

This condition of affairs the Lord said would take place; He told us this would be the case, years and years ago, and we have been looking for this, and we have been declaring that the time would come when the Spirit of the Lord would withdraw itself from the nations of the earth. It will therefore become the duty of the Elders to go forth and bear solemn testimony concerning the judgments of God about to be poured out upon the wicked.

There were two duties imposed upon us in early days; one was to seek to gather out the honest, to do all in our power to gather out the people who loved and received the Gospel, and to be diligent in our labors doing all in our power to find them. We were sent out as fishers, we were sent out as hunters, we were sent everywhere carrying this Gospel, seeking out the Israel of God scattered among the Gentiles. This was one duty. Then there was another duty, to warn the people, to warn all men in the most solemn manner that the hour of God's judgment was near at hand, to declare to the inhabitants of the earth that the approach of our Lord was near, that the Lord Jesus Christ was about to descend from heaven, and that vengeance and anger and judgment were about to be poured out upon the nations of the earth.

This was the message given unto us, and every Elder who went forth filled with the spirit of his mission was filled with an intense desire to leave no stone unturned to reach the people they were sent among, and to warn every man, woman and child concerning the message that God had given.

The Elders of this Church have now travelled for sixty years in this manner; they have labored with all the energy of their souls, doing all in their power to persuade men and to warn them concerning these affairs. The result is, a great many people are left without excuse. The Elders of this Church can stand before the judgment seat of the Lord Jesus Christ with their garments unspotted with the blood of this generation. They have been instant in season and out of season. They have labored with exceeding great diligence, doing all in their power to inform mankind of the events about to take place. And they will stand as the judges of this generation; they will stand as swift witnesses against the people who have rejected them, treated them with indifference and ridicule, and persecuted and driven them out of their midst, leaving the inhabitants of the earth without excuse. And not only have the Elders done this, but the Church as a whole stands today like a city set on a hill. We have been observed by all people, and our labors are before the world. Notwithstanding the falsehoods concerning us there has gone forth a testimony from this people that it is hard for the world to disprove—a testimony against vice; a testimony of great deeds; a testimony of Godly lives; a testimony of a people living lives of unexampled purity in

the midst of a wicked and perverse generation; a testimony of a people willing to endure all things for the Gospel sake. These testimonies have been borne by this people in addition to the other testimonies concerning which I have spoken. The testimony of imprisonment; the testimony of mobbings; the testimony of the burning of houses and the destruction of property; the testimony of expulsion from the bounds of civilization; the testimony of the laying the foundation of a great commonwealth in the midst of a desert; the testimony of patience and fortitude and endurance. These testimonies stand out before the world as living monuments of the faith and sincerity of this people, and they cannot be ignored or explained away; neither can they plead ignorance concerning the work of God or that it was hidden from view.

Now, in what direction shall the Elders go from this time forward? If the Gentiles reject this testimony we must do as our fellow-apostles did in ancient days—turn from the Gentiles and go to the Jews, carrying the Gospel of the Son of God to the house of Israel and fulfilling the predictions concerning them as contained in this book—the Book of Mormon. I will read another extract, which will be found in the 20th chapter of 111 Nephi:

“And after that ye were blessed, then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which He made with Abraham, saying, in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed, unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel.

And they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land. Nevertheless, when they shall have received the fullness of my Gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against me, I will return their iniquities upon their own heads, saith the Father.

And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people, and I have covenanted with them that I would gather them together in mine own due time; that I would give unto them again the land of their fathers, for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them forever, saith the Father.

And it shall come to pass that the time cometh, when the fullness of my gospel shall be preached unto them.

And they shall believe in me, that I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and shall pray unto the Father in my name.

Then shall their watchmen lift up their voice, and with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye.

Then will the Father gather them together again, and give unto them Jerusalem for the land of their inheritance.

Then shall they break forth into joy—sing together ye waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord hath comforted His people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.”

These are the words of the Savior Himself, and there is much more in the same connection, showing that the time would come when the Gospel would be preached to the Jews and that time is nigh at hand, it is right at our doors and it is an un-

mistakable sign that God is pouring out His Holy Spirit in power upon the descendants of his ancient covenant people. There is a movement at the present time among the Jews at the present time causing them to turn their attention to the land of Jerusalem, and the way is being made plain for the gathering of that people to the land of their fathers; and changes will take place from time to time in the government at Palestine that will enable the Jews to fulfill all that has been predicted concerning their return to the Land of Promise. And at the same time the Spirit is moving upon the descendants of the house of Israel, dwelling upon this land; and His Spirit is being poured out upon the inhabitants of the islands of the sea, and it is fast preparing them for the reception of the Gospel.

Letters from Samoa, formerly known as the Navigator Islands, come to us filled with good cheer, filling our hearts with joy. The Elders there are calling for more help. The President of the mission wrote last week that he wanted fifty Elders, that the missionary field was extending. He suggests that the Elders now preaching among the Gentiles who are ill treated and rejected, be sent to Samoa, as there is room for their labors among the natives of those islands. This is encouraging news, and it fills us with gladness to know that the work of God is spreading among the covenant people of God in fulfillment of words that have been spoken concerning them thousands of years ago. And every word that God has spoken by His own voice, by the voice of His Son, by the voice of holy angels or by the voice of inspired prophets will be fulfilled, concerning the great work of the last days. We may think and feel that we are surrounded by difficulties, that we are enveloped by obstacles, and that our future prospects are most discouraging. But, says the Lord, “(an a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.” He does remember Zion, and the promises he has made to Zion will be fulfilled, and there is no power on earth nor in hell that can prevent their fulfillment. God has said, and it will be fulfilled, that this work will go forth from land to land, and from island to island, from one end of the earth to the other, until all His purposes are accomplished. His elect will be gathered from the four quarters of the earth; Zion will be built up and become a great power in the land; and there is no power on the earth or in hell that can prevent it. You may set that down as true, for it will come to pass. Every word thus far has been fulfilled. The Lord is working by His Holy Spirit, and by His ministering servants in various places. Agencies that are unseen to us, that are invisible to the mortal eye are working with us, and His word is being fulfilled. Who can think of it without having their hearts filled with gladness? Who can think of the promises God