

It might be a great period of time before all this should be realized, but it would surely be if we were obedient. This had been promised to the speaker in the Temple at Kirtland, and he firmly believed that it would be fully fulfilled. He had great faith and confidence in the magnanimity and love of God. They were so comprehensive that we could not fully understand them.

Every man, woman and child could do something toward securing exaltation and glory. The opportunities were exhaustless. It was a mighty work we had to accomplish for ourselves, and when performing it we were also operating in the interest of others.

President Snow related the experience of a young man who wasted all his estate in profligate living and was on the point of suicide, when a supernatural being checked him and urged him to follow his counsel, with the promise that in two years he would govern a kingdom. He was to live a strictly moral life, and his kingdom would be secured. Seeking honest employment, and living faithfully for two years, he found himself a ruler over his own spirit and desires. He was informed that this was the realization of the promise. This was the great object of the second estate of men to overcome obstacles and temptations and learn self-control, preparatory to their becoming rulers over others. There was no need of discouragement; though heavy sacrifices might be necessary, and each one could show a willingness to sacrifice for the benefit of others.

The work of the Lord in behalf of His people had been wonderful during the past few years, miraculous works having been performed in their behalf. The highest rejoicing should be on account of the spiritual blessings of the Gospel, with the glorious truths it has taught. Born of God, in His image men were to become more like him, through overcoming difficulties and temptations. In this respect the prospects were particularly bright. The Lord would be pleased with one ambitious to attain to spiritual advancement, and to become equal with God, through receiving of His fulness, in accordance with the original design. With the new light thrown upon their condition and prospects by the Gospel, the Saints would certainly not be willing to sacrifice those prospects for any earthly consideration. Even in the family relationships, to be continued hereafter there was sufficient happiness to compensate them for all human losses.

It was a pleasure to the speaker to reflect upon the promise that we should see each other in the next life, when all enmity would be banished from the earth.

It was a pleasure to see this great audience of faithful Saints, who were associated with the work of God. He concluded by invoking the blessing of God upon the people.

ELDER HEBER J. GRANT.

Of the Council of Apostles, followed. He said in substance: There had never been a time in the history of the Church when there was such cause for gratitude as now. Kindness of feeling had increased in a marvelous degree, a fact which deserved the deep-

est gratitude of the Saints. Liberty of utterance and the blessings of the Spirit had attended him in his ministry among the people, and God had blessed the Saints through the labors of himself and other servants of God, similar blessings being experienced by the laborers themselves. This was not on account of increased knowledge and power on the part of the Elders, so much as the greater spirit of faithfulness which attended the people themselves. The time of harvest having now come, the Spirit of God had increased upon the Priesthood and the people alike, manifesting itself in the greater faith and confidence of all. It all would turn their attention to the preaching of the Gospel by precept and example there would be a great number of converts made among the people at home. Failure to live the commandments of God would weaken the effect of preaching them, and those who thus acted would be responsible for the lack of faith on the part of the young. On the other hand, if all should live to the law of God, a marvelous work for God would be performed. The changed feelings of the people of the land toward the Latter-day Saints were spoken of and illustrated by items of current history. Still greater favor with all good men could be gained by honesty and strictness in the lives of the people. All had been taught day by day the simple principles and duties of the Gospel, yet some were seemingly more anxious to perform great works than to keep the little commandments.

Turning to the financial condition of the people, the speaker stated that if the Word of Wisdom were strictly kept, the money thus saved to the community would give ample employment to all the idle men in Zion. In closing, the speaker touched upon the necessity of sustaining home industries.

ELDER GEORGE TEASDALE

Of the Council of the Apostles, was the next speaker. He urged the Saints to become more consistent, and be not mere hearers of the word, but doers of it as well. It was the general desire that we should all have understanding of what God wished us to perform. We were living in the latter-days, which were to be similar in some of their conditions, to the times of the flood. In those ancient days the word of the Lord was preached, and the professedly wise people of the world did not accept of it. So matters were to a great extent in our day. There were many inducements to reject the light of the Gospel and to depart from it after it had been received. As the Apostle Paul expressed it prophetically, we were living in perilous times, when false philosophy was taught and false and seducing spirits were abroad. The speaker related some of his early experience in the Church, illustrating the fact that when men who had embraced the Gospel became puffed up in pride, and imbued with a disposition to find fault with the authorities, they became darkened in their minds, and finally opposed the work of God and made shipwreck of their faith.

The rising generation must be tested as the older ones had been; but they

had the advantage of individual knowledge as embodied in the doctrine of each one asking wisdom of God. The delusive influences of the world were being introduced among the youth, and must be overcome by the word of truth. But one way was open for the redemption of men from error and darkness, and that was through the true principles and ordinances of the Gospel. These ordinances must be administered through the proper authority, that the spirit of God might be a witness to their efficacy. The burial in the water of baptism, with its accompanying resurrection, was spoken of, and its proper performance urged. The gifts and keys by which the doctrine might be understood and its truth known, were referred to as of great importance and obtainable only through obedience and humility. Truth could be obtained through meekness and righteousness, and the avoidance of contention and debate on Gospel principles. He referred to the 46th section of the Doctrine and covenants, commencing with the 7th verse, where asking of blessings and wisdom from God is commanded, that the seductions of evil spirits might be avoided, and the operations of the Spirit of God, comprehended. The speaker continued in this view of thought through the remainder of his discourse, concluding with an exhortation to the young to honor their parents.

The choir sang the anthem:

Let the Mountains Shout for Joy,

after which the congregation arose and joined in singing the Duxology.

Benediction by Elder George Reynolds.

SECOND DAY.

Sunday, April 5th, 10 a.m.

The choir and congregation sang:

How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word

Prayer by Elder Jonathan G. Kimball.

Singing by the choir:

What was witnessed in the heavens?

Why, an angel, earthward bound.

Had he something with him bringing?

Yea—the Gospel—joyful sound.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

was the first speaker this morning. He treated upon the nature and functions of the Holy Priesthood, which conveyed the highest calling in which man could be engaged—to be a minister of salvation to the inhabitants of the earth. He spoke of its antiquity, beginning, so far as this planet was concerned, with Adam. He enumerated the various dispensations of God to man from the beginning till now, and expressed himself to the effect that whenever the inhabitants of the world were prepared for the fulness of the Gospel, in any age, He revealed the Priesthood. He then dwelt upon the restoration of this power in this age, through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and declared that in this latter-day dispensation the power to administer salvation had come to stay, never more to be removed from the earth. He next detailed some of the leading beneficent effects of the fulness of the Gospel, and administered much salutary advice to the young men of the community, exhort-