

Happier Days to Come.

BY JAMES BOND.

'Tis said that the world is progressing
In wisdom and science and light;
That we now the day are possessing,
While our ancestors lived in the night.
We're told of the great rising glory
Of this grand, new, and golden age;
But who shall record the bright story
In the future on history's page?

The march of our civilization
Leaves the traces of tears and of blood;
Its fruit, throughout every nation,
Is evil opposing the good.
The poor are now feeling the anguish
Of this grand, new, and golden age;
And millions are sighing, and languish
For the happier days yet to come.

The wise are their wisdom abusing,
In selfishness grounding each plan;
And men all their science are using
In crushing their weak fellow man.
And hope cometh not with the morrow,
To banish the dark clouds of gloom;
But death sings the chorus of sorrow—
Are there happier days yet to come?

But lo! from the mountains is sounding
Glad Freedom's enlivening call;
That anarchy, in its confounding,
With all its proud workers, shall fall!
The world for the struggle is ready,
The time of the conflict is nigh;
Truth comes, and its progress is steady,
And darkness before it shall fly.

The honest in heart, now awaking,
Seek unto Zion for light;
The wicked, in fearfulness quaking,
Will see that in right there is might.
For evil shall not rule forever,
Its triumph will soon all be past;
There is a strong arm to deliver;
It comes, and will save us at last.

Yes! God from the heavens has spoken
The day of salvation's at hand;
When tyranny's yoke shall be broken,
And liberty bless every land.
Thus science with peace will soon flourish,
Wrong to right shall be made to suc-
cumb;
All men shall have rights they will cher-
ish,
Then the happier days will have come!
—[Millennial Star.]

DISCOURSE

BY ORSON PRATT, TABERNACLE, APRIL 13, 1856.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

[Elder Pratt read the 7th, 8th and 9th paragraphs of the Book of Ether.—Rep.]

I have read, from the Book of Ether, a portion of what is written concerning that great and wonderful vision, shown to a man in all respects just like unto ourselves, so far as his nature was concerned, all men being subjected to certain evil influences, through the transgression of our first parents. At the same time, if it had not been for their transgressing the commandments of the Lord in the garden of Eden, this congregation would not have been here.

Because Adam and Eve transgressed we are here with mortal tabernacles, and these mortal tabernacles are subject to vanity, through the power which the adversary has on account of our organization in the flesh; he has power over the spirit, and to bring us into captivity and bondage and subject us to the yoke of bondage, of sin, of the fallen and corrupt nature; but by the resurrection of Jesus Christ who was prepared before the foundation of the world, we have hope of being redeemed from that which is a yoke upon us in the economy of this probation, for mortality was instituted by the Lord to give us an opportunity of proving ourselves.

Our first parents, through transgressing the law of God, brought death into the world, but through the death of Jesus Christ life and immortality were introduced. The one brings into bondage, the other gives us hope of escape, of redemption, that we may come forth with the same kind of body that Adam had before the fall, a body of immortal flesh and bones.

Adam and Eve were immortal, the same as resurrected beings; but previous to their transgression they had no knowledge of good and evil.

After the redemption we will not only have the same kind of bodies that they possessed in the garden of Eden before the fall, but we will have a knowledge of good and evil through our experience. For this purpose we are made partakers, through our agency, of the knowledge of evil in this life, that we all may be made partakers of good when we are put in possession of it.

Hence in our immortal tabernacles, when brought forth from the grave, we shall have a knowledge of our past experience, a most perfect knowledge. There will be no imperfection of memory, but we shall remember, as the prophet tells us in the Book of Mormon, all things that have taken place during our mortal lives; everything that we have thought and done.

We shall remember that we have been made free from sin through the ordinances of the gospel, we shall remember the new birth that we have received while in this mortal state, the being cleansed from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ and made new creatures; all those things will be plain and clear before the mind of the immortal man.

There is a great lesson of instruction given in the short history which I have read before you; it shows the privileges pertaining to our religion in some respects, and it shows how much there

is to be received and how much we have not received in mortality.

We also learn from the history we have read, the principle upon which these blessings are to be received, viz.—by faith, faith in Jesus Christ. The brother of Jared did not receive these blessings without faith; he exercised faith in the Lord, in the revelations previously received in relation to the promised land, of which the prophets have spoken in former days; he exercised faith in the promises given to the fathers.

All the circumstances through which they were called to pass, had a tendency to create a great amount of faith in those ancient men of God. It is true that the brother of Jared had been a prophet for many years; faith had been centred in his heart, and he could lay hold of the promises of God. He was a revelator at the time the tower of Babel was built; he was a man capable of receiving instructions from heaven, and hence his brother said, at the time the language was confounded, enquire of the Lord if he will take us where we can receive the language for ourselves, and if it please the Lord to let us go to ourselves let us be faithful, that we and our posterity and nation may be blest.

From these few sayings of Jared we find that he had the utmost confidence in the revelations of his brother, for he knew him to be a prophet and a revelator. After having wandered many years in the wilderness, the Lord continued to reveal himself unto them in the wilderness; he had shown forth his glory, had come down and talked in a cloud and shown them many things which were to come to pass, and instructed them to build barges, before they had come to the ocean.

Being taught for many years in the things of the kingdom of God, their minds were somewhat prepared for the journey before them. They were instructed to build eight barges with which to cross the great ocean; and after being fully informed upon those matters, and having finished the barges, the company saw that there was no light in them, and it would have been very difficult to carry fuel such a long distance, in order to have produced light.

Now reflect upon the faith of this man of God; rather than be tossed upon the bosom of the great deep for many days excluded from the light of sun, moon, and stars, and rather than be under the necessity of taking wood to make fires, without any outlet for smoke, and before he knew how the Lord was going to provide light, he carved out sixteen stones, which, though white and clear like unto glass, gave no light.

Notwithstanding all this, he carried those stones into a great mountain, and called upon Him, who at the beginning said "Let there be light, and there was light," to touch those stones that they might have them for lights upon the bosom of the deep. This would be sufficient, if there was not another word written, to convince any person that he was a man of great faith, and that when in difficulty he called upon the Lord, and the Lord hearkened to his voice and put forth his hand. And because of this man's faith he beheld the finger of the Lord when he touched the stones, and those stones were filled with the principle of imparting light.

This was a miracle to those that beheld it, and why so? Because it was contrary to the general laws with which they were acquainted, though in fact it was no more of a miracle for the Lord to show his finger than to do anything else, or than the falling of a stone to the ground. The same Supreme power that causes the fall of a stone can cause a stone to give light, and in this instance did perform that operation, and they beheld it and had constant day until they had crossed the sea. One may enquire, "Bro. Pratt, why do you refer to those old historical events, why don't you refer to that which belongs to our every day duties?" Because there are those around me here who are better qualified to teach you in relation to your every day duties; they are able to instruct you from Sabbath to Sabbath, and are constantly pouring forth instructions for your edification and benefit.

These ideas come into my mind and are calculated, if properly understood, to be used as examples for our good; they are written for our edification and that of our children. The heed that we give to the every day duties which are pointed out to us will determine in a great measure our reward. It may be asked, "do you think that it is really our privilege, as the children of God in this dispensation, to attain to the same blessings which were received by those ancient people of God?" Yes, and far greater; for you will find in this same history, in a part which I have not read, that a portion of the same things should be given to the Latter-day saints through their faith. The Lord says, then will I show the great and marvelous things of my kingdom unto them, as I did to him.

But it all depends, recollect, upon the great principle of faith, and you are to obtain these things upon conditions of practicing those every day duties which you are hearing proclaimed from day to day. With such wisdom, and by continuing steadfast therein, your faith will increase in those great and heavenly principles, until you can lay hold by faith upon all the great and marvelous things that were communicated to him.

What were communicated to him, besides what I have read? It may not be amiss to read a few more words, for I fear that we are too careless in relation to those things which pertain to our welfare, which, with the various duties and cares of life, makes us careless in listening to the Living Oracles. It is my belief that if this people more carefully read the oracles of the ancients, they would be directed more diligently to attend to the Living Oracles.

We are commanded to search the scriptures for instructions, but I fear that we neglect this counsel too much and become careless. In consequence of such neglect the Lord reproved this church, some years ago, and said that the whole church was under condemnation because they

had neglected the Book of Mormon; and he told them that unless they would repent they should be held under condemnation, and should be scourged, and judgments should be poured out upon them. If you would read these things in the Spirit, and call upon God to give you his Spirit to fix the sayings of the prophets upon your minds, you would do good and derive benefit therefrom. If the Saints will give most earnest and diligent heed unto the instructions given in those books which have been preserved, and especially to the instructions which are given by our President, they will prosper and be blest in all things.

I will again read, "and because of the knowledge of this man, he could not be kept from beholding within the veil." Says one, "that is a curious saying; I thought the Lord could do whatever he pleased." This was because the Lord had given his word that he would do according to the faith of the saints, righteous sons and daughters of Adam, hence he could not restrain the brother of Jared from looking within the veil.

When there is sufficient faith in the hearts of the children of men it is impossible to withhold blessings from them, if that faith is exercised, for if the Lord should do so he would forfeit his own word, and we read that it is impossible for God to lie.

I will now read as follows: "And it came to pass that the Lord said unto the brother of Jared, behold, thou shalt not suffer these things which ye have seen and heard to go forth unto the world, until the time cometh that I shall glorify my name in the flesh; wherefore, ye shall treasure up the things which ye have seen and heard, and shew it to no man. And behold, when ye shall come unto me, ye shall write them and shall seal them up, that no one can interpret them: for ye shall write them in a language that they cannot be read. And behold, these two stones will I give unto thee, and ye shall seal them up also, with the things which ye shall write. For behold, the language which ye shall write, I have confounded; wherefore I will cause in my own due time that these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men, these things which ye shall write."

Now notice the words of Moroni upwards of 400 years after Christ: "and when the Lord had said these words, the Lord shewed unto the brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be; and withheld them not from his sight, even unto the ends of the earth: for the Lord had said unto him, in times before, that if he would believe in him, that he could shew unto him all things—it should be shewn unto him; therefore the Lord could not withhold anything from him; for he knew that the Lord could shew him all things. And the Lord said unto him, write these things and seal them up, and I will shew them in mine own due time unto the children of men."

You recollect that when the Book of Mormon was translated from the plates, about two thirds were sealed up, and Joseph was commanded not to break the seal; that part of the record was hid up. The plates which were sealed contained an account of these great things shewn unto the brother of Jared; and we are told that all those things are preserved to come forth in the due time of the Lord. The 11th paragraph informs us respecting the interpreters. I will read it:

"And it came to pass that the Lord commanded him that he should seal up the two stones which he had received, and shew them not, until the Lord should shew them unto the children of men. And the Lord commanded the brother of Jared to go down out of the mount from the presence of the Lord, and write the things which he had seen; and they were forbidden to come unto the children of men, until after that he should be lifted up upon the cross; and for this cause did king Benjamin keep them, that they should not come unto the world until after Christ should shew himself unto his people. And after that Christ truly had shewed himself unto his people, he commanded that they should be made manifest."

These interpreters, the two stones that were given to the brother of Jared, were the two stones that were found with the plates. Again the Lord says in the next paragraph, a portion of which I will read:—

"Come unto me, O ye gentiles, and I will shew unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief. Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you, from the foundation of the world; and it hath not come unto you, because of unbelief. Behold, when ye shall read that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you: yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers, O house of Israel; and then shall my revelations which I have caused to be written by my servant John, be unfolded in the eyes of all the people. Remember, when ye see these things, ye shall know that the time is at hand that they shall be made manifest in very deed; therefore, when ye shall receive this record, ye may know that the work of the Father has commenced upon all the face of the land. Therefore, repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and believe in my gospel, and be baptized in my name: for he that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned; and signs shall follow them that believe in my name. And blessed is he that is found faithful unto my name, at the last day: for they shall be lifted up to dwell in the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. And behold it is I that hath spoken it. Amen."

I have felt disposed to read these paragraphs, for I highly esteem the Book of Mormon, as I presume do all the Latter Day Saints. But many

lay it upon the shelf and let it remain there or a year or two consequently they become careless concerning the dealings of the Lord with the Former day Saints.

You are not to suppose that you are going to be jumped into the midst of revelations, and though one great and grand step is to go to with our faith and energy and burst the veil, read it from our eyes, do you think that you are to step into the celestial kingdom and see it all at once? No, these blessings are by far too precious to be attained in such a way; they are to be attained by diligence and faith from day to day, and from night to night. Hence you are to become habituated to good in your thoughts and conduct, in all that you do, until you become perfectly initiated into the great principles of righteousness, and continue to live uprightly until it becomes a kind of second nature to be honest, to be prudent, to govern all your passions, and bring all of the influences of the flesh, of the fallen nature, into the most perfect subjection to the law of God.

I know that it is necessary for you to keep the commandments of the Lord, and not only to keep those found in the written revelations, but to strictly observe all the words of wisdom, counsel and advice that he has given through his Spirit and his servants. And when you have given diligent heed to counsel, it becomes a second nature to pay the strictest attention to the covenants made and the counsel given by the Living Oracles of God.

These principles are not to be learned by one or two days', or one or two months' humility and obedience, for that would be like a child's going to school a week and being kept six weeks at home when there is one to instruct him. It is obvious that a person keeps retreating, if he does not progress; you are called upon to increase and progress in knowledge and truth until they influence all your actions and doings, until your conduct is rightly influenced not only in relation to your neighbors, but in relation to all that belongs to your neighbors. When you have learned righteous principles be careful that they never escape your minds, and that your conduct never severs you from them. This is the time and this is the day that your faith should lay hold of this great and good spirit, and that you should strive for the rich blessings of heaven, concerning which I have read in your hearing this morning.

Latter Day Saints, are not these things worthy of living for? Suppose that you could have the privilege, by living only one week in strict obedience to all the laws of the kingdom, to have all these blessings; I verily believe that there are not many Latter Day Saints but that, if they knew that they could enjoy all the blessings of the ancients and have the visions of the heavens laid open to their minds, so that they could have before them the past, the present and the future, so that they could understand the things of God, would live very faithful, and be of one heart and of one mind.

Would not every one who heard such promise try to obtain the prize, to enjoy the blessings promised? The counsels and instructions of those whom God has appointed would be fresh before them every moment; when they arose in the morning it would be the first thing they would think of, and it would be the last thing at night. They would be able to do twice as much labor as when their minds are not upon the things of God; their minds would be so entirely swallowed up that they would feel like Alma and others, while among the priests of king Noah, when they had burdens upon their backs; their burdens were made light so that they were able to bear them cheerfully, and so it would be with the Latter Day Saints. Let them have that Spirit one week, and they would find their bodies stronger and more active, and they would almost forget whether they had been to their breakfast, dinner, or supper, their minds would be so completely swallowed up with heavenly things, and everything would prosper.

You are to claim blessings by your conduct, you are so instructed; some are apt to be so neglectful and remiss in their duties that they are not able to claim them. They forget what is in store for them, and do not pray for the Spirit to impress those blessings upon their minds, but suffer their minds to be drawn out too much upon temporal business instead of the things of God; and become weary in mind and body, so that they feel like neglecting the more prominent duties, such as family prayer and many others.

This is because they do not enjoy sufficient of the Spirit of the Lord, for it is able to strengthen every one of you. Look at the promises made to the missionaries, "he that shall go forth to preach the gospel without purse or scrip shall not be weary, nor darkened in spirit nor in body."

What is it that strengthens them so that they do not become weary in body and in mind? The elders abroad are called upon to labor diligently, and many times to sit up almost all night to teach the pure principles of eternal life, and when they lie down they rest perfectly calm as though they were not weary, and arise invigorated with faith, intelligence and power; their minds and bodies are strengthened by the power of God.

So it would be with you, if you were sent on a mission, as well as with those who now go to preach the gospel of salvation for the gathering of the honest in heart.

The elders go forth in faith and with prayer for the gathering of Israel; to bring them to Zion to plant vineyards, to build houses, to help build up the cities of Zion and beautify the earth.

You are all on a mission to make yourselves of one heart and of one mind before the Lord, and if you are faithful you can claim the promises that he will pour out his Spirit upon you, and that Spirit will be poured out upon those who are faithful from morning until evening, and they will be quickened and invigorated to perform whatever is necessary.

If you come to this house with your minds upon the things of this world and hear the