

Who is our Savior?

*“I am
the way, the
light and
the truth”*

EXCERPTS FROM A TAPE RECORDING OF
AN EXTEMPORANEOUS TALK BY
PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.

DELIVERED IN THE SOUTH TWENTIETH WARD, SALT LAKE CITY, DECEMBER 28, 1959, PRIOR TO PRESIDENT CLARK'S DEATH OCTOBER 6, 1961. HE HAD GIVEN PERMISSION TO THE ERA TO CONSIDER THE MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION. PRESIDENT CLARK, A MEMBER OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY FROM 1933 TO THE TIME OF HIS PASSING, WAS A DEVOTED STUDENT OF THE SAVIOR AND THE AUTHOR OF TWO MAJOR BOOKS AND MANY MINOR WRITINGS ON THE SAVIOR, HIS LIFE, AND HIS MISSION. IN THE INTRODUCTION TO THE TALK, PRESIDENT CLARK SAID, "APPROACHING THIS SEASON OF THE YEAR . . . SOME THOUGHTS HAVE COME INTO MY MIND THAT ARE NEW TO ME, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME OF THEM WITH YOU." THE ERA IS PLEASED TO SHARE THESE THOUGHTS WITH THE ENTIRE CHURCH.

Who is this Savior, this man that we worship? We rather localize him and think of him as more or less belonging to us, that he is our Savior and perhaps not very widely known.

I want to read you just a few words to begin with. I am going to read from the book of Moses, from the first chapter, and I am going to begin with the 32nd verse. The speaker declared he was the "Lord God Almighty, and Endless is my name;

"And by the word of my power, have I created them, ."

He was showing Moses, as they stood and conversed "face to face," the creation which the Father had made.

"And by the word of my power have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth.

"And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten.

For behold, there are many worlds that have passed away by the word of my power [which is his Only Begotten Son]. And there are many that now stand, and innumerable are they unto man, but all things are numbered unto me, for they are mine and I know them.

"And the Lord God spake unto Moses, saying: The heavens, they are many, and they cannot be numbered unto man; but they are numbered unto me, for they are mine.

"And as one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof even so shall another come, and there is no end to my works, neither to my words." (Moses 1:3, 32-33, 35, 37-38.)

It was not a novice, not an amateur, not a Being making a first trial, that came down in the beginning after the great council with other Gods and searched out and found the place where there was "space" (for so the record tells us in Abraham) and taking of the materials which they found in this "space" they made this world.

I want to suggest two or three things to you. I hope I will not confuse you too much. But we in this galaxy-and the heavens which we see are the galaxy to which we belong-we from this point where we stand or float, can see one billion light years all around us. A light year is the distance which light, traveling at the rate of 186,000 miles a second, will travel in one year. The astronomers tell us that we now can peer out into space one billion light years, we in the center.

Where we are moving, how we are moving, how rapidly we go, we do not know. As you look into the heavens, you do not see the heavens as they are today. You see them as they were the number of light years ago when the light therefrom began to come from them to us. If it is a hundred million light years away, it was a hundred million years ago.

It is said that there are one hundred million galaxies within this radius that are the same as ours. They say that this galaxy in which we float and have our existence is one hundred thousand light years in diameter. They say that it is shaped lenticular, as if two glass watch crystals were put together, ten thousand light years through the thickest part, and I repeat, a hundred thousand light years in diameter.

Astronomers now yield what they did not formerly yield, that there may have been many, and probably were, many worlds like ours. Some say there were in this galaxy perhaps from its beginning, one million worlds like unto this one.

"Worlds without number have I created," through "mine Only

Begotten Son.”

And if you think of this galaxy of ours having within it from the beginning perhaps until now, one million worlds, and multiply that by the number of millions of galaxies, one hundred million galaxies that surround us, you will then get some view of who this Man we worship is.

Jesus Christ is a member of the Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. He participated in the great council of heaven which decided that they should build a world—a world to which we might come as mortal beings and work out our salvation.

You remember the night before he was born, he appeared on this continent to Nephi, Nephi who was greatly troubled because those hostile to a belief in the Christ were threatening extermination; in order to quiet Nephi and give him hope, he said to Nephi: “. . . on the morrow come I into the world, . . .” (3 Nephi 1:13.)

And when the morning came, the next day, there was in Palestine a couple, Joseph and Mary. They lived in Nazareth. They had traveled, evidently, from Nazareth to Bethlehem in order to pay a tax that had been decreed by the Roman emperor. That was the ostensible purpose. She, heavy with child, traveled all that distance, perhaps on mule-back, guarded and protected as one about to give birth to a half-Deity. No other man in the history of this world of ours has ever had such an ancestry—God the Father on the one hand and Mary the Virgin on the other.

When they reached Bethlehem, they could get no place, you remember, in the inn. Everything was taken. So they were forced to go into a stable, and the newborn Infant, fresh from the throne of God, had to be laid in a manger, “descending below all things that he might rise above all things.” I have great sympathy for poor Joseph. He was the husband of Mary, but not the father of the Son she was to bear.

I am not going to try to go through the life of the Savior except in a



most casual way. Here he was, in a stable in Bethlehem, in a manger. YOU remember the story of the Wise Men. We do not know just where they came from. We do not know how many there were. It has been assumed there were three, because the gifts were spoken of as gold, frankincense, and myrrh. You remember how they came to Herod and inquired about it, how Herod sent them out to locate the new king of the Jews and bring word back to him that he might go and worship, so he said; but true to his nature he was lying when he said it, for he intended to send back to Bethlehem and kill all the infants that he might be sure to kill this king. You know the story. The Wise Men, warned in a dream, did not return.

Herod, true to his intent, did kill the infants in Bethlehem. But warned of their danger, Joseph and Mary fled with the newborn King to Egypt. But from that time until the final scene, the Jews—some among them—sought constantly to kill him.

Christ came into a chaotic condition. Palestine was not a place of peace and love and brotherhood. It was the habitation of some of the most terrible passions that were loose in the world at that time. They were the constant companions of those who were around the Savior.

You remember his trip when he was twelve years old, when he apparently first indicated, at least, so far as Mary understood, who he was—where, after three days of search, they finally found him talking to the learned men of the nation, and she reprovingly said to him: “Thy father and I . . .” (she meaning Joseph, which indicated that in the household of Joseph and Mary, he was true to his relationship, presumed, to Joseph and to Mary) She said to him, “thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.” And he replied in that great disclosure, “. . . wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?” (Luke 2:48-49.)

But he went back to Nazareth and dwelt with them, a carpenter, a carpenter’s son, until he took on his mission. Thereafter, when they found him doing wonderful things and displaying wonderful information and great knowledge, they said, “Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not this the carpenter?” (See Matt. 13:55.) He lived in a lowly home, the only man born to this earth half-divine and half-mortal. He dwelt among the most lowly, taught among them, did his works among them.

He went on through life, I repeat, followed day by day by enmity that would have exterminated him, but escaping all because of the

great mission which he had to perform.

I can understand, in a way at least, the difficulty which the Jews had. They recognized in his miracles the same sort of miracles that had been done by their prophets all down through their history. He violated the laws of gravity by walking on the water; Elisha had caused an iron ax to float on the water. He raised them from the dead; so had Elisha of old. He fed them the loaves and the fishes; and so had the Prophet Elijah fed a hundred with little and supplied the widow with oil. They had seen all of these great principles manifested, they knew them, and they had hard work recognizing that there was something way and beyond that in Jesus.

He began very early in his mission to indicate who he was. As he went north after the first Passover, he saw Nicodemus, and to Nicodemus he indicated that he was the Christ. Nicodemus did not understand.

He journeyed to the north until he came to Samaria, and there he stopped at Jacob's Well and saw the woman of Samaria. He told her who he was. The Samaritans were hated by the Jews, and the Jews were hated by the Samaritans, and this, I think, was the first time he indicated in his mission that he came for all men and not for the chosen tribes alone. Thereafter from time to time he indicated that he was the Messiah.

On one occasion when he was attending the Feast of the Tabernacles in the temple at Jerusalem, he was being twitted regarding his ancestry. They were talking about their ancestry; they were the children of Abraham! There came a point in their discussion where they said, he having stated he knew Abraham, "Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?" And his reply to them was: "Before Abraham was, I am." (John 9:58.) So he declared his Messiahship.

And so down through his course of life, he went day after day, proclaiming his truths!

Our Lord had a great mission to perform. He had to break down, to fulfil, as he told us, the Law of Moses. If you want to know how far he had to go from the laws which had been given to ancient Israel, read the Sermon on the Mount, read the Sermon on the Plain, read the sermon at the second Passover, and see how he had to drive and drive for the new law.

One illustration, he said:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matt. 5:27-28.) That was the new law.

And so with thousands of other things. Those documents to which I referred, and a few others, are the greatest revolutionary documents in the whole history of the world. They mark the turning away from; the fulfilment of, the Mosaic Law and the introduction and operation of the law of the gospel he restored.

Finally, at the last trial, having been before Annas he was taken to Caiaphas, the father-in-law of Annas—Caiaphas was the high priest installed by the Roman government; Annas was the man who, under the Law of Moses, should have been the high priest. At the trial before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, Caiaphas said: "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God." (Matt. 26:63.) And Mark records that he said unto him, "I am." (Mark 14:62.)

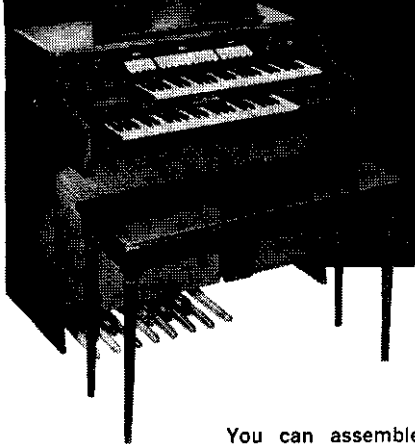
But they took him the next day and tried him before Pilate. Poor Pilate, torn because of his belief in the innocence of this man, sought to release him, but without avail. They insisted on the death of the Christ. And so he was finally condemned and turned over to them.

Then he was taken out on Calvary—and he, a God, one of the Holy Trinity, was crucified on a false charge of treason like a common criminal, between two common thieves.

Resurrected on the morning of the third day, seen by many, he lingered here for forty days as if loath to leave those among whom he had worked so long. Then, and even before then, he went back to the Holy Trinity, resumed his seat alongside the Father, sat again a member of the Godhead.

That is the man we worship. That is the man who gave us the law that will enable us to fill our destiny declared from the very beginning. That is the man who sacrificed himself. "Behold the Lamb of God," it was declared *(Continued on page 850)*

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First Steps in Genealogy

(Continued from page 819)

Nevertheless, regardless of whom you write to, these rules of correspondence should be followed:

1. Letters should be clean and attractive in appearance. Don't write in pencil or with red, green, or purple ink. A typewritten letter or one written clearly and legibly in black or blue-black ink on a clean sheet of paper will go a long way in creating a good first impression.
2. Be Courteous! Don't demand information. Ask for the assistance of the person to whom you are writing. Enclose a stamped, addressed envelope for the reply.
3. Be Clear! If the reader doesn't fully understand what you want, he can't possibly send it to you. Don't leave what you want to the imagination of the recipient. Ask for what you want in plain language.
4. Be Concise! Don't assume that the reader will "plough" through page after page searching for one request item. Be brief!

5. Be Helpful! Make your letter easy to read and easy to answer. If you are asking for several items, number your requests 1, 2, 3, etc. Itemizing your requests will make your letter easier to answer.
6. Be Reasonable-Don't ask for too much at one time! Don't expect persons who have been active in genealogical work for years to send you a copy of all the pedigree charts and family group records in their possession. To satisfy such a request could involve weeks, even months of copying, so offer to do any copying involved.
7. Offer to Share What Genealogical Information You Have! If a relative is aware that you will pass on what information you have there is a better chance of his sharing with you.
8. Plan Your Letter Carefully! write an outline first, then a rough draft. Next go over it item by item before preparing the final letter.

Remember, the impression you give of yourself in a letter usually determines the kind of reply you can expect to receive. All too often a reply is never received if this factor has not been considered.

Who Is Our Savior?

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anciently, "Slain from the foundation of the world." He died to atone for the sins of Adam.

None of us has been more lowly; none of us has died more ignominiously than he. But this he did for you and for me, that we, when we have finished our careers here, might be able, after going into the tomb and paying there whatever penalty there is for us to pay, we, too, may be resurrected and go back into, the presence of him who sent us, good and bad alike.

That is the the man we worship—not a man of high degree, world-wise; not a man of earthly power, and yet he said on one occasion: "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt. 26:53) never invoking his divine powers merely for his own selfish good, always for the benefit of others, for all humanity, always sacrificing, always trying to obey the will of the Father, telling us over and over that he did nothing that he had not

seen his Father do, that he taught nothing that he had not heard his Father teach.

The mystery of it all is beyond me. I can only take the record as it stands, and that record tells me that if I obey his commandments, if I live as he would have me live, then I shall fulfil and reach the destiny which he prescribed for me, a destiny of eternal progression, a destiny of a life in his presence, so far as my work there will permit, a destiny that knows no limit to the power which I may receive if I live for it.

May the Lord grant that to each of us may come a determination to serve him and to keep his commandments. May the Lord give us a little better view of our Lord and Master, of who he was, of his great wisdom and experience and knowledge. Said he, "I am the way, the life, the light, and the truth." (John 12:46.) Over and over and over again he said that. They did not believe him then; the world at large does not believe him now. But it is our right, our duty, our prerogative to know these truths and make them part of our lives.

May the Lord be with us always to this end, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.