

intentions and designs. And to this day his memory is not vindicated: his life stands blackened by the lies that Satan succeeded in disseminating throughout the earth.

Now, we know that Joseph Smith was a man of God. We know that he was a pure man. We know that his character was white, and there was no blackness attached to him. Yet this man, whose life was filled with labors for the benefit and salvation of his fellow men—this man who endured everything that human nature could endure to save his fellow man, was stricken down in this manner by the power of Satan! And he is only a type of hundreds of others who have been slain for the testimony of Jesus; not all slain by violence, but all martyred for the truth, because of the cruelty of the wicked. The pathway of this Church can be known by the graves of the men, women and children who have fallen victims to the violence of the wicked. In this territory also many, many souls have gone down to death because of the inhumanity of men to the Latter-day Saints.

Now, my brethren and sisters, Satan is not dead. I do not know whether you have got the idea up here that he no longer lives. If you have, let me advertise this morning that he still lives. Let me tell you that he has lost none of his animosity nor his murderous inclinations and his lying tendencies. They are just as strong within him today and within those who will listen to him and be influenced by his spirit. We deceive ourselves if we imagine for one moment that he has changed in the least degree in his hatred towards the work of God or in his determination to use every means in his power to thwart the purposes of our God and His Son Jesus.

While Brother Brigham Young was talking, I thought I would turn to a passage or two that suggested themselves to my mind. You doubtless remember that there was a great change wrought among the Nephites by the sign that had been predicted by the prophets, particularly by Samuel the Lamanite, concerning the birth of Christ. Whereas just before the birth of the Savior they had set a day for the destruction of those who believed in the coming of the Savior, when that great sign was given, their hearts were changed; and the historian makes this record:

And it came to pass that thus passed away the ninety and fifth year also, and the people began to forget those signs and wonders which they had heard, and began to be less and less astonished at a sign or a wonder from heaven, inasmuch that they began to be hard in their hearts, and blind in their minds, and began to disbelieve all which they had heard and seen.

Imagining up some vain thing in their hearts, that it was wrought by men, and by the power of the devil, to lead away and deceive the hearts of the people; and thus did Satan get possession of the hearts of the people again, inasmuch that he did blind their eyes, and lead them away to believe that the doctrine of Christ was a foolish and a vain thing.

And it came to pass that the people began to wax strong in wickedness and abominations; and they did not believe that there should be any more signs or wonders given; and Satan did go about, leading away the hearts of the people, tempting them and causing them that they should do great wickedness in the land.

A little later on another record of the same character is given:

But it came to pass in the twenty and ninth year, there began to be some disputings among the people; and some were lifted up unto pride

and boastings, because of their exceeding great riches, yea, even unto great persecutions;

For there were many merchants in the land, and also many lawyers, and many officers.

And the people began to be distinguished by ranks, according to their riches, and their chances for learning; yea, some were ignorant because of their poverty, and others did receive great learning because of their riches;

Some were lifted up in pride, and others were exceeding humble; some did return railing for railing, while others would receive railing and persecution, and all manner of afflictions, and would not turn and revile again, but were humble and penitent before God;

And thus there became a great inequality in all the land, inasmuch that the church began to be broken up; yea, inasmuch that in the thirtieth year the church was broken up in all the land, save it were among a few of the Lamanites, who were converted unto the true faith; and they would not depart from it, for they were firm, and steadfast, and immovable, willing with all diligence to keep the commandments of the Lord.

Then the historian tells us:

Now the cause of this iniquity of the people, was this, Satan had great power, unto the stirring up of the people to do all manner of iniquity and to the puffing them up with pride, tempting them to seek for power, and authority, and riches, and the vain things of the world;

And thus Satan did lead away the hearts of the people, to do all manner of iniquity; therefore they had not enjoyed peace but a few years.

Brethren and sisters, Satan is the same today that he was then; and when he fills the children of men with a love for the things of the world, with a love of office, a greed for power, beware of it! beware of it, Latter-day Saints! for I tell you as a servant of God, those who do so, if they do not take care, will be led down to destruction. This lying spirit of which I have spoken is now among this people. All manner of lies are being told about the authorities of the Church. President Woodruff, President Smith, myself, and some of the Twelve Apostles are lied about until we are made to appear very wicked and even here abominable falsehoods are circulated concerning us. If that spirit were to be widely indulged in, it might lead to the shedding of our blood, just as it led to the shedding of the blood of others that have preceded us. Now I want to say to you that these accusations are false. I bear that testimony to you today for myself. And the First Presidency have not done the evil things which many accuse them of doing. Our conduct has been neither wicked nor dishonorable as some have alleged it has been. We have not sought to unite Church and State. We have not sought to interfere with the liberties of our brethren or of any other persons. We have done nothing of this kind, in any form; and those who say we have tell that which is untrue.

I want to warn you, my brethren and sisters, about this lying spirit that has gone out. It is dangerous. Those who indulge in it and those who believe these things, if they are not careful, will lose the faith, and the Spirit of God will withdraw itself from them; for a lying spirit and the Spirit of God cannot dwell together in the same breast. Men who tell lies, men who circulate lies, and men who believe lies, cannot have the Spirit of God reigning in their hearts. We should therefore be very careful about these things. Newspapers, magazines and books which contain lies and which slander and defame the work and people of God I will not read. I do not want to read falsehood; I do not want my children to read falsehood. I

have heard people say many times, 'Let us hear what they say about us;' and they read works filled with misrepresentations of the work of God. Did you ever read such a work without the Spirit of God being grieved within you? I never did. When I was quite young I made up my mind that I would not allow my mind to be contaminated by reading that which I knew to be falsehood. I would not read anything of that kind. I knew the truth; God had revealed it, and I was in possession of it. I knew the character of the servants of God; and I would not read nor listen to anything derogatory to the servants of God or to the work of God. I have not done this through my life, and with God's help I will not do it; and as far as I have power, I will not have it in my family. I try to teach my children to keep aloof from it.

The case of a strong, eloquent man whom I knew intimately and with whom I labored in the ministry in more than one field comes to my mind. He was one whom I esteemed and revered as I would a father. But this man fell into darkness and lost the faith and was cut off from the Church. In reviewing what I knew of his life I remembered that I had noticed his indifference concerning the Book of Mormon and the revelations of the Lord to the Church and that he seldom, if ever, read them. But he had a fondness for reading works on Spiritualism. He liked the language used by writers on that subject; their eloquent phrases suited him. But in perusing these works he imbibed the false doctrines they taught. Perhaps at first he did this unconsciously to himself. By degrees, however, they did their work. He dropped the truth and allowed these false teachings to take its place. It probably took years for the undermining of his belief in the truth to be accomplished. But, however slow the process may have appeared, it was sure and deadly in its effect upon him and his faith. He became spiritually dead—so dead as to be past recovery.

Is this a solitary case? No, far from this one being alone, there are hundreds, perhaps thousands like it. The minds of the people are colored by that which they hear and read, especially if they make it a pleasure to hear and read. If it be a gratification to hear and read the truth, the effect upon the character of those who seek gratification in that way is most marked. But if, on the other hand, pleasure be taken in listening to false statements, or reading works containing slanders and lies and false doctrines, the effect is most hurtful. The minds of those who do this become colored with that which is untrue, and as they continue they attach more and more importance to it until they accept errors and lies as truths.

When I do not see in houses any Book of Mormon, any Bible, any Book of Doctrine and Covenants, or any Church works for the family to read, I feel that the children are being neglected. When I see improper literature or literature that contains lies left around for children to read I feel sorrowful, because I know it will produce bad results. Children cannot read lies, nor can men and women, without their having their effect. A lie oft-told will be believed in after awhile. Men have been known to tell a lie so often that they have appeared to actually believe it themselves, perhaps because it was not contradicted. Lies