

more inspiration and revelation than we have. We want our souls to be wide open to the things of God, and to understand our position and destiny. I realize, Latter-day Saints require at my hands, as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, many things. They also require many things at the hands of my counselors and these Apostles. We can accomplish what is required of us if we have the faith and the assistance of the Latter-day Saints and the power of God; but without that we can do nothing.

I will say a few words with regard to another dispensation. The whole Christian world profess to believe in the Bible. You look through that book, and you will not find a single instance of a Prophet, or an Apostle, or an inspired man going forth to preach the Gospel except by the power of the holy and everlasting Priesthood. No man has had power to go forth and administer in the ordinances of salvation without that Priesthood, from Adam down. Father Adam was a great High Priest. So were his sons that were with him—Seth, Enos, Jared, Canaan, Mahalaleel, Enoch and Methuselah; and a great many others bore the holy Priesthood. All that Moses did was by the power of the holy Priesthood. All that Jesus Christ and the Apostles did was by the power of the Priesthood. Jesus Christ was our great High Priest, and He came into the world and laid down His life as a great sacrifice for the redemption of the world. It is that dispensation that I wish to say a few words about. It was rather a peculiar dispensation. The Savior came to the Jewish nation—to His own—through the loins of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and David. The Jewish nation rejected Him. He labored until they put Him to death. He lived only three years and a half after He entered the ministry. He lived long enough, however, to choose twelve Apostles, to organize a church, to warn that nation, and to declare unto them what would come upon their heads. Moses had also told the Jewish nation of these things in his day, by the inspiration of the Lord. Has one jot or tittle fallen unfulfilled? Not one. When the Savior suffered that ignominious death on the cross, and was about to give up the ghost, He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Is not that a strange saying for a man who was being crucified and about to go into the spirit world? But Jesus saw everything that would befall the Jewish nation, and well might He make such a remark. He saw that one thousand eight hundred years after His death this yoke of bondage and trial and tribulation would rest upon the posterity of Judah, and he was ready to forgive them. No, they did not know what they did. They did not comprehend it. They did not understand that they were putting to death their Shiloh—the king of the Jews, their great Redeemer. They were too overwhelmed with darkness and iniquity to comprehend this. But, as I was saying, Jesus chose twelve Apostles. They were fishermen, weak and illiterate. But the Lord has always chosen the weak things of this world, instead of the great, and the learned, and the rich,

and the powerful of the earth. Why has He done it? That He might have instruments that He could handle—men who would obey Him, who would take His counsel and carry out His commandments. In preparing this dispensation in which we live the Lord has known perfectly well what lay before us. He has known the mighty events that were to be heaped upon the heads of both Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner, Zion and the world; and He has prepared an element to do this work of His, which He has gathered here in the mountains of Israel. But in the days of the Savior it was a dispensation of sacrifice; and Jesus Christ and the Apostles only lived a little while after they were chosen, to warn the nation in which they dwelt and that generation. Jesus Christ was crucified, the Apostles were put to death, and most every man who bore the Priesthood was slain, excepting John the Revelator. The Lord had ordained him to live, and he did not die, but remains today upon the face of the earth, in fulfillment of the promises of God to him. But in that day they had not the privilege of building the Zion of God or the Kingdom of God. It was not a dispensation prepared for that. These men laid down their lives, and the judgments of God overtook the Jewish nation, in fulfillment of the predictions of the Savior and the Prophets. Moses told them in his day, "And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the Lord thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee." All this came to pass, and the kingdom was taken from the earth, the holy Priesthood was taken up to God, who gave it, and the Church went into the wilderness, and there remained until the day set for its restoration to the world.

But I want to speak more particularly about this great and last dispensation, in which the Lord has said, through the mouths of all the patriarchs and prophets, a mighty work should be performed. It is different, my brethren and sisters, from the days of the Savior. I do not believe there ever was a greater dispensation than the one in which you and I live, because in it is centered the fulfillment of all prophecy and all revelation that has been manifest looking to the final restoration of all things before the coming of the Son of Man. I want to speak of our condition today before the Lord. When the Savior died He went to preach to the spirits in prison. Most all the people from the days of Noah to that day had died without the Gospel, and Jesus went and preached to them. They had this work resting upon them in that day. In this day and generation we have in the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants the history of the Latter-day Saints and of the world. You are my witnesses today that this people are here in fulfillment of these revelations and prophecies. We have had a Prophet raised up in these last days, as great a Prophet as ever breathed the breath of life, save Jesus Christ, and He was raised up for the purpose of laying the foundation of this work. And how is this dispensation and this work to commence? I would like to have the

Christian world read the revelations of St. John. There you have before you a picture of what awaits this generation. You have there proclaimed that in the commencement of this great and last work in the last days an angel of God would fly through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth, "and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come." Yes, ye Latter-day Saints, the hour of God's judgment is come." The Lord raised a great Prophet unto us. He was a mighty man, although illiterate, in one sense of the word. The Lord called upon him to perform this work, and he not only received the visitation of angels, but even the voice of God. This is the only dispensation that I have ever read of in which the Father and Son both appeared to the man whom He had chosen to establish His Church. Joseph Smith received this great honor. He was a Prophet of God. I have traveled with him a good many miles. Speaking of the gifts and graces manifested by the Elders of Israel, I have seen Joseph Smith in one day go forth among the sick and command those that were dying to arise and be made whole, and they have leaped from their beds, been clothed, and walked out in the street and followed the Prophet of God in his travels through the midst of the Saints of God. Can I doubt this work? Can you doubt it? I think not. No man that has had any experience in this work can doubt it. You remember Brother Fordham. He was breathing his last breath of life when the Prophet took him by the hand and commanded him in the name of Jesus of Nazareth to arise and be made whole. He leaped from his bed, was clothed, and walked out and into the house of Brother Joseph Bates Noble, who is still living in these mountains. He was also lying at the point of death and was instantly healed by the power of God, through the voice of the Prophet of God. I name these things because I have had experience in them and have a right to mention them. The power of God was with the Prophet, from the time he was ordained to the Priesthood until he was murdered. He lived some fourteen years after he laid the foundation of this work. And when he organized this Church he organized it in its full power and glory, and every gift and grace, and every ordinance that belongs to the Church of God. Nothing was ever manifest in any age of the world but what was included in the organization of this Church. It was organized with Prophets, with Apostles, with Pastors, with Teachers, with helps and governments, with gifts and graces, and with the Melchizedek and Aaronic Priesthoods. Joseph Smith was true and faithful to death, and he was a mighty man of God, as may be seen by anyone who will read that code of revelations which he left to us—as sublime revelations as God ever gave to man.

Now, brethren and sisters, the foundation has been laid, and you are here in these mountains of Israel. Myself and others have preached to you in England, in Scotland, in Wales, in the islands of the sea and