

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, Feb. 9th, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:
Do what is right; the day-dawn is breaking.
Hailing a future of freedom and light;
Angels above us are silent notes taking
Of every action: do what is right.

Prayer was offered by Elder Elias Morris.

The choir sang:

Gently raise the sacred strain,
For the Sabbath's come again.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

said he was thankful for the privilege of meeting with so many of the Latter-day Saints upon that occasion. He had not been able during the last four or five months to speak in public, having been afflicted with a cold on his lungs.

One very peculiar fact was that God the Creator of heaven and earth and the inhabitants thereof had always been an unpopular Being with the world. The Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever taught by inspired men, in any age, had met with a great deal of opposition. Such had been the case in the whole history of the world, from the time of father Adam down to the present. Having shown from Bible history how nations as well as individuals had been punished for disobedience to God and His commandments, President Woodruff continued: I say to all Israel and the whole world today that the God of heaven has set His hand to perform this work in which we are engaged. He has raised up a Prophet who organized this Church in fulfillment of the records of divine truth. Joseph Smith was no more popular in the generation in which he lived, neither are the Apostles nor the Latter-day Saints as a body now, than was Christ and His Apostles in their day. But the God of heaven has decreed certain things, and those decrees He will carry out, whether men believe or disbelieve. He will establish His Church, He will establish His Zion, He will bring together His people. The people have to be gathered from all nations under heaven or the Bible will be unfilled.

We are passing through a very peculiar kind of history. We have had a peculiar history all the days of our lives—ever since we have been members of this Church at least; we shall probably continue to have until the coming of the Son of Man. No man can be godly, true, and a faithful witness of the Lord Jesus Christ without suffering persecution and meeting with opposition. This has been the history of the world in every age. Be faithful, do what is right, and let the consequences follow. Trust in the God of heaven. He is watching over you; the eyes of all the heavenly host are watching over you as a people, and also over all the world. This nation and

all nations under heaven will be held accountable for the deeds done in the body. We likewise shall be held accountable for our acts and the course which we pursue. We have a long future before us—a long eternity. We are here upon a mission, but it is short compared with what lies before us on the other side of the veil. Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, keep His commandments, and all will be well. The Lord will neither forsake you nor His kingdom, but He will carry out all He has promised in the day and generation in which we live. Have faith in Him and in His promises. Your strength lies in the God of heaven. Whatever you want go to Him for it. Our prayers should ascend unto the ears of the Lord day and night to sustain His Church and work among this people.

There may be some strangers here today. I will repeat to all such what Joseph Smith has taught us. He said, "If I was emperor of the world and had control over all the human family, I would sustain every man, woman and child in the enjoyment of their religion, let it be what it may." Those have been our sentiments all the way through. No man, not even emperor or king, no republic, no government has a right to take away from any individual his agency in the enjoyment of his religion. Why? Because men beget only their own children; they do not beget their subjects. They are responsible to God and not to men. Every man, woman, and child, all parties, sects, and denominations under heaven have a right to their religion whatever it may be. We claim that same privilege as Latter-day Saints, we have done so all the way through, and expect to do so as long as we live. We have a right to believe in God, to believe in Prophets, in Apostles, in the Gospel which they taught, in the revelations of God and their fulfillment.

I suppose we shall have an election tomorrow. Of course you know it is treason for an Apostle, for an Elder, or a Prophet to refer to politics. That is the way it is looked upon by the world; but I would say to the Latter-day Saints—those of you who go to the polls—labor for peace; do not create any disturbance; and should any disturbance occur in this city, let it be with somebody else; do not let it be with the Latter-day Saints. We do not wish to take the rights of any man away, spiritually, temporally, politically, or in any other capacity. Every man has a right to vote as he pleases, to pray as he pleases, to believe in God if he pleases, to renounce religion or to obey it; because he is responsible to God and not to his fellow-men with regard to his acts any further than he trespasses upon those around him. I say, God bless you. Let us be true and faithful. Zion will arise, the glory of God will rest upon her, the Kingdom of God will be established upon earth.

We expect to obey the laws of our country until He comes whose right it is to reign. We do not expect to set up any kingdom nor to turn aside

from those laws at all. We profess to belong to the spiritual Kingdom of God which will be built up, and when Christ comes He will be the King, and will reign not only over America, but over all the earth. Great and mighty judgments await this generation and will overtake the people "as a thief in the night." Where are the governors, the judges, and the mobs that put to death Joseph Smith and others? They are in the Spirit world. Where are the governors who have taken part in the matters of "Mormonism?" A great measure of them are in the Spirit world. We shall all follow them and meet with others who have also gone before on the other side of the veil. When we come to judgment we shall be in another sphere. We shall be where the laws of the land wherein we dwell today do not have jurisdiction, and presidents, rulers, governors, with ourselves, will then have to give an account of the deeds done in the body.

Let us be faithful to our country, to our God, to our religion, and to those principles which God has revealed to us, which we have received, and which we know to be true.

APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW

said that fifty-four years had elapsed since he became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He embraced the principles of the Gospel when a boy, and from that time until the present he had endeavored to be faithful in carrying out those principles which God had clearly revealed unto him. Although he had passed through some very singular scenes, and been placed in positions requiring supernatural aid, he had never had occasion to regret the course which he had taken as marked out to him by the Spirit of the Most High.

As has been remarked by President Woodruff, God has always been unpopular with the world. His dispensations have been sparsely received; but it has always been the case that those who have observed faithfully the commandments of God and those principles which He has revealed for the salvation and glory of men have come out successfully. So it has been in the past, and so it will be in the future with those Latter-day Saints who faithfully follow the dictates of the Holy Spirit and keep God's commandments. It matters not what obstacles may be placed in our path as a Church, as a body of people, or as individuals, if we do our duty honestly and conscientiously we will succeed.

At the present time some of the people here in Salt Lake City seem to be considerably excited and burdened with great anxieties. It is not the first time that the Latter-day Saints have been placed in circumstances of this nature. At different periods since our history began these things have arisen. We have found ourselves in the most critical condition, the same as were the children of Israel, and naught but the power of the Almighty could have opened a door of escape.