



dc 128.²²⁻²³— meditation

²²Brethren, shall we not go on in so great a cause?
Go forward and not backward. Courage, brethren;
and on, on to the victory!
Let your hearts rejoice, and be exceedingly glad.
Let the earth break forth into singing.
Let the dead speak forth anthems of eternal praise to the King Immanuel,
who hath ordained, before the world was, that which would enable us to redeem them out of their
prison;
for the prisoners shall go free.

²³Let the mountains shout for joy, and all ye valleys cry aloud;
and all ye seas and dry lands tell the wonders of your Eternal King!
And ye rivers, and brooks, and rills, flow down with gladness.
Let the woods and all the trees of the field praise the Lord;
and ye solid rocks weep for joy!
And let the sun, moon, and the morning stars sing together,
and let all the sons of God shout for joy!
And let the eternal creations declare his name forever and ever!
And again I say, how glorious is the voice we hear from heaven,
proclaiming in our ears, glory, and salvation, and honor, and immortality, and eternal life; kingdoms,
principalities, and powers!

Some years ago, a visitor to my office complained that we Mormons didn't really understand the grace and mercy of God. I was quick to point out that if this was true—and, I conceded, it might be—it wasn't the fault of our scriptures. For they often present a God who is far more expansive in mercy and grace and saving power than that of traditional Christianity.

When asked how I could say that, I referred my visitor to this section of the Doctrine and Covenants. Here, we are presented with a God so expansive in mercy and grace and power that he reaches beyond the grave and saves the dead—a group that every other “Christian” theology has given up on. Here, we are presented with a God who is simply relentless in his pursuit of individuals to save.

As we contemplate this divine endurance, we might think of the ancient nation called Israel. They vexed him from the day they accepted him as their Lord, and then proceeded to vex him for the next millennia. But he stuck with them, calling them to him—over and over and over again. He finally came in person, looking for lost souls to save.

But, this discovery of divine relentlessness comes not only from the scriptural witness. It is also a result of my own experience. I have found him to be relentless in his pursuit of me as well. This is, indeed, a cause in which to go forward, a cause to inspire courage, a cause in which to rejoice and shout for joy, a

cause to break forth into singing, a cause for anthems of eternal praise. This divine relentlessness is the alpha and omega of our ultimate victory, whatever its nature. Above all else, that is what Doctrine and Covenants 128 teaches me.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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