

and what will follow, but He holds out the opportunity to escape from the dreadful fate. The righteous will escape, and will do so by obeying the commandments of God. That is the path to salvation; while condemnation is the result of wickedness.

That which we are passing through today is known to Him. He understands our position, and proposes to try and to test us. If any of us tremble it is because of lack of faith. There is no Latter-day Saint who is living his religion, and who has the testimony of Jesus, who is seriously disturbed by anything that occurs. He trusts implicitly in God, and awaits the outcome with confidence. The adversary would be pleased if he could fill the Saints with fear. Have we not noticed how full of bluster and threats are those who antagonize us? Do they not tell us of the great dangers that menace us, and say that we are beaten or are going to be? One would imagine, to read the newspapers throughout the nation nowadays, that the Church was broken to pieces. They proclaim that it is doomed. There has been scarcely a year for the past sixty years that the same proclamation has not been sent out by our enemies. We were told by the Prophets that such statements would be made, and we see in the course of men towards us in this respect a fulfilment of prophecy. We are engaged in God's work. He is its founder, and He will take care of it. We may worry about how matters will go on, but it makes no difference; the work of God will progress. Our actions affect ourselves, but we have no occasion to worry about the work. Jehovah will care for that.

There never has been a minute from the organization of the Church to the present that the Lord has not been with the Church. There has never been a time when we have been left without the Word of God. The light from our Father and the revelations of Jesus have been with the authorities of the Church, and are with them today. If any of you have any doubts, go to the Lord and ask in humility, and you will receive a testimony that the Church is led by the revelations of God. Like Moses, the authorities feel, would to God that all the Elders were Prophets.

There may be things done, and may be counsel given, that the Saints cannot understand. It is your duty not to be disobedient. Go to the Lord, and He will teach you to be obedient to His counsel. There has been a great deal said about the influence of the Priesthood. There should be a great deal of influence, and if we conform to it we will walk by the light which God will give to us individually. The great strength of this work is because no three men, or no fifteen men, lead the people. The First Presidency and Apostles are the leaders of the people, but they do not lead them. God leads them. Let the Presidency or Apostles turn aside, and they will fail as did Sidney Rigdon, William Law and others. The Saints

know the voice of the true Shepherd, and will not follow another.

If counsel comes from the First Presidency, and we do not understand it, it is our duty to go to our Father and ask Him to enlighten our minds. We have no business to stand and murmur. Some time ago there was some counsel given by the leader of Israel; one of the Apostles could not understand it, and he was greatly troubled. But he saw a vision, something like Peter saw of the animals which the Lord had made clean, and this Apostle then understood that the counsel he had objected to was proper. There may be things of this kind in the future. It is that wisdom with which He will inspire His servants that will bring salvation to the people. Jehovah will show the inhabitants of the earth that He is God, and there is no power that can defeat His purposes. The little stone which Daniel saw will roll forth, continuing to gather power and to increase till it will fill the whole earth. Nothing can prevent it.

The Saints possess qualities from the Gospel which cannot be destroyed. Men may attempt to deprive us of those qualities, but that cannot change the results. There is a work being done by us under God's blessing that cannot be covered up or extinguished, unless, indeed, the whole people are destroyed. The Lord has bestowed His power on men, and it will live with them if they are faithful. God has promised that His work shall not be destroyed. Be patient and you will see all the well-devised plans against the Lord's work fail. The seeming triumph of those who fight against God will turn to ashes on their lips, as does Dead Sea fruit. With them it will be as the Prophet says—they will dream that they are eating and drinking, but will awake and find that they are still hungry and thirsty, so far as hindering this work is concerned. May God cause that His power may rest upon all who seek for it.

The choir sang the anthem:

Who is like unto thee, O Lord?

The closing prayer was offered by Elder H. P. Richards, and conference adjourned till Monday at 10 a. m.

On Monday morning the services commenced at 10 o'clock with the choir singing:

Praise ye the Lord! 'Tis good to raise
Your hearts and voices in His praise.

Prayer was offered by Elder Andrew Jensen, after which the choir sang:

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.

The first speaker was

ELDER JAS. E. TALMAGE,

who said: Accustomed as we are to seeing thousands of our people assemble in this building, such a congregation as is present this morning appears very small. I do not think, however, that numbers alone will count with God, but the quality will rather be considered. If the

house were filled with faithful and sincere worshippers, a richer outpouring of the Holy Spirit might reasonably be anticipated; but a few have it in their power by united faith to call down the blessing and power of God, and the prayers of a single righteous individual have been known to avail much. If the whole of the Saints were faithful great power must certainly attend them, but if even a majority of them are in that condition, as doubtless is the case, the favor of the Almighty may be reasonably looked for. It is the will of God that the Saints shall be surrounded by adverse influences, and have to contend with evil in many forms that their integrity may be proven, but if they eschew evil, cling to the truth and are faithful to their covenants they will be entitled to and enjoy the blessings of God from day to day. I do not agree with those who express the opinion that the Lord is displeased with the Saints and that He has withdrawn His Spirit from them. I know that the Spirit of God is abundantly enjoyed by the faithful Saints, and there is no need for discouragement. The press of the country has of late been announcing the death-knell of "Mormonism," but the public has so often in the past been invited through the same medium to attend the funeral of "Mormonism," while that institution still continued to exist and flourish, that it is no longer worthy of credence. The example of Samson conveys a lesson that the Saints may profit by. His enemies, the Philistines, with whom his wife also was in league, tried for a long time and in vain to discover the secret of his strength. His answers misled them, and their efforts to control him by blinding him with green wither, new cords and weaving his hair in a loom were in turn futile, but wearied with his wife's importunities he finally imparted to her the secret and was shorn of his locks and his strength and, blind and humiliated, he was paraded as a puppet by his enemies. The enemies of the Saints of God in this age have been equally curious to learn the secret of their strength, and though exultant at times in the hope that they had discovered it, time has proved, as it did in the case of Samson, that they were mistaken. Though bound and fettered many times, they have in every instance broken forth stronger than ever. I have heard Bishops and leading churchmen among our opponents declare that it was useless to try to effect their purpose by laboring with the adult members of the Church, but it must be done through turning the children from the faith or by resorting to other strategy. If we do our duty by our children, even in this they will fail, and if we guard well our covenants and betray not the secrets of our strength with the Lord, they will never be able to cope with us.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

read a portion of the 49th chapter of Isaiah, beginning at the 13th verse.

Probably among all the prophecies of Isaiah there is none that is more