

assimilates with the truths of the Bible. Our religion came direct from heaven, as John foretold, when upon the Isle of Patmos. He said: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people. Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." No one on the earth had the fulness of the everlasting Gospel in this age until it was revealed to Joseph Smith.

The Gospel having been restored, the servants of the Lord have gone forth, as did the Apostles of old; having received freely, they gave freely. Most of the nations of the earth have heard the sound of the Gospel, and people have gathered from almost every part of the world. Wherever the people have received this Gospel, they are bound together by bonds stronger than those of kindred. The gifts that were enjoyed by those in the primitive church are enjoyed by the Saints today. Their hearts are filled with joy by the Holy Spirit, and they know they have received the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. They have gathered here to build up the Zion of our God. We did not come here merely to acquire wealth; but our object is to learn the ways of the Lord and walk therein. Having obeyed the principles of the Gospel, the Spirit accompanying it rests upon them, and they gather to practice those principles.

There are many foolish ideas concerning our religion. I remember a conversation with a prominent Congressman who actually believed the Church had a lien upon the land and parceled it out to the people, and assessed upon it a tax of one-tenth, until we gave him correct information which surprised him greatly.

There is another thing which distinguishes our religion from others. Our Elders go out as men "having authority." Not authority from men, but endowed with power from on high. And they are the representatives of the Lord as far as they teach and act righteously. They promise the people that if they will obey this Gospel they shall receive a witness from Him of its truth. Those who have received the Gospel testify that God Almighty has given to them this testimony. It comes to all who receive the Gospel in sincerity. It comes not to those who do not repent; but there are no exceptions among those who are sincere. They know that God lives—that their religion is true; this testimony enters into every part of their being. This is because God is in this work. While the people keep themselves pure, honest and upright, and seek to do the will of God, this witness of the Holy Spirit abides with them in every condition. If they defile themselves; if they turn to evil, this spirit leaves them and they become darkened. The spirit of

"Mormonism" leads man to serve God with all his heart. Anything contrary to this is not "Mormonism."

The gifts of the Spirit have ceased among the "Christian" churches, but they are with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Latter-day Saints have similar blessings to those bestowed upon the Former-day Saints; they can not only read of the spiritual food enjoyed anciently, but have the feast today, and the promises of the Almighty are fulfilled unto them.

Another peculiarity with us is the principle of the gathering. What is it that causes us to assemble in these valleys of the mountains? It is the Spirit of the Almighty. Those who have been called to lead the people have been called of God to that position. God is still with His people, and His power is with their leaders today.

We are also a temple-building people—another feature that distinguishes us from the world. This we do because God commands us to, and all who have received the privilege of ministering in the temples of the Almighty can testify to the Holy Spirit that is poured out there, accompanying the ordinances for the perfection of the living and for the redemption of the dead.

We are actually engaged in preparing for the personal appearance of the Lord. We do not pretend to know the day, the hour, or the year when He will come; He has not revealed the time to us, but He has commanded us to prepare; He has told us that He will come; and we know that He will come suddenly to His Temple—to a place and a people prepared for Him. And who shall abide the day of His coming? There will be a people prepared. There will be "wise virgins;" there will be men and women who have consecrated all their powers to the service of the Lord, and to them will He appear.

We also believe in a practical, real heaven, here on this globe; which will be purified and cleansed for the habitation of resurrected beings. God will purge the very elements, and out of them will be made a new heaven and a new earth; and Jesus, the first-born of every creature, will reign with His Saints. These will be real men and women, not mere ghosts or shades, but those who are raised from the dead will dwell with Christ in the holy city.

All of these peculiarities are Bible peculiarities, but the world has shut their eyes to them. We could not find out these truths from the Bible, but they were revealed to us by the Almighty through His servants and by the witness of the Holy Spirit.

I rejoice in this testimony; in knowing that God lives; that Jesus is our Savior; that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God. My religion is my life. I bear my testimony that "Mormonism" has been sent from heaven; that it is the Gospel of Christ, and will bring salvation to all who obey it. I know also that it will triumph. It will spread forth and fill the earth with the power of God, who will bring His people off tri-

umphant. I exhort you to be chaste, to be true, to be honest, to be faithful, to seek and do the will of God. Let us not waste our time in finding fault, but be filled with love, charity and kindness toward all, that we may be continually found building up Zion. Then will we receive our reward, and while the endless ages of eternity roll around our joy and dominions will increase, God will bless us, and He will be above all, and in all, and through all, forever and ever.

The choir sang the anthem:

O Holy Jesus

Benediction was pronounced by Elder H. J. Foulger.

#### St. George Stake Conference.

Notwithstanding the recent copious rains at St. George and in the south, and the consequent bad condition of the roads leading to this place, the attendance from the outlying settlements of this Stake was good. Saturday, the 16th inst., was quite a busy day in the quarterly gatherings of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of the Stake. The conference was held in the Tabernacle. The Stake conference of the Relief Society took place in St. George Lyceum, Stake President Anna L. I. Ivins, presiding.

The quarterly conference of the High Priests commenced at 2 p.m., under the presidency of Stake President Wm. Fawcett, in the tabernacle basement. This was followed by the Stake Priesthood meeting, presided over by President D. D. McArthur and Counselors A. W. Ivins and Erastus B. Snow.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday, the Stake Quarterly Conference commenced in the tabernacle. It was continued in the afternoon and on Monday morning and afternoon, when an adjournment was taken for three months.

The Primary Association Quarterly Conference was also held, Stake President Julia H. Ivins having it in charge.

During the above meetings the usual conference business was satisfactorily attended to in the reading of reports—statistical, educational, and financial.

The general authorities of the Church were unanimously sustained without a dissenting vote, as were also the authorities of St. George Stake. JAMES G. BLEAK, Stake Clerk.

#### Malad Stake Conference.

The Conference of the Malad Stake of Zion was held at West Portage, on the 16th and 17th inst. On the stand were Apostle George Q. Cannon and President Seymour B. Young. The general business of the Conference was followed by interesting and instructive addresses delivered by the above named brethren, and great interest was manifested by the congregation in the proceedings. The anthems, so well rendered by the choir, under the leadership of Brother David Jones, of Cherry Creek, contributed largely to the success of the conference.

WM. ANTHONY, S. S.