

iChoose to Remember

This week is the last iChoose to Remember that I'll be writing. I'd like to close this series with the greatest story of them all.

“He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New. Under the direction of His Father, He was the creator of the earth. . . Though sinless, He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. He ‘went about doing good’ (Acts 10:38), yet was despised for it. His gospel was a message of peace and goodwill. He entreated all to follow His example. He walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead. He taught the truths of eternity, the reality of our premortal existence, the purpose of our life on earth, and the potential for the sons and daughters of God in the life to come.

“He instituted the sacrament as a reminder of His great atoning sacrifice. He was arrested and condemned on spurious charges, convicted to satisfy a mob, and sentenced to die on Calvary’s cross. He gave His life to atone for the sins of all mankind. His was a great vicarious gift in behalf of all who would ever live upon the earth.

“We solemnly testify that His life, which is central to all human history, neither began in Bethlehem nor concluded on Calvary. He was the Firstborn of the Father, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh, the Redeemer of the world.

“He rose from the grave to ‘become the firstfruits of them that slept’ (1 Corinthians 15:20). As Risen Lord, He visited among those He had loved in life. He also ministered among His ‘other sheep’ (John 10:16) in ancient America. In the modern world, He and His Father appeared to the boy Joseph Smith, ushering in the long-promised ‘dispensation of the fulness of times’ (Ephesians 1:10).” (The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles)

“The Savior prayed:

“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.’

“We all just sang ‘Come, O Thou King of Kings.’

“Our faith grows as we anticipate the glorious day of the Savior’s return to the earth. The thought of His coming stirs my soul. It will be breathtaking! The scope and grandeur, the vastness and magnificence, will exceed anything mortal eyes have ever seen or experienced.

“In that day He will not come ‘wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger,’ but He will appear ‘in the clouds of heaven, clothed with power and great glory; with all the holy angels.’ We will hear ‘the voice of the archangel, and . . . the trump of God.’ The sun and the moon will be transformed, and ‘stars [will] be hurled from their places.’ You and I, or those who follow us, ‘the saints . . . from [every quarter] of the earth,’ ‘shall be quickened and . . . caught up to meet him,’ and those who have died in righteousness, they too will ‘be caught up to meet him in the midst . . . of heaven.’

“Then, a seemingly impossible experience: ‘All flesh,’ the Lord says, ‘shall see me together.’ How will it happen? We do not know. But I testify it will happen—exactly as prophesied. We will kneel in reverence, ‘and the Lord shall utter his voice, and all the ends of the earth shall hear it.’ ‘It shall be . . . as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder.’ [Then] the Lord, . . . the Savior, shall stand in the midst of his people.’

“There will be unforgettable reunions with the angels of heaven and the Saints upon the earth. But most important, as Isaiah declares, ‘All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God,’ and He ‘shall reign over all flesh.’

“In that day the skeptics will be silent, ‘for every ear shall hear . . . , and every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess’ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior and Redeemer of the world. (2015 April General Conference, Thy Kingdom Come, Neil L. Andersen)

This is the most important story. It all comes back to this. I know that Jesus Christ lives and that He is my Savior. ‘He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing,’ (I Know That My Redeemer Lives, Hymn 136) for, while he lives, I have a reason to sing, and what a great reason it is!

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

-Joshua Crockett