

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

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President Alvin R. Dyer¹

“It is recommended that each missionary should read this message several times in order to get a better understanding of the purpose of the restored Gospel.”²

We have talked a lot about missionary work and heard the testimonies of those who have spoken. I want to talk to you a little bit now about something that is not missionary work, and what I say is not to be given to our investigators by any matter of means.

In the Korean War there was a thing that took place that I don't know as it brought disgrace upon our country, but it tends to prove the fact that so many of the young men of America didn't have the concept of liberty and freedom as sponsored by our own beloved country. This was such a shock to our leaders that a program was instituted throughout the country which is still carried on to better prepare our young people to meet the future, both physically and mentally, I was disillusioned at what took place. Always in my life I have thought that a “Yankee” or an American was just about the greatest of everything in the world. I have always been a kind of hero worshipper anyway, and a great football player or a great baseball player is something throughout my life that has been more or less my ideal. Anything American was great. I still feel that way when it comes to my personal, inward feeling. I still have an affinity for that.

There was an episode that took place in the Korean

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War that was very hard for me to take, and hard for me to understand. I am sure that it was much harder for those who were in it, who were called upon to endure the privations of that war or any war for that matter. After the war was over, the information concerning the behavior of our young men who had been captured by the Koreans (Communist Koreans) revealed the fact that they behaved more ashamedly and with almost cowardice. In the interrogations that were made of our young men, there were less than 5% of them that even knew why they were fighting, and what was meant by liberty and freedom and the American way of life. Less than 5% of them had been taken prisoners, and I know that that must not have been a very easy life. But the official records, also revealed that 38% of the American soldiers that were taken prisoners by Koreans who died in Prison camps, didn't die from starvation or from any punishment. They simply quit and laid down and died, because they did not have the moral stability to fight. This was the disgraceful thing about all of it. Nearly 4 out of 10 of the American Korean prisoners died because they did not have the will to live. They did not have any reason or rhyme for what they were there for.

When this became known to our leaders, they immediately called into conference a great body of men and established in America, what they called a physical fitness program. Ezra Taft Benson and Marion D, Hanks and several others from the Church were called upon, and they are still serving on it. I was glad to see that President Kennedy has reinstated this program among our young people.

You might say, "What has that to do with us?" It doesn't have a great deal to do with us except that I would feel rather embarrassed as a leader of the Church if anyone of our missionaries did not know what he is in the mission field for. If you were asked the question as to why you were here and what you were doing in the mission field, and all you could say is that, "I am here preaching the Gospel, and I have been sent out here, I know the Gospel is true, and I

have a testimony of it.” If that is all you could say, you don't have a full meaning for the purpose of missionary work.

We have always felt that if you would place in the hearts and minds of anybody the reasons for doing things and the purpose behind it, you wouldn't have to worry about what the person would do. If you young men and women know why you are here and why the Lord is so anxious for us to preach the Gospel today, and then would ask yourselves a number of questions connected with that, such as: Why is it that you were born today instead of 2,000 years ago? Why is it that you are sitting in this room today and were for some reason not born in the day of Moses or in the day when Christ was upon the earth? Or do you think that that is just something haphazard that it just happened that way - that nobody had anything to do with it. You would ask another question maybe. Why is it that you are white and not colored? Have you ever asked yourselves that question? Who had anything to do with your being born into the Church and not born a Chinese or a Hindu or a Negro? Is God such an unjust person that He would make you white and free and make a Negro cursed under the cursing of Cain that he could not hold the Priesthood of God? Who do you think decided and what is the reason behind it? Then maybe you would ask yourselves another question. Why is it that you were kept in the Spirit World until the Last Dispensation to come forth among the children of men? Was there any reason for that, and who decided it?

When you begin to get the answers to those questions, then perhaps you will understand why the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being preached in the world today, and the plan of salvation is taking its effects upon people. I think that every missionary ought to know the answers to these questions. When he does know the answers, he stands before the Lord without excuse to go forth and labor with all his strength to serve the Lord.

There isn't anyone in this room that would have the fantastic notion that this life is of any great duration. This life

is merely a pinpoint or speck in the eternity of man's existence. It is over so fast that it is merely a short period of time in the existence of eternal life of man here upon the earth, just a few short hours in the plan of the Gospel according to the Lord's reckoning of time. The whole plan of life - its whole period - comes and goes within just a few short hours of the Lord's time. To us it is many thousands of years.

I want to talk to you just briefly about this, not with any information that you would convey to your investigators, but that you, yourselves, may have a better understanding of what we are doing in the mission field today, and why it is that we come to you with encouragement to work with all your strength to get people into the Church, and why we set goals. It isn't for the purpose of a goal. That is just a kind of game between us to become physically motivated to go out and do our best and work as a team and as a mission. The real purpose behind this is more far-reaching than that.

I will read to you from the Pearl of Great Price "And the Lord said unto me" - speaking to Abraham - "These two facts do exist, that they are two spirits, one being more intelligent than the other, there shall be another more intelligent than they" - indicating that in the pre-existence³ there are three divisions of spirits. "These two facts do exist, that there are two spirits, one being more intelligent than the other - there shall be another more intelligent than they - I am the Lord their God, I am more intelligent than they all."⁴

This statement of Abraham's is directly connected with the Degrees of Glory, because we are taught that when people die, all shall be resurrected who are born in this life - Sons of Perdition and all. They are then, after the Spirit World, assigned into one of these three Degrees of Glory - the Celestial, the Terrestrial, and the Telestial. Others who were spun off of that go into outer darkness, because

3 More properly speaking "the pre-mortal existence" where the spirit children of God lived in His presence.

4 Abraham 3:19.

there is no light in them. They can no longer repent, and because they can no longer repent, they can no longer be governed by law. Therefore they became Sons of Perdition and are not worthy to go into a Degree of Glory. The consequence of that is that they shall go with Lucifer and the [unembodied]⁵ spirits who never were permitted to take upon themselves a body of flesh and bone.

You remember the scripture that missionaries very often use in Corinthians when Paul is speaking of the three divisions of people. We often use the scripture as a resurrection scripture, but we do not apply it properly. If you will read it carefully, it says “Such are they in the resurrection.”⁶ Which means that Paul is calling to the attention of those that listen to him that there are three Degrees of Glory of people, who are in preparation on the earth while they live here.⁷ Now let's suppose, to make this more plain, that the earth would end at this instant, that there would be no one upon the earth, that life would cease and that judgment was immediate. Obviously, the people who had been living on the earth would be assigned to one of these three places. Therefore, the people who are living upon the earth today are the embryos of these three kingdoms.

The suggestion here by Abraham is that they were born into this life with this same degree of division. There were three divisions of mankind in the pre-existence, and when you are born into this life, you are born into one of these three divisions of people. There is an imposed judgment placed upon everyone who leaves the Spirit World just the same as there will be when they leave this life and go into one of three places. When they left the Spirit World, they had already been judged by what they had done in the Spirit World and in their previous life. From the judgment is determined how they shall be born in this life.⁸ When you

5 Orig. “disembodied”

6 1 Corinthians 15:42.

7 1 Corinthians 15:40-41.

8 John 9:2 shows that the apostles understood that premortal actions

understand that, you know that God is not unjust to cause a righteous spirit to be born as a cursed member of the black race or to be cursed as one of the other people who had been cursed. Everything is in order. The procreation of man is orderly and is in accordance with the plan of life and salvation.⁹

In keeping with this thought, when Noah went into the Ark, here again he took with him his three sons - one representing the chosen lineage, the second representing the lineage of adoption, and the third representing the cursed lineage. Thereafter, when men began to be born again sons of Noah, either through the lineage of Shem, Japheth, or Ham. Those who have been cursed in the pre-existence were born through the lineage of Ham.¹⁰

I suppose, and you may often have heard missionaries say it, or have asked the question: "Why is a Negro a Negro?" And you have heard this answer: "They were neither hot nor cold, so the Lord made them Negroes." This of course, is not true.¹¹ The reason that spirits are born into Negro bodies is that those spirits rejected the Priesthood of God in the pre-existence.¹² This is the reason why you have Negroes upon the earth.

You will observe that when Cain was influenced by the power of Lucifer to follow him and to fall down and worship him in the beginning, it was then that the Lord came to him and said, "Cain, if you will abide the law - if you will

may determine earthly circumstances, although they were wrong about the particular case.

9 Acts 17:26.

10 "President [Joseph F.] Smith said that he had been told that the idea originated with the Prophet Joseph, but of course he could not vouch for it. It was this: That the woman named Egyptus was in the family way by a man of her own race before Ham took her to wife, and that Cainan was the result of that illicit intercourse." (18 August 1900, *George A. Smith papers*)

11 "President Young said ... 'There were no neutral spirits in heaven at the time of the rebellion. All took sides.'" (25 December 1969, *Woodruff journal*)

12 Alma 13:3-5.

keep the commandments, you too can be acceptable unto me.”¹³ But Cain rejected the counsel of God. He rejected again the Priesthood as his forebears had done in the pre-existence, Therefore, the curse of the pre-existence was made institute through the lines of Cain, Consequently, you have then the beginning of the race of men and women into which would be born those in the pre-existence who had rejected the Priesthood of God.

There was another division in the pre-existence - those who were not valiant in the acceptance of the Gospel. You see, there is a great difference between one who accepts and one who accepts and does something about it. We had a division in the pre-existence for those who did not accept the Priesthood, neither did they fully accept the plan of salvation that was advanced by the Christ, They, therefore, in accordance to the plan of the Gospel, became those of the lineage of adoption.

I want to read to you a very important scripture in the Old Testament. We talk about studying books and reading manuscripts to prepare ourselves to teach the Gospel, but there are very few missionaries who have even studied the Old Testament. The 10th Chapter of Genesis, according to my information, has had at least 2,000 volumes written about it - just about this chapter. It is so important, because the whole plan and purpose of life was understood by the ancient people of Israel, and they knew and understood what was meant by the teachings of the Old Testament here given to us by Moses. I want to read something to you and make an explanation. “And Ham the Father of Canaan” - this is the 9th Chapter of Genesis - “saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father - and their faces were backward and they saw not their father's nakedness.”¹⁴ Now, that is a Jewish story - that is a Hebrew

13 See Genesis 4:7.

14 Genesis 9:22-23

story, in legend form, that merely implicates the fact that Ham reinstated the curse of the pre-existence when he rejected the Priesthood of Noah, and in consequence of that he preserved the curse on the earth. Therefore, the Negroes to be born thereafter, or those who were to become Negroes, were to be born through the loins of Ham.

All of this is according to a well worked-out plan, the millions and billions of spirits waiting birth in the pre-existence would be born through a channel or race of people. Consequently, the cursed were to be born through Ham. We cannot accept this story literally, because in order to understand that, you have to read the Pearl of Great Price very carefully. Because in the early days when the Egyptian government was established under its first rulers, the Pharaohs, they worked up a system that was exactly like the Priesthood of God, It was exactly like the Patriarchal Order, but knowing they could not claim the birthright, they thought to capitalize on the form or the order of administration. The Pearl of Great Price tells us specifically that they knew that they could not hold the Priesthood, yet they used the same type of organization.¹⁵ Gradually, the sons of Pharaoh began to denounce the concept and assumed unto themselves that they were princes, and not the descendants of Ham. There is a great deal more to it than that, but I wanted to point this out to you. That all of this that we talk about with people is not just merely a little message that we proclaim to them, but all that we are doing is part of a great plan that we inaugurated under the direction of the Christ in the pre-existence.

Listen to what Noah said to his other two brethren: "And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his young son had done unto him, And he said, cursed is Canaan - a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren, And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem - and Canaan shall be his servant."¹⁶ Who is Shem? Shem is what is known as the father of Shemitics. He became the father of the children of

¹⁵ Abraham 1:25-27.

¹⁶ Genesis 9:24-26

Israel. Through the lines of Shem and his descendants were born Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and then twelve sons or Princes of Israel. Therefore, Shem became the father, or the progenitor, of those who were to be born into this life who were the noblest of the intelligences whom Abraham speaks of here when he said, "Not withstanding that these two spirits are intelligent, and one is more intelligent than the other,"¹⁷ there is still another spirit or another division that is more intelligent than both of them. Then subsequent to that, he said to Abraham, "Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was - and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones; and God saw these souls that they were good, and He stood in the midst of them, and He said: "These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them, thou wast chosen before thou wast born."¹⁸ This is true with everyone who fits into the category of the descendants of Shem who became the literal sons and daughters of Israel.

This is a part of the plan the world does not know anything about. The Christian churches never mention it. They never teach it because they know nothing about it.

Noah made another promise at this time, and he said, "God shall enlarge Japheth, and He shall dwell in the house or tent of Shem."¹⁹ What is the house or tent of Shem? The House of Israel. Therefore, descendants of Japheth shall be enlarged, and they shall be permitted to dwell in the House of Israel. Therefore, we call the descendants of Japheth the children of the adoption. Now, who are the descendants of Japheth? The descendants of Japheth are in all of Europe. They are in America. They are in Japan and Korea, They are in India, and all of these people can be traced. For example, we have here the generations of Shem as the Lord gives it to

17 Abraham 3:18.

18 Abraham 3:22-23.

19 Genesis 9:27.

us in Chapter 10 of the Book of Genesis. These ancient prophets were careful to preserve these generations, and these genealogies, knowing their full meaning, which the world doesn't understand but which we know by revelation from the Lord.

“Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and unto them were born sons after the Flood.”²⁰ The sons of Japheth: Gomor they are the French, Magog - they are the slavs, and Madai - they are the Hindu, the Korean, the Indian, the Japanese and the Filipino. We know who the people are who migrated eastward through India into the area of Tungus and then into Korea and Japan. This is the reason today why we are having such tremendous success among the Koreans and the Japanese, because it is the day the Gospel is to be preached to them. Then he goes on to say, Javan - the people of Greece and Italy, and of Turkey; Meshech - the Mezhecites, the Muskavites, the Russians; Tiras - the Syberians.²¹ These were the descendants of Japheth.

The day was to come, according to Noah, that these people and their descendants would come in and dwell in the tent, of the house of Shem, or the House of Israel. You have to know that and understand it to know what the Lord is doing today in preaching the Gospel unto the Gentiles because this is the day of the Gentile. We are preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles. They are the people of Europe. They are the people of America. This is the time of the Gentile. Only one portion of the House of Israel is being called and they are the children of Ephraim.

Every one of you here, I assume, has had a patriarchal blessing. Is there anyone here who is not of the lineage of Joseph? You see what I mean? They are the only ones of the House of Israel that are being called the lineage of Joseph through Ephraim, and there is reason for that.

I want to mention again the teaching of Christ unto

²⁰ Genesis 10:1.

²¹ Genesis 10:2.

the Nephites. You will find this in the 21st chapter of 3 Nephi; the sign of the Father's work, the glorious destiny of the repentant Gentiles, the condemnation predicted for the impenitent, and the coming of the new Jerusalem, or the city of Zion. Then the Lord, Himself, speaking unto the Nephites said this: "And verily I say unto you, I give unto you a sign, that ye may know the time when these things shall be about to take place - that I shall gather in from their long dispersion, my people, O House of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion."²²

Then He goes on to tell that the first of this day shall be the day of the Gentile, and you read that entire chapter. I won't take the time to do it, but He says in that, "For my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them."²³ - the Prophet Joseph Smith - "But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore, they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them, Yet I will heal him, for I will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil."²⁴

The Prophet Joseph Smith suffered martyrdom, but was not harmed, and he said to his brother in Carthage prison just before he was shot, "Fear not, brethren, they may take our lives and destroy the body, but they cannot kill us." For this is what the Lord is saying here. If you will read the rest of the chapter, you will read how the Gospel is to be taken to the Gentiles. The Lord said in verse 22, "But behold! If the Gentiles will repent" - meaning who? The French, the German, the Norwegian, the Swedish, the Finlander, the people of Denmark, and the people all over the countries of Europe. "If they will repent and harken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my Church among them and they shall come in unto whom I have given this

22 3 Nephi 21:1.

23 3 Nephi 21:9.

24 3 Nephi 21:10.

land for their inheritance,”²⁵ This was spoken of before by Nephi, you will read it in the 13th and 14th chapters of the Book of Mormon where the Lord makes plain that the day will come when the Gentiles will receive the Gospel and will come in and be numbered among the children of Israel.

I read just one of these scriptures although there are many found in 1 Nephi. There is another found in 1 Nephi, chapter 14, starting with the first verse. “And it shall come to pass that if the Gentiles” - let me explain again now who the Gentiles are, in the eyes of a Jew everyone who is not a Jew is a Gentile. But correctly speaking, the Gentiles are the descendants of the House of Japheth, the oldest son of Noah. The cursed people are the descendants of Ham. The chosen people are the descendants of Shem - the three sons of Noah. Through these lineages the spirits that compare with their station are born in this life. This is why you have colored people, why you have dark people, and why you have white people. The Lord is speaking of the Gentiles, “And it shall come to pass that if the Gentiles” - the descendants of Japheth - “shall harken unto the Lamb of God in the day that He shall manifest Himself unto them in the word, and also in power, in very deed, unto the taking away of their stumbling blocks”²⁶ in other words, where they have resisted the Church, resisted conversion, the Lord will remove the stumbling blocks “and if they harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of their father: yea, they shall be a blessed people.”²⁷ You see, this is the promise that was made anciently by Noah when he blessed Japheth. Because why? Because he did not rebel against the Priesthood that Noah held like Ham did, and neither did Shem.

We have a fulfillment of this scripture. When the Kirtland Temple was finished, there was a number of ancient prophets that made their appearance in the temple. The

25 3 Nephi 21:22.

26 1 Nephi 14:1.

27 1 Nephi 14:2.

Christ was the first to come and receive the Temple and gave instructions to Joseph Smith, many of which we have not been privileged to know about. Following this there appeared unto them Moses and then came Elias and then came Elijah - each of them committing the keys of their specific work.²⁸ Let me call your attention to the keys of Elias. In the first place, who is Elias? Elias is Noah, Here we have the same one who gave the covenant unto Japheth anciently, that he would be blessed and that we would come in and dwell in the House of Shem. He returned to earth to give the keys unto the Prophet Joseph Smith to fulfill the promise made to Abraham that through the loins of Abraham, or the chosen seed, all the children of the earth would be blessed.

Soon after 1836 the Lord gave the revelation to send missionaries and commence work among the Gentiles in England, and labor in 1850 in France, and then in northern Italy and then these other countries. This was not done, however, until Noah returned the "Key."

You see, as in Elias the Gospel of Jesus Christ would be preached unto the Gentiles. Don't you see that what we are doing is a great deal more important than just filling a two and one-half year period as a missionary and then going home? We are working out the plan which the Father laid in the beginning as to what would transpire. What has actually happened? The Lord is preparing men and women today to become heirs of the Celestial Kingdom. This is the only work that is being done. The work for the Terrestrial Kingdom has not even been started yet. It will not start until the work for the Celestial Kingdom is finished. Then all who are to go into the Telestial Kingdom, will continue until all have made covenant and have received the promise to go into that Kingdom. All of these things will be done in their proper order.

Why is the work being done for the Celestial Kingdom first? Why is that in your patriarchal blessing it says that you will come forth in the morning of the First

28 D&C 110:11-16.

Resurrection. Because only those who come forth in the morning of the First Resurrection will go into the Celestial Kingdom. Those who come forth in the evening of the First Resurrection will go into the Terrestrial Kingdom, and this will be the end of the First Resurrection. The Second Resurrection will be for those who go into the Telestial Kingdom and those who eventually become Sons of Perdition.

All of this is in accordance with a well-worked out plan of procreation and judgment until the final work that the Lord has intended for men is over.

There is another thing that you must understand for yourselves to understand this whole thing, and that is this life, or the day of this life, so far as the Gospel is concerned, begins the day you were born and ends after the period of the Spirit World - not when you die in this life. So, the day of this life, so far as the plan of life is concerned is from the day you were born until the end of your period in the Spirit World. For this reason, then, we can function and carry on the program that the Lord has intended in the Spirit World so that they can be preached to and have work done for them here upon the earth, and that work will be bound in the worlds that are to come.

Now I want to go back again to the statement of Abraham and to emphasize here the importance of what we are doing. "Now the Lord has shown unto me, Abraham, the Intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones; and God saw these souls that they were good and He stood in the midst of them and He said, These will I make my rulers."²⁹ All right, what did the Lord mean by that? I call your attention now to the washing and anointing that you received in the Temple. All of you have been through the Temple, I assume. When you went into the washing and anointing room where you were washed and anointed with oil and water, you were given a new name, and you were

²⁹ Abraham 3:22.

promised that someday you would be called up to be a king and a priest or a queen and a priestess. Don't ever suppose that this is for this life. It is not. It is for the next life, and the Lord is preparing today, the rulers that will be administrators of this, that is the Celestial Kingdom must be peopled first because it becomes the Kingdom of Administration, so all of it becomes part of the plan.

The Terrestrial Kingdom will receive its administrators through the Christ and the Melchizedek Priesthood, and there will be a system of government establishment upon that kingdom. The Celestial Kingdom will receive its administration through the ministering angels of the Celestial Kingdom, and they will have their form of government, but they will exist and live under a government. They will be controlled by laws and growth - all in accordance with the plan of the Lord - the same in the Terrestrial and Celestial Kingdoms.

Now, let us suppose that we were a board of directors here today and we were going to establish a vast corporation that would hire millions of men and women. Would we go out and hire all these men right at the outset, or would we first build an administrative building and hire executives or administrators and then place them over the control and govern? It is the same thing in the plan of life. The Celestial Kingdom must be founded first because it becomes the Kingdom of Administration. The Lord has revealed these things to us. They are very plain, and what we are striving for today is to find those whom the Lord wants to make His rulers.

We like to think, know, and I do too, that the Gospel is going to be received by everyone, but it isn't. I call to your attention to the statements of the Christ when he said, "Straight is the gate and narrow the way, ... and few there be that find it."³⁰ There won't be many, but these the Lord has chosen in the pre-existence, if they are worthy and prove their worthiness in this life and this probation, then they

³⁰ Matthew 7:14.

receive the endowment. When they get the endowment, they are promised that they will be leaders, We call them kings and priests, but the correct word in our terminology would be administrators, a leader, and executive, who will go into these other degrees of glory.

Now you see how the plan opens up, and there is purpose and meaning as to what we are doing? I have often said this, it is a frightening thought, but it is undoubtedly true, that only those who are worthy of leadership will enter the Celestial Kingdom, because that is the Kingdom of Administration. Others who are less valiant, who do not have the qualities of leadership and direction will necessarily have to settle for the Terrestrial Kingdom.

I don't know whether the knowledge of the revelation of these things will have an effect upon you as a missionary, but know that it has an effect upon me, because if am to fulfill my destiny and my purpose here in this life as has been given me and proven to me by my pre-[mortal]³¹ identity, then I would do everything in my power to measure up to what was in the preexistence, because if we could this day, by some miraculous means be permitted to see who we were wouldn't be President Dyer up here or you wouldn't be Elder Smith or Brown or President Gunderson. Oh, no! You would be someone else, and the day will come when you will know who you are, because you are a person of nobility in the pre-existence. If you were not, you would have been born into one of these other channels, and you would not have been born in this day and age, because the Lord has withheld the choice spirits of the pre-existence to come forth in this the last dispensation, and the reason for this is obvious. Why? Because in the world, will be just that many righteous spirits who supported Him and sustained Him and who accepted Him in the pre-existence. That is why today am telling you how to preach the Gospel to the people. They do not need to have long teaching, These people today who are accepting the Gospel know all about it because they have

31 Orig. "pre-existent"

been selected to know. That is why they recognize it when they feel the charge and the impact of testimony and spirit. Then it all unfolds to them, and many of them are even more brilliant than we because of the place which they held.

This is not like any other day in the history of the world, The Lord is preparing to make His stand. The Lord is now preparing to establish His Kingdom, the Kingdom that will govern the earth for 1,000 years before we go into the judgment period that leads into the establishment of the degrees of glory. In consequence of that, He has widely chosen the ones that are to come into the world in this day and age. It is a battle. He fought the power of Lucifer in the pre-existence. He had to use His best spirits to defeat him, and here again He will have to do the same thing, and He knows that. Now, what does that mean in probation?

In the sight of our Heavenly Father he has made this life a probation which means that a person who is born in a lower division can accelerate through this life to a higher division. For example, if a colored person, being born into the Telestial division will receive and accept the Gospel, he can be elevated to the Celestial division or to the Terrestrial division. That is the purpose of the probation, That is why the Lord set the plan of the Gospel so that those who had not merited it in the pre-existence may merit it here through this life or probation. Don't you see that? Don't you see the purpose of the probation, the planning of the Gospel, to provide even this last opportunity in this life while men are taking upon themselves the element of body to have another chance to improve their place over what they had done in the pre-existence?

Now I want to read to you from the Book of Mormon on that. This scripture will have new meaning to you, I am sure, as you understand the things that I have spoken. The Prophet Alma understood this very plainly and want you to pay particular attention to what he says. This is found in the 34th chapter, beginning with the 31st verse. I am sure that you have read it, but let's read it now for this concept. "Yea, I

would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation,” What is the time and the day? From the beginning of birth to the end of the Spirit World. That is the time and the day of your salvation. “And therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you.”³² Don't you see?

All a man has to do is repent and open his heart to the Lord, and immediately the plan will be made known unto him. That doesn't say the missionary will make it known unto him the power of the Holy Ghost will snake it known unto him. He already knows it because he stood in the councils and supported and sustained this plan. He recognized the prophets, etc. “For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God.”

If life did not extend beyond the grave, then why did Christ go to the Spirit World? Why do we send our missionaries to the Spirit World, undoubtedly where Elder Wheat went? Isn't it something that he was driving on the highway doing missionary work? In the twinkling of an eye he was doing missionary work in the Spirit World. He had changed from life to death still a missionary. It came upon him, and he never even knew what happened. I know just as well as I know anything that he is preaching the Gospel.

Many of the people of the world like the descendants of Meshech who are living in Russia, live and die without hearing the Gospel and go to the Spirit World. We do not have access to them, so the Lord teaches them the Gospel in the Spirit World, because their government won't let us do it here. Then their descendants hear of it, and they, themselves, wield great influence. In this way the Gospel is preached unto all nations, kindreds, and tongues.

“Now behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God, behold the days of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.”³³ Now listen closely, “And now, as I

32 Alma 34:31.

33 Alma 34:32

said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end.” What is the end? The end of the Spirit World is this life. “For after this day of life:” - or from birth until the end of the Spirit World “Which is given to us to prepare for eternity. Behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed.”³⁴ Do you see how plain this is? If we do not improve ourselves from one division to another born into this world in a lower division, improving ourselves to one of the higher, then we can do nothing about it. “If we do not improve our time and our place in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed,” It is just as simple as anything can be simple.

I wanted to talk to you about that today, because I wanted you know the reason why you are preaching the Gospel. There is a purpose behind it and knowing this as you do and knowing your nobility - what kind of a missionary are you going to be from this day to the end of your mission? I know what kind you want to be. There will be no more wasted time because it is imposed upon you - the necessity of continuing your nobility, that you may prove your place, that you may be a ruler and a king and a queen and a priestess as you were promised in the Temple of God if you were faithful in fulfilling your obligation.

I have always thought and have proven the point many times that if you will place into the mind of a boy or a girl, firmly, that they are noble persons, born of noble heritage in the pre-existence, they will never stoop to anything that is sordid. They just won't do it. You don't need the preaching and harassments of young people. All you need to do is accept that as your ideology, and what you do from now on will be the important thing in your life, because I have made known to you today something that you may not have known before, but you know it now because the Spirit

34 Alma 34:33.

bears record.

May the Lord bless you in it and bless you with the knowledge. I bear record of this truthfulness in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sons of God³⁵

Although the Lord created all the world and we are all “the offspring of God”³⁶ only those who are members of His church holding the priesthood are considered to be “sons of God.”³⁷ He further said, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.”³⁸ From Paul we read, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”³⁹ The blessing of being a son of God is to be “an heir of God through Christ”⁴⁰ this blessing is attained only through faithful obedience to the Lord's commandments.

35 It is uncertain whether this added by President Dyer or the transcriber.

36 See Acts 17:29.

37 See John 3:2.

38 See John 1:12-13.

39 See Romans 8:11+

40 See Galatians 4:6-7.

First Presidency Statement

17 August 1949

The attitude of the Church with reference to Negroes remains as it has always stood. It is not a matter of the declaration of a policy but of direct commandment from the Lord, on which is founded the doctrine of the Church from the days of its organization, to the effect that Negroes may become members of the Church but that they are not entitled to the priesthood at the present time. The prophets of the Lord have made several statements as to the operation of the principle. President Brigham Young said: "Why are so many of the inhabitants of the earth cursed with a skin of blackness? It comes in consequence of their fathers rejecting the power of the holy priesthood, and the law of God. They will go down to death. And when all the rest of the children have received their blessings in the holy priesthood, then that curse will be removed from the seed of Cain, and they will then come up and possess the priesthood, and receive all the blessings which we now are entitled to." ...

The position of the Church regarding the Negro may be understood when another doctrine of the Church is kept in mind, namely, that the conduct of spirits in the premortal existence has some determining effect upon the conditions and circumstances under which these spirits take on mortality and that while the details of this principle have not been made known, the mortality is a privilege that is given to those who maintain their first estate; and that the worth of the privilege is so great that spirits are willing to come to earth and take on bodies no matter what the handicap may be as to the kind of bodies they are to secure; and that among the handicaps, failure of the right to enjoy in mortality the blessings of the priesthood is a handicap which spirits are willing to assume in order that they might come to earth. Under this principle there is no injustice whatsoever involved in this deprivation as to the holding of the priesthood by the Negroes.

Plan of Salvation

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

The following is a talk given by President Alvin R. Dyer at the Mission conference in Oslo, Norway, on March 18, 1961. It is recommended that each missionary should read this message several times in order to get a better understanding of the purpose of the Restored Gospel.

We have talked a lot about missionary work and heard the testimonies of those who have spoken. I want to talk to you a little bit now about something that is not missionary work, and what I say is not to be given to your investigators by any matter of means.

In the Korean War there was a thing that took place that I don't know as it brought disgrace upon our country, but it tends to prove the fact that so many of the young men of America didn't have the concept of liberty and freedom as sponsored by our own beloved country. This was such a shock to our leaders that a program was instituted throughout the country which is still carried on to better prepare our young people to meet the future, both physically and mentally. I was disillusioned at what took place.

Always in my life I have thought that a "Yankee" or an American was just about the greatest of everything in the world. I have always been a kind of hero worshipper anyway, and a great football player or a great baseball player is something throughout my life that has been more or less my ideal. Anything American was great. I still feel that way when it comes to my personal, inward feeling. I still have an affinity for that.

There was an episode that took place in the Korean War that was very hard for me to take, and hard for me to understand. I am sure that it was much harder for those who were in it who were called upon to endure the privations of that war or any war for that matter. After the war was over, the information concerning the behaviour of our young men who had been captured by the Koreans (Communist Koreans) revealed the fact that they behaved more ashamedly and with almost cowardice. In the interrogations that were made of our young men, there were less than 5% of them that even knew why they were fighting, and what was meant by liberty and freedom and the American way of life. Less than 5% of them had been taken prisoners, and I know that that must not have been a very easy life. But the official records, also revealed that

38% of the American soldiers that were taken prisoners by the Koreans who died in Prison camps, didn't die from starvation or from any punishment. They simply quit and laid down and died, because they did not have the moral stability to fight. This was the disgraceful thing about all of it. Nearly 4 out of 10 of the American Korean prisoners died because they did not have the will to live. They did not have any reason or rhyme for what they were there for.

When this became known to our leaders, they immediately called into conference a great body of men and established, in America, what they called a physical fitness program. Ezra Taft Benson and Marion D. Hanks and several others from the Church were called upon, and they are still serving on it. I was glad to see that President Kennedy has reinstated this program among our young people.

You might say, "What has that to do with us?" It doesn't have a great deal to do with us except that I would feel rather embarrassed as a leader of the Church if anyone of our missionaries did not know what he is in the mission field for. If you were asked the question as to why you were here and what you were doing in the mission field, and all you could say is that, "I am here preaching the Gospel, and I have been sent out here. I know the Gospel is true, and I have a testimony of it." If that is all you could say, you don't have a full meaning for the purpose of missionary work.

We have always felt that if you would place in the hearts and minds of anybody the reasons for doing things and the purpose behind it, you wouldn't have to worry about what the person would do. If you young men and women know why you are here and why the Lord is so anxious for us to preach the Gospel today, and then would ask yourselves a number of questions connected with that, such as: Why is it that you were born today instead of 2,000 years ago? Why is it that you are sitting in this room today and were for some reason not born in the day of Moses or in the day when Christ was upon the earth? Or do you think that that is just something haphazard - that it just happened that way - that nobody had anything to do with it. You would ask another question maybe. Why is it that you are white and not colored? Have you ever asked yourselves that question? Who had anything to do with your being born into the Church and not born a Chinese or a Hindu or a Negro? Is God such an unjust person that He would make you white and free and make a Negro cursed under the cursing of Cain that he could not hold the Priesthood of God? Who do you think decided and what is the reason behind it? Then maybe you would ask yourselves another question. Why is it that you were kept in the Spirit World until the Last Dispensation to come forth among the children of men?

Was there any reason for that, and who decided it?

When you begin to get the answers to those questions, then perhaps you will understand why the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being preached in the world today, and the plan of salvation is taking its effects upon people. I think that every missionary ought to know the answers to these questions. When he does know the answers, he stands before the Lord without excuse to go forth and labor with all his strength to serve the Lord.

There isn't anyone in this room that would have the fantastic notion that this life is of any great duration. This life is merely a pinpoint or speck in the eternity of man's existence. It is over so fast that it is merely a short period of time in the existence of eternal life of man here upon the earth, just a few short hours in the plan of the Gospel according to the Lord's reckoning of time. The whole plan of life - its whole period - comes and goes within just a few short hours of the Lord's time. To us it is many thousands of years.

I want to talk to you just briefly about this, not with any information that you would convey to your investigators, but that you, yourselves, may have a better understanding of what we are doing in the missionfield today, and why it is that we come to you with encouragement to work with all your strength to get people into the Church, and why we set goals. It isn't for the purpose of a goal. That is just a kind of game between us to become physically motivated to go out and do our best and work as a team and as a mission. The real purpose behind this is more far-reaching than that.

I will read to you from the Pearl of Great Price. "And the Lord said unto me" - speaking to Abraham - "These two facts do exist, that they are two spirits, one being more intelligent than the other, there shall be another more intelligent than they" - indicating that in the pre-existence there are three divisions of spirits. "These two facts do exist, that there are two spirits, one being more intelligent than the other - there shall be another more intelligent than they - I am the Lord their God, I am more intelligent than they all."

This statement of Abraham's is directly connected with the Degrees of Glory, because we are taught that when people die, all shall be resurrected who are born in this life - Sons of Perdition and all. They are then, after the Spirit World, assigned into one of these three Degrees

of Glory - the Celestial, the Terrestrial, and the Telestial. Others who were spun off out of that go into outer darkness, because there is no light in them. They can no longer repent, and because they can no longer repent, they can no longer be governed by law. Therefore they became Sons of Perdition and are not worthy to go into a Degree of Glory. The consequence of that is that they shall go with Lucifer and the disembodied (unembodied) spirits who never were permitted to take upon themselves a body of flesh and bone.

You remember the scripture that missionaries very often use in Corinthians when Paul is speaking of the three divisions of people. We often use the scripture as a resurrection scripture, but we do not apply it properly. If you will read it carefully, it says "Such are they in the resurrection." Which means that Paul is calling to the attention of those that listen to him that there are three Degrees of Glory of people, who are in preparation on the earth while they live here. Now let's suppose, to make this more plain, that the earth would end at this instant, that there would be no one upon the earth, that life would cease and that judgment was immediate. Obviously, the people who had been living on the earth would be assigned to one of these three places. Therefore, the people who are living upon the earth today are the embryos of these three kingdoms.

The suggestion here by Abraham is that they were born into this life with this same degree of division. There were three divisions of mankind in the pre-existence, and when you are born into this life, you are born into one of these three divisions of people. There is an imposed judgment placed upon everyone who leaves the Spirit World just the same as there will be when they leave this life and go into one of three places. When they left the Spirit World, they had already been judged by what they had done in the Spirit World and in their previous life. From the judgment is determined how they shall be born in this life. When you understand that, you know that God is not unjust to cause a righteous spirit to be born as a cursed member of the black race or to be cursed as one of the other people who had been cursed. Everything is in order. The procreation of man is orderly and is in accordance with the plan of life and salvation.

In keeping with this thought, when Noah went into the Ark, here again he took with him his three sons - one representing the chosen lineage, the second representing the lineage of adoption, and the third representing the cursed lineage. Thereafter, when men began to be born again ~~into this life, they were born through one of these three~~

sons of Noah, either through the lineage of Shem, Joseph, or Ham. Those who have been cursed in the pre-existence were born through the lineage of Ham.

I suppose, and you may often have heard missionaries say it, or have asked the question: "Why is a Negro a Negro?" And you have heard this answer: they were neither hot nor cold, so the Lord made them Negroes. This of course, is not true. The reason that spirits are born into Negro bodies is that those spirits rejected the Priesthood of God in the pre-existence. This is the reason why you have Negroes upon the earth.

You will observe that when Cain was influenced by the power of Lucifer to follow him and to fall down and worship him in the beginning, it was then that the Lord came to him and said, Cain, if you will abide the law - if you will keep the commandments, you too can be acceptable unto me. But Cain rejected the counsel of God. He rejected again the Priesthood as his forebears had done in the pre-existence. Therefore, the curse of the pre-existence was made institute through the lines of Cain. Consequently, you have then the beginning of the race of men and women into which would be born those in the pre-existence who had rejected the Priesthood of God.

There was another division in the pre-existence - those who were not valiant in the acceptance of the Gospel. You see, there is a great difference between one who accepts and one who accepts and does something about it. We had a division in the pre-existence for those who did not accept the Priesthood, neither did they fully accept the plan of salvation that was advanced by the Christ. They, therefore, in accordance to the plan of the Gospel, became those of the lineage of adoption.

I want to read to you a very important scripture in the Old Testament. We talk about studying books and reading manuscripts to prepare ourselves to teach the Gospel, but there are very few missionaries who have even studied the Old Testament. The 10th Chapter of Genesis, according to my information, has had at least 2,000 volumes written about it - just about this chapter. It is so important, because the whole plan and purpose of life was understood by the ancient people of Israel, and they knew and understood what was meant by the teachings of the Old Testament here given to us by Moses. I want to read something to you and make an explanation. "And Ham, the Father of Canaan" - this is the 9th Chapter of Genesis - "saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without."

And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their sholders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father - and their faces were backward and they saw not their father's nakedness." Now, that is a Jewish story - that is a Hebrew story, in legend form, that merely implicates the fact that Ham reinstated the curse of the pre-existence when he rejected the Priesthood of Noah, and in consequence of that he preserved the curse on the earth. Therefore, the Negroes to be born thereafter, or those who were to become Negroes, were to be born through the loins of Ham.

All of this is according to a well worked-out plan, the millions and billions of spirits waiting birth in the pre-existence would be born through a channel or race of people. Consequently, the cursed were to be born through Ham. We cannot accept this story literally, because in order to understand that, you have to read the Pearl of Great Price very carefully. Because in the early days when the Egyptian government was established under its first rulers, the pharaohs, they worked up a system that was exactly like the priesthood of God. It was exactly like the Patriarchal Order, but knowing they could not claim the birthright, they thought to capitalize on the form or the order of administration. The Pearl of Great Price tells us specifically that they knew that they could not hold the Priesthood, yet they used the same type of organization. Gradually, the sons of Pharaoh began to denounce the concept and assumed unto themselves that they were princes, and not the descendants of Ham. There is a great deal more to it than that, but I wanted to point this out to you. That all of this that we talk about with people is not just merely a little message that we proclaim to them, but all that we are doing is part of a great plan that we inaugurated under the direction of the Christ in the pre-existence.

Listen to what Noah said to his other two brethren: "And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his young son had done unto him. And he said, cursed Canaan - a servant of servants shall be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem - and Canaan shall be his servant." Who is Shem? Shem is what is known as the father of Shemitics. He became the father of the children of Israel. Through the lines of Shem and his descendants were born Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and then twelve sons or Princes of Israel. Therefore, Shem became the father, or the progenitor, of those who were to be born into this life who were the noblest of the intelligences whom Abraham speaks of here when he said, "Notwithstanding that these two spirits are intelligent, and one is

more intelligent than the other," there is still another spirit or another division that is more intelligent than both of them. Then subsequent to that, he said to Abraham, "Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was - and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones; and God saw these souls that they were good, and He stood in the midst of them, and He said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born." This is true with everyone who fits into the category of the descendants of Shem who became the literal sons and daughters of Israel.

This is a part of the plan the world does not know anything about. The Christian churches never mention it. They never teach it because they know nothing about it.

Noah made another promise at this time, and he said, "God shall enlarge Japheth, and He shall dwell in the house or tent of Shem." What is the house or tent of Shem? - The House of Israel, Therefore, descendants of Japheth shall be enlarged, and they shall be permitted to dwell in the House of Israel. Therefore, we call the descendants of Japheth the children of the adoption. Now, who are the descendants of Japheth? The descendants of Japheth are in all of Europe. They are in America. They are in Japan and Korea. They are in India, and all of these people can be traced. For example, we have here the generations of Shem as the Lord gives it to us in Chapter 10 of the Book of Genesis. These ancient prophets were careful to preserve these generations, and these genealogies, knowing their full meaning, which the world doesn't understand but which we know by revelation from the Lord.

"Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and unto them were born sons after the Flood. The sons of Japheth: Gomorthey are the French; Magog - they are the slavs and Madai - they are the Hindu, the Korean, the Indian, the Japanese and the Phillippino. We know who the people are who migrated eastward through India into the area of Tungus and then into Korea and Japan. This is the reason today why we are having such tremendous success among the Koreans and the Japanese, because it is the day the Gospel is to be preached to them. Then he goes on to say, Javan - the people of Greece and Italy, and of Turkey; Meshech - the Mezhecites, the Muskavites, the Russians; Tiras - the Syberians. These were the descendants of Japheth.

The day was to come, according to Noah, that these people and their descendants would come in and dwell in the tent, of the house of Shem, or the House of Israel. You have to know that and understand it to know what the Lord is doing today in preaching the Gospel unto the Gentiles because this is the day of the Gentile. We are preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles. They are the people of Europe. They are the people of America. This is the time of the Gentile. Only one portion of the House of Israel is being called and they are the children of Ephraim.

Everyone of you here, I assume, has had a patriarchal blessing. Is there anyone here who is not of the lineage of Joseph? You see what I mean? They are the only ones of the House of Israel that are being called - the lineage of Joseph through Ephraim, and there is reason for that.

I want to mention again the teaching of Christ unto the Nephites. You will find this in the 21st chapter of III Nephi; the sign of the Father's work, the glorious destiny of the repentant Gentiles, the condemnation predicted for the impenitent, and the coming of the new Jerusalem, or the city of Zion. Then the Lord, Himself, speaking unto the Nephites said this: "And verily I say unto you, I give unto you a sign, that ye may know the time when these things shall be about to take place - that I shall gather in from their long dispersion, my people, O House of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion."

Then He goes on to tell that the first of this day shall be the day of the Gentile, and you read that entire chapter. I won't take the time to do it, but He says in that, "For my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto the," - the Prophet Joseph Smith - "But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore, they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him, for I will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil."

The Prophet Joseph Smith suffered martyrdom, but was not harmed, and he said to his brother in Carthage prison just before he was shot, "Fear not, brethren, they may take our lives and destroy the body, but they cannot kill us." For this is what the Lord is saying here. If you will read the rest of the chapter, you will read how the Gospel is to be taken to the Gentiles. The Lord said in verse 22, "But

behold! If the Gentiles will repent" - meaning who? The French, the German, the Norwegian, the Swedish, the Finlander, the people of Denmark, and the people all over the countries of Europe. "If they will repent and harken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my Church among them and they shall come in unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance." This was spoken of before by Nephi, you will read it in the 13th and 14th chapters of the Book of Mormon where the Lord makes plain that the day will come when the Gentiles will receive the Gospel and will come in and be numbered among the children of Israel.

I read just one of these scriptures although there are many found in 1 Nephi. There is another found in 1 Nephi, chapter 14, starting with the first verse. "And it shall come to pass that if the Gentiles" - let me explain again now who the Gentiles are, in the eyes of a Jew everyone who is not a Jew is a Gentile. But correctly speaking, the Gentiles are the descendants of the House of Japheth, the oldest son of Noah, The cursed people are the descendants of Ham. The chosen people are the descendants of Shem - the three sons of Noah. Through these lineages the spirits that compare with their station are born in this life. This is why you have colored people, why you have dark people, and why you have white people. The Lord is speaking of the Gentiles. "And it shall come to pass that if the Gentiles" - the descendants of Japheth - "shall harken unto the Lamb of God in the day that He shall manifest Himself unto them in the word, and also in power, in very deed, unto the taking away of their stumbling blocks" in other words, where they have resisted the Church, resisted conversion, the Lord will remove the stumbling blocks - "and if they harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of their father: yea, they shall be a blessed people." You see, this is the promise that was made anciently by Noah when he blessed Japheth. Because why? Because he did not rebel against the Priesthood that Noah held like Ham did, and neither did Shem.

We have a fulfillment of this scripture, When the Kirtland Temple was finished, there was a number of ancient prophets that made their appearance in the temple. The Christ was the first to come and receive the Temple and gave instructions to Joseph Smith, many of which we have not been privileged to know about. Following this there appeared unto them Moses and then came Elias and then came Elijah - each of them committing the keys of their specific work. Let me call your attention to the keys of Elias. In the first place, who is Elias? Elias is Noah. Here we

have the same one who gave the covenant unto Japheth anciently, that he would be blessed and that we would come in and dwell in the House of Shem. He returned to earth to give the keys unto the Prophet Joseph Smith to fulfill the promise made to Abraham that through the loins of Abraham, or the chosen seed, all the children of the earth would be blessed. Soon after 1836 the Lord gave the revelation to send missionaries and commence work among the Gentiles in England and labor in 1850 in France and then in northern Italy and then these other countries. This was not done, however, until Noah returned the "Key."

You see, as in Elias the Gospel of Jesus Christ would be preached unto the Gentiles. Don't you see that what we are doing is a great deal more important than just filling a two and one-half year period as a missionary and then going home? We are working out the plan which the Father laid in the beginning as to what would transpire.

What has actually happened? The Lord is preparing men and women today to become heirs of the Celestial Kingdom. This is the only work that is being done. The work for the Terrestrial Kingdom has not even been started yet. It will not start until the work for the Celestial Kingdom is finished. Then all who are to go into the Terrestrial Kingdom, will continue until all have made covenant and have received the promise to go into that Kingdom. All of these things will be done in their proper order.

Why is the work being done for the Celestial Kingdom first? Why is that in your patriarchal blessing it says that you will come forth in the morning of the First Resurrection. Because only those who come forth in the morning of the First Resurrection will go into the Celestial Kingdom. Those who come forth in the evening of the First Resurrection will go into the Terrestrial Kingdom, and this will be the end of the First Resurrection. The Second Resurrection will be for those who go into the Terrestrial Kingdom and those who eventually become Sons of Perdition. All of this is in accordance with a well-worked out plan of procreation and judgment until the final work that the Lord has intended for men is over.

There is another thing that you must understand for yourselves to understand this whole thing, and that is this life, or the day of this life, so far as the Gospel is concerned, begins the day you were born and ends after the period of the Spirit World - not when you die in this life. So, the day of this life, so far as the plan of life is concerned is from the day you were born until the end of your period in the Spirit World. For this reason, then,

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we can function and carry on the program that the Lord has intended in the Spirit World so that they can be preached to and have work done for them here upon the earth, and that work will be bound in the worlds that are to come.

Now I want to go back again to the statement of Abraham and to emphasize here the importance of what we are doing. "Now the Lord has shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones; and God saw these souls that they were good and He stood in the midst of them and He said, "These will I make my rulers." All right, what did the Lord mean by that? I call your attention now to the washing and anointing that you received in the Temple. All of you have been through the Temple, I assume, when you went into the washing and anointing room where you were washed and anointed with oil and water, you were given a new name, and you were promised that someday you would be called up to be a king and a priest or a queen and a priestess. Don't ever suppose that this is for this life. It is not. It is for the next life, and the Lord is preparing today, the rulers that will be administrators of this, that is the Celestial Kingdom must be peopled first because it becomes the Kingdom of Administration, so all of it becomes part of the plan.

The Terrestrial Kingdom will receive its administrators through the Christ and the Melchizedek Priesthood, and there will be a system of government establishment upon that kingdom. The Celestial Kingdom will receive its administration through the ministering angels of the Celestial Kingdom, and they will have their form of government, but they will exist and live under a government. They will be controlled by laws and growth - all in accordance with the plan of the Lord - the same in the Terrestrial and Celestial Kingdoms.

Now, let us suppose that we were a board of directors here today and we were going to establish a vast corporation that would hire millions of men and women. Would we go out and hire all these men right at the outset, or would we first build on administrative building and hire executives or administrators and then place them over the control and govern? It is the same thing in the plan of life. The Celestial Kingdom must be founded first because it becomes the Kingdom of Administration. The Lord has revealed these things to us. They are very plain, and what we are striving for today is to find those whom the Lord wants to make His rulers.

We like to think, I know, and I do too, that the Gospel is going to be received by everyone, but it isn't. I call to your attention to the statements of the Christ when he said, "Straight is the gate and narrow the way, and few there be that find it." There won't be many but these the Lord has chosen in the pre-existence. If they are worthy and prove their worthiness in this life and this probation, then they receive the endowment. When they get the endowment, they are promised that they will be leaders. We call them kings and priests, but the correct word in our terminology would be administrators, a leader, and executive, who will go into these other degrees of glory.

Now you see how the plan opens up, and there is purpose and meaning as to what we are doing? I have often said this, it is a frightening thought, but it is undoubtedly true, that only those who are worthy of leadership will enter the Celestial Kingdom, because that is the Kingdom of Administration. Others who are less valiant, who do not have the qualities of leadership and direction will necessarily have to settle for the Terrestrial Kingdom.

I don't know whether the knowledge of the revelation of these things will have an effect upon you as a missionary, but I know that it has an effect upon me, because if I am to fulfill my destiny and my purpose here in this life as has been given me and proven to me by my pre-existent identity, then I would do everything in my power to measure up to what I was in the pre-existence, because if we could this day, by some miraculous means be permitted to see who we were I wouldn't be President Dyer up here or you wouldn't be Elder Smith or Brown or President Gunderson. Oh, no! You would be someone else, and the day will come when you will know who you are, because you are a person of nobility in the pre-existence. If you were not, you would have been born into one of these other channels, and you would not have been born in this day and age, because the Lord has withheld the choice spirits of the pre-existence to come forth in this the last dispensation, and the reason for this is obvious. Why? Because in the world, will be just that many righteous spirits who supported Him and sustained Him and who accepted Him in the pre-existence. That is why today I am telling you how to preach the Gospel to the people. They do not need to have long teaching. These people today who are accepting the Gospel know all about it because they have been selected to know. That is why they recognize it when they feel the charge and the impact of testimony and spirit. Then it all unfolds to them, and many of them are even more brilliant than we because of the place which they held.

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This is not like any other day in the history of the world. The Lord is preparing to make His stand. The Lord is now preparing to establish His Kingdom, the Kingdom that will govern the earth for 1,000 years before we go into the judgment period that leads into the establishment of the degrees of glory. In consequence of that, He has widely chosen the ones that are to come into the world in this day and age. It is a battle. He fought the power of Lucifer in the pre-existence. He had to use His best spirits to defeat him, and here again He will have to do the same thing, and He knows that. Now, what does that mean in probation?

In the sight of our Heavenly Father he has made this life a probation which means that a person who is born in a lower division can accelerate through this life to a higher division. For example, if a colored person, being born into the Telestial division will receive and accept the Gospel, he can be elevated to the Celestial division or to the Terrestrial division. That is the purpose of the probation. That is why the Lord set the plan of the Gospel so that those who had not merited it in the pre-existence may merit it here through this life or probation. Don't you see that? Don't you see the purpose of the probation, the planning of the Gospel, to provide even this last opportunity in this life while men are taking upon themselves the element of body to have another chance to improve their place over what they had done in the pre-existence.

Now I want to read to you from the Book of Mormon on that. This scripture will have new meaning to you, I am sure, as you understand the things that I have spoken. The Prophet Alma understood this very plainly and I want you to pay particular attention to what he says. This is found in the 34th chapter, beginning with the 31st verse. I am sure that you have read it, but let's read it now for this concept. "Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation." What is the time and the day? From the beginning of birth to the end of the Spirit World. That is the time and the day of your salvation. "And therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you." Don't you see?

All a man has to do is repent and open his heart to the Lord, and immediately the plan will be made known unto him. That doesn't say the missionary will make it known unto him - the power of the Holy Ghost will make it known unto him. He already knows it because he stood in the councils and supported and sustained this plan. He recognized the prophets, etc. "For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God."

If life did not extend beyond the grave, then why did Christ go to the Spirit World? Why do we send our missionaries to the Spirit World, undoubtedly where Elder Wheat went? Isn't it something that he was driving on the highway doing missionary work? In the twinkling of an eye he was doing missionary work in the Spirit World. He had changed from life to death still a missionary. It came upon him, and he never even knew what happened. I know just as well as I know anything that he is preaching the Gospel.

Many of the people of the world like the descendants of Meshech who are living in Russia, live and die without hearing the Gospel and go to the Spirit World. We do not have access to them, so the Lord teaches them the Gospel in the Spirit World, because their government won't let us do it here. Then their descendants hear of it, and they, themselves, wield great influence. In this way the Gospel is preached unto all nations, kindreds, and tongues.

"Now behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God, behold the days of this life is the day for men to perform their labors." Now listen closely, "And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end." What is the end? The end of the Spirit World is this life. "For after this day of life:" - or from birth until the end of the Spirit World - "Which is given to us to prepare for eternity. Behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed." Do you see how plain this is? If we do not improve ourselves from one division to another born into this world in a lower division, improving ourselves to one of the higher, then we can do nothing about it. "If we do not improve our time and our place in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed." It is just as simple as anything can be simple.

I wanted to talk to you about that today, because I wanted you know the reason why you are preaching the Gospel. There is a purpose behind it and knowing this as you do and knowing your nobility - what kind of a missionary are you going to be from this day to the end of your mission? I know what kind you want to be. There will be no more wasted time because it is imposed upon you - the necessity of continuing your nobility, that you may prove your place, that you may be a ruler and a king and a queen and a priestess as you were promised in the Temple of God if you were faithful in fulfilling your obligation.

I have always thought and have proven the point many times that if you will place into the mind of a boy or a girl, firmly, that they are noble persons, born of noble heritage in the pre-existence, they will never stoop to anything that is sordid. They just won't do it. You don't need the preaching and harrassments of young people. All you need to do is accept that as your ideology, and what you do from now on will be the important thing in your life, because I have made known to you today something that you may not have known before, but you know it now because the Spirit bears record.

May the Lord bless you in it and bless you with the knowledge. I bear record of this truthfulness in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sons of God

Although the Lord created all the world and we are all "the offspring of God" (see Acts 17:29) only those who are members of His church holding the priesthood are considered to be "sons of God." (see John 3:2) He further said, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God!" (see John 1:12-13) From Paul we read, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (see Romans 8:14) The blessing of being a son of God is to be "an heir of God through Christ!" (see Galatians 4:6-7) this blessing is attained only through faithful obedience to the Lord's commandments.