



OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE · SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

“How Long Will It Be Ere They Believe Me?”

Elder Dale G. Renlund · Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Words to remember

- *“Neither are you, brothers and sisters; there is no asterisk excluding you from God’s richest blessings. If you think there is, take out a big eraser and obliterate that asterisk.”*
- *“We can trust the Lord, especially His promises. These promises apply to you.”*

In Elder Dale G. Renlund’s own words, from the talk.

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles was a heart doctor before his call. In the late 1980s his patient, Mr. Martin, had severe heart failure and needed a transplant. While he waited, his condition worsened. Mechanical pumps were put in to keep him alive, and then his liver, kidneys, and lungs began to fail. A donor heart came, but it didn’t work well, and he got even worse. The doctors were preparing to stop life support.

Then another heart became available. It was considered marginal and wouldn’t have been used for anyone else. With Mrs. Martin’s permission, they tried a second transplant, and that heart functioned beautifully. Within hours his organs began to recover.

Ten days later, the day before he was to go home, Dr. Renlund found Mr. Martin gripping his breakfast tray, clearly irritated. Through clenched teeth he said, “The oatmeal isn’t hot, and the milk isn’t cold!” Elder Renlund joked that after an ordeal like that, you use up all your coping coupons, and nobody should be tortured with oatmeal! But Mr. Martin had focused on the cold oatmeal and lost sight of the miracle he’d received.

We can fall into the same trap, Elder Renlund said. When daily challenges loom, we focus on the cold oatmeal and forget where we’ve been and what God has promised.

The children of Israel did this too. The Lord freed them from slavery, saved them at the Red Sea, and gave them food and water. Yet they kept complaining, and their trust in God and in Moses wore away. At the edge of the promised land, they were scared and said, “Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!” The Lord asked Moses, “How long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have [shown] among them?” In other words, “Why don’t they trust me?” Still, He told them, “I will never break my covenant with you.”

Maybe, Elder Renlund said, you’ve been served more than your share of cold oatmeal and doubted God’s care. But Jesus said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have

overcome the world.” He overcame the world, so we don’t have to. Our hope rests on His righteousness, not our own. Lehi told his son Jacob, “Wherefore, I know that thou art redeemed, because of the righteousness of thy Redeemer.”

The Book of Mormon was written partly to show what great things the Lord hath done. Moroni asks us to remember how merciful the Lord has been. Remembering helps us trust His promises.

Elder Renlund’s younger sister Linda used to read promises in the scriptures and imagine a big asterisk saying they applied to everyone except Linda. Over time she realized, “I am not extraordinary enough to warrant an exception. The blessings are promised to me too.” Elder Renlund said, “There is no asterisk excluding you from God’s richest blessings. If you think there is, take out a big eraser and obliterate that asterisk.”

Joseph Smith taught that Jesus has made ample provision for everyone, living and dead. Elder Renlund said there is more than enough to cover any breach, need, or deficit for all of us, for each of us. He hoped the Lord would never need to ask us, “How long will it be ere [you] believe me?” He invited us to remember all the times the Lord has helped us, and testified, “We can trust the Lord, especially His promises. These promises apply to you.”

Scripture to look up: Numbers 14:11. The question in Elder Renlund’s title: the Lord asked how long it would be before His people believed Him, after all He had done.

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/2026/10/21renlund](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/21renlund)