

from the products of the soil, go to Kayville, once one of the most barren places within the whole valley of Salt Lake.

So we might continue to enumerate instances of this character, in which the Lord has blessed the earth and the people who have inhabited these valleys—these once barren lands—have received the good things of the earth. They have not made it by speculation, nor by merchandising, nor by banking; but they have got it by tilling the soil, and they have reaped abundant rewards for their labors. They are possessing their homes in peace, just as the Lord said they should, and they are eating the good things of the earth, which is yielding in its strength for their sustenance. And why is this? Because, although there may be many among us who are not living as they should, and who are not magnifying the law of God; while there may be many who are derelict in their duty, who are thoughtless and faithless, and who may even be unworthy of the blessings of God, there are certainly enough, as it appears, among us who are living their religion, and who have come here with an eye single to the glory of God, according to His commandments, that they are entitled to the fulfillment of the promise that God has made, that the earth should be blessed for their sakes, and that they should eat the good things of the earth, which should yield in its strength for them. I testify to you that this is true. The Lord has blessed us throughout the lengths and breadths of the land, wherever our people have settled.

Well, but, says one, supposing these same lands had been occupied by unbelievers, would they not have been blessed as much as we have been blessed? Would not the same results have followed that were now? Why should we claim that any different results have followed the labors and the faith of the Latter-day Saints than would have followed the unbeliever?

Now, as I do not know whether the same results would have followed the unbeliever as has followed the believer, never having seen it tried or proven, I will not pretend here to say that the same results would not have followed their actions if they had come here and done the work that we have done; but this I will say: I acknowledge the hand of God in making the barren wastes fruitful. I give to my Heavenly Father the credit, the honor and the glory for my prosperity in this land, temporally as well as spiritually. We claim that the Lord Almighty has blessed these mountain valleys for the sake of His people, and I defy any man in the world to prove to the contrary. It is in this regard just as Paul expressed with respect to preaching the Gospel: Paul may plant, and Apollos may water, but verily God giveth the increase. It is God who giveth the increase after all. I believe further that when the children of Israel were obedient to the commandments of God and were subject to His law, then the land was blessed for their sakes. I believe that they enjoyed the early and the latter rains, and that the earth yielded in its strength for their sustenance. I also believe the Scriptures which testify to us that when the people of Israel paid their tithings and their offerings, and

were faithful in honoring the law of God, they had abundance for all their necessities, and they had great accumulations of wealth besides. Then the Lord prospered them, and when they went up before their enemies, their enemies fled before them, and they were conquerors. But how changed this was when they began to depart from the way of life and to desert God, who had befriended them and led them out of Egypt and planted them in the promised land! Then the rains were withheld; then the soil became ashes, as it were, under their feet; then the fruitful field became barren, and the people began to mourn and to suffer, because of the chastening hand of God that was upon them. No longer did He bless the soil that it should yield in its strength for them, and no longer did they reap in abundance the good things of the earth, because the wrath of God was upon them, and it continued upon them until they were carried away captive by their enemies. When they went out one way before their enemies, they fled before them seven. The vine cast its fruit before its time, and they were smitten with the mildew, with the rust, with the drouth, and with a devouring insect, until the Lord wasted them away. And all this because they ceased to exercise faith in God, or to live with an eye single to His glory.

Now, I believe that the same God rules today that ruled then; and I believe that He has called this people for the same purpose that He called the seed of Abraham before—that he might name His name upon us, and that He might gather together a peculiar people, a righteous people, a people whose eyes are single to the glory of God, a people who love the Lord with all their might, mind and strength, and who love their neighbor as themselves. For this is what the Lord commanded us in the revelation which I have read to you today. And I believe that the man or the woman that would deny the hand of God in blessing these valleys for the sake of the people that dwell in them would be guilty of blasphemy, and would withhold from God the credit that is due to him for his mercies to the children of men. Are not the Gentiles blessed? Yes, they are, upon all this great land. Why? Because not only is this Territory of Utah and the other surrounding territories which are occupied more or less by the Latter-day Saints, the land of Zion, but this whole continent of America is the land of Zion. It is a choice land above all others on the face of the earth. You cannot find its equal, in all respects, upon the face of the globe. I have traveled a little in the tropics and in the eastern world, but I have seen no land that can compare with this. It is a choice land. The Lord says so in His blessing, through His servant Jacob, upon the sons of Joseph, to whom this land was promised as an inheritance—an inheritance that should excel that of their brethren. It is also declared in the Book of Mormon that it is a choice land above all other lands. Furthermore, the Lord has said that no king shall rule in this land, excepting God and Christ. How truly this is verified. This land is not the birthplace of monarchs or of tyranny. It is the birthplace of freedom, the land of liberty, the land of peace, the land of plenty, a land flowing with

milk and honey. It is a God-blessed land unto all men who dwell on it, and especially to all that will honor the name of God upon it; and it is more blessed unto those that acknowledge the hand of God in all things. Surely then those that do not honor the name of God and do not acknowledge His hand in all things will share, at least in part, its blessings. The Lord says in this revelation: "And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments." If, then, the unbeliever is blessed upon this choice land, how much more blessed will the believer be if he will only be faithful, honor the name of God, and acknowledge his hand cheerfully in all things.

This is the object for which the Lord has raised up a Prophet in this dispensation. This is the object for which He has organized His Church in the midst of the children of men. It is for this reason that the Holy Priesthood has been restored to the earth. God has opened the windows of heaven and again appeared in person unto man in this age in order that the world might not go into absolute darkness in relation to Himself, but that infidelity might be stayed, that unbelief might be checked, that faith might again spring up in the hearts of the children of men, and that there might be a people gathered from every nation and from every tongue and people who would acknowledge the hand of God in all things, who would live Him with all their might, mind and strength, who would seek to love their neighbor as themselves, who would seek to do unto others as they would have others do unto them, who would seek righteousness rather than iniquity, who would bless God in their hearts and honor Him in their lives, and who would bless the earth, and ask God to bless it, and sanctify it by their good works and by their faithfulness unto the name of the Most High God.

Now, if you want the land to become more blessed, if you want to enjoy in greater abundance the good things of the earth, do better, be more righteous, be more honest before the Lord, honor His laws and keep His commandments more faithfully than you have done in the past, and the Lord will pour out more and greater blessings; for it is said here in the revelations that He designs to make us the richest of all people. The riches of the mines, the riches of the soil, the riches of our flocks and herds, as well as the riches of eternal life, which is the greatest gift of God, He has designed to bestow upon His children that will keep His commandments and honor His name. But whosoever will not do this, there will a time come when the justice of God will reach that person or people, and they will receive their reward.

Let us pause right here for a moment. We do not preach the gospel of fear. We do not seek to terrorize the souls of men. We do not ask a man to be righteous because of the terrors of the damned. We do not want you to be good because you fear the punishment of the wicked. We do not want you to do right because of the penalty