

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, July 20, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Come, all ye sons of Zion,
And let us praise the Lord.

Prayer was offered by Elder Edward Stevenson.

The choir sang:

Gently raise the sacred strain,
For the Sabbath's come again,
That man may rest.

The Priesthood of the Ninth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER ALBARONI H. WOOLLEY

was called to address the congregation. He said that he knew he was engaged in the work of God. The Latter-day Saints are often referred to as a people with many peculiarities; we have the Gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation. We are called by some corrupt, by others fanatical, but we are not ashamed of the Gospel we have received. We differ from the Christian world generally in our understanding of the principles of salvation; we differ from them in believing the Book of Mormon as well as the Bible to be the word of God. We have more of this word than the world generally.

The Book of Mormon is a record of the ancient inhabitants of this continent, the same as the Bible is a record of the Hebrews. The Book of Mormon tells us that about 600 B. C. the Lord directed His servant Lehi and his family to migrate from Jerusalem; He led them to this continent, and they dwelt here and became a great people. A record was kept of them, and the Book of Mormon tells their history. It tells of the days of darkness and disaster at the time of the crucifixion of Christ, and of His appearance after His resurrection, and His organization of the Church on this land. It gives us many important principles that are not made plain in the Bible. In the history that it gives it states how that, about 420 A. D. the people turned to wickedness and the record was taken from their midst. This record was buried in the earth to come forth at a later day for testimony that Jesus Christ was the Son of God.

The record of which I have spoken was given to the Prophet Joseph by an angel of the Lord. Joseph had desired to know the truth, and inquired of the Lord as to the course he should pursue. His prayer was answered, and he saw the Father and the Son. He was instructed to join none of the churches of the day, as all of them were astray. The Lord told Joseph that He was about to usher in a mighty work on the earth—the fulness of the Gospel. Some years later Joseph received the record from which was taken the Book of Mormon. It was given to him by the Prophet who had buried it and

who had lived on earth about 1400 years before. This record was engraved on plates of gold. Power was given by the Lord, to Joseph Smith, to translate a portion of this record into our language, and it was done. Shortly after the translation was begun, Martin Harris took a copy of some of the characters and of the translation to two professors of languages, and they stated that the translation was correct. One of the professors gave a certificate to this effect, but when Martin Harris told him the book was sealed up, and had been received from an angel, the professor tore up the certificate, remarking that he could not read a sealed book. This was predicted by Isaiah in relation to this very matter.

The Bible foretells the coming forth of the Book of Mormon in the last days. It tells how that the children of Joseph should go to the uttermost bounds of the everlasting hills, and in the Book of Mormon is the record of the fulfilment of that prophecy. When Jesus was among His disciples at Jerusalem He said to them, "Other sheep I have that are not of this fold." He came to the house of Israel. The Book of Mormon records that Jesus said that the other sheep to whom He referred at Jerusalem were those on this continent. He also said that He would visit the lost tribes of Israel. Ezekiel, in the 37th chapter, speaks of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, or the stick of Joseph. This and the stick of Judah, the Bible, were to become one in the hands of the Lord. At the same time the Lord promised that when these two sticks should be united He would gather the children of Israel, and restore them to their own land. Thus the coming together of these sticks, or records, was to be in the gathering dispensation. Isaiah, also, in his 29th chapter, tells how the record of the people on this continent should "speak out of the ground." Thus we find the fulfilment of these prophecies in the coming forth of the Book of Mormon in this age.

The Lord promised that at this period of history He would perform a marvelous work and a wonder in the midst of the earth. This work is now developing. It was commenced when the Lord appeared to Joseph Smith. The principles of salvation are a wonder in the midst of the world. Those principles are being proclaimed by the Saints to-day. The Book of Mormon contains many precious things that are not fully explained in the Bible, and from it is learned the principles of truth. It bears evidence of its own truthfulness. There is also the testimony of the three witnesses to the truth of the record, testifying that the voice of God declared it to them. They saw the angel of God, and the plates, as they were turned by the angel. There is also the testimony of the eight witnesses.

I also bear testimony that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. If you exercise faith in God, repent of your sins, and are baptized, and have hands laid upon you, you will

receive the same testimony. I have read the book and the power of God made manifest to me its truth. If you pursue the course I have suggested you will also learn its correctness. I hope that if there are any of the Saints who have not read it in its entirety that they will do so, and ascertain the principles contained in it, for therein is the Gospel of life. There is yet another record to come forth—from the lost tribes of Israel. These records will be combined for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Lord.

I feel well in the Gospel of Christ, and I desire to be faithful. I believe we will have many trials, and that we may all be faithful to our God as my prayer in the name of Jesus.

ELDER GEORGE G. BYWATER

was the next speaker. He said there was much more that could be advanced in support of the position occupied by Brother Woolley. The principles of the Gospel of Christ are susceptible of being demonstrated in the experience of every true Christian. The angel who visited Joseph Smith in his early history referred to the condition of the so-called Christian world at that time. He said there were no churches on the earth that were organized according to the plan revealed by Jesus Christ. This did not imply that there were no sincere worshippers of God. When Paul delivered an address on Mars Hill he saw that the people worshipped at many altars. There was erected an altar to "the unknown God." Paul said he declared Him unto them whom they ignorantly worshipped. We believe the Christian world have it in their hearts to worship the Great Creator; and we believe, as Paul did, that they ignorantly worship Him. If they had a full knowledge of God they would have no numerous altars. There would be no dubiety in their minds, but they would worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob according to one plan, revealed from Him. We believe there are tens of thousands who ignorantly worship God, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."

There is not anywhere, outside of the Latter-day Saints, a church that does not claim that the era is past for the direct revelation of the will of God. There have been many men who have so far advanced in the doctrines of the Bible that they have comprehended that there has been a great departure on the part of Christian churches from the true doctrines of the Christian religion. In the homily of the Episcopal Church is the declaration that for 800 years or more the people had been plunged into the most abominable idolatry. Of course this had reference to the rule of papacy before the Reformation. But while we know of the great work of the reformers, we also know that it was not their privilege to restore the pure principles of Christianity. That was reserved for a later day. We live in the period when God has restored these principles, and when He has ushered in the everlasting Gospel, as it was