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## REVELATION AND PRIESTHOOD.

*Discourse delivered at the General Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday, Oct. 5th, 1895, by*

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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I share, in common with my hearers, the blessed instructions incident to another general Conference. My spirit is refreshed, cheered, strengthened and encouraged in the way of life. I am glad that our neighbors from the states and territories round about have taken it into their hearts to come and enjoy a pleasant time with songs and music, and of hearing the performances incident to our first great Eisteddod. I would be pleased, and I know my coadjutors, my brethren and sisters, would be pleased, if our visitors, in coming to entertain us with their musical festival, might be entertained by us in turn, and we be able to do them some good by imparting to them knowledge of the principles in which we believe, and in the practice of which we have been led to gather together here to make this place so acceptable as a point of attraction in the midst of this, that was fifty years ago, the great American desert.

The principles of our faith which lie at the foundation of our existence as a people, have been presented this morning very plainly, forcibly and ardently—principles that have taken hold of us in our various nativities. When they were expounded to us, we had no way of disputing them, as honest men and women, but to embrace them and make them, through life the code of our salvation. I think we have one among us to day who has labored, and traveled so many years to preach the Gospel, that if all those who had heard him testify and preach the truth to them had received it with the same honest, earnest purpose as he received it, the knowledge of this Gospel would now have spread to all the enlightened nations of the earth, and all men would have had an opportunity by this time to believe the same glorious principles that we believe in. That man is President Wilford Woodruff, who has spent his life in preaching this Gospel. I once heard President Young say that he believed that if all who had heard him preach the Gospel had received it as he received it when he heard it, and had taken hold with the same interest and energy to keep the commandments of God themselves and teach others to do so, the Gospel might then have reached to all the nations of the earth, and they have been made partakers of its blessings and its privileges. But the

fact is, the people of the earth are so bound up in the traditions of the fathers that they do not appreciate this matter. They have been taught by their religious teachers—for whom they entertained the highest regard—that the heavens were so effectually sealed up, that we were to have no more revelation. It has been awfully true that the heavens have been closed as concerning the revelations of God's will, for some fourteen hundred years past, while the famine for the word of the Lord has prevailed, and a woe it has been to all the inhabitants of the earth to be thus shut out from the revelations of God and the power of His ministering Priesthood, and made only to depend upon a written book, called a Bible for salvation. The Church of the Living God has never been conducted on the earth by writings alone, or by books, parchments, or records of any kind. Take the Bible and all the holy books that have ever been written,—can they baptize you for the remission of sins? Have they got the power to administer the Holy Ghost to us? Can they institute a single ordinance? They can tell us what others have done; but they cannot confer the authority, nor administer the ordinances of the Gospel to us. It has taken no less than the real, living authority, direct from heaven, to confer this power by which we have carried the Gospel to the nations, and gathered the people so that at present we have people of about twenty five different languages located here in Utah, from as many, or more different nations.

Inasmuch as this is the case, it may be interesting to know how we have come by our Revelations and this Priesthood. Right at the door of this dispensation and the principle of revelation, lies a stumbling block to the people, because of the Book of Mormon. "A bible a bible a golden bible!" they cry.

I want to tell you in regard to the popular story that has gone abroad in the world viz, that this Book of Mormon was made up by one Solomon Spaulding, who wrote a novel, that our leaders have preserved and discovered the novel Mr. Spaulding wrote, and which they claim Sydney Rigdon got hold of and published as the Book of Mormon. That romance of Mr. Spaulding's we have obtained and had published in full, and if any of you want to examine it, you can have it and read it for yourself. You can also read the Book of Mormon, and see whether the one resembles the other. And if you want to see the original manuscript of Mr. Spaulding's, apply to the president of the Oberlin Institute in Ohio, and you can get as close an examination of it as anybody likes to make. I say this to clear away the underbrush from the investigations of the Book of Mormon.

The Lord hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth and hath determined the times before appointed and the bounds of the habitation of the children of men, that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us. Acts 17: 26; 27.

What shall we think of the inhabitants of this half of the world? The Bible gives account of people that lived on the other half of the globe. It gives an account of the creation of the world, and then a very short account of the existence of the people who lived before the flood. It also gives us some account concerning the times of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the growth of Israel until they became a people, and the Lord's dealings with them in their prosperity and blessing and whenever they turned away from Him, of His afflicting and chastising hand. It also gives an account of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; how angels were sent beforehand to let the people know that the Savior was coming; that John the Baptist was going to prepare the way for Him; and so down through the Gospel, and epistles, until its last great work by John the Revelator, recording the grandest vision that we have any account of in divine writ. This Bible is a book written by and of people of the other half of the globe. This half was shut out, and it has become a subject of speculation by a great many people who the original inhabitants of this part of the world were. Some say they are the ten tribes of Israel, and some say one class and some another.

The Book of Mormon is the Bible of the American continent. It gives an account of the dealings of the Lord with the people that lived on this half of the globe. It informs us that, when the language was confounded at Babel, there were a couple of men who knew God and who had His favor, that did not go into idolatry as the mass of people did, but united and asked God that he would not confound their language, so that they and their few friends and relatives might be able to understand each other. The Lord heard them and granted them that prayer, and He told them if they would hearken to His words He would lead them to a land where they could live and grow up and cultivate His everlasting love and blessing. He led them on to this land, and the names of these two men were, Mahonri and Jared. They came over to this country in those early days from the land of Shinar. They were wise men, great men, had excellent families, and were first class stock to begin to populate one-half of the earth. They feared the Lord, they walked in His ways, and they brought with them the manners and customs of