

A PRAYER FOR ALL ISRAEL

(Written for April Conference 1984—not used)

I am quite overwhelmed by deep feelings of thanksgiving and rejoicing for the goodness of the Lord to me.

He has suffered me to suffer pain, feel anxiety, and taste his healing power. He has renewed in my heart the sure knowledge that without his goodness and grace we are nothing, but that if we rely on him we can do all things that are expedient.

One of my friends of old taught that when the saints assemble to worship the Lord, various of them come with a psalm, a doctrine, a revelation, a prophesy—with some manifestation of the mind and will of the lord to his people.

In harmony with this principle of true worship I shall offer a prayer—a prayer for the saints of the Most High, a prayer for those who nor have and yet shall forsake the world and find peace and pasture in the sheepfold of the Good Shepherd.

There are special prayers, reserved and offered for those who drink the still waters and lie down in green pastures, which are not uttered for those who yet dwell in the deserts of sin and dare lost in the valley of the shadow of death.

As we bow our heads in prayer let us remember the law of prayer, given by the Lord Jesus in these words: “Ye must always pray unto the Father in my name; 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 Nephi 18:19-20.)

Let us pray—not for the world, but for the saints, for those of the household of faith, those who have chosen the Lord as their God:

O thou Almighty Elohim, thou by whom all things are, thou who art our Father and our God:

We ask thee in the name of Jesus Christ, thy Beloved Son, to hear the words of our mouth, to discern with thy all-seeing eye the thoughts and intents of our heart, and to grant us our righteous desires.

We feel it is a great privilege to come into thy presence, to bow before thy throne, to address thee as Father; and we know thou wilt hear our cries. May we now speak by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Father we thank thee for life itself, for this mortal probation in which we as pilgrims, far from our heavenly home, are gaining experiences that could be gained in no other way.

We thank thee, Father, that thou didst ordain and establish the great and eternal plan of salvation whereby we, as thy spirit children, are given power, if faithful and true in all things, to advance and progress and become like thee.

Oh how great is our joy that thou hast provided a way, through the atonement of thy Son, for us to gain immortality and eternal life!

We thank thee for sending thy Holy Son Jesus to be the Savior and Redeemer; to put into full operation all of the terms and conditions of thy great and eternal plan of salvation; to save us from death, hell, the devil, and endless torment.

Oh how we glory in him and in his blessed name, rejoicing everlastingly that he has ransomed us from temporal and spiritual death; that he is the one Mediator between us and thee; that he has received us unto thee, not imparting unto us our sins, but healing us with his stripes!

We thank thee, O our Father, that thou gavest thine Only Begotten Son so that we, believing in him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life; that he, amid the blood and agonies of Gethsemane, and the blood and cruelties of Calvary, bore our sins on conditions of repentance.

Oh how we love the Lord Jesus, who is called Christ and who is the Holy Messiah; who also is our Lord, our God, and our King, whom we worship in the full majesty of his Godhood; and in whose blood we shall yet wash our garments, so as to stand spotless before him and thee in that great day!

And now, O thou God of our Fathers, knowing of thy goodness and grace to the prophets and apostles and saints of old, knowing of the miracles and wonders wrought among the saints of former days, we turn in thanksgiving and rejoicing to what thou hast done for us in our day.

With all our hearts we thank thee for the restoration of the gospel; that the voice of God is heard again; that the heavens, long sealed, have been rent; that holy angels, bringing priesthoods and keys and light and truth, now minister among us.

We stand in reverent awe at the realization that thou and thy Beloved Son came to Joseph Smith in the spring of 1820 to usher in the dispensation of the fulness of times.

We marvel that thou didst send Moroni to reveal the Book of Mormon; Moses to empower us to gather Israel from the Egypt of the world into the Zion of God; and Elijah to confer upon us the power to bind on earth and have our acts sealed everlastingly in the heavens.

Oh Father how grateful we are that Elias brought back the gospel of Abraham, so that we, as children of the covenant, might have a continuation of the family unit in eternity!

O God, the Eternal Father, thou hast given us the word of reconciliation and hast poured out revelations and visions upon us.

Thou hast wrought miracles in our midst, given us the holy scriptures, particularly thy word manifest in our day; conferred upon us the gift of the Holy Ghost by which we are guided into all truth, and by which our souls are sanctified.

For all these things we are grateful beyond any measure of expression, and because of them we shall praise thy holy name forever.

We confess our sins before thee and seek remission thereof, lest anything stand between us and thee in receiving a free flow of thy Spirit.

We ask thee to hedge up the way of the Adversary that he may have no power over us or thy work. We pray for our enemies, against whom we hold no ill will.

In this spirit of rejoicing and thanksgiving we ask thee, O our Father, to grant us all that we need to do thy work and to fill the full measure of our creation.

Wilt thou, O God, bless thy Church and Kingdom on earth. May we be effective instruments in thy hands to build anew the Zion of old including the New Jerusalem that is to be.

May we gather the lost sheep of Israel into the stakes of Zion in all nations.

O Father, give us thy power in preaching thy restored gospel to every nation and kindred and tongue and people as thou hast commanded us. Open the doors of nations so the sons of Ishmael and those who profess to be atheists may hear thy word.

Let us fulfill our divine commission to prepare a people for the coming of thy Son. May we find, by research and by revelation, all those for whom we should perform the ordinances of salvation and exaltation in sacred sanctuaries dedicated to thy holy name.

Oh have mercy on us; bear with us in our weakness, for our trust is in thee. Thou art our God, and there is none other like unto thee.

We know that all things are spiritual unto thee, but unto us many things are temporal. Wilt thou bless us in all our temporal concerns.

We cry unto thee over our flocks and our herds, over the fruits of our fields and the increase of our vines and trees. Wilt thou temper the elements and preserve us from disasters that our basket and store may be full.

We need food, clothing, and shelter; we need schooling and proper employment; we need wisdom in our business and professional enterprises.

O Father grant us according to our needs, giving us neither poverty nor riches, but feeding us with food convenient for us.

Bless us in our families that husbands and wives may love each other, and cleave unto each other; that parents may bring up their children in light and truth; that children thus brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, may honor their fathers and their mothers as their righteous ancestors lived.

O, Father, there are those among us, not a few in number, who desire and are worthy to have eternal companions. Wilt thou prepare the way before them that they may have the desires of their heart in righteousness.

There are those among us, Father, who are sick and afflicted, who suffer from disease, and who are not appointed unto death. O thou, Great Physician, pour out thy healing power upon thy suffering saints.

O, Lord, increase our faith, and let the sick be healed and the dead raised even in greater numbers than at present.

But above this, O thou God of healing, wilt thou cause him who came with healing in his wings also to heal us spiritually.

We would be clean; we desire to be a pure people; we need and desire and seek, above all, the companionship of thy Holy Spirit. We pray, as did they of old, that we might receive the Holy Ghost.

O, Father, we rejoice in the gifts of the Spirit and seek them in greater abundance. Let testimony and revelation and visions and miracles multiply among us.

Let us know the wonders of eternity, even those things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor yet entered into the heart of man.

And, finally, Father, we would be one with thy Son, even as he is one with thee. We seek salvation; we desire eternal life; we long to return to thy presence, and there, sitting down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets and holy men of old, to go no more out forever.

Let us see the face of thy Son while we dwell here as mortals. Let us hear him say: Come ye blessed of my Father; ye shall enter into the joy of thy Lord; thy calling and election has been made sure; thou art a joint-heir with me, and shall yet receive, possess, and inherit all that my Father hath.

And now, O our God, thou Everlasting Elohim, thou to whom we cry, Abba, Father—knowing thy mind and will and counsel with reference to all these expressions of

thanksgiving, and all the petitions for blessings, we covenant before thee that we will keep thy commandments and love and serve thee all our days.

Let this, then, be our covenant, that from this hour we will walk in thy ways, blameless, obedient, faithful, true to every trust, having love one for another, testifying in word and by deed that we are thy people, the sheep of thy pasture, thy own peculiar people.

O God our Father hear our words, accept our worship, and give us all that we so devoutly seek.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose also we are, and in whose blessed name we are privileged to speak, even so, Amen.