

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, March 8, 1891, commencing at 2 p.m., Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding. The choir and congregation sang the hymn beginning:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation,  
No longer as strangers on earth need we roam.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Orson F. Whitney.

The choir sang the hymn:

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform.

The Priesthood of the Fourteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

## ELDER JAMES E. TALMAGE

was called upon to address the audience. This vast congregation of thousands, he said, is indeed an inspiring sight, and it is a great responsibility to attempt addressing it, one which no speaker can undertake in his own strength. In responding to the call to occupy this position today, I rely greatly on your assistance. I stand humbly before you without any prejudice or any pet idea of my own to advocate, only desiring that the will and mind of the Almighty may be given to us. I trust that the great majority of us have come here to be instructed. Yet, some desire instruction on one point and others on another. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is therefore necessary in order to have the right kind of instruction given.

My short experience has been sufficient to teach me that the promise given by the Savior: "Where two or three are assembled in my name, there will I be among them," meets with daily fulfillment, but I know of no promise to those who are assembled in any other name than His. I realize that we are here in the presence of our Maker and that I who am called upon to address you will be held terribly accountable for what I say.

The belief that one person can exercise an influence over other persons by his presence among them is not confined to the Latter-day Saints. Societies have been organized in the world for the purpose of investigating the processes whereby mind influences mind. It is clear that this often is done, but it takes place through a medium which in many respects is incomprehensible. We are not lacking analogous cases in the physical world. One particle of matter always exercises influence over other particles, according to the law discovered by the master mind of Isaac Newton, and known as the law of gravitation. Thus the sun holds and governs his planets in their celestial courses, the larger bodies prevailing over the smaller and all moving in perfect order and harmony. We cannot doubt, even apart from revelation, that similar laws prevail in the dominions of the mind. By this we can perceive that when we concentrate our thoughts and minds upon a proper subject, we will certainly obtain from

the Lord that which we desire, and if two or three assembled in His name can claim His presence, the request of thousands can certainly not be withheld.

We realize, when we assemble in a worshiping capacity, that this is indeed a great undertaking, for we are here to worship our great Maker, whose power and glory is incomprehensible to us. We cannot approach Him except in the greatest humility. But although He is infinitely great, yet He can and does accommodate Himself to the condition of those that are weak, and He says to us, "Call me Father." We feel our relationship to Him. He is not only the father of our spirits, but also the maker of our bodies as well as of all that surrounds us.

I do not believe there are many here, if any, who do not recognize Him as such. Some there are in the world who hold the idea of a personal God to be inconsistent with reason. They think there is no God, because they have not seen Him. They claim that the great order that prevails in the creation exists because it so happened. The speaker illustrated the foolishness of this view by referring to the conclusions to which we must come by contemplating the great works of art or engineering. None can, in seeing these things, conclude that there was no artist, no author of those works. I have heard it said that the belief in the existence of a God is inconsistent with reason. But with this statement I cannot agree, even though many apparently take a delight in declaring that they do not believe in, and owe no allegiance to a Being outside this visible world.

Infidels declare that they cannot accept the Bible on account of alleged inconsistencies to be found on its pages, and they imagine it to be a mark of freedom not to believe the sacred records. One instance of supposed inconsistency in the historical narration of the Bible now comes to my mind, one which has often been referred to as a proof against the authenticity of the Bible. It will be remembered that Joshua on a certain occasion called out to the sun to stand still upon Gibeon and the moon in the valley of Ajalon, until he had completed his victory over the enemies, and the historian tells us that the sun stood still. It is claimed that this is an impossibility because it is incomprehensible how it could be done, and it is further stated, that had such an event actually taken place, it would have been recorded by other historians. Now, I do not consider it my duty to attempt an interpretation of the passage, but I will merely remark, that the sacred historian appeals to other sources for a corroboration of his statement, and those who assert that no other historian has recorded the event are either mistaken or guilty of wilfully denying a known fact. For it has been recorded by several profane historians, and there are many nations who have the tradition among their myths.

The Chinese have a tradition that the sun, at one time, during the reign of their Emperor Yao, did not go down for two days and that the earth suffered greatly from heat during that time. The Greeks and Romans have

similar traditions. Ovid has recorded a fable, that the son of Phoebus, the god of the sun, once asked for and obtained permission to drive the fiery chariot through the firmament, but that, the youth not being able to manage the luminous team, these did not reach the western horizon in due time, all the people suffering greatly from the heat during this period. Careful study of chronology reveals the fact that the Chinese Emperor Yao lived at the same time as Joshua, and there is no doubt that the peculiar Roman myth had its origin in the biblical event. Thus the truth of the Bible is testified to by many historians of the early ages.

It is not necessary, however, to refer to such sources for a confirmation of Divine truths, for these can be best understood by the aid of the Spirit of God, and none can comprehend such things, except through the Spirit. Not that a man has to disregard reason, for this is a gift of God. Yet, when men try to find the truth by reason alone, he will go astray, first, because Satan delights in leading men away from the truth, and secondly, because men do not always know when they are drawing correct conclusions from apparently true premises. Let a man therefore seek prayerfully to obtain knowledge, remembering that the human mind is always weak. Education and learning are acceptable to God, but He never reveals the mysteries of His kingdom to any but to those who seek them in prayer and with a humble heart. Such will be enabled to understand those mysteries and to accomplish great things. By the power thus sought and obtained David slew the mighty Goliath, and by the same power Joseph Smith was taken from the farm, while a young boy, and was made a man whose character and intelligence has gained for him, throughout all the world, a name for good and for evil. By the same power the Saints have been gathered from all parts of the world and made a united people, notwithstanding the various surroundings of their conditions before accepting the Gospel.

Referring to the blessings of the Gospel enjoyed by the Saints, the speaker said, there are things more precious than gold or silver. There are pearls of so great value that the price has never yet been named by men, and these are within the reach of all. A man who can kneel down before the throne of grace is indeed in possession of a treasure, even though his circumstances be ever so humble.

The address was brought to a close with a powerful testimony to the truth of the Gospel.

The choir sang an anthem:

God of Israel, hear our prayer.

Benediction by Counselor Joseph E. Taylor.

Dr. Minnie Sanders was lately permitted to serve as one of the jurors in an insanity trial at Anua, Ill. The Illinois law requires that in such cases the jury shall consist of "six persons," of whom at least one must be a physician. There was no male physician in town at the time. Under these circumstances Judge Crawford decided that Miss Sanders was a "person," and had her placed upon the jury.