DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1901.

Remarks Made at the Semi-Annual Conference Friday Morning, October 4th, 1901, by

ELDER REED SMOOT.

The Spirits of Good and Evil-Importance of Implicit Obedience-Results of Conforming to the Law of Tithing-The Principles and Conditions of the World-Song of the Redeemed. .

stand before you; also that the same blessing may be given to all the speak-crs during this conference. I ask, too, that you offer a silent prayer to our Father this morning in behalf of our balance Brasfact and the the beloved President, who is ill, that he may be blessed and restored, and that

and speak to the people, I have been thinking this morning what subject to speak upon that would be of benefit to the people who have gathered here to receive the word of the Lord What subject could I truch the Lord. What subject could I touch upon that would make us better Lat-ter-day Saints, better fathers and mothers, and better citizens of this great government? My mind reverted to a revelation that was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, as found in sec-tion 64 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, a portion of which I will read:

"Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and the obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days; "And the rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion, and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the

land: "For, verily, I say that the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim, where-fore they shall, be plucked out. "Behold, I, the Lord, have made my Church in these last days like unto a judge sitting on a hill, or in a high

"And Hars and hypocrites shall be proved by them, and they who are not Apostles and Prophets shall be known. "And even the bishop, who is a fudge, and his counselors. If they are not faithful in their steward bins chem not faithful in their stewardships, shall be condemned, and others shall be

Planted in their stead; "For, behold, I say unto you that Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her. "And she shall be an ensign unto the

and she shall be in ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven. "And the day shall come when the nations of the earth shall tremble be-

cause of her terrible ones. The Lord hath spoken it. Amen."

We learn from the "Pearl of Great Price" that when the subject was discussed in the Heavens of forming this carth, there was even then light and darkness, good and evil, obedience and disobedience, a willing heart and a sel-fish nature. These conditions and prin-

I am truly thankful for the privilege of speaking here this morning to so many Latter-day Saints, convened in the promises of God, than those who do this semi-annual, conference of the Church; and while I realize my weak-ness I also realize that I can claim the that my parents believed in the law of blessings of our Heavenly Father, tithing. I thank the Lord that the through the divine Spirit that may be first means which God ever placed inpresent at this conference. I ask that you invoke the blessings of our Father upon me for the few moments that I taught and guided me to pay my tithing on the same, I received this principle from my parents not only by pre-copt, but by example as well, for they lived the law, because they had implicit

hat you offer a silent prayer to our father this morning in behalf of our have belossed and restored, and that hay be blossed and restored, and that have been thinking this morning that subject to speak upon that would here of benefit to the people who have the Lord. What subject could I touch pon that would make us better Lat-er-day Saints, better fathers and mothers, and better citizens of this reat government? My mind reverted to a revelation that was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, as found in sec. fore Jackson county shall be given us as a Zion, those at least who shall be called to establish the same will ave to learn obedience to that great inciple which was revealed through o Prophet Joseph Smith; also the principle of consecration. Are we doing anything, my brethren and sisters, to fit us to fulfill these prayers which are offered to God? Are we qualifying our-selves, that when the time comes for it we will be prepared to go and obey that command? The law of consecration was revealed to this Church, but in its practice the people were found wanting, and God in His mercy had compassion on us when He saw we could not live it, and revealed the law of tithing to take its place temporarily. I hope to live to see the day when the law of conplace to judge the nations: "For it shall come to pass that the inhabitants of Zion shall judge all Church, and when men who hold the Prie thood will think more of the principle, and enter into it when called by the mounthpiece of God, than they do of all their earthly possessions. We have got to improve. President Jo-seph F. Smith this morning called our attention to the fact that some of the people are using tobacco, profaming the name of the Lord, and showing disrespect to the Priesthood of God, as well as other evils that are creeping in emong us. Cannot you see, my breth-ren and sisters, that so long as these evils exist to any great extent among the property of any direct the fill. the members of our Church it will be impossible to keep the higher law of the Lord? My prayer always is, "O Father, fit and prepare me and Thy people to live not only the law of tithes and offerings, but the law of consecra-tion, also when it shall come. May the selfishness that is in my nature be

THE REDEMPTION OF ZION. He has promised will come to them, and that they will have faith, even as our father Abraham had faith, and also the Apostles and Prophets of old. We have the examples of our fathers and mothers, the example of the Prophet Joseph, and those who have presided over this Church from his time to the present, and we should try to follow in their footsteps. I know that there are many people in this Church who today are willing to sacrifice even their lives for the Gospel's sake. There are many who have such im-plicit faith and confidence in God that if they were required to sacrifice all they had upon earth, and life itself, they would willingly do it. They have the faith that Father Abraham had. I hope that the people as a whole will the faith that Father Abraham had. I hope that the people as a whole will listen to the pleadings that have been made by the Prophet of the Lord, and at least live to the law of tithing, that by doing so we may learn to place our-selves in a position to accept the high-er law when it is given again. I be-lieve that the "Mormon" people, as a whole, look after their poor better than any other people upon the earth; and yet we are far from living to the re-quirements that are made of us as a people. But I also want to say that there are many Latter-day Saints, and

there are many Latter-day Saints, and they are numbered by the thousands.

they are numbered by the thousands, who are living strictly to the law and paying an honest tithing unto the Lord. For ever and ever. Amen."

Remarks Made at the Semi-Annual Conference, Friday Morning,

ELDER RUDGER CLAWSON.

The Marvelous Work of the Lord-Its Wonderful Growth-Greatness of the Responsibility Resting Upon the Saints-Facts and Figures.

Impressive to look down upon this vast congregation of people, and I realize that if my voice shall be heard by you it will be necessary for me to speak straight ahead, without turning to the right or to the left, because of the im-mensity of this Tabernacle. We have spread in all the regions, round about

present with us this morning authorities of the Church and Saints from all parts of Zion-from Canada, from Mexfrom the adjoining states and territories, and from some of the missions, We have come together to wait upon the Lord, to receive a blessing at His bands, and to see what He has in store

particularly upon the pleasures of life and the things of the world. And yet the Lord said in the very beginning of this dispensation that He was about to commence a marvelous work and a wonder; that it should be comething out of the ordinary; that it should be of such a character as to attract atten-tion in the world, so much so that men would be led to exclaim "Truly it is a marvelous work." I am reminded now of a revelation that was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith upon the very day that the Church was organized-the 6th day of April, 1830-at Fayette, New York, and I will read the words of the Lord to Joseph Smith upon that occasion: "Behold there shall be a record kept among you, and in it thou shalt be called a seer, a translator, a prophet, an apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder of the church through the will of God the Father, and the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ, Being inspired of the Holy Ghost to lay the foundation thereof, and to build it up unto the most hely faith,

be turned into plowshares and spears into pruning-hooks. I trust that the Spirit of the Lord will be with the people, so that they will know that by obedience to the com-mandments of the Lord the blessings He has promised will come to them, and that they will have failh even as SBYS:

- "The Lord hath brought again Zion. The Lord hath redeemed His people; Israel.
- According to the election of grace, Which was brought to pass by the faith And covenant of their fathers.
- The Lord hath redsemed His people, And Satan is bound, and time is no longer
- The Lord hath gathered all things in
- The Lord hath brought down Zion from above, The Lord hath brought up Zion from
- beneath.

The earth hath travailed and brought forth her strength: And truth is established in her bowels; And the heavens have smiled upon her;

she is clothed with the glory of And her Clod: For He stands in the midst of His

people.

Glory, and honor, and power, and might

Be ascribed to our God; for He is full

IMPORTANCE OF RECORD-KEEPING

October 4th 1901, by

My brethren and aisters, it is very ; and it should be as a stone cut out of

Atter the Church was organized it and finally the Gospel was taken over into Great Britain, Salan was ingered, and persecution ruged. He moved the ver, powers of earth and air (for the scriptures declare that he is the prince and power of the air) in his the Lord, to receive a blessing at His hands, and to see what He has in store for us. I believe that the Lord will meet with us during the conference. I believe that His Spirit will be upon the Fresidency of the Church, and upon the Elders who may be called upon to speak from this stand. I believe that we shall be fed upon the bread of life and I greatly rejoice in this belief. I have wondered sometimes, while traveling in the midst of this people, whether we really understand what the Lord is doing, whether we comprehend His great purposes, and can recognize His hand. I am sure of one thing—that there are many who are passing through life without a serious thought. I have seen it in families, in wards and in stakes, that their minds seemed to rest more particularly upon the pleasures of life and the things of the world, and yet determination to overthrow this work. ing to the West, leaving their homes and their substance, and everything that God had prospered them with, and launching forth into the wilderness. The mighty plains were dotted with wagons and with people moving to the West. After a time they disappeared from view, as if the earth had opened up and swallowed them, and their fate excited but little interest in the country where they had lately resided. It was hoped by many of their enemies that "Mor-monism" had ceased to be a factor in the world, and that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had disappeared forever. If it be proper to draw a comparison, let us suppose that one of the enemies of this people at that time had been permitted to look upon this great west-ward movement. We will take, for in-stance, Governor Boggs, of Missouri, who was one of the chief persecutors of the Church, who was bitter against the truth, who was determined to overthrow this people, and who used the authority of his high office to persecute and vex the Latter-day Saints Let us suppose that he had been standing there when the exiles disappeared from view in 1847; then as by a miracle a deep sleep had come upon him, and he had continued. like Rip Van Winkle, in that condition for fifty-four years. Let him be awakened suddenly, and what would meet his gaze? His onished eyes would behold a great and mighty people established in the Rocky Mountains, and doubtless he would be led to ask, "What great com-monwealth is this?" After having been asleep fifty-four years, he might well ask such a question. Who are these that have established themselves so firmly in the chambers of the moun-tains? If he should look a little closer, he would find that this great people had sprung from that band of pilgrims who PONDS were driven out from the nation, partly by his influence. From the small be-ginning of six members at its organ ization in 1830, he would find that the Church had increased until there were fifty Stakes-one in Canada, one in Oregon, three in Wyoming, eight in Idaho, one in Colorado, four in Arizona, one in Mexico, and thirty-one in Utah. Then if he turned his eyes from the mountains and looked abroad, he would discover fourteen great missions of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints-one in the Eastern States, one in the Northern States, one in the Southern States, one in the Northwestern States, one in the Southwestern States, one in Colorado, one in California, one in Australia, one in New Zealand, one in the Hawailan Islands one in the Samoan Islands, one in the Society Islands, and one great mission in Europe, comprehending several missions and a mission just now opened up in Japan. Then, if he had any desire to know the numerical strength of the people whom he had sought to destroy, (and in saying this I do not malign or misrepresent, for it is so recorded in the annals of the nation) he would find that the membership of the Church amounted to 250,000 souls in the Stakes of Zion, and 50,000 souls in the Missions, mak-ing in all 310,000 souls. These figures that I am giving you come well within the facts. They were taken from last year's statistical reports. Of course by this time there would necessarily be some changes, but nevertheless they WILLIAMS BROS. COAL CO. are conservative and probably do not reach the actual number at the present time. Included in the total of three hundred and ten thousand there are eighty-five thousand children under Rock Springs, Castle Cate, Crass eight years of age-a mighty host that Creek, Lump, Nut and Slack. will soon become members of the Office, Godbe-Pitts Drug Co., 191 South Main Yards, corner Second South and Third West Streets. Telephone 821. Church of Christ. Then, if he desired to know the strength of that great body of men alluded to by President Smith this morning—the Priesthood— he would find that there are two of the First Presidency, 12 Apostles, 200 Patrionly one mak's a specialty of the REAL rifer Presidency, 12 Apostes, 20 Patri-archs, 6,800 High Priests, 9,730 Seven-ties, 20,000 Elders, making a total of those who bear the higher Priesthood, 36,744; 4,800 Priests, 4,900 Teachers, 16,000 Deacons, making 25,700 as con-stituting the lesser Priesthood, and a PLATINOTYPE photo. grand total of 62,444 bearing the Priest-hood of God. He would find also, con-nected with the auxiliary associations (First introduced * The JOHNSON Co. In Utah by us) * The JOHNSON Co. We sell the paper also. Kodaks and Fr

of the Church, 30,150 members of the Relief Society; 10,000 officers and teach-ers and 115,000 members of the Sunday schools; 28,000 members of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association: 25,0000 members of the Young La-tion: 25,0000 members of the Young La-dies' Mutual Mutual Improvement As-sociation: 4,066 officers and 31,988 members of the Primary association; and about 20,000 belonging to the Religion Classes-making a grand total of 244 944 belowing to these envitotal of 264,204 belonging to these aux-illary associations. Then if he cared to go any farther, he would find that there were about 20,000 farms owned there were about 20,000 farms owned by the Latter-day Saints, and that 15,000 of these farms are actually free from all incumbrance. Still further, he would find that ninety per cent of the Latter-day Saints own and occupy their own homes, while the average throughout the United States is something like 5 per cent. Then he would find, if he cared to know, that in the year 1897, when the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists num-bered four millions in the United States, and their total increase for one year was fifty thousand sould, the Lat-ter-day Saints numbered in the same cars a little over a quarter of a milon, and their increase for the year was wenty thousand souls. Twenty thouwenty thousand souls. Twenty thou-sand increase with a total of a quar-ter of a million as against fifty thou-sand increase for four millious! After obtaining all this information, would not be be compelled to acknow-ledge that surely this is a marvelous work and a wonder? The Lord said to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, on one ochsion that "there is no weapon

OREGON SHORT L

Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, on one ocasion that "there is no weapon that is formed against you shall pros-per; and if any man lift his voice against you, he shall be confounded in mine own due time." I fancy that this man, if he had received a change of heart, would be led to exclaim, Sure-w the medication of for the transformer. the prediction of God has been fulilled at least in reference to myself. Now, brothren and sisters, let me call your attention to the fact that whereas Revelator at the head of His Church when it was organized in 1830, with six souls. He still has a Prophet, Seer and Revelator standing at the head of His people at the present time, who is en-dewed with the keys of power and autherity to bind on earth and it is bound in heaven, to loose on earth and it is loosed in heaven. That wonderful power and authority is in the Church today, and those impressive words that were delivered to the Pro-phet Joseph Smith, which I will read ain, are binding upon the Church to-

"Wherefore, (meaning the Church) thou shalt give heed unto all his words and commandments which he shall

give unto you as he received them, walking in all holiness before me; "For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith."

Oh! how great the responsibility that comes to us with these words. How great is the responsibility resting down upon the presidents of these firly Stakes of Zion, for they have been called with a solemn calling and a great appoint-ment to preside over all the general in-terests of the Saints. What manner of men ought they to be? Quick to mani-fest the which we be about





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ciples are in the hearts of the people of the world today. The mission that was given to Jesus Christ, to come upon the earth, was given on account of His obedience to the will and plan laid down by our Father. On the other hand, Satan desired to become a law unto himself, and whatever sacrifice he made, he wished it to be credited unto himself, and not unto the Father. Lueffer desired to introduce a plan con-trary to the will of the Father, and then wanted His honor and said, "I will save every soul of man, wherefore give me thine honor." He wanted to go contrary to the will of his Father, and sought to deprive man of his free agency, and thus make him a mere machine. The offer of Jesus to act as mediator and redeemer, according to the plan decided upon in the council of the Gods, was accepted, and the plans and services of Lucifer were rejected. In his anger Lucifer rebelled against God and Jesus, using the very agency of which he had just attempted to rob all of God's children. When this earth was formed and our first parents had children that same spirit of obedience and disobedience, of good and evil, of a willing heart and a selfish nature, was manifested in their sons Abel and Cain. In reading the history of God's people in all dispensations I can see that that great law of obedience to the requirements of the Father has been one of the foundation stones of the Church. It always will be so. One of the greatest examples of obedience for us to study is that of father Abraham, The Lord had promised him that through him and his seed all the earth should be blessed, and yet He desired to know if Abraham was willing to give Him his heart, and be true to him even unto death and fulfill all His com-mandments, even if it looked to be an utter impossibility for him to carry out the command and at the same time receive the promise of the Lord. The Lord told him that he was to offer up his only son Isaac as a sacrifice. Did he hesitate, or stop to enquire of the Lord how He could ful-fill the promise made him if Isaac were sacrificed? Not so. Abraham, in his obedience to the Father, prepared the sticks, placed them upon the back of the boy, started for the hill Moriah to carry out the command of God; and while upon the way the boy said unto his Father, "Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham replied, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering." They built the altar, and Isaac was placed upon it: and as Abraham drew forth his hand to execute the command of God, the angel of the Lord stayed him. Then his answer to his son was verified, for God provided a ram for the offering. In this Abraham proved to God that his heart was right before Him, and he was willing to do whatever was required of him.

All blessings that are promised by the Master are predicated upon obedience to the laws. It is right that it should be so; it is nothing but what an honest soul should expect. If we live to the principle of charity, we can expect the benefits that are derived from so living. If we live to the law of consecration, we can claim of the Lord the blessings attached to this great prin-ciple. If we live to the law of tithing, we have a right to claim the blessings that were promised through Malachi to those who would observe it. I do not feel that it is necessary to speak long upon the subject of tithing, and per-haps some who do not practice the same may hope that we will not mention it; but the man or the woman who practices this principle never gets tired of hearing testimonies of the Eiders in regard to this law. In passing I want to leave my testimony that God has given us the law of tithing, and He blesses the person that lives strictly in accordance with it. The blessings of the Lord are upon those who pay their tithing, no matter what the amount may be. I testify to you that people who live to this haw have more comfort and peace in their homes, are more contented in their nis, have more faith that the Lord will answer their prayers, have more

removed, so that when this great law shall come I will be prepared to say, Thy will, O God, not mine, be done." The Lord has not left us without an xample of this great law. In the early history of this world Enoch and his people became perfect by living the law of consecration and sanctification. They were willing to give their hearts to God, and through obedience to Him fulfilled that law. We are told that the people were so perfect that the city of Enoch was taken from this earth. I know as well as I know that I live, that this great principle which God has revealed is the only one whereby the poor of this earth can be redeemed as a whole from their present condition. If you will take the Doctrine and Covenants and read carefully the revelations that were given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, you will notice that one of the great principles taught in them is the redemption of the poor and the bringing of mankind on an equality, temporally and spiritually. There are millions of people today groaning unmillions of people today groaning un-der oppression and tyranny, many of them unjustly, through the lack of a proper distribution of the blessings of God. He has not seen unmindful of his children. We see on all sides an abun-dance, plenty for all, but the world has her write of the fractiones of the 31

lost sight of the teachings of the Mas-This condition has excited the best thought of philosophers. Many philan-thropic men have tried, through very liberal donations, to establish plans for the temporal betterment of the class of people in whom they were interested; but it was simply like throwing a stone in the brook-you see the ripple for a few moments, and then all is gone. No man-made laws will ever accomplish the object sought. God has revealed this great law of consecration and sanctification to us, that there may be no poor among us; for under it every man and woman will have a stewardship and be provided for. I never expect to see the day when we shall all have just same-the same number of horses the and carriages, or the same kind of a house; but I do expect to see the time come when this great law will equalize those who believe and practice it, until there shall be as near a perfect people upon this earth as it is possible to make us with our selfish natures. If ever this law becomes universal I look for a reign of peace upon the earth. If this law had been lived up to by this people in the beginning, I think the redemption of Zion would have been ac-complished by this time, or at least a great deal nearer than it is today When this law is an accomplished fact in the world, the means spent by nations today in wars will not have to be employed that way, and then the time will be at hand when the swords shall

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which church was organized and es-tablished in the year of your Lord eigh-teen hundred and thirty, in the fourth month, and on the sixth day of the month, which is called April. Wherefore, meaning the church, thou shall give heed unto all his words and commandments which he shall give unto you as he receiveth them, walking

in all holiness before me; For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith:

For by doing these things the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name's glory. For thus saith the Lord God, him

have I inspired to move the cause of Zion in mighty power for good, and his diligence I know, and his prayers I have heard.

Yea his weeping for Zion I have seen and I will cause that he shall mourn for her no longer, for his days of rejoicing are come unto the remission of his sins, and the manifestations of my blessings upon his works. For, behold, I will bless all those who

labor in my vineyard with a mighty blessing, and thuy shall believe on his words, which are given him through me by the Comforter, which manifesteth that Jesus was crucified by sinful men for the sins of the world, yea, for the remission of sins unto the contrite heart.

Wherefore it behoveth me that he should be ordained by you, Oliver Cowdery, mine apostle;

This being an ordinance unto you, that you are an elder under his hand, he being the first unto you, that you might be an elder unto this church of Christ, bearing my name, And the first preacher of this church

unto the church, and before the world, yea, before the Gentiles; yea, and thus saith the Lord God, io, io! to the Jews lso. Amen." These words, brethren and sisters and

friends, were the words of Jehovah, delivered to the Prophet Joseph Smith upon the day that the Church was or-ganized. The Church was very weak in numbers then, but strong in spirit. In this revelation the Lord intimates that He was about to move the cause of Zion in mighty power, and talked to the Prophet as if it were an accom-plished fact. He desired, it seems, that His people, though few in number, should be impressed with the fact that a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator stood at the head; for He instructed that a record to this effect should be kept.

also desired to impress the people with the great truth that this Church should the great truth that this Church should be built up, not by the power of man, but by the power of the Holy Ghost; that no man, though he might be a Prophet or an Apostle, should take the honor unto himself of building up the Church of Christ, but that the honor and the glory must be given to God. Did not the Lord say to the Prophet Daniel that in the latter days the God of heaven would set up His kingdom,

He

evil may be rooted out from among the Saints: that not one of these 562 Bishops shall be asleep at his post for a moment, but that all shall be watchful day and night, that they may know what is transpiring in their wards Then, think of the great army of laborers in the Priesthood throughout the Church-62.000; and 264.000 belonging to these auxiliary associations, to be on hand to assist in laboring for the salvation of souls! I will conclude, brethren and sisters, by saying that we heard this morning

the voice of the Presidency of the Church— that voice which the Lord says we must listen to as though it proceeded from Jehovah Himself. We have received counsel. Certain evils exist among us. As presidents of Stakes, as Bishops of wards as coun-selors, as High Councilors, as men of selors, as High Councilors, as men of the Priesthood, we must give our atten-tion to these evils. That is the word of the Lord to us. We know our duty; we know that the ovils referred to must be reached and must be corrected and driven from among the Latter-day Saints, else God will be angry with us. Amen. Amen.

A. L. WILLIAMS, Manager.

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