

DISCOURSE.

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG,
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REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

As Brother Smith and myself, with others will take our leave of this place to-morrow morning for a preaching tour through the northern settlements, we wish to say a few words. My remarks will be for all, both saint and sinner: those who are saints, those who wish to be and those who wish not to be. I will read the fifth paragraph of the seventh section of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. On referring to that place you will find the following words:

"And they who are not sanctified through the law which I have given unto you, even the law of Christ, must inherit another kingdom, even that of a terrestrial kingdom, or that of a telestial kingdom. For he who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom, cannot abide a celestial glory; and he who cannot abide the law of a terrestrial kingdom, cannot abide a terrestrial glory; he who cannot abide the law of a telestial kingdom, cannot abide a telestial glory; therefore he is not mete for a kingdom of glory. Therefore he must abide a kingdom which is not a kingdom of glory."

These words set forth the fact to which Jesus referred when He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions." How many I am not prepared to say; but here are three distinctly spoken of: the celestial, the highest; the terrestrial, the next below it; and the telestial, the third. If we were to take the pains to read what the Lord has said to His people in the latter days, we should find that He has made provision for all the inhabitants of the earth; every creature who desires, and who strives in the least, to overcome evil and subdue iniquity within himself or herself, and to live worthy of a glory, will possess one. But "in my Father's house are many mansions" says the Savior: He has prepared places for His children; but the Saints, we who have received the fullness of the gospel of the Son of God, or the kingdom of heaven that has come to earth, are in possession of those laws, ordinances, commandments and revelations that will prepare us, by strict obedience, to inherit the celestial kingdom, to go into the presence of the Father and the Son. While Jesus was here on the earth His followers inquired about His future dwelling place, for they all wanted to be with Him. Said they in effect, "where thou goest, we want to go; where thou dwellest we want to dwell;" and they said: "Where shall you live hereafter, and what will be your state and condition?" Said Jesus, in reply, "I am of the Father; I was with Him before the foundations of the world were laid; I and my Father are one, we shall live together;" and he said also, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to the lives," (it reads in our Bible "leadeth unto life," but if it were translated correctly it would be, "leadeth to the lives") "and few there be that find it."

Jesus traveled and preached, worked miracles and labored diligently by day and by night, and when He had finished how many were there to stand by Him? How many were there to believe and confess Him before the scribes and pharisees? After traveling with him and seeing him feed the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes, heal the sick and open the eyes of the blind, how many friends had He when He came to the cross? How many of His disciples were there to say: We are the disciples of this man whom you are about to crucify? They stepped out of the way. Well might Jesus say "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth to the lives, and few there be that find it." We may say, and justly too, that the conduct of His disciples was very remarkable; for, as much as they thought of their Master, and as long as they had followed Him, there was not a man to stand by him in His trying hour. It was but a few hours before that they had eaten supper with Him, when, we are told, "Jesus took the bread blessed and brake and gave to His disciples, and said 'Take and eat ye all of this'; and He took the cup saying: 'take this and drink ye all of it, this is my body in the new testament and this is my blood in the new testament.'" All this was a few hours before His crucifixion; and when His death drew near every single man, to a man, forsook Him. During His trial, probably you all, even to the children, have read the story a great many times, when Peter was accused of being one of His disciples by a damsel who sat or stood by, he denied it, saying, "it is not so, I am not one of His disciples;" and when a second time, he was accused of being one of His disciples, he said, "No, it is not so, I firmly deny it, I am not one of His disciples." And when a third time the same accusation was made he cursed and swore about it.

Now I make an application of this right here. As much as we think of that ancient name and character,—the Savior, which age and antiquity have rendered so sacred to the Christian world that they profess to revere them, compare the course His immediate followers took, with the course taken by the followers of Joseph Smith,

the Prophet of the latter days, as much as he is despised and his name ridiculed. There is scarcely any, no matter how high socially, who can speak of him with sufficient respect to call him "Mr." or "Joseph" Smith, but they generally refer to him as "Joe" Smith; yet much as he is scorned and despised, he had hundreds and thousands who would have gone to the death with him when he went to death, but Jesus found not a man. Joseph Smith, though he spent only fourteen years in presiding over this people, organizing the Church, proclaiming the gospel and receiving revelations, yet had hundreds and thousands of men and women who were ready to go to the death with him.

I wish now to look at my subject a little more, and will refer to the present condition and future prospects of the inhabitants of the earth. If we had time to read we could shew to you Latter-day Saints, that the Lord is more merciful to the people than we are. He has compassion on the works of His hands while we, through the fall, have a disposition, in common with all mankind, that is revengeful, and apt to give way to passion, wrath, malice, anger, bickering, contentions, hateful feelings, and unbecoming words. All men are subject to this; but the Latter-day Saints should be above it; and I wish to caution them, and to inform them that if they expect to enter the celestial kingdom they must overcome this weakness and the wicked dispositions they have inherited through the fall; they must subdue, and become masters of them in the name of Jesus, and become compassionate to all. I have traveled a great deal in the world; and though, through the evil that is within me, it is natural for me to contend and if I am opposed to oppose in return, and if a sharp word is spoken to me to give a sharp word back, I have done so but rarely. It is wrong, and we must subdue the inclination.

It has been mentioned here about the Saints leaving their homes and being persecuted. They may be again for aught I know; and if in the providence of God it is permitted to chasten us for our wickedness and for yielding to sin, I hope we shall be able to bear it patiently; but if the Latter-day Saints will live their religion and exercise faith in the name of Jesus, they will be able to overcome every besetting sin within themselves; and then we shall be able to overcome every foe without, and we will live and outlive all the slander, falsehood and prejudice now heaped mountain high against and around us by many individuals in the nations. We will live it down, live it into oblivion. But shall we turn away from the holy commandments of the Lord and join hands with the wicked and ungodly to make our faith popular? No, God forbid. I am happy in believing, in knowing and in proclaiming, that the Lord Almighty has so organized His Kingdom on the earth, and He so rules it that no man will have the privilege of coming into and abiding in it, and receiving a fullness of its blessings through covetousness, selfishness or any spirit of idolatry. In the contemplation of this I rejoice, and I am exceedingly glad that the Lord has so ordered it that no man can be saved in his sins, and in his iniquity. All will have to come to the Lord and be sanctified through the grace of Christ by faith in His name; without this, I am happy to say, that none can be purified, sanctified and prepared to inherit eternal glory.

Well, Latter-day Saints, will you live your religion? Sometimes I do not know about this. I see and realize so much with regard to the power of Satan on the earth, the evil propensities of mankind and the weakness of human nature, that I do not know whether the Latter-day Saints are going to abide all that will come upon them. Whip them and they will acknowledge the Lord, abuse them and they will be Saints. Have we any examples? We have. You take plenty of these who are around here, who have been in this Tabernacle, and some probably who are here to-day, and when they were in their own country, poor, distressed, with not enough to eat, scanty clothing, no house of their own to live in, not any property, not worth a chicken, and the finger of scorn pointed at them from Monday morning until Saturday night, and they would go weeping through the streets bearing precious seed, and declare that "the gospel is true, Jesus has spoken from the heavens, the angel has flown through the midst of heaven and delivered the gospel to the children of men, the kingdom of God is set up, the word of the Lord is within me and I am ready to declare it to the people;" and they would go weeping week after week, month after month and year after year in their poverty and wretchedness; but bring them here and put them in a condition to gather around them a few hundreds or thousands, and they will lift their heel against the Almighty; and when I think of this I do not know how many of the Latter-day Saints will apostatize. Let us be in a condition now, if we could step forward directly into a position in which we should be equal with our neighbors, equal with the corruptions of this world, equal with the wicked and we would have praise and popularity. I am glad it is not so. If we could have the favor of the wicked world, and have the blessings heaped upon us and be fostered as other people, communities and territories are, probably it would lead away a great many. It is all right now. If we will bear all

these things and be patient, and live our religion whether we have enough to eat or half enough; whether we have a good house to dwell in, or we live in tents, wagons or in dens and caves, and love the Lord and delight to do His will and walk humbly before Him, and overcome every passion and evil propensity, and subdue the old man within us that Christ may live within us,—the new man to His glory, we will inherit celestial glory. But no person will be sanctified without the law,—the law which the Lord has given, will be observed by few comparatively when we take into account the vast numbers who have lived on the face of the earth. There is no prospect, whatever, of multitudes of them being sanctified by the law of Christ. What we shall do for them in the Millennium it is not for me to say altogether. We shall do a great deal; there is no question about it. It is a matter of great rejoicing, and should bring forth gratitude from the hearts of the whole world of mankind, that the Lord has promised a day of rest. The day will come when Jesus will rule, King of nations as He now does King of saints, and this glorious rest, that the saints have been looking for, for thousands and thousands of years, from the days of Adam until now, will arrive. They have been looking for the absent body, just as John the Revelator says: he saw the souls under the altar crying "how long O Lord?" We are waiting for the absent body, how long shall we look for it? It will come again by and by, and the spirit and the body will be re-united; but how many will be prepared to enter the celestial kingdom unless they are officiated for it is not for me to say. But if we preserve ourselves in the truth, and live so that we shall be worthy of the celestial kingdom, by and by we can officiate for those who have died without law,—the honest, honorable, good, truthful, virtuous and pure. By and by it will be said unto us, "Go ye forth and be baptized for them, and receive the ordinances for them;" and the hearts of the children will be turned to the fathers who have slept in their graves, and they will secure to them eternal life. This must be, lest the Lord come and smite the earth with a curse. The children will go forth and revive this law for those who have slept for thousands of years who died without the law. Jesus will prepare a way to bring them up into His presence. But were it not for the few who will be prepared here on the earth to officiate when the Lord shall come to reign King of nations, what would be the condition of the world? They would sleep and sleep on; but the way is prepared for their redemption.

Now, those who cannot abide the law of the celestial kingdom can not abide the glory of a celestial kingdom. All Christians are looking for celestial glory, but can they abide it? They can not; it would consume them, for "our God is a consuming fire." They think they could abide a celestial kingdom; but they could not. They will have to abide another kingdom and another glory, according to the lives they lead and the knowledge they possess here. When we look at it, we should have compassion and we should be charitable. I want to say: a great many priests have been here and I have spoken before them; if there be any here to-day I say to them and to every priest on the face of the earth, I do not care whether they be Christian, Pagan or Mahomedan, you should live according to the best light you have; and if you do you will receive all the glory you ever anticipated. We should not be prejudiced against you in the least; even if you are against us and declare falsehoods about us we should not retaliate. But how prone we are to rebuke if we are rebuked, or if we receive a sharp word to return one. The Latter-day Saints have to overcome this; and the world may cry out and say all manner of evil against us, but, my brethren and sisters, let us so live that it will be said falsely. If we do this, happy are we; but if truthful, woe be to the Latter-day Saints! Let all evil spoken of the people called Latter-day Saints be falsely spoken, as some that I heard a week to-night. Shall I mention it? How quickly "old Adam" rose within me, when the gentleman speaking pointed his finger, and said "you murderers!" And I thought "will you not prove it?" I did not say a word; I thought about it a minute, and concluded that it was not worth noticing. He did not say you "Latter-day Saints," but his congregation was mainly composed of Latter-day Saints, and said he "You murderers!" Could he prove this? No, no, he could not. Could any man prove it? Not that man that lives on the face of the earth; it cannot be proved. Why? Because the Saints are free and clear from the crime, that is the reason. Let the evil they speak of us be just as false as that was when they were going to bring us all to judgment!

I believe I will venture to say a little further. The gentleman said all would be brought to judgment, and said he "you who have two wives will be there?" I thought to myself "glory alleluia, we shall be along with you father Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and with Moses and the prophets." I do not wish to say one word to cast a reflection whatever; but pity, pity! Open the Bible and read from Genesis to Revelations, and the whole amount of the Christian religion, and all that they can teach and tell is "Come to Christ, come to Christ!" Why, certainly, that is right. Come to Christ, and with it forsake our sins, and when we do this, keep the com-

mandments of Christ and fulfill the law just as He did. Said He, "I come not to destroy the law but to fulfill it;" and He declared that every jot and tittle thereof should be fulfilled. Now pardon me, but if I am a Saint my heart would be filled with pity, oh, how pitiful, and yet I could say, and with justice and truth, though it might sound harshly to the ears of some, "O, fools and slow of heart to believe" all that is written of Jesus and the prophets, of the latter-day work, of the millennium, of the coming forth of the kingdom of God upon the earth, of the cleansing and revolutionizing of the inhabitants of the earth and preparing them for the coming of the Son of Man! I could say to the whole Christian world justly, "O fools and slow of heart to believe what is written in the Bible and other books concerning these things."

I say "other books," for we believe in other books as well as the Bible; but do we on that account believe in an untruth? No. I heard something this morning about our religion being vulgarly called "Mormonism." I say not vulgarly called so. Mormon was a good man, and he is in heaven, or in a good place at any rate; and the Book of Mormon is named after him, and we believe it. What does the word "Mormon" mean? In the strict sense, and as it was translated by the ancients, it means more good. Mormon, more good; and Mormonism embraces all the truth that there is in heaven and on the earth; and if there is any in hell it belongs to us. Every truth in the sciences and in the arts, and all the knowledge that God has given to man in mechanism, and in fact on the earth, which is but a small speck among the creations of God, and the whole universe, all is incorporated in and constitutes what the world call "Mormonism." If we have errors, and seeing that we are just like other people, it is natural to suppose that we are not free from them, they should be overcome. There is no other people on the face of the earth that have the law of God as the Latter-day Saints have it. They believe in the ordinances of the house of God, they believe in the laws that the Lord has revealed for the salvation of the children of men. All these holy ordinances are embraced in our faith. We try to live according to them, and that too strictly; and when aught is said against us I only ask my brethren and sisters to live so that it will be said falsely,—live so as to be guiltless,—be innocent, full of faith, good works, charity, love, long-suffering, patience, godliness and brotherly kindness. If we fill up our lives with these good works, happy are we, no matter where other people go or what they say or do; or whether they ever give us our rights according to their estimation or according to ours. If we do this God will give us our rights. We live in peace, and prosper, and live in hope; and if we do our duty we shall live down every obstacle, every opposing foe, every opposite spirit and influence that is raised against us as a nation or as nations; and live, as I hope will be our constant aim, so as to glorify God. Not to gain the flatteries and fellowship of the world, for I would not give a snap of my finger for them; for as the world is I want not their fellowship. I should have their good feelings! Why? Because I do nothing only to do them good. There is not a professed Christian on the face of the earth, but what, if he knew what we know, would pray for the Latter-day Saints. Why? Because we have the keys of salvation to the children of men, which have been restored to the earth by the Almighty in these latter days, and we are doing everything we possibly can for their salvation.

Talk about persecution, why that only comes from those who hate the truth. When falsehood is spoken against this people, no matter by whom, whether priest or people, it comes from a foul, wicked heart. Some say we are all wicked. Yes, we are all wicked; but we should not allow our tongues to utter forth many things that are uttered. We are not pure enough yet; we are not holy, we are not sanctified; no the Latter-day Saints are not sanctified, and if any person thinks that we, as a people, are a pattern for the human family, we would just refer him and all mankind to the commandments and revelations which the Lord has given for the salvation of His creatures; they are perfect but we are imperfect. We are trying to be perfect, and trying to sanctify the Lord God in our hearts, and to honor His name, character and laws, and to spread them as far as we possibly can to the east, west, north and south and to gather up all that will be gathered into the celestial kingdom; but to shake hands with the world and fellowship them, no, not in the first place they will not fellowship us, and in the next place we cannot fellowship them. We will fellowship every good word and every good thought and every good deed; but we can not fellowship them in rebelling against the truth.

Speaking of persecutions, neglects, slights and insults, was it an insult for the President of the United States, after calling upon our men to redeem this land from a foreign government, which we did so far as the whole of Upper California is concerned, for it was acquired by the Latter-day Saints from the Mexican government; and over it we hoisted the American flag, and have maintained it ever since; and then for our Chief Magistrate to make war upon the people who had actually added so much to the public domain and placed it under the banner and flag of their govern-

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