SUNDAY SERVICES.

Discourses by Elder Jos. H. Dean and Apostle Abraham H. Cannon.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 24, 1892, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn commencing:

Oh God, we come to Thee
Knowing we are strengthless
We need aid.

Prayer by Bishop H. B. Clawson. The choir sang:

Behold the great Redeemer die,
A mourn for me to cover!

The Priesthood of the Tenth ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER JOS. H. DEAN

was then called upon to address the congregation. He expressed his desire to have the sympathy and faith and prayers of the Saints in order that they might drink living waters from the fountain of truth. He had learned by experience that it was necessary to pay to the Spirit to distinguish between the voice of God being previously stored with useful knowledge.

The speaker was thankful to live in a time when Apostles and Prophets again are on the earth, and for having the assurance that salvation is to be obtained by keeping the commandments of God. He felt that many do not fully appreciate the blessings we as the people of God enjoy. The manifestations of God's power are almost of daily occurrence among us, but being familiar with them we fail to realize to the full extent their miraculous nature. In the same way people are apt to regard with greater reverence ancient Apostles and Prophets than those who are living in our own age, and with whom we are associated. The fact is, there never was a People on earth who did not have weaknesses, whose actions did not at some time seemingly abound with his teachings. But at this time we do not view the ancient servants of God in the light. Their great and good works and words have been recorded and we overlook their weaknesses. This will repeat itself. It is sure to come, when the history of the great men in the Church shall have been written, they will appear just as good as any of those whom we now look upon with awe reverence, in looking back on sacred history.

The speaker referred to a belief that seems to be entertained by people in the world, viz: That faith alone brings salvation. If I should believe, he said, that a man could commit all manner of wrongs and be saved in the Presence of God merely by believing, there would seem to be no special reward for the faithful performance of duties. We have not it is by keeping the commandments of God that we could be saved. And the more faithfully we do this the greater will be our reward.

Concerning the divine mission of Joseph the Prophet, the speaker remarked that there are many things visible to us pointing to authority as a divine messenger. It is true that the very name of Joseph Smith is held in derision by the world. They do not have ideas of Joseph being a Prophet of God, but why should he not be a Prophet just as well as Samuel or Elijah or Jeremiah? All men born of woman have their weaknesses, but why should God not have Prophets in this age as well as formerly? Are we not valuable in His sight as just generations were? If we are, why should not God select Joseph Smith to be the messenger, just as much as any other man, with whose history we are familiar? It was necessary for the Lord to select a young boy whose mind was free from prejudices such as those his mind, consequently, could accepting in Heaven mind and will. This was necessary for the work Joseph Smith had to do. It is well known that the Lord could have done this with any man whose ideas had already been formed in the various schools of theology. We are glad that God was not from the various schools made more or less of the sects they left, even after they have embraced the Gospel. It is doubtful whether even the Lord himself could have succeeded a man like Henry Ward Beecher that he was wrong in some things. It was interview with Joseph Smith. He mind was free from the prejudices common to mankind, and the Lord could instruct him in the great work before him.

As an instance of the erroneous idea the world has formed of the youthful Prophet, the speaker referred to the fact that he was frequently referred to as "Old Joe Smith," although even at his death he was only a young man. He was remarkably free from sin and very few care to ascertain the truth. As another instance it was established that strangers often inquire as "Mormons" have a queer looking being, and they are usual disappointed when they find out that they are just like other people.

The speaker said he knew the commandments of God have a harmony within themselves that this work is of God, but if they cease to keep the commandments of God, the testimony is withdrawn. This truth is set forth in the following verses of the Book of Mormon:

It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God nevertheless they are held under a strict commandment that they shall not impart only according to the portion of his word, which he doth grant unto the children of men according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him.

And therefore to that will harden his heart, to him shall be given little; yea, even from him shall be taken that which he doth think he doth receive, for I will not speak to you in your state of darkness concerning the word which you think you have received, for ye receive it not; and I speak not to your state of darkness concerning my word, for ye have not received it, and ye know not me.

And I say unto you that whoever receives my word, I will give more word unto him, even that which I have spoken, that it may increase his faith; for he believeth on my word, and my word is sharper than a two-edged sword, and it pierceth even unto the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is quick and mighty to the pulling down of the strongholds of the devil, and to the overthrowing of his kingdom, even unto the casting down of souls into hell.

Behold, I speak unto you as though I did speak out of the mouth of God; for I know that ye will say that the word which we have received from the Bible is true, and we believe in the Bible, and we believe that we have received the word of God; but why do we not believe the word which we receive from the mouth of your brethren? Do you not know that I am a witness of the word which I have received? Do you not know that I am a witness of the word which I have received? Do you not know that I am a witness of the word which I have received