



Type: Magazine Article

"All Roads Lead to Rome"

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Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 63, No. 6 (June 1960)

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Page(s): 398–399

Abstract: This article discusses Lehi's vision, Christ's sermon at the temple to the Nephites, and emphasizes the correctness of the Book of Mormon translation. The Book of Mormon, when used in concert with the Bible, will guide individuals to the one and only road to heaven.

"It is easy enough to be virtuous
 When nothing tempts you to stray,
 When without or within no voice of sin
 Is luring your soul away.
 But it's only a negative virtue
 Until it is tried by fire;
 And the life that is worth the honor of
 earth
 Is the life that resists desire."
 (Ella Wheeler Wilcox)

May God grant that as we are seeking the further establishment of the kingdom of God, that we may instruct our young people, and the members of the Church everywhere, to resist temptations that weaken the body, that destroy the soul, that we may stand truly repentant as we were when we entered the waters of baptism; that we may be renewed in the true sense of the word, that we may be born again; that our souls might bask in the light of the Holy Spirit, and go on as true members of the Church of Jesus Christ until our mission on earth is completed and God receives us and rewards us according to our merits.

May this be our lot, I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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"ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME"*

*President J. Reuben Clark, Jr.
 of the First Presidency*

My brethren and sisters: I am grateful to be with you, difficult as it is to try to talk to you. I thank the Lord for his blessings to me during the past months, and more recently until now. I thank you as I thanked the priesthood last night, for your faith and prayers which have enabled me to be with you today. I hope that you will be good enough to pray with me that what I may say today, may be somewhat helpful to all of us.

As I have thought about what I might say or try to say, I have rather centered on the thought of the proud boast of Rome, which was, "All roads lead to Rome." And I have thought, and I may say I endorse all that has been said thus far regarding our time and its trends—I have thought how much the fundamental idea in this dictum has come to mean among us. I do not know

*Delivered Sunday afternoon, April 3, 1960.

whether we are in the beginning, in the middle, or near the end of a time when we shall see what historians of the future may call a revolution. And may I say here, and it applies frequently to all of us in principle, we of the present make history, our successors away from us write it, and out of it they get things which we do not now presently see. I fear, as I have talked and heard others talk, that there may be a feeling, in fact, I know there is among some, that it does not make very much difference to what church we belong, what creed we may have, and not too much difference, within very broad limitations, what we do. We seem to be, in a way, in the presence of a trend of thought that is national, indeed worldwide, that would have us to believe that all this does not make very much difference, for we will all go to heaven anyhow, do what we will, think what we will, believe what we will, have faith as we may.

I find great fault with that great trend, and I came across, in connection with this thought, some passages of scripture upon which I thought I might say a few words. They are taken from the Sermon on the Mount and were repeated by the Savior in that great appearance which he made on this continent after his resurrection. They are identical in words. Remember that he said when he came to this continent that he had come to teach them the things that he taught in Palestine. And these words are these:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:13-14; 3 Nephi 14:13-14.)

I was reminded, as I read that, of the dream of Lehi recorded in the Book of Mormon, dreamed in the early days of the life of migration of Lehi, where the latter part of that—"few there be" that get into the straight and narrow way, was really prophetic. For his people found application of this principle in Lehi's own descendants, for there developed in the life of his descendants on this continent, the bloody conflict of the Nephites and Lamanites that brought about the utter destruction of the one by the other.

That led me to these thoughts about Christ. To Nicodemus he said that he came not to condemn the world, but to save it. (John 3:17.) In the great prayer in the garden, he uttered the great principle, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3.)

And then I remembered also what Peter said to the Sanhedrin, called before them as a judicial body in connection with the first miracle, it is said, per-

formed in the early Christian Church by the apostles. Being asked by what name he did the miracle, Peter answered:

"... by the name of Jesus Christ... for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:10-12.)

Then I remembered also, that Christ himself said, 'I am the way, the truth, the light, and the life.' And to those on this continent, he added, "I am the law." (3 Nephi 15:9.)

This, of course, as we believe, indicates what we must believe and think and do, in what we must have faith.

You know, the Savior came in the Meridian of Time to fulfil the law of Moses, and he said on more than one occasion, 'I want nothing to do with sacrifice and burnt offerings, I want mercy.' And then you will remember, he added at various times, as to the sacrifice he wished: "... a broken heart and a contrite spirit."

As I reflected on this, I reflected a bit on where might I go to find the real words of the Savior. I knew I could not go to the Bible. We do not believe the Bible is absolutely correct. Students tell us there are 4500 different manuscripts of the Bible, and a few years ago it was estimated that there were 120,000 variations. Then it came to me almost as a revelation: Why do you not go to the Book of Mormon? So I took Third Nephi. I went over it with great care. I parallel-columned it with the parts of the New Testament concerning the Sermon on the Mount and the Sermon on the Plain. In the Old Testament I noted the instructions to Malachi as they were repeated by the Savior, because they had no record of Malachi, who lived after they left Jerusalem.

I found some differences, some omissions from the word that he was recorded as having spoken in Palestine. But I resorted to the Book of Mormon and to Third Nephi with the feeling that I was getting really what the Savior said. I commend an equal study by you brethren of those great books of the Book of Mormon and so far as the Savior's immediate mission was concerned, Third Nephi. There we may believe we have the true teachings, for the record was made by inspired men, abridged by another inspired man, and translated through the inspiration and revelation of the Lord himself. Brethren, I commend that to you, study it, if you never have done so, you will find great joy in the doing.

"... strait is the gate, and narrow is the way... and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14.)

I repeat, the Savior said, "I am the light, the life, the way, and the truth," and on this continent, "I am the law." If you will go through Third Nephi with care, and the earlier works, you will find a very complete discussion of how he fulfilled the law of Moses.

So, my brethren and sisters, I come to you with this simple message: There are not many roads that lead to heaven. There is one and one only, and that is the road that we profess to travel and should be traveled. It is the road that is restored to us by the restoration of the gospel and the restoration of the priesthood. Do not be misled by the professions of men. And to those verses that I have already read, I want to add another which comes near the end of that part of the Sermon on the Mount and to the people of the Land Bountiful, which says:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matt. 7:21-23; 3 Nephi 14:21-23.)

The earlier parts of the Sermon on the Mount do not contain teachings that are too specific with reference to this last, "depart from me" and that those who had professed, and so performed, were not his. But you will find rather a complete discussion of what that probably means in the book of Alma, the thirty-fourth chapter, where Amulek tells the things which are characteristic of those who worship our Lord and Savior and our Heavenly Father. Read them. It is worth your while.

Professors of religion, pretenders of being the offspring of our Heavenly Father's gospel and principles, pretending to have the truth, beware of them, brethren. Beware of the idea that you do not have to live the gospel in order to obtain the salvation and exaltation that are promised—not because God has imposed a penalty for your failure, but because, as I have already expressed to you at one time or another, I believe that the spirit grows or shrinks, as it is here in this mortal body, as it was intended that it should. I believe that bad acts, bad thoughts, inaccurate beliefs do not develop the spirit; but on the contrary, they may retard or dwarf it. I believe that all that we do that is good, builds us up, and helps us to "prove" ourselves, that we really are living our second estate.

Brethren and sisters, do not be misled, do not stray, do not imbibe the tendency of the age that it does not make any difference what you do. It makes all the difference in this world and in the hereafter. It makes the difference between salvation and exaltation and damnation. I examined the books to find out, if I could, whether the Savior had made any change in speaking on this continent and on the

other side in fundamental sayings and doctrines. As I have said to you, there are some omissions, there are some changes, some of the changes are most important. Make the comparison I have made and find them out. But I found nothing whatsoever that changed the fundamental principle announced by the Savior in Palestine and here:

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16.)

Brethren and sisters, do not stray, do not be misled, do not cuddle to yourselves the thought that you can do this or that or the other forbidden thing, that after all these things make no difference. I bear you my witness again that all your thoughts, all your acts, all your doings of any kind, have an effect, beneficial or otherwise, on your souls, and you cannot afford to jeopardize the hereafter.

May the Lord be with us.

I renew my testimony to you that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that the gospel and the priesthood were restored through Joseph Smith, that there came also to him certain other great powers, that all that he had, he passed on to those who have succeeded him, the last one of them being President David O. McKay.

May God bless him in his hour of tribulation, may God bless his wife and restore her completely to health and strength. May he continue to guide and direct President McKay, that he may guide and direct us, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WATCH AND BE PREPARED *

*President Henry D. Moyle
of the First Presidency*

My beloved brethren and sisters, I know we were all thrilled at the beginning of this conference yesterday morning with the inspired remarks of President David O. McKay. Among other things he said: "Man holds dominion over earth, sea, and air, and now is intent upon conquering space." All that man has accomplished, and all

*Delivered Monday morning, April 4, 1960.

further advancement in every realm of human activity made by man will aid in the accomplishment of God's ultimate purpose for us here in mortality—that is to say, the establishment of his Church and kingdom here upon this earth, preparatory to the advent of the second coming of the Savior of mankind.

There may be men who still continue to contend that there is a conflict between church and religion on one side, and science on the other, but little do they understand that all truths pertaining to science as well as to religion emanate from our Father in heaven. He has power over his truths. He can withhold them from men when there is a purpose in so doing, and likewise can inspire men to discover and recognize truths, and advocate them to their fellow men. And so, science and religion alike are entirely obligated to God, and so are we all. Neither science nor religion can successfully refute the second coming of Christ. The evidence is too complete, too convincing, too much a part of the great eternal plan of God, as much a part and as real as our mortal earth existence. We might as well deny the one as the other.

To me the astonishing fact is, that recently in England we were pointed out as peculiar because we believe "that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory." In spite of this tenth article of faith of ours, published to the world for now a hundred years, we are characterized as pagan and are said not to be Christians. How can anyone deny the second coming of Christ and be a Christian? And how can anyone know of his second coming and not be his follower?

Let me read what the Church of England's great expert on Mormonism recently had to say: "Mormonism is essentially a pagan faith, and not Christian at all."

The London *Daily Sketch*, on February 1st, entitled an article published therein, written by Mr. Neville Randall, "Knock, Knock—It's Those Mormons." In part, this article said:

"On a thousand doors in Britain during the week-end came a knock. . . . This week it may be your turn to open your door to a quiet, soft-spoken American. To hear him say the words: 'Will you become a Mormon?' If you let him he will try to persuade you:

"To give up smoking and drinking—even tea and coffee.

"To give a tenth of your income to the Mormon Church.

"To accept a religion with no prayer book and no paid clergy.

"To put off baptizing your children until they are eight.

"Last year 1,404 Britons were converted," says the article. "In Britain now 220 American Mormon missionaries, most of them young men in their early twenties, are at work. They call at