

"LAST LECTURE SERIES" GIVEN BY DELBERT V. GROBERG at

RICKS COLLEGE - FEBRUARY 17, 1977

(With introduction by Jennie H. Groberg)

My beloved young brothers and sisters - it is a privilege and a joy for President Groberg and I to be with you today and to feel your precious and happy spirits, and to bring you greetings from the Temple.

Recently, in the Temple, I heard a man ask President Groberg how he felt to be the father of a General Authority. His reply was typical of him. President Groberg said: "I feel the same way I've always felt about being a father - humble and grateful."

Certainly his first love and greatest joy is his family - his seven sons and four daughters and, as of now, 43 grand-children - and of course all the in-laws.

He is humble and grateful as he teaches his posterity, especially by his example, to love and serve others and to find joy in giving total dedication to the work of the Lord. He is also humble and grateful as he magnificently serves the Lord in other Church callings outside his home - as Bishop, High Councilor, Patriarch, and Temple President.

He is humble and grateful as he serves in community and business affairs, representing the State of Idaho as its first Realtor of the Year, or as its first President of Real Estate appraisers, or as Chairman of the County Bicentennial Commission, or as Director of KID or the Bank of Commerce, or as founder and developer of the D. V. Groberg Company - humble and grateful..

We have been married forty-six years and are eagerly looking forward to the next forty-six hundred years together.

Obviously nothing could give me more pleasure than to introduce to you as your speaker today, my eternal companion and sweetheart and husband, and President of the Idaho Falls Temple - Delbert V. Groberg --

(given by Jennie H. Groberg)

(Talk given by Delbert V. Groberg)

"How glorious and near to the angels is youth that is clean. This youth shall have joy unspeakable here and eternal life hereafter," (statement of First Presidency) --is an ageless message of truth and hope and congratulation and promise. Keep clean, be faithful and **claim** the blessings. This message is especially timely and appropriate today as my lecture to you is: "HEAVENLY MESSENGERS AND THEIR MESSAGES."

I will mention the names and something about some of the messengers as well as the purpose and importance (to us) of their messages. And if it appears I have passed over the "last lecture" and gone on to the one after the last - a message, or messages, from the spirit world - from the other side of the veil - so let it be.

My experience from earliest memory has been an on-going witness of the reality, closeness and importance of the life and work of those who have completed their mortal mission and have gone on - as the Prophet Joseph Smith said, "to a more important work". "For", said he, "the spirits of the just are exalted to a greater and more glorious work - they are not far from us and they know and understand our thoughts, our feelings (and our actions) and are often pained therewith." (Teachings, p. 326) An understanding of this will be a strength and motivation to us. It will also awaken in us a desire to be a blessing and a credit and not a "pain" to our loved ones.

Although my mother and my father died in the second and third years of my life, I always knew their love and interest and helpfulness to me were constant. Their presence was never far removed. They were always very close and knew my thoughts and words and deeds. Our family was **sealed** together for time and for eternity. It has always been very easy for me to accept the Prophet's account of his **First Vision**, the visitation of angels and the accounts of messages and ordinances given to Prophets on this earth by Heavenly Messengers sent here to restore, ordain and give instructions. It is strengthening to live in the realization that we are actually, or potentially, a vital part of an eternal family.

Our son, John, (a General Authority), said in April, 1976 General Conference:
 "We often hear of the need of our departed dead to have us go to the Temple and do the Temple work for them. We think of their dependence upon us. While I don't have a complete understanding of these things, I want to bear my testimony that I am sure we have as great a dependence upon them, if not more, than they do upon us. We need to help one another. Our salvation depends upon it."

One good example of how one in the Spirit World continued to bless his living descendants, is the Prophet Lehi (and other of the Book of Mormon prophets). Lehi had given special blessings to his grandchildren just before he died... "Wherefore, thou shalt not utterly be destroyed but in the end thy seed shall be blessed." (II Ne. 4)

Lehi continued his interest, his love and influence, to see that the Gospel would be taken to his seed. Likely Lehi was with Samuel and those who are mentioned in the following account received in a letter from our son, Bishop Joseph H. Groberg, when he was serving as a missionary in Lima, Peru, and being at the time an Assistant to the Mission President was with President Hugh B. Brown when he visited Peru. Excerpts from Joseph's letter say: "President Brown said that while in Cuzco he had a very dark feeling and was about to suggest that the Elders be taken out. But then, in meeting with the Elders, he felt the presence of another person whose spirit influenced him - Samuel the Lamanite. He said that all the Book of Mormon Prophets are pleading to God for their descendants." "You can imagine the great spirit that was present."

Those ⁱⁿ The Spirit World ^{are} ~~is~~ very real and very close and very important in bringing blessings and strength to their posterity.

Joseph Smith said: "Men and angels are to be co-workers in bringing to pass this great work (building the Kingdom of God and establishing Zion... The righteous of all ages are actively interested in this last great Dispensation of the Fulness of Times - for in this their hopes and promises are to be fulfilled." "There are no angels who minister to this earth but those who do belong or have belonged to it." (D. & C. 130:5)

In Joseph Smith's vision of the Celestial Kingdom as recorded in our new scriptures, we read: "I saw Father Adam and Abraham, and my father and my mother and my brother Alvin that had long since slept. As I pondered, knowing that Alvin had died before being baptized or receiving the ordinances, thus came the voice of the Lord unto me, saying: all who have died without a knowledge of this gospel, who would have received it if they had been permitted to tarry, shall be heirs of the Celestial Kingdom of God, also all that shall die henceforth without a knowledge of it, who would have received it with all their hearts, shall be heirs of that Kingdom, for I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts. And I also beheld that all children who die before they arrive at the years of accountability, are saved in the Celestial Kingdom of Heaven. "

Washington and Lincoln are excellent examples. In our Church News, Feb. 12, 1977, we read: "It is remarkable how closely the principles of Washington and Lincoln parallel the teachings of the ancient prophets and the revelations given to the Prophet Joseph Smith. And why this parallel? Because both Washington and Lincoln were raised up for their work as definitely as the prophets were called to theirs..In their areas of activity, these men also were servants of God!"

Wilford Woodruff reported: "Those men who laid the foundation of this American government and signed the Declaration of Independence were the best spirits the God of Heaven could find on the face of the earth..General Washington and all the men that labored for the purpose were inspired of the Lord...Every one of those men..called upon me..in the Temple at St. George..They waited on me for two days and two nights..said they: 'You have had the use of the endowment House for a number of years and yet nothing has ever been done for us. We laid the foundation of the government you now enjoy and we never apostatized from it but remained true to it and were faithful to God.'" Wilford Woodruff was baptized for all of them and arranged to have the other Temple work done for them.

There are more Temples under construction or rebuilding now than at any other time in our history, - four new ones at: Sao Paulo, Brazil, Mexico City, Mexico, Tokyo,

Japan; Seattle, Washington; the Logan and Hawaiian Temples are having major remodeling.

President John Taylor says: "Why Temples? That we may administer the ordinances which the Lord has revealed unto us and which, according to His commandments, must be done in Temples built to his name. If we were to turn over today these buildings to the religious world, they would know no more how to use them legitimately than a baby would know what to do with algebra; neither would we had not the Lord taught us by revelation from Heaven. The Gospel brings life and immortality to light; it places us in communion with the Heavens; the priesthood there and the priesthood here, working harmoniously together, we being taught of them and enabled to accomplish what the Lord requires of us." The Heavenly messengers restoring keys, giving directions and power from on high. The Prophet Joseph Smith received the messages from Heaven to build the Kirtland Temple, also the Temple in Nauvoo. At Kirtland he was told: "Yea, verily I say unto you, I gave unto you a commandment that you should build a house, in the which house I design to endow those whom I have chosen with power from on high." (D. & C. 95:8)

Now order and obedience and honor are laws of Heaven. These were perfectly exemplified by the great Jehovah, our elder Brother, in the pre-earth life when He said: "Father, thy will be done and the glory be thine forever."

The Prophet gives the account of the First Vision: "I saw two personages whose brightness and glory defy all description..one of them said, 'Joseph, this is my beloved son, hear him!'.I asked which of all the sects was right..He forbade me to join with any of them; and many other things did he say unto me, which I cannot write at this time..." Keep this in mind.

Moroni, preparing for his outstanding part as a Heavenly messenger to the Prophet in this dispensation, quotes his father: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, have miracles ceased because Christ hath ascended into Heaven and hath sat down on the right hand of God..Nay, neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men, for behold, they are subject unto God, to minister according to the word

of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness. And the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance and to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the Father, which He hath made unto the children of men to prepare the way among the children of men by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord that they may bear testimony of Him..if these things are true, has the day of miracles ceased? or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men..Behold I say unto you, nay, for it is by faith that miracles are wrought and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men, wherefore, if these things have ceased, wo be unto the children of men for it is because of unbelief and all is vain." (Moroni 7).

And known everywhere as the Angel Moroni now, we have to wonder as he engraved these words of his beloved father, Mormon, if he envisioned that he himself would be one of these very angels.

At the time of the first of many visits to the Prophet (researchers have listed at least twenty), Moroni stated: "Behold, I will reveal unto you the priesthood by the hand of Elijah the Prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming," (D.&C. 2)- Thus foretelling the coming of Elijah and Temple marriage, sealing, endowment, etc. Alex Haley was undoubtedly moved by this powerful spirit of Elijah to to search out his "roots" (ancestry -his best seller, also record T.V. show, has popularized family research. The morning truly breaks on family genealogy and research,

John the Baptist, (D. & C. 13:) "Upon you, my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and this shall never be taken again from the earth until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness."

John the Baptist reported to the Prophet that he was acting under the direction of Peter, James and John and they held the keys of the higher and Melchizedek Priesthood and that in due time they would come.

In the Kirtland Temple, April 3, 1836 (the week following the dedication) "Moses appeared before us and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north.."Elias appeared and committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham, saying that in us and our seed all generations after us should be blessed..." "Another great and glorious vision burst upon us for Elijah, the Prophet, who was taken to Heaven without tasting death, stood before us and said: 'Behold the time has fully come which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi--testifying that He Elijah should be sent before the great and dreadful day of the Lord come--to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse--therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors."

Up to now we have mentioned ten heavenly messengers with their ^{messengers?} messengers.

John Taylor: "When Joseph Smith was raised up as a Prophet of God, Mormon, Moroni, Nephi and others of the ancient prophets who formerly lived on this continent, and Peter and John and others who lived on the Asiatic continent, came to him and communicated to him certain principles pertaining to the Gospel of the Son of God. Why. Because they held the keys of the various dispensations...those holy men of God who have lived in the various ages feel interested in our welfare and they are watching over us and we are better taken care of than many of us think... The principles which he had placed him in communication with the Lord..and with such men, for instance, as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Noah, Adam, Seth, Enoch..the apostles that lived on this continent as well as those who lived on the Asiatic continent.. He seemed to be as familiar with these people as we are with one another..."(JD:17,374)

President John Taylor was a close associate of the Prophet during the Prophet's life and was with him at the martyrdom, and was the successor to Brigham Young as President of the Church.

The Prophet Joseph stated: "The building up of Zion is a cause that has interested the people of God in every age; it is a theme upon which prophets, priests and kings have dwelt with peculiar delight; they have looked forward with joyful anticipation to the day in which we live, and fired with heavenly and joyful anticipation, they have sung and written and prophesied of this, our day; but they died without the sight; we are the favored people that God has made choice of to bring about the latter-day glory; it is left for us to see, participate in and help to roll forward the latter-day glory; 'the dispensation of the fulness of times, when God will gather together all things that are in heaven and all things that are upon the earth,' 'even in one' - when the saints of God will be gathered in one from every nation and kindred and people and tongue, when the Jews will be gathered together into one, the wicked will also be gathered together to be destroyed, as spoken of by the prophets; the spirit of God will also dwell with his people and be withdrawn from the rest of the nations and all things whether in heaven or on earth will be in one, even in Christ. The Heavenly priesthood will unite with the earthly, to bring about those great purposes; and whilst we are thus united in one common cause, to roll forth thy kingdom of God, the Heavenly priesthood are not idle spectators, the spirit of God will be showered down from above and it will dwell in our midst...."

From his "radiance in the dungeon" the Prophet wrote from Liberty Jail:
"God shall give unto you knowledge by his holy spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost, that has not been revealed since the world was until now, which our forefathers have awaited with anxious expectation to be revealed in the last times, which their minds were pointed to by the angels, as held in reserve for the fulness of their glory; a time to come in the which nothing shall be withheld, whether there be one God or many Gods, they shall be manifest, all thrones and

dominions, principalities and powers, shall be revealed and set forth upon all who have endured valiantly for the gospel of Jesus Christ." (D. & C. 121:26-29)

The Prophet Joseph states: "The organization of the spiritual and Heavenly worlds and of spiritual and Heavenly beings was agreeable to the most perfect order and harmony; their limits and bounds were fixed irrevocably and voluntarily subscribed to in their Heavenly estate by themselves and were by our first parents subscribed to upon the earth. Hence the importance of embracing and subscribing to principles of eternal truth by all men upon the earth that expect eternal life." (Tchgs. p. 325)

Now this life is the time to prepare -learn and obey the order of spiritual laws and beings.

Parley P. Pratt in his Autobiography records: "I had the happiness of once more meeting with President Smith and of spending several days with him...during these interviews he taught me many great and glorious principles concerning God and the Heavenly order of eternity. It was at the time that I received from him the first idea of eternal family organization and the eternal union..in those inexpressibly endearing relationships which none but the highly intellectual, the refined and pure in heart, know how to prize and which are at the very foundation of everything worthy to be called happiness. Till then I had learned to esteem kindred affections and sympathies appertaining solely to this transitory state..it was Joseph Smith who taught me how to prize the endearing relationships of father and mother, husband and wife, of brother and sister, son and daughter..it was from him that I learned the true dignity and destiny of a son of God, clothed with an eternal priesthood as the patriarch and sovereign of his countless offspring. It was from him that I learned that the highest dignity of womanhood was to stand as a queen and priestess to her husband and to reign forever and ever as the queen mother of her numerous and still increasing offspring...yet at that time, my dearly beloved brother, Joseph Smith, had barely touched a single key, had merely lifted a corner of the veil and given me a single glance into eternity...."

"Now what do we hear in the gospel which we have received? A voice of gladness! a voice of mercy from heaven and a voice of truth out of the earth; glad tidings for the dead, a voice of gladness for the living and the dead--glad tidings of great joy....Brethren, shall we not go on in so great a cause,--Go forward and not backward--Courage brethren and on, on to the victory--let your hearts rejoice and be exceedingly glad, let the earth break forth into singing, let the dead speak forth anthems of eternal praise to the King Immanuel who hath ordained before the world was that which would enable us to redeem them out of their prison--And again I say, how glorious is the voice we hear from heaven, proclaiming in our ears, glory and salvation and honor and immortality and eternal life, kingdoms, principalities and powers---" (D. & C. 128)

President Kimball says (Ensign, 1977, January) .."The Lord's work in which we are engaged is one vast and grand work with striking similarities on each side of the veil..missionary work is not limited to proclaiming the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people now living, missionary work is also continuing beyond the veil..our great part in this aspect of missionary work is to perform on this earth the ordinances required for those who accept the gospel over there."

Heaven and earth - time and eternity - men and angels working together building the Kingdom, -the veil is very thin - our loved ones could be very close -- Our eternal families are the source of our exaltation. Be clean, be faithful, don't settle for a counterfeit, don't be deceived, so many here and over there depend on you - come to the Temple and claim your blessings. "Pray unto the Lord, call upon his holy name, make known his wonderful works among the people, call upon the Lord that His Kingdom may go forth upon the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may receive it and be prepared for the days to come in the which the Son of Man shall come down in Heaven, clothed with the brightness of His glory, to meet the Kingdom of God which is set up on the earth." (D. & C. 65:4-5)