

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, July 12th, 1891, commencing at 2 p.m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn beginning:

Our God, we raise to Thee,  
Thanks for Thy blessing free.

Prayer was offered by Elder George E. Woolley.

The choir next sang the hymn:

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,  
Uttered or unexpressed.

The Priesthood of the Eleventh Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

## ELDER B. H. ROBERTS

was called to address the congregation. He commenced by referring to the great privilege which they as a people enjoyed in meeting together on the Sabbath day in that place to worship God, to be instructed in His ways and purposes, and for a renewal of spiritual strength. They were occasions of encouragement, when the mind, wearied and perplexed, might receive consolation and help by a consideration of those glorious things which the Lord had revealed.

We lived in an age when God had again revealed himself to man in the flesh, and that in no uncertain manner not in a dream of the night nor in a vision of the darkness, but in the full light of day and under the broad canopy of heaven. He condescended thus to reveal Himself to the prophet Joseph Smith, a lad in the possession of all his faculties and awake to a lively consciousness of what was transpiring around him. The boy prophet beheld the Lord clearly and distinctly, and learned that there was truth in the Scripture which said that "God made man in His own image;" for He appeared to him in the form of man, as a glorified Being surrounded by a beautiful halo which came with Him from heaven. He was accompanied by His Son Jesus Christ, whom he introduced to the young prophet, and a conversation of some length passed between them upon the subject that Joseph Smith had gone to learn of. He (the speaker) derived great consolation when he remembered that we lived in an age when so glorious an event as that transpired, when we were not left with the testimony of ancient prophets alone either upon the eastern or western continent.

Some three years after this first great vision was given to Joseph Smith he was blessed with another, second in grandeur only to the first. One of the ancient prophets who had lived upon this continent, who had passed through the valley of the shadow of death and had been raised from the dead, appeared unto him and announced the existence of a new volume of scripture—the testimony of another continent of people with the same great truths to which the Jews testified. He also revealed unto him the things which were shortly to come to pass. In the course of making this proclamation the

heavenly messenger quoted some of the prophecies found recorded in the Jewish scriptures. Fortunately, the Prophet Joseph had left upon record the passages thus quoted to him, so that we might learn from those ancient predictions what were the purposes of Almighty God as pertaining to the Father, and the character of the work that He was about to establish in the earth. The Prophet Joseph told us that the angel first quoted a portion of the third chapter of Malachi and also of the fourth, which Elder Roberts read and commented upon at some length. The angel said that the things therein described should come to pass; and the experience of the world taught us that when men persisted in going from bad to worse, when wickedness increased on every hand until it would be unjust to allow a totally ungodly generation to perpetuate their species, some strong hand, guided by some strong power, had swept them from the earth. So in the generation in which we lived, as with generations which had preceded us, if we sowed the wind we must expect to reap the whirlwind. It was the irrevocable decree of God, and we could not alter, amend, or avert it try how we would. Men could be saved only by repenting of their sins and turning from unrighteousness.

The angel quoted these words also: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," etc. That scripture, as foretold by him, was likewise fulfilled; for in the year 1835 Elijah did visit the Kirtland temple and revealed those principles which had turned the hearts of this people unto the fathers, and, he doubted not, the hearts of the fathers to the children. Or, better still, as actually quoted by him the passage stood a little different. Thus: "I will reveal unto you the Priesthood by the hand of Elijah; and he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made unto the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall be turned to their fathers, lest I should come and smite the earth with a curse." The evidence that there was virtue in the message delivered by the Prophet Elijah to this people was witnessed to the world by the temples which had been erected by them, in which a great work had been done both for the living and the dead.

The heavenly messenger quoted from the writings of Isaiah, too, in which was predicted the glorious return of the hosts of Israel. The 11th chapter of that book contained the assuring promise of a reign of peace, of a time when the "lion shall eat straw like the ox, when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb," and "a little child shall lead them." "And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp and the weaned child put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

The speaker then read from verse 12 to 16 of the same chapter, referring to the gathering together of "the dis-

persed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." The time was at hand when Israel, so long scattered, when Judah, that had been despised of all nations, buffeted, maltreated and hunted like wild beasts of the forest, would be remembered by God according to the promises made unto the fathers, and when He would turn His loving favor towards them again; the day was coming when Jerusalem should no longer be trodden under the feet of the Gentiles, whose time was nearly at hand. He who proclaimed these things was a messenger from the courts of heaven; and he (the speaker) would that his own voice was strong enough to reach the remnants of the house of Israel in every land, and the house of Judah, scattered as it was, a hiss and a byword among the nations, fleeing as that people did, stripped, bleeding and dispossessed of all by the Russian government, from that inhospitable land, Russia. He would that their voices could reach them, bidding them be of good cheer, that the hour of their redemption was at hand, and that they whom the fathers had rejected would again receive a manifestation of God's love and kindness for them. He looked forward with fond anticipation to the time, indeed, when unto the Elders of Israel would be given the word, "Turn now unto the house of Judah." We were told emphatically that while this Gospel was first unto the Gentiles, it was secondly unto the Jews; and unto that people, as swift messengers of mercy, he expected the Elders of Israel to go forth, clothed with the power of the holy Priesthood, bringing them salvation and redemption.

Elder Roberts next turned to the third chapter of Acts, from the 22nd verse of which he read, to the end of the chapter. Not always, he said, was the law of God upon the earth to be treated with contempt; not always should wicked men and combinations of wicked men have power to spurn and set aside the decrees of Jehovah. For the time must come, as had been predicted, when every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ, when every man should own allegiance to the God of heaven and earth, "whose right it is to reign." Not always should the word of God be as a shuttlecock, banded about between the battlers in the hands of ungodly men.

Before the happy scenes described in the portion of Holy Writ which he had just read came to pass there might be revolutions, wars, famines, and pestilence stalking abroad upon the earth. The Latter-day Saints had been declaring these things to the inhabitants of the world for the last fifty years or more, and warning the nations that the hour of God's judgments was at hand. Their anxious desire was to save all who would listen unto the Gospel message; for it was laid down in God's word: "In Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall safety be found, and all those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered."

When we reflected upon the glorious promises which God had made unto His people, could we not derive encouragement from them? Where was there room for despondency or doubt, where the reason for faltering in the