

a voice from the bowels thereof, saying, Woe, woe is me, the mother of men! I am pained, I am weary, because of the wickedness of my children! When shall I rest and be cleansed from the filthiness which has gone forth out of me? When will my Creator sanctify me, that I may rest, and righteousness for a season abide upon my face?" And when Enoch heard the earth mourn, he wept and cried unto the Lord, saying, "O Lord, wilt thou not have compassion upon the earth?"

And it came to pass that Enoch cried unto the Lord, saying, "When the Son of Man cometh in the flesh, shall the earth rest? I pray thee, show me these things."

Then the Lord proceeds to show Enoch the coming of the Son of Man to die in order that the world might be redeemed.

And Enoch said: "I ask thee if thou wilt not come again on the earth."

And the Lord said unto Enoch—now, here is a very important prophecy:

"As I live, even so will I come in the last days, in the days of wickedness and vengeance, to fulfil the oath which I made unto you concerning the children of Noah; and the day shall come that the earth shall rest, but before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve; and righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; His resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men; and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my Tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem. And the Lord said unto Enoch Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there, and we will receive them into our bosom, and they shall see us; and we will fall upon their necks, and they shall fall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other; and there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; and for the space of a thousand years shall the earth rest."

This promise and prophecy the Almighty made unto Enoch concerning the building up of Zion in the last days, concerning the building of this city of which I have spoken, the counterpart of the city of Enoch, and concerning a people who are to be redeemed by the same principles as those which saved Enoch and his people in days of old. This is the day in which this is to take place; this the people upon whose shoulders

God has laid this great, this sublime and glorious mission. Yet five thousand years passed away and no man came forth declaring the fulfilment of this word of God. The Christ came, the prophets came, singing, prophesying of Zion, telling of a time to come when "the law should go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." But no man came forth declaring the fulfilment of what God had spoken to the Prophet Enoch. But there did come a man eventually, in the early part of this century, announcing the advent of the great work of building up the Zion of the last days. He was hooted at, derided, despised and hated, and finally was put to death for his testimony. But he sealed his testimony with his blood, and made it of full effect upon this generation. Among the things which the Prophet Joseph declared, less than one year after this Church was organized, was the fulfilment of the prediction contained in the word of the Lord to Enoch. Here is what the Lord said to Joseph:

"Wherefore I the Lord have said 'Go ye out from the eastern lands'—that is from where the Church was scattered at that time, in New York, Pennsylvania, and other places—"assemble ye yourselves together ye Elders of my Church; Go ye forth into the western countries, call upon the inhabitants to repent, and inasmuch as they do repent, build up Churches unto me;

"And with one heart and with one mind"—the same requirement made of the people of Enoch—"gather up your riches that ye may purchase an inheritance which shall hereafter be appointed unto you;

"And it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the Saints of the Most High God;

"And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, inasmuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion.

"And it shall come to pass, among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety."

You see from this what is coming upon the earth—the spirit of strife and disunion will go on till it reaches the extent that neighbor will rise against neighbor, and there will be no safety outside of Zion—"the land of peace, the city of refuge;" and they who will not take up the sword to fight against their neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety. We have been told by our Prophets in this day—President Young, President Kimball and others—that

the day would come when many from afar would snatch a little bundle or sack, and start for Zion afoot, in order to escape the terrible judgments that were coming. Joseph Smith saw in vision, the sufferings of the ungodly; mothers murdering their own children, fathers seeking the lives of their sons—"blood, fire, and vapors of smoke;" and so horrible was the picture presented to his view, that he cried unto God to close the vision, as it was too much for mortal eyes to endure. But to continue:

"And there shall be gathered unto it out of every nation under heaven, and it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another.

"And it shall be said among the wicked, Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible."

Terrible, for what? For bayonets, for cannon, for the sword? No. Terrible for their righteousness. We are told that "the righteous are bold as a lion," while "the wicked flee when no man pursueth." No, it is not by means of carnal weapons, nor by wealth, nor by the power of the arm of flesh, that God's people will be preserved, but it will be by fasting and prayer, by faith and good works, by the practice of principles of virtue and truth, by shaking ourselves free from the trammels and shackles of sin, of selfishness, of fraud, of deception, of crookedness and hypocrisy, of error and evil in all their forms. This is what will make the people powerful; they will be a terror to the ungodly by reason of their righteousness, and God will fight their battles. He will thunder from the heights of Zion with the artillery of His Holy Spirit; with that power He will thresh the nations; by the words of His mouth will He cause the earth to tremble, and by the breath of His lips will He slay the wicked. You need not fear that God will call upon you to fight the battles of Zion. He will fight them in His own way.

"And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy."

This prophecy was delivered in the month of March, 1831. In the summer of the same year, a colony of Latter-day Saints left Kirtland, which was then the headquarters of the Church, and journeyed to the southwest, a distance of over a thousand miles. They halted in the western confines of the State of Missouri, which was then the nation's frontier, bordering on a wilderness, inhabited by wild beasts and savages, and