.

He attributed the strong education of his children to his wife.

He had a large display of Old Testament prophets and an events timeline.

The first commandment (thou shalt not have any gods before me) **is the commandment that we break the most** (see his talk, "The Gods we Worship" about obsession with material things).

Note: Truly it behooves Christians to take great strides in these matters, and join the meek of the earth in not lusting after endless luxuries.

He was known for much community involvement, not so much for academia.

He learned piano since his mom **excused him from some chores if he would practice.**

He **lost all his scrupulous savings** from the great depression and had debts at other times from bank failures.

He managed bank books; balanced them to the penny, eliminating the disorder. He did much clerk work throughout his life.

When he was a Stake President, there was a flood. He counseled the people to **work hard at recovery all day long, but when the evening comes, break out the violins and live life.**

When asked to be in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, he said, "Oh no not me!" He felt there were other more worthy candidates.

When he had been called to a high position in his Church he felt that he couldn't do it in good conscience unless he set some things straight. He recalled a time not reporting vandalism he had seen, and times where he felt he had been too pressing on someone in a deal, or asked too much money for something. He went around with his checkbook making amends to people. A few times people said, "Yes, I'll take some money for that," but most of the time they said that if anything, they dealt with him wrong, not the other way around.

When he was set apart as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, he knelt before the one who ordained him.

If working hard could make up for his inadequacies he would. He **slept only a few hours each night** and became a master of sneaking away every now and then for a 15-minute cat nap. He was then ready to get back into action.

He had many boils on his skin for 20 years. (Not even Job had them that long.)

On one occasion, an unkempt Indian man came into a sacrament meeting with his unkempt son. They were very poor. President Kimball got up and hugged and kissed them and blessed the child. With other men one may think this was for attention, but not with President Kimball.

The purpose for parents isn't to get children on missions, but to get them into the temple. Then they go on missions to get other people into the temple.

He was able to get missionaries, who wanted to go home, to stay on their missions. He had them write home that day and tell their parents they would stay.

There was a missionary staying at the mission president's home with an emotional issue. The mission president woke up one night to see the Elder standing over his bed with a knife. He called President Kimball and they spoke for a few minutes, then he asked Kimball about what to do. President Kimball said, "Save him. The Lord bless you." Then Kimball hung up the phone. He never gave up on anyone!

He did intense personal one-on-one counseling with people, he took on the hardest cases including 200 homosexuals. When asked what the result was of working with them on

that, he said “we pretty well got that all cleaned up.” He didn’t believe in “born that way genetics” and he taught against it. He stayed in touch with them by phone. He would help a person change their behavior, then work on the inner life that led to the behavior. Institutions criticized him for his methods and theories. He said, “You know I’m a criminal.”

The book, The Miracle of Forgiveness, which he wrote, is so unyielding in its principles that even hardened addicts became successful by using it.

At 2 am the lights were often still on at the Kimball home. He would be writing in his journal and responding to letters and thanking them for any bit of faith they had in such letters. In his journals he not only wrote of the things of the day, but he opened his heart. There are 33 black binders of these journals he kept. He said that **in journals don’t put your sins in neon**, but write you have weaknesses and quickly get on to the good stuff, to the inspired.

When Elder Kimball had his throat cancer, it took 5 times as much effort to speak as it would for a normal person. Speaking for an hour to him was like us speaking for 5 hours. President Lee said that Elder Kimball will speak. Kimball motioned to his throat to say no my throat is too bad. Lee said, **“Oh, yes he will speak.”** Kimball spoke a 10 minute very raspy monotone message. Lee wanted the people to feel his spirit. Kimball sat down and put his hand in his face and wept after giving the speech. This happened another time. When the speech was over, Lee shook his fist in the air “YES Spencer, YES!”

He stayed with a dying person all night.

At the end of a work day he wrote thank you letters and responses to all who had written to him even the little children and he thanked them for all they do, big or small.

If it was for the Kingdom, pain meant nothing to him. In the line of duty for Christ, his rights subsided. That is the opposite of our society, it's all about rights for us. But in the gospel, all rights have duties, and all duties have blessings.

The main issue with marriages today is selfishness, insisting your needs be met.

Divorce is rarely needed.

Don't put your wife down from her pedestal by putting her onto a diet.

Marriage can be ecstasy.

He has different likes than his wife, and she has different likes than him, but they have some similar likes, and that's where they stay when they do things together. They do their own thing by themselves at times, and they get along just fine.

Once he and his wife couldn't determine whether some extra money they had saved would be used for a vacation to go touring, or to save for getting a new house. He wanted the vacation, so he went on the family vacation touring by himself and reportedly had a very good time.

If anti-Mormon people had the spirit of God, they wouldn't

talk the way they do

He complained of strapless evening dresses the women would wear.

Peoples' lives are written on their faces. After 40 years, it's written there. What we are born with is what it is, but after 40 years we are the ones who have written what is seen there. Kimball wasn't as comely as President McKay, but when he was under the influence of the spirit of God, he was beautiful!

On the Mount of Transfiguration, the apostles were also transfigured.

Kimball hinted that it was better that Peter lived to be leader of the Church than to get killed earlier. God had other plans for him. Though Peter had said "I know not the man," he never said that Jesus is not the Christ.

Death is not so bad, it's giving up a handful of dust for something much better.

Disintegration of the family is the worst tragedy of our time, and if the Church won't reverse this at least among themselves, great trouble is ahead.

The majority of the apostles won't lead you astray. All of the LDS prophets since Joseph Smith and onward have said something to this effect.

While we profess God we are nevertheless an idolatrous people.

Heaven is like here but there are more realms of creativity.

One man was called to be a General Authority. He cried at the thought of being in association with Kimball. Kimball left the room for 10 minutes while the man was crying. He came back and saw that the man was still crying, and left the room again.

Madsen says he feels like Kimball was much like the person of Heavenly Father, kissing and hugging people he saw.

Once there were 3,000 youth who fasted he would come and speak to them at college. He wasn't feeling well, and almost did not go, but he went. In the opening prayer, a student prayed that they had been fasting that the Lord please send the prophet to speak to us. Then Kimball entered. They cheered.

He said of children who have strayed, "It's not over yet."

Madsen got a call from Kimball. It was the saddest he had ever heard Kimball in his life. Kimball had called to ask him to go perform a civil marriage for one of his grandchildren (not a temple marriage).

There will be martyrs in this dispensation in the future. He said giving your life is better than violating covenants. Martyrdom is how Christianity began, and before the end (before the Second Coming of Christ which is termed in the scriptures as the end of the world in the JST of Matt. 24 because it's the end of wickedness in the world), that's how the scenes will be.

Haycock: Spencer W. Kimball

President Kimball wore **holes in his shoes**. “Worn out in the service of the Lord,” he would say.

When President Kimball would get tired, he would lay down on his desk or the floor. “Lengthen your stride,” he would say.

“He plowed through business all day at the office and then went home for a short nap and a light supper followed by more work and then more work. It wasn’t unusual for him to drop down to the office at night if he had something on his mind.” p84

He **regularly admonished the Saints to keep a journal, sing in their wards, plant gardens, pray for doors to nations not open to the gospel** would open to missionaries, serve missions, read the scriptures, serve neighbors, and repent, repent, repent. p84

“We teach the truth. If people knew what we know, there would be great numbers eager to join the Church. It’s true, it’s right, it’s divine.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p84

“How can we be satisfied with 100,000 converts out of 4 billion in the world who need the gospel? I wonder if we are doing all we canWe have been proselyting now 144 years.

Are we prepared to lengthen our stride?" (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Nov. 10, 1985, p.10)

"So much depends upon our willingness to make up our minds, collectively and individually, that present levels of performance are not acceptable either to ourselves or to the Lord. In saying that, I am not calling for flashy, temporal differences in our performance levels, but a quiet resolve to do a better job- to lengthen our stride." (President Spencer W. Kimball) p85

President Kimball loved people rich or poor, high in position or of no position at all. He was a friend to everyone. p85

"Father considered long and well the creation of this earth and the peopling of it....He made the earth for our benefit and for our growth and development....You probably do not remember all the things you did in the life before you came here, but you lived; you understood the program; you accepted the divine plan; you agreed to it; you made the covenant, and you must not ignore that promise, even though you have that right of agency." (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Mar. 8, 1975, p.4)

"Suffering can make Saints of people as they learn patience, long-suffering, and self-mastery." (President Spencer W. Kimball) p86

Kimball suffered typhoid, smallpox, throat cancer, heart attacks, and open-heart surgery.

“Once he (President Kimball) was being wheeled into an operating room, the hospital orderly pushing the gurney bumped the corner of the door and began to swear, taking the Lord’s name in vain. President Kimball looked up at him and said quietly, “Don’t say that. You are speaking about my best friend.” p86

Though he had a temperature of 104, he still went to his meeting, would stand and counsel the Saints with great sincerity, then be whisked back to the hotel to rest. p86-87

“The Church of Jesus Christ, nicknamed Mormon, is the only true and living church which is fully recognized by God....Most of the world disbelieves it, ministers attempt to disprove it, intellectuals think to rationalize it out of existence, but when all the people of the world are dead, and the ministers and priests are ashes, and the high trained are maundering in their graves, the truth will go forward, the Church will continue triumphant and the gospel will still be true.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Sep. 10, 1977, p.3)

“He didn't have a lot of education or a list of degrees behind his name, but he could touch the hearts of people everywhere with his stories and his warm and loving manner.” p87

“Almost numberless are the men and women who today are allowing sin to grow in the heartwood of their lives (speaking of wedges which hinder the growth of trees as an analogy)” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p87-88

“Paint up, clean up, fix your homes and your gardens, plant flowers.” (frequent counsel of President Spencer W. Kimball at conferences) p88

He gave a conference talk “Don’t kill the little birds” about not killing animals unless we need to.

“We believe that we have in the Church the answers to all the questions, for the Lord is the head of the Church and He has given us the program. Our message is what it has always been, and our hope is that our people will live the commandments of the Lord. They have been revealed in the holy scriptures and by living prophets throughout many years.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Conference Report, 1974) p88

He would ask a secretary to type something saying it’s no rush whenever they get time, then a few minutes later would return to see if it was done. He pushed the work forward.
p89

On his desk he kept the motto “Do It” to remind himself and his visitors to do the gospel. p89

“With missionary work...we...say, ‘Father, thy will be done.’ I’m just Your faithful servant. I’m ready to serve and sacrifice. Open the gates. I’ll do it.’ The Lord didn’t tell Lehi to ask for the plates or to try to get the plates. He said, ‘Send your sons and get the plates.’” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Dec. 21, 1974) p89

Arthur says, **“When I served with President Kimball, I never worked so hard in my life.”** p90

“We want to keep faith with that small but noble band of souls who assembled in the Peter Whitmer home 150 years ago for the purpose of formally organizing the Church. We can keep the faith, in part, by helping the Church to grow in numbers and also in spirituality.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Conference Report, Apr. 1980, p.6)

“Thousands of converts should come in from this source. They are your neighbors. They are your friends. They know your righteousness. You are an example in Christian living to them.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, speaking of local member missionary work, Church News, Aug. 24, 1974, p.4)

“The days of gathering are over, and now we’ve got to establish Zion in all areas of the world. We need you here. Stay in our homeland and build up The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (Elder Spencer W. Kimball, 1955 speech to European Mission)

“Every time a new temple is built, all the bells in hell begin to ring because Satan knows what it means.” (Brigham Young)

“He wasn’t kissing babies to get votes or shaking hands to be popular; he was touching the people because he wanted them to know of his love, and he wanted to know them.” (Arthur speaking of President Kimball.) p93

“When you work for those who have time for people, you work for the Lord’s chosen.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p95

“It’s the people- the ordinary people everywhere, not just the leaders- who make the Church great.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p95

“When we are asked by the Lord to enlarge the borders of the Church, that means not only more stakes, more missions, and greater missionary work, but greater effectiveness...by having more and more of members, young and old, more fully converted and in control of their lives, and less tossed by the trends of the time.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, July 5, 1975, p.3)

“There is great security in spirituality, and we cannot have spirituality without service.” (Spencer W. Kimball, 1974) p97

He would often see a young person and tell them they would be a great missionary when they grow up, and give them money telling them it was to start their missionary fund. p98

He was often in the office by 7am. p100-101

USA President Carter said, “We ought to be more like the Mormon Church. They have thousands of young people out teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.” p101-102

He often would skip lunch wanting to get more work done.

He would suggest that Arthur go on a diet, and would do the diet alongside him. **He thought in terms of ‘we’.**

“I would explain that Sister Kimball would be unhappy if I didn’t get him lunch, and the president would quickly retort, ‘That’s all right. I’d rather she was mad at you than mad at me.’” p102

“He was also human; he got frustrated and upset at times, like all the rest of us.” (Arthur speaking of President Kimball) p103

“There was never time for us to relax,” Arthur says of his days with President Kimball. p103

He had a sense of humor; he asked a flight attendant for lemonade, she said she didn’t have any, then remembered they had lemons and returned to Kimball and said, “I can squeeze you some.” Kimball replied, “Don’t touch me.”

People would ask him for an inside scoop on the **second coming of Jesus Christ**, he would say, **“Why? Are you ready to go?”** p104

Arthur turned down a man who wanted Kimball to perform his marriage because the petitioner didn’t know Kimball; the man persisted and caught Kimball coming home from work and asked Kimball himself. Kimball agreed to do it, and scolded Arthur for being too protective. p104

Upon a natural disaster, Kimball urged the Saints to “Rebuild your lives while rebuilding your homes.” p105

“When President Kimball got something on his mind, he would not let go of it. He was tenacious and determined yet demonstrative and kind.” p105

Sister Kimball always tended a garden and bottled fruit. p106

When they moved into Hotel Utah, sister Kimball would walk to their old home, pick the apples off of the ground, cart them to the hotel, and make applesauce. p106

When he traveled he took no time out for sightseeing. p106

Arthur planned a free day with only an evening session and said to Kimball, “I’m just trying to save you, President.” Kimball responded, “I know you’re trying to save me, but I don’t want to be saved. I just want to be exalted.”

“You can’t just float down the Thames; you have to be up and going. You’ve done a great job so far. Now what are you going to do tomorrow? Quicken your pace, lengthen your stride.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p107

“My life is like my shoes, to be worn out in the service of the Lord.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p107

Kimball urged Arthur to go home one evening as he stayed past 5:30 to work and wait for his wife. Arthur said, “President, you’re making this hard for me. I am torn

between doing my duty to stay close to you and still doing what you ask me to do.” President Kimball responded, “They both ought to be the same, hadn’t they?” p108

Kimball had a cousin who was Catholic, who said of President Kimball, “They could make my father a Saint”. Arthur told this to Kimball and the immediate response of President Kimball was “Nobody can make me a saint. I have to do that for myself.” p108

Kimball’s philosophy was to put the Lord first, others second, and himself last. p109

Even when Kimball was out of the office from being ill, nothing was at hold at the office. “He had set the agenda, and we simply followed his directions.” p109

13 EZRA TAFT BENSON



By Editors: Cathy Tillack and Karen Still - The Rixida: annual publication of the associated students of Ricks College.: Image found Page 132, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16947212>

Madsen: Ezra Taft Benson

He dated some before his mission and met a wealthy girl he liked. His friends said she'll never even look at you (she was rich he was poor). They dated for a while. He said, "If you're still around when I return we can take it from there." He returned, but she was going on a mission and gave him the same offer. He waited for her and they married upon her return.

In their marriage they were good examples of looking for the good in each other.

Atheism has become the state religion.

America is the Lord's base of operations.

America is the only place the restoration could happen, and it barely did even there.

People came to America hungry for religious freedom.

We must **study the Book of Mormon DAILY.**

No civic honor (he got tons of them) is comparable to getting the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Jesus Christ not only taught the law, he IS the law; aka his current revelation is what we do.

Pride has become a popular sin in our generation, and it leads to sin.

The Law of Consecration is not a social experiment, it's an eternal law of heaven.

For bitter or sweet, Jesus has experienced much deeper than us.

Only a God could atone for our sins. Jesus Christ was and is a God.

When he was born, it was thought he was a stillborn. The doctor gave up on him and went to save his mother. Several women in the room dipped him in cold then hot water back and forth until he came to.

In his family, they had Family Home Evening where they would have a song, read scriptures and have some recreation. **Their recreation was of their own making, not TV.**

His wife gave up a nice home to marry him. She was from a rich family, he from poor.

He hated debt. He had a sense of self sufficiency personally and in government.

There were 837,000 members of the Church when he was called an apostle, and no stakes abroad.

He saw a German, who had survived a bomb, receive many boxes of wheat from the Church. He said in tears “How can people who don’t know us care this much about us?”

His message was, “**Do not despair, there is always a way.**”

He and his wife wanted 12 children but only got 6.

When US President Eisenhower asked him to be his secretary, he said he would ask the brethren of the church and see what they say. President McKay said, “My mind is clear on it. I know what the Lord would have you do.” It was to accept, and much good came of it.

Benson told Eisenhower he would not defend a policy that he didn’t believe in or that is against my religion. Eisenhower then had him put in.

As secretary to the US President, he insisted that policies were good for the character of the US people. Others asked, “What does that have to do with it?”

He said, like Tocqueville, that the strength of America was in its spirituality.

He insisted they start cabinet meetings with verbal prayer, not just a silent moment for silent prayer. They did so.

He fired one person thinking he was a socialist. Such would be against what America stands for in all its background.

Later found the person was not socialist, and rather than trying to excuse himself he said he had made a mistake and apologized (not for being anti-socialist, but for firing the man in misunderstanding).

Benson had the people fast for rain. They did. The news headlines read “Benson really does have contacts that are out of this world.”

Eisenhower and others adopted his practice in doing Family Home Evenings on Monday nights.

Eisenhower said that Benson was the shining star in the firmament of his administration.

He was against government subsidies, paying farmers to destroy their crops, and putting limits on farmers.

He spoke of what to do with freedom once it's been won. He said to hold on to faith in God. The greatest tragedy is forgetting God.

He said the Vietnam War was a fight we never intended to win and hence a fight we should have never entered.

He pleaded with mothers to stay home as much as they could, even to leave work and cut the budget. One woman wished she had listened to this prophet, lamenting her fate.

Leaders in Zion should be familiar with each other, sharing with each other their intimate thoughts, humor, etc. They would lay down their lives for each other and were very

close.

There is more salvation in wheat than in high flown theology. Benson said this like Orson Pratt. He said revelation on having **food storage could be like the people of the day of Noah being commanded to get on the ark.**

Often his addresses were to specific audiences like sisters, or mothers. He did that in a genius way.

Haycock: Ezra Taft Benson

Often times Secretary Benson (worked as secretary in the dept. of Agriculture for USA President Eisenhower) was misrepresented by others who had agendas of their own. Benson expected complete integrity of others but didn't always get it. p114

A Washington reporter observed of Benson. He "acts like a man whose conscience is always clear- his testimony will be the same next week or the week after or a year from now." This helped him to not have to remember what he told everyone, he simply remembered the truth and knew that is what he told. p115

He got a letter from the white house saying, "Secretary Benson, since I was with you in New York I have had the strangest feeling that I wanted to leave my nets and come follow you and be a fisher of men." p116

He was thoughtful, and arranged for Arthur to take his failing old mother with him on an assignment to Hawaii. p116

When Arthur's mother died, he was touched that President Benson and President Monson took time to come to her funeral. p117

He put greater emphasis on the divinity of the Book of Mormon and the importance of its message in our lives than anyone. p118

“You can’t work at the side of such chosen vessels of righteousness without recognizing that the Lord is in charge and that his servants are his witnesses...My experiences far outweigh any material blessings or missed opportunities.” (D. Arthur Haycock) p118

14 HOWARD W HUNTER



By Editor: Jaci Cutler - The Rixida: annual publication of the associated students of Ricks College.: Image found

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Madsen: Howard W Hunter

Despite repeated advice from doctors, he kept his wife at home with him and didn't put her in a nursing home.

Her illnesses left her bedfast. Her conditions were also such as were common for a person forgetting things and turning on others, even those closest to them.

Despite bone cancer, he remained active and tender.

Let the temple be the symbol of your membership in the church.

Be calm in your spirituality (not as a cheerleader).

Reflecting on the past should not be self-debasing or causing doubt.

God is usually more willing to forgive us than we are ourselves.

If Jesus lays his hands on a marriage, it lives.

Any theology that says Christ didn't suffer all levels of suffering and temptations is false.

To judge righteously means with fairness, compassion, and charity.

The meek will inherit the earth, not those who win by intimidation.

He went on an Egyptian Nile cruise on his honeymoon.

When one scowls a lot, usually there are lines that show in the face from doing that over time. He had none, and there is something Christlike in that.

He was not dominating when with people. He was careful and methodical; a careful listener. These things were probably a result of his legal training.

The Marriott Center at BYU had a full audience. A man stood and shouted that he had a bomb in a briefcase and that it would go off if he didn't sign a statement. He said, "NO!" The bomber persisted, he said, "No," again. Some members started singing which distracted the bomber, and he went on with his sermon.

He leaned back too far and fell straight on his back while giving a General Conference address. Elder Packer and others helped him up, and he went right on with his discourse without missing a word.

He was part of the archeological society.

He was a regular reader of The Biblical Archeologist.

He had a large collection of historical books which he read.

He marked his scriptures well.

God's blessings are for all Palestinians regardless of Muslim or Jewish affiliation, for all are the children of God. He recognized the scripture that says the Jews will eventually return to Jerusalem, but said that we don't get involved with the geo-political conflict there.

In the 1950's there were only about 100,000 visitors to Hawaii a year. When he dedicated the Polynesian Cultural Center, he said that it would bring millions of visitors and be a missionary tool. Such has happened.

At the time of the dedication of the BYU Jerusalem Center, there was conflict. President Jeffery R Holland was president of BYU at the time. A prominent Jewish man came to his office and offered to write a check for the cost put into it so far, and however else much he wanted if they would stop the BYU Jerusalem Center. Holland said "no." Holland was worried until he opened the scriptures at random and read in the D&C: "It is pleasing to me that a school should be built in Zion."

In the dedication prayer for the BYU Jerusalem Center, He said that people who go there will feel constrained to acknowledge that "this is thy house". All types of people say they feel peace there. An atheist said he feels like praying when near the upper room there. Other atheists have said that also.

He was a lawyer. His patriarchal blessing said that he would be wise in the ways of the world and that he would teach

those to people, and that the Lord would use those skills to build up his kingdom.

He was in a wheelchair and doctors said he would never walk again. He overcame that, and he walked into the apostle's Thursday temple meeting with a walker. He was usually never late, but this time he was. Though it's not usual, the other apostles stood and applauded him. He basically collapsed in a chair and they went around hugging and kissing him.

He competently played 7 instruments as a teenager. He was the leader of a well-known music band in his youth. He was not as interested in the gospel in his teenage years. He loved animals as a boy. He collected bird eggs and could identify them.

He used money he made from his band to help pay family expenditures and prepare for school.

The purpose of temples is to reunite the family of man.

He got an offer to be a higher judge but **decided not to take it so he would be able to keep doing church service.** His law practice was treating him **well enough.**

15 GORDON B. HINCKLEY



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Madsen: Gordon B. Hinckley

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One man gave an excellent talk. He became proud. When it was time for his next talk, he got up in a boastful spirit. The spirit left him, and his talk was shattered. He stumbled his way through it. He got off the stand humbled. Hinckley told him if he would have gone up the way he went down, he would have gone down the way he went up.

He was in university schooling during the great depression.

He studied ancient Greek literature and British literature in college before his mission. He learned of communications on his mission, and studied that thereafter. He was able to help in the production of church films and other distribution things.

He would do whatever the brethren told him to, but he LOVES missionary work.

He spoke much for the retention of church converts.

It was said of his dad that he wrote more church manuals than any other person. In his day, it was an individual assignment rather than that of a committee.

At age 12 he went to a priesthood meeting against his will. There he heard many converts sing the song “Praise to the Man,” about Joseph Smith. This was the first time he recalls it coming into his heart that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God.

As a lad he dipped the pigtails of a girl into black ink.

One day he skipped class along with other students who wanted to protest. His mother wrote a note to the principal to please excuse him, that what he did was merely an impulse to follow the crowd. He says that is the most scathing rebuke he ever got from his mother.

He never beat his children. It was his policy that such treatment only intensifies resentment.

When Pres. Hunter died, Hinckley was one of his counselors. A son of his tried for a long time to get ahold of him. When he finally did, he **asked if he could help. Hinckley said, “Yes, pray for me,”** then hung up the phone.

While he was President of the Church, \$138 million was

given in humanitarian aid. The humanitarian aid section was added to the tithing slip. This relatively small church isn't just taking care of its own, it's taking care of others who don't belong to it. One hundred percent of funds to humanitarian aid in this church go to that cause. There is no one else who does that. Funds to this church are not used for overhead. All we have are the tithes of the members to run this church. We don't dip in along the way, every penny of it goes where directed.

He spoke of a single woman who raised her family by cleaning houses. Over the years after her children were grown and married, she managed to save up enough to get a new house or remodel her house. She gave it to the church. A mission president said, "No, you earned this and have the right to it and deserve it." She said, **"No, I want to give and serve the Lord. I am comfortable enough in my house, I've gotten used to it."** President Hinckley said after relating this account, **DON'T WASTE THE WIDOW'S MITE!** The funds we have in this Church are very sacred, much of them come from house cleaning mothers.

Do a little more than is expected. At the close of his talks he often said to do a little better. (Such are the words of a man who has put in effort.)

When visiting near Ghana, Africa he told the people "I don't want to leave here, I feel at home here." They wept together.

If we don't follow D&C 121 then our priesthood and leadership in the church will be gone and our role as patriarch will be gone.

Madsen Church President Lecture Series

Assorted Notes

A master psychologist, speaking of why we came to Utah as a people, said it's not just to survive, for plenty do that, but it's because it offers something more here, something special.

BH Roberts, known to be one of the most eloquent speakers the Church has had, said of young people who were indifferent or even hostile toward the Church "Ah! They have not yet met a master interpreter!"

Olive oil causes more poisons to cease than any other remedy; so if you don't know what poison you ingested or how to cure it, drink olive oil. Interesting that such is what we use in anointing the sick as directed in James 5, and that Christ's atonement was at an olive tree (*also Jewish lore suggests the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden was an olive tree; also the bird returning to Noah on the ark to show that there was land brought back an olive tree leaf); it's like how Jesus purifies us of our sins and heals us from our afflictions of all types. (*Alma 7 says Christ doesn't just help us with our sins, but with all aspects of life.)

President Packer was asked if we really believe we are going to take these sacraments (temple ordinances) to every human that has ever lived. He responded "It is a big job, and we're doing it."

Truman G Madsen asked President Hugh B Brown: What are the blessings of Abraham Isaac and Jacob? Answer: posterity. Question: Why was Abraham asked to sacrifice his one chance at that? Answer: Because Abraham needed to learn something about Abraham. He and Isaac came down from that mountain with stronger faith in God and in the future.

BH Roberts was in disagreement with the rest of the brethren about whether one of them in the high council of the church had to get permission from the others before running for public office. Everyone said yes except him. They told him he would have to leave the council if he could not come to terms with this. He walked around all night and finally decided to come to terms with it. He told them it took him all night to come to that, and they responded, JFS being one of them, that **they hadn't left the room, and had been praying all night for him.**

Madsen said the First Presidency asked him to speak on Emma Smith. He asked what were the current feelings of the brethren regarding her. They said, "Very positive."

The LDS Sort Center in SLC gives 1 million items of clothing a month.

One person asked Elder Jeffry R Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Would you give your life for Christ?" He responded, "I thought that is what I was doing."

Matthew Cowley said when called as an apostle it felt like a call to be a delinquent father. He said that because in that type of calling the church must come first, although of course the ultimate thing is family.

BH Roberts quotes from the famous book, “Think and grow rich” by Napoleon Hill.

David Whitmer was the only one of the three witnesses of the Book of Mormon to be told directly by the angel “blessed is he that endureth to the end”; he was the only one of them who didn’t come back to the Church.

Madsen says how much we bring to the scriptures determines how much we take from them.

Madsen says with Mosiah 5 the people were literally reborn.

Madsen says that our conscience kisses us when we obey the core of our hearts, that being which is truth.

Madsen says that the 1 year plan for food storage and cash the church has instructed us about is important; Too many of us see the Church as something to rescue us when we have none of that, and it’s not designed to be that. The plan of the Church is storage kept by the members themselves.

Hugh B Brown was in the First Presidency at one point.

How much we bring to the scriptures is how much we will get out of them.

Madsen was told as long as he was in the path of duty on his mission he would be safe in his travels.

One man, who was getting a doctorate in theology, visited an LDS congregation. He said “they’re all like little children

there... which is just like Christ would want them to be.” He then joined the Church.

Haycock Assorted Notes

Based on his time with the prophets, Haycock said, “I’ve had more tutoring and training from the real masters of life than anybody who ever went to college.”

He worked closely with Heber J. Grant, George Albert Smith, David O. McKay, Joseph Fielding Smith, Harold B. Lee, Spencer W. Kimball, and Ezra Taft Benson

What made the prophets sad made Arthur sad, what made them happy, made him happy. He wasn’t responsible for all they were, but he tried to help them all he could. He felt it his duty when assigned, as he often was, to help these men.

Haycock said, “If you don’t have the brethren’s total confidence, if they can’t talk about anything or anyone, any situation or circumstance with you sitting there, it doesn’t work.”

He quotes Orson Hyde as follows: “It is invariably the case that when an individual is ordained and appointed to lead the people, he has passed through tribulations and trials, and has proven himself before God, and before His people, that he is

worthy of the situation which he holds.” (Elder Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses 1:123)

“Don’t take yourself too seriously.” (President J. Reuben Clark)

Haycock said, “They don’t make hasty decisions...they make haste, very slowly and very deliberately and very prayerfully. They are righteous and sensitive.”

Note: Tolkien’s slow giant talking trees are an analogy for the church – slow but careful and right.

Haycock says no one in their right minds would ever ask for these jobs, it goes beyond the nice red chairs at conferences. People know little of the demands made on leaders and their families.

Haycock says “The General Authorities spend every ounce of energy, strength, and talent with which the Lord has blessed them to uplift the members and good people everywhere. That is their special assignment...”

He had little education or contacts, but tried and hence succeeded in his heart’s desire.

Haycock said that from the prophets he learned life is a testing ground to make us strong and effective.

16 THOMAS S. MONSON



By Brian Tibbets -

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To The Rescue: Biography of Thomas S Monson by Heidi Swinton – Book Highlights

Growing up in their home, they had a daily family meal with meat. (note: Monson had terrible diabetes later in life).

Sister Monson daily cooks him dinner, no matter the hour, and always packs his suitcase when he has to travel.

Sister Monson's parents dressed formally to meet Thomas as he came to pick Francis up for their first date.

He owned a bank and many other big businesses.

Sport courses were required in his college, so he took basketball and swimming.

He had a summer home cabin and another house.

In college he majored in marketing with a minor in economics. He was interested in business finance.

He often sings and whistles.

He often prays to God even over little things like a basketball game. He did this even when he was young.

He liked to hunt.

His branch president was known to try people on the scriptures thoroughly. Monson went to set a 5pm appointment to get out by 6pm, but the leader said, “No that would not give us enough time to search the scriptures, how about 2pm?” It was so, and there he asked TSM to quote D&C 4 and D&C 13 and told him he has the right to be ministered to by angels as we learn from D&C 13.

Life is a mission, not a career.

Don’t fire someone until you know why they are misbehaving. (i.e. coming late)

If you find out of their misconduct from the police instead of them, tell them yes, they are fired and you must be more harsh with them than you would have had to if they had spoken with you in person.

Be willing to rehire someone who used to misbehave who comes asking for work later.

He had an experience hunting on Sunday where his brother almost died, and he learned to never go hunting or fishing on Sunday again.

To people returning to church attendance, Bishop Monson would say, “Welcome home. We’ve missed you. We need you!”

Do things in the way they are to be done. Ordaining a person to Aaronic Priesthood was to be done with the chair facing the congregation. A temple worker said it should be facing the temple. TSM said that may be ok in some wards, but here they face the congregation. And he turned the chair back towards the congregation.

When people moved out of his ward he tried to keep track of them and when he saw them would counsel them. (Once their bishop, always their bishop!)

When difficult things would come up he would say, **“Do your best and don’t worry. It will be alright, we are in the Lord’s hands.”** (doing his work)

As bishop he considered himself quite generous welfare-wise, and if he had to go back and do it again he would be even more generous.

While serving as Bishop, he was the usher of his ward, watching the doors as church began.

He was very skilled at turning welfare opportunities in his ward into opportunities for service for the ward members.

He wrote 17 monthly letters to a serviceman from his ward before getting a reply. He sent church magazines to him as well, but the hand letters were what got him to become active.

Singular acts of people reaching out to them, can shape the eternal destiny of youth.

He called a boy who was not at priesthood opening exercises and asked why he was not in attendance. He offered him one of his own clean, white shirts, and the boy came although he was late!

Being a mission president is not like being a bishop; your wife counsels with you in all.

When TSM went on mission tours as a General Authority, he tried to have an interview with each missionary in the missions he visited to strengthen their faith in Christ.

He has a firm grip handshake.

As a mission president he went to every wedding, spoke at members' funerals, and engaged the members. He usually made an appearance at every event.

He knew all the names of his missionaries as a mission president. He remembered names and situations of many members when he toured his mission a decade later.

When Elders said they had tracked out the whole city he said, “Now your next assignment is to teach and baptize them all.”

When Elders said their apartment was 40 below zero he said, “Dress warm, work hard, and don’t look at the thermostat!”

There was pessimism in one area of the mission and it had to be closed. Later, it was announced as a hot new area and Elders went back in and baptized many. Attitude was the difference.

“Success is the ratio of your accomplishments to your capabilities.”

Have the courage to refrain from judging and criticizing those around you.

He read all 6 volumes of the church history on airplane rides.

Getting temple and church meetings into Germany was what it must have been like for Joseph to get things going in the USA.

President Kimball concealed that the Germans had to befriend the communists who oppressed them if they were to progress in their rights as a church.

There are saints who are just as stalwart of saints as there were in the days of any past dispensation.

He was awarded an honorary Doctorate Degree in law.

He was asked by Pres. Kimball to memorize a manual to get it into communist Germany where it was not allowed to be mailed. TSM was then to go there and write it out from memory. As he did his best and was writing it, there was the manual and in German! No one knew how it arrived.

He was asked by Elder Ballard to review the PMG manuscript in 2 days. TSM did so by staying up most of the night.

The 5 most important English words: I am proud of you.

The 4: What is your opinion?

The 3: If you please

The 2: thank you

The least: I

There is no problem too small or too big for God not to answer the prayer of faith and give his attention.



When an answer to a prayer does not come he does not worry, for when he absolutely needs the answer, it will come.

He came late to a conference once (general?) because he was caring for his wife. This showed his emphasis was not on scheduling.

Today sin often puts on the facade of tolerance.

He gets to meetings early and visits with people, then starts the meeting on the dot.

He is a great sports fan, talking about them then getting right to the point of what he must say.

Rather than wanting to win arguments, he wants to get to the truth.

Usually before expressing his opinion, he has discussion and goes around the table to hear from those in the council.

The church voted against gay marriage, but voted for letting them have hospital and home rights.

The temple itself is a missionary.

When he starts a book he will finish it.

He likes Wheaties in the morning.

Your decision to think, say, and do right will rarely, if ever, be the easy way.

Good habits are like muscles; the more you use them, the more they grow.

As we look heavenward, we inevitably see our need to reach outward.

He teaches old folks in rest homes about how a football game works, so they can understand what is happening on the television and enjoy it.

He speaks about current ball games.

Every boy ought to have his own dog.

Give to the beggar and poor all you have. He lived this by giving a hungry family his pet rabbits to eat at Thanksgiving time.

When his mother was asked about how she raised a prophet, she said, "It was hard, but I persevered."

Fishing is good and spiritual.

Having animals and going to fairs is joyful.

He knows about what is going on in the local barber shop.

He travels on a plane to go and give a blessing to one person in need.

Debt is a demon.

Road shows and dance festivals are uplifting.

It is the duty of Priesthood holders to memorize the sacrament prayers.

Don't read the sermons you give at church, but give them from the heart.

For college, study what you like and what will provide for your family.

If he were to go back and do it again, he would have studied history instead of business.

If he were to go back and do it again, he would have married younger. He knew Francis for years before they married.

When studying, it's how you use the hours, not the number of hours.

Study as though you had to explain what you read, and as though you were going to teach the lecture that you are about to attend.

Formal attire to meet the boy your daughter is going to go on a date with.

Don't steady date at first.



The 12 Apostles are to freely express their opinion, and once a decision is made by them collectively, they are to entirely uphold that decision.

President McKay quoted Shakespeare freely.

President Lee was one of the wisest church teachers.

Members of the Quorum of the 12 Apostles read “The Reader's Digest.”

Henry the 8th was his favorite Shakespeare play.

Among his favorite theatrical works is the Phantom of the Opera.

17 RUSSEL M. NELSON



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Russel M. Nelson: A Few Points & Quotations

For now I don't have much material on the life of President Nelson, but I will mention a few points that come to mind, and highlight a few themes of doctrines he has preached.

MEETING CHRIST:

His wife Wendy Nelson has a book called *The Heavens are Open* where she talks about a night meeting her husband had, as president of the church, where he met with a glorious being for several hours, probably the savior. It was night

time, he asked her to leave the room, several hours later, he came out and gleefully said something to the effect of, 'Wendy, you'll never guess who I just had a meeting with!'

PEACE:

Nelson has been a strong advocate for peace. He walks out of movies with contention. He calls for the saints to not act such that others are 'walking on ice' around them.

This prophet is truly a peacemaker!

HEALTH:

Nelson has been a great example of living the finer points of the word of wisdom. He eats fruits and vegetables, minimal meat, regularly exercises, and is careful about not having outlandish proportions. He doesn't just do the minimum of not using alcohol and tobacco, he actually does the positive aspects of D&C 89 that bring lasting health! It's no wonder that he is over 100 years old!



THE SECOND COMING:

As president of the church, Nelson has made many stirring statements about the eminent return of Christ. He has said that the spirit tells him that despite not knowing the exact time of Christ's return, that he must urge the saints to prepare for it. He has repeatedly taught that we are the people who will welcome the Lord at His return. That we are living through what Nephi saw in vision about the latter-days. That we are in the latter part of the latter days. That the time is soon at hand when the wicked will be separated from the righteous. He says time is running out. He says we are millennials in a greater sense than the world knows. He says we will see Christ's greatest miracles between now and when he returns.

Here are a few quotations from him on this subject:

“The time to act is now. This is a hinge point in the history of the Church, and your part is vital.” (President Nelson, January 1, 2020)

This was repeated at the Rome temple dedication, repeating the emphasis that this season is vital.

“Just think of the excitement and urgency of it all: every prophet commencing with Adam has seen our day. And every prophet has talked about *our* day, when Israel would be gathered and the world would be prepared for the Second Coming of the Savior. Think of it! Of all the people who have ever lived on planet earth, **we are the ones who get to participate in this final, great gathering event.** How exciting is that! Our Heavenly Father has reserved many of His most noble spirits—perhaps, I might say, His finest team—for this final phase. Those noble spirits—those finest players, those heroes— *are you!*” ([Hope of Israel, Worldwide Youth Devotional](#), June 3, 2018)

“Our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, will perform some of His **mightiest works between now and when He comes again. We will see miraculous indications that God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, preside over this Church in majesty and glory,**” (“[Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives](#),” Apr. 2018 general conference).

“We are just **building up to the climax** of this last dispensation— when the Savior’s Second Coming becomes a reality.” The Future of the Church, Preparing the World for the Savior’s Second Coming, April 2020, 200 Years of Light: 1820-2020

“The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do.” President Nelson (The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior’s Second Coming, Ensign April 2020)

Here are some apocalyptic teachings from Nelson in the October 2020 General Conference:

The way to face these last days is simple: if ye are prepared ye shall not fear.

Store food water and financial reserves.

Even more important than temporal preparation is spiritual and emotional preparation.

In the Book of Mormon to prepare they made places of security, and never stopped preparing the people physically and spiritually.

When Lamanites attacked Nephites they were astonished at the prepared walls etc. of the Nephites.

Your home is the first line of defense.

Stakes of Zion are also a refuge as they are led by key holders.

The temple is a place of security unlike any other.

The endowment gives constant access to God's power.

A place of security is where you can feel the Holy Ghost.

You can teach truth even when it's counter culture.

Having places of security to which you can retreat will help you embrace the future with faith.

This is the latter part of these latter days.

The future will be glorious for those who are prepared to be instruments in the Lord's hands.

Turbulent times allow our influence to be much more penetrating than in calm times.

We can hope for deliverance.

In his closing remarks at the same conference, he emphasized:

Have joyful anticipation. God wants us to be optimistic about the future.

Our divine mandate is to prepare ourselves and the world for the Second Coming of the Lord.

At the April 2021 conference in his opening message he taught that we are to help people prepare for the second coming of the Lord.

SCIENCE:

Nelson has consistently preached important doctrines of Christ, including those on the creation. He repeatedly taught against the falsehoods of evolution theory. He himself is not unacquainted with the science world, being a pioneer heart surgeon, and very much acquainted with the scientific theories of our time. He has taught that man don't come from monkeys, that the universe didn't come from a big bang, that genetics don't allow for the evolution of species from a common ancestor, and that before the fall of Adam the Earth was a paradise planet (not a survival of the fittest planet).

Here are some quotations from his teachings on this subject:

Here Elder Nelson responded to the question of whether the church has an official position on Darwinian evolution. Look at the conversation: "Different denominations deal differently with questions about life's origins and development. Conservative denominations tend to have

more trouble with Darwinian evolution. Does the church have an official position on this topic? Nelson: We believe that God is our creator and that he has created other forms of life. It's interesting to me, drawing on my 40 years experience as a medical doctor, how similar those species are. We developed open-heart surgery, for example, experimenting on lower animals simply because the same creator made the human being. We owe a lot to those lower species. But to think that man evolved from one species to another is, to me, incomprehensible. Why is that? Nelson: Man has always been man. Dogs have always been dogs. Monkeys have always been monkeys. It's just the way genetics works." (May 16 2007, In Focus: Mormonism in Modern America, Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life interview with Russell M. Nelson

<https://bycommonconsent.com/2007/05/20/elder-nelson-doesnt-believe-inevolution/>)

"...some people erroneously think that these marvelous physical attributes happened by chance or resulted from a big bang somewhere. Ask yourself, "Could an explosion in a printing shop produce a dictionary?" The likelihood is most remote. But if so, it could never heal its own torn pages or reproduce its own newer editions!" (Russell M. Nelson, Conf. Report April 2012, Thanks Be To God

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/generalconference/2012/04/thanks-be-to-god?lang=eng>)

"Through the ages, some without scriptural understanding have tried to explain our existence by pretentious words such as ex nihilo (out of nothing). Others have deduced that, because of certain similarities between different forms of life, there has been a natural selection of the species, or organic

evolution from one form to another. Still others have concluded that man came as a consequence of a “big bang” that resulted in the creation of our planet and life upon it. To me, such theories are unbelievable!" (Russell M. Nelson, BYU, 1987, "The Magnificence of Man")

"The creation of a PARADISIACAL PLANET came from God. MORTALITY AND DEATH CAME INTO THE WORLD through the Fall 129 of Adam. Immortality and the possibility of eternal life were provided by the Atonement of Jesus Christ." (Russell M. Nelson, April 2000, General Conference, "The Creation")

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2000/04/thecreation?lang=eng>)

Nelson's above teaching of the pre-fall paradise planet is particularly useful against the Christian evolutionist claim that before the fall, things were evolving 'outside of Eden' but not in Eden. The prophetic teaching is that the whole planet was a paradise planet before the fall! Does natural selection, survival of the fittest, animals killing each other for millions of years, sound like a paradise planet? Remember 2 Ne. 2:22 emphatically states that “all” things must have remained in the state after which they were created were it not for the fall of Adam. It reads: “...all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. 23 And they would have had no children; ...”

Elder Nelson even urged us to help those who are stuck on the theory of natural selection, the engine of evolution. He said, “It is incumbent upon each informed and spiritually attuned person to help overcome such foolishness of those

who would deny divine creation or think that mankind simply evolved. by the spirit, we perceive the truer and more believable wisdom of God.” (p10, The Power Within Us, or The Magnificence of Man, March 29 1987, BYU Devotional <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/russell-m-nelson/magnificence-man/>)

Elder Nelson found 55 verses attesting man’s divine creation. He said, “We are children of God, created by him and formed in his image. Recently I studied the scriptures simply to find how many times they testify of the divine creation of man. Looking up references that referred either to create or form (or their derivatives) with either man, men, male, or female in the same verse, I found that there are at least fifty-five verses of scripture that attest to our divine creation (Genesis 1:27; 2:7, 8; 5:1, 2; 6:7; Deuteronomy 4:32; Isaiah 45:12; Malachi 2:10; Mark 10:6; Romans 9:20; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 3:10; 2 Nephi 1:10; 2:15; 9:6; 29:7; Jacob 4:9; Mosiah 4:2, 9; 7:27; Alma 1:4; 18:32, 34, 36; 22:12, 13; Mormon 130 9:12, 17; Ether 1:3; 3:15, 16; Moroni 10:3; D&C 20:18; 29:30, 34; 77:2; 77:12; 93:29; Moses 1:8; 2:27; 3:5, 7, 8, 9; 6:8, 9; 7:32; 8:26; Abraham 4:26, 27; 5:7, 8, 14, 16).” (The Magnificence of Man, March 29 1987, BYU Devotional, <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/russell-m-nelson/magnificenceman/>)

Nelson’s teachings on this subject are aligned with the official church position on the matter as given in 1909. The 1st Presidency Statement titled “The Origin of Man” in 1909 says, “It is held by some that Adam was not the first man upon this earth, and that the original human being was a development from lower orders of the animal creation.

These, however, are the theories of men. The word of the Lord declares that Adam was ‘the first man of all men’ (Moses 1:34), and we are therefore in duty bound to regard him as the primal parent of our race. It was shown to the brother of Jared that all men were created in the beginning after the image of God; and whether we take this to mean the spirit or the body, or both, it commits us to the same conclusion: Man began life as a human being, in the likeness of our Heavenly Father.” (The First Presidency, “The Origin of Man,” Improvement Era, Nov. 1909, 81; Ensign, Feb. 2002, 30.) (Joseph F. Smith, John R. Winder, Anthon H. Lund) (Reprinted in the Ensign 2002 at <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2002/02/the-origin-ofman?lang=eng>)

Note that the above 1909 statement reprinted in the 2002 Ensign magazine. In the magazine, the a preface to the statement was given as follows: “In the early 1900s, questions concerning the Creation of the earth and the theories of evolution became the subject of much public discussion. In the midst of these controversies, the First Presidency issued the following in 1909, which expresses the Church’s doctrinal position on these matters.” You can view the 2002 Ensign article at this link:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2002/02/the-origin-ofman?lang=eng>.

APOSTLE BRUCE R. MCCONKIE



Editors: Christie Williams and LeeAnn Roberts, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

This book focuses on highlighting presidents of the church, but I included my notes on Elder McConkie because it fits well. We sustain all the apostles as prophets.

The Bruce R. McConkie Story: Reflections of a Son by Joseph Fielding McConkie – 2003 Book Highlights



Ch. 1: Let This Then Be Our Covenant

Our faith entails that we must come to sound individual understanding of gospel principles.

Prophet to prophet the mantle transfers at death.

His gift was perfect knowledge of gospel principles.

He heard words in his mind attesting validity of the 1st Presidency sure as the Lord to Enos' mind.

Live worthy to be where your ancestors are after death.

Ch. 2: The Hearts of the Fathers

A legacy of ancestors of faith is wealth.

His dad preached so loud you could hear it from home.

He believed his family had kinships which existed before birth.

Ch. 3: The House of Faith

Don't think you win God's favor while opposing him in anything.

Joseph Smith, Woodruff, & his father he called greatest spiritual giants of this dispensation.

Frustrated with ambivalence seen in some church councils.

He nor his father understood uncertainty.

Self-taught the gospel; neither he nor his father had a gospel library growing up, they just had the scriptures; they drank from the fountainhead.

His father told his children that they knew more about God than anyone they would ever meet in the world.

He never had money making talent.

Given the choice between making money and preaching a sermon he and his father would preach a sermon every time.

Note: we must make monetary sacrifices to use our time to spread the gospel, even in time that we could have spent doing a “side hustle”. Do what you wish, but always sacrifice for the gospel message.

Had no care for sports or fashion.

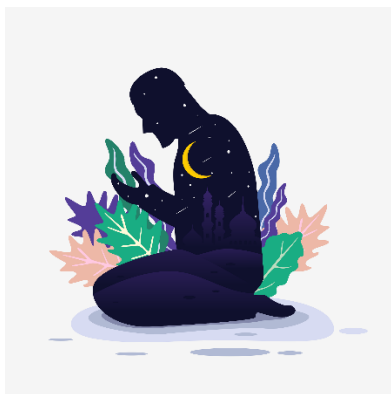
Oscar (his dad) watched Kentucky Derby on TV. Bruce never watched TV. Joseph Fielding Smith watched boxing Wednesday evenings on TV (as it reports elsewhere in the text).

Bruce & Oscar were lawyers. Oscar had pride in being the best at work and made a full wage. Oscar ran for several public offices, each time the spirit told him the outcome. Oscar was active in politics and government all his life. Oscar loved the constitution like life and liberty itself.

Orson spilled milk and was spanked for it once, he never spilt milk again.

Oscar passed sacrament in overalls and bear foot, it was all he had.

Oscar fasted 3 days until the spirit said fast no more your prayer is answered. And it was, the very hour the spirit told him that, events took place fulfilling his prayer.



Dreams and visions warned Oscar of deaths of close ones.

Oscar said despite all others being asleep in society, it wouldn't affect him.

Those who see must teach those who don't.

Agency is needed to be virtuous, and the constitution allows such.

A Dr. said Oscar should use tea and coffee to help his near-death Typhoid, he said **if it kills him to obey God by not using those things, so be it.** Of Oscars family, **only those who lived the word of wisdom survived** Typhoid. Later another Dr. told them that if they had any poison in their system they would have died. The Dr. said he was referring

to tea, coffee, tobacco, and liquor. Oscar always boiled his drinking water to make it clean.

Oscar often told his children that God ordained and appointed their mother for him, that their union was according to divine plan. While courting, Oscar would meet Vivian by appointment on campus, as they were both very busy with large class loads. Oscar's courtship consisted of walking and talking, they were happy just to be together and didn't need to seek other forms of entertainment. Oscar said his wife and he knew each other before birth and knew what they would do about it after they were born. He said it was as though they had always known each other. She never seemed strange to him. She made him shirts for many years. Oscar said his wife knew all their children before birth, and that she would be their mother. She was ordained to come to this earth to mother special spirits who would influence many and lead in the church and become prophets and prophetesses. Oscar and Vivian claimed to never argue over anything of importance. They did disagree on things though, because those who don't argue are either overly dominating or overly weak. Oscar spoke of his wife being as much a part of him as the air he breathed, and that his heart always ached for her presence.

Bruce believed that faith could be inherited. Compare 2 Tim. 1:5. Oscar said each of his children were foreordained to be mighty in the testimony of Christ.

Oscar had perfect knowledge of the reality of the living Christ.

After touring Elder Oscar McConkie's mission, Elder Harold B. Lee said more spiritual experiences were happening there

than in any other mission in the church. An Elder serving in Oscar's mission had a report from an eye Dr. that he would go blind in a few weeks. Elder Oscar M. gave him a blessing that the Lord wanted him to stay on his mission so he could heal his eyes and so he could reunite his parents. Elder O M then told the young Elder to go again to the eye Dr., and received a report of complete healing from the Dr. Then 2 weeks later his parents reunited.

One investigator struggled with the word of wisdom, the Elders teaching him feared President Oscar M. would scare the investigator away by a strong sermon about the word of wisdom, and they fasted and prayed he would not speak on that topic. Then Pres. O M gave a **fiery sermon on the word of wisdom that those who didn't obey it would never find happiness in this life or the next, and that it was the very hinge upon which their salvation would swing.** After the sermon the investigator told the Elders he would never smoke again, handed over his cigarettes, and indeed never smoked again.

One Lamanite Indian chief in Pres. O M's mission was doing great work bringing many into the church but unexpectedly died. Pres. O M prayed as to why this would happen, and had a vision of that man in the spirit world preaching to a crowd of some 10 thousand Lamanites. In the vision, one dissenter arose and said, "Don't listen to this man, he is a Nephite!" the man replied, "I am not a Nephite, I am a Lamanite..."

Pres. Oscar McConkie prayed for the faith of Enoch and Elijah, When he arose from his knees, the voice of the Spirit spoke to him saying, "Enoch and Elijah obtained their faith through righteousness." He understood that actions more than words are how we get faith.

When someone went overtime on a talk into Oscar's time, **he didn't go over into the next persons time**, but spoke for only 1.5 minutes, then promptly sat down.

It was made known to Oscar that **Lucifer covenanted** with himself to destroy him (Oscar) and his (Oscar's) posterity. He said "Lucifer once said to my face: 'I'll destroy you and your family, if I can.'" On another occasion he was at the threshold door of the house of Lucifer but refused Lucifer's invitation to enter.

The Lord showed Oscar that his **mother covenanted** with the Lord that her posterity would be blessed according to the amount they followed her righteous example of selfless service, love of the gospel, and profound respect for those who represented the Lord in the offices of the priesthood.

Ch. 4: Boyhood in Monticello

Somewhere it said (chance of this being from some other McConkie talk though): We must work hard daily till we ache. Provide temporally or you have no spirituality.

Bruce almost died when born but was saved by a priesthood blessing from his father.

Oscar went to take his bar exam, he didn't know about common law pleading, and they forgot to administer that part of the exam.

Young Bruce rode in a wagon pulled by a goat. Bruce was in some fist fights as a kid and had C and B average grades. Bruce was being dragged by a horse, Oscar was prompted to

get up and run, he did so, and eventually saw the incident, and saved Bruce.

A man spoke of his sons being able to beat Oscar's sons in a fight, Oscar said 'that may be so, but my son is going to grow up to be a good man.'

His grandmother would never turn anyone away from the dinner table, be they Indian, cowboy, or prisoner from the jail down the street.

They were the only members in the area. Sometimes they could travel a distance to a congregation very far away. Usually Bruce taught lessons from the Book of Mormon as a youth, even though it was his first time reading it. Sometimes Oscar would take the **family to a Presbyterian** church service. He said he just felt it was important for his children to form the **habit of attending church meetings**.

Ch. 5 Youthful Years

The children would spend the summer sleeping on a blanket in the lawn under the stars.

Bruce made sure to be home from a date Saturday night by midnight because it was the eve of the Sabbath.

They had dance cards back then.

Oscar had a small telescope and loved looking at the stars. He would point things out and quote scriptures about them.

Bruce was given a mission blessing to be like prophets of old and lead his brethren in the fight for righteousness. He was warned Satan would make a special effort to overthrow him. In this blessing he was told in a blessing that he was a leader in pre-mortality, and that all men who know him would look to him for council. He was told to fear no man but to reverence the power of God. He was told if he would clothe himself with power, the adversary would be subject to his will. When the spirit whispered to him he was to act and do so immediately. After giving the blessing, Oscar wondered if he was too bold, but the spirit commanded him to leave it as it stood.

Ch. 6 Service as a Missionary

At the dedication of the Cumorah Monument, President Grant emphasized that Moroni was present and had come to accept the offering.

Bruce chose his wife who was the one who **most nearly replicated the grace and goodness of his mother.**

He said in speaking against the prejudice against the church, that if a person could go to Jerusalem in the times of Christ, he would hear people say the same things about Jesus Christ that they were now saying about Joseph Smith. President McKay said when the scales of prejudice fall from people's eyes, they see Joseph Smith with a certain degree of pride.

He wrote in his journal several times of spending time in the presence of Moroni on Hill Cumorah.

Answering some antagonists when asked how many wives they had, he responded, ‘well we are still young, we only have 3 each.’ The district president said those investigators will likely come to church to learn more.

He would rate his speeches as good or poor, and record how many minutes the speeches were. He frequently rated his speeches poor. He bought a dictionary for his birthday and studied learning more vocabulary and to have a perfect diction.

He had a short companion and brought a wooden box for him to stand on. The Elder was nervous, and Bruce told him to not worry, that if he fell, it wouldn’t be very far.

Ch. 7 His Marriage

In countless talks he told people that “the most important single thing that any member of this Church does in this life is to marry the right person, in the right pace, by the right authority.”

Bruce didn’t need confirmation about his choice for who to marry, the obvious needed no confirmation.

At law school he had several anti-Mormon professors who went out of their way to make things particularly hard for him.

He said “I have always claimed to believe that Ph.D.’s and academic doctorates of all kinds were valued at a dime a dozen; now with inflation, some of them seem to be free for the asking.”

Though not enamored with men of supposed learning, he did highly prize education, and even mentioned in a conference talk his hope that his sons would earn doctoral degrees.

Joseph Fielding Smith Bruce's father-in-law.

At Joseph Fielding Smith's marriage, President Heber J Grant said "Joseph, kiss your wife." Of this Joseph said, "He said it like he meant it, and I have been doing it ever since."

Joseph F. Smith (father of J Fielding) spoke of when one of his children died at age 3. "The morning before she died, after being up with her all night, for I watched her every night, I said to her, 'My little pet did not sleep all night.' She shook her head and replied, 'I'll sleep today, papa.' Oh! How those little words shot through my heart. I knew though I would not believe, it was another voice, that it meant the sleep of death and she did sleep. And Oh! The light of my heart went out. The image of heaven graven in my soul was almost departed."

Bruce Jr. died an infant. At the funeral service, obviously under the direction of the spirit, Brother Smith told of the Prophet Joseph Smith saying that some spirits were too pure to go through this life, that they had advanced so far in the Spirit World that their only need was to obtain a body and then go back for the work they had to do. At the hospital, the baby opened his eyes and looked at us as an adult would do. He examined those present head to toe, then he closed his eyes and never opened them again.

President J Fielding was easily awoken by crying babies and would often walk the halls at night rocking grandchildren.

Ch. 8 The War Years

“Righteous men are entitled, expected, and obligated to defend themselves; they must engage in battle when there is no other way to preserve their rights and freedoms and to protect their families, homes, land, and the truths of salvation which they have espoused.”

Those of Germany and Russia were very hostile to religion.

He complained about a church manual that didn't have many scriptures of words or the modern prophets but had many scholars cited, many theories of men which were subliminally critical to traditional religious teachings.

Bruce was careful not to undermine General Authorities.

He spoke of how the US is not a democracy but a representative & constitutional republic. He loved the constitution as did his father, as much as life itself. He spoke of the US as the place where the gospel was restored, and the place from which it was sent out to the rest of the world. Civil control of religion is Lucifer's way of enforcing an enduring state of apostasy.

In a 1942 conference report J Reuben Clark spoke of the time when the constitution hangs by a thread being already fulfilled by that time.

Under no other government could the church have been restored.

J Reuben Clark spoke of the US Constitution is the basic law for all of the Americas, or Zion, as defined by the Lord (D&C 101:77-80).

Oscar had had negative experiences with the press. He said “When the truth is spoken, at the judgement bar of God, the press will have full representation in hell.”

Ch. 9 Called as a Seventy

At 31 he already had a reputation for speaking strongly and knowing the scriptures.

He said Elder Kimball was one of the most devoted men he had ever met.

When traveling by train to speaking assignments he used that time to write editorials for the Deseret News and study the scriptures.

Study the principles of the gospel, for “the Lord does not pour a testimony into a vacuum.”

“There is nothing in this world that I would rather do than have the privilege of preaching the gospel and of devoting such time and abilities as the Lord may bless me with to the building up of his kingdom.”

Between sessions of conference he was in his office working on editorials. He would return after conference and work into the night.

He asked Bishop Worthlin if the 1st ten conferences are the hardest, Bishop Worthlin replied “No. The hardest conference is always the one coming up.”

He served 26 years in the first council of the Seventy

For the 1st 25 years of their marriage they had **little time for vacation**. They would occasionally pack the family into the car to go on conference assignments together.

Ch. 10 Things Great and Small

Glen Rudd said of Bruce, “Many people thought Bruce was stiff and a bit arrogant, a kind of know-it-all, but he wasn’t. He was one of the sweetest, kindest individuals you could ever meet; he just didn’t know how to relax at the pulpit.” Bruce was very warm and friendly when not on formal assignment. Glen said “Bruce loved his wife. I’ve never seen a man more affectionate to a wife than he was. He liked to have her by him all the time.”

Bruce spoke with another of wanting to climb the highest mountain in site. 5 minutes later they took off to climb it, without any supplies.

Oscar blessed one of his sons James that he would write the greatest music ever written. James died prematurely, and was told by the Lord that this blessing was still to come to pass, that death did not discontinue blessings.

His wife wasn’t familiar with the concept of allowance when asked for it from their children. Their children were to save

half their earnings for their missions. This communicated to them that it was very important to go on their missions.

Joseph Fielding Smith was easy to please. If they were late somewhere traveling, it didn't bother him. He didn't seek special accommodations in his travels, and was always considerate and kind.

Someone said to Bruce to try and take it easy at the pulpit, to tell some interesting little stories, anecdotes, and humorous things. **Bruce said he would do what he could. He stood up and delivered his same style message.** He only had one thing on his mind when at the pulpit: to teach the people about the Savior and the Church. He was a teacher.

He never apologized for being inexperienced in some things. He simply said 'I've never had that experience, you know more about it than I do.' He said "Who am I to tell someone how to hold a high council meeting? I've never been to one. I just teach doctrine." Since he didn't have experience as an administrator, in leadership sessions of stake conferences he just taught doctrine.

Elder Harold B. Lee said at general conference "What might have been contrary to the order of heaven in the early 1830's might not be contrary to the order of heaven in 1960" (see page 178 for reference)

Ch. 11 The Mormon Doctrine Saga 1958 and 1966

-He took criticism very well. Spencer W. Kimball was assigned to be his mentor in changes to Mormon Doctrine.

-No one who personally knew Elder McConkie could question his integrity or discipline, and he was very obedient to priesthood direction.

-He timed himself to speak exactly the amount of time he was allotted.

-He followed counsel and minded his business.

-He said his negative comment about Catholics in his book, “it wasn’t smart on my part.”

-No suggestion that the title of the book be changed was ever made, even though at the time he was merely a Seventy.

-The writing of this book was back in a day before the Brethren did much writing, there weren’t established review systems.

-His practice was this: **When you are getting scolded, you offer no excuses, you just take it.**

-Since the book was to catalog doctrine not to rebuke heresies, much of the rebukes were dropped in the second edition (Note: Sort of a bummer; getting his full feelings on matters would be preferred.)

There was no editor. There were about 50 items Elder Kimball wanted Elder McConkie to revisit, they dealt with the word of wisdom, etc. Elder McConkie was very appreciative of the feedback. McConkie did lots of the rewriting on his own.

The standard Elder McConkie held out for the members caused many to squirm.

The first edition called **birth control “gross wickedness and “rebellion against God”**. Card playing was called **“apostasy and rebellion”**. Light speeches at church meetings were called **“highly offensive” to the spirit**.

His stand on organic evolution (that it's false and evil) was the primary reason people criticized the book. The discussion on evolution was the longest entry in the book. He referenced President John Taylor's words against Darwin as the official church doctrine but dropped that statement in a later edition. The second edition he wrote “how scrubby and groveling (changed in second edition to weak and puerile) the intellectuality which, knowing that the Lord's plan takes all forms of life from a pre-existent spirit state, through mortality, and on to an ultimate resurrected state of immortality, yet finds comfort in the theoretical postulates that mortal life began in the scum of the sea, as it were, and has through eons of time evolved to its present varieties and state! Do those with spiritual insight really think that the infinite Creator of worlds without number would operate in this way?” He said there is no harmony between these theories of organic evolution and revealed religion.

In the course of his ministry he did change his view on some doctrinal matters. He said any who serve as a general authority for 40 years and never change a view are not to be trusted. He was always anxious to grow and refine his views.

President Joseph Fielding Smith thought highly of the book and said he kept it at home where no one would borrow it and forget to return it.

His grandfather McConkie loved the book, and said if John the Revelator wanted to read it, he would have to do so at his house, and not go off with it.

The manager of Bookcraft (the publisher) never got a single complaint about the book.

The author doesn't know of a single instance in which Elder McConkie was asked to change or chose to change his doctrinal position in subsequent editions of the book. The essence of each entry remains the same.

“To read a written sermon, except under very unusual circumstances, is a mockery of sacred things. There may be a few instances in which sermons may be read, just as there are a few formal occasions when prayers may be read” such as dedication of a temple. But usually, “a written sermon does no more than bear record that the preacher has neither the knowledge to draw upon, the faith to rely on the Spirit, nor the ability to attune himself to the spirit of inspiration.”

While he walked he often mentally organized talks, and gave talks to himself.

Elder McConkie spoke with a breadth of subjects similar to Brigham Young. Few have done this.

Ch. 12 The Australia Years 1961-1964

“Being a mission president is the best job in the world.”

He felt that missionary work and enjoying life were not mutually exclusive.

He tolerated occasional mistakes, and expected them to use innovative finding and teaching methods.

In one televised meeting he pointed to a Catholic priest on one side of him and a Methodist on the other and said, “Now, on this side we have a representative of the fallen apostolic faith and on the other side we have one who represents those who rebelled against them but lacked priesthood authority. And here [pointing to himself], in the middle, we have the restored gospel of Christ in all of its magnificent glory, having the Lord’s legal administrators who are authorized to baptize the faithful.” He said after the program to them “Well, brethren, until we meet in the unity of the faith, cheerio.”

He never missed the chance to extend to those to whom he spoke the invitation to be baptized.

He fought attitudes of priesthood leaders who said to go slow when preaching, to have missionaries do meetings where the gospel isn’t even mentioned. He fought the attitudes of the Australians, who claimed they didn’t take things fast like the Americans.

He told his missionaries that the mission had a policy of baptizing in even numbers, and told his missionaries to go find someone else to also baptize at that night’s baptism. They did.

At a conference, he asked if any were in attendance that knew the message was true but had been resisting baptism due to some worthiness issue. He found there was, and he got up and preached for 50 minutes on the necessity of baptism. He decided that he could, like Wilford Woodruff, preach a

sermon then have people come up for baptism. He announced there would be a baptismal service after the conference where some in attendance would be baptized and told them the Lord expected them to respond and come into the church. One man's wife said her husband was ready for baptism, he resisted, and Bruce told him he could come peaceably or he would have one of the elders help him carry him. He put his arm under the man's and lifted him slightly off the floor and marched him to the baptismal room and told him to get dressed. The man turned out to be very grateful. He **needed someone to tell him there was no turning back**. 13 were baptized by the end of that district conference.

The father of a recent convert told the missionaries to get out of his house. The district fasted and prayed and went back. He was very mad, but within 45 minutes they had him on his knees praying.

One woman yelled and swore at President McConkie, accusing him of vile things. Bruce said "I entertained the devil tonight."

One young man was a chain smoker, and on his way to becoming an alcoholic, he was converted, and called by the mission president to labor as a missionary.

His wife had not been set apart as a missionary, there was no reason why not, so he set her apart, blessing her with the gift of testimony which would bring many into the kingdom.

He **rarely made formal preparation for the talks he gave**.

He would honor a request to speak but **felt no obligation to confine the Spirit to someone else's topic.**

He prepared himself to **speak specifically in response to falsehoods being perpetuated** by a Protestant radio ministry.

He encouraged people to read the Book of Mormon for themselves rather than relying on opinions of experts. One man claimed to have read it. He told him to pray about it. The man said he told God to strike him dead if the book is true. Bruce replied "But you have to have faith."

He wrote this called "My Commission" related to being a missionary:

"I AM CALLED OF GOD.

My authority is above that of the kings of the earth.

By revelation I have been selected as the personal representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is my Master and he has chosen me to represent him; to stand in his place; to say and do what he himself would say and do if he personally were ministering among the very people to whom he has sent me.

My voice is his voice, and my acts are his acts; my words are his words, and my doctrine is his doctrine – for I am his agent.

My commission is to do what he wants done, to say what he wants said, to be a living, modern witness – in word and deed – of the divinity of his great and marvelous latter-day work. And he that receiveth me, receiveth him, while he that rejecteth me, rejecteth him that sent me.

How great is my calling!”

He also wrote this called “My Mission” related to being a missionary:

“I AM A MISSIONARY.

My blessings are above those of the kings of the earth.

In my hands I hold the pearl of great price.

Mine is the same gospel taught by Paul, the same plan of salvation preached by Peter, the same saving truths which sanctified Enoch and Elijah.

I rejoice in the same priesthood held by Abraham and Melchizedek.

It is my right to see visions as did Nephi; to teach and testify as did Alma; to entertain angels and work miracles as did Nephi the Disciple; to receive revelations as did Joseph the Seer; to walk daily in the light of the Spirit as did Wilford Woodruff; to enjoy all of the gifts and graces which that Holy Being, who is no respecter of persons, always pours out upon those who love and serve him.
How great are my blessings!”

He told his missionaries to go to those in the missionary records who had been acquainted with the missionaries for some time and to tell them you have been acquainted with the missionaries for some time, it is time to get baptized, we expect you to be baptized.

He tried to buy equipment for the mission, it was \$1000. He would need to go through SLC and red tape to make any purchase of \$1000 or more, so he got the salesman to sell it to him for \$999. He was known for **getting things done on**

his own without bothering SLC. Thomas S. Monson said that the entire time Bruce was a mission president in Australia, **he only called SLC 3 times over those 3 years.** Monson used this as an example to tell mission presidents in training that they didn't need to call SLC every time they had a problem.

Bruce had a high priest put in as an elders quorum president when he found it necessary on one occasion. One disgruntle member reported this to President Benson in a leadership meeting. President Benson said "I'm sorry I can't hear the question." He repeated the question 3 times and got the same answer from President Benson 3 times, then the man finally got it and dropped the question.

He said **all great men climb mountains**, Moses, the brother of Jared, Nephi, etc. He held a meeting with his missionaries on a mountain top.

Whenever we **tune our souls to the wavelength on which the Holy Ghost is broadcasting, we will receive revelation, for he is a revelator.** Attuned thus, we can see the vision of D&C 76, or anything else expedient for us to see. This will all happen with compliance to law. He explained that this is similar to television picture transmission through space, and that we can know it occurs without a perfect knowledge of how.

The sort of thing that we ought to desire above all else if we are spiritually inclined is to know what the Lord would have us do

When he left his mission, 4 times as many people were being baptized per year as when he first came.

Of his time as mission president he said “**Our greatest achievement was the saving of delinquent missionaries.**” The next great achievement he said was delegating authority to local leaders to prepare several areas to become stakes.

He was **up consistently at 5 or 5:30**

He memorized the 104 lines of the poem “The Man From Snowy River” so he could quote it to his missionaries as he drove them to the airport on their way home.

Ch. 13 Family Traditions

“**True greatness is found only in the family.**”

For breakfast he always ate the same **whole wheat mush**. His wife ground the wheat in an old coffee grinder. Store bought cereal was only for special occasions, as there were 8 children in the family.

Bruce’s **prayers always included that his sons would go on missions, and that his sons and daughters would marry in the temple**. It never occurred to his children to do otherwise. His role model which he considered perfect was a man with 12 children who all married in the temple, and which family fulfilled 12 missions. Bruce’s 8 children all married in the temple, and fulfilled 8 missions.

Bruce always **kissed his wife goodbye** after breakfast. Before Bruce came home, his wife would finish her work, change her clothes, and **doll herself up for him**.

He would lay on the living room floor and read the Deseret News.

He was devoid of vanity, believing the **message is what mattered, not the appearance of the messenger**. He had holes in his socks and his wife urged him to not wear them at conference, but he said **if they can't keep their eyes off of my socks he didn't deserve their attention**.

They got a TV just because someone gave it to them. **Bruce never watched it**. He didn't use the car radio either. As he traveled, he planned and organized talks.

He enjoyed birdwatching.

When he had a free Saturday he would wake his kids early to go hike saying "Come on, great men climb mountains."

To avoid a falling rock his son was about to warn him but didn't have time, so the spirit told him to move, and he did in the nick of time.

Bruce couldn't cook at all.

The **importance of learning is something caught, not taught**. Children learn to love what their parents do. In their home, a love of the gospel was preeminent.

He **treated high school athletics with tolerance rather than excitement**. His enthusiasm was reserved for things like mission calls. He only gave praise for things that mattered.

His son (the author of this book) had a knee injury and so had to stop basketball and joined the debate team. Bruce

marched around singing saying, “My son is going to use his brain, my son is going to use his brain.”

He didn’t give his children an allowance, they were expected to help.

Half of everything his children earned was to be saved for a mission fund.

He **spoke about the gospel constantly**. He wasn’t phony and didn’t seek to impress others.

He didn’t suggest to people that they were something they were not.

Bruce and his wife **didn’t bribe their children to read scriptures or nag them about religious duties**; instead they loved those things and their children imitated the example. Their children learned to put the Lord 1st by watching their parents do so.

He usually gave his children gifts of books, always with a note inside

He wrote to his son “The most important single thing that any Latter-day Saint ever does in this world is to marry the right person, in the right place, by the right authority.”

He didn’t write his sons serving missions about what was going on at home, he wrote them Paul-like epistles.

He didn’t teach his children sports, mechanics, etc., for he didn’t know these things. He taught them hard work: to sweat, get blisters, and a sore back as part of a well-rounded life.

When his children asked gospel questions he didn't always answer immediately, but had them think. He would ask questions in return, which would show their level of understanding and how much thought they had put into the matter.

When someone was spiritually mature, he would answer their question. When someone spiritually immature asked the same question, he would say "I don't know."

He didn't bless each child as they started school, but rather blessed them on occasions such as missionary and military service or marriage. These blessings were recorded, they contained counsel and prophecy the equal of a blessing from an inspired patriarch. Each blessing was distinctly different.

Rather than letting his children chose the subject they would speak on in church, he assigned it, and he **always assigned them to speak on the First Vision & bear testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet.**

There was **no small talk about the weather or recent sporting events, nor concern about recent political** affairs when Bruce and his father-in-law Joseph Fielding Smith got together to talk. They always immediately talked about the gospel.

Each week they visited both sets of grandparents. Back then people knew how to visit.

Bruce and his wife belonged to groups who met monthly to discuss the gospel.

His mother insisted her **married children meet together frequently to study the gospel all together**. His dad would send people home to get their scriptures if they showed up without them. Bruce followed the same pattern with his married children.

Bruce would always use the scriptures as the source for teaching rather than himself or his experiences. He was **very guarded about his experiences and rarely shared them** with others. He told his son, **“Did it ever occur to you that you don’t teach gospel principles with stories?”** He thus taught that we shouldn’t expect the emotional impact of stories to carry the gospel, but to let the principles stand on their own, and let the Holy Ghost carry a witness of them to people.

When his father began to have health problems, he became very concerned with watching his weight and exercising. He often walked almost 8 miles to the church office buildings. He took up jogging at age 65 and would sometimes just run then call his wife to pick him up wherever he got too tired to continue. He sometimes ran 15 miles. He wanted to run a marathon and sometimes watched those runners in July.

Christmas morning everyone dressed, made their beds, ate, and would line up on the stairs according to age. Then, Bruce would go into the living room, turn on the tree lights and see if Santa really came. He was always surprised. Christmas dinners were filled with telling of memories, laughing and crying together.

His father assured them before his death that after his death he would not cease to love pray for and be concerned about them.

Bruce usually spoke last at meetings but was prompted to speak first. He did so, then was notified about the worsening health condition of his father and was able to immediately leave for the hospital.

He wasn't pleased by gifts, no one could figure out what to give him. His son gave him a manuscript he had written to review, this pleased him very much.

Ch. 14 What Was It Like (to be his child)

Bruce said **"I would never brag about my children. If they are worth bragging about, someone else will do it for me."**

"his knowledge of the gospel, his love of God, and **relentless pursuit of gospel truths were not appended to an office or calling. No office added to them**, and no office could take from them. It is for the man to make the office, not the office to make the man." Pg. 246

"My father never threw a ball to me, never took me hunting or camping, nor did he have any idea how to change the oil in a car."

He was gone virtually every Sunday on conference assignments.

He didn't teach his kids to tie a tie, or attend their Scouting awards. He never took them to a ball game. They never went to a movie together. **"In short, we were not a recreationally minded family."**

He didn't teach them patience, he expected them to work with him quickly in the yard etc.

Activities they did together were work projects of tile, shingling, digging a root cellar, painting a house.

When he came **home in the evening and his son wasn't working the first thing he would say was "Mother, isn't there something Joseph can be doing?"**

Their mother taught them to garden weed and irrigate as Bruce was gone so often.

Bruce was fearless of sweat and calluses, for himself and his children.

His son's memories of him are ministering to the sick, instructing priesthood leaders, teaching the gospel, and listening to his remarkable conversations.

Joseph (his son, the author of this biography) realized he hadn't missed out on what mattered.

His son said he wanted to exercise his agency to not go to church one day. Bruce assured him he had **agency which in his family meant you could go to church willingly, or go unwillingly**, the choice is yours.

Joseph expounds on agency, relating that the baptism covenant means a commitment to go to church, and that **agency means "the right to act, the right to do our duty. It is not and cannot be the source of excuse for refusing to do the same."** Pg. 248

When his son received his mission call, Bruce said to him, **“Now, son, what I want you to do is to read the Book of Mormon and report.” His son did this, then Bruce repeated the instruction 2 more times.** After this Bruce said, “Now we’ve laid the foundation. **You are ready to begin** your study of the Book of Mormon.” Then he tutored Joseph in the meaning of the book.

He told his son, who hadn’t had a better grade than a C in English class, “You will yet write books, and when you do, you be sure that they are worthy of your name.”

“He never just answered a question. He would always ask “find out” questions first. He wanted to know what we had done by way of preparation. His answers were an expression of the confidence he had in you. Usually you had to prime the pump – he didn’t just volunteer information. You had to almost twist his arm and prove that you were hungry to learn.” Pg. 250-1

Sometimes the answer to his son’s questions was “Look, junior, you have the same sources available to you that I do to me.” He was teaching a weaning now that he had been taught how to learn.

D&C 9 says to not just ask God questions, but to try to figure things out, make your best conclusions, then seek confirmation. This is how his son asked him about gospel questions. Sometimes it seemed at the **beginnings** of these conversations Bruce didn’t know the answer to his son’s questions. Sometimes they disagreed.

Joseph points out the saying that “It has been said that a teacher has succeeded when you no longer need him.” Bruce created a well of understanding in his children.

Bruce said **no one is required to “drink below the horses”, meaning, don’t rely on the spiritual experiences of others.**

J. Reuben Clark said to Marion G. Romney **that we shouldn’t fawn to the world for approval. We don’t care when they have things to say against us, so we should likewise not care when they have things to say in favor of us.** Don’t seek confirmation from the world. Pg.252

He was anxious for his return missionary son to marry. He said, “Son, don’t you think you ought to have a goal? How many dates do you think you should have each week?”

His son began to tell him of a **girl he liked whom he had met a week and a half ago. Bruce said “marry her.” He explained, “You’ve heard the story of Isaac and Rebekah, haven’t you?” (they met, walked into Sarah’s tent, were married, and loved each other) He continued, “Certainly you’re as smart as Isaac, aren’t you?”**

He read the standard works cover to cover in preparation to write each volume of his Messiah series. For the promised messiah, he read them through looking for all of those promises. For millennial Messiah, he read them through again looking for all those promises, etc. He used this as the basis for the book rather than quotes from scholars and experts. No research grants. No compilation of quotes.

He only quoted others in books when he found they could say it better than he could, and if it squared with the scriptures. He said, “Last week I quoted Parley P. Pratt for the first time my life.”

He said we can’t leave the pondering and praying to others and experts or we experience spiritual atrophy.

On one occasion Joseph had to explain doctrine to some experts. Instead of helping him, Bruce said “he is doing just fine” and slipped out of the room.

He said teach gospel principles not just faith promoting stories.

He said “**teach what they should have asked you to teach.**”

No office can bestow faith

“Everyone is **responsible for what they believe and what they choose not to believe.** No office can excuse them from that responsibility.”

Joseph Fielding Smith was repeatedly invited to a Christmas open house by a man for whom he had great love and respect, but he **never attended because it was always held on a Sunday.**

The measure of a person’s **spirituality can be determined by his loyalty to the prophet Joseph** Smith. Revelations of the restoration are the key to understanding the bible. It’s easier to convert someone to the truth of the Book of Mormon than to bring them to a correct understanding of what the bible is really teaching. To study the **bible without**

the aid of modern revelation was the same as denying that we have living prophets.

Some said he ‘went beyond the period at the end of the sentence’ in his explanations. He replied, **“If you can’t go beyond the period that ends the sentence, you don’t have the Spirit;** and if you don’t have the Spirit, you shouldn’t be teaching.” A gospel teacher has the right to interpret scripture & expound on it. (Joseph points out how this is not a stretch when we consider how God gives priesthood to every worthy man. The fact that agency and priesthood are misused sometimes doesn’t justify doing away with either.) Scriptures are **sufficiently ambiguous** so that those desiring to misconstrue them may do so. This is **intentional** on the Lord’s part, allowing how we interpret scripture to be a test of our spiritual integrity.

Asked how to discern between unrighteous domain and proper use of priesthood authority, he replied “you don’t!” **Don’t constantly question what your leaders tell** you to do. Those who don’t constantly question them have a rich portion of the spirit. When asked **who was going to talk at General Conference, he replied “Peter James & John.”** The First Presidency was to speak, and it was the same to him. He said, “I just do what the Brethren tell me.” When the prophet President Kimball told the saints to grow a garden, he did not consider himself excused as he was an apostle. He created a garden space in his yard despite there not being a natural place for one.

“True greatness is found only in the family.” His favorite topic to preach on was eternal marriage. He took considerable interest in those whom his children chose to date. One of his daughters told a man who asked her out that

he **would need a temple recommend to date her.** He came to their home, **and spoke with Bruce while she waited** in the kitchen. He gave Bruce a letter from his bishop attesting to his worthiness. Bruce carefully reviewed the letter and asked follow-up questions. Only when that was done was his daughter allowed to make her appearance. There was no question in the minds of his children as to who was acceptable for them to date.

In the revelations the **blessings associated with missionary work are almost always associated with the missionary, not the convert.** He motivated **missionaries** by telling them the doctrine that they were there **to work out their own salvation.**

“It is **certainly not important whether people have a white collar or a blue collar job.**” He considered the **amount of money people had** was usually the result of accident or chance, and it **mattered little.** When it comes to jobs, “Don’t try to choose the thing that will make life easy. **Look for something that will make life hard.**”

He told his son’s roommate to ensure his son was not spending too much time studying the scriptures at university, and that he spent sufficient time studying for his classes.

When asked if there was ‘a special strain of savior gods’ he replied **“What earthly good could possibly come from teaching such a thing?”** If a doctrine is good, its fruits will be good, and vice versa. The doctrine of an elite line with different standards & laws would not help us.

Note: It’s most likely a false doctrine anyway. The more likely and reasonable truth is that an exalted man (any who qualify)

qualify their firstborn in the spirit to be a savior of a large cohort of their spirit children who will inhabit many worlds.

He would only tell certain stories during talks if the spirit affirmed to do so.

He could recognize the promptings of the spirit with perfect surety, some perceived that as arrogance.

Ch. 15 The Nature of the Man

“Tell them to warm up the tar. I’m coming to speak.”

Detractors only added to his confidence. He knew Joseph Smith was to be spoken of for good and evil over all the earth, and that if he echoed the doctrines of Joseph Smith, his name would be treated similarly. Criticism followed him like a shadow. “The measure of a man is not found in who speaks well of him but who speaks against him. It is just as important to have the right enemies as it is to have the right friends.” Pg. 265 He wanted all of his writing to offend the Devil. He didn’t seek the praise of others. He didn’t care what topic he would speak on, he only cared about being in tune with the spirit.

He was an agent of the Lord. **“Agents represent their principal. They have no power of their own.** They act in someone else’s name. They do what they are told to do. They say what they are authorized to say – nothing more, nothing less.” Christ is the messenger of the covenant. Reject him, and we reject the covenant he brought. In general conference he said **“What I am saying is what the Lord would say if he were here.”**

Note: Similarly, I once taught a group of missionaries to follow the instruction of our mission president, because if Jesus Christ were the mission president, he would be asking us to do the same thing, and the spirit confirmed the message.

Sometimes prophets grew very old. When asked why the Lord allows that he said, “Whenever the prophet ceases to be a vigorous voice, all the wolves come out to bay. Perhaps this is the Lord’s way of allowing the wolves to identify themselves.” P.266

He had **no interest in style** or fashion. He wore short sleeved shirts and didn’t know what a power tie is. When his hair was cut badly, he didn’t mind, he just said “it would probably grow back”. He relaxed in clothes that were well worn and comfortable. He didn’t mind socks with holes. He didn’t like suits and ties and only put them on when going to a meeting or his office.

He wasn’t critical when priesthood leaders made procedural mistakes.

He did not dominate discussions. He had to be prodded to talk. “When asked about his reluctance to say much around his extended family, he expressed concern about being misquoted and about having sacred things sensationalized. There were very few people with whom he dared shed his office to truly be himself. **In teaching, he rarely shared personal experiences.**” P.267 His brother Oscar shared instances of his brother's life to illustrate principles. He told Oscar if he did that again he would not be called to speak again.

He had no interest in being cute or funny. He learned this from his father and from Joseph Fielding Smith. If they said something funny while speaking it was unintentional. They weren't storytellers, and didn't feel the gospel had to be compatible or light-minded.'

When his son (the author of this biography) **made some clever quips at his mission farewell, one person said he would be a good missionary. Bruce said, loud enough for him to hear, "Well, if he can preach the gospel as well as he does nonsense, he will be fine."**

This being said, Bruce was not humorless, and it was always pleasant being with him. He watched birds at 5am, and collected and polished rocks in his garage.

He was terrible at singing, but sang hymns most of the way on a trip with his daughter. He knew all the **words to all the verses of an hour's worth of hymns.** He did **not like popular music.**

His method of **studying the scriptures**, as well as the method of Joseph Fielding Smith, was basically that they had **no method.** They just studied **frequently, consistently and intensely.** Bruce "had a score of loose-leaf binders full of scriptural notations and analyses of every doctrine he found in his study of the Book of Mormon. **He always studied with a purpose.**" P.274

He could not read a book without marking it up. After **finishing it he would write the date he finished it, and a review** of the book. To one book about ancient Israel his note was: "100% anti-Christ, 75% anti-Jewish, 50% pro-Baal & Pro Canaanite, Of questionable historical accuracy, Highly

speculative, Unreliable, Written with a bias intent to foster unbelief, Not objective in any sense, Almost pure hogwash” Some other book reviews he wrote “not inspired writing” and “Splendid Fiction!” and “not a word of truth in it” etc.

People asked **when he found time to write**. His wife said “on my time”. He made good use of holidays, days off, etc. when free from other assignments. His wife said, “more correctly, however, the answer should have been **all the time**”. His wife said “Although he was a fun-loving, normal, well-balanced, and interesting person, **he seemed to have the gospel on his mind all the time.**” Instead of flowers in vases they kept pencils and **pens in flower vases, in drawers, on tables, and especially a shirt pocket with a bit of paper**, available for when a thought came so it could be promptly recorded. He had to write while the inspirational juices were flowing. “Then those thoughts were organized, and outlines made, and when he began to write on the typewriter, he seldom had to change a word.” There were innumerable notes with ideas written on them for talks books etc.

“People were always asking him questions; therefore the subjects he chose to write about were chosen because he felt a need for them.”

He wasn’t the least upset by those who were critical. “He did not care about what they had to say as long as he felt it was what the Lord wanted said.” P.276

As he walked to and from campus while a student, he would assign himself gospel subjects to organize and speak on. He followed that practice when he had to drive long distances as a general authority.

“One evening when Dad was lying on the floor reading the paper and she [his wife] was reciting a litany of things they ought to be doing. Dad’s response to all of it was a loving “Amelia, relax.” P.277

He **warned against becoming “truer than true”**, and made time to relax. He said nuttiness/fanaticism in one area makes it a short step to nuttiness/fanaticism in another. We **can’t practice one virtue at the expense of another virtue.**

“The Lord doesn’t reveal himself to blabbermouths.” P.278

“it’s not who you are in the kingdom that counts; it’s how well you keep the commandments.”

“Life was never intended to be easy.” “The pursuit of easy things makes men weak.”

He **chastised one writer for taking an entirely different view on the scriptures than what the prophets had.**

“When the Lord comes he will find in every nation and among every people the Saints of God who, speaking every language, will then be qualified to live and reign on earth with him a thousand years. Whenever a stake of Zion is created in any part of the earth, that portion of the earth’s surface becomes Zion and the gathering of Israel then consists of coming to that area...We do not believe that the Saints will come out of all nations and gather to Jackson County before the Second Coming. We do believe that Zion will be built up in all nations before the Lord comes, and that after he arrives there will be added glorious things connected with the gathering of Israel...Eventually the whole earth will become Zion.” P.280

His usual policy is to not engage in theological debates

Note: I remember hearing of one address of his where he slammed the pulpit (I believe it was at the MTC) and loudly said “We do not bible bash! We do not bible bash! **We do not bible bash! But when we do, we win!**”

He chastised one for applying scriptures to the wrong group of people.

Someone saw him walking in a hall and quickly approached him saying, “Elder McConkie, you once said...” Before he could utter another word Bruce said, “**Son, if I said it, it was true**” and kept walking.

One missionary wanted to go home. **He told the boys father to relax and let the mission president run the mission.** One of the Brethren called him to assure he knew what he was doing, he assured him he did. He kept the boy’s passport locked in a safe, and the boy couldn’t get a new one from the Consul without his approval. The missionaries sang a song which said, “President McConkie’s favorite word is no. Elder _____ will tell you so.” Another boy wanted to leave and went on a hunger strike and lost 30 pounds in 30 days and many other things to try and get out of the country. President McConkie **made it clear that his only way to leave the country was to die**, in which case he would bury him in Australia, or to start swimming, in which case the sharks would get him. Eventually the boy snapped out of it and **later thanked** him for insisting he stay and make a man out of himself. P.282

He was not the kind of leader who had to have his hands on everything. “As an Apostle he desired to do only those things

that were apostolic, while trusting others to labor in their own callings and offices.”

He gave assignments and expected people to follow through. When they did he praised them publicly. When they didn't he spoke to them about it privately. Soon he had the best running ward in the stake, with all their statistics improving. Bishops who tried to run everything themselves didn't have thriving wards. “I loaded everything I could on my counselors and expected them to do the work.” He doesn't do anything as president of a stake which others can't do. He had his counselors do the interviews, and shorten the interviews if they couldn't fit them all in, etc. As an Apostle it was the same. He said **if the angel Moroni came to visit, he wouldn't teach about making family group sheets, but would expound doctrine. He was not excited about administrative meetings, he was a teacher.** He said “running a committee is not that hard,” that the “management fellows” didn't get things done any better than he did.

He showed his kids hate mail sent to him to remind his kids that there was opposition.

He witnessed leaders being where different people were inspired to call the same person independently, and that person not being on the suggested interviewed list of people. This was a person who converted to the Church from the Reorganized Church 15 months prior.

He said he never spoke at a Saturday session without hearing himself misquoted at meetings the following day.

Ch. 16 As He Saw It

“It is the practice of the Lord to give added knowledge to those upon whose hearts the true meanings and intents of the scriptures have been impressed.

He said as the early brethren, “The kingdom of God or nothing.”

He said concerning spiritual and intellectual concerns, “We don’t want the pendulum to swing too far one way or the other.”

He said, the “practice of the Church was the interpretation of the scriptures.”

When his stake president Marion G Romney found out he was in law school, he released him from being a stake missionary. McConkie taught to be **careful about giving assignments to people busy** with such things.

He doubted that the second coming would happen in the lifetime of his grandchildren.

Note: No one knows the hour. We also know that before the second coming, many epic zion events happen, possibly decades before the second coming, so exciting times are at the door. There are many unknowns. Personally I believe it is sooner than apparently McConkie estimated it. The grandchildren of McConkie would now be adults.

Things to occur before Christ’s return include the gospel being taught in every nation (Rev. 14:6-7) in their own tongue (D&C 90:11) by their own people (Alma 29:8), and the congregations of the saints would be in all nations (1 Ne.

14:12) presided over by people who've received the fullness of the gospel (Rev. 5:9-10).

McConkie taught against the idea of the personal relationship with Christ, of singling out one member of the Godhead for "a special relationship." If we were to do such, it would be with the Father.

He taught that people shouldn't continually seek "special blessings," depending on others for such.

He taught people going on dates shouldn't pray together, that such spiritual intimacy should be reserved for marriage.

He taught people to make their own decision about who to marry, not to ask others who to marry. Use good judgment and don't insist on a heavenly revelation. Don't ask the Lord to make the decision for you.

He taught if you go out of this life on the straight and narrow, you go on to an eternal reward in the Father's kingdom. You don't need to feel that you have to be perfect to be saved. You can't fall off of the straight and narrow in the life to come. This life is the time to prepare for eternity. Work zealously in this life and you'll be saved. Stay in the mainstream of the church, live upright, and for all practical purposes, your calling and election is made sure, the end result will be the same.

The vast majority of those who followed Christ in the premortal life will be saved in the celestial kingdom. The Matt. 7:14 on "strait is the gate, and narrow is the way...and few there be that find it" is about the Savior's day and ours. But many will receive the gospel from the preaching in the

spirit world, many received it in Enoch's city, the city of Salem, after the visit of Christ in the New World, and other places the Savior visited, and in the Millennium many more will gain salvation than the rest of the history of the earth. He said "All faithful saints, all who have endured to the end, depart this life with the absolute guarantee of eternal life."

Joseph Fielding Smith preached at a funeral "that no righteous man is ever taken before his time."

The welfare state worked against some relying on the Lord for temporal support as they relied on the government instead. This was a common view in Europe, and the Europeans were more exclusive about different cultures. In America where all were seen as created equal before the law and entitled to be treated with respect created an environment where people felt free to exchange views and change their lifestyles, so they were more open to the gospel.

His notes for his message "Three Pillars of Eternity" in a 1981 BYU devotional said "Evolution is not a science; it is a religion. It is not an objective analysis of what is found in a test tube; it does not involve experiments that all researchers can duplicate. It is, rather, a mass of theoretical postulates by which its devotees seek to explain the origin and destiny of man without reference to revelation."

He knew people labeled him as a bigot for renouncing evolution, but he noted that in true science, no offense is taken when someone attacks a tenet, because facts stand on their own.

His 1982 article published in the Ensign at the request of the First Presidency detailed scriptural conflicts of the theory of evolution.

When the revelation granting priesthood to all worthy males came (including blacks) he said “Forget everything that I have said, or what President Brigham Young or President George Q. Cannon or whoever has said in days past that is contrary to the present revelation. We spoke with a limited understanding and without the light and knowledge that now has come into the world.” (From “All are alike unto God” message delivered to the Church Educational System in SLC, Aug. 18 1978, in Charge to Religious Educators, 2nd Ed. 152-155. In this biography volume on p299)

He expected sons to do better than their fathers.

He noticed that the Russians were good at promoting their country and used lots of propaganda to get their message over, but that the US was very bad at it, just showing a few displays of astronauts to the moon. The US weren’t willing to brag about their constitution etc.

Some scriptures have dual interpretations.

In the Promised Messiah p515 he taught, “Those who preach by the power of the Holy Ghost use the scriptures as their basic source of knowledge and doctrine.” That they “...begin with what the Lord has before revealed to other inspired men.” That the Lord gives more knowledge to those who know the meanings and intents of scriptures. He gives them additional information which those who don’t know the scriptures can never have. They teach what the prophets have taught AND what is taught them by the Comforter through

the prayer of faith (D&C 52:9). The true living church applies teachings from the past to current situations.

He taught that we can't present the message of the restoration independent of the testimony of Joseph Smith. We can't just profess faith in Christ, we must profess our faith in that Christ revealed to Joseph Smith the Prophet. He said, "Joseph Smith is the revealer of the knowledge of Christ for our dispensation. If it were not for him and the witness and testimony he has given, we would not have more knowledge than the sectarian world has; hence, we bear testimony of Joseph Smith."

He said "Now I'm not too impressed with the fact that we try to be very soft and very gentle in all the visitors centers and in the missionary work and in everything else, just trying to leave people feeling good. I think we've got a message, and it ought to be delivered. It's a worldwide message, and our centering should be on Joseph Smith. Here is Joseph Smith and he revealed Christ, and here is Christ, and here is salvation through this system. That kind of approach will have the effect of dividing people on one hand or the other, but so you divide them. You divide them- you get some people who are interested. You don't make friends with everyone."

President Clark said you can't tell the Joseph Smith story without offending people.

President Clark said we don't need to be so anxiously concerned about not offending the world.

President Clark said "Jesus offended people. now we are trying not trying to offend people but he offended them by

the nature of the message that he presented, and we, in my judgment, just have to more affirmatively present our message."

Elder McConkie conducted a missionary training center survey of their testimony where he asked missionaries to rate whether they knew believed didn't know or doubted the doctrines of:

1. God is my father the father of my spirit
2. Jesus is the Christ the son of God
3. Joseph Smith is a prophet of God
4. the Book of Mormon is the word of God
5. Spencer W Kimball is a prophet of God today.

The lowest rated of these were item three Joseph Smith is a prophet of God and item for the Book of Mormon is the word of God. To this elder McConkie said quote **"something's wrong. Something's terribly wrong!"**

Elder McConkie said "maybe in our efforts as a church to ensure that everyone knows we are Christian, we have gone too far. A while back we changed our missionary discussions to make our first discussion a message about Christ. It seemed at the time a good thing to do, given that Jesus is the head of the church. But what was the result? A decrease in convert baptisms and a decrease in the number of copies of the Book of Mormon placed by full-time missionaries from 1 million per year to 500,000. We are not teaching the restoration as we ought to."

Elder McConkie said "we will never achieve the quantity and quality of converts that President Kimball and the Lord have envisioned as long as we continue to stress the similarities

between us and those of other faiths. It is only when we stress the differences that we are able to make our distinctive contribution in the world and thus make our influence felt."

D&C 5:10 and 20:11-17 and 31:3-4 and 49:1-4 say we must be true to the restoration.

We are under condemnation because of our neglect of the Book of Mormon and Latter-Day revelation says D&C 84:54-61.

Ch. 17 A Time to Laugh

When elder McConkie was called to preside over a mission in Australia he said "well, I have been writing again." (As in, it was to get him to shut up.)

He explained that being a general authority means that administrative authority delegated overlaps local boundaries. And the general authorities are subject to the strict discipline the Lord always imposes on his saints and those who preside over them. He said many were qualified and could be general authorities if called upon. He said general authorities may not be authorities in the sense of doctrinal knowledge, the intricacies of church procedures, or the receipt of the promptings of the spirit. That a call to an **administrative position of itself adds little knowledge or power of discernment.**

When he was a boy he would walk around with a broom handle between his elbows and his back to ensure the habit of standing straight and tall.

Ch. 18 Call to the Apostleship

For McConkie knowledge of the divinity of Christ was the result of personal revelation.

When Elder Marion G. Romney called Oscar McConkie (Bruce's younger brother) to be a stake president, Romney said, "Now, Oscar, when you speak, **make sure you are right, because the way you say it is going to make people mad anyway.**"

McConkie never left an assignment unfinished; what could be done tomorrow, he did today.

"The family unit and working in the cause of righteousness are more important than any position. Service is essential to salvation, but the place where we serve is not."

People not called to leadership positions in this life could well be called to such positions in the spirit world. He also foresaw a **future day when the church organization we now have will no longer exist**. Apostles and prophets continue until there is unity in the faith, so at some point in the millennium they won't be needed. All will be converted, we won't need special witnesses.

Entitlement to exaltation and your place in the patriarchal order depends on how you live (not positions held).

Ch. 19 Among the Nations

In the name of the God of Israel, he commanded bodies to mend and organs to function.

Buddhists by instinct think the family unit exists after death. A Lutheran minister tried to convince Buddhists that this wasn't the case, then the Mormon film "Man's Search for Happiness" showed the family indeed as continuing in heaven. When the Lutheran asked why our missionaries preach not just to the Buddhists but also to the Christians, Elder McConkie said, "we think it is just as important for a Lutheran to be saved as it is for a Buddhist." He also related the first vision to this minister, then the minister left. Some missionaries lingered with the minister and the minister said he didn't want to talk to McConkie. Hearing this, McConkie said, "if I were a Lutheran minister, I wouldn't want to talk to me either."

A native boy shined his shoe, it was larger than the boy had ever shined, the boy kept measuring it in astonishment, so Bruce paid him double.

Ch. 20 The Nature of His Ministry

One couple tried to teach that a person should pray to Christ. McConkie taught them this was wrong. The couple was not satisfied and tried to speak with President Harold Lee. Lee declined to meet with them and advised them that if they did not follow the counsel given them the spirit of the adversary would have power over them.

McConkie said of this, "this is a perfect illustration of how **doctrinal misjudgment can lead people away from the**

truth and eventually out of the church. People begin to believe something that is not taught by the church, then they refuse to accept the council of those whose right it is to interpret the doctrines, then they feel the church is out of line and they are right, and finally they begin to criticize the brethren. The spirit of the devil takes over in their lives, and unless they repent they go out of the church to destruction."

To worship as Christ worshiped is to worship the Father. To center our worship on anyone or anything other than the Father throws the entire plan of salvation out of balance. McConkie said "if there were some need - which there is not! - to single out one member of the godhead for a special relationship, the Father, not the Son, would be the one to choose." We pray only to the Father. Prayers do not go through Christ or anyone else. Hebrews 4:16 says we are entitled to come boldly unto the throne of grace.

Some "intellectuals without strong testimonies" advocate that God is forever "progressing in truth and knowledge." "unless they repent, they will live and die weak in the faith and will fall short of inheriting what might have been theirs in eternity."

An 18-year-old had an incurable skin disease from birth. He got out of bed to meet with Elder McConkie who asked have the elders administered to him? He was told they had many times. After a moment of silence Elder McConkie blessed him saying "the Lord has given you this affliction to prepare you for the work that lies ahead. I promise you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that your health will never stand in the way of your serving the Lord." The disease was rebuked and the blessing of healing was soon realized. p359

A mother of two had contracted a rare blood disease which prohibited her from having more children. She was impressed to touch the edge of Elder McConkie's jacket which she hesitantly did. The moment she touched her finger on the hem of his jacket he suddenly spun around and extended his hand to her which she shook and uttered thank you. He nodded and went back to what he was doing. She was healed, the doctor was baffled, she had three more children. p360

He did not feel constrained to follow a particular procedure. He sought to follow the lead of the spirit in speaking and administration etc.

One patriarch withdrew money to take his family to the temple and when he opened the envelope a few days later he noticed he was paid about \$750 extra, which he returned. He soon learned that he was about \$75 short to pay for tickets to get back home to his family. A stranger handed him the amount. After giving the money to the ticket agent he turned around to thank the man who had disappeared. P362

When a series of interviews for callings was not getting anywhere, he prayed on his knees, stood, and the thought came of who to call. He and his partner had the same impression.

One mission was in a poor condition; they had a goal not to baptize anyone unless they were absolutely certain that the one they were baptizing would remain in the church because if one baptized were to fall away they would be held responsible at the bar of judgment. Because of this mission president's indoctrination teaching these false messages, a

negative spirit ruled the mission and the work of the Lord was at a standstill.

Some missionaries asked about Adam God doctrine and Elder McConkie noted, "I was talking with some power and fluency about this doctrine explaining that these interpretations were false and defining how and where the church stood on Adam and on the members of the godhead. In the midst of this discussion, under circumstances where I was far more fluent and expressive than my normal capacity allows, it suddenly seemed to me as though a pillar of light extended up from me endlessly and the clear unmistakable impression came from the spirit of the Lord that what I was teaching was true; that the interpretations made by various people of Brigham Young's quotations was totally false and then if I felt so inclined I was perfectly at liberty to speak in the Lord's name as to the truths I was then declaring." P366-7

Note: Surely there's more to the subject of Adam than meets the eye, but no doubt, he was inspired to give the message he did to the missionaries. Remember also that the missionaries are to preach gospel basics, as Joseph Smith said, to not dabble in the mysteries.

One approached Elder McConkie and said "I am a member of the Church of Christ" McConkie replied, "well you can repent just like anyone else." The man began to harass Elder McConkie and tell him that if he was an apostle, he needed to be able to heal him. McConkie replied "healings come by faith. There is no possible way for you to be healed because you do not have faith. You have an evil spirit." The man persisted still citing the New Testament about apostles healing and McConkie said "I am doing exactly the same

thing toward you that Peter or Paul would do, and that they did do, when people with evil spirits came to them." The man just persisted in demanding that he heal him. McConkie then said "you have an evil spirit, and there is something I want you to know. I'm going to tell it to you and I want you to write it in your journal, and if you do not keep a journal, to write it on a piece of paper and your wife who is here listening will be a witness that I told it to you. I want you to know that unless you repent, you will go to hell. I've never told anyone else this before, but I am telling you." p369-70

When the Mark Hoffman forgery documents came out, Elder McConkie rejected them on theological grounds, knowing that those documents could not represent the voice of Joseph Smith. He also noted that there was a lack of language indicating the conferral of keys and that the man to whom all of the keys of the Kingdom had been restored could not forget to bequeath them to his successor. McConkie did not know anything about Hoffman, but he did know Joseph Smith, and those documents did not represent Joseph Smith.

Ch. 21 Great Events

Boyd K Packer said, "we live in a day of great events relating to the scriptures."

The third article of Faith about all being saved through Christ by obedience; in this context the word saved means to be exalted or obtain all the blessings of the Celestial Kingdom. He cited D&C 6:13 "if thou wilt do good, yea, and hold out faithful to the end, thou shalt be saved in the Kingdom of

god, which is the greatest of all the gifts of god; for there is no greater no gift greater than the gift of salvation"

When the 12 were praying about the ban on priesthood African being lifted there was a great Pentecostal outpouring of the spirit such as none of those present had ever before experienced. McConkie observed "I think the Lord waited to give this new direction to his earthly Kingdom until his church was big enough and strong enough to absorb those of all races and cultures, without being overwhelmed by the world, as the primitive saints were when the church in their day gained a general acceptance in the Roman empire."

Footnotes and cross references to the standard works were added in the 1979 LDS edition of the King James Bible and the 1981 new edition of The Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price. This work was done under the direction of Thomas Monson, Boyd Packer, and later Bruce McConkie. The LDS Bible King James was now cross-referenced with the three other books of scripture. It took about 10 years to make this addition. McConkie's contribution was the chapter headings which constitute a doctrinal commentary of each chapter. McConkie pushed for adding the Joseph Smith translation saying that Joseph Smith should not have to compete for room with the words of any Bible scholars interpretation, and that we need a little more JST and a little less dictionary.

Ch. 22 Special Contributions

Boyd K Packer said, **"if there ever was a man raised up unto a very purpose, if ever a man was prepared against a certain need - it was Bruce R McConkie. "**

McConkie would not use humor etc. in his church talks, he went right to the point. He said, "doctrinal teachers will be quoted a hundred years after their death while the popular speakers who people find so entertaining will be long forgotten."

Bruce was advised that if he wanted his book to be read it had to be not above a 14-year-old reading level. His response was "I will not do it. If I cannot raise the level of understanding in the church, I will not write." He was tasked with over-viewing a manuscript to see if there was any reason that it shouldn't be published. He said, "I wish I'd been asked if I could think of any reason why it should be." He did not like the substitution of "goose pimples and fluff" for saving principles. He thought such things were an insult to the gospel. But teaching from the scriptures energized him. When he taught religion classes at BYU and UofU he had more energy at the end of the class than when he began.

Some in scholarly circles in the church have viewed the Joseph Smith translation with skepticism because it is not always in harmony with the ancient manuscripts. The prophet did not use manuscripts in making his translation, he simply used the King James version of the Bible and the gift and power of God, it was a translation by the spirit of revelation. We have to choose between the spirit of revelation as Joseph Smith had, and loyalty to ancient manuscripts, all of which are to some degree at variance with each other. For McConkie it was an easy choice to go with the Joseph Smith translation, that such presents the reader a greater Christ than any other translation of the Bible.

His Messiah book series was written 64 years after James E Talmage's Jesus the Christ, and McConkie's books drew

more heavily upon the Joseph Smith translation and D&C 138 which was received after Talmage's work. McConkie's book "A New Witness for the Articles of Faith" took a different approach from Talmage's work 8 decades earlier. Talmage tried to give credibility to Joseph Smith and Mormonism by showing that its doctrines were based on the bible. But Elder McConkie sought to explain them in the light of modern revelation. He felt that the best evidence that God has spoken in our day is found in what God has said today.

McConkie was *by choice* in the front ranks of the defenders of the faith and was a rightful heir to the wrath of those who opposed such principles.

McConkie had his own list of scripture including the Wentworth letter of Joseph Smith and the lectures on faith (which were published with the D&C until 1921) and the First Presidency exposition on the Origin of Man 1912 and the Doctrinal Disposition of the First Presidency on the Father and the Son 1916 and the King Follet Discourse of Joseph Smith. To him these documents could very properly have been added to our present canon.

He probably wrote more explanation and testimony of the Bible than any other man in our dispensation. He said there are two seals on the Bible, the first is a seal of ignorance, the second a seal of intellectuality. Joseph Smith and the revelations of the restoration removed those seals.

He defended the lectures on faith and said of the fifth lecture "in my judgment, it is the most comprehensive, intelligent, inspired utterance that now exist in the English language - that exists in one place defining comment interpreting,

expounding, announcing, and testifying what kind of being God is. It was written by the power of the Holy Ghost, by the spirit of inspiration. It is, in effect, eternal scripture; it is true."

They used to teach the gospel in a way where they would hold up the Bible and say here's the prophecy that is fulfilled in the Book of Mormon. But that is not the Lord's way of teaching the gospel. The fact is not that the Bible proves The Book of Mormon is true, but that the Book of Mormon proves the Bible is true. It's true that passages like Isaiah 29 and Ezekiel 37 and Psalm 85 and John's statement about the "other sheep" all refer to the Book of Mormon, but that's not the point.

McConkie said, "I don't think there's anyone in the world who believes more of what's in the bible, or who has attempted to study it more and figure out what is involved in numerous passages, then I have, I have unbounded appreciation and respect for the biblical word, as far as what I have had occasion to write about is concerned. I've written more about the bible, 100 times over, then I have about the Book of Mormon. However, I have used the Book of Mormon for the purpose of interpreting what's in the bible."

McConkie said "in no single passage does the bible give all the facts about what it's talking about. It just doesn't do it. We sometimes have the idea that things get translated and that the translation is what the Lord originally revealed. That isn't quite right. There is more than one translation for some passages, and both translations are correct." One translation can have a lesser meaning and another translation can have a much higher meaning, and the Elijah passage as quoted by Moroni is a higher version.

Elder McConkie said having **Jesus as the first discussion sounded like a nice thing to do but it was wrong.** Every year they were selling more than a million copies of the Book of Mormon but when they changed the first discussion to not be about the restoration, immediately the very first year sales of the copy of the book Mormon dropped 500,000 and we've gone on like that. They were in the process of putting the Book of Mormon back where it should be. Contrary to what a lot of well-meaning people may think, people don't get converted to the church when they show them what we have in common with them. If we just show them that we are Christians we will never convert anybody. If we just say we believe in Christ, they say that's nice we're not interested in any more discussion. The reason people join the church is the differences between us and the world, the personal God versus their spirit essence, gifts of the Spirit and Revelation against their sealed heaven, etc.

No one can discover the meaning of Romans (etc.) until they've read the Book of Mormon and Latter-Day Revelation to interpret the New Testament. Bruce read the Old Testament as if Mormon or Moroni had translated it.

The great doctrinal labor of the last hundred years has been to grow up into the revelations received by the prophet Joseph Smith. The heavens are not sealed but they are opened most readily to those who have faithfully built the house of their gospel understanding on the foundation that the Prophet Joseph laid.

Bruce taught more clearly than anyone in the 20th century the sonship of Christ, the Abrahamic covenant, and the doctrine of the gathering of Israel.

Note: Some disagree with Bruce's interpretation that the lost ten tribes are scattered rather than together, as Joseph taught they were together, and several scriptures say it. Perhaps its some of both. There was lots of pressure on the church to normalize.

Church leaders such as Harold B Lee, Spencer Kimball, and Bruce McConkie announced that the gathering place for saints is the same country where they live.

Ch. 23 His Final Testimony

Bruce blessed a woman who had been paralyzed for years who was then able to walk.

He said life was never intended to be easy. We are here on probation. We are here to be tested to the full extent of our power to withstand. He said “suffering sanctifies.”

Note: If your life is easy, consider what you must do to humble yourself. For example: are you casual about the word of wisdom? About independent finance? About your level of scriptural and doctrinal understanding? About your knowledge of history and science? Are you casual about the level of gospel teaching, missionary training and service exposure your children are receiving? Etc etc. Sometimes we

must be humbled and learn that the way we are living is in fact far below how it could be, though the higher way is often a harder way.

He said it is pleasing to God when we fast and pray and seek His blessings, when we plead with all the energy of our souls for those things we so much desire.

There are major differences between other religions and the restored gospel, and those differences are what convert.

He said the Bible is a sealed book because of the seal of ignorance and the seal of intellectuality. and that it could only be unlocked by the spirit of revelation.

He said negative attitudes and feelings about the Joseph Smith translation are part of the devil's program to keep the word of truth from people and that these revealed changes made by Joseph Smith are as true as anything in the Book of Mormon or doctrine and covenants. He said we can't pick and choose which Revelations we will believe in use.

When he was very sick he was asked "what do you think Joseph Smith would have done about such and such." He said "I don't know but in a few weeks I'll ask him."

When he didn't have the strength to go to General Conference to speak he was asked how he was going to do it, he said "I don't know but I'm going to do it." He was given a blessing where it was said that he still had work to do, the

devil was rebuked, and he was blessed with strength to get through the conference.

He encouraged others to remember who they are and act accordingly.

It is final testimony he said he won't know any better than he knows now of Christ when he feels the marks in Christ's hands.

Ch. 24 Reflections of a Son

Bruce's mighty spiritual mentors were his father Oscar and his father-in-law Joseph Fielding Smith.

He said principles are eternal, procedures are man-made.

President Hinckley said Bruce was an Apostle with an understanding of what that meant.

Bruce had no hesitation saying "you can just quote me on that."

It didn't bother him when others made mistakes and he claimed the right to do so himself. He was never slow to accept correction or embrace new light.

People often quote Bruce's statement about priesthood, when it would be granted to the seed of Cain as he wrote in Mormon doctrine. Of this he said "I was wrong! It is a new day and we have new light. Disregard all that I or anyone else said previously." p421

Bruce helped the Joseph Smith Translation get into the LDS KJV bible, which the previous generation didn't have access to.

Note: 30% of the JST is in our bible, the rest can be found in the original Inspired Version of the bible which can be purchased here:

<https://store.truthseekersfoundation.com/product/inspired-bible/>

Elder Packer said that Bruce came to know 2 things as few mortals do: the law and the prophets.

No one is quoted more often than Bruce on doctrinal matters.

He finds time to write in evenings, holidays, and the occasional free time. He said "There is no such thing as maintaining continuity of thought or hope of project completion unless one maintains a rugged wearisome routine. There are many 12 hour days with an occasional 14-hour stretch thrown in for variety." p423 He extended himself in every way he could to honor the office he held.

He never prayed about the girl he should marry, it was obvious.

He never prayed to know the truth of God, Christ, the restoration, Joseph Smith, etc, he knew these were true.

“I shall pray with the faith of Alma, repent with the determination of Paul. Write with the pen of Peter. Labor with the zeal of Moroni. Speak with the tongue of Aaron. Walk in the way of Jesus. Testify as did Joseph Smith. Submit to the divine will as did Job. Walk with God as did Enoch. Heal the sick as did my father. Preach as did Nephi.” p427

President Packer said of Bruce’s work on the new edition of the scriptures, that it would result in a generation that will know the gospel and the Lord.

Would his sermons make people uncomfortable, irritated, incite critics, drive some learned investigator away, appear insensitive or overbearing? Was his purpose to make the world think well of the Church? When Bruce was tempted to change his message, the Spirit would withdraw a distance and there would come a deep loneliness known only to those who have enjoyed close association with the Spirit who then see it move away. He preferred critics contempt than to lose the Spirit.

President Hinckley said of Elder McConkie that he spoke with strength, beauty, a cultivated mind, and a sincere heart.

Elder Russel M Nelson said he feels that the extra year of life Elder McConkie got was to train him and Dallin Oaks.

He took time to shake hands with large audiences, lots of time, without being in a hurry.

His son Mark asked him if he liked being an Apostle. He said, “Yes. Now people listen to what I say.”

He taught that the Church is like a great caravan which moves on to its appointed course of the celestial city regardless of the difficulties and those who bother us on the way.

He taught us to covenant to walk in all the ordinances, keep the commandments and be witnesses of the truth.

His parting words to his wife were “carry on.”

A few assorted notes from the biography:

Zions camp march was 1500 miles

Revelations of the restored gospel are the key of knowledge.

Today we love the Joseph Smith Translation.

The book Millennial Messiah was based on scripture and shatters Mormon myths.

Note: I do say there is still a strong case that could be made, scripturally, for the ten tribes still being in a body. This is one of the things Elder McConkie said was not so in parts of his book. Many scattered? Yes. Some together still who have prophets & scriptures & will return together from “the north”? Yes. Many prophets such as President Joseph Fielding Smith and Elder James E Talmage have affirmed this fact.

We need the faith of the ancients, to believe what they did, and to live as they did.

Bonus: The Willard & Rebecca Bean Missionary Story: Preserving the Joseph Smith Farm

See the movie “The Fighting Preacher” which tells the story.

The Beans were called to care for the Joseph Smith farm and improve relations there in New York.

People came into their home one evening asking to learn of Joseph Smith, they turned out to be hostile people against Joseph. Brother Bean was out, and Sister Bean prayed for help, then she felt the presence of a being into the room, and the room quieted. She testified of Joseph and that she felt his presence. The crowd left and apologized.

Sister Bean had hard chores while Brother Bean was out. One day an African stranger came and offered to help her chop wood. He said he knew what it's like to be hated before people know you. She went in to get him some pie, and when she came back out, the man had disappeared, and the wood was all chopped and stacked.

Sister Bean had a vision where she was exhausted, and a visiting missionary came over, who visited with Apostle Talmage who was also visiting. The missionary complimented her on her well-behaved children, then later revealed his character & glory to her, that He was the Christ. Christ told her that if she continued serving as she was, she would be equal to her work, and that the missionaries represent Him on the earth, and all you give to them, you give to Him. His face was full of love.

The Beans were able to make very hostile neighbors into friends by giving them pies, helping them repair their homes, feeding their sick, sharing produce, volunteering with the Red Cross, etc. They were able to buy the Hill Cumorah, which before was impossible to buy, in large part through the kind relations they established.

Their mission on the Smith Farm lasted 25 years.

Willard was one of 30 children from a polygamous father before that chapter in the church ended.

Praise to the Lord Who Guided These Great Souls!

The world needs real heroes, and here are some of the best. Join me in taking a brief look at the lives and teachings of church leaders with little-known stories full of fun and deep reflection. As we look at the lives of Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, we see their noble lives demonstrate that they took their callings seriously and loved their Lord.

Highlighted in this work is Truman G Madsen's lectures on the presidents of the church. Madsen was a BYU philosophy professor and studied the lives of the prophets and other points of latter-day church history in detail.

Also highlighted is *In the Company of Prophets: Personal Experiences of D. Arthur Haycock* by Heidi S. Swinton. Haycock was the personal secretary to many of the prophets.

The Thomas S. Monson biography 'To the Rescue' is also highlighted.

Highlights from President Nelson's life included here include quotes on themes he focused on including the second coming of Christ, science, health, and being a peacemaker.

The fascinating biography of Bruce R. McConkie by his son Joseph Fielding McConkie is also highlighted.

This book illuminates some of the most fascinating stories these writers have shared in a short, point-by-point format, making for a fun and easy read on the lives of some of the most interesting and influential people in history.