

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Importance of the Dispensation in which We Live.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, October 22d, 1892, commencing at 2 o'clock p.m. President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang the hymn communi-

cate: "How Far Thy Kingdom Comes."

Prayer was offered by Elder W.

D. Bentz.

The choir sang the hymn:

"Behold the Great Redeemer Doeth."

A lesson was read by Elder J. G.

Rimell.

ELDER WILLARD DODD:

He then called upon us to address the congregation. He said, in substance, that it was his serious duty to go before a congregation of the Saints and address them upon their duties, and he trusted that he might be guided by the Spirit of God and be led to offer such remarks as might be beneficial to the audience and pleasing to God. He wished that the spirit of revelation and truth might animate him and dwell in the hearts of the hearers, that there might be unity of thought and feelings.

The Gospel contains all the principles of truth that exist on the earth; and whatever we may have seen from earthly sources, for truth's sake, as we hold, in all instances originally from God. If we compare the dispensations in which we live with former ones, we find that we have been made the servants of God in reference to the administration of the ordinances thereof; we find that we are living under a dispensation of the greatest importance. We are told to spread the Gospel among all the nations of the world, and we are judged according to how they receive it.

In the dispensation of Adam, a work had to be carried out differentiation from man; that was the dispensation of the foundation of the world, the law of creation. Adam was a prophet and was called upon to point out to his descendants the coming of the Savior, the Redeemer from sin and death. This dispensation was between Adam and Eve.

The dispensation of Noah was very important, but his work was confined more especially to the people of the city which bears his name. Noah was told to preach repentance to the generation in his age, as a means of escaping the coming destruction. We are told that only seven received his testimony.

In the dispensation of Abraham, he was told to leave his country and friends with all the inhabitants of the land by God, and to go to a land he knew not, and to serve God in a land to be given to him. He did so and his work had a widespread influence throughout the ages.

In the dispensation of Moses, he was sent to teach the people. He led Israel out of Egypt and after forty years they reached the promised land, and founded a nation which has given to the world several sacred records and the lineage through which the Christ came.

In the dispensation of Christ, He was given His special mission to perform, but it was restricted to the descendants of Abraham, as well as His personal work with His twelve apostles. He performed in His mission to a豫ian woman who asked Him to perform a miracle for the benefit of her child. When He said, It was not meet to take the bread from the children and give it to the dogs, just as the mother of Christ, however, the disciples were told to go out into all the world, but even their mission was limited. And we know that the powers and gifts of the priesthood were soon taken away from the earth.

In this case the dispensation differs from all preceding ones, for the benefits of it are to be extended to all, both living and dead, and the work has been established never to be overthrown. The temple of God, the Temple is not restricted to those living on the earth, but it is done in order that all may have an opportunity to receive the Gospel or reject it. In this age, therefore, the work of all dispensations is concentrated in the promise given to us in the New Testament, "I will not again be taken away from the earth." Nor shall that time again be taken away from the earth, but it shall remain, until all shall have had an opportunity of receiving or rejecting it. For what the Lord has done in this temple, we will faithfully in every detail. The speaker illustrated his remarks upon this subject by saying that when we look at a tree we can see the stem, the branches, the leaves, the fruit, etc., but not the root, by which the very life of the tree is sustained, and which is hidden in the ground. What we see is the fruitage but the roots penetrate all the general operations. It is but the development, the result of them.

A great work, we have to do, and the time is now. Shall we be willing and able to do it? We know how valiantly our predecessors have fought for it during persecutions of various kinds, but we also understand the meanness of the spirit which drives much of our children in order that they, when the responsibility shall be laid upon them, shall be able to undertake them. Do our children understand the principles of the Gospel? This is a question which requires an answer. The age of man upon earth is limited to three thousand and ten years. Few live beyond this and therefore the generation that now has charge of the Church of God must not pass away without leaving a mark upon history. This requires all the attention of the parents. Our glory and power hereafter shall depend in a certain degree upon our faithfulness in this matter. Upon the parents rest the duty of preparing their children for the work of the world to perform. And if through the lack of training the children shall be led into sin, the responsibility will rest on the parents. Hence the importance of the question, do the children understand the principles of the Gospel?

It is now evident that he was an exceptionally keen observer. Photographs reveal not only the similitude of the track, but also the ramified character of many flashes. Sometimes the filaments diverging from the main line are numerous and delicate as the ripples of a two or three small tributaries to a river. Whether these branches flow into or out of the principal stream it is not easy to say, yet electricity often discharges itself by a number of routes, the quantity of fluid taking each one being in proportion to the conductivity of the air or other substance through which the current as that point passes.

The speaker concluded his remarks by stating that he was sorry that the results were not more intelligible than was formerly the case some of the stories of thunderbolts freaks. Unquestionably, instead of

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