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## THE DEAD, THEY NEVER GROW OLD.

BY JOHN LYON.

Time with the living runs a rapid pace—  
How quick each annual term it disappears!  
In hope we live, as if our day of grace  
In strength would last beyond a hundred years.  
Our fathers died some fifty years ago—  
And now, like them, we're growing stiff and cold;  
Their seniors far, yet we with reverence bow,  
Tho' younger,—they in death can ne'er grow old!

Our tombstones tell the date of loved ones dear;  
Their youth, and age, and exits from this world.  
Our loved regrets rest calmly on each bier,  
And will do, till eternity's unfurl'd!  
The child who died by accidental death,  
And by it made a maniac mother wild;  
Tho' long since past, still speaks, as if the wraith  
Was still before her of her drowning child.

The mewling infant and the youthful dame,  
The middle aged and the hoary seer,—  
We hope to meet them, and our future claim  
Will be the knowledge we had of them here.  
How happy thus, when mortal pain is past,  
To meet our friends without our being told  
That infancy and age for ever last  
Unhurt by time;—the dead, they ne'er grow old!

## DISCOURSE

By President HEBER C. KIMBALL, Tabernacle, Saturday, 10 a.m., Oct. 6, 1860.

REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.

We have come together this morning for the purpose of holding our general conference, and to attend to matters of business that pertain to the whole Church, not only for the people in this Territory, but we have met to do business that concerns all nations and people, both the living and the dead, or those who have passed behind the veil, and I feel to rejoice in the privilege we now have.

I know that this is the kingdom of God; it is that kingdom which was shown to the Prophet Daniel, as recorded in the second chapter of his book; this is the kingdom that was set up in the days of Jesus, and it is the kingdom that our Father and God set up after he organized this earth, and he is the king; but there are and will be tens of thousands of kings this side of him, and will be a perpetual increase of kings and priests in the kingdoms of our Father.

I desire to express my feelings in a few words, upon those things that you may know how I feel, and understand that I view this kingdom as some thing that pertains to, or that will effect all the creatures of God in this creation, yes, the thousands and millions of beings who have not yet appeared upon this stage of action; it is that kingdom that concerns every man that ever did live, or that ever will live.

I wish to encourage you Elders, and all good Saints, to live so as to get that spirit that is promised to the faithful, and let us lay aside our selfishness, and become interested in the general welfare of the kingdom of God; for it is something that should interest every man and woman in the world.

This Church is that church which has been spoken of by the prophets, and this people constitute that kingdom that was to come forth in the latter days. We are members of this kingdom, and we proceeded from the king of this earth; we are all his sons, and when, through our obedience, we become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, we in reality become princes, for we emanated from that king, and he is our Father and God, and he will call every son and daughter of Adam to an account for their deeds; it does not matter whether they belong to the Church or are outside of the fold of Christ, our Father will call them to give an account for the deeds done in the body, and the spirits of men that were in existence before they inhabited these bodies have got to be responsible for the acts that are wrought in the flesh. This is upon the same principle that President Young commits to me the care and supervision of a house, for instance the sanctum sanctorum, a holy place, where the ordinances of God are administered; he commits that to me, and holds me responsible for its safe keeping. So it will be with you and I, so it will be with all men and women, in regard to their works here on the earth. There will be thousands of men brought to an account for their conduct towards women, for in many instances it is shameful.

We have come here to-day to worship God, to speak of his purposes and designs, and to bear testimony of his work. It is rainy and rather wet and unpleasant, and therefore we cannot do much else, and we shall stay here until the spirit indicates that it is best to adjourn, and when that will be I cannot now tell, but I hope none of you will be troubled upon that point, for President Young will hold it as

long as it is interesting and the Spirit of God shall dictate him. In referring to the sons and daughters of Adam, and to this great work which I have already said concerns us all, and especially the Elders that have come into the Church in the beginning, and who hold this priesthood which God has revealed through his servant Joseph, I wish you to understand that all that is connected with you, your wives and children should interest you in their welfare, and in the prosperity of the work of God; and you will be interested in proportion to the light, knowledge, power and spirit there is in the Elders. And that spirit will rest upon the Elders, their wives and children, their animals and all they possess will be quickened by it.

You can read in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants that the Lord spake to Thomas B. Marsh and the twelve apostles, telling them that they held the keys of the kingdom with the First Presidency, and the fathers from the beginning of the creation.

For unto you (the twelve), and those (the first presidency) who are appointed with you, to be your counselors and your leaders, is the power of this priesthood given, for the last days and for the last time, in the which is the dispensation of the fullness of times, which power you hold in connection with all those who have received a dispensation at any time from the beginning of the creation; for verily I say unto you, the keys of the dispensation which ye have received, have come down from the fathers; and last of all, being sent down from heaven unto you."—[Doc. and Cov., sec. 104, par. 12.]

The Lord told us there, that the fathers are interested for us just in proportion to the interest we feel for this work, and for the church and kingdom of God here upon the earth. I want you to think of that and reflect upon it. You need not doubt in relation to the truth of what the world call Mormonism, for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, established and organized through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith is the true church of God. With it is the priesthood and power of God, and you might as well try to doubt that the sun shines, for it is the truth, and although all hell may deny it, and all the men upon the earth, that will make no difference, for it is from God. The Lord called that man, and sent his angels to ordain him, and to confer upon him that authority necessary for the building up of the kingdom of God, and it was through him that we received all the authority we hold, and through us every soul of you who have received the truth received it through that priesthood which came from God to Joseph Smith, and you grew out of that priesthood, and none of you have a particle of power except that which comes through that medium. It came from Jesus to Peter, from Peter to Joseph, and from Joseph to President Young and his brethren, and from us to you. You hold that priesthood and authority in connection with them, and except you are connected with them you cannot have any priesthood or authority. You must honor that tree with which you are connected, for if you dishonor that tree you dishonor yourselves, and I would not give a farthing for your authority.

These are some of my views upon the subject; and I feel to say that this work will roll forth with greater power hereafter than it has done in times past, and my prayer to my father in heaven is, let thy work roll on, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. That is the way it has got to be, for things must eventually be done here as they are in heaven. We have got to do right, and we cannot do this except we honor our callings and priesthood, for we are like a great tree, having roots, body, great and small limbs, and I want to know what the difference is between one limb and another so far as honor is concerned? All should be honored in their place and calling; let every man honor the head, the body and every member that pertains to that body, if you wish to honor God. Now, can I rise up and chastise the limb that I am connected with? No, I cannot, and the limb will die quicker without my interference, if there is anything wrong about it. Could a man rise up and chastise President Joseph Smith, when he was alive? No, no man had the right. Well then, can any man chastise President Young? No sir, but it is the duty of all to honor the head and the body to which they are connected. Upon the same principle the smallest member of the body should honor the part to which it is attached. You know two feet are required to carry two legs, and two legs to carry a body, and so it is in the Church of Christ.

The apostles and prophets used to talk in this way, presenting figures and comparisons for the purpose of conveying things to the minds of the people more forcibly. Now, let every man take a course to honor one another, and the priesthood they have received. Well, says one, I will honor the First Presidency of the Church, but I don't want to have anything to do with the twelve; they are not of much account. That is the way some of you feel. Now, if you treat these men in this way, how long will it be before you will treat President Young in like manner.

The course for us to take is to honor the priesthood which the Almighty has given to man. How can you honor God except you honor that priesthood? This is well worth your consideration. You all sprung out of that priesthood as one limb of a tree comes out of the main body. This is honorable in all men, and I feel to say, let every man honor his calling, and his fruit will appear.

Will a good apple tree produce a thorn, or a thistle? No, it never will. But, notwithstanding this, I believe there are a great many thistles that call themselves apples; yes, many that are briars, thistles and other useless things they ought not to be. I frequently think of these things; I consider our priesthood, and the vows that we have made with God. But says one, we have made those vows with our brethren, and not with the Lord. Let me tell you that it was the brethren in authority in the priesthood who called you into the house of the Lord, but you made your covenants with God, the brethren were merely the witnesses of those things which you did, of the covenants you made with the Father, with the Son, with the Holy Ghost and with all the heavenly hosts, and your brethren, stood as witnesses for God, and you will have to give an account of the way and manner you keep and observe those covenants.

There are many who think these things are of no account, but I will tell you brethren that you will be straightened out when the Lord appears, taking vengeance upon those that will not obey his gospel. In that day the wicked will be as chaff or stubble, and they will be destroyed from the earth, and their tabernacles dissolved; but the righteous will receive new bodies, and they will inhabit a new earth, and eternally enjoy the favor of that God who sent his Son that you and I might be redeemed and brought back into his presence.

There is a great deal for us to do, and I wish you would all think so, and have these things before your minds continually. How can this evil be remedied? I say, in the name of the Lord God of Israel, wake up from your slumber, and get within your souls the Spirit of the Most High God, and the more you have of it, the more you will feel the necessity of being wide awake and attentive to your duties.

Your eyes have become dim because of your dullness and inattention to your duties. The Scriptures say, "Let thine eye be single that thy whole body may be full of light." The reason we do not see things as they are, is because we have become dull and stupid, and do not understand the things of God. It is said in the Scriptures that the eyes of certain characters are like the fools eyes reaching to the ends of the earth, and like the door upon its hinges, doing no good, but just swinging backwards and forwards. Br. Benson won't you shut that vestry door, and open it again, (which he did.) Now don't you see, brethren, that has neither lost nor gained anything? But it will soon wear out. This figure I wish to apply to you indolent persons, and thereby show you that you ought to go to work and improve, bring about something for the honor and glory of God, and the adorning and building up of his kingdom. I do not want you to be like the sow that has been taken and washed clean, and then as soon as the door is open she goes into the dirtiest mud hole there is in the neighborhood, but as you have been washed in the waters of baptism and entered into the fold, I want you to remain clean and pure, and to labor for the welfare of Zion and the upbuilding of the kingdom of our God. If you act like the sow, then your last end will be worse than your first.

You have entered into the kingdom and should be like a little child, humble, meek and passive in the hands of your superiors.

You will remember that when those commissioners came to make peace with us, we came up from the south to see them, to find out what they wanted. The night we arrived in the city, I dreamed that there was an awful flood, and that the flood wood had stopped up the stream. I watched it, and after a while the flood wood gave way, and it came down Emigration canyon, and went in a south westerly direction. I then looked round to see what the effects were, and all at once this whole city and adjacent country became full of hogs. I spoke to the President and the brethren who were with him, and said, "The country is full of hogs;" and they were frothing at the mouth just like mad hogs do; and I saw them running after the brethren, who got on the walls and fences in different directions, and they were jumping up at them, but their mouths were full of froth, and I was pleased to see that there was not one of those hogs could bite any of the brethren. By and bye our attention was called to other business, and when I had a little leisure I looked round and said to the brethren, "Where are those hogs gone?" We looked around us, and lo and behold there was not a hog to be found in the country!

But while they were here did not they froth

at the mouth? They did, and they jumped and made a terrible stew, but I do not know that they have ever hurt anybody. They have not had the power to meddle with or hurt anybody excepting those who wanted to be meddled with. Now I consider that those men and women who have suffered themselves to be overcome by those hogs are no better than the hogs themselves.

This may be considered a very good introduction, in my way, to this general Conference.

I do not know that I ever felt better in my life than I do to-day; I feel that I can touch a little thing here and another there, and I see before me ten thousand times more than I speak of, and among the many things that I can see, one is that all the hogs are going to leave as fast as they can. If the Elders and Saints will only do right, all will be right for them and with them; and they ought to know that the responsibility is upon their shoulders.

If you, brethren, go and sell your wheat, that will not be laid to the sisters, excepting in those cases where the men are under petticoat government. Those who do this are taking a course that will bring sorrow upon themselves; yes, those who trade away the staff of life will suffer pain, sorrow and nakedness, and many things that have not entered into their hearts to think of.

Since the Latter Day Saints have been in these mountains there has never been such a deep designing and well got up scheme to draw grain out of this Territory as there is now, for there is a branch of a store in almost every settlement, and they are buying wheat and sending it to Pike's Peak; and they are getting it at a very low price, too. I am afraid this is going to bring trouble upon you, brethren and sisters. President Young has talked and talked upon the subject of saving your bread staff, and the Twelve have borne testimony of it in all of your settlements, day after day and year after year, and yet many of the people don't care any more about it than if we never spoke upon the subject.

There are some who have listened and laid up their grain. Look at the men who have done this and you will find men that have got power with God and man. Let us try to improve, and get as many to do this as we can, and we shall do well. We cannot get everybody to do it, but we can use an influence with a few. There are a great many here who have lived from hand to mouth all their lives; they have been accustomed to get their wages on a Saturday night, let their wives have them, then their wives would go and pay such a portion for the week's provisions, so much for ale, so much for the priest, the tithing and other things, and they don't know how to get along any other way.

How can you be saviors except you lay up knowledge of the things of God? And how can you be temporal saviors except you lay up provisions? Jesus says—seek first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you. The Lord is not bound to feed us except we take care, and do our part. Do you imagine that the Lord will go and raise you a crop of wheat without your first going and plowing the ground?

You have heard Pres. Young say that none of us know enough to make a spear of grass grow, and this we all know to be true; but I will tell you what you can do; you can obtain the ground, plow it, drag it, sow the seed and dedicate it to your Father and God. Then, when you find it necessary, you can irrigate it, and you will be pretty sure to get a good crop of wheat, or corn, or whatever you may choose to plant.

There are a great many that are going into speculation now-a-days, some of our Elders are becoming merchants, taking the gentiles' goods and peddling them off for wheat, and then turning it over to our gentile speculators who have persecuted us. Well, you will see that pretty much every one of them will lose the Spirit, except they repent.

Now, you have been told again and again to take care of your cattle and send back for your goods. This has been done this year by a number of the brethren, and it can be done by the majority of the people. There was a train of goods came in a few days ago—the cattle started from here last spring, and they have come in in better condition than any other cattle that have crossed the plains this season. The same thing has been done before. The year the pioneers came in, we brought oxen, mules and horses, and some of the cattle we brought in with us went back to the Missouri river the same season, and they got thro' about three weeks before we did, for we had to stay back and help our horses. When we struck the Platte river on our return, we found that there was no substance in the grass, the frost had killed it; but in the spring, when cattle go down from here, the grass is fresh and good, and the cattle get fat; and then on their return they get into the "bunch-grass country" before the frost comes, and you know bunch-grass is good all the year round.