

**Mosiah 16:8-9****1** *Sting of death swallowed up in Christ*

I don't fear death. In fact, a scripture describes a Saint's death as "precious in the sight of the Lord" (Psalm 116:15). It will be precious to me, too, as I am reunited with our parents and our precious daughter, Emily, who died some five years ago. Her passing left her young and righteous husband with five children. I will eagerly meet my ancestors and preceding prophets and apostles. And one day Sister Nelson and I will dwell together in the presence of our family and the Lord forevermore. We will have been faithful to covenants made in the temple, and to the oath and covenant of the priesthood, which have assured us, in the words of the Lord, that "all that my Father hath shall be given unto [you]" (D&C 84:38).

Russell M. Nelson, "Identity, Priority, and Blessings," *BYU Speeches of the Year*, 10 Sept. 2000 [Provo, Utah: BYU Press, 2000], 5

**2** It is hard, of course, to part with our friends....It is natural for us to give expression to our feelings in tears in laying away the bodies of our beloved friends, and there is a degree to which we may go which is proper and right; but there are extremes which are often indulged in, which is neither proper nor right for Latter-day Saints to copy after....

I have never felt to mourn...any Saint of the living God to the grave...who has been true and faithful to His covenants....Such men and women have filled their mission here upon earth with honor, with labor, with love, until they have been called home. They have died in the faith, and they will receive a crown of glory....

Where is the man who comprehends these principles that can mourn for that brother or sister?

*Teachings of the Presidents of the Church—Wilford Woodruff* [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2004], 83

**3** An early Saint of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Warren M. Johnson...was assigned by church leaders to operate Lee's Ferry, an important crossing over the Colorado River in the desert of northern Arizona. Brother Johnson endured great challenges yet remained faithful his entire life. Listen to Brother Johnson explain his family tragedy in a letter to President Wilford Woodruff:

"In May 1891 a family...came [to Lee's Ferry] from Richfield, Utah, where they...spent the winter visiting friends. At Panguitch they buried a child,...without [cleaning] the wagon or themselves....They came to our house, and remained overnight, mingling with my little children....

"We knew nothing of the nature of the disease [diphtheria], but had faith in God, as we were here on a very hard mission, and had tried as hard as we knew how to obey the [commandments]...that our children would be spared. But alas, in four and a half days [the oldest boy died] in my arms. Two more were taken down with the disease and we fasted and prayed as much as we thought it wisdom as we had many duties to perform here. We fasted [for] twenty-four hours and once I fasted [for] forty hours, but to no avail, for both my little girls died also. About a week after their death my fifteen-year-old daughter Melinda was [also] stricken down and we did all we could for her but she [soon] followed the others....Three of my dear girls and one boy [have] been taken from us, and the end is not yet. My oldest girl nineteen years old is now prostrate [from] the disease, and we are fasting and praying in her behalf today....I would ask for your faith and prayers in our behalf however. What have we done that the Lord has left us, and what can we do to gain his favor again[?]"

A short time later, Brother Johnson wrote a local leader and friend, expressing his faith to press on:

"It is the hardest trial of my life, but I set out for salvation and am determined that...through the help of Heavenly Father that I [would] hold fast to the iron rod no matter what troubles [came] upon me. I have not slackened in the performance of my duties, and hope and trust that I shall have the faith and prayers of my brethren, that I can live so as to receive the blessings."

Joseph B. Wirthlin, in *CR*, Oct. 2004 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2004], 109

**Summary of Mosiah 13-16**

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*Points made by Abinadi that Jesus Christ is the God of ancient Israel*

1. "Were it not for the atonement, which God himself shall make,...they [al humankind] must unavoidably perish" (13:28).
2. "There could not any man be saved except it were through the redemption of God" (13:32).
3. Moses said that God should redeem his people. All the prophets ever since the world began have spoken concerning this same thing (13:33).
4. The prophets have said that "God himself should come down among men, and take upon him the form of man" and "bring to pass the resurrection" (13:34-35).
5. "I would that ye should understand that God himself shall come down among...men, and redeem his people" (15:1).
6. In Christ the attributes of mortal man and Eternal God are both in one person because he was conceived in the flesh by the power of God (15:2-4).
7. Although the Messiah has the attributes and will of the Father, he suffers temptation, but does not yield to the temptation. He is finally crucified and slain, "the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father" (15:5-7).
8. Thus God, being victorious over death, "breaketh the bands of death...for the children of men" (15:8).
9. The righteous will rise in the Resurrection "to dwell with God who has redeemed them" (15:23).
10. Because of the fall of our first parents, all humankind were "endlessly lost were it not that God redeemed his people" (16:4).
11. "Teach them that redemption cometh through Christ the Lord, who is the very Eternal Father" (16:15).

*A quick summary of what Abinadi says about resurrection, especially the first resurrection, is as follows:*

1. "The Son [of God]...hath power over the dead; therefore, he bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead" (Mosiah 15:20).
2. There is a first resurrection, consisting of those who have been, who are, and who shall be from the beginning down to the time of Christ. This means "all the prophets, and all those that have believed in their words, or all those that have kept the commandments"—they are the first resurrection (15:21-23).
3. Those who died in ignorance, before Christ came, to whom the plan of salvation was never declared, shall have part in the first resurrection (15:24).
4. "Little children [who die as little children] also have eternal life," which in the context of Abinadi's discourse means that they will be in the first resurrection (15:25).
5. If Christ had not broken the bands of death so that the grave could have no victory, there could have been no resurrection—but he did break the bands of death, and there is a resurrection, and "the grave hath no victory, and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ" (16:6-8).
6. Resurrection means that "this mortal shall put on immortality," "that there can be no more death." The final judgment comes after the resurrection (16:9-10).
7. The righteous shall be resurrected to a happy state; the wicked shall be resurrected to a state of damnation (16:11).

Monte S. Nyman and Charles D. Tate, Jr., eds., *Mosiah: Salvation Only through Christ* [Provo: BYU Religious Studies Center, 1991], 107-108