

Spiritual Experiences of Lorenzo Snow **Compiled By Glen W. Chapman September 1999**

Devotion to Divine Inspiration **By Dr Leroi C. Snow son of Lorenzo Snow**

It is my purpose, in this article, to point out the characteristics in the life of Lorenzo Snow which have special application to the development of character, in the hope of awakening in the young people inspiration and action.

If we think of the work of President Lorenzo Snow only from the standpoint of his public achievements, or his Church activity, we would undoubtedly name as his most important accomplishments the remarkable success which he achieved in the United Order, or co-operative movement, in Brigham City; or his revelation in St. George on the subject of tithing, along with the subsequent work which resulted in delivering the Church from its heavy bondage of debt.

These events, important as they were, both in the life of President Snow and in the history and progress of the Church, occurred late in his life and had little to do with the development of his character. President Snow's special mission, the divinely appointed work for which the Lord preserved him, was undoubtedly the deliverance of the Church from its financial distress. This was an epoch in Church history, and President Snow was made equal to the accomplishment of this great task through the development of his character and the growth of his faith and integrity which began early in life. The crowning glory of his life's work was made possible and was the result of his unwavering obedience to the sacred call which he heard in his boyhood.

In his youth he had a very promising future. His parents were prosperous and highly respected people, and he had sufficient means to carry out his heart's desires. He had decided to follow either a military or a literary career, for both of which he was carefully preparing. He was a commissioned officer in the Ohio militia, and had just finished his studies at Oberlin College. I hope every one who reads this will try to realize what it meant to the young man Lorenzo Snow to give up all his fond hopes and make a complete change in the plans for his future; but instead of a sacrifice, he realized that it meant opportunity for a greater future than he had before hoped for.

What was this call in his youth? God revealed a great truth to him which was the inspiration of his life and from which we all may learn a valuable lesson through its application in our own lives. Let us see if we can discover this secret in Lorenzo Snow's successful life.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God." (Philip. 2:5-6.)

In May, 1836, after a blessing meeting, to which he had been invited, in the Kirtland temple, the Patriarch, Father Joseph Smith, said to Lorenzo Snow: "You will soon be convinced of the truth of the latter-day work, and be baptized, and you will become as great as you can possibly wish-even as great as God, and you cannot wish to be greater."

What a remarkable promise! It astonished the young man and awakened thoughts in his mind of which he had never before dreamed. Two weeks later, in June, 1836, at the age of twenty-two, he was baptized by Elder John Boynton, an apostle.

About three weeks after his baptism, Lorenzo Snow received a wonderful vision which he tells in his own language, in his journal, as follows:

I had no sooner opened my lips in an effort to pray than I heard a sound, just above my head, like the rustling of silken robes, and immediately the Spirit of God descended upon me, completely enveloping my whole person, filling me, from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet, and O, the joy and happiness I felt! No language can describe the almost instantaneous transition from a dense cloud of mental and spiritual darkness into a refulgence of light and knowledge, as it was at that time imparted to my understanding. I then received a perfect knowledge that God lives, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and of the restoration of the holy priesthood, and the fullness of the gospel. It was a complete baptism-a tangible immersion in the heavenly principle or element (the gift of) the Holy Ghost; and even more real and physical in its effects upon every part of my system than the immersion by water; dispelling forever, so long as reason and

memory last, all possibility of doubt or fear in relation to the fact handed down to us historically, that the "Babe of Bethlehem" is truly the Son of God; also the fact that he is now being revealed to the children of men, and communicating knowledge, the same as in the apostolic times. I was perfectly satisfied, as well as I might be, for my expectations were more than realized, I think I may safely say in an infinite degree. . . . That night as I retired to rest, the same wonderful manifestations were repeated, and continued to be for several successive nights. The sweet remembrance of those glorious experiences, from that time to the present, brings them fresh before me, imparting an inspiring influence which pervades my whole being, and I trust will to the close of my earthly existence.

This heavenly vision so enlightened his mind and opened the eyes of his understanding that Lorenzo Snow began to comprehend the remarkable promise made to him by the Patriarch of the Church, in the Kirtland temple before his baptism. He continued to dwell upon the thought of the possible progress of man and his destiny. A few months later, during the same year, another inspired blessing was pronounced upon his head by the Patriarch, Father Joseph Smith, in which miraculous promises were made. The following is quoted from the blessing:

Brother Snow, in the name of Jesus Christ and by authority of the holy priesthood, I lay my hands upon thy head and give thee a father's blessing. I ask God to have mercy upon thee who art but a youth. Thou hast been diligent in thy application to learning. God has looked upon thee from all eternity and has been bountiful in gifts; he has given thee intelligence, talent, and great faculties of mind that thou mightest be useful in his cause. Thou hast a great work to perform. God has called thee to the ministry; thou must preach the gospel to the inhabitants of the earth. Thou shalt become a mighty man. Thou shalt have great faith, even like the brother of Jared. Thou shalt have power to translate thyself from one planet to another,

power to rend the vail and see Jesus Christ at the right hand of the Father, . . . there shall not be a mightier man on earth than thou, thy faith shall increase and grow stronger till it shall become like Peter's-thou shalt restore the sick: the diseased shall send to thee their aprons and handkerchiefs and by thy touch their owners shall be made whole. . . Thou shalt have long life; . . yet not be old; age shall not come upon thee; the vigor of thy mind shall not be abated and the vigor of thy body shall be preserved.

No power shall be able to take thy life as long as thy life shall be useful to the children of men.-Given in the Kirtland temple, December 15, 1836, by Joseph Smith, Sr., Patriarch.

There is little wonder that Lorenzo Snow was amazed at this extraordinary blessing and promise, especially in the face of the predictions of several noted physicians who had shortly before told him that he could not live more than a few years.

But here again the great thought was emphasized-the possible progress and development of man through obedience and faithfulness to the gospel. This truth was being grounded deeper and deeper into his soul, and it was constantly upon his mind.

In the spring of 1840, just before leaving on his first mission to England, Lorenzo Snow spent an evening in the home of his friend, Elder H. G. Sherwood, in Nauvoo. Elder Sherwood was endeavoring to explain the parable of the Savior about the husbandman who sent forth servants at different hours of the day to labor in the vineyard. While thus engaged in thought this most important event occurred, as told by President Snow himself:

While attentively listening to his (Elder Sherwood's) explanation, the Spirit of the Lord rested mightily upon me-the eyes of my understanding were opened, and I saw as clear as the sun at noon-day, with wonder and astonishment, the pathway of God and man. I formed the following couplet which expresses the revelation, as it was shown to me, and explains Father Smith's dark saying to me at a blessing meeting in the Kirtland temple, prior to my baptism, as previously mentioned in my first interview with the Patriarch:

*As man now is, God once was:
As God now is, man may be.*

I felt this to be a sacred communication which I related to no one except my sister Eliza, until I reached England, when in a confidential, private conversation with President Brigham Young, in Manchester, I related to him this extraordinary manifestation.

Soon after his return from England, in January, 1843, Lorenzo Snow related to the Prophet Joseph Smith his experience in Elder Sherwood's home. This was in a confidential interview in Nauvoo. The Prophet's reply was: "Brother Snow, that is true gospel doctrine, and it is a revelation from God to you."

Let us understand clearly that while Lorenzo Snow, through a revelation from God, was the author of the above couplet expression, the Lord had revealed this great truth to the Prophet and to Father Smith, long before it was made known to Lorenzo Snow. In fact, it was the remarkable promise given to him in the Kirtland temple, in 1836, by the Patriarch, that first awakened the thought in his mind, and its expression in the frequently quoted couplet was not revealed to President Snow until the spring of 1840. We cannot emphasize the fact too strongly that this revealed truth impressed Lorenzo Snow more than perhaps all else; it sank so deeply into his soul that it became the inspiration of his life and gave him his broad vision of his own great future and the mighty mission and work of the Church.

Four years after this revelation to Lorenzo Snow, and more than a year after he related it to Joseph Smith, the Prophet himself expressed the same idea in a public sermon. This was during the General Conference, Sunday afternoon, April 7, 1844. In referring to the death, a short time before, of Elder King Follett, the Prophet preached a general funeral sermon. This was one of his last sermons, as the martyrdom occurred less than three months later. This sermon was first published, in part, about six weeks after the martyrdom, in the August 15, 1844, issue of the *Times and Seasons*, and seventeen years afterward, in 1861, it appeared in Vol.23 of the *Millennial Star*. It was also printed in the January number of the *Improvement Era*, in 1909, with explanatory footnotes by Elder B. H. Roberts.

The King Follett sermon, as it is called, was reported by Willard Richards, Wilford Woodruff, Thomas Bullock and William Clayton in longhand. After its first publication, in 1844, it was revised and corrected before its publication in 1861. While absolutely no change is made in this thought of the destiny of man, the later wording is clearer and better and is a result of careful comparison and consideration by those who reported and heard the discourse. (For further explanation, see HC 4:556; 6:248-54.)

There are two references in this sermon to the idea of the possible progress and development of man, which I quote both from the *Times and Seasons* and from the *Millennial Star* the words in italics having been added in the later publication:

Times and Seasons, Aug.15, 1844

First, God himself, who sits enthroned in yonder heavens, is a man like unto one of yourselves, that is the great secret. If the vail was rent today, and the great God, who holds this world in its orbit, and upholds all things by his power; if you were to see him today, you would see him in all the person, image and very form as a man; for Adam was created in the very fashion and image of God; Adam received instruction, walked, talked and conversed with him, as one man talks and communes with another.

These are incomprehensible ideas to some, but they are the simple and first principles of the gospel, to know for a certainty the character of God, that we may converse with him as one man with another, and that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ himself did, and I will show it from the Bible.

Millennial Star 1861

God himself was once as we are now. And is an exalted Man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret. If the vail were rent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit, and who upholds all worlds and all things by his power, was to make himself visible,-I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form-like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man; for Adam was created in the very fashion, image and likeness of God, and received instruction from, and walked, talked and conversed with him, as one man talks and communes with another.

These are incomprehensible ideas to some, but they are simple. It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God, and to know that we may converse with him as one man converses with another, and that he was once a man like us. yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible.

In President Snow's own copy of the *Times and Seasons*, which I now have, he drew more particular attention, with his own indelible pencil, to this part of the Prophet's King Follett sermon than to any other

reference in all the six volumes. This great hope in man's destiny, through strict obedience to the gospel, was in his mind so constantly that he frequently referred to it in the home circle, in his public discourses, both when addressing aged parents and when talking to little children, and many of his intimate friends know that it was a favorite theme in private and confidential conversations.

Few comparisons were more frequently repeated by President Snow in his public speaking than the following:

As an illustration, here is an infant upon its mother's breast. It is without power or knowledge to feed and clothe itself. It is so helpless that it has to be fed by its mother. But see its possibilities! This infant has a father and a mother, though it knows scarcely anything about them. Who is its father? Who is its mother? Why, its father is an emperor, its mother is an empress, and they sit upon a throne, governing an empire. This little infant will some day, in all probability, sit upon his father's throne, and govern and control the empire, just as King Edward of England now sits upon the throne of his mother. We should have this in mind; for we are the sons of God, as much so and more, if possible, than we are the sons of our earthly fathers.

You sisters, I suppose, have read that poem which my sister, Eliza R. Snow Smith, composed, years ago, and which is sung quite frequently now in our meetings. It tells us that we not only have a Father in "that high and glorious place," but that we have a Mother, too; and you sisters will become as great as your Mother, if you are faithful.

Only a short time before his death, President Snow visited the Brigham Young University, at Provo. President Brimhall escorted the party through one of the buildings; he wanted to reach the assembly room as soon as possible, as the students had already gathered. They were going through one of the kindergarten rooms; President Brimhall had reached the door and was about to open it and go on when President Snow said: "Wait a moment, President Brimhall, I want to see these children at work; what are they doing?" Brother Brimhall replied that they were making clay spheres. "That is very interesting," the President said. "I want to watch them." He quietly watched the children for several minutes and then lifted a little girl, perhaps six years of age, and stood her on a table. He then took the clay sphere from her hand, and, turning to Brother Brimhall, said:

President Brimhall, these children are now at play, making mud worlds, the time will come when some of these boys, through their faithfulness to the gospel, will progress and develop in knowledge, intelligence and power, in future eternities, until they shall be able to go out into space where there is unorganized matter and call together the necessary elements, and through their knowledge of and control over the laws and powers of nature, to organize matter into worlds on which their posterity may dwell, and over which they shall rule as gods.

Every one present was deeply impressed and President Brimhall says that he will never forget the thrill of the spirit of inspiration which filled his soul at the time

We should realize clearly that Lorenzo Snow was not only deeply impressed by this revelation in his youth but let us grasp the even more important fact that this impression remained fresh in his soul throughout his long life. It is my purpose, as stated before to point out the motive or incentive which did most in President Lorenzo Snow's life to develop his character, in the hope that we might learn a practical lesson therefrom to apply in our own lives. We here have a splendid example of the effect and results in one man's life of the inspiration of a great ideal or hope but we must know that the memory of this first impression was ever kept fresh, and not only the memory of it but he proved his faith by his works for President Snow realized fully that the great destiny of man was predicated entirely upon the condition of faithfulness to the gospel teachings. This he ever kept in mind and I am sure it was the deciding factor in his every act throughout his long and beautifully faithful life.

He taught that a man approaches godliness as fast as he approaches perfection; that a sinner cannot be

saved in his _ sins; that the reward for righteousness is exaltation. He -often quoted the words of the Lord to John: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even; as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." (Rev. 3:21.)

So, in journeying along this pathway of God and man President Snow always had these two thoughts in mind the great destiny of man, and the necessity of cleansing one's self from sin-living a pure life in strict obedience to the gospel of Christ: "Beloved now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be. but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 Jn. 3:2-3.) President Snow composed the following beautiful poem about ten years before his death. It expresses these two thoughts, and is the result of a life-long obedience to the teaching revealed to him about fifty-two years before. The poem is addressed to Apostle Paul, and was written in reply to the apostle's epistle to the Philippians:

Man's Destiny *

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God." (Philip. 2:5-6.)

Dear Brother:

*Hast thou not been unwisely bold,
Man's destiny to thus unfold?
To raise, promote such high desire,
Such vast ambition thus inspire?
Stil⁴ 'tis no phantom that we trace
Man's ultimatum in life's race,
This royal path has long been trod
By righteous men, each now a God:
As Abra'm, Isaac, Jacob, too
First babes; then men-to gods they grew.
As man now is, our God once was:
As now God is, so man may be,
Which doth unfold man's destiny.
For John declares: When Christ we see
Like unto him we'll truly be,
And he who has this hope within,
Will purify himself from sin.
Who keep this object grand in view,
To folly, sin, will bid adieu,
Nor wallow in the mire anew;*

*Nor ever seek to carve his name
High on the shaft of worldly fame,
But here his ultimatum trace:
The head o fall his spirit-race.*

*Ah, well: that taught by you, dear Paul,
Though much amazed, we see it all:
Our Father God, has opened our eyes,
We cannot view it otherwise.
The boy, like to his father grown,
Has but attained unto his own
To grow to sire from state of son,
Is not 'gainst Nature's course to run.
A son of God, like God to be,
Would not be robbing Deity;
And he who has this hope within,
Will purify himself from sin
You're right, St. John, supremely right:*

*Who'er essays to climb this height,
Will cleanse himself of sin entire-
Or else 'twere needless to aspire.
Lorenzo Snow.*

About three months before President Snow's death he said, about the couplet:

*As man now is, God once was;
As God now is, man may be.*

"That fulfilled Father Smith's declaration. Nothing was ever revealed more distinctly than that was to me. Of course, now that it is so well known it may not appear such a wonderful manifestation, but when I received it, the knowledge was marvelous to me."

He was in his eighty-eighth year when he made the above statement. Sixty-six years before, at the age of twenty-two, he received the Patriarch's blessing and also his first vision. The inspiration of that great truth was just as bright and clear in his old age as it was when he received it in his youth. It had been his constant light and guide on this "pathway of God and man"; it had been that "still, small voice" which had ever warned him of sin and evil and whose promptings he always obeyed and followed.

This thought in the breasts of men, filled with the light of the Holy Spirit, will purify them and cleanse them from every improper ambition and every unholy desire. Let me plead with every young man in Israel to take this lesson to heart, let it be the inspiration of our lives as it was the inspiration of President Snow's life. It was a bright, illuminating star before him all the time-in his heart, in his soul, and all through him.

I have endeavored to show how deeply this revelation from God burned into my father's very being when but a young man, and how true and faithful he remained to that early inspiration; and now, in conclusion, I wish to quote from one of his last statements, a testimony given but a short time before his death. His work on earth was nearly done, his mission was almost finished; he was about to return to his Maker, and with all the remaining strength of his soul he testified concerning the divinity of the work in which he and the Prophet Joseph Smith commenced their life's work when young men:

A word or two about Joseph Smith. Perhaps there are very few men now living who were so well acquainted with Joseph Smith the Prophet as I was. I was with him oftentimes. I visited him in his family, sat at his table, associated with him under various circumstances, and had private interviews with him for counsel. I know that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God; I know that he was an honorable man, a moral man, and that he had the respect of those who were acquainted with him. The Lord has shown me most clearly and completely that he was a Prophet of God, and that he held the holy priesthood and the authority to baptize people for the remission of their sins, and to lay hands upon them for the reception of the Holy Ghost, that they might receive a knowledge themselves in relation to these things. I am one who has received from the Lord the strongest revelation concerning the truth of this work. That manifestation was with me powerfully for hours and hours, and whatever circumstances may occur in my life, as long as memory lasts this perfect knowledge will remain with me.

(From Improvement Era vol. 22- June 1919 and also in God The Father compiled by Gordon Allred , Deseret Book Co.1979)

The Redeemer Appears to President Lorenzo Snow By Leroi C. Snow

For some time President Woodruff's health had been failing. Nearly every evening President Lorenzo Snow visited him at his home on South 5th East Street. This particular evening the doctors said President Woodruff was failing rapidly and they feared he would not live much longer.

Lorenzo Snow was then President of the Council of Twelve and was greatly worried over the possibility of succeeding President Woodruff, especially because of the terrible financial condition of the Church. Referring to this condition, President Heber J. Grant has said: "The Church was in a financial slough of despond, so to speak, almost financially bankrupt-its credit was hardly good for a thousand dollars without security."

My father went to his room in the Salt Lake Temple, where he was residing at the time. He

dressed in his robes of the Priesthood, went into the Holy of Holies, there in the House of the Lord and knelt at the sacred altar. He plead with the Lord to spare President Woodruff's life, that President Woodruff might outlive him and that the great responsibility of Church leadership would never fall upon his shoulders. Yet he promised the Lord that he would devotedly perform any duty required at his hands. At this time he was in his eighty-sixth year.

Soon after this President Woodruff was taken to California, where he died Friday morning at 6:40 o'clock, September 2, 1898. President George Q. Cannon at once wired the sad information to the President's office in Salt Lake City. Word was forwarded to President Snow who was in Brigham City. The telegram was delivered to him on the street in Brigham.. He read it to President Rudger Clawson, then president of Box Elder Stake, who was with him, went to the telegraph office and replied that he would leave on the train about 5:30 that evening. He reached Salt Lake City about 7:15, proceeded to the President's office, gave some instructions and then went to his private room in the Salt Lake Temple.

President Snow put on his holy temple robes, repaired again to the same sacred altar, offered up the signs of the Priest-hood, and poured out his heart to the Lord. He reminded the Lord how he had plead for President Woodruff's life and that his days might be lengthened beyond his own; that he might never be called upon to bear the heavy burdens and responsibilities of Church leadership. "Nevertheless," he said, "Thy will be done. I have not sought this responsibility but if it be Thy will, I now present myself before Thee for Thy guidance and instruction. I ask that Thou show me what Thou wouldst have me do." After finishing his prayer he expected a reply, some special manifestation from the Lord. So he waited-and waited and waited. There was no reply, no voice, no visitation, no manifestation. He left the altar and the room in great disappointment. He passed through the Celestial room and out into the large corridor leading to his own room where a most glorious manifestation was given President Snow. One of the most beautiful accounts of this experience is told by his granddaughter, Allie Young Pond.

"One evening when I was visiting Grandpa Snow in his room in the Salt Lake Temple, I remained until the doorkeepers had gone and the night-watchman had not yet come in, so Grandpa said he would take me to the main front entrance and let me out that way. He got his bunch of keys from his dresser.

"After we left his room and while we were still in the large corridor, leading into the Celestial room, I was walking several steps ahead of Grandpa when he stopped me, saying: 'Wait a moment, Allie. I want to tell you something. It was right here that the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to me at the time of the death of President Woodruff. He instructed me to go right ahead and reorganize the First Presidency of the Church at once and not wait as he had done after the death of the previous presidents, and that I was to succeed President Woodruff.'

"Then Grandpa came a step nearer and held out his left hand and said: 'He stood right here, about three feet above the floor. It looked as though He stood on a plate of solid gold.'

"Grandpa told me what a glorious personage the Savior is and described His hands, feet, countenance and beautiful White Robes, all of which were of such a glory of whiteness and brightness that he could hardly gaze upon Him.

"Then Grandpa came another step nearer me and put his right hand on my head and said: 'Now, granddaughter, I want you to remember that this is the testimony of your grandfather, that he told you with his own lips that he actually saw the Savior here in the Temple and talked with Him face to face.'

"Then we went on and Grandpa let me out of the main front door of the Temple."

During the M. I. A. June conference in 1919 at the officers' testimony meeting in the Assembly Hall, I related Allie Young Pond's experience and testimony. President Heber J. Grant immediately arose and said: "In confirmation of the testimony given by Brother LeRoi C. Snow quoting the granddaughter of Lorenzo Snow, I want to call attention to the fact that several years elapsed after the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith before President Young was sustained as the president of the Church. After the death of President Young, several years elapsed again before President Taylor was sustained, and again when he died several

years elapsed before President Woodruff was sustained.

"After the funeral of President Wilford Woodruff the Apostles met in the office of the First Presidency and Brother Francis M. Lyman said: 'I feel impressed although one of the younger members of the quorum, to say that I believe it would be pleasing in the sight of the Lord if the First Presidency of the Church was reorganized right here and right now. If I am in error regarding this impression, President Snow and the senior members of the council can correct me.'

"President Snow said that he would be pleased to hear from all the brethren upon this question, and each and all of us expressed ourselves as believing it would be pleasing to the Lord and that it would be the proper thing to have the Presidency organized at once.

"When we had finished, then and not until then did Brother Snow tell us that he was instructed of the Lord in the Temple the night after President Woodruff died, to organize the Presidency of the Church at once. President Anthon H. Lund and myself are the only men now living who were present at that meeting."

The Deseret News -Saturday, April 2, 1938.

(Also Found in Temples of the Most High pp. 139-142

Compiled by
N. B. Lundwall, Bookcraft)

Lucille Snow Tracy, the last surviving child of Church President Lorenzo Snow, related a couple of inspiring stories involving her spiritual father:

The story of my birth parallels that of the Biblical Isaac and like is full of the heartbreak, joy and sorrow, which accompanied it.

My father, President Lorenzo Snow, was 82 years old when he and Mama (Minnie Jane) got together to have me. Mama was 42 years old at the time, way past the menopause stage of life when women can no longer have children.

Prior to their getting together for this purpose, my father had an experience in the Salt Lake Temple one night which indicated to him there was another child yet to be born. While he was Temple President he lived in the Salt Lake Temple, and maintained a private room there for that express purpose.

One night while in bed in this room, he was awakened by a sound. Upon opening his eyes, he beheld a young girl dressed in white (myself) saying, "Here I am Papa. Here I am Papa. It is me, your little girl." This was repeated for three nights in succession and he knew for a surety that it was from the Pre-existent World of Spirits. So he conferred with mama upon the matter and told her he felt there was still another child to come. She said, "Oh no, it is impossible. Lorenzo jr. is the youngest (he being twelve at the time), and there are to be no more." However, Papa still strongly insisted, so she relented, and the Lord blessed her abundantly...

Papa's Patriarchal Blessing mentioned the fact that he would have 'faith of the Brother of Jared' and "that there would not be a greater one on earth than thou." These things certainly became true within his life. Also the promise which had been made to him that he would be able "to translate himself from planet to planet," became remarkably fulfilled in this manner:

I was six years old when Papa died (in 1901). We were abruptly removed from the Beehive House and had to take up our residence on Third A venue. About one month later, my sister, who was then 28 years old, came down from Logan, Utah to spend the weekend with us. We were all sleeping in bed this one night, when suddenly my older sister sat up, and woke us up,

by saying, "Oh, Mama, Mama, wake up! Papa has just been here and left a message for me to give you.

I sat up with Mama expecting to hear about Papa. This is what she said Papa told her to tell Mama: "Tell your mother to cease her grieving! I have a message to give her but cannot. However, you may tell her this - tell her that I am over on the other side preparing a place for her beside Brother Joseph (the Prophet Joseph Smith)."

My sister asked him why he couldn't tell her himself He replied that he couldn't. As he turned to leave my sister reached out her hand, and said, "Oh Papa!" He turned and came back and gave her hand a gentle squeeze. She said how wonderful it felt all over. She said his hand was so soft and tender like a babe's. Mother then said with satisfaction, "That means he's been resurrected already." That is how he was able to move from one planet to another; as a resurrected being.' (From Spirit World Manifestations pp 142- 144 , compiled by Joseph Heinerman, Magazine Printing and Publishing, Salt Lake City, Utah , December 1978

RAISED FROM THE DEAD

By LeRoi C. Snow

INTRODUCTION: These are the people who participated most prominently in the following remarkable experience, now published for the first time:

Lorenzo Snow was the fifth president of the Church.

Ella Jensen, now Mrs. Henry Wight, living in Juniper, Idaho. She is *fifty-eight* years of age, the mother of eight children, six of whom are now living, and has six grandchildren.

Jacob and Althea Jensen, Ella's parents, and her Uncle *Hans Jensen*, all of Brigham City, Utah, and all now dead.

Rudger Clawson, of Salt Lake City and president of the Council of Twelve.

Leah Rees, now Mrs. Wilford Reeder, of Brigham City. *Mrs. Hattie Critchlow Jensen*, of Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, now on a visit to Palestine.

A lphonzo H. Snow, of Salt Lake City, father of little *Alphie*, who died the morning of Ella's restoration to life.(dated 1929)

This story, true in every particular, shows the fulfillment of a prophecy made upon the head of Lorenzo Snow when he was a young man, twenty-two years of age At that time he received a patriarchal blessing, under the hands of the Prophet's father, Joseph Smith, Sen. This blessing was given in the Kirtland Temple. Among other things were these promises:

Thou shalt become a mighty man. Thy faith shall increase and grow stronger until it shall become like Peter's-thou shalt restore the sick; the diseased shall send to thee their aprons and handkerchiefs and by thy touch their owners shall be made whole. The dea4 shall rise and come forth at thy bidding.

For several long weeks Ella Jensen had lingered, almost between life and death, with scarlet fever. In order to relieve the tired parents from their weary hours of loving care, kind neighbors took turns in staying at the Jensen home overnight to help look after the sick girl.

Among these thoughtful friends was Leah Rees (now Mrs. Willord Reeder of Brigham City). She occasionally played the little, old-fashioned harmonium and sang for Ella's entertainment. This particular evening the sick girl became very much worse. Leah had come about eight o'clock to remain until about eight the next morning. Ella was so weak that she could hardly speak above a whisper.

"Ella asked her to sing and play for her," Leah says, "but, goodness, I was so worried about her condition, I felt more like crying. I sat down at the organ and began to play and sing but broke down and had to quit."

After Ella had gone to sleep, Leah lay down on a couch in the room, and also dropped off to sleep.

MAKES PREPARATIONS TO DIE

Leah continues with her own story: "About three or four o'clock in the morning I was suddenly awakened by Ella calling me. I hurried to her bed. She was all excited and asked me to get the comb, brush and scissors, explaining that she wanted to brush her hair and trim her fingernails and get all ready, 'for,' she said, 'they are coming to get me at ten o'clock in the morning.'

"I asked who was coming to get her Uncle Hans Jensen,' she replied, 'and the messengers. I am going to die and they are coming at ten o'clock to get me and take me away.' I tried to quiet her, saying that she would feel better -in the morning if she would try to sleep. 'No she said I am not going to sleep any more, but spend all the time getting ready.' She insisted that I get the comb hairbrush and scissors, which I did, but she was so weak that she could not use them.

"As I was brushing her hair, she asked me to call her parents. I explained that they were tired and asleep and that it would be better not to disturb them. 'Yes Ella replied you must call them. I want to tell them now.

"The parents were called and as they entered the room the daughter told them that her Uncle Hans, who was dead had suddenly appeared in the room, while she was awake with her eyes open, and told her that messengers would be there at ten o'clock to conduct her into the spirit world The father and mother feared that the girl was delirious and tried to get her to be quiet and go to sleep. She knew their thoughts and said: 'I know what I am talking about No I am not going to sleep any more. I know I am going to die and that they are coming to get me.'

At about eight o'clock Leah left the house realizing that the sick girl was gradually sinking. The father and mother remained at the bedside. Relatives and friends who had heard of Ella's sudden relapse came to see her.

PRONOUNCED DEAD

Towards ten o'clock, Uncle Jake, the father, who was holding his daughter's hand, felt the pulse become very weak. A few moments later he turned to his wife saying:

"Althea, she is dead, her pulse has stopped." The heart-broken parents wept and grieved at the loss of their beautiful daughter.

Jacob Jensen, Ella's father, and uncle of the writer of this article, was familiarly known to the people of Brigham City as "Uncle Jake."

Here are his own words to me:

"Ella had been sick for several weeks. She awoke one morning with the idea that she was about to die, and told us that her Uncle Hans had appeared in her room and said he was coming for her that morning. We kind of put her off and told her we thought she must have been dreaming and not to pay much attention to it, to go. to sleep and she would feel better in the morning; but she said: 'No, I know I am going, because he told me he would be here for me at ten o'clock in the morning.'

"She wanted to see all the folks and bid them good-bye. All who were near came in, all but Grandma Jensen. She was in town and I sent for her. She arrived just when the others of us had said good-bye. Ella put her arms around her grandmother's neck and kissed her good-bye. It was not more than a minute after that when her pulse stopped and she passed away. I was holding her hand and felt her pulse stop.

"We talked the matter over and wondered what we should do. I told my wife that I would go to town, more than a mile from home, and see President Snow, tell him about her death and have him arrange for the funeral.

"I went out to the barn, hitched up, and drove to the tabernacle where your father, President Lorenzo Snow, whom we all loved so much, was in meeting. I went into the vestry, behind the main hall, wrote a note and had it sent to your father, who was speaking to the congregation. When the note was placed upon the pulpit, President Snow stopped his talking, read the note and then explained to the Saints that it was a call to visit some people who were in deep sorrow and asked to be excused.

"President Snow came into the vestry and after I told him what had happened he meditated a moment or two and then said: 'I will go down with you.' Just as we were about to leave, President Snow stopped me, saying: 'Wait a moment, I wish you would go into the meeting and get Brother Clawson, I want him to go also.' President Clawson was then president of the Box Elder stake."

PRIESTHOOD OF GOD STEPS IN

"I went in and got him and took them both down to my home, about a mile and a half south of Brigham City. We went into the house. My wife and children were there. After standing at Ella's bedside for a minute or two, President Snow asked if we had any consecrated oil in the house. I was greatly surprised, but told him yes and got it for him. He handed the bottle of oil to Brother Clawson and asked him to anoint Ella. Your father was then mouth in confirming the anointing.

"During the administration I was particularly impressed with some of the words which he used and can well remember them now. He said: 'Dear Ella, I command you, in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, to come back and live, your mission is not ended. You shall yet live to perform a great mission.

"He said she should yet live to rear a large family and be a comfort to her parents and friends. I well remember these words."

President Rudger Clawson relates his experiences and after telling of Brother Jensen's coming to the meeting house toward the close of the morning session and being invited by President Snow to go along, says:

"As we entered the home we met Sister Jensen, who was very much agitated and alarmed. We came to Ella's bedside and were impressed by the thought that her spirit had passed out of the body and gone beyond."

A CALL HEARD BEYOND THE VEIL

"Turning to me President Snow said: 'Brother Clawson, will you anoint her,' which I did. We then laid our hands upon her head and the anointing was confirmed by President Snow, who blessed her and among other things, used this very extraordinary expression, in a commanding tone of voice, 'Come back, Ella, come back. Your work upon the earth is not yet completed, come back.' Shortly afterward we left the home."

Uncle Jake, Ella's father, continues his account:

"After President Snow had finished the blessing, he turned to my wife and me and said; 'Now do not mourn or grieve any more. It will be all right. Brother Clawson and I are busy and must go, we cannot stay, but you just be patient and wait, and do not mourn, because it will be all right.'

As already stated, it was ten o'clock in the morning when Ella died. It was towards noon when Jacob Jensen reported to President Snow at the tabernacle service, and not long after twelve o'clock, noon, when President Snow and President Clawson left the home after the administration.

Uncle Jake says that he and his wife remained at the bedside. The news of the death spread about the city. Friends continued to call at the home, express their sympathy to the sorrowing parents and leave. Continuing in Uncle Jake's words:

"Ella remained in this condition for more than an hour after President Snow administered to her, or more than three hours in all after she died. We were sitting there watching by the bedside, her mother and myself, when all at once she opened her eyes. She looked about the room, saw us sitting there, but still looked for someone else, and the first thing she said was: 'Where is he? Where is he?' We asked, 'Who? Where is who?' 'Why, Brother Snow,' she replied. 'He called me back.'

UNWILLING TO COME BACK

"We explained that Brother Snow and Brother Clawson were very busy and could not remain, that they had gone. Ella dropped her head back on the pillow, saying:

'Why did he call me back? I was so happy and did not want to come back.'

Then Ella Jensen began to relate her marvelous experiences, marvelous both as to the incidents themselves, and as to the great number of them that occurred in the short space of between three and four hours.

Hattie Critchlow (now Aunt Hattie Jensen, who is visiting Europe and the Holy Land as a birthday present from her lawyer sons in Los Angeles) was a young lady at the time of this story. She and a group of girl friends were on the street in Brigham City when word came to them of Ella's death. Ella was one of their associates. They decided immediately to go to the home to express their sympathy and to offer their help to the bereaved parents.

As they reached the home they saw a lot of people in the house, but instead of expressions of sorrow and grief, they saw surprise and happiness in their faces. They entered the house and were astonished to hear Ella's voice. They had arrived just after Ella had returned to life and had begun the wondrous story of her visit to the eternal world.

Regarding the more than three hours that Ella spent in the Spirit world she says: "I could see people from the other world and hear the most delightful music and singing that I ever heard. This singing lasted for six hours, during which time I was Preparing to leave this earth, and I could hear it all through the house. At ten o'clock my spirit left my body. It took me some time to make up my mind to go, as I could hear and see the folks crying and mourning over me. It was very hard for me to leave them, but as soon as I had a glimpse of the other world I was anxious to go and all care and worry left me.

COMMANDED TO COME BACK

President Clawson continues: "Ella passed on down through the building and met many others, some of whom we shall speak of later. Finally she came into a very large room that was completely filled with small children, all dressed in white, with Eliza R. Snow Smith presiding. She sat and listened to the Sunday School songs which they sang, being songs which are now sung in Sunday Schools among us, and she was perfectly contented and happy. It was a heavenly place, she said. She felt that she never wanted to leave it.

"While sitting there a very strange thing happened. She heard a voice coming to her in commanding tones, apparently from a long distance, which said: 'Come back, Ella, come back! Your work on earth is not yet completed.'

"She had no desire to come back and felt determined not to leave the beautiful place. But this voice was so authoritative in manner that it seemed to draw, yes actually did draw, her spirit out of that room. She was compelled to follow it, and so she turned her face earthward on the return journey. She kept going and going, apparently a long distance until, all at once, she found herself in the room at home, where her body was lying.

"Then she realized that her spirit must again enter the body which was lying there, to all intents and purposes, a lifeless one. Her spirit entered and the next moment her eyes opened and her lips moved. Then it was her parents realized that she was no longer dead. They spoke to her and she to them."

PROVES THAT SHE WAS RATIONAL

"She began to tell them of her wonderful experience in the other world, what she had done and seen. Her father whispered to the mother: 'Do you hear what she is saying? Why, the girl is certainly delirious. She is out of her mind.' Ella looked up and said: 'Father, you think then that I am out of my mind, do you? I will very soon prove to you that I am perfectly rational.'

"She turned to her mother: 'While in this large building in the spirit world, I met a woman who greeted me and said she was Aunt Mary and told me that she died while I was a baby.' The mother asked: 'Can you describe her?' The answer was: 'Yes, she was a tall woman with black hair and dark eyes and thin features.' 'Yes,' the mother answered, 'surely you have described your Aunt Mary.'

'I also met another woman there, who said she was my Aunt Sarah and had died just before I was born.' 'Will you describe her?' the mother asked. 'Yes, she was rather short and somewhat fleshy, with round features, light hair and blue eyes.' 'Why, yes, Ella, that is your Aunt Sarah. You have described her perfectly.' Ella turned to her father saying: 'Do you now think that I am out of my mind?' 'No,' he answered, 'you have had a very wonderful experience.'

(It may well be thought that Ella Jensen's work on earth was not yet completed, as indicated by President Snow, for she afterwards became president of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association in Brigham City. Afterwards she married and became a mother in Israel, and surely a woman can do no greater work in the world than to become a mother of men.

Ella Jensen was born August 3, 1871. The experience related in this article occurred March 3, 1891, in her twentieth year. She married Henry Wight, March 20, 1895. They are now living in juniper, Idaho. Of their eight children six are living and they have six grandchildren.)

"I entered a large hall. It was so long that I could not see the end of it. It was filled with people. As I went through the throng, the first person I recognized was my grandpa, H. P. Jensen, who was sitting in one end of the room, writing. He looked up, seemed surprised to see me and said:

'Why! There is my granddaughter, Ella.' He was very much pleased, greeted me and, as he continued with his writing, I passed on through the room and met a great many of my relatives and friends. It was like going along the crowded street of a large city where you meet many people, only a very few of whom you recognize.

"The next one I knew was Uncle Hans Jensen with his wife, Mary Ellen. They had two small children with them. On inquiring who they were, he told me one was his own and the other was Uncle Will's little girl. Some seemed to be in family groups. As there were only a few whom I could recognize and who knew me, I kept moving on.

"Some inquired about their friends and relatives on the earth. Among the number was my cousin. He asked me how the folks were getting along and said it grieved him to hear that some of the boys were using tobacco, liquor and many things that were injurious to them.

"This proved to me that the people in the other world know to a great extent what happens here on the earth.

"The people were all dressed in white or cream, excepting Uncle Hans Jensen, who had on his dark clothes and long rubber boots, the things he wore when he was drowned in the Snake River in Idaho.

"Everybody appeared to be perfectly happy. I was having a very pleasant visit with each one that I knew. Finally I reached the end of that long room. I opened a door and went into another room filled with children. They were all arranged in perfect order, the smallest ones first, then larger ones, according to age and size, the largest ones in the back rows all around the room. They seemed to be convened in a sort of Primary or Sunday School presided over by Aunt Eliza R. Snow. There were hundreds of small children."

HEARS THE COMMAND TO RETURN

"It was while I was standing listening to the children sing 'Gladly Meeting, Kindly Greeting' that I heard your father, President Lorenzo Snow, call me. He said: 'Sister Ella, you must come back, as your mission is not yet finished here on earth.' So I just spoke to Aunt Eliza R. Snow and told her I must go back.

"Returning through the large room, I told the people I was going back to earth, but they seemed to want me to stay with them. I obeyed the call, though it was very much against my desire, as such perfect peace and happiness prevailed there, no suffering, no sorrow. I was so taken up with all I saw and heard, I did hate to leave that beautiful place.

"This has always been a source of comfort to me. I learned by this experience that we should not grieve too much for our departed loved ones and especially at the time they leave us. I think we should be just as calm and quiet as possible. Because, as I was leaving, the only regret I had was that the folks were grieving so much for me. But I soon forgot all about this world in my delight with the other.

"For more than three hours my spirit was gone from my body. As I returned I could see my body lying on the bed and the folks gathered about in the room. I hesitated for a moment, then thought, 'Yes, I will go

back for a little while.' I told the folks I wanted to stay only a short time to comfort them."

THE PAIN OF COMING BACK

Ella's oldest sister, Meda, now Mrs. Ernest E. Cheney of Brigham City, 'says that Ella frequently told of the terrible suffering which she experienced when the spirit again entered the body. There was practically no pain on leaving the body in death but the intense pain was almost unbearable in coming back to life. Not only this, but for months, and even years afterward, she experienced new aches and pains and physical disorders that she had never known before.

"About the first thing she told us, after being brought back to life," says Uncle Jake, the father, "was that she met Grandpa Jensen. He was sitting by a desk writing in a book, making out some records. He got up and welcomed Ella, calling her by name and then she said: 'I went down the large room, where I met a number of my relatives and friends.'

"I know there were some whom she had never seen in life. She described to me just how they looked and told me their names. Among these were aunts and second cousins long since dead. There is no question that they were the ones whom we had laid away before she was born.

"Then she told us about going into a large room where many children were assembled. They were singing under the direction of Sister Eliza R. Snow. She did not mention that any parents were there. While listening to their beautiful music she heard the voice calling her to come back, and telling her that her mission was not ended.

"After she opened her eyes and told us these things she wanted to get up, but it was two or three days before we would let her try to move around."

CONVERSES WITH FRIENDS & RELATIVES

The next day Aunt Harriet Wight, who lost two daughters, Phoebe and Betsy, came into the room to visit Ella and asked how she felt. Ella said she was feeling all right now. Aunt Harriet broke down and cried, and Ella then said: 'Why, Aunt Harriet, what are you crying for? You need not cry for your girls who have gone. I saw and talked with them, and they are very happy where they are.' Aunt Harriet was very much affected.

"Many relatives and others visited Ella and she told them the same things that I have related to you, and told them much more, about meeting their relatives and friends over there, how happy they were and that they asked about their loved ones here.

"My daughter is still living, is perfectly well and strong and has reared a large family."

Leah Rees, who stayed with Ella the night before this remarkable visit to the world of departed spirits, came the following evening. Let us listen to her own words:

"When I came again to stay with Ella the next night she told me all about where she had been. She mentioned having seen my father and several others of my people who had passed away, as well as her own Grandpa Jensen. Everyone appeared busy and very happy."

MEETS A LITTLE FRIEND BUT A FEW HOURS DEAD

Alphonzo H. Snow, now living in Salt Lake City, the writer's brother, relates his experience as follows:

"My wife, Minnie, and I heard of Ella Jensen's death and restoration to life and called at her home to see her. As we entered the room she said: 'Oh! Come here, Alphonzo and Minnie, I have something to tell you. After my return to earth I told my parents of some of the remarkable experiences which I had while in the spirit world. But there was one experience that seemed very strange, and I could not

understand it.

'You know your little son, Alphonse, has been in my Sunday School class in the First ward. I have always loved him very much. While I was in Aunt Eliza R. Snow's class of children in the spirit world, I recognized many children. But all of them had died excepting one, and this was little Alphonse. I could not understand how he should be among them and still be living. When I told this to mother, she said: 'Yes, Ella, little Alphonse is dead, too. He died early this morning while you were so very sick. We knew you loved him and that it would be a shock to you, so we did not tell you about his death.'

"It was very consoling, indeed, to hear Ella tell of seeing our dear little boy and that he was very happy. She said it was not right for us to grieve and mourn so much for him and that he would be happier if we would not do so."

Perhaps President Rudger Clawson, who assisted President Snow in the administration, received the most complete account from Ella. This is what he says:

"Sister Ella Jensen, in relating to me her very remarkable experience, said that during all the morning of our visit, and going back into the night, the veil between this world and the other seemed to be growing thinner and thinner. She heard singing all through the house from the unseen world and seemed herself to be about to step into the spirit world. And this is what actually happened, for her spirit left her body and went into the beyond."

WORK TO DO ON THE OTHER SIDE

"A guide was there to meet her and by him she was conducted into a very large building where there were many people, all of whom appeared to be extremely busy, no evidence of idleness whatever. Hans Peter Jensen, her grandfather, was one of the first persons she met. He seemed pleased to see and bid her welcome, but let her understand that he was very busy and could not give her much of his time.

"After a brief chat with her grandfather she passed on through the building, glancing at the people as she walked along. Finally her eye rested upon the familiar face of Hans Jensen, her uncle. When she saw him, what to her and others had been an enigma, was now clearly explained.'

"Sometime before this advent into the spirit world her Uncle Hans, who lived in Brigham City, counseled with me as president of the stake as to the propriety of moving into the Snake River country, Idaho, to engage in salmon fishing. His idea was that if he was successful he could ship salmon from the north to Brigham City at a good profit and thus benefit himself financially. He needed the help that such a business would bring him.

"I said if it was his wish to engage in that business it was all right with the stake presidency and a matter entirely for him to decide for himself.

"Later he left for the north and at once turned his attention to salmon fishing. One morning he went from the home where he was staying, clothed in a jumper and overalls, with gum boots, to fish; but he never returned. His oldest brother, Jacob Jensen, came to me greatly alarmed, said that no word had been received from Hans for some time and nobody seemed to know where he was. He was greatly excited about it and feared that his brother had been drowned in the Snake River.

"Jacob organized a posse of men and at once instituted a search covering a period of some two or three weeks, at the Snake River, but their efforts were fruitless. No trace could be found of Hans and he was never again heard from until his niece, Ella Jensen, met him in the spirit world. She said that he was dressed in a jumper and overalls with gum boots. The mystery was solved.

"There seemed to be no doubt thereafter that Hans Jensen was drowned in the Snake River. It is said that when the dead manifest themselves to the living they usually appear as they were last seen on earth so that the living will recognize them. If that be true it accounts for the strange habit that her uncle was wearing." (From the article Raised from the Dead by LeRoi C. Snow , September- October, 1929 Issue of Improvement Era)

LORENZO SNOW HEALS A CHILD IN ITALY

LDSWorld-Gems Stories from Church History

In 1850, Elder Lorenzo Snow was called to open missionary work in Italy. He and two companions made the journey, and Elder Snow began labors in the Piedmont area among a mostly Protestant people who spoke French. After some months of labor with very little success, an incident occurred which Elder Snow described as, "The Lord manifested his power in our behalf."

The three-year-old son of the family where the Elders were staying became deathly ill, and the Elders thought it might be a chance for the Italian people's hearts to be touched. However, the health of the boy was desperate: "As we departed, we called and saw the child -- his eye-balls turned upwards; his eye-lids fell and closed; his face and ears were thin, and wore the pale, marble hue indicative of approaching dissolution. The cold perspiration of death covered his body, and the principle of life was nearly exhausted. Madam Guy [the boy's mother] and other females were sobbing while Monsieur Guy hung his head and whispered to us, 'Il meurt! Il meurt!' (He dies! He dies!)"

On the morning of September 7, 1850, in a spirit of fasting and prayer, Elder Snow and his companion resolved to retire to the nearby mountains to plead with the Lord on the boy's behalf: "We there called upon the Lord in solemn prayer, to spare the life of the child. As I contemplated the course we wished to pursue and the claims we should soon advance to the world, I regarded this circumstance as one of vast importance. I know not any sacrifice which I could possibly make, that I was not willing to offer that the Lord might grant our requests. We returned about three o'clock in the afternoon, and having consecrated some oil, I anointed my hand, and laid it upon his head, while we silently offered up the desires of our hearts for his restoration."

The healing was very rapid. Within hours his father reported great improvement, and by the next morning, he was "entirely well," and soon playing with his friends. Elder Snow reported that the hearts of many people were softened, and suddenly many doors were opened to the missionaries. Though the work among the Italian people continued to be very difficult, the humble prayers of faithful servants had been answered.

(See Lorenzo Snow, "Organization of the Church in Italy," *Millennial Star* 15 Dec 1850, pp. 370-71; also Romney, *The Life of Lorenzo Snow*, pp. 116-17)

Healing The Sick With blessed Handkerchiefs

Lorenzo Snow, a strong advocate of this principle, was promised the gift of healing with handkerchiefs in his patriarchal blessing: ". . . There shall not be a mightier man on earth than thou; thy faith shall increase and grow stronger till it shall become like Peter's -thou shalt restore the sick; the diseased shall send to thee their aprons and handkerchiefs and by thy touch owners shall be made whole." (*Deseret News Church Section*, August 8, 1942, p. 5) This promise was fulfilled on many different occasions. His sister, Eliza R. Snow, recorded one such incident in which A. William Smith of Kaysville was healed with a handkerchief:

One of the precious gifts of the everlasting Gospel conferred on Brother Lorenzo, was that of healing the sick by the power of faith and the instrumentality of the sacred ordinances which God has revealed, is a prominent one. Early in his experience in the Church, when he received this patriarchal blessing under the hands of the Patriarch; Joseph Smith, father of the Prophet, he received a promise of this gift, and he was told that the sick would send handkerchiefs to him or his blessing, by which they should be made whole.

A very striking instance in fulfillment of this prediction occurred in the winter of 1866. Brother William Smith, of Kaysville, Davis County, Utah, was taken very sick; his faith centered in God and in the ordinances of His house, instead of human medical skill,' and he and his wife had, from experience, great faith in Brother Snow as an administrator, but he was forty miles away. It was winter, the weather very cold and stormy, and the roads almost impassable, and they thought it preposterous to send for him, and tried to content themselves with the services of those present.

But with all the faith that was exercised, with all that patient, skilful and careful nursing - all that love and affection could do for him - he continued to grow worse, and gradually sank until his life was despaired of and his case considered hopeless by all but his heart-stricken, loving wife. She was hoping and praying with all the fervor affection inspires, when, by the promptings of the Spirit which brings "all things to remembrance," she recollected that when Brother Snow was at her home in Wiberson, England, in reading a copy of his patriarchal blessing, she was struck with the prediction that the sick

should send handkerchiefs to him, etc. Like a lamp suddenly lighted, and like the sunbeams streaking forth from under a heavy cloud, her heart took courage and the light of eternity seemed to spread a halo around; and the thought was immediately suggested to her that, as her husband, now almost unconscious was to far gone to act for himself she might act for him, and forth with she started to carry the suggestion into effect.

No time was lost in commissioning a messenger to go with all possible dispatch and take to Brother Snow a new silk handkerchief with a note from Sister Smith containing her request, also instructions relative to, and descriptive of her husband's condition. The messenger accomplished the trip, to and from, as expeditiously as the state of the roads would possibly admit.

When Brother Snow was made acquainted with the situation, his sympathies were much aroused. From long acquaintances, he had full confidence in their faithfulness and integrity. They had befriended him when on a mission in a foreign land, and from first acquaintance with him and them, confidence was mutual.

We now copy from Brother Snow's journal: I took the handkerchief and a bottle of perfumery, and on retiring to my closet, I prayed, and then I consecrated the perfumery and sprinkled it on the handkerchief I then again bowed before the Lord, and in earnest supplication besought Him to remember the promises He made through His servant, the Patriarch, whom he had now taken to Himself and let the healing and life-inspiring virtues of His Holy Spirit be imparted to this handkerchief and from thence to Brother Smith when it shall be placed upon him, speedily restoring him to life, health and vigor.

As soon as the messenger returned, with the handkerchief neatly folded in an envelope, it was unfolded and spread over the head and face of Brother Smith, the apparently dying man, with almost instantaneous effect.

His immediate recovery was observed with surprise and astonishment by all around, and well might they exclaim: "It is the Lord's doings, and it is marvelous in our eyes. "

(Eliza R. Snow, Biography and Family Record of Lorenzo Snow pp.263-265)

Another missionary named Bud Jensen was healed and protected from malaria fever by a handkerchief blessed by President Snow:

I left Salt Lake City on the 10th of May, 1899, and went to St. Johns, Kansas, headquarters of the Southwestern States Mission, with Elder Walter E. Hamblin, son of Jacob Hamblin. We were sent to the South Texas Conference. There I labored as a missionary with different companions in the low, swampy country where nearly all the people had chills and fever. My health was fairly good for the first fourteen months. After that I was taken with chills and fever. They had a number of different kinds of chills and I had about all of them, including intestinal malaria, which often is fatal, and finally became so sick I was not able to travel at all so I was called to conference headquarters to take charge of the books and lived with a family named Findley.

I wrote home and told my folks that I had been transferred to conference headquarters because I was not able to travel any longer in the field on account of chills and fever. They talked the matter over with President Lorenzo Snow, and wanted to have me transferred to another mission. He had father get a white silk handkerchief of which President Snow blessed and sent to me.

After receiving the handkerchief and reading the letter, promising that the fever would leave me if I would remain faithful in my missionary work, I went out into the woods by myself hardly able to walk. I had prayer there and applied this handkerchief to my head and the parts that were aching and hurt most and I received almost immediate relief

I walked back toward the house and met Sister Findley. She looked at me in surprise and said: "My goodness, Elder Jensen, you look like a changed man. What has happened? What have you been doing?" I replied, "I feel like a changed man. I am ever so much better." We went into the house and I told her about receiving the handkerchief and receiving the blessing through it. She said it was one of the greatest testimonies she had ever heard of.

From that time on I was able to travel and to attend to my work in the mission field until I was released. I was released from the office work because I was so much better. I was conference president at that time and traveled in the various counties visiting among the Saints.

In the spring of 1901 I was transferred from Texas to Missouri and labored there until July when I came home. All the Saints in that neighborhood and the elders knew of my condition and they all felt that it was a very great testimony. I told of it wherever I went and every one seemed pleased to hear

about it. . .

(Deseret News Church Section, August 8, 1942, p. 5 an Article Written by LeRoi C. Snow)

Lorenzo Snow Received a Strange Dream That Saved His Life

I traveled and preached during the following summer and autumn, in different parts of Ohio, baptizing quite a number-always traveling on foot "without purse or scrip," and often meeting with trying and sometimes amusing circumstances.

When at the home of Brother Smith in Stark County, Ohio, I dreamed one night that arrangements were in progress to mob me. The following evening after I had the dream, as I sat conversing with friends who had called on me, a loud rap at the door preceded the entrance of two well dressed young men who politely invited me to accompany them to a school house about one mile distant, and address an audience already assembled. After a little hesitation on my part, they began to urgently request my acceptance of their invitation, when the dream of the preceding night instantaneously flashed across my mind, and I told them that I could not comply with their wishes. They still persisted to urge and insist on my accompanying them. When they were convinced that I was immovable in my determination of non-compliance, they not only manifested disappointment, but were exceedingly angry.

The next day I learned that they told the truth so far as a congregated audience awaiting my appearance at the schoolhouse was concerned, but the object was entirely different from that reported by the young men-it corresponded precisely with my dream.

(Taken From the Biography of Lorenzo Snow by Eliza R. Snow also found in book Missionary Experiences pp. 82-83 ,by Preston Nibley, 1975, Publishers Press, S. L. C. Utah)

A PROPHECY FULFILLED

Lorenzo Snow became President of the Church in September, 1898. He was then in his 85th year, frail in body but sound of memory and alert of mind. This was a critical period in the history of the Church. It was faced with financial ruin. President Snow had always been wise in the management of his affairs, paid his way and kept out of debt. Consequently he was deeply concerned over this situation. Immediately he had a careful audit made of the financial condition of the Church and discovered to his amazement that its indebtedness amounted to about two million dollars, much of which bore ten per cent interest. The Church was not able to meet its current expenses and pay the interest on its obligations. What was to be done?

In this quandary, the President sought the Lord for guidance and was instructed of Him to go to St. George, for what reason he knew not. Southern Utah was at that time suffering from one of the severest droughts in its history. This drought had continued for several years. Streams had dried up. Even the wells dried. The cattle had to be driven to the canyons for water. Thousands of them had died on the range. In fact, the U. S. Weather Report showed that the year 1898 was the driest ever recorded in the history of St. George. The frosts had played havoc with the grapes, and the prospects were most discouraging. Concerning this drought, President Snow said on his return: "All through Dixie, we found everything drying out. The stock were dying by the hundreds. We could see them as we were driving along. Many of them being nothing but skin and bones and many were lying down, never, I suppose, to get up again." It was the middle of June and the people were so discouraged that many of them would not plow their land and were not willing to risk the seed for another planting. Some of the settlers had already moved away and many others were preparing to do so.

RAIN PROMISED

A conference was called in St. George. People came from far and near to hear the aged President, who was accompanied by many of the General Authorities of the Church. When he arrived there, President Snow did not know just why he had gone to St. George except that the Lord had directed him to do so. In speaking, he referred to the serious drought conditions and was inspired to promise the people if they would observe the law of tithing from then on, remain faithful, and be honest with the Lord, that they might go ahead, plow their lands and plant their seed. The power of heaven rested upon him and he promised them in the name of the Lord that the clouds of heaven would gather, the rains would descend, the lands would be drenched, the rivers and ditches filled and they would reap a bounteous harvest that very season. He further promised that the rains would continue if the Saints would remain faithful and the land would be fruitful.

This prophecy was made on the 17th of June. The people believed confidently that this declaration of the venerable President would be fulfilled. Not only did they pay their tithing, but they plowed their lands, planted their seed and proceeded with perfect assurance that all he had promised them would be fulfilled if they would do their part.

The rains did not come. On his return to Salt Lake City, he watched with great anxiety the weather reports and every morning he studied them. The days went by, summer was well advanced, no rain had yet descended, the crops were drying up. His heart was filled with deep anxiety. Those who were skeptical began to wonder. His son, LeRoi, who was the President's private secretary, describes a very dramatic situation in the fulfillment of this wonderful prophecy.

AUGUST AND No RAIN

It was the beginning of August and the heavens were still as brass over their heads. The crops were in dire need of moisture. LeRoi went to the Church office one morning and his father was not there. They told him he had gone to the Beehive House where he lived, and so LeRoi went over and as he ascended the stairs leading to his father's bedroom, he heard the President's voice and saw him, through the door which was ajar, kneeling before the Lord, and he reverently listened to him pleading with his Father in heaven for rain, explaining that the people had been obedient to His word; they had paid their tithing, plowed their land, planted their seeds and no rain had come to reward them. LeRoi said that he could never describe the fervor with which his father pleaded with the Lord in behalf of the people for rain-it must come soon or the crops would be lost. Almost immediately thereafter word came from the south that the clouds were gathering and it looked-- like rain, and soon thereafter word came that it was raining. The rain descended, their lands were drenched, the rivers and the ditches were filled, and they reaped a bounteous harvest that very season.

This prophecy was made June 17th and its fulfillment began with the first rain on August 2nd. They were able to harvest their crops, the cattle were saved the people were -encouraged and the words of the prophet were literally fulfilled. No sooner had it started to rain than the aged President retired again to his bedchamber and poured out the gratitude that filled his heart to overflowing because the Lord had heard and answered his appeal.

Incidentally the inspiration which he received on this occasion stimulated the people all over the Church to pay their tithing. It came in, in small and large amounts from every ward and branch, and as a result the credit of the Church was preserved, its debts were paid and the people were prospered. In three years, Lorenzo Snow lifted the Church from the slough of financial despondency to a place of financial security.

(from book Faith of our Pioneer Fathers, pp. 50-53, by Bryant S. Hinkley, Deseret Book Company, 1965, S.L.C. Utah)

