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REMARKS

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG, Bowery, p.m., July 25, 1861.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

When I came into this church, I started right out as a missionary, and took a text, and began to travel on a circuit. Truth is my text, the gospel of salvation my subject, and the world my circuit. I presume I shall not soon go all over it, but I am still preaching and traveling occasionally. I expect to be here about every other Sabbath, as I have been for a few weeks or months past, except when I was in the South.

While I am here with you, I want to talk to the Saints; I like to look at them; I like to instruct them, and to be instructed. We pray continually for the redemption of Zion, for the Lord to hasten the time when we can return and establish the centre stake of Zion, and build up the great temple of the Lord upon which His glory will rest as a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night. We pray that we may be sanctified, that we may be made pure in heart; and we pray that the Lord will teach us His will continually, and reveal unto us precisely His mind, so that we may have the mind of Christ, and know precisely what to do.

When will Zion be redeemed? When will the Savior make His appearance in the midst of His people? When will the veil be taken away, that we may behold the glory of God? Can any of you answer these questions? Yes, readily, when I tell you. The redemption of Zion is the first step preparatory to the two last named events. Just as soon as the Latter Day Saints are ready and prepared to return to Independence, Jackson County, in the State of Missouri, North America, just so soon will the voice of the Lord be heard, "arise now, Israel, and make your way to the centre stake of Zion." Do you think there is any danger of our being ready, before the Lord prepares the other end of the route? Do you believe that we, as Latter Day Saints, are preparing our own hearts—our own lives—to return to take possession of the centre stake of Zion, as fast as the Lord is preparing to cleanse the land from those ungodly persons who dwell there? You can read, reflect, and make your own calculations. If we are not very careful the earth will be cleansed from wickedness before we are prepared to take possession of it. We must be pure to be prepared to build up Zion. To all appearance the Lord is preparing that end of the route faster than we are preparing ourselves to go there.

His grace is here, His judgments are here, His wisdom and spirit are here, and every qualification that Saints can require is here ready to be poured out upon the people, if they are prepared to receive it. Are we prepared to receive those qualifications? Are we prepared to march back and take possession of the centre stake of Zion, build up the great temple of the Lord, and gather in the nations of the earth?

There are hundreds and thousands coming here this season. We are gathering the people as fast as we can. We are gathering them to make Saints of them and of ourselves. Probably many of them will apostatize, though some will not apostatize until you give them their endowments, and then, if you do not speak out of the right corner of your mouth they will apostatize; and if you do not laugh out of the right corner of your mouth they will go. We are gathering a few that will be faithful in the midst of this people, and prepare themselves to be crowned kings and priests unto God. By and by, you will see the Saints flock together. Will they come merely by one or two ship loads? No, it will require many more ships than we have heretofore employed to bring home the gathering thousands to Zion. Millions of people that now sit in darkness—that are now, to all appearance, in the region and shadow of death—will come to Zion.

When Joseph first revealed the land where the Saints should gather, a woman in Canada asked if we thought that Jackson County would be large enough to gather all the people that would want to go to Zion. I will answer the question really as it is. Zion will extend, eventually, all over this earth. There will be no nook or corner upon the earth but what will be in Zion. It will all be Zion. I remember that the lady was answered by asking her whether she thought the ark was large enough to hold those that were to go into it in the days of Noah? "Yes," was the reply. Then of course Zion will be just large enough to receive all that will be prepared to possess it, as the ark was.

We are going to gather as many as we can, bless them, give them their endowments, etc., preach to them the truth, lay the principles of eternal life before them, inform their minds all we have power to do, and lead them into the path of truth and righteousness; and those who will not abide the truth will apostatize.

A few will remain, and a good share of them will cleave to the promises of the Lord, will be true in every respect, and will be accounted worthy to enter in at the straight gate. Straight is the gate and narrow is the path that leadeth to life, and few there be that find it. Millions will come and live in Zion, when the laws of Zion reign predominant over creation, but will all be prepared to be crowned kings and priests unto God? No. You cannot imagine anything that will not be in Zion, except sin and iniquity, and reviling against God and against His kingdom. All classes of people will come to Zion. Will there be Methodists there? Yes, and they will have the privilege to worship a God without body, parts, and passions, just as they do now, if they choose so. Every person and every community will receive according to the extent of their capacity and ability. Every person then will be blessed, will be filled with joy, will be filled with peace, with light, and intelligence according to the endowments with which they are endowed. Will all become kings and priests? No, not even all that will embrace the fullness of the gospel.

There are only a few ship loads of Saints coming this season. They will come thicker and faster, by and by, and will begin to inquire after the wisdom that is in Zion. The Lord is coming out of His hiding place, and is beginning to scourge this nation with a sore scourging, and vex it with a sore vexation. He is coming forth, and the sound of the report of what is coming on the earth and the power of God that is made manifest will vex the wicked and the ungodly, and will bring great joy and rejoicing to the Saints. There are millions of people, both among the Christian and heathen nations, that are still in darkness, and exclaiming, "O, how glad we would be to have some knowledge of the gospel of salvation." By and by, when the Lord sends forth His servants and His angels to gather them, they will be brought home to Zion and be taught the peaceable things of the kingdom; and those that abide a celestial law will receive a celestial glory, and those that can abide the next law in order can abide the glory pertaining to it, and so on. Were I to enumerate thousands of different degrees of glory and kingdoms, I probably should not over enumerate the kingdoms God has prepared and will prepare for the people according to their capacities, endowments, and what they can receive and arrive to.

We ought to be careful and not lay down our priesthood. The brethren and sisters ought to hold fast to their covenants, and walk in that way, in that path, which is pointed out by the gospel. Shall we love the world? In one sense, we should. Should we love it with a divine love? Not yet. Should we love the world and the things of the world, according to the nature of the world? We should. We are commanded, in this Bible, not to love the world and the things of the world; and then you read a little further, in the same book, and you are commanded to love the world and the things of the world. How shall we understand these things? With the divinity that is within us we should love divine things. Our spirits are born of our Parents in heaven, divine, heavenly, angelic. Shall these spirits condescend to love an earthly object, to worship it? If they do they become inferior to their calling and station before God. The body is framed for the tabernacle or house in which the spirit has to dwell. This tabernacle is formed expressly to hold its spirit and shield it. Should we love this tabernacle? Yes, enough to nourish it, cherish it, and treat it kindly; and foster and nourish and cherish it by the power of the Spirit, and make this body divine. The spirit must overcome the body in the flesh, and the flesh become subject to the spirit in all things; then we will love the world as it ought to be loved, not with a divine love, but with a human love, a moral love, loving all things according to their worth and capacity.

We love our wives and children, we love that which is calculated to make us happy and comfortable, but the divine spirit is to overcome the body and continue so to do, looking forth until the body also becomes divine, and then, when all has become divine, we may love all with a divine affection, but not till then. After the body and spirit are separated by death, what, pertaining to this earth, will we receive first? The body; that is the first object of a divine affection beyond the grave. We first come in possession of the body. The spirit has overcome the body, and the body is made subject in every respect to that divine principle God has planted in the person. The spirit within is pure and holy, and goes back pure and holy to God, dwells in the spirit world pure and holy, and, by and by, will have the privilege of coming and taking the body again. Some person holding the keys of the resurrection, having previously passed through that ordeal, will be delegated to resurrect our bodies, and our spirits will be there and prepared to enter into their bodies.

Then, when we are prepared to receive our bodies, they are the first earthly objects that bear divinity personified in the capacity of the man. Only the body dies; the spirit is looking forth, as you read in the Bible concerning the souls or spirits of those who lay under the altar, as John saw on the Isle of Patmos, and they were crying to God to know how long it would be before they would again have their bodies. Were we turned out of doors, and not permitted to go into a house for six months or a year, we would look forward to the time when we could build a house, and reflect, "I wish I had a good house wherein I could be free from the inclemency of the weather, as I once had."

When the body comes forth again it will be divine, God-like, according to the capacity and ordinations of the Lord. Some are fore-ordained to one station, and some to another. We want a house, and when we get it and our spirits enter into it, then we can begin to look forth, for what? For our friends; we want them resurrected; here is this friend and that friend, until, by and by, all are resurrected; and the earth is resurrected. Yes, and every living thing on the earth that has abided the law by which it was made. Then that which you and I respect, are fond of, and love with an earthly love, will become divine, and we can then love it with that affection which it is not now worthy of.

Here is matter we see organized in ourselves. We look upon each other, and we are matter organized. Look upon the brute creation, the vegetable creation, and both are matter organized. Who knows how much of this is going to abide the law of its creation, and the law by which it is made? Man is the only object you can find upon the face of the earth that will not abide the law by which he is made. When he abides this law, he is prepared for a glorious resurrection. Are my wives and friends going to be prepared to receive this resurrection? Are my children going to be prepared to receive this resurrection? They all have the power of choice, the same as I have; the same power of divinity is in them that is in me and you. I can not love them with that sacred, divine love, until they become immortal and prove themselves worthy of such a supreme affection. I do not suffer myself to love a wife or a child with that divinity that is within me, until they, with myself, are immortalized and glorified, and they are given to me as my own in that future state. I am fond of them; I will nourish, cherish, and guide them, and do all I can for them, so that they can prove themselves worthy to receive their bodies in a glorious resurrected state, and be prepared to enter into the joy of their Lord with me; then they are worthy of my supreme love; and not before.

When I tell the truth, that is enough, and I care not whether those who hear it believe it or not, for that is their business. If you had lived in the days of Jesus, Peter, John, etc., and had seen men called to be Apostles of the Lord Jesus, every time they taught the people, every time they preached, every time they prayed, and every time they administered in the house of God, if they did not do it by the Spirit of revelation and by the power of God, they did not magnify their calling. There are not many who know this. If we do not speak to you by the Spirit of revelation and the power of God, we do not magnify our calling. I think that I tell you the words of the Lord Almighty, every time I rise here to speak to you. I may blunder in the use of the English language; but suppose I should use language that would grate on the ears of some of the learned, what of that? God can understand it, and so could you, if you had the Spirit of the Lord.

I have had br. Kimball ask me if his mode of communication pleased me. Yes, for I know what he means. I read his spirit when he preaches, and if he preaches by the power of God, I can understand it if he speaks it back end forward as well as if he spoke it straight forward, and in picked and choice language. The Spirit of revelation is the best grammar you ever studied. As I was telling you this morning, let the power of God come upon this congregation and open the vision of your minds, and an angel of God appear here, and you would be in the light of eternity and in vision in a moment, without a word being spoken, and volumes would be revealed to this people. What do we care about words? Chiefly to speak and to hear others speak so as to be understood. We have our language, but if a man speaks by the power of God, it is little matter to me what his words are or the language he uses. If I understand the Spirit of it, that is the way I find "Mormonism" to be true. The brethren who came to preach the gospel to me, I could easily out-talk them, though I had never preached; but their testimony was like fire in my bones; I understood the Spirit of their preaching; I received that Spirit; it was light, intelligence, power, and truth, and it bore witness to my spirit, and that was

enough for me. I have received it, and I have tried to improve upon it.

If I do not speak here by the power of God, if it is not revelation to you every time I speak to you here, I do not magnify my calling.—What do you think about it? I neither know nor care. If I do not magnify my calling, I shall be removed from the place I occupy.—God does not suffer you to be deceived. Here are my brethren and sisters pouring out their souls to God, and their prayers and faith are like one solid cloud ascending to the heavens. They want to be lead right, they want the truth, they want to know how to serve God and prepare for a celestial kingdom. Do you think the Lord will allow you to be fooled and led astray? No.

Br. Kimball said, to-day, when he was speaking, if you suffer yourselves to find fault with your Bishop you condescend to the spirit of apostasy. Do any of you do this? If you do, you do not realize that you expose yourselves to the power of the enemy. What should your faith and position be before God? Such that if a Bishop does not do right, the Lord will remove him out of your Ward. You are not to find fault. As br. Wells has said, speak not lightly of the anointed of the Lord. But you say they are out of the way. Who has made any of my brethren a judge over their Bishop? You read in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, in a revelation to Joseph Smith, br. Kimball and myself were present, that it takes twelve High Priests to sit in council upon the head of a Bishop. Can they judge him? No, for they must then have the Presidency of the High Priesthood to sit at their head and preside over them. Yet many rise up and condemn their Bishop. Perhaps that Bishop has been appointed expressly to try those persons and cause them to apostatize. A great many will not apostatize until they arrive here, and who knows but what the Lord has prompted a Bishop to do so and so to cause somebody to apostatize. One of the first steps to apostasy is to find fault with your Bishop, and when that is done, unless repented of, a second step is soon taken, and by and by the person is cut off from the Church, and that is the end of it. Will you allow yourselves to find fault with your Bishop? No, but come to me, go to the High Council, or to the President of the stake, and ascertain whether your Bishop is doing wrong, before you find fault and suffer yourselves to speak against a presiding officer.

I want you to have faith enough concerning myself and my counselors for the Lord, to remove us out of the way, if we do not magnify our calling, and put men in our places that will do right. I had the promise years ago, that I never should apostatize and bring an evil upon this people. God revealed that through Joseph, long before he died; and if I am not doing right you may calculate that the Lord is going to take me home. He will not send me to hell, but he will take me home to himself. "I will take you up here, Brigham, and give you a few lessons." I am going where He is, for I have that promise, and so have many others. I am telling you these things for your comfort. In all this there is no new principles and doctrines, though it is new to many of you. You must have faith in God, that he will lead this people right, in a way to preserve them from every evil.

You can read in the writings of the ancient prophets that the Lord is going to bring again Zion. The Prophet said that very quickly, it took him not more than half a minute. Let me ask the Latter Day Saints, how long will it take this people to fulfil that short sentence? How can they, unless they live in the light of revelation, and God leads them day by day? Then can they do it in a moment, in an hour, in a week, in a month, or in a year? No. It will take years to perform that saying of the Prophet, that he wrote down so soon. And it will take more than one Prophet or person, it will take hundreds and thousands of them to fulfil that saying; and they cannot begin to fulfil one part of it without the power of revelation.

You may read another text, "the Lord will empty the earth;" I will not say whether of wickedness or righteousness. How is this to be understood, and how are the people going to fulfil this saying of the prophet? How is the Lord going to empty the earth? Will it be done in a week, or a year? No, He has begun to do it. President Lincoln called out soldiers for three months, and was going to wipe the blot of secession from the escutcheon of the American Republic. The three months are gone, and the labor is scarcely begun. Now they are beginning to enlist men for three years, soon they will want men to enlist during the war, and then, I was going to say, they will want them to enlist during the duration of hell. Do they know what they are doing? No, but they have begun to empty the earth, to cleanse the land, and prepare the way for the return of the Latter Day Saints to the center stake of Zion.

Have we inheritances there? When I left the State of Missouri I had a deed for five pieces of as good land as any in the State,