DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1906.

Permanence and Perpetuity of the Church.

Discourse by

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At the Seventy-Sixth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church Of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday, October 7, 1905.

upon this congregation. We have come here from different parts of this state and of the surrounding states and territories that we might associate as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in general conference. I feel for one that we have been well repaid for such journeyings as we have had to undertake in order to come here. The Spirit that has prevailed in conference from the very beginhas been such as to give comfort ning has been such as to give comfort and joy and confidence to the Latter-day Saints assembled, and to increase in our souls a determination that we will serve the Lord, that we will keep His commandments, that we will sustain His servants whom He has ed to guide and direct the affairs of His Church on earth, and that will place ourselves in such a con-ion that the Lord may use us for the accomplishment of His purposes, for the upbuilding of His kingdom, for the the upbuilding of this king down, for the spread of truth and righteousness, and to help prepare the way for the com-ing of Him whose right it is to reign over all the earth. I am sure that every person present who knows anyevery person present who knows any-thing about the operations of the Spir-it of the Lord has had a testimony in his or her heart that the Lord is with His servants, that His power at-tends their ministrations, and that they are really and truly engaged in the Lord's work, and not in the work of ever elarge.

man alone. A remark made by Elder John Henry Smith, I am sure was thoroughly ap-preciated by those who heard him, and recommended itself to my soul, and that was, that the Lord in the latter days was to establish a kingdom that should "not be given to another peo-" that should not be overcome of ple," that should not be overcome of the world but should stand forever and it was to be given "to the people of the Saints of the Most High," and hey should possess it for an everlasting kingdom. Now, we understood in the beginning, when we obeyed the Gospel of Christ and hecame members of this of Christ and became members of this of Christ and became members of this Church, that this promise was in rela-tion to the work in which we became engaged. That it was to be different from former dispensations. That while the establishment of the Church and kingdom of God in former times was work that it was temporary and was overcome by the powers of evil-the world, the flesh and the devil, this lat. ter-day work was to continue and ablde. That it should not cease, but that it was established here permanent-ly. We applied to ourselves the remark of the Prophet Isalah concerning the great latter-day work, that the truth which the Lord revealed to us should "not depart from us nor from our seed, nor from our seed's seed, from hence-forth, even forever." We understood that while those former dispensations that while those former dispensations only lasted for a time, and then wicked-ness came in like a flood and spread over the earth, that the dispensation of the fulness of times which the Lord ushered in through His servant Joseph Smith, was to continue and prevail over every power beneath the eternal heavens, to establish truth and righteous-ness in the earth, to overcome the pow-

It is a great pleasure to me to look explained to them, and we should be ready to expound, explain and exhort with all long-suffering, that the faith of the saints may be confirmed, and that they may understand things as they verses 4, 5.

dinances of the Lord. Our testimony is that he lived and died a prophet of God, and that he seal-ed his testimony with his blood. The Lord promised that the keys should not be taken from him while he lived, in-asmuch as he obeyed His ordinances, so when the Prophet Joseph was taken away, the keys were with him, as the Lord promised they should he hoth in are. Now, when the Lord established the Now, when the Lord established the Church, as you know, it was but a little thing. As one of the writers of the Book of Mormon said, "out of small things proceedeth that which is great." That has been fulfilled, so far, in the history of this Church. Yet this is only the beginning of the extension of the great latter-day work, which shall prevail over everything that is evil and establish the kingdom of God in all the world. When the Church was organiz-Lord promised they should be, both in this world and in the world to come. I will read a verse from the 112th Sec-tion. The Lord says: "Now, I say unto you, and what I say unto you I say unto all the Twelve, Arise and gird up your loins, take up your cross, follow me, and feed my establish the kingdom of God in all the world. When the Church was organiz-ed, only six members were present at its organization; at any rate that num-ber took part in the legal organization of the Church, and if all those who had been baptized at that time were count-ed they would make a very small num-ber. The Church gradually grew and increased. It Illustrated what the Sa-vior said in regard to the work of God. It came forth, "first the blade, and then the ear." It is a growth, as all the works of God are, so far as we can un-derstand. Even the worlds commenced with a nucleus, and they gradually ac-"Exait not yourselves; rebei not against my servant Joseph, for verily I say unto you, I am with him and my hand shall be over him; and the keys which I have given unto him, and also to youward, shall not be taken from him till I come." POWERS GIVEN TO THE APOS-TLES. Here is the promise of the Lord, not only to the Prophet Joseph Smith, but also to the Twelve, that the keys should not be taken from the Prophet until the Lord should come; for by this derstand. Even the worlds commenced with a nucleus, and they gradually ac-cumulated and grew, as God ordanned, until they filled the place that God had appointed. The kingdom of the latter days was to be like "the stone cut out of the mountain without hands," which was to grow and increase until it be-came a "great mountain and filled the whole earth." So on the 6th day of April, 1830, when the Church was for-mally organized, and the Prophet Jos-eph was accepted as the first Elder in the Church, and as a prophet, a seer and a revelator, and the people were commanded to observe all things that he brought forth by the power and Spirit of God—on that day there were not enough persons in the Church to ortime he had been tested, proved, and found worthy. As he himself said, he found worthy. As he himself said, he had been swimming in deep waters and up stream, and he had struggled against false friends and those surrounding him who professed to be his disciples, but who spoke against him and had risen up against him. Now the Lord said to him and to the Tweive, that the keys, which had been given first of all conditionally, as it were, until he should be tested and proved, should abide with him until the Lord should come, and him until the Lord should come, and with the Twelve whom He had called and appointed. Therefore, rest your with the Twelve whom He had called and appointed. Therefore, rest your souls easy in this security, that the kingdom, as the Lord says, is giv-en to His people. I might read to you a dozen passages from the Doe-trine and Covenants showing that the kingdom was given to the Church, and it was to abide and continue. The Lord said "I have sent my servants out to prune my vineyard for the last time, for behold this is the eleventh hour." His servants whom he had called into the vineyard were called for the last dispensation, and, He said, the keys should not be taken from the Prophet Joseph, for he had been tested and proved and found worthy before the Lord, before the angels and before the Church. They should not be taken from him and from the Twelve (that is the promise) "unnot enough persons in the Church to or-ganize it in its fulness. It was like the little blade that comes out of the ground after the seed is planted; but as the years rolled on the Church increased in numbers, and the Lord brought into use the different men and brought into use the different men and women who came into the Church, that they might be utilized for the purpose of spreading the Gospel and building up His kingdom in the latter days. The Lord foreshadowed that. At a certain time there were to be Twelve that should be ordained to hold the keys of carrying the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the carth. And so various quorums and organizations were added. They grew out of that organization that the Lord established in the begin-ning. The germ, the form, the potency of it was right there, but it was not de-veloped. It took time and circum-stances and people to bring it into a condition that it might be fully organ-ized according to the mind and will of the Lord. the Twelve (that is the promise) "un-til I shall come, saith the Lord." So the keys were to abide with the Church from that time henceforth, until the Lord Himself should come and reign "In Zion and Jerusalem and Feigh "In Zion and Jerusalem and before His ancients gloriously." As further evidence that this work was established for the last time, the Lord says in the thirtieth verse of the same secthe Lord.

KEYS GIVEN TO THE PROPHET JOSEPH.

"For unto you (the Twelve), and those (the First Presidency) who are appointed with you, to be your coun-In the first place, the Lord gave the Frophet Joseph Smith the direction of the Church and the keys of this latter-day work. The Lord tested and tried him, to see whether he would stand, beselors and your leaders, is the power of this Priesthood given, for the last days and for the last time, in the which is the dispensation of the fulness of times." him, to see whether he would stand, be-fore he conferred upon him the ful-ness of the power of the Holy Priest-hood to build up His kingdom in its fulness. I will read a verse or two from the 28th section of the Doctrine and Covenants, which shows how the

Here is the promise of the Lord to His servant Joseph and the Twelve that were with him, that the keys were given unto them, and they were to hold them and evanese the them and exercise them, and they were to hold them and exercise them, and they were given in the power of this Priesthood for the last time, in the last days, and for the dispensation of the fulness of times.

equal with the First Presidency-that is, when the First Presidency was dis-solved. The quorum of the Twelve came next, and they had power to set in order all the other offices in the Church. That is part of their duty, as the Lord has commanded in this section. There-fore, the Twelve came up, with Brig-ham Young at their head, the Lord hav-ing designated him by revelation to be the President of the Twelve, as you will see in Section 124 of the Doctrine and Covenants. God gave Hyrum to be the man to hold the keys, of the patriarchal blessings over the whole Church; but He gave Joseph Smith to preside over the Church, the whole Church-over Hyrum as well as the rest. He also gave him his coun-selors. Then He gave the Twelve, and He put Brigham Young at the head of the Twelve. God knew what was com-ing, and He so ordered things that Erigham stood at the head of the Twelve; and when the Prophet Joseph, and the Prophet Hyrum, the Patri-arch, were taken, the Twelve came up in their place, as the Lord had ordained. Satan then had twelve to overcome in-stead of three. Furthermore, you will Lord, that he transgressed, and there-fore another had to be appointed in his stead. In a revelation given to the Church September 11th, 1831, the Lord said: I present, my brethren and sisters. When-"I will be merciful unto you, for I have given unto you the kingdom. "And the keys of the mysteries of the kingdom shall not be taken from my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., through the means I have appointed, while he liv-eth, inasmuch as he obeyeth mine or-dinances.—Doc. and Cov. Section 64, verses 4, 5.

Here the promise was made to the Prophet Joseph Smith that he should have those keys as long as he lived, if he obeyed the commandments and or-dinances of the Lord. In their place, as the Lord had ordained. Satan then had twelve to overcome in-stead of three. Furthermore, you will find in the same revelation, in Section 107, that even if the Twelve should all be taken away, then there are Seventy to come up. It puts one in mind of the Irishman's wall. He built if five feet high and eight feet thick, and when they asked him the reason, he said tha-if the wind came and blowed it over it would be higher than it was before.

would be higher than it was before.

THE CHURCH IMPREGNABLE.

Now, as to this Church-the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints-the Lord laid its foundations broad and deep and high. He made it impreg-nable. Why? Because He had ordained in the beginning that it should be per-retual; that it should not be overcome, that it should not be overcome, retual; that it should not be overcome, that it should not be left to another people: that the keys of the priesthood should continue and abide until Christ should come and reign over the earth. So the Lord ordained, in the order of the priesthood, that when the First Presidency was dissolved, the Twelve should succeed, having all the keys, power and authority to regulate the Church and to organize the quorums. Thus it was that President Young and the Twelve conducted the affairs of the Church for some time. There was a the Twelve conducted the affairs of the Church for some time. There was a majority of the Twelve who stood faithful, who were ready to do their duty, and the Lord said that "a ma-jority may form a quorum" when it is impossible to have them all together. The vacant places were filled up in the quorum; and when the proper time came, President Young, who was a Pre-siding High Priest (so are all the Twelve-God's High Priests-a presid-ing traveling High Council), and his two counselors, were upheld and gus-tained by the vote and faith and fel-lowship of the Church, and formed the Presidency of the Church, in the way Presidency of the Church, in the way God had appointed. So it has been from that time to the

present, my brethren and sisters. When-ever a vacancy has occurred, it has been filled. For the power of growth is in the Church. The power to regu-late all its affairs is in the Church. The power to purge out all that is evil is in the Church. We need no outside pressure, or counsel, or instruction. All that is necessary is right within the Church. As we were told by Brother Lyman, it is a living thing, a living organism, quickened by the power of the Holy Spirit, and it is the word of the Lord that is proclaimed through its leaders. And so we have had the quorum of the First Presidency or-ganized according to the will and comganized according to the will and com-mandment of God from that day to the present. I restify to you, before the Lord, that the truth which God has given to this Church shall continue and abide, that the keys of the holy priest-hood sent down and of herene in the hood sent down out of herven in the last days for the last time, will not be taken away again from the earth; that as the priesthood of Aaron will remain "until the sons of Levi do offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness," he keys of the Melchisedek Priesthe shall remain and abide until Christ, who is the great High Priest shall come and stand at our head, and be our King.

ipon the hills.

NO LAPSE OR HIATUS.

I know that this truth abides in the tearts of the people; but we ought not to allow any of our friends who are not strong in the testimony to be led not strong in the testimony to be led astray by anything that may come along to lessen their faith and to weak-en them. Let us be one. We have been one in these valleys. There never was a better spirit in the Church since I have known it, and I have been a minister in it for nearly 55 years. I know that the Spirit of God is with this people, and I have never enloyed know that the Spirit of God is with this people, and I have never enjoyed it better than I have during this con-ference. The Spirit of the living God has been present and inspired the ut-terances of those who have spoken, and they have found a place in the hearts of the people. The Saints have re-joiced. Why? Because the Lord is with us. My meethrem and states this with us. My brethren and sisters, this is His work, not the work of man, and He will cause it to prevail. How ab-surd it would be for the Lord, after He had established His Church on fourdations of perpetuity, to allow it to lapse, to remain dormant for a number of years, when the very keys that He ind given that the Church might be berpetuated were still held by the I'welve and the brethren associated with them. The idea that the Lord vould allow the Church to go to sleep and into darkness when He had de-clared it should stand forever, would e folly. But the Lord has been with His people and with His servants. Do we not know that the Lord was with We not know that the Lord was with Brother Brigham when he led the Saints out of trouble and bondage in the east, across the great plains, and planted the Church in these mountain valleys, and prepared the way for the building up of the great community



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ness in the earth, to overcome the pow-ers of evil, and bring to pass the pur-poses of God in the establishment of His kingdom and the coming of Je-sus Christ, our Lord, to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. That while in former times the powers of the world had overcome the saints, in the latter days, in the last dispensation, the people and kingdom of God were to prevail over the kingdoms of this to prevail over the kingdoms of this world and the powers of darkness, un-tli Satan and his hosts should be bound and evil should be exterminated from the earth, and righteousness should come in, and "a king should reign in righteousness and princes should rule in former:" in judgment."

WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT!

Was not this the understanding that we had in the very beginning of our career in the Church? And has not the Lord strengthened that faith in our souls by the manner in which He has sours by the manner in which He has caused this work to prevail and pro-gress in the earth? When we look up-on the congregations of the saints in this conference and realize the fact, repeatedly stated here, that we are only representatives of the great body of the Church located in different marts of the world we may exclude as one of the world, we may exclaim as one did when the telegraph line _____ com-pleted, "What hath God wrought!" He has brought us from afar; He has con-gregated us here in the mountains, in for the mountains, in fulfillment of that which He predicted through the Prophet Joseph, that be-fore the Lord should come "Zion should rejoice on the hills and should flourish in the mountains." Zion, that has brought good tidings, as the Prophet isalah predicted has come up into the brought good tidings, as the Prophet Isaiah predicted, has come up into the high mountain, and as he and Micah both predicted, the people of God have come from the nations afar off. They have gathered up into the heights of the mountains. They have come here "to learn the ways of the Lord and to walk in His paths." They are build-ing the house of the Lord, as he fore-saw it, "in the tops of the mountains."

CHURCH NEVER DISORGANIZED.

An effort has been made for some time past to make some of the Lat-ter-day Saints believe that at a cer-tain period of the Church's history there was a great hiatus, that the Church became disorganized, as it were, because Joseph the Prophet died, mar-tyred with his brother Hyrum for the word of the Lord and the testimony of Jasue of Jesus, and that because the quorum of Jesus, and that because the quorum of Jesus, and that because the quorum with First Presidency was disorgan-ized the Church was disorganized and rejected. Now, my dear brethren and sisters and friends, if that were the case, then the hopes planted in our bosoms by the power of the Spirit of God in the beginning were vain, the promises made to the Church in the start were not true. God declared that of Jesus. start were not true. God declared that He had set up His Church upon the earth "in the last days and for the last time," and that it should prevail and should not be prevailed enjoyt should not be prevailed against. The Mea that the disorganization of one quorum of the holy priesthood disor-sanized the Church is in itself an ab-surdity, and might be rejected by every sensible Saint. But you know there are evil induced abroad in the earth, and different splits barries to be a service of the servi are evil induces abroad in the earth, and different spirits have gone forth to deceive the children of men, and we who are the servants of the Lord ought to be well posted on these matters, so that we may be able to dissipate doubt and uncertainty, and explain that which may seem a little mysterious to some people who are not fully in the light. Secause we do not all have the same degree of faith. Certainly, I believe that the convergations that have as-sembled here have not the least dublety in their minds. The spirit that has pre-valed here have been appointed and called to lead the people in the latter days were accepted and endorsed by the convergation, without any dissent-hey to the standard, and they need encouraging, and need to have things

Lord led along His servant in the be-Lord led along His servant in the be-ginning, and that this work was to come forth by degrees. The Lord gave a commandment to Oliver Cowdery as early as September, 1830, that he was to speak by the Holy Ghost, and that he should have the revelations of the Lord for himself and to aid him in his teachings; but although he had been or-dained an Apostle when the Prophet Joseph was ordained by Peter, James and John, he was not to command the man who stood at the head. The Lord said:

"And thou shalt not command him who is at thy head, and at the head of the church

"For I have given him the keys of the

"For I have given him the keys of the mysteries, and the revelations which are sealed, until I shall appoint unto them another in his stead." Here is the possibility set forth that if Joseph was not true and faithful in all things, another might be appointed in his stead; and Oliver was command-ed not to counsel him or to attempt to command him, but to receive the word of the Lord as it came from him. In the 35th section of the Doctrine and Covenants—a revelation given to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon—the Lord said:

Lord said:

"And I have given unto him the keys of the mystery of those things which have been sealed, even things which were from the foundation of the world, and the things which shall come from this time until the time of my coming, if he abide in me, and if not, another will I plant in his stead."

Whit's plant in his stead." This revelation was given in Decem-ber, 1830, and there are two or three more of the same kind, given in the very beginning of the Church, while the Prophet Joseph was, as it were, on probation before the Lord. The Lord gave him authority and put him into positions where he could be tried and tested, and He said, "If he ablde not in me, another will I plant in his stead."

I will read the 2nd verse of Section 65:

"The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth until it has filled the whole earth."

Now I will read from the 43rd Sec-tion, verses 3 to 7:

"And this ye shall know assuredly that there is none other appointed unto you to receive commandments and rev-elations until he be taken, if he abide in me.

In me. "But verily, verily, I say unto you, that none else shall be appointed unto this gift except it be through him, for if it be taken from him, he shall not have power except to appoint another in his stead; "And this shall be a taken at the

in his stead; "And this shall be a law unto you, that ye receive not the teachings of any that shall come before you as reve-lations or commandments; "And this I give unto you that you may not be deceived, that you may know they are not of me. "For verily I say unto you, that he that is ordained of me shall come in at the gate and be ordained as I have told you before, to teach those revelations which you have received and shall re-relive through him whom I have ap-pointed." pointed."

There was still, you will see, thelopen-ing left that if Joseph was not true and faithful and worthy of his calling, an-other might be appointed in his stead. But I want you to mark this point: there was not to be another appointed in his stead if he abided in the Lord. It was only if he transgressed and be-came unworthy of his calling that he should have power to appoint another

GROWTH OF "MORMONISM."

GROWTH OF "MORMONISM." Now, as the Church progressed, the Lord, as I before remarked, added or-ganizations and quorums, until the Church became perfectly established. The ear came forth in its beauty and glory. The little blade had measur-ably disappeared. "Mormonism," as I have said, is a growth. It is not the same today as it was yesterday; for it is growing, just like the flower that puts forth its leaves and its buds, and then its blossoms. It is the same plant, but it is continually expanding, accord-ing to conditions and its environment and the necessity to develop itself in its beauty and glory. So also it is in the Church. Why, we have hardly attained the full corn in the ear yet. Every man read the 107th and the 124th Sections of the Doctrine and Covenants from beginning to end. If you do not have the book, buy one; and if you can-not buy one, borrow one. In the 107th Section the Lord reveals to the Church His Holy Priesthood--two Priesthoods, the Melchisedek and the Aaronic, which are one in reality, but divided into two branches. He says: "Of necessity there are presidents, or

"Of necessity there are presidents, or presiding offices growing out of, or ap-pointed of or from among those who are ordained to the several offices in these

ordained to the several offices in these two priesthoods. "Of the Melchisedek Priesthood three Presiding High Priests, chosen by the body, appointed and ordained to that office, and upheld by the confidence, faith and prayer of the church, form a quorum of the Presidency of the church." Church."
Does the Lord say there that some man is to appoint his brother, or his uncle, or his son, to preside over the Church? No. "Three presiding High Priests, chosen by the body," upheld and sustained by the vote and faith and fellowship of the Church," form the First Presidency. That is how the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ was established, by the revelation and commandment of God. That is how it has continued from that time until the present. When the Prophet Joseph was taken he had remained faithful and true, and he had the keys of the latter-day dispensation, and he has them today. And if you think that he has departed from this people, if you think that his influence and power are withdrawn from the brethren here whom God has appointed to preside over us in the Church, you are sadly mistaken. The spirit and power of Joseph are in this Church and with this Presidency. Joseph the Prophet, although he has gone from our midst holds the keys of the

Church and with this Presidency. Jo-seph the Prophet, although he has gone from our midst, holds the keys of the last dispensation, and will hold them till the Lord comes. But there were others appointed to act in his stead, in the place he occupied in the flesh, and he still holds his priesthood and power and authority and the keys of the dis-pensation behind the vell. He is doing a far greater work there than he could accomplish in the flesh. He has a wider sphere of labor, and more power and influence, now that the infirmitles of the flesh are gone. He is clothed with the power of the holy priesthood, and the keys thereof abide with him. And he is with this people, for "the powers of this priesthood are inseparably conthis priesthood are inseparably con-nected with the powers belind the vell;" and they, united together, will prevail over every power and influence that may be brought against them. SUCCESSION IN THE PRIESTHOOD,

came unworthy of his calling that he should have power to appoint another Just put that down in your minds. So if dividers deciare that somebody else was appointed to take the place of the Prophet Joseph, then they announce that the Prophet did not abide in the

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