

My brothers and sisters and friends and the many great and good relatives that are here in this congregation this morning, as we have met ~~here~~ together to be with each other and to honor our beloved Aunt Clara Phelps Robson who has passed on from this mortal life.

It was Aunt Clara's request that I speak here ~~on this occasion~~ and I am honored and humbled in the privilege that Uncle Charlie and this good family has given me and I pray that what I have to say will be in keeping with the beautiful Spirit that is felt here today.

Aunt Clara so loved her ~~marvelous~~ family and her ~~many~~ relatives, ^{most} ~~many~~ of them the posterity of ^{her father} ~~the~~ Patriarch Hyrum S. Phelps and the great pioneer of the first Mesa Company ~~to settle here~~, Charles I. Robson.

We loved aunt Clara. I know that she ~~was~~ had a great interest in regard to the family ~~and~~ of her brothers and sisters. She had always wanted to do her best for my mother's family and when I talked to her recently she was concerned as to what she would tell her sister Annie in regard to anything for us that she ~~felt~~ she had left undone when she met her on the other side.

I am sure that there ^{is} ~~shall be~~ nothing but a joyous reunion with all the numerous friends and family that ~~will~~ await her.

Aunt Clara remembered that especially in the early days of the Church before there was a completeness in procedures and even in the understanding of doctrine that some members of the church experienced manifestations that were directives in their lives and contributed to the faith of others.

~~We remember~~ One such experience ~~that~~ was that of the father of our beloved President Grant. He was permitted to view the Spirit world before he left this life. And he said he saw the righteous gathered together and there were no wicked among them. He saw his wife and their little child that had died on the plains. ~~But~~ But he said, in relating this experience, "To my astonishment, when I looked at families there was a deficiency in some, there was a lack, for I saw families that would not be permitted to come and dwell together, because they had not honored their calling here."

The possibility of such in the great families represented here weighed considerably upon Aunt Clara's mind and I think it is well that we know this.

I think it is natural at the passing of a loved one that we contemplate their status in that world beyond the veil.

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Tálore said, "Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come."

The spirits of the Just are not far from us, and know and understand our thoughts, feelings and emotions, and are often pained therewith.

You know, . . . ~~we~~ seem to be available to those who are left behind. When a loved one ~~is~~ has passed on, ~~two~~ two kinds of comfort ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ One lies in the love and concern of friends and the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit.

The other lies in ~~knowing~~ a knowledge of where the loved one is and what he or she is doing.

In studying the things that have been revealed through His prophets, God has given us a strong assurance of several things. For instance:

We know that the spirits of all men, immediately upon death, go to the spirit world to await the resurrection.

We know that ~~we~~ for the righteous, the spirit world is a place of joy and peace.

→ We know that it is also a place of continued progress and those who have not ~~heard the~~ heard the marvelous message of the Gospel will have that opportunity.

We know that our departed loved ones are changed only in that they are temporarily separated from their bodies; that in personality, & character, they remain the same; that the spirit does not change.

We know that the spirit world is not far removed from earth but close by, though invisible to our mortal eyes.

We know that some departed spirits know and understand our thoughts and feelings; and that they are aware of us and retain their love for us. - and I am sure, in some instances, their concern for us.

We know that the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil are taken home to that God who gave them life - the righteous to a state of happiness which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and care and sorrow.

We know that one great purpose of life is that of being tested and one of the great tests has to do with our ability to accept what we do not fully understand and be able to say, "Thy will be done", and then to ask for the Comforter to give us peace and assurance even in those matters where we cannot yet comprehend.

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These things come to us by a knowledge of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, and I thought we might remind ourselves this morning of some of the things that pertain to a beautiful plan of God our Heavenly Father that was introduced at the Grand Council in the Heavens before the World was, by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

~~He~~ explains that ~~in~~ many are appointed unto death and that it is the will of the Lord that they be taken and that passing from this earth life is not a great tragedy. The Plan brings comfort and can even warm our hearts on such occasions as we are experiencing today and surely when we consider that many of Aunt E Clara's loved ones are on the other side, we realize that there is great rejoicing in the Heavens though it is not always easy for those who are left behind.

We are taught that if mortality were the perfect state, death would be a frustration. The Scriptures say, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord," and this indicates to me that death can be the opening of the door to new opportunities.

Now we do not seek after death for we pray for those who are ill. The scriptures tell us that we should live together in faith insomuch that we shall weep for the loss of them that die. We miss our loved ones who have gone on from this life, but death is a part of life and is a sorrow that a strong family shares as it does its joys.

We might speak of the time before we came here and ask ourselves, "Was there really a life before this earth life?" Certainly there was for all the evidence tells us that we are the begotten Spirit children of God - even that we consider ourselves - and call each other - brothers and sisters.

You remember that the Lord revealed to Adam that He created all things spiritually before they were naturally upon the earth. He revealed to Jeremiah that he knew him and that he sanctified and ordained him a prophet unto the nations before he was born.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Paul taught that man was a spiritual birth when he wrote to the Hebrews that we have a father of our spirits.

And Job declared, "There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the almighty giveth them understanding."

And, of course, it is further written, "The dust shall return unto the earth as it was - and the Spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Now we do not return to a place that we have never been before. And so each of us lived in the presence of God prior to our birth when we take upon ourselves a mortal body.

And then this earth life - with its joys and sorrows is a necessary part of this eternal existence and an important part of the great Plan.

The principle of eternal progression and eternal happiness is dependant upon our coming here and receiving this physical body. Even the Savior was obligated to come to the earth and take upon himself an earthly body.

He experienced joy and sorrow, and happiness and frequent dissappointments. And Paul told us that "Though He were a son of God - Yet learned He