

hand of God is beginning to be manifest in the earth. Judgment is at the door; calamity awaits the nations of the earth; but we ourselves should be prepared to stand in holy places while the judgments of God are manifest in the earth.

Now, brethren and sisters, let us be humble before the Lord; let us remember our prayers; let us try to do our duty; and when we do this, the blessings of God will be with us. I felt yesterday that I wished I could see all the young men in Israel before Brother J. E. Tammage while he spoke to us for half an hour (it ought to have been two hours) on the evil of this tobacco business. We should let alone all these evils, and our children should also, that they might be prepared to go forth as holy vessels and servants of God to bear record of this Gospel. We are not yet through preaching the Gospel. We send our sons abroad, and many of them go before they know whether this is the Church of God or not. I need not stand up here and testify before this congregation that this is the Church of God on the earth. Thousands of you know that for yourselves. You have been abroad; I have been abroad; these Apostles have been abroad; and we have administered the ordinances of the Gospel of Christ. We have laid hands upon the sick, and the sick have been healed; devils have been cast out, the lame have leaped, the deaf have heard, the dumb have spoken, in this Church in our day and generation. Can men go through and experience these things and not know for themselves whether the work is of God or not? No. Any man that has gone forth and administered in the ordinance of the house of God knows that these things are true, if he has kept the commandments of God.

Before I sit down I want to say a word to the Elders of Israel on another subject. I am called an old man; I guess I am. I was thinking just now, in speaking of the apostles and prophets, that were with Joseph Smith when he made his last speech, I am the only man living that was with him at that time. The rest are today in the spirit world. How much longer I shall talk to this people I do not know; but I want to say this to all Israel: Cease troubling yourselves about who God is; who Adam is, who Christ is, who Jehovah is. For heaven's sake, let these things alone. Why trouble yourselves about these things? God has revealed himself, and when the 121st section of the Doctrine and Covenants is fulfilled, whether there be one God or many gods they will be revealed to the children of men, as well as all thrones and dominions, principalities and powers. Then why trouble yourselves about these things? God is God. Christ is Christ. The Holy Ghost is the Holy Ghost. That should be enough for you and I to know. If we want to know any more, wait till we get where God is in person. I say this because we are troubled every little while with inquiries from Elders anxious to know who God is, who Christ is, and who Adam is. I say to the Elders of Israel, stop this. Humble yourselves before the Lord; seek for light, for truth and for a knowledge of the common things of the kingdom of God. The Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. He changes not. The Son of God is the same. He is the

Savior of the world. He is our advocate with the Father. We have had letter after letter from Elders abroad wanting to know concerning these things. Adam is the first man. He was placed in the Garden of Eden, and is our great progenitor. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost are the same yesterday, today and forever. That should be sufficient for us to know.

I pray God to bless these Apostles, and to bless us all, and to give us wisdom and power to magnify our calling and to do our duty before the Lord, that we may be prepared to give an account of our stewardship while dwelling in the flesh. I pray that the Lord will be merciful to us as a people, and give those who bear the Priesthood power to build up Zion and prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man, which may God grant, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

2,000 MILES ON CHINESE RIVERS.

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APAN, IT IS said, will demand \$250,000,000 in gold from China in addition to the territory which is to be granted as the price of peace. It is a question in minds of all who know anything concerning the Chinese government as

to how it will be able to collect this vast sum. It will probably get the money in the first place in the shape of a foreign loan, and the customs will be mortgaged to pay the interest. At present China has perhaps the lowest taxes in the world, and the farmers pay less on their lands than they do in any of the countries in Europe. The increasing of such taxes would create a revolution. The only way that the government can raise money will be through levying duties on imports and exports. This will fill the rivers with tax gatherers, and China will be honeycombed with a network of official robbers. Every officer will put some of the receipts in his own pocket, and prices of all kinds will rise. The rivers are the highways of China. The country is said to have 4000 roads, but it has none that are good, and the rivers and the canals form the chief means of communication. There is no land on the globe which is better watered. There are provinces in China as big as New York which are cut up by canals like Holland and in which you can visit every man's house by boat. You can travel a distance longer than a journey around the world on the Chinese interior waterways, and the Nile has its equals in the Yangtse Kiang and Hoang Ho. Each of these rivers carries as much silt as the Nile every year, and the sea is yellow for from thirty to fifty miles on each

side of their mouths. At the mouth of the Yangtse Kiang the water is as thick as pea soup, and all along the mighty river men are seen dipping it up, pouring it into ditches, in order that it may be carried off and spread over the land.

2,000 MILES OF CHINESE RIVERS.

I have traveled more than 2,000 miles upon these wonderful rivers of China. The scenes along their banks are like those of no other streams of the world. Irrigation goes on everywhere, and the fertilizing material which they contain rejuvenates the Chinese soil as the Nile does that of Egypt. The Great Plain of China, which, by the way, is the most thickly populated part of the empire, which has been built up from the sea by the Chinese rivers. It runs along the Pacific coast for about 700 miles, and it is from 300 to 400 miles wide. It is one of the richest plains in the world, and its soils are mixed with salts and the evidences of decayed vegetation. It comes from the Loess region in the far interior of China. This region is a vast territory covered with a yellow earth about 1,000 feet deep. This soil is very fine, and when a stream flows into it, it seems to split open vertically, and the rivers which run through it pass gorges of sand 500 feet deep. From time to time the yellow soil splits off in sheets from the sides of these gorges, and it is carried down to the sea. During the hot season the winds blow through this Loess region and carry the dust over China. This aids in its fertilization. The silts carried down by the rivers to the sea is so great that the land every year inches 100 feet above the sea, and this has been going on for ages. Near Shanghai there is a large island which has been built up by the Yangtse Kiang, and the land north of this is, to a great extent, the product of Hoang Ho and the Peiho. The Yangtse Kiang river is said to be 3,500 miles long. The Hoang Ho rises in Tibet within 100 miles of the mouth of the Yangtse, and it is almost of the same length. It flows as far as from New York to Denver before it gets into a large branch, and by the time it has reached the sea it has gone as far as from New York to San Francisco. It is only navigated by small boats, and a great part of its course is through the Great Plain. It has vast, embankments to keep it in its course, every year or so a great flood comes, and hundreds of thousands, and sometimes millions of people are swallowed up by it. When I first visited China, I arrived just after one of these big floods. About twenty million people were ruined by the river and millions had been drowned. During my trip of last year I sailed up the Peiho to Tien-Tsin and saw the evidences of the great flood of the year previous. This covered the plains surrounding Tientsin. It ruined hundreds of villages, and at one time it seemed as though it would endanger the great city of Li Hung Chang, which you know, contains a million people. Right below Tien-Tsin I saw thousands of graves which had been washed out by the flood. The coffins were lying on the ground, and during the flood the dead floated by the thousands to the sea.

A RIDE ON THE PEIHO.

The Peiho river is the one which flows from near Pekin on down the sea, and up it all of the freight which supplies