

Assembly on Missionary Work

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I think everyone was making perfectly valid true and wonderful points as they have spoken. It may seem like there are contradictions, but the souls of men are so differently situated that their needs must be met wherever they are and in whatever circumstances we find them, with regards to their unique views of the world. I think it is possible to convert anyone. But that does not answer whether it is wise to convert everyone.

What happened in the early church when the missionaries went out and aggressively pursued, argued, debated and won over people who were persuaded by the power of the arguments? The book that will be coming out next explains the problems resulting from mass-conversions. The book is based upon three monumental failures in the life of Joseph Smith. In each one of the failures Joseph responded, not by despairing or by throwing up his hands, but by going to work on what he thought would fix the problem.

From the time that John the Baptist promised that there would be some higher priesthood conferred upon them in May of 1829, until after the Church was organized and held a conference in June of 1831, Joseph Smith was looking forward to getting this higher priesthood conferred upon him. He finally got the commandment by the voice of God, just as the inspired version of Genesis 14 says: the higher priesthood is conferred upon men by the voice of God. The voice of God came to Joseph in the conference, and he was told to ordain people to this higher priesthood. He ordained six - and the one of those six ordained the rest. 23 total people were ordained to that high order of priesthood. The book documents what happened to every one of them. It was not simply a failure - it was a catastrophic failure. One of those ordained, Ezra Booth, went out and published a series of nine letters explaining what a fraud Joseph was. Joseph had received by the voice of God the right to proceed with ordination to the higher priesthood in June. But by October the Ohio newspaper was printing the scandalous Ezra Booth letters retelling of Joseph's hopeless failure that occurred in the ordinations in June. In that same month that the Ohio newspaper was printing Booth's letters, the church held another conference and Joseph ordained people again. The October conference was while believers were reading in the newspaper about what an abject failure this priesthood ordination had been. This was in October of 1831.

Joseph Smith did not accept the failure. He set about trying to conclude how it would be possible for people to get 'power in the priesthood, upon them and their posterity through all generations of time and into eternity' - A phrase that would show up again at the end of his ministry. What was the solution to the problem? It was *Lectures on Faith*. The *Lectures on Faith* addressed the crisis of the failure of the faith of the people. Joseph's response was to say, "OK, that didn't work." He concluded it was not a defect in the people, but a defect in his ministry. He simply assumed the responsibility and set about trying to fix the problem. Exactly the sort of response you would expect from someone who knows they are about God's work and are not just freelancing.

The new book tells the story. Invariably it doesn't matter which crisis you look at, the product that Joseph creates in response to the crises he faced, in every crisis the villains are latter-day saints. Ultimately the villains responsible for the murder of Joseph Smith were latter-day saints. If it had not been for those who managed to get themselves into a position of trust and confidence, what happened in Illinois that resulted in the death of Joseph could not have occurred.

Joseph believed that you could take anyone and convert them, save their soul and march forward to Zion. Time and time again it did not matter how bitter the betrayal was, time and time again he simply said "OK that is a failure on my part, I can fix them by what I teach, therefore I need to be better, I need to explain more, I need to teach more."

Juxtapose that with Abinadi, who came and delivered the message that "this is the way it is, and you have been warned" - and he leaves. He shuts down and is gone, and returns two years later to say, "time's up, it didn't work. Now, now, your life is going to be valued like a garment in a hot fire." They killed him. He made one convert. But the one convert of Abinadi is the hinge point of the entire Book of Mormon. From that point forward everything that happens goes through Abinadi's one convert. It is Abinadi's one convert and his descendants that become the custodians of the record. It is the convert's posterity that descends all the way until Mormon and Moroni. Abinadi is the hinge-point of the story. One convert. And quite frankly, the priests of Noah, they didn't get much of a sermon from Abinadi. He vindicated how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those that cry peace, in his own person despite the fact that he was pronouncing judgements and wo's upon them. Which seems like an odd contradiction by pointing to the Ten Commandments and saying "you don't believe them, you don't do them, you are not converted" He didn't get into anything other than an explanation of that prophecy of Isaiah in context of the Ten Commandments. Fairly rudimentary stuff.

He persuaded one guy. And that one guy goes out to be re-baptized. Before he re-baptizes - apparently himself - he asks for authority from heaven to do that and the baptism takes place. And from there to the end of the Book of Mormon, that is the focus and the storyline. That's it.

If you are going to measure quantity and you look to Joseph Smith, who had probably 30,000 - I mean 30,000 active converts, Joseph probably had 100,000 during his lifetime but there were 30,000 that still held on when he was killed. About 18,000-19,000 were in Nauvoo, others were in faithful congregations around England, New England and other places. But Abinadi had one. Both of them gave up their lives for it.

If you take one step back from that and say "whose ministry was more successful?" The prophet of the restoration, whose own followers were responsible for the conspiracy to have him murdered, who created an absolutely, completely, vertically integrated, structure that could be compromised by simply taking over the top seat. Or Abinadi, who preached the message of repentance and organized nothing. There are a lot dynamics that go into the success of the gospel; one of which is, if Joseph were here today and had in front of him the history of what occurred when he was here before - would he do the same thing again?

It would be insane. It would be madness. You have a formula for failure, therefore you don't invoke the formula for failure in order to achieve success. If you are going to succeed, you must find the pattern other than the pattern which brought about the excommunication of people that believe in the Book of Mormon and chose follow Christ. You have to have something other than that.

The Book of Mormon religious structure was simple. The best description was given in Alma, about how they functioned. The priests came and would teach them on Sunday, everyone would drop what they were doing, they were taught, and when they were done with their Sabbath observances, they would go back and they would work and labor. There was no professional clergy, no hierarchy. They had a High Priest who was aptly an itinerant that traveled around.

The more you consolidate power and authority into an office, the more you tempt the adversary to gain control of the office. Because the one thing about salvation is, it is entirely other worldly. If you can get gain in saving the souls of men, you will be unable to save souls. Because the first principle of faith is obedience to God and sacrifice of everything. Without the willingness to sacrifice everything, it is impossible to gain the faith that will save your soul.

So what happens when you trade sacrifice for power? What happens when you trade it for wealth? What happens when you trade it for the ability to control the souls of men?

Joseph Smith sitting in Liberty Jail was not concerned about the governmental abuse that had confined him into a filthy dungeon. I cannot imagine the reek in the dungeon basement of Liberty Jail. Quite frankly the display and the "Temple Prison" owned by the LDS church does not communicate to visitors the wretchedness of the conditions in which the prisoners were held. There were two windows, one on either end of the building that had openings less than a foot wide with one bar going through the middle of them and no glass. In the winter when the wind blew, there was no way to stay warm. If you lit a fire in the basement, the jailers would make you put it out. But if the jailers allowed the fire as they sat upstairs and laughed at the folly, by the time the straw generated heat, the prisoners were choking on the smoke.

In those direful circumstances what Joseph was concerned about was the power of the priesthood and the abuse of priestly authority. "No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood but by persuasion." Where does that come from in those circumstances? It came from God. Because Joseph's concern was not about, and his faith was not based upon, only the salvation of his own soul. His ministry concerned the salvation of others.

His response to every crisis he went through was exactly the same! He set about trying to elevate others.

So what can we learn about the value of numerosity by juxtaposing the tens of thousands that came aboard, many of whom were responsible for the death of Joseph Smith, and a structure that ultimately wound up utterly compromised. On the one hand, and the ministry of Abinadi was, with the one convert. On the other hand we see converts being brought aboard by persuasion and out arguing them, beating them in scriptural debate. But how long did they remain aboard when someone else with a better argument came along to persuade them contrariwise?

If you make a convert because they feel the presence of God with them, you can beat them with a crowbar and they are not going to give up their faith. They are not going to abandon the gospel.

Taking the message of the restoration to people - and they reject it by 900,000 readers, as we heard earlier, and only one person shows up, that is a perfect model. It is more Abinadi than Joseph, but it is nonetheless perfect

If you have 30,000 people show up and you baptize them, my guess is that in short order the abuses and the mess you would have on your hands would be shameful. It is the quality of the conversion process. It is the presence of the Spirit.

Even in the caution we were getting in Section 88, if you look at vs. 72 the Lord says "I will take care of your flock and will raise up elders and send them to them." Well, how is that we gain jurisdiction over someone by bringing them aboard, when the Lord says He's going to be the one that takes care of them.

I agree we need to nurture, we need to dung, we need to water. But ultimately, all we can really do is facilitate the Lord nurturing, and facilitate the Lord dunging, and facilitate the Lord ultimately giving the increase.

I was a newly baptized LDS zealot in 1973. I had more baptisms than the full time missionaries. I was a baptizing machine. A couple of the baptize converts went on to serve missions before leaving the church. As I counted the track record of the numerous baptisms - I think there are two still left - and I am not one of them. There are two of them that are still paying the church. Because what I did to get them converted was so in your face that my zeal brought them aboard.

I attended the local Jewish temple lectures on Judaism to mine Jews and got some of them aboard. Jews don't last long in Mormonism.

I think that we need to be sensitive to a whole host of things. One of them is, when the conversion takes place, it can't be us.

I talked during those ten talks, and then I worked on the book and tried to be as quiet as I could be for a season. I tried to be as non-descript as I could be. I don't want others to have faith in me. Every one of you that has talked about your conversion experience, may have been facilitated by something I wrote, but she is right, it doesn't have anything to do with me. We can facilitate, but it has got to be between them and the Lord.

Someone's heart who is inclined to the Lord is not going to turn around and conspire to murder Joseph Smith. They will not find it in their heart to betray and depart from the faith.

I want to point out that, as Christ leads them to "this is my doctrine," go back to verse 29 of 3 Nephi 11 and it says, "verily, verily I say unto you, he that has the spirit of contention is not of me." I mean, Paul says "contend earnestly for the faith" and in 1973 I did that and brought a bunch of people aboard the LDS church by contending. But Christ said, "contention is not of Him" and yet that was one of the primary conversion tools that I employed.

The difference between persuasion and contention is that persuasion largely does not involve overcoming the resistance with argument and contention. Persuasion comes by opening up an idea and letting it enter into the heart of man or woman; then letting God take over and get the growth inside them. The contention "is not of me but is of the devil who is the father of contention who stireth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another, behold this is not my doctrine to stir up the hearts of men with anger with one against another but this is my doctrine that such things should be done away." He is saying, don't contend, don't make people mad, don't confront them, take a step back from that and I will tell you what my doctrine is. And then, "this is my doctrine, I bear record of the Father the Father beareth record of me and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me." Every bit of that is internal to the proselyte. Every bit of that.

We cannot really preach, teach, exhort, expound, contend, demand and bitch them into conversion. When we do that we ignore His doctrine. It is internal to them. It goes on with Him and them. We facilitate, but He is the one who ultimately becomes the object of their worship, the object of their adoration. It is like God lights a candle inside of you. You can hold the candle up and you can give people light, but if they don't get their own candle, get their own flame, they are still dead. They aren't alive.

There's this description that's given in **1 Nephi 14** beginning is **verse 12**:

"And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw."

We are not going to get 15 million people, but it is not necessary for us to get 15 million people. It is only necessary that the invitation be extended. If the invitation is extended and if the hearts of people respond, there is resilience, there is power, there is something inside of them that cannot be broken. We are not looking for anything other than the few.

I want to remind you - D&C section 88 was given in December of 1832. Three months earlier in September of 1832 the church was under condemnation. When the revelation was given to Hyrum Smith telling him to hold your peace, you are not ready to go out yet, that was given before the Book of Mormon had come into print. Without the Book of Mormon yet in print, without the formal church organization, in 1829 (Dave Whitmer wrote about it his address - they were baptizing people). In 1829, the Lord by revelation over and over said to people, "if you have a desire to participate, you are called to the work." Everyone that wanted to was told "the field is white already to harvest." One of the interesting thing about the harvest is the only sickle that you can throw in or thrust in, in order to make the harvest actually work is one that invites the grain to be harvested. If you are out there with a power mower and you are just bringing them in by the dozens that may not have that kind of satisfactory results we would like to have.

We have the Book of Mormon. We have the record of the fallen people who went before us - times two. I have become less and less curious about the future. Because every time I am inquiring about the future I wind up with more work to do. It got to the point that I said the only thing that I want to know about is the next step. I don't want to hear about anything past that, because I didn't like what I saw when I saw into the future. I don't want to go there and I don't want to be there.

The book that just got completed, and will be out shortly, is written with the objective of having something that can be handed to a believing Christian to introduce Joseph Smith as a significant Christian figure, and nothing else. It goes no further than that one step. The content of that book is a brilliant little layout and simple story. I can take no credit for it, because everything about it was from above. But it is a brilliant little book. If a Christian reads that book, they may be ready for something more and they may be willing to talk to those who might be able to answer their questions.

My wife and I were talking this last week how happy I was that I finished that and so far as I knew there was nothing else coming, and wouldn't it be great to take some time off. She left me alone and I spent some time praying, and now there is another project and I don't like where it is headed. I have already started on another project and I haven't even have the got printers proof in the mail yet from the last one. But the next one will include within it, in the book, the websites where they can request baptism and where they can learn more.

The genius of the Lord and what happened with the restoration and then what He started over with again is that literally anywhere in the world, where there is a single person who was one time baptized and

ordained, it doesn't matter if they are sitting in Japan and are inactive. It doesn't matter if they are in Slovakia and they haven't had anything to do with Mormonism, if they heard the message. If one time long ago they were baptized and they were ordained, wherever they are in the world, they can repent, they can call upon God and they can ask for God to give them authority to baptize again. They can be immediately empowered to baptize in their own family. As soon as they have enough to call a conference and you are sustained by seven women, they have the ability right then to begin to baptize outside of their family anywhere in the world.

Isaiah prophesied in the last days it would break forth on the right and it would break forth on the left. Well how does it break forth? Because no one is in control of running out there and saying, "you, you, you need to get busy" it is them that is responding to God and God breaking it forth everywhere in the world. And the website allows people to contact, wherever they are in the world, and someone nearby can then volunteer or someone can travel. Everything that is happening is happening in an order organized by someone other than man. And you know what the next step that is rolling on at this moment, but all of it is designed to appeal outside of Mormonism to bring people aboard from anywhere in any religious tradition, primarily the Christian tradition to convince them that they need to look into this. I was remarking to Alan that I am now going to manage to make enemies with the Christian world along with making enemies with the Mormon world because this stuff will not be happy for ministers because priestcraft is priestcraft whether the practice is inside or outside the LDS church. LDS priestcraft may make the typical priest look like a planker and a poverty ridden amateur. There are not many groups of ministers that can embark upon a trillion dollar cost of development that Mormon leadership can - but priestcraft is wrong no matter where you find it.

In the verses that we looked at in **D&C 88**, which is after the church is brought into condemnation:

Doctrine and Covenants 88:70

70 Tarry ye, tarry ye in this place, and call a solemn assembly, even of those who are the first laborers in this last kingdom.

They did call solemn assemblies and Joseph would write from Liberty Jail:

TPJS, Section Three 1838-39, p.137

How vain and trifling have been our spirits, our conferences, our councils, our meetings, our private as well as public conversations--too low, too mean, too vulgar, too condescending for the dignified characters of the called and chosen of God, according to the purposes of His will, from before the foundation of the world!

So in our calling solemn assemblies, there is something more to the solemnities of God than merely getting together with long faces and ponder over scriptures. There is something about accepting the influence of the Spirit and proceeding, when if you have the desire you are called to the work:

Doctrine and Covenants 88:71

71 And let those whom they have warned in their traveling call on the Lord, and ponder the warning in their hearts which they have received, for a little season.

See, the purpose to warn against the harvest and to harvest the wheat is so they are gathered in where they are protected against what is coming. Because ultimately the field is going to be burned. And the only things that are going to be gathered in are the wheat that are harvested. The way to harvest is to warn,

and the way to warn is not with a lot of words but with the sincerity of your heart. Persuading people to open themselves up to receive a message from God.

There was comment about the misapprehension that some people entertain about Jesus, but they came in the sincerity of their hearts to accept Him. I would suggest that when we talk to the typical Christian about Jesus, the Christian that is going to listen is going to have in his mind or in her mind exactly the figure Joseph Smith saw in the First Vision—not a triune, cosmic, incomprehensible, cosmic muffin, “whose center is everywhere whose circumference is nowhere, who sits on the top of a topless throne surrounded by a myriad of beings who are saved - not through any acts of theirs-- but by His good pleasure.” I am quoting the old endowment there. That was part of the minister’s role before it was removed in 1990.

So when you go and preach Jesus to them they are not thinking what the theologians are thinking, they are thinking what you are thinking, they are thinking what Joseph was thinking. They are thinking about a man who came into the upper room and said "handle me and see, for Spirit hath not flesh and bone as ye see me have" - they are thinking of that guy.

They are not thinking of the Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, the Holy Ghost incomprehensible. And yet there are not three incomprehensibles, but one incomprehensible. That is one of the things that Jesus denounced when He said creeds are an abomination.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:72

72 Behold, and lo, I will take care of your flocks, and will raise up elders and send unto them.

The Melchizedek priesthood higher order was not restored until 1831 and in 1829 Joseph and Oliver were called the First Elders of the church. In the beginning the title "Elder" - this is a problem with all of our filters and all of our vocabulary - in the beginning an elder simply referred to someone who knew, someone who was wiser. "Respect your elders."

What if the oldest and wisest is a woman who was here the last time we went through this. She is the elder. Because what you are looking for is someone that is in possession of information that may help you. Does that mean that she is ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD and all the nonsense the "ordained women" are clamoring for - which by the way, ordain them all you want, it is not going to amount to a hill of beans.

Elders that the Lord intends to raise up are people whose wisdom and counsel will bring people closer to the Lord - whether that elder is Eliza Snow, Sister Martineau, Sister May. You know, in the Proverbs there is a statement about, if you hold your tongue, everyone will account you for being wise - I mean Jan takes it all in. My guess is if you could ever get advice from her you would find an elder indeed.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:74

74 And I give unto you, who are the first laborers in this last kingdom, a commandment that you assemble yourselves together, and organize yourselves, and prepare yourselves, and sanctify yourselves; yea, purify your hearts, and cleanse your hands and your feet before me, that I may make you clean;

OK, what is the purpose of cleansing the hands? So that you do not handle anything that is unclean. How do you handle anything that is unclean? You meddle in stuff that isn't your prerogative to do. All of the

unclean things in this world, all of the stuff that bogs you down, how do you get contamination primarily into the body? Your hands lead you, on a keyboard, they lead you when you use them - there are manifestations of the cares you have. Do you want clean hands? Change the things about which you care.

When we had animal sacrifice, particularly when we had industrial animal sacrifice in the courtyard of the temple at Solomon and the second temple and the temple there. You could not go into the courtyard where the animals were being sacrificed, even if you were only going to sacrifice a turtle dove, you could not go in there - and turtle doves they just wrung the neck and it was relatively blood free thing - you couldn't go in there and not get blood on your feet. Because the sacrifices that were going on were just dumping blood. They collected it in bowls to sprinkle it on the altar. But when they severed the carotid artery of any animal and there was spray, and the courtyard was a mess. If you walked into the courtyard, even for a modest sacrifice and walked back, you would have blood on your feet.

What is the blood representing? The sins of this world. How do you cleanse your feet? If you want your hands clean and you want your feet clean then walk in the paths of righteousness. "He leadeth me beside the still waters." Your feet are walking where there's peace. Where are they going to stay clean? And if need be, you can take a step or two into the still waters to make sure that the feet are clean.

But you can go sacrifice goats and lambs and anything that you want to sacrifice all day long, and be no cleaner from the sins of this world for that act. Just like you can have the Savior kneel and wash your feet and receive no benefit if you're Judas.

There was a ceremony inside the Kirtland temple to actually wash feet, but it is a symbol of the cleansing and abandonment of sin. Do you want to have clean feet? We can wash all of your feet, but it is not going to take any greater effect upon you than what you already received in the LDS temple - if you want your feet clean, walk in the paths of righteousness and stay in there. "...that I may make you clean" (vs. 74) See, that is the cleanliness that we seek for.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:75

75 That I may testify unto your Father, and your God, and my God, that you are clean from the blood of this wicked generation; that I may fulfil this promise, this great and last promise, which I have made unto you, when I will.

76 Also, I give unto you a commandment that ye shall continue in prayer and fasting from this time forth.

You know, "let your food be prepared with singleness of heart that your fasting may be..." (**D&C 59:13**) You can fast more effectively by shutting off the things of this world and tuning in with things of God than simply by going hungry. Some people go hungry and they get grouchy. Then they get more irritating to their neighbor (comment from Stephanie: "it is called 'hangry' " laugh...)

Doctrine and Covenants 88:77

77 And I give unto you a commandment that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom.

Every one of you have spoken up today, every one of you have been doing this, teaching one another the doctrine of the kingdom. That's what we are supposed to do.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:78

78 Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand;

We are going to have the opportunity for that up in Boise and I am hoping that those that are going to be talking are spending time teaching on teaching one another this stuff. I would hope that it would be useful and edifying and in conformity with what we are directed to do.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:79

79 Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth;

This is a huge aside, but the things that are "under the earth" aren't referring to dirt and caves. It is the movement of the stars as they rise and fall on the horizon - Adrian has written a little about that...

Doctrine and Covenants 88:79 continued...

things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms—

That is the definition of truth, truth is a knowledge things as they are as they were and as they are to come.

One of the biggest judgements that are upon this land, is that this land belongs to and is going to be preserved for those that worship the God of this land. And when they reject the God of this land, they get swept away. When they fill the measure that is required for that.

"...a knowledge also of countries and kingdoms" - boy that means more than just France and Italy. Countries are places that are lands of inheritance that have been given by God. No one owns a country that hasn't been given to them by covenant from God. "...and of kingdoms" - that's not the monarchs of England or the Middle East - that's God's. Because what difference does it make to us who the king of Saudi Arabia is?

Doctrine and Covenants 88:80

80 That ye may be prepared in all things when I shall send you again to magnify the calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with which I have commissioned you.

Look, the commission has been given.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:81

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.

You guys have been warned. The content of what has been given and understand all of those ten talks and "Preserving the Restoration" is based entirely upon expounding the scriptures. You can take the message of everything in that book and bypass the book and go to the scriptures, teach, preach, exhort and expound only using the source material and they don't have to listen to an apostate. My name doesn't have to come up... but I have noticed that what I've taught has been leaking into General Conference a little bit.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:82

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

Yeah, look, I have gotten the signal (from Stephanie) to sit down so I am going to shut up and sit down. But I do think that everything that everyone has said is part of dealing with it. And once we have brought someone aboard, if their heart is right I will get around to pointing them to websites and inviting baptism and when I am writing the book after the book that is coming out. That (next) book will be addressed to the Christian world.

The Lord is proceeding very methodical, the pace is somewhat slow. But I will tell you that you are better off bringing the right people aboard as Abinadi did, than harvesting huge numbers and winding up with an absolute mess on our hands. If they come aboard, they come aboard as the Lord's. The Lord is going to watch over them and the Lord will care for them in a way that exceeds our capacity to do so.

QUESTION: Can you mention anything about what you received on the April 14th that you mentioned on your blog?

I am sorry, I laugh at myself. I am not a very good student. I am embarrassingly oblivious to the obvious. I could tell you stories about that but, you would wonder at the Lord's patience.

I wanted to know about Joseph and the restoration and details about what went on in Nauvoo and what has been going since Nauvoo - and where and what and who and I couldn't get enough questions out on the table. I was obnoxious, obnoxiously inquisitive - nothing about the future. I want to know about the past up until now.

I saw what we were doing and how apparently important that was. And how the Lord is watching over this work.

Then the view expanded and I saw that God is working with people we won't encounter for some time - still to get them ready for what's coming. And He is surprisingly just as involved in caring for them as He is in attendant to us.

Then the view increased another order of magnitude and I could see every people everywhere, and it doesn't matter who they are, where they are, what their culture is, it doesn't matter where they are in this world. He is working to bring about ultimately their salvation as well.

Then the view got ridiculous for man to behold, because He has concerns about creations that are without number. In trying to put it into words, this is the analogy that I've come up with:

Let's liken Zion to a bus station. And someone needs to build the bus station. And that might be us. And if we build a bus station and we have a place that can receive people and that it is a place of safety where they can pass through. When we finish with that, the bus station won't amount to much if someone doesn't build a bus. And we're not building that bus. And the buses that get built are not going anywhere if they don't have fuel. And someone has got to do that. And that is going to involve miners and explorers and manufacturers and refiners and transport people and delivery mechanisms that God is working with. And when they finally fill the buses that will be someone over whom God is responsible.

When they finally get to our bus station we are not going to be justified in pride because we can proclaim "yeah, we built the bus station - huh! We rock!" Zion is an absolutely critical component in the last day's plan of God and indispensable in the salvation of the souls of men - living and dead. But it is just a bus station. And through it will pass concourses of people with whom we've had very little responsibility.

When He says that "the day will come, a time when the prophets are going to awaken and no longer stay themselves and they are going to come from the lands of the north and they are going to come to the bus station to receive something from the hands of His servants Ephraim in the boundaries of the everlasting hills" - He is working on that. And He is working with people on that.

We need to be about what He has asked us to do. And it is important - it's indispensable. But it is absolutely no more indispensable that what He is doing among people in Asia and Europe and Africa and everywhere else in the world. He promises that you lead with the scriptures, and He tells you after the voice of warning - then He is going to preach a sermon - and His sermon is going to shake and cause fear. It is not because He is an angry God, it is because He is a loving God who knows what it takes to stir people up, to get attention, to consider the things of eternity.

But that's essentially, it is hard to put into words, but that is the analogy and I think that it conveys the meaning. Because He is the God of the whole world and every soul is precious to Him. And Christ's atonement was intended to yield the absolute greatest benefit that can be obtained through the suffering of the Lord and for some people, their reluctance is no deterrent to the Lord's desire to save them anyway. I think Zion needs to be people that receive the word with gladness - and not people we contend with to bring... the glory... I am really interested to see what will happen up in Boise. I think that is going to be an interesting moment.