

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, January 3rd, 1892, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Praise ye the Lord! my heart shall join
In work so pleasant, so divine.

Prayer was offered by Elder Joseph C. Kingsbury.

The choir and congregation sang:

Come let us anew our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year,
And never stand still till the Master appear.

The Priesthood of the Fourteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

addressed the congregation. He prefaced his remarks by stating that he would ask our Father in heaven to suggest to his mind such things as it would please Him to have brought before this audience. To obtain this assistance, it would only be necessary to exercise the duties and privileges of the Priesthood which is in the Church.

The Lord has indeed chosen the weak things of the earth in order to accomplish great and mighty things in these latter days, and to men and women, who earnestly labor for the salvation of their fellowmen, He often shows their weaknesses, and through these keeps them from erring; for they are made to realize that what good they can accomplish is not by their own wisdom, but through the intelligence God gives them. It is a remarkable fact that when men become proud and haughty, the Lord humbles and chastises them, and brings them in a condition where they will honor Him and give him the glory for what they may do for the benefit of mankind.

Paul urges the Saints in his day to be careful when they thought they stood, lest they should fall. He presents before them the many causes which lead to failure in connection with the work of God on earth, showing them how necessary it was to live in accordance with the Gospel, if they would endure to the end.

The greatest men in the Kingdom of God were not those on whom the eyes of everybody were turned in admiration and of whose greatness their fellowmen always spoke. God never looked among the great men of the world, but among the humble, when he would call some one to be an instrument in His hands for the accomplishment of His purposes in the earth. An instructive instance of this is the call of Moses, the great leader and law giver of Israel, to whom God gave such miraculous power manifest among the Egyptians. He became a shepherd in the land of Midian and there the divine call reached him while attending to his daily, humble duties of life. He almost refused to comply with the call, having several excuses, until the Lord grew angry with him for his unwillingness to obey. Finally, God gave him a spokesman, his brother, and the two received wonderful manifestations of the power of the Almighty. Yet there

came a day of weakness which they could not overcome. They were lifted up in their hearts and neglected to act according to the word of the Lord. Moses smote the rock with his staff instead of speaking to it, for which disobedience he was not permitted to enter the promised land, although he obtained a view of it from afar.

In every age in which God has had a work to perform, He has shown the world, if they would not close their eyes to the fact, that He is able to accomplish it by the aid of many or few or without any human help at all. When Gideon received a command to deliver Israel from their enemies, there came with him 32,000 men, but the Lord said that was too many. If Israel obtained deliverance by so large an army, they might say that their own hand had saved them. Gideon, therefore, proclaimed that all who had not faith enough in the work could return home, whereupon 23,000 withdrew. Still too many were left. They were put to another test, by which the number was reduced to 300. By those the people obtained a glorious deliverance, and the honor for it was ascribed to the Lord. Those who are great in their own estimation, God brings down, and sometimes He exalts those who are small, in order that He may use them. Great men must be in the depths of humility, lest people should glory in flesh and not in God alone.

Perhaps no more striking example of this principle has been recorded than that of Nebuchadnezzar, who was a great king, a man on whom the Spirit of God rested in a great degree, at times, and whose power extended over almost every nation under heaven. Yet, in fulfillment of a prophecy delivered, he was abased and went out among the beasts of the field, eating grass as oxen. But when he had passed seven years in this condition, he humbled himself and lifted up his voice unto God, who again exalted him. Then he was led to acknowledge that Jehovah is the Lord indeed, who rules the destiny of nations as He governs the heavens where He reigns supreme. The suffering was brought upon him by the mercy of our Father in heaven and was a means whereby a glorious end was gained.

There are numerous examples of men who have become strong, seemingly able to endure all things, through having first learnt how feeble mortals are. Even the disciples of Jesus, whom we might expect to find strong in faith, were at one time so weak that they deserted and denied their Master in His greatest trial. Peter, to whom it had been revealed that Jesus was the Christ and not merely one of the ancient prophets resurrected, in a moment of human weakness denied the Savior, adding to his denial a curse. Yet, he had knowledge in his own heart of the divinity of Christ and retained this knowledge whereby at last he became strong enough to die for the Master. But such failings were necessary to keep the Apostles in humility, and by them we are taught the lesson that only in the Lord can we obtain peace and salvation and redemption.

The Latter-day Saints have been taught by experience that God does not accomplish His work according to

the thoughts and ideas of men. We have seen how many seemingly good and mighty ones have disappointed our fond hopes and expectations, and many things which seemed necessary to the progress of the work have been apparently, a failure. Look at the position of the Church in the East at an early period. Who would have suggested to abandon the sites there occupied and to move out to these valleys? Who would have thought that the proper thing to do? There was a consecrated spot in Missouri which was looked upon as a centre Stake of Zion. There the temple was to be reared, within the sacred walls of which holy ordinances were to be performed, and around this spot and that neighborhood the hopes of the Saints were centered. They never for a moment expected to come to the top of the mountains to build up Zion, although this was predicted by the Prophet Isaiah. There were many mysteries which the Saints did not understand, but they continued their work faithfully, seeking to establish peace among men. In pursuance of this work, they were led to give up all, even their homes, and seek a refuge from their enemies, and thus the purpose of God was accomplished in a way that human wisdom could not have foreseen. The Prophet Joseph, however, predicted that we would have to come here, as we did under the leadership of inspired men. Now we have been established here and become strong. The mountains of Israel are beginning to shout for joy and all that has been foretold will yet be fulfilled, not by the wisdom of man, neither individually nor collectively, but by the power of the Almighty.

Any man, who thinks himself strong, or supposes that he is a pillar, and is going to do great things, unless he repent, he will fall and lose his place in the Church of God. If any become lifted up in their own thoughts, God will cast them down, for He will use only the humble as His instruments.

Such are those who lose their faith in the future of Zion. Those who are strong in their faith do not trouble for that which is yet to come. We live by faith, and those who have faith will never fear any trouble ahead, for they know that as the day, so shall the strength be.

This is a day in which the humble can lift up their voice and rejoice, for God will exalt them and make them mighty. It behoves us also to exalt the poor and lowly by our acts, and see that there is no class distinction among the people of God. If we will attend to our duties, and walk in the path appointed for us, we will find that God's work shall triumph and bring salvation to man in these latter days.

ELDER JOHN MORGAN

was the next speaker. He trusted that he might have an interest in the faith and prayers of the congregation. It is customary, he remarked, that Elders are called to the stand without notice, and this brings a great responsibility, for it makes it necessary for the teachers of Israel to have the inspiration of God. From the first time of the foundation of this Church till the present time, there is abundant evidence that we must rely on the arm of