

obedient to Him in all things. Through the restoration of the Gospel He is establishing a new order of things in the earth. We are standing as witnesses to the nations of the earth concerning a message that God has revealed in these last days. The Lord requires that we bear testimony that the coming of the Lord Jesus is nigh at hand. This is the message that has been given to us as a people to declare unto the inhabitants of the earth. The Elders of this Church have gone forth and borne this message wherever they have gone, warning the people that the judgments and calamities and destructions that were predicted by the servants of God in ancient days and by the Son of God Himself were near at hand, and that the Lord was about to accomplish His long revealed purposes concerning the earth and the inhabitants thereof. This message has been carried to the nations. The nations have been and are being warned by the servants of God to this effect, and we fully believe that there will be such great destructions in the last days that there will be but few men left. The Lord will cleanse this earth of wickedness. He will destroy the ungodly, and prepare the way for a thousand years of peace in the earth. The Elders of this Church declare that that time is near at hand, and that, as the Savior said, there will be wars and rumors of wars, pestilences, famines, and destructions of various kinds among the inhabitants of the earth. Every Elder that goes out from the midst of the Latter-day Saints, if he goes possessed with the spirit of his calling, goes forth as a prophet, to warn the people, and to tell them that which awaits them; that they must repent of their sins and turn from their evil ways, and that if they will not do so, the judgments of Almighty God will rest down upon them. I do not know that all the Elders who go forth have this spirit to the extent they should; nevertheless, this is the message, and it is sent from the Lord Himself. He warns all unto whom this message comes to repent of their sins and obey the Gospel that He sends unto them; and He promises them that if they will obey His commandments, He will give unto them the Holy Ghost, and will bestow upon them those gifts and blessings which He bestowed upon His ancient disciples. In conformity with this message the Elders of this Church have gone to the various lands and peoples unto whom they have been sent. They have gone bearing in all humility these warning tidings, and have called upon the people, as far as they have had opportunity, to listen to and obey it. They have been empowered to make promises unto the people that if they will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of their sins, and be baptized, they shall have a remission of their sins, and also receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Where their messages have been received and obeyed, those who have bowed in submission thereto have testified that they have had their sins remitted, that they have received the Holy Ghost, that the gifts and graces and blessings that were promised have been received by them.

The Latter-day Saints, thus baptized, have been gathered from the nations of the earth; for it is a commandment of God that those who receive this Gospel shall gather together and stand in holy places, that when the judgments and calamities which the Lord has inspired His servants to declare as being near at hand shall come they may escape. And from this people, thus gathered—is seems like a presumptuous thing to the minds of thousands of people to state it—the Lord is going to form a new generation and a new

people, as He did with Noah and his sons. They became the progenitors of a new world. In like manner the Latter-days Saints will be the progenitors of a new world. They who keep the commandments of God will be preserved, and their children after them; and the Lord will work a great revolution in the earth and will accomplish these great purposes concerning which He has spoken by the mouths of the holy prophets. As I say this may sound presumptuous in the ears of a great many people. We would be laughed to ridicule, if we were to mention it in some circles. We would not be listened to any more than Noah and his sons were listened to by the antediluvians. Nevertheless, it is true, God has spoken it, and His words will be fulfilled. The thousands of Latter-day Saints scattered throughout these valleys and mountains have received a testimony for themselves that it is true, and they have been impelled by a spirit and power that is miraculous in its operations, to gather together, to come to one place or one region, that should be designated or selected as a place of gathering. You who are here today, my brethren and sisters, are witnesses of this.

I suppose there are hundreds in this congregation who have received the message of which I speak at different places on this continent and in foreign lands. You never had any thought, before receiving this, of leaving the lands of your nativity, of severing your associations with your kindred and friends to go and reside in a distant land. But when you heard and obeyed this message a spirit rested upon you that you could not resist; it burned within you; it was ever present with you—a desire to leave your old homes to gather with the people of God at the place of gathering, wherever that might be. In the first place, the gathering place was in Ohio. Afterwards Missouri was the place. From there the Saints took their flight into Illinois, and from Illinois they came to these valleys. Mobs would not permit them to dwell in peace in those lands, and those who retained the faith moved as a body to this land; and the eyes and the hearts of the thousands who have embraced the Gospel in foreign lands have been directed here.

Some of our enemies have said that our Elders in going forth have preached to the people that they would have great advantages in coming here, and that they told flattering tales and offered inducements of such a character as to delude them in to coming here. You know how utterly untrue this charge is. I have done considerable missionary work in my life; but I have under all circumstances endeavored to describe to those with whom I conversed, and especially where branches of the Church were raised up, the difficulties, the hardships, the trials that the people would have to meet if they should leave their homes and gather with the Saints in Zion. What would be the use of our inducing men and women to gather from the nations of the earth who would turn around and deny the faith when they got here? We have at the present time to urge upon our Elders in the United States and Europe and other places, to not encourage the people to come here at the present time, but to keep the branches organized, and not have the people come here when they are not grounded in the faith and have not had experience, because there is danger of their being overcome by the trials they have to meet when they come to this land. This is the policy for the present. There are many reasons for this; but one controlling reason is that we do not want people to go to the expense and trouble of emigration to these valleys when they are unpre-

pared for that which they may have to meet here, and if they are going to apostatize, we would rather they would do so where they live than to come here and turn away from the truth.

But there is this remarkable feature about the Gospel: wherever it is preached this intense desire to gather with the people of God immediately takes possession of the majority of those who embrace it. They are filled with a desire to be with their brethren and sisters at the place of gathering. This spirit is from God. It accompanies obedience to the Gospel, and it is confirmatory of the statements that the Elders make concerning the message they have received from the Lord. If this spirit were not poured out, how would it be possible to gather this people from the remotest parts of the earth? It could not be effected by the power of man; it requires the power of God moving upon the inhabitants of the different nations, and impelling them to obey that commandment.

Now, it was a remarkable thing that Joseph Smith, whom God raised up to lay the foundation of this work under the direction of the Son of God, had a revelation some five months after the organization of this Church, in which it was set forth that there would be a gathering of the people together. The same was stated previously in the Book of Mormon, which he translated. It was set forth there with great plainness that there would be a gathering together of the people. Joseph Smith had never seen such a thing, or heard of any such event. Who had ever seen a people coming from remote lands and gathering together, crossing seas and continents, encountering all kinds of hardships, for the sake of being together, as the Latter-day Saints have? Is there anything like it recorded, either in profane or sacred history? There is not. The only event that bears any comparison to it is the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. But they were one nation, and they were going to the land which they had been taught to look upon as the land of their inheritance. There are similar features in each movement, and they were both the works of God; but nothing just like this has ever occurred.

This Prophet of God was inspired by the Lord to say that this should occur, and it has occurred according to his predictions. The people have been gathering from all the various lands where the Elders have gone. They have come willingly and gladly, and where they lacked means themselves, they have asked help from their friends to enable them to come and join them in these valleys. It is a new movement. It is something unheard of; something that was never known among mankind before. And it has required the power of God to effect it. It has required the outpouring of His Holy Spirit upon the people themselves, to prompt them to do this. No human power, no human agency, could have accomplished this work. That must be conceded. Then, if it be charged that there were wrong and improper influences brought to bear upon the people to do this, how soon those influences would disappear when brought in contact with the hardships of the life entailed upon those who come in the way, the Latter-day Saints have come to these mountains! Who could have held them here and kept them together? No human power or agency could have done it. And the people have had that union and love which the Savior prayed for. They do love one another. Notwithstanding our many defects of character, our disobedience, our failure to do as we should do, what the Lord requires of us, we still are a united people, speaking generally; and there is a