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Discourse Delivered at the Sixty-fourth Semi-Annual Conference, of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday Morning, October 7th, 1893, by

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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I hope and pray, my brethren and sisters, that while I occupy this position for a few moments I may have an interest in your prayers and faith, that what I say may be that which the Lord desires to have said.

The Gospel which we have received, as all must know who have listened to the remarks of the brethren during this Conference, teaches us different principles and different ways of doing things than are generally known to the people of the world. God has commenced a marvelous work and a wonder, and He has said that He will carry it forward in His own way. He does not depend upon the counsels of men for His wisdom. He does not leave His work in the hands of men for its accomplishment. But He directs in all things which pertain to the upbuilding of His Church. He has said through one of His prophets, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." We have seen this exemplified in all the course of the Latter-day Saints, from the organization of the Church until the present day. It was not according to the ideas and ways of men that God established His Church and revealed the Gospel which we have received. He did it in His own way; and in the carrying forward of that work He has acted according to the plan which He designed, and has not submitted His purposes for the criticism of men. I believe that in the future, no less than in the past, God will do this. He designs that we shall be different to men in educational matters as well as in religious matters, in financial as well as in social affairs. He designs that in our education we shall occupy a higher plan to that which is common in the world; that we shall not depend alone upon the discoveries and inventions of mankind for our knowledge, but that we shall seek to receive from Him that inspiration and revelation which shall make us grasp in a moment that which it sometimes takes years of study and research on the part of uninspired men to acquire.

God has shown us, so far as we have

gone in His work, that He is perfectly capable of pointing out to us truths which the human family, even after fifty years' announcement by the Elders of this Church, have not yet understood. Take, for instance, the Book of Mormon—a revelation giving knowledge to this people concerning the inhabitants of this land; telling of their forefathers, of the cause of the dark skins which they have, and of their destiny; describing the country which we inhabit and the travels of the people who built these great cities in the south, the ruins of which we find almost everywhere in the southern part of this continent. This truth the people of the world are only beginning now to verify through their explorations and their study; and every discovery which they make, every truth which they accept, is only a further evidence of the divine source from which this sacred record came. God has revealed this truth to the children of men; but they have rejected it, because of the source whence it came, and because of the bearers of this great historical record to the people of the earth.

God will open the heavens to His servants, if they will seek Him in faith. I believe it is the duty of the teachers of the youth of Israel, not alone to teach from the text books which are provided for the school, but to have their minds continually open to the impressions of the Holy Spirit, that when they speak to their pupils they may speak by the Spirit of God. I do not feel that a man or a woman who occupies the position of teacher among the youth of Israel is filling the position in its completeness who does not teach by the spirit and inspiration of Almighty God. The Bible itself is even now a book of science and revelation to the world, notwithstanding all the advancement we have made thus far in science and in art. It speaks there of the rotundity of the earth—a truth which was rejected in ancient times. In that book which was written so many centuries ago, we read of God having given to the air its weight; but not until Torricelli announced to the world that the air had weight would the people accept it. We read in this sacred book that the promise to Abraham was that his seed should be as the stars of heaven, innumerable; and yet in early days people ridiculed the expression, because it was announced to the world that there were only some one thousand stars in the heavens above us, and if his seed was to be limited to this small number it was no very great promise. But through the discoveries of the telescope it is revealed to us that the heavens are beset with the workmanship of our God, and the truth which Joseph Smith announced in one of the revelations, that there is no space in

which there is no world, is verified by the discoveries which have been made through the inventions of modern times.

Now it is said that in one system alone, which we can see by means of the telescope, there are at least eighteen millions of worlds like this upon which we stand! And of systems there is no end.

God spoke by His Spirit through the holy men of old, and thus revealed truths which it will take the people of the world many years yet to discover by their slow processes of study and research. He intends to speak to this people and reveal to them scientific truths, as He has religious—truths which the world will not readily accept; and it will take years for them to be brought to the knowledge of that which God will reveal instantly to His servants who will seek knowledge from this source.

I believe that in every affair of life it is our privilege to have the guidance of the Spirit of God. Brigham Young, in founding this Territory, sought the inspiration of the Lord and worked continually under the influence of the Holy Ghost. We see the results of his magnificent labor and his grand instructions which He was inspired to give. He told the people to pursue a course which was contrary to the judgment of men. You older people will remember how it was in the early settlement of this valley. When the gold excitement was raised in California he counseled the Saints not to leave these valleys, forbidding as they were, to which God had led them, and he promised that those who would remain should receive a richer reward than those who sought their fortunes in the golden west. The results proved the truth of his prediction; for those who remained not only prospered in their temporal affairs, but their spiritual strength increased. Many of those who left this land and went west lost their faith, or wavered in the truth, the people who remained here, pinched by hardship, tried by adversity, were stronger in their faith and in the Lord, and they today are numbered among the rich and wealthy among the people of God. He told the Saints again that they should not engage in mining. He told them that the basis of their prosperity was the cultivation of the soil and the manufacture of those things necessary for their sustenance. The principle revealed in the Doctrine and Covenants was made expressive in the midst of the people of God, and they were advised to have the beauty of their apparel the workmanship of their own hands. The results which have followed show the wisdom of the counsel which God gave through His servants in those times. For while the mines have been opened, and I am thankful to the Lord for the wealth they