

I am aware that my words have not gone into every heart; you have supposed that I was hard and rough in my remarks, but if I had listened strictly to the Spirit of God, I should have been a great deal rougher, and so would br. Brigham.

Well, what he has said to-day is God's truth; the time has passed for us to be abused and persecuted as we have been. We have been driven from place to place and hunted by our enemies long enough. We have been broken up five times by our enemies.

7 And again verily I say unto you, if, after thine enemy has come upon thee the first time, he repent and come unto thee praying thy forgiveness thou shalt forgive him and shall hold it no more as a testimony against thine enemy, and so on unto the second and third time; and as oft as thine enemy repenteth of the trespass wherewith he has trespassed against thee, thou shalt forgive him, until seventy times seven; and if he trespass against thee and repent not the first time, nevertheless thou shalt forgive him; and if he trespass against thee the third time and repent not thou shalt forgive him; but if he trespass against thee the fourth time, thou shalt not forgive him, but shall bring these testimonies before the Lord, and they shall not be blotted out until he repent, and reward thee four fold in all things wherewith he has trespassed against you; and if he do this thou shalt forgive him with all your heart, and if he do not this I the Lord will avenge thee of thine enemy an hundred fold; and upon his children, and upon his children's children, of all them that hate me, unto the third and fourth generation: but if the children shall repent, or the children's children, and turn to the Lord your God with all their hearts, and with all their might, mind, and strength, and restore four fold for all their trespasses, wherewith they have trespassed, or wherewith their fathers have trespassed or their fathers' fathers, then thine indignation shall be turned away and vengeance shall no more come upon them, saith the Lord your God, and their trespass shall never be brought any more as a testimony before the Lord against them: Amen.—[Book of Doc. and Coven., Sec. LXXXVI.]

I said last winter that I never would sit in another Legislative Assembly under Uncle Sam again, except they behaved themselves, and I say it now. It has been my feelings for years and years that the time would come when we would not endure the abuses of blood thirsty enemies any longer; and I would ten thousand times rather go and live in the mountains than to live here under oppression and unjust government, such as United States officials have sought to mete out to us, the Saints of the Most High God.

I do not feel vain, but I feel to say, brethren and sisters, lay aside your vanity and your feelings to exult; there will be a time when you can exult and do it in righteousness and in mercy. There will also be a day when you will be brought to the test, when your very hearts and your inmost souls will melt within you because of the scenes that many of you will witness; yes, you will be brought to that test when you will feel as if every thing within you would dissolve. Then will be the time you will be tried whether you will stand the test or fall away.

I have not a doubt but there will be hundreds who will leave us and go away to our enemies. I wish they would go this fall, it might relieve us from much trouble, for if men turn traitors to God and his servants, their blood will surely be shed, or else they will be damned, and that too according to their covenants.

Br. Brigham would rather go to battle against the whole world with three hundred men filled with the Holy Ghost than to have the whole of you, except you are united with us, and I am sure I would.

The day is to come when one shall chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight. When that day comes, the Lord will make the enemies of his people flee as if there were thousands after them, when there is only one, and that is the way that God will deal with our enemies. The day of God Almighty is at hand when he will show forth his power, and when he will deliver his people from all their enemies.

Some who have been apostates for years past are beginning to come back to us, and, inasmuch as they did not stand and be valiant for the truth, we are now going to place them in the front ranks and put them to the test.

I stand in the name and in the strength of Israel's God by the side of my brother Brigham, for there is my place, and your place is to stand where you belong.

Let me say to all of you,—learn to be true and faithful, and instead of laying out your means for fine bonnets and fine shoes, and for coffee and tea, my advice to you is, if you can get five or ten dollars go and buy a good blanket, a gun or a sword. And we want you, ladies, to provide yourselves with weapons and with all that is necessary and be ready to defend yourselves, for you won't always have your husbands to defend you.

I have often told you that you would look upon this day and say it was the best day you had ever seen.

I have received a good many letters from the several Bishops in the country wards, stating that they have understood that we are working by night and by day giving endowments to those who are going out to help the hand carts in. I want to tell you we are doing no such thing; we are working one day in a week to keep the devil from getting asleep.

I will say for the benefit of those who are going out on the plains and who have not had their endowments, if they will live their religion they shall be protected as much as those who have had them. When we went up to Missouri, 205 men, we had not had our endowments, but we went to redeem Zion according to the word of the Lord, and that was a preparatory work, and I will say to you that if you will live your religion while you are gone, when you come back you shall have your endowments, and God shall bless you, while the man or the woman who has received their endowments and does not magnify their calling will not be benefited at all by them, and they will only tend to their condemnation.

The Lord bless every righteous Saint from this time henceforth and forever. Amen.

Discourse by Elder Orson Hyde.

REPORTED BY HIMSELF.

It is with much pleasure that I arise, this morning to address you, my brethren and sisters, and I hope to have your undivided attention, and to share liberally the benefits of your prayers.

My object is to enlighten your understandings and to strengthen your faith so far as I may be able. The responsibility of a public speaker in this Church is truly great, especially when his official standing and character are of such a nature as to give to his words a weight and an importance commensurate with the high position which he may be called to occupy.

The husbandman is ever desirous to procure the very best qualities and kinds of seeds to plant and sow in the earth. One principal reason is, he must himself eat of the products of the seeds that he plants and sows. So also, the speaker that plants certain principles in the hearts of his audience, must himself eat the fruits thereof sooner or later; and it should be our aim to avoid planting any principle in the hearts of our hearers, the fruits of which would set our teeth on edge, or shed upon us an inglorious reputation. Therefore, the fruits of any principle, true or false, inculcated by me, will as naturally and as necessarily fall to my lot as the seeds of any grain or plant when ripe will fall back into the earth from whence it sprang.

Truth, therefore, is my delight; and if I know and understand myself, I have no delight in any thing else. Truth came from God as a precious magnet. It is a part of himself, and he who possesses it, possesses a property that may be attracted, with its possessor, to the great source and fountain of truth—even to God himself.

True it is that we are here in the valleys of the mountains for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ; and it is also true that after being robbed and plundered of our worldly fortunes because of the hatred of an unbelieving world, excited against us because of our religion, we are exiles here to-day, having been denied citizenship in the States from which we came. Our Prophets have been cruelly martyred in cold blood, under the plighted faith of a great State for their protection from all unlawful molestation. We have seen how much such promised protection was worth in the days of Joseph and Hyrum; and would it be worth any more now? Rather trust in the God of Heaven in these mountains than in any such rotten promises that may be made only to beguile us and deliver us up to ignominious death.

The woman spoken of by John the Revelator, as being driven, or fleeing into the wilderness after having brought forth the man-child, is said to be the Church, by our wise orthodox commentators upon holy writ. Be it so. The Latter-Day Saints fled from the face of the serpent monster into this vast wilderness and desert, and it appears the serpent cast out a flood of water from his mouth to destroy the woman. This is highly figurative language, yet is there any one present who can favor us with a better solution of the matter than the waters or troops which the United States are now sending here to destroy us? God grant that the Earth and the Heavens also may help the woman!

Plausible may be the pretenses of these troops, yet if their real object is not to persecute every man and woman that will stand by the prophets and servants of God, and uphold them, then I do not read correctly the manifestations to me. How far they may be able to carry out their plans, time will determine.

Once, however, a man put forth his hand to steady the ark of God. It reeled to and fro. It was in a cart, drawn by oxen. Probably it might have pleased Uzzah better if it had been put into a stately carriage, drawn by two or four fine steeds; but he ventured to put forth his hand to steady the ark of God, and was smitten of God at once for his presumptuous interference with the affairs of the great I AM. I suppose there are seeming irregularities in the affairs of Utah that Uncle Sam does not like, and he puts forth his hand in the shape of an army to right up and steady the ark of God.

As the Book of Mormon has been brought to the notice of Congress by a quotation from its pages respecting a man having but one wife, unless commanded of God to have more, and though such command has been given to the Latter Day Saints, yet I omit comment thereon at this time, and proceed to give another quotation from the same book which appears to have a bearing upon the present aspect of affairs. Third European edition, page 28. The Prophet Nephi in vision saw the vast multitudes of men upon the face of this land, America, and said that there were save two Churches only. The one is the Church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; and whose belongeth not to the Church of the Lamb of God, belongeth to that great church which is the mother of abominations and the whore of all the earth.

"And it came to pass, that I looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters; and she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people."

"And it came to pass that I beheld the Church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless I believe that the Church of the Lamb who were the Saints of God were also upon all the face of the earth, and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw."

"And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations, did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God."

"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the Saints of the Church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord who were

scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness, and with the power of God in great glory."

"And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, inasmuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth; and as there began to be wars and rumors of wars among all the nations which belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spoke unto me, saying, behold the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots; and behold thou seest all these things, and when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth whose foundation is the devil, then, at that day, the work of the Father shall commence in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants which he hath made to his people who are of the house of Israel."

In view of the sentiment contained in the foregoing quotation, I am led to believe that whatever branch of the great and abominable church shall lead the way to fight against the Lamb of God, will have a greater task to perform than they are aware of. It is not merely a little handful of Latter Day Saints that they have to contend with, but it is with all the celestial powers. This, however, they do not believe; and, consequently, like the unthinking horse, they rush to the onset.

What a direct bearing the foregoing quotation has upon the present signs of the times! It is as correct as though he was writing the history of the past. Is not this an evidence of its truth? The scenes are rolling on in the very track of the prophecy; and while our eyes see, let us fear God and be grateful to his name, while our enemies having eyes, see not; but boldly rush on to destruction.

I feel disposed to bring to your notice other sayings of ancient, and also of modern times touching the events of these days.

The Book of Mormon, in a dozen places, tells the fate of the Gentile nations if they shall harden their hearts against this work when it shall be brought to their knowledge; and also the fate of every one that shall fight against it, or its followers: so I will not detain you with quotations upon this subject. You all know them or ought to. Read the Book of Mormon!

In the month of December 1833, soon after the Saints' troubles began in Jackson County, Mo., the Prophet Joseph had a revelation from the Lord respecting the Saints there, in which he says: "Let them importune at the feet of the Judge (for protection and redress) and if he heed them not, let them importune at the feet of the Governor, and if the Governor heed them not, let them importune at the feet of the President, and if the President heed them not, then will the Lord arise and come forth out of his hiding place, and in his fury, vex the nation, and in his hot displeasure, and in his fierce anger, in his time, will cut off those wicked, unfaithful and unjust stewards, and appoint them their portion among hypocrites and unbelievers; even in outer darkness where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Pray ye, therefore, that their ears may be open to your cries, that I may be merciful unto them, that these things may not come upon them. What I have said unto you, must needs be, that all men may be left without excuse; that wise men and rulers may hear and know that which they have never considered; that I may proceed to bring to pass my act, my strange act, and perform my work, my strange work, that men may discern between the righteous and the wicked, saith your God."

Did the Saints importune at the feet of the Judge and of the Governor? Yes, they did in all humility and sincerity. What was the result? About the same as if you were to importune with the thief and robber to protect you from abuse, and restore to you the stolen treasure. They heeded not the petition. Then importunity was made at the feet of the President, not only in writing, but also by the Prophet Joseph in person; and what did this avail? It elicited this answer: "Your cause is just, but we can do nothing for you." Sovereignities must manage their own affairs. Congress, nor the executive can interfere. So the President heeded them not.

Now, when will the Lord's time come to vex the nations, &c? It is not for me to say; yet it would be a time very opportune when the nation shall begin to dictate to an organized State or Territory in matters of their own internal policy, and municipal regulations. When we were in distress and trouble, the nation had no power to help us: but when we attempt to help ourselves, and to rid our community of lying and corrupt men, then the nation can send her armies against us. Well, be it so. It is all right, and will hasten the downfall of the mighty image of Nebuchadnezzar, and the power that falls upon "this stone" will be broken, and the stone rejected by the builders will become the head of the corner.

As Joseph Smith has sealed his testimony with his blood, his testament is now of force, and I will quote again from a revelation given through him on Fishing River, Mo., June 22, 1834. "Therefore it is expedient in me that mine Elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion, for I do not require at their hands to fight the battles of Zion; for, as I said in a former commandment, even so will I fulfil, I will fight your battles."

Although here is a great and precious promise; yet do not suppose that we are to sit down in idleness or indifference and share this promise; but remember this common sense home-made scripture, "God helps those who help themselves." Therefore, let us neglect no duty on our part, but be ready, not only for the powers of this world and the powers of darkness; but for the day of judgment and eternal glory in the mansions of our God.

If armies from the East and from the West are approaching our Territory to offer protection and

removal to all who wish it, and to deal out death and ruin to all the balance, the hand of the Lord is in it. He will send forth his angels and gather out of his kingdom all things that offend and that do iniquity. He may use any beings that he has made, or that he pleases and call them his angels or messengers. The devil himself is an angel of God, but a fallen one.

Again, the presence of an armed force will prove to ourselves, to God and angels which we possess the most of, the fear of God or the fear of man. We are commanded to fear not them that can kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do; but we are required to fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. But there is one scripture which says: "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." He will make the wrath of man to praise him, and the remainder of wrath he will restrain. We have all got to die at some time, and why should we object to the time, or the manner? If we are right before the Lord, and in the discharge of our duty, it matters not when or how we go hence.

I will venture here to relate an open vision had by br. Stephen M. Farnsworth of Pleasant Grove, Utah County, while he was residing in Nauvoo, previous to the death of the Prophets Joseph and Hyrum. Some may possibly think and say, it was manufactured for this occasion. But there are many here under the sound of my voice who heard br. F. relate the vision years ago. I will tell it as correctly as my memory will allow me.

In the Spring of 1844, br. Farnsworth started out after dinner, to go to work on the temple as usual. The sun shone brightly as he walked along down Parley street towards the place of his labor: when suddenly the sky became overcast, and a drizzling rain set in. He stood amazed, and saw a tumult and excitement among the people about the temple, and a great excitement in the lower part of town. He wondered what it could mean. Presently he was told that the Saints had to leave Nauvoo, and take a great journey to the west. So great was the journey that it seemed almost impossible for him to perform it. Now he could see numerous trains of covered wagons and teams crossing the Mississippi River and bending their course Westward as far as the eye could reach. He also hitched up and joined the trains, and the journey did not seem so arduous as he first anticipated. He saw the Twelve Apostles in the crowd; but saw neither Joseph nor Hyrum.

They journeyed Westward a great distance, and finally came to a place where they intended to locate. They stopped, and began to make improvements: but distress and starvation stared them in the face, and it really seemed to him that they must perish; but soon there began to be plenty of every thing to eat, &c. This lasted quite a time: then there began to be scarcity again, and famine seemed to prevail, yet he saw none die of starvation, yet great distress among the people. Then there began to be plenty again—enough to eat of every thing desirable. The people all appeared in one place with large strong hoops around them in a body. The Twelve followed br. Brigham with mallets and fierce countenances, and vigorously drove those hoops upon the people until it did seem that they would be pinched or squeezed to death. Still they resolutely continued to drive the hoops. Dark clouds now began to arise and a general gloom prevailed. The hoops were all the time being driven tighter and tighter.

About this time an army or force of the enemy came into the neighborhood and offered protection to all who wished it. The darkness of the clouds and their awfully threatening aspect are now past description. The people burst those hoops and sallied out like a flock of sheep, and more than one half of them went to the enemy for protection. The scene was so awfully frightful that he was just on the eve of flying himself, but a thought occurred to him to hold on a little longer. He did so. Dark, angry and frightful were the clouds, indeed! Now is your hour and the power of darkness! Presently the cloud over the Saints burst, and light beamed upon them.

This cloud rolled off upon the enemy and those who had fled to them for protection: and oh! the scenes of death, lamentation and mourning that occurred in the enemies' camp beggars all description. The burning wrath of earth, heaven and hell, in fiery streams of molten lava seemed to leave not one alive to tell the tale. It did not stop here, but rolled throughout the United States, carrying the same desolation in its track. The faithful band of brethren left, then followed br. Brigham up into a large open cave where was every thing good to eat and drink that heart could desire. The shouts of hosannah! the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God for the deliverance wrought for them, rent the air, and made the mountains echo the praises of our God. From this cave they journeyed, I need not say where: but suffice it to say, no opposition had any effect upon them. The power of God was with them, and His voice was in their camp.

There is much more to this vision which I deem unnecessary to write. But after it was all over, br. Farnsworth came to himself, standing in Parley street on a beautiful sunny day. No covered wagons or excitement in town or about the temple. When he came to himself, he concluded that his exercises were of the devil, from the fact that he saw neither Joseph or Hyrum in all the scenes; but it was Brigham, br. Kimball and the Twelve. Before these scenes began to really take place, Joseph and Hyrum were killed at Carthage, and consequently were not seen by br. Farnsworth.

I relate this from memory, being some months since I heard br. F. tell it at his residence in Pleasant Grove, but, in the main, it is as he told me so far as I have related it. There are those here to whom br. F. told it more than twelve years ago, and they know whether I tell it as he did.

I have considerable confidence in this vision

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