

Steady in the Storms

By President Henry B. Eyring

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

When the storms in life come, you can be steady because you are standing on the rock of your faith in Jesus Christ.

Section I

My dear brothers and sisters, we have been blessed today to hear inspired servants of God give counsel and encouragement. Each of us, wherever we are, knows that we live in increasingly perilous times. My prayer is that I might help you stand steady in the storms we face, with a peaceful heart.¹

The place to begin is to remember that we are each a beloved child of God and that He has inspired servants. Those servants of God have foreseen the times in which we live. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”² Anyone with eyes to see the signs of the times and ears to hear the words of prophets knows that is true. The perils of greatest danger come to us from the forces of wickedness. Those forces are increasing. And so it will become more difficult, not easier, to honor the covenants we must make and keep to live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For those of us who are concerned for ourselves and for those we love, there is hope in the promise God has made of a place of safety in the storms ahead.

Here is a word picture of that place. It has been repeatedly described by living prophets. For example, as recorded in the Book of Mormon, an inspired and loving father told his sons how to strengthen themselves to stand steady in the storms ahead of them: “And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, ... whereon if men build they cannot fall.”³

The misery and endless woe of which he spoke are the terrible effects of sins should we not fully repent of them. The growing storms are the temptations and the increasing attacks of Satan. It has never been more important than it is now to understand how to build on that sure foundation. For me, there is no better place to look than in the last sermon of King Benjamin, also recorded in the Book of Mormon.

King Benjamin’s prophetic words are applicable to us in our day. He knew from his own experience the terrors of war. He had defended his people in combat, relying on the power of God. He saw clearly the terrible powers of Lucifer to tempt, to try to overcome, and to discourage God’s children.

He invited his people and us to build on the only sure rock of safety, who is the Savior. He made clear that we are free to choose between right and wrong and that we cannot avoid the consequences of our choices. He spoke directly and sharply because he knew what sorrow would come to those who might not hear and heed his warnings.

Antonia's Thoughts:

“help you stand steady in the storms we face, with a peaceful heart”

“As a Child” 5/2006

- 1 Beloved child of God
Our natures must be changed to become as a child to gain the strength we must have to be safe in the times of moral peril.
- 2 He has inspired servants (foreseen our time)
Perils of greatest danger come from the forces of wickedness. And they are increasing. It will be more difficult to HONOR the covenants we make and keep to LIVE the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1 This know also, that in the ^alast days perilous ^btimes shall come. 2Tim 3:1

...last days

13 But wickedness did prevail upon the face of the whole land, insomuch that the Lord did take away his beloved disciples, and the work of miracles and of healing did cease because of the iniquity of the people.

14 And there were no gifts from the Lord, and the Holy Ghost did not come upon any, because of their wickedness and unbelief.

15 And I, being fifteen years of age and being somewhat of a sober mind, therefore I was visited of the Lord, and tasted and knew of the goodness of Jesus.

16 And I did endeavor to preach unto this people, but my mouth was shut, and I was forbidden that I should preach unto them; for behold they had wilfully rebelled against their God; and the beloved disciples were taken away out of the land, because of their iniquity.

17 But I did remain among them, but I was forbidden to preach unto them, because of the hardness of their hearts; and because of the hardness of their hearts the land was cursed for their sake. **Mormon 1:13-17**

26 And no one need say they shall not come, for they surely shall, for the Lord hath spoken it; for out of the earth shall they come, by the hand of the Lord, and none can stay it; and it shall

come in a day when it shall be said that miracles are done away; and it shall come even as if one should speak from the dead.

27 And it shall come in a day when the blood of saints shall cry unto the Lord, because of secret combinations and the works of darkness.

28 Yea, it shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches become defiled and be lifted up in the pride of their hearts; yea, even in a day when leaders of churches and teachers shall rise in the pride of their hearts, even to the envying of them who belong to their churches.

29 Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be heard of fires, and tempests, and vapors of smoke in foreign lands;

30 And there shall also be heard of wars, rumors of wars, and earthquakes in divers places.

31 Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be great pollutions upon the face of the earth; there shall be murders, and robbing, and lying, and deceivings, and whoredoms, and all manner of abominations; when there shall be many who will say, Do this, or do that, and it mattereth not, for the Lord will uphold such at the last day. But wo unto such, for they are in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity.

32 Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be churches built up that shall say: Come unto me, and for your money you shall be forgiven of your sins.

33 O ye wicked and perverse and stiffnecked people, why have ye built up churches unto yourselves to get gain? Why have ye transfigured the holy word of God, that ye might bring damnation upon your souls? Behold, look ye unto the revelations of God; for behold, the time cometh at that day when all these things must be fulfilled. Mormon 8:26-33

...times

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 2Tim 4:3

Place of Safety

...Rock of our Redeemer

...foundation (sure foundation)

...storm shall have no power over you

...Rock

3 Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou *art* my **“rock** and my fortress.

Psalm 71:3

24 ¶ Therefore whosoever **“heareth** these sayings of mine, and **“doeth** them, **“I** will liken him unto a **“wise** man, which **“built** his house upon **“a rock**:

25 And the **“rain** descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and **“beat** upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a **“rock**.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a **“foolish** man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that **“house**; and it **“fell**: and great was the fall of it. Matt 7:24-27

35 And they remembered that God *was* their rock, and the high God their redeemer. Psalm 78:35

12 And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall. Helaman 5:12

34 Therefore, fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail. D&C 6:34

53 And the Lord said: Blessed is he through whose seed Messiah shall come; for he saith—I am Messiah, the King of Zion, the Rock of Heaven, which is broad as eternity; whoso cometh in at the gate and climbeth up by me shall never fall; wherefore, blessed are they of whom I have spoken, for they shall come forth with songs of everlasting joy. Moses 7:53

The Misery and endless woe Terrible effects of sins should we NOT FULLY repent of them. Growing storms are the temptations and increasing attacks of Satan.

How to build on a sure foundation

King Benjamin

--temptation, try to overcome, and to discourage God's children

16 ¶ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a ^afoundation a ^bstone, a tried stone, a precious ^ccorner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. **Isaiah 28:16-17**

16 But behold, according to the scriptures, this ^astone shall become the great, and the last, and the only sure ^bfoundation, upon which the Jews can build.

Jacob 4:16

6 Yea, they shall not be beaten down by the storm at the last day; yea, neither shall they be harrowed up by the whirlwinds; but when the ^astorm cometh they shall be gathered together in their place, that the storm cannot penetrate to them; yea, neither shall they be driven with fierce winds whithersoever the enemy listeth to carry them.

Alma 26:6

25 And the ^arain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it ^bfell not, for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not shall be likened unto a ^afoolish man, who built his house upon the ^bsand—

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

3 **Nephi 14:25-27**

AS A CHILD

“Becometh As a Child”

By Elder Neal A. Maxwell

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

I add my warm welcome to the newly sustained Seventies, promising them friendship as we now company one another through the years which lie ahead.

First, brothers and sisters, some brief samples illustrating the challenge of making our way through today's Sinai of secularism, and then a focus on how inspired children help in that trek.

resentment, we must still reach out, especially for those whose hands hang down (see [D&C 81:5](#)). If our shortcomings as a people are occasionally highlighted, then let us strive to do better.

Besides, the exhilarations of discipleship exceed its burdens. Hence, while journeying through our Sinai, we are nourished in the Bountiful-like oases of the Restoration. Of these oases some of our first impressions may prove to be more childish than definitive. Brushing against such lush and verdant vegetation, its fragrance is inevitably upon us. Our pockets are stuffed with varied and lush fruits, and we are filled with glee. There is no way to describe it all. In our appreciation, little wonder some of us mistake a particular tree for the whole of an oasis, or a particularly refreshing pool for the entirety of the Restoration's gushing and living waters. Hence, in our early exclamations there may even be some unintended exaggerations. [We have seen, and partaken of, far too much; hence we "cannot \[speak\] the smallest part which \[we\] feel" \(Alma 26:16\).](#)

[In addition to these oases, the Lord has made further and "ample provision" for our journey, including families, neighbors, and fellow servants \(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith \[1976\], 220\). Each of these is given to strengthen, edify, instruct, comfort, and inspire us while we are "knit together in love" \(Col. 2:2\). Therefore, we experience the contagiousness of commitment in these interlacings of our lives.](#)

Some 12 years ago, there was a tennis match with two LDS physicians and a nonmember medical student from Brazil. With no intervening communication, last month in Curitiba, Brazil, Valentim Goncalves stood by me again, not on a tennis court but instead in a regional conference to translate for me. Thanks to his innate goodness and the good work of others, ophthalmologist Valentim is not only a member, but is a stake president in Curitiba. Valentim and his special wife, sealed in the temple, have been blessed with three lovely children. This remarkable rendezvous added to my already appreciative wonder over the workings of the hand of the Lord (see [D&C 59:21](#)).

[Inspired children often show the way through the wilderness. One reason they are able to do so is implicit in the searching question asked by King Benjamin: "For how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?" \(Mosiah 5:13\).](#)

[Children often have the "thoughts and \[the\] intents of \[their\] hearts" focused on the Master. Though not full of years, such children are full of faith! Too young for formal Church callings, they have been "called to serve" as exemplifiers, doing especially well when blessed with "goodly parents" \(1 Ne. 1:1\).](#)

[Just as the scriptures assure, "little children do have words given unto them many times" \(Alma 32:23\). For example, the resurrected Jesus revealed things to the Nephite children, who then taught adults and their parents "even greater" things than Jesus had taught \(3 Ne. 26:14\).](#)

It has been a privilege to seal several adopted children to Nan and Dan Barker, now of Arizona. Some time ago Nate, then just over three, said: "Mommy, there is another little girl who is

supposed to come to our family. She has dark hair and dark eyes and lives a long way from here.”

The wise mother asked, “How do you know this?”

“Jesus told me, upstairs.”

The mother noted, “We don’t have an upstairs,” but quickly sensed the significance of what had been communicated. After much travail and many prayers, the Barker family were in a sealing room in the Salt Lake Temple in the fall of 1995—where a little girl with dark hair and dark eyes, from Kazakhstan, was sealed to them for time and eternity. **Inspired children still tell parents “great and marvelous things” (3 Ne. 26:14).**

Benjamin Ballam is the special spina bifida child of Michael and Laurie Ballam. He has been such a blessing to them and many others. Also spiritually precocious, Benjamin is a constant source of love and reassurance. Having had 17 surgeries, resilient Benjamin knows all about hospitals and doctors. Once, when an overwhelmed attendant became vocally upset—not at Benjamin, but over stressful circumstances—little three-year-old Benjamin exemplified the words of another Benjamin about our need to be childlike and “full of love” ([Mosiah 3:19](#)). Little Benjamin reached out, tenderly patted the irritated attendant, and said, “I love you anyway.” A similar episode occurred recently in an Israeli hospital, where little Benjamin, going through a necessary but very painful procedure, used the same loving words to reassure a physician. No wonder, **brothers and sisters, in certain moments we feel children are our spiritual superiors.**

Alyx baptism...

Joseph and Janice Clark were blessed with two sons, Jacob and Andrew. Five years ago, Joseph was stricken suddenly and, in effect, became a hospitalized quadriplegic. There, supine Joseph’s sons would often be cradled in his arms. Joseph would always smile even when he could not speak audibly. In the eyes of the world, his was a catastrophic illness. Nevertheless, Joseph, his saintly wife, their two boys, and with strong support from parents and families, coped remarkably for five years. Because they trusted God as to what was really going on, like Job, they did not charge “God foolishly” ([Job 1:22](#)).

Amid all the incessant and difficult problems, many of us watched Janice and Joseph apply King Benjamin’s words by showing that they were “willing to submit” to what had been inflicted upon them ([Mosiah 3:19](#)). Radiant Joseph died recently. The very day after his death, prescient, nine-year-old Jacob, who knew firsthand of his father’s loving and outreaching nature, said, “Mom, I’ll bet Dad already has a lot of friends in heaven!” A few days later, seven-year-old Andrew struggled with a computer assignment at school but later reported to his mother, “I just thought of Dad, and he helped me.”

A four-year-old Brazilian girl, Mayara Fernanda dos Santos, suffering from leukemia and on oxygen, was blessed recently by Elder Claudio Costa and myself in Curitiba, Brazil. After the blessing, empathetic little Mayara smilingly wiped a tear from her anxious mother’s cheek.

Instinctively wise beyond her years, Mayara knows how to “comfort those that stand in need of comfort,” including her precious parents who are willing to wait upon the Lord ([Mosiah 18:9](#)).

Elder Craig Zwick and I shared a precious moment in Fortaleza, Brazil, where we were privileged to bless a special seven-year-old boy who was dying of leukemia. His names—Jared Ammon—tell you much about his parents and family. Accompanied by a thoughtful mission and stake president, there was scarcely room for the four of us to stand beside the bed in the tiny room where Jared Ammon’s faithful 14-year-old sister held him in her arms. His stomach was so severely swollen. When the stake president lifted the oxygen mask to ask if he would like a blessing, Jared said, “Yes, please.” It was a privilege to bless him and to call him to serve beyond the veil. Tears flowed, for the Spirit was strong. The oxygen mask was then lifted again, and Jared Ammon was asked if there was anything else we could do for him. Jared meekly requested that we sing for him “I Am a Child of God” (*Hymns*, no. 301). Weepingly, we responded to a submissive Jared Ammon’s last request, and two hours later he was released from this life.

Before emplaning the next day, we went to the viewing at the chapel. His wonderful parents were full of faith, composed, and reverently “willing to submit” ([Mosiah 3:19](#)). The sister who held Jared plans to serve a mission later on this side of the veil, while Jared does on the other.

Brothers and sisters, no wonder the divine direction is for each of us to “becometh as a child” ([Mosiah 3:19](#)). Such saintliness will sustain us as we cross our Sinai, including in those moments when we must “be still, and know that I am God” ([Ps. 46:10](#)). Such submissive stillness is necessary, because the process of consecration is not one of explanation. Only “after the trial of [our] faith” does the full witness come; meanwhile, often “a little child shall lead [us]” ([Ether 12:6](#); [Isa. 11:6](#)).

I gladly testify to the truth of this work, and I witness to the wonder of it all, as we are led so ably by President Hinckley. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen!

“Willing to Submit”

By **Elder Neal A. Maxwell**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

I do not apologize for trying to speak about one of what Paul called “the deep things of God,” ([1 Cor. 2:10](#)), only for my inability to go deeply enough.

While we see this quality in the quiet but spiritually luxuriant lives of the genuine, spiritual heroes and heroines about us, the lack of it keeps so many of us straggling in the foothills and off the peaks in the adventure of full discipleship. I refer to our hesitancy and our holding back in submitting fully to the Lord and His purposes for us.

This holding back is like leaving Egypt without journeying all the way to the Holy Land, or waiting in Nauvoo for the railroad to come through, or staying permanently at Winter Quarters.

Though possessed of other fine attributes, we may still lack this one quality. Such was the case with the righteous young man who knelt sincerely at Jesus’ feet. Lacking one thing, he went away sorrowing and unsubmitive when a particularized challenge was given. (See [Mark 10:21](#)–

[22](#); [Luke 18:22–23](#).) Whether it is walking away without looking back from “great possessions” ([Mark 10:22](#)), or from a statusful place in the secular synagogue (see [John 12:42–43](#)), or from proud but erroneous attitudes accrued over the years, or merely “straightway” from fishing nets ([Mark 1:18](#)), the test is always the same.

With honest, individualized introspection, each of us could name what we yet lack—and in my case more than one thing.

Spiritual submissiveness is so much more than bended knee or bowed head. Alas, insofar as we “mind the things of the flesh” ([Rom. 8:5](#)), we simply cannot have the “mind of Christ.” ([1 Cor. 2:16](#).)

Jesus laid down this sobering requirement: “Except ye . . . become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” ([Matt. 18:3](#).)

One of Jesus’ prophets delineated—with submissiveness thrice stipulated—how a disciple can become “as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.” ([Mosiah 3:19](#).)

Three other clusters of scriptures stress these towering qualities. (See [Alma 7:23](#); [Alma 13:28](#); [D&C 121:41–42](#).) Stunningly parallel, they form an almost seamless litany of attributes to be developed, with submissiveness at their catalytic center. This repeated clustering is too striking to be random.

Moreover, the descriptive simplicity of this quality is matched by its developmental difficulty. It is so easy to be halfhearted, but this only produces half the growth, half the blessings, and just half a life, really, with more bud than blossom.

A superficial view of this life, therefore, will not do, lest we mistakenly speak of this mortal experience only as coming here to get a body, as if we were merely picking up a suit at the cleaners. Or, lest we casually recite how we have come here to be proved, as if a few brisk push-ups and deep knee bends would do.

Just how much submissiveness to circumstance there should be is not treated in these brief remarks. Suffice it to say, God “allotteth unto men” certain things with which we are to be content. (See [Alma 29:4](#), [Philip. 4:11](#); [1 Tim. 6:8](#).) A missing parent or limb is to be lived without. Yet temper and lust are to be tamed. One’s race is fixed, but one’s genetic endowment offers opportunity to be a careful steward. The submissive soul will be led aright, enduring some things well while being anxiously engaged in setting other things right—all the time discerning the difference.

Required, in particular, is meekness of mind which recognizes God’s perfect love of us and His omniscience. By acknowledging these reassuring realities and accepting that God desires our full development and true happiness, we are readied even as the learning experiences come. Such meekness requires genuine intellectual honesty, owning up to the learning experiences of the past and listening to the Holy Ghost as he preaches to us from the pulpit of memory.

As the Lord communicates with the meek and submissive, fewer decibels are required, and more nuances are received. Even the most meek, like Moses (see [Num. 12:3](#)), learn overwhelming things they “never had supposed.” ([Moses 1:10](#).) But it is only the meek mind which can be so shown and so stretched—not those, as Isaiah wrote, who “are wise in their own eyes.” ([Isa. 5:21](#); see also [2 Ne. 9:29](#) and [2 Ne. 15:21](#).)

God's counsel aligns us and conjoins us with the great realities of the universe; whereas sin empties, isolates, and separates us, confining us to the solitary cell of selfishness. Hence the lonely crowd in hell.

Spiritual submissiveness means, instead, community and communion as the mind and the heart become settled. We then spend much less time deciding, and much more time serving; otherwise, the more hesitation, the less inspiration.

Yielding one's heart to God signals the last stage in our spiritual development. Only then are we beginning to be fully useful to God! How can we sincerely pray to be an instrument in His hands if the instrument seeks to do the instructing?

As we really begin to keep the first commandment—loving God with “all thy heart, with all thy might, mind, and strength” ([D&C 59:5](#); see also [Matt. 22:37](#))—giving time, talent, and treasure is then accompanied by fully giving of ourselves.

Sometimes, our holding back occurs because we lack faith or we are too entangled with the cares of the world. Other times, there is in us an understandable tremulousness which slows our yielding, because we sense what further yielding might bring.

Yet we need to break free of our old selves—the provincial, constraining, and complaining selves—and become susceptible to the shaping of the Lord. But the old self goes neither gladly nor quickly. Even so, this subjection to God is really emancipation.

How can we truly acknowledge the Fatherhood of God and refuse His tutorials? Especially in view of the fact, the Lord even chastens those whom He loves. (See [Heb. 12:6](#), [D&C 136:31](#), [Mosiah 23:21](#), [Rev. 3:19](#).)

Saul, when chosen, was “A choice young man, . . . and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he.” ([1 Sam. 9:2](#).) Later, he became encrusted with ego and puffed by power. Samuel then recalled a time when Saul “wast little in [his] own sight.” ([1 Sam. 15:17](#).) In contrast, true submissiveness greatly enlarges the soul, but *without* hypocrisy and guile. (See [D&C 121:42](#).)

Submissiveness also checks our tendency to demand advance explanations of the Lord as a perplexed yet trusting Nephi understood: “I know that [God] loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things.” ([1 Ne. 11:17](#).)

So did a wondering but submissive Mary: “And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” ([Luke 1:38](#).)

Just as the capacity to defer gratification is a sign of real maturity, likewise the willingness to wait for deferred explanation is a sign of real faith and of trust spread over time.

If faithful, we end up acknowledging that we are in the Lord's hands and should surrender to the Lord on His terms—not ours. It is total surrender, no negotiating; it is yielding with no preconditions.

Suppose Enoch had demurred when called by the Lord? He would have gone on being a good person, serving the Lord part-time, living in a city which was a slum compared to the glorious City of Enoch; nor would Enoch be a part of that scene of glorious greeting yet to come. (See [Moses 7:63](#).)

Suppose Peter had not left his nets “straightway”? (See [Mark 1:18](#).) He might have become the respected president of the local Galilean fishermen’s association. But he would not have been on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus, Moses, and Elias and heard the voice of God.

(See [Matt. 17:4](#).)

We have been given three special words—*but if not*—by three submissive young men who entered their fiery furnace, knowing “our God ... is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, ... *But if not*, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods.” ([Dan. 3:17–18](#); italics added.)

Moreover, our prayers should allow for three more special words: “And whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, *which is right*, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you.” ([3 Ne. 18:20](#); italics added.)

It is only by yielding to God that we can begin to realize His will for us. And if we truly trust God, why not yield to His loving omniscience? After all, He knows us and our possibilities much better than do we.

“Nevertheless they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ ... even to the ... yielding their hearts unto God.” ([Hel. 3:35](#).)

Otherwise, one can be too busy promoting his own agendum: “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.” ([Rom. 10:3](#).)

Distinguished therefrom is Jesus’ clear call: “Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness.” (JST, Matt. 6:33.)

While events often induce submissiveness, one’s development need not be dramatic or tied to a single moment; it can occur steadily in seemingly ordinary, daily settings. If we are meek, a rich and needed insight can be contained in reproof. A new calling can beckon us away from comfortable routine and from competencies already acquired. One may be stripped of accustomed luxury in order that the malignant mole of materialism be removed. One may feel humiliated in order that pride be chipped away.

...no poor among us..

The shaping goes on, and it is anything but merely cosmetic.

The tilt of our souls in first moments is so vital. Will what follows be viewed with disdain or as having some design? Which will we do most, murmur or ponder?

While most of our suffering is self-inflicted, some is caused by or permitted by God. This sobering reality calls for deep submissiveness, especially when God does not remove the cup from us. In such circumstances, when reminded about the premortal shouting for joy as this life’s plan was unfolded (see [Job 38:7](#)), we can perhaps be pardoned if, in some moments, we wonder what all the shouting was about.

For the faithful, what finally emerges is an understanding of “things as they really are” ([Jacob 4:13](#)), such as the reassuring realization that we are in the Lord’s hands! But, brothers and sisters, we were never really anywhere else! Demonstrating this great attitude is our beloved and submissive brother, Bruce R. McConkie.

“Know ye not that ye are in the hands of God?” ([Morm. 5:23](#).) Likewise, “all flesh” ([D&C 101:16](#), [Moses 6:32](#)) and “the heavens and the earth” ([D&C 67:2](#))! Perhaps the realization of being in God’s hands comes fully only as we ponder the significance of the prints in the hands of our submissive Savior. (See [3 Ne. 11:14–15](#).) Some will have to ask what those wounds are, having been estranged. (See [D&C 45:51–52](#).) These are they who “regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands.” ([2 Ne. 15:12](#).)

The more we study, pray, and ponder the awesome Atonement, the more we are willing to acknowledge that we are in His and the Father’s hands. Let us ponder, therefore, these final things.

When the unimaginable burden began to weigh upon Christ, it confirmed His long-held and intellectually clear understanding as to what He must now do. His working through began, and Jesus declared: “Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour.” Then, whether in spiritual soliloquy or by way of instruction to those about Him, He observed, “But for this cause came I unto this hour.” ([John 12:27](#).)

Later, in Gethsemane, the suffering Jesus began to be “sore amazed” ([Mark 14:33](#)), or, in the Greek, “awestruck” and “astonished.”

Imagine, Jehovah, the Creator of this and other worlds, “astonished”! Jesus knew cognitively what He must do, but not experientially. He had never personally known the exquisite and exacting process of an atonement before. Thus, when the agony came in its fulness, it was so much, much worse than even He with his unique intellect had ever imagined! No wonder an angel appeared to strengthen him! (See [Luke 22:43](#).)

The cumulative weight of all mortal sins—past, present, and future—pressed upon that perfect, sinless, and sensitive Soul! All our infirmities and sicknesses were somehow, too, a part of the awful arithmetic of the Atonement. (See [Alma 7:11–12](#); [Isa. 53:3–5](#); [Matt. 8:17](#).) The anguished Jesus not only pled with the Father that the hour and cup might pass from Him, but with this relevant citation. “And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me.” ([Mark 14:35–36](#).)

Had not Jesus, as Jehovah, said to Abraham, “Is any thing too hard for the Lord?” ([Gen. 18:14](#).) Had not His angel told a perplexed Mary, “For with God nothing shall be impossible”? ([Luke 1:37](#); see also [Matt. 19:28](#); [Mark 10:27](#); [Luke 18:27](#).)

Jesus’ request was not theater!

In this extremity, did He, perchance, hope for a rescuing ram in the thicket? I do not know. His suffering—as it were, *enormity* multiplied by *infinity*—evoked His later soul-cry on the cross, and it was a cry of forsakenness. (See [Matt. 27:46](#).)

Even so, Jesus maintained this sublime submissiveness, as He had in Gethsemane: “Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” ([Matt. 26:39](#).)

While bearing our sins, our infirmities, our sicknesses, and bringing to pass the Atonement (see [Alma 7:11–12](#)), Jesus became the perfect Shepherd, making these lines of Paul’s especially relevant and reassuring: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” ([Rom. 8:35](#).)

Indeed, we are in His hands, and what hallowed hands!

The wondrous and glorious Atonement was the central act in all of human history. It was the hinge on which all else that finally matters turned. But it turned upon Jesus’ spiritual submissiveness!

May we now, in our time and turn, be “willing to submit” ([Mosiah 3:19](#)), I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen!

Micah’s Thoughts:

In October 2020 President Eyring said, “You sisters, your daughters, your granddaughters, and the women you have nurtured will be at the heart of creating that society of people who will join in glorious association with the Savior. You will be an essential force in the gathering of Israel and in the creation of a Zion people who will dwell in peace in the New Jerusalem” (Sisters in Zion).

In April 2021 President Eyring said, “live so that when the call comes, you can walk away easily” (I Love to See the Temple).

So needless to say, when President Eyring started this talk with a reaffirmation of the prophetic role of prophets and then connected that directly to those with spiritual eyes to see and ears to hear know the time period that we are in, my ears perked up.

Everyone knows that some of my favorite scriptures are found in Doctrine and Covenants 101, but a great header for those scriptures are found in Doctrine and Covenants 1 (which wasn’t the first revelation received by Joseph Smith- it was the revelation that the Lord gave Joseph Smith to put as the introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants).

Doctrine and Covenants 1:11-16

11 Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear:

12 Prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh;

13 And the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth.

14 And the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people;

15 For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant;

16 They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

In these verses we hear the voice of the Lord via the servants of the Lord going unto the ends of the earth, the Lord warning that his sword is bathed in heaven and will shortly fall and those who will not hear and give heed to the keys will be cut off from among the Lord’s people. And

because we have removed our hearts from the Lord and every man follows after his own god we are not united as we should. And because of that:

2 Nephi 27:23-26

23 For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men save it be according to their faith.

24 And again it shall come to pass that the Lord shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him:

25 Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men—

26 Therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, yea, a marvelous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:10-20

10 I have sworn, and the decree hath gone forth by a former commandment which I have given unto you, that I would let fall the sword of mine indignation in behalf of my people; and even as I have said, it shall come to pass.

11 Mine indignation is soon to be poured out without measure upon all nations; and this will I do when the cup of their iniquity is full.

12 And in that day all who are found upon the watch-tower, or in other words, all mine Israel, shall be saved.

13 And they that have been scattered shall be gathered.

14 And all they who have mourned shall be comforted.

15 And all they who have given their lives for my name shall be crowned.

16 Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion; for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God.

17 Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered.

18 They that remain, and are pure in heart, shall return, and come to their inheritances, they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy, to build up the waste places of Zion—

19 And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled.

20 And, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed; neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed, for the work of the gathering of my saints

Note that the separation occurs from those who do not heed the prophet and we get the redemption of Zion and building of New Jerusalem “that the words of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Now considering President Eyring’s previous talks and how he is building up this talk so far, can we not see why my ears perked up? But it gets better, because the next thing President Eyring says is this, “For those of us who are concerned for ourselves and for those we love, there is hope in the promise God has made of a place of safety in the storms ahead.”

From the Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith,

“For without Zion, and a place of deliverance, we must fall; because the time is near when the sun will be darkened, and the moon turn to blood, and the stars fall from the heaven, and the earth reel to and fro. Then, if this is the case, and if we are not sanctified and gathered to the places God has appointed, with all our former professions and our great love for the Bible, we must fall; we cannot stand; we cannot be saved; for God will gather out his Saints from the Gentiles, and then comes desolation and destruction, and none can escape except the pure in heart who are gathered. ” (TPJS, pp. 70-71)

Joseph Smith read the second chapter of Joel and then said those remarks, so let’s pick out a couple of those scriptures that might be important to read here.

Joel 2:1-3

1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

Before I continue I want to reread again the line from President Eyring, “For those of us who are concerned for ourselves and for those we love, there is hope in the promise God has made of a place of safety in the storms ahead.”

Joel 2:11, 15-18

11 And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

15 ¶ Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

18 ¶ Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

3 Nephi 24:14-18

14 Ye have said: It is vain to serve God, and what doth it profit that we have kept his ordinances and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of Hosts?

15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:55-58

55 And the lord of the vineyard said unto one of his servants: Go and gather together the residue of my servants, and take all the strength of mine house, which are my warriors, my young men, and they that are of middle age also among all my servants, who are the strength of mine house, save those only whom I have appointed to tarry;

56 And go ye straightway unto the land of my vineyard, and redeem my vineyard; for it is mine; I have bought it with money.

57 Therefore, get ye straightway unto my land; break down the walls of mine enemies; throw down their tower, and scatter their watchmen.

58 And inasmuch as they gather together against you, avenge me of mine enemies, that by and by I may come with the residue of mine house and possess the land.

Doctrine and Covenants 103:9-22

9 For they were set to be a light unto the world, and to be the saviors of men;

10 And inasmuch as they are not the saviors of men, they are as salt that has lost its savor, and is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men.

11 But verily I say unto you, I have decreed that your brethren which have been scattered shall return to the lands of their inheritances, and shall build up the waste places of Zion.

12 For after much tribulation, as I have said unto you in a former commandment, cometh the blessing.

13 Behold, this is the blessing which I have promised after your tribulations, and the tribulations of your brethren—your redemption, and the redemption of your brethren, even their restoration to the land of Zion, to be established, no more to be thrown down.

14 Nevertheless, if they pollute their inheritances they shall be thrown down; for I will not spare them if they pollute their inheritances.

15 Behold, I say unto you, the redemption of Zion must needs come by power;

16 Therefore, I will raise up unto my people a man, who shall lead them like as Moses led the children of Israel.

17 For ye are the children of Israel, and of the seed of Abraham, and ye must needs be led out of bondage by power, and with a stretched-out arm.

18 And as your fathers were led at the first, even so shall the redemption of Zion be.

19 Therefore, let not your hearts faint, for I say not unto you as I said unto your fathers: Mine angel shall go up before you, but not my presence.

20 But I say unto you: Mine angels shall go up before you, and also my presence, and in time ye shall possess the goodly land.

21 Verily, verily I say unto you, that my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., is the man to whom I likened the servant to whom the Lord of the vineyard spake in the parable which I have given unto you.

22 Therefore let my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., say unto the strength of my house, my young men and the middle aged—Gather yourselves together unto the land of Zion, upon the land which I have bought with money that has been consecrated unto me.

I would commit everyone who couldn't see all of the connections between these scriptures to take the time to print them out and color code them and identify all the word associates between these.

It was brought to my attention from Antonia and it is found in the first footnote that this talk is basically word for word the same talk that President Eyring gave back in 2006. This to me was very interesting and I'll tell you why. I read this personally like President Eyring back in 2006 was telling us these things are at our door and in 2022 is now saying, "Remember when I told you about this time period that we would shortly be in? We are now here. Those with eyes to see can see the clouds and those with ears to hear can hear the thunder."

Section II

Here is how he described the consequences that follow our choice either to follow the prompting of the Spirit or to follow the evil messages that come from Satan, whose intent is to tempt and destroy us:

“For behold, there is a wo pronounced upon him who listeth to obey that [evil] spirit; for if he listeth to obey him, and remaineth and dieth in his sins, the same drinketh damnation to his own soul; for he receiveth for his wages an everlasting punishment, having transgressed the law of God contrary to his own knowledge. ...

“Therefore if that man repenteth not, and remaineth and dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine justice do awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt, which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord, and doth fill his breast with guilt, and pain, and anguish, which is like an unquenchable fire, whose flame ascendeth up forever and ever.”

King Benjamin went on to say, “O, all ye old men, and also ye young men, and you little children who can understand my words, for I have spoken plainly unto you that ye might understand, I pray that ye should awake to a remembrance of the awful situation of those that have fallen into transgression.”⁴

For me, the power of that warning to repent forms in my mind a picture of the sure time when you and I will stand before the Savior after this life. We want with all our hearts not to shrink but rather to look up at Him, see Him smile, and hear Him say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: ... enter [in].”⁵

King Benjamin makes it clear how we can receive the hope to hear those words if we find the way in this life to have our natures changed through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. That is the only way we can build on the sure foundation and so stand firm during the storms of temptations and trials ahead. King Benjamin describes that change in our natures with a beautiful metaphor that has always touched my heart. It was used by prophets for millennia and by the Lord Himself. It is this: we must become as a child—a little child.

For some, that will not be easy to accept. Most of us want to be strong. We may well see being like a child as being weak. Most parents look for the day when their children act less childish. But King Benjamin, who understood as well as any mortal what it meant to be a man of strength and courage, makes it clear that to be like a child is not to be childish. It is to be like the Savior, who prayed to His Father for strength to be able to do His Father’s will and atone for the sins of all of His Father’s children and then did it. Our natures must be changed to become as a child to gain the strength we must have to stand steady and at peace in times of peril.

Beverly’s Thoughts:

Pres Eyring back in 2006 gave a very similar talk titled “As a Child” Many parts of the talk are the same as this talk but I found a couple of gems included that aren’t in this talk Speaking of King Benjamin’s sermon, instead of saying that King Benjamin’s sermon has application to us today, he stated-“ **King Benjamin could see us and our descendants. He knew by prophetic power what we face.**” To me this is just one more confirmation that The Lord showed many of

his prophets what would transpire in our day. King Benjamin, like Nephi, Isaiah, Mormon, Moroni and many others were shown our day and witnessed and knew the calamities and struggles that we would need to overcome. His powerful sermon is precisely the message we need in our day to learn how to combat these temptations and become the people we are to become.

Also in the 2006 talk Pres Eyring continues speaking of King Benjamin's sermon – Pres Eyring states “ He (King Benjamin) started his discourse where we must all begin to help people escape spiritual disaster. **“People have to believe the danger is real to want to find safety. They have to fear the consequences of ignoring the peril.**”

This comment immediately brought to mind recent discussions during Come Follow Me videos with The Three Brothers, as well as on discord, of the need to have a healthy level of righteous fear of the Lord. If we don't have this healthy righteous fear, we are far less likely to be motivated to focus on making correct and righteous choices. Many people today don't fear any consequences of any action and subscribe to the dangerous attitude of which Nephi warned in 2Nephi 28:21 “And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say; All is well in Zion; yea Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them carefully down to hell” or in verses 8 of that same chapter summarizing --that many will believe – no worries if we commit a little sin, god may beat us with a few stripes, but in the end we will all be saved. Unfortunately, we see this rampant today, both inside and outside of the church. Verse 9 reads in part “Yea and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines.” Satan has a powerful tool in pushing this attitude and false narrative even among the church members today.

Continuing with the current talk, Pres Eyring reminds us that though we have our agency to choose between right and wrong, we cannot avoid the consequences of those choices. (actually from section 1) And then he quotes again from King Benjamin's sermon from Mosiah 2: 33, 38, 40. And since Micah just read those, I won't reread them. But I think it is important for us to remember that King Benjamin is not only speaking to his people, but to us today. King Benjamin reminds us that he is speaking plainly unto us so that we understand and awake to a remembrance of the awful situation of those that have fallen into transgression. IT IS NOT FIGURATIVE. He made it clear his words are literal and plain.

But then Pres Eyring pivots to the portion of King Benjamin's sermon that brings us hope by teaching us how we can have our natures changed through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. It is the only way that we will survive the trials and temptations that surround us and are growing in intensity every day.

And what happens when our natures are changed? We become as a little child, humble, and submissive to the will of the Father. I love the lesson here, that being as a little child is truly a

measure of strength and courage as we overcome our desire for sin and submit gratefully to the will of the Father, who knows our needs far better than we do. Aligning our will to the will of the Father and Jesus Christ is how we become of one heart and one mind.

From a talk by Elder D. Todd Christofferson (2002 Gen Conference) titled “That They May Be One in Us,” he teaches

We will not be one with God and Christ until we make Their will and interest our greatest desire. As His mortal ministry drew to a close, knowing “that his hour was come” (John 13:1), Jesus gathered His Apostles in an upper room and after He had washed their feet and taught them, Jesus offered a sublime Intercessory Prayer on behalf of these Apostles and all who would believe in Him. He supplicated the Father in these words:

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

“That they all may be one: as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me

“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

“I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one” (John 17:20-23)

How glorious it is to contemplate that we have been invited into that perfect unity that exists with the Father and the Son. How can this happen? Pondering this question, it becomes clear that we must begin by becoming one within ourselves. We are dual beings of flesh and spirit, and we sometimes feel out of harmony or in conflict. Our spirit is enlightened by conscience, the light of Christ, and naturally responds to the whisperings of the Holy Ghost and desires to follow truth. But the appetites and temptations to which the flesh is subject can, if permitted, overwhelm and dominate the spirit.

Nephi expressed “Notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, in showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth: O wretched man that I am! Yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh; my soul grieveth because of mine iniquities.”

“I am encompassed about, because of the temptations and the sins which do so easily beset me”

(2 Nephi 4:17-18)

But then, remembering the Savior, Nephi stated this hopeful conclusion: “Nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted”. (2 Nephi 4:19)

Jesus was also a being of flesh and spirit, but He yielded not to temptation (see Mosiah 15:5) We can turn to Him as we seek unity and peace within, because he understands. He understands the struggle, and He also understands how to win the struggle.

Most importantly, we may look to Jesus to help restore the inner unity of our soul when we have succumbed to sin and destroyed our peace... The power of His Atonement can erase the effects of sin in us. When we repent, His atoning grace justifies and cleanses us. (see 3 Nephi 27:16-20) It is as if we had not succumbed, as if we had not yielded to temptation.

As we endeavor day by day and week by week to follow the path of Christ, our spirit asserts its preeminence, the battle within subsides, and temptations cease to trouble. There is greater and greater harmony between the spiritual and the physical until our physical bodies are transformed, in Paul's words, from "instruments of unrighteousness unto sin to instruments of righteousness unto God (see Romans 6:13)

Becoming at one within ourselves prepares us for the greater blessing of becoming one with God and Christ. End quote from Elder Christofferson's talk.

Just as we are taught that submitting to the will of the father, as a little child, is a show of strength and courage, as always, Satan has a counterfeit idea that man's strength comes from his own power and dominion over others. As we look around our society today as it continues to fall for this counterfeit ideology, we can clearly see that it never leads to true happiness. Satan wishes only to lull us to destruction

In a talk given by Jean A Stevens, of the Primary Presidency in 2011 Gen Conf titled "Become as a little Child" she taught- "It was Jesus Christ Himself who taught us to look to children as an example. The New Testament records His answer when His Apostles disputed who should be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus answered their question with a small but powerful object lesson. He called a little child to Him and set him in the midst of them and said (Matthew 18:3-4) "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven."

She continues- "what should we learn from children? What qualities do they possess and what examples do they demonstrate that can help us in our own spiritual development? These precious children of God come to us with believing hearts. They are full of faith and receptive to the feelings of the Spirit. They exemplify humility, obedience and love. They are often the first to love and the first to forgive." Closed quote from her talk.

Is it any wonder that

- 1) we are taught to emulate their innocent faith filled examples and
- 2) that Satan is trying so hard to confuse and destroy the minds and home environment of our children.

This brings to mind from our recent studies that Hugh Nibley and Pres Benson both tied the cup of iniquity being full to the rising generation of children no longer having a fair chance. The

chaos and confusion being thrown at our children today is overwhelming. I pray daily that my grandchildren will have the protection of the Spirit to recognize and flee from such false and wicked notions as are being thrust into our schools and toward our young children. The children are sweet and trusting, and they want to trust and believe their teachers. All the more reason to homeschool if you can or teach them diligently the gospel at home so their defenses are up and they can recognize the whisperings the spirit.

These same destructive, counterfeit ideologies are also being thrown at us adults in ever increasing perversions of true gospel principles. And it is done in such an open and flattering way that many are falling prey to his cunning ways as they are led to believe that being inclusive is synonymous with acceptance of sin.

Brothers and sisters, this talk by Pres. Eyring is a wonderful talk to remind us that our Savior Jesus Christ is there to help us every step along the way as we strive to weather the storms of these last days. We must keep His commandments with honest diligent obedience to our covenants. **“Our natures must be changed to become as a little child to gain the strength we must have to stand steady and at peace in times of peril.”** We have agency to choose, but our choices have eternal consequences if we neglect to repent and come unto Christ with full purpose of heart. Pres Nelson and other leaders are giving us the roadmap and pleading with us to stay on the correct path. For those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, He is calling upon us to prepare for the events leading up to His glorious return when he will appear to His saints in the New Jerusalem. Pres Nelson has given us recent counsel to strengthen our foundations in our Savior Jesus Christ. By following the counsels given, including finding joy in daily repentance, seeking for and expecting miracles and striving to act in faith on anything He sees fit to call upon us to do, we can have our natures changed and become as a little child. If we do so, we can be worthy to stand before our Savior and hear those words “ Well done thou good and faithful servant ..Enter in “

I am so grateful for the powerful lesson and testimony of King Benjamin and Pres Eyring, in this talk, to help guide us in these days of trouble, as we work to be worthy for 1 Nephi 14:14- **“And I, Nephi beheld the power of the Lamb of God that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.”**

May we all be found worthy of this great blessing is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Micah's Thoughts:

The only thing that I thought of when reading this section was how much it relates to the following quotes from President Nelson:

“The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do (see Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–7). Our safest insurance is to continue to be worthy of admission to His holy house....Why do we need such resilient faith? Because difficult days are ahead. Rarely in the future will it be easy or popular to be a faithful Latter-day Saint. Each of us will be tested. The Apostle Paul warned that in the latter days, those who diligently follow the Lord “shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12)... Do whatever it takes to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ by increasing your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored Church and by relentlessly seeking truth. Anchored in pure doctrine, you will be able to step forward with faith and dogged persistence and cheerfully do all that lies in your power to fulfill the purposes of the Lord. You will have days when you will be discouraged. So pray for courage not to give up! Sadly, some who you thought were your friends will betray you. And some things will simply seem unfair.” (The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior’s Second Coming)

Section III

Here is King Benjamin’s stirring description of how that change comes: “For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.”⁶

We receive that change as we make and renew covenants with God. That brings the power of Christ’s Atonement to allow a transformation in our hearts. We can feel it every time we partake of the sacrament, perform a temple ordinance for a departed ancestor, testify as a witness of the Savior, or care for someone in need as Christ’s disciple.

In those experiences, we become over time like a child in our capacity to love and obey. We come to stand on the sure foundation. Our faith in Jesus Christ brings us to repentance and to keeping His commandments. We obey, and we gain power to resist temptation, and we gain the promised companionship of the Holy Ghost.

Our natures change to become as a little child, obedient to God and more loving. That change will qualify us to enjoy the gifts that come through the Holy Ghost. Having the Spirit’s companionship will comfort, guide, and strengthen us.

I have come to know some of what King Benjamin meant when he said that we could become like a little child before God. I have learned from many experiences that the Holy Ghost speaks most often in a quiet voice, heard most easily when one’s heart is meek and submissive, like that of a child. In fact, the prayer that works is “I want only what You want. Just tell me what that is. I’ll do it.”

When the storms in life come, you can be steady because you are standing on the rock of your faith in Jesus Christ. That faith will lead you to daily repentance and consistent covenant

keeping. Then you will always remember Him. And through the storms of hatred and wickedness, you will feel steady and hopeful.

More than that, you will find yourself reaching out to lift others to safety on the rock with you. Faith in Jesus Christ always leads to greater hope and to feelings of charity toward others, which is the true love of Christ.

I bear you my solemn witness that the Lord Jesus Christ has given you the invitation “Come unto me.”⁷ He invites you, out of love for you and for those you love, to come to Him for peace in this life and eternal life in the world to come. He knows perfectly the storms you will face in your test as part of the plan of happiness.

I plead with you to accept the Savior’s invitation. Like a meek and loving child, accept His help. Make and keep the covenants He offers in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They will strengthen you. The Savior knows the storms and the places of safety on the way home to Him and to our Heavenly Father. He knows the way. He is the Way. I so testify in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Ryan and Kelly’s Thoughts:

Where do we find this in the scriptures?

4 And behold, I say unto you, they were delivered out of the hands of the people of king Noah, by the mercy and power of God.

5 And behold, after that, they were brought into bondage by the hands of the Lamanites in the wilderness; yea, I say unto you, they were in captivity, and again the Lord did deliver them out of bondage by the power of his word; and we were brought into this land, and here we began to establish the church of God throughout this land also.

6 And now behold, I say unto you, my brethren, you that belong to this church, have you sufficiently retained in remembrance the captivity of your fathers? Yea, and have you sufficiently retained in remembrance his mercy and long-suffering towards them? And moreover, have ye sufficiently retained in remembrance that he has delivered their souls from hell?

7 **Behold, he changed their hearts;** yea, he awakened them out of a deep sleep, and they awoke unto God. Behold, they were in the midst of darkness; nevertheless, their souls were illuminated by the light of the everlasting word; yea, they were encircled about by the bands of death, and the chains of hell, and an everlasting destruction did await them.

8 And now I ask of you, my brethren, were they destroyed? Behold, I say unto you, Nay, they were not.

9 And again I ask, were the bands of death broken, and the chains of hell which encircled them about, were they loosed? I say unto you, Yea, they were loosed, and their souls did expand, and they did sing redeeming love. And I say unto you that they are saved.

10 And now I ask of you on what conditions are they saved? Yea, what grounds had they to hope for salvation? What is the cause of their being loosed from the bands of death, yea, and also the chains of hell?

11 Behold, I can tell you—did not my father Alma believe in the words which were delivered by the mouth of Abinadi? And was he not a holy prophet? Did he not speak the words of God, and my father Alma believe them?

12 And according to his faith there was a mighty change wrought in his heart. Behold I say unto you that this is all true.

How are we as members of the church able to become like a little child?

2 Corinthians 12:9 JST

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

President Eyring: We receive that change as we make and renew covenants with God. That brings the power of Christ's Atonement to allow a transformation in our hearts. We can feel it every time we partake of the sacrament, perform a temple ordinance for a departed ancestor, testify as a witness of the Savior, or care for someone in need as Christ's disciple.

Moroni 10:

32 Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.

33 And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot.

Doctrine and Covenants 76:69

69 These are they who are just men made perfect through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood.

I bear you my solemn witness that the Lord Jesus Christ has given you the invitation “Come unto me.”⁷ He invites you, out of love for you and for those you love, to come to Him for peace in this life and eternal life in the world to come. He knows perfectly the storms you will face in your test as part of the plan of happiness.

Micah's Thoughts:

Most of what I felt prompted to compile tonight dealt with the first section. This last section, thinking about the arc of the talk, ending with a call to humble ourselves, my mind is turned back to the people of Limhi vs the people of Alma of whom Elder L. Tom Perry said, "What was the difference between the people of Alma and the people of King Limhi? Obviously, there were several differences: the people of Alma were peaceful and more righteous; they had already been baptized and entered into a covenant with the Lord; they humbled themselves before the Lord even before their tribulations started. All these differences made it appropriate and fair that the Lord would deliver them quickly in a miraculous way from the hand which kept them in bondage. These scriptures teach us of the Lord's power of deliverance." (The Power of Deliverance, May 2012)

Brothers and Sisters, the Lord is coming back for Israel, and only Israel. And who is Israel to the Lord? Israel are those on the watchtower.

Israel, you were sent down at this time to be saviors of men, period. This is not a "prideful" thing to say, teach, preach, etc. it is the Lord's will clearly laid out. If we don't become these saviors on Mt Zion we are as salt that has lost its savor, good for nothing (according to the Savior of the world) and shall be cast out and trodden under foot.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:81-85

81 Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.

82 Therefore, they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads.

83 He that seeketh me early shall find me, and shall not be forsaken.

84 Therefore, tarry ye, and labor diligently, that you may be perfected in your ministry to go forth among the Gentiles for the last time, as many as the mouth of the Lord shall name, to bind up the law and seal up the testimony, and to prepare the saints for the hour of judgment which is to come;

85 That their souls may escape the wrath of God, the desolation of abomination which awaits the wicked, both in this world and in the world to come. Verily, I say unto you, let those who are not the first elders continue in the vineyard until the mouth of the Lord shall call them, for their time is not yet come; their garments are not clean from the blood of this generation.

"There are great events at our doors, and the Saints of God should be on their watchtower. We should have our eyes, ears, and hearts open to see, hear, understand, and receive the counsels and reproof revealed through the mouth of the servants of God in our day." (Wilford Woodruff, JoD 12:275)

Awake, awake O Israel and put on thy strength! Be the saviours on Mount Zion that you were born to be. Be the watchmen, be Israel.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.