

## DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BY  
**PRESIDENT GEO. Q. CANNON,**  
In the Tabernacle, Salt Lake  
City, Sunday morning,  
October 8, 1882.

REPORTED BY G. F. GIBBS.

We assemble together in the capacity of a conference for the purpose of being taught concerning our duties as Latter-day Saints, as members of the Church of Christ, and it is of the utmost importance that when we thus meet, that we should have the presence and assistance of the Spirit of God. I should not dare this morning to arise with the intention of speaking to you if I did not hope that I should have the assistance of that Spirit. I could not of myself tell that which is best adapted to you and to your circumstances. It requires the assistance of the Spirit of God to reveal unto us, His servants, those items of doctrine, of instruction, of counsel, and of command, which will be of benefit to the Latter-day Saints who are assembled as we are to-day.

We are living in a momentous time. As no period in the history of the children of God in this dispensation have events been of more importance than those which are now taking place in our midst and around about us. I have been exceedingly thankful for the time. Amid the threats and promises which have been made against us, and the promises which have been made for us, I have been exceedingly thankful that the Lord our God has spoken through His servant the Prophet Joseph Smith and through others who have also been inspired of Him. Among the earliest predictions that were made concerning this work by the servants of God was to this effect, that the time would come when we should not only be opposed by a small circle of individuals confined to a neighborhood, but as the work should spread and increase, the opposition to it would be in proportion to the growth of the work; until it would not be the act of the mob, or the acts of mobs confined to counties or confined to States, but that the time would come, that in a nation, the blows would be aimed at us by the nation of which we form a part. To-day, my brethren and sisters, these predictions are being fulfilled in our sight. Not one word that God has spoken concerning this work will fall to the ground unfulfilled, and the very enemies of this work, those who are most anxious to destroy it, and to prove the falsity of its claims, are the very instruments in the providence of God, used to fulfill His word and accomplish His designs. Do you think for one moment that Senator Edmunds in framing the bill called by his name, or the members of the Senate for its action, had any idea in his mind that he was an instrument in fulfilling the predictions of God that the work of the Latter-day Saints would be opposed by the Senate? Have you any idea that the House of Representatives in passing that bill, after it had passed the Senate, supposed for one moment that they were helping to establish the claims of Joseph Smith as a prophet of the living God? Or do you imagine that President Arthur, in selecting the members of the committee on Judiciary and on the bill to admit Utah Territory to act in accordance with the provisions of this same law, supposed that he was helping to establish the claims of the Latter-day Saints to divinity, or that the Commissioners themselves, in coming here, have once thought that they were playing a part in the great drama of the last days, that they in their sphere were helping, or are helping to establish the truth of this work, the downward which is to be accomplished? And yet these are the truths connected with this work; these are the facts. The man who framed that bill, the man who introduced it in the Senate, the Judiciary committee who passed upon it, the Senate who adopted the report of its committee on Judiciary and on the bill to admit Utah Territory to act in accordance with the provisions of this same law, supposed that he was helping to establish the claims of the Latter-day Saints to divinity, or that the Commissioners themselves, in coming here, have once thought that they were playing a part in the great drama of the last days, that they in their sphere were helping, or are helping to establish the truth of this work, the downward which is to be accomplished? And yet these are the truths connected with this work; these are the facts.

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Thus we see that the wrath of man is made to praise God. The acts of men are converted to the glory of God, and fight as they may, contend as they may, resist as they may, they may this work, the foundation of which God had laid, they can do naught against it. On the contrary, everything they do contributes to its establishment, contributes to prove its divine authenticity, to show that there is an overruling power greater than that of man, even the power of the most high God, and that He causes the nations to praise Him, the powers of the earth to praise Him, to add to His glory and to the accomplishment of His purposes.

Before leaving this subject, there is one thing worthy of remark. I have been exceedingly struck with it. The man who introduced the bill of 1882 was a native and representative from the State of Vermont. The man who introduced the bill of March 23, 1882, was a Senator from the State of Vermont—Senator Edmunds. The President who signed that bill was from the State of Vermont. We had another bill passed June 23, 1874, known as the Poland Law, special legislation for Utah Territory, the framers of that bill, its champion, the man who did more than any other single man towards pushing it through the House of Representatives, and having it become law, was a Representative from the State of Vermont. The champions of the Edmunds law in the House of Representatives were from Vermont. It is a remarkable thing that Vermonters should be the chief in-

struments in framing, urging and securing the passage of legislation against us. On the other hand, the man who, in the hands of God, was the chief instrument in laying the foundation of this great work in these last days, the Prophet Joseph Smith, was a native of the State of Vermont, and Hyrum Smith, his brother, whose blood mingled with the Prophet's at Carthage jail, was also a native of Vermont. Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Erastus Snow, the Snow family, Albert Carrington, the Farris, the Callies, the Hitchcocks, the numbers of the leading families in this church were born in that State. How remarkable it is, in that, that we should have received so many blessings through men born in that State. Mountain State, and that our chief enemies, apparently stirred up by the adversary to destroy the work which the Latter-day Saints have been born upon the same soil, were the means, in the hands of God, of establishing—that they, Vermonters, should be stirred up to seek for its destruction.

We may expect from this time forward the same warfare; no cessation, no letting up, so far as the hatred of the wicked is concerned. A part only of the predictions of the Prophet have been fulfilled concerning this latter-day work. We have been told that the work of God should not be confined to one nation, but that it should extend to other nations; that the Latter-day Saints should be scattered upon the face of the earth, and that they should be a blessing to the world. We have been told that the work of God should not be confined to one nation, but that it should extend to other nations; that the Latter-day Saints should be scattered upon the face of the earth, and that they should be a blessing to the world. We have been told that the work of God should not be confined to one nation, but that it should extend to other nations; that the Latter-day Saints should be scattered upon the face of the earth, and that they should be a blessing to the world.

There is this that is most extraordinary connected with a people. When a nation is established, its promises to us, which have been repeated, that notwithstanding all our enemies should do against us, we should have peace, peace should reign in our hearts, peace should reign in our habitations, peace should be in our land and broad over us as a people. This is one of the promises of the Latter-day Saints, and the promise of the beginning. Read the closing verses of the 45th section of the Doctrine and Covenants and see what God has concerning Zion, and the promise of the beginning. Read the closing verses of the 45th section of the Doctrine and Covenants and see what God has concerning Zion, and the promise of the beginning. Read the closing verses of the 45th section of the Doctrine and Covenants and see what God has concerning Zion, and the promise of the beginning.

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rules changed in the least degree, unless, of course, our brethren who represent the political principles of the people, and who are willing to have them changed; but I did not believe they could accomplish this, and I am thankful, therefore, that the rules have not been changed. How they draw a sharp line of distinction between the Latter-day Saints and the wicked. It sustains the claim that we have made, and the day long, that it is our religion that is assailed; that it is the solemnization of the holy marriage of the Latter-day Saints, let them say, and not the illicit commerce of the sexes. And I am glad that every man and every woman that ever were open to the charge of having committed adultery, let them say, are in the same condition; that the rule has been so rigidly made, and so sweeping in its character, as to include all who have lived in plural marriage. It is an honorable distinction to belong to a class whose only offense is that they are not in the habit of committing adultery. If there are any who think they did not act honorably in this respect, let them say, and I believe the majority of my brethren and sisters have done the same way. Do I believe that God will bear those out who have thus embraced that principle? do I believe that He will sustain them? I believe that He will sustain them, and I believe that the Kingdom of God will not go further. And He commanded the servants of God, His associates, the Apostles, to obey His law, and to keep His commandments. I believe that the Kingdom of God will not go further. And He commanded the servants of God, His associates, the Apostles, to obey His law, and to keep His commandments.

I was very much struck with some remarks I did not hear all of this discourse, having been called out to attend to some business that could not be postponed. By Brother Lorenzo Snow, they struck me with a great deal of force. I have been a member of the three Hebrew children and the glory that followed their submission to the will of God, and their resistance to the desires of the world, the flesh, and the devil. I have been a member of the three Hebrew children and the glory that followed their submission to the will of God, and their resistance to the desires of the world, the flesh, and the devil. I have been a member of the three Hebrew children and the glory that followed their submission to the will of God, and their resistance to the desires of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

There is one thing that I wish to refer to. It is a delicate subject, still I feel to touch upon it. The idea was suggested to me a short time ago, while in conversation with one of the brethren who were speaking about the influence that is now being brought against the Church, how fortunate it is that the law of God in regard to plural marriage. There was, as I thought, a spirit of indignation against some who have not obeyed that law, because they could not act as they appeared to think. I hope that I never will enter into that line of thought, but I feel that I should like to say a few words about it. I believe there are very few faithful Latter-day Saints of both sexes who have not entered into the practice of plural marriage, and I believe that the law of God in regard to plural marriage. There was, as I thought, a spirit of indignation against some who have not obeyed that law, because they could not act as they appeared to think. I hope that I never will enter into that line of thought, but I feel that I should like to say a few words about it.

The Lord has said: "Again I say unto you, if ye observe to do all that I command you, I, the Lord, will turn away all wrath and indignation from you, and the gates of heaven shall be opened unto you, and ye shall enter in, and ye shall be saved." Now, I want to say for myself personally, if I had not obeyed that command of God concerning plural marriage, I believe that I would have been damned. That is my position; but I do not judge any other man. I am so organized that I could have done it, if necessary, and God had commanded it, as a Catholic priest is supposed to live without knowing woman. I believe that with God's help I could have done that all the days of my life, if it had been necessary for my salvation, but on the contrary, when I had taken one wife after I had returned from one of my missions, a spirit rested upon me, and I could not resist; I felt that I should be damned if I refused to neglect to obey that law of God. It was not prompted by any improper feeling; it was not prompted by a feeling of lust, or a desire for

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