



## Shining in Your Orbit



Quotes from Elder Neal A. Maxwell

Recall the new star that announced the birth at Bethlehem? It was in its precise orbit long before it so shone. We are likewise placed in human orbits to illuminate. Divine correlation functions not only in the cosmos but on this planet, too. After all, the Book of Mormon plates were not buried in Belgium, only to have Joseph Smith born centuries later in distant Bombay.

... Sisters, by divine appointment, "these are [our] days" (Helaman 7:9), since "all things must come to pass in their time" (D&C 64:32). Moreover, though we live in a failing world, we have not been sent here to fail.

With scriptures to anchor and reassure us, we, too, can "look unto God ... and he will console [us] in [our] afflictions" (Jacob 3:1; emphasis added).

We, too, can be "supported under trials and troubles of every kind, yea, ... he will still deliver [us]" (see Alma 36:3, 27; emphasis added).

For the Lord has said: "I will be in your midst" (D&C 49:27). "I will lead you along" (D&C 78:18).

Furthermore, God will give us priceless, personal assurances through the Holy Ghost (see John 14:26; D&C 36:2). Whether in tranquil or turbulent times, our best source of comfort is the Comforter.

Therefore, we can be troubled on every side, but nothing can really

separate us from the love of Christ (see 2 Corinthians 4:8; Romans 8:35-39); worldly anxieties are not part of being “anxiously engaged” (D&C 58:27). Even so, as Peter urged, we can and should cast our cares upon the Lord, because He surely cares for us! (see 1 Peter 5:7). Oh, . . . sisters, the awaiting emancipation of such trusting surrender!

We can be so provincial and so self-concerned. God, who oversees the interlacings of galaxies, stars, and worlds, asks us to confess His hand in our personal lives, too (see D&C 59:21). Have we not been reassured about the fall of one sparrow and that the very hairs of our heads are numbered? (see Matthew 10:29-30; D&C 84:80). God is in the details! Just as the Lord knows all of His vast creations, He also knows and loves each in any crowd—indeed, He knows and loves each and all of mankind! (see 1 Nephi 11:17).

The Prophet Joseph Smith declared that God, “before [the earth] rolled into existence, . . . contemplated the whole of the events connected with the earth . . . [God] knew . . . the depth of iniquity that would be connected with the human family, their weakness and strength, . . . the situation of all nations and . . . their destiny, . . . and [He] has made ample provision [for mankind’s] redemption” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, ed. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 220).

Part of God’s “ample provision” consists of imperfect people like you and me, [committed to shining and serving in our appointed orbits](#), knowing all the while that we are encircled “in the arms of [His] love” (D&C 6:20).

Elder Neal A. Maxwell, October General Conference, 2002