



OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE · SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Prophets, Seers, and Revelators

Elder Vaiangina Sikahema · General Authority Seventy

Words to remember

- *“What a blessing it is to live in a time when apostles and prophets are on the earth.”*
- *“I witness of the truths of the restored gospel and of living prophets, seers, and revelators in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.”*

In Elder Vaiangina Sikahema's own words, from the talk.

In 1947, Elder Vaiangina Sikahema's grandparents were serving a full-time mission on a small, isolated volcanic island in the Kingdom of Tonga. They were poor farmers with no formal education. Grandpa was 28 and Grandma was 25, and they had three children: two little girls, ages four and three, and a 10-month-old son, their only boy.

That June, Elder Matthew Cowley, an Apostle, was coming to Tonga. Only twice before had an Apostle visited: David O. McKay in 1921 and George Albert Smith in 1938. For Saints across the Pacific, it was the chance of a lifetime. Reaching him meant a long voyage, stopping first at their home island of Vava'u.

They sailed into a storm. A 16-hour trip stretched into two and a half brutal days at sea. Grandma wrote in her journal, “We were completely soaked, ... battered, and sick, ... too weak to eat. ... I held Vilimanulea to my chest until finally arriving to Vava'u.” She held her baby to her chest the whole way. But the storm left him badly dehydrated, and with no medicine, he died. Within two days they buried him and continued their voyage. Elder Sikahema compared them to pioneers who buried children on the trail.

Why keep going? He said they were sailing toward an apostle who held priesthood keys, the authority for the ordinances that would one day seal them as an eternal family. And they wanted to sit at the feet of an apostle who would teach them so they could bless others on their island.

Elder Sikahema then taught about why prophets matter. After the ancient Apostles died, there was no revelation to the Church for centuries. The prophet Amos called it a famine, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. People would run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. Amos also said, “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” Paul warned that after he left that grievous wolves would come into the flock.

Then Joseph Smith knelt in a grove of trees. He saw two Personages, and one said, pointing to the other, This is my beloved son. Hear him. Through Joseph, priesthood authority, ordinances, new scriptures, and knowledge of God's plan were restored. Elder Sikahema quoted Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, who declared that the heavens are open and God reveals His will to prophets today.

Elder Sikahema shared a warning the Lord gave Joseph Smith: those who receive the oracles of God should be careful not to treat them as a light thing. Today we can easily watch and hear prophets on our devices, and he worried that many of us take them for granted. He said, "As we begin this opening session of the 196th Semiannual General Conference of the Church, let us not be guilty of holding 'the oracles of God ... as a light thing'" (Doctrine and Covenants 90:5).

He also noted that early in Church history some leaders were embarrassed by Joseph Smith's poor writing and didn't want his revelations published. But the Lord declared that whether He speaks by His own voice or by the voice of His servants, it is the same (Doctrine and Covenants 1:38).

Elder Sikahema said he is grateful for grandparents who left him a legacy of faith and courage in the face of difficulties. If they would sail through a storm and grief to hear an Apostle, how carefully should we listen to prophets we can hear at home?

Scripture to look up: Amos 3:7. The Lord reveals His will to His servants the prophets, so we should never take living prophets lightly.

Let's talk about it

What did this talk teach us about the Savior? What is one small thing our family can do this week?

Kid-friendly summary in our own words · Read or watch the full talk: [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/15sukahema](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/15sukahema)