

than did the ancient prophets as they foreaw them under the inspiration of heaven. The discovery of America by the Gentiles was revealed unto Nephi; for in his vision he says:

"And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land.

"And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the waters.

"And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of Gentiles upon the land of promise; and I beheld the wrath of God, that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles, and were smitten.

"And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles; that they did prosper, and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceeding fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain.

"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord; and the power of the Lord was with them.

"And I beheld that their inother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them.

"And I beheld that the power of God was with them, and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle.

"And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity, were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations."

Now this is a little history that was revealed to the Prophet Nephi before the events transpired. He saw all this and made a record of it; we have now that record and we know of its fulfilment.

It is a singular thing, mentioned I believe by all the biographers of Columbus, that the incentive which prompted him in his efforts to reach a land westward from Europe grew out of the fact that he believed he had been commissioned by high heaven to open up that western land, whatever it might be, through the influences of the Christian religion; that was what enabled him to bear up under the discouragements with which he met, and to go from court to court throughout Europe, until the Lord touched the heart of the Queen of Spain and led her to pledge herself that he should have an outfit to prosecute his enterprise, even if she had to sacrifice her jewels to provide it for him. It was the inspiration of Almighty God resting upon this man which urged him onward; that same spirit rested upon other Gentiles who, filled with a love of adventure, dared to trust their lives and fortunes in the enterprise of discovery upon this continent.

There is another fact recorded in this last passage I have read—that the Gentiles were gathered together against those who had fled out of captivity to this land. The

hand of God was against them, but the Spirit was with those who were trying to maintain their liberty. Therefore we do not believe that this government of ours was established or sustained by the wisdom and power of man alone, but that the hand of God was over it.

There are very palpable evidences of God's overruling providence in the great American revolution. It is a singular thing that, in order to assist them in obtaining their liberties, the colonies succeeded in gaining the support of two European despotisms, France and Spain, both of which countries had large colonial possessions in America. Surely it would be naturally thought that they would have been the last to teach colonists to rebel against the parent government. Nothing but the power of God could have enlisted them in a work of this character. Not only do we believe, in consonance with the teachings of the Book of Mormon, that God was with the patriots of this land in their struggle for independence, but it is, so to speak, an article of our creed that the Constitution was drafted and perfected by the fathers of the Republic, under divine inspiration. In the Book of Doctrine and Covenants is found a positive declaration in relation to this matter. The Lord, in speaking to this Church through the Prophet Joseph Smith in the year 1833, shortly after the Saints had been driven from Jackson County, Mo., said:

"And again I say unto you, those who have been scattered by their enemies, it is my will that they should continue to importune for redress, and redemption, by the hands of those who are placed as rulers, and are in authority over you,

According to the laws and constitution of the people which I have suffered to be established, and should be maintained for the rights and protection of all flesh, according to just and holy principles,

That every man may act in doctrine and principle pertaining to futurity, according to the moral agency which I have given unto them, that every man may be accountable for his own sins in the day of judgment.

Therefore, it is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another.

And for this purpose have I established the constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood."

Here we have the direct word of the Lord that He established the Constitution of this land through wise men whom He raised up for that very purpose. This is in harmony with the declarations contained in the Book of Mormon—that this land had been consecrated as a land of liberty unto a righteous people who should keep the laws of God. With this as an article of our faith, it is not surprising that we are today found worshipping under the American flag, which is the emblem, as I understand it, of our Constitution. Sufficient weight has never been given to this part of our belief by those who are called upon to judge as to whether we are

friendly disposed or otherwise towards the government.

The late President Young once said: "You might as well accuse us of being unfriendly disposed towards our religion as to say that we are unfriendly disposed toward the government of our land; because there is no item that is regarded as more directly resulting from the inspiration of heaven than the establishment of the government of the United States." Our practice has always been in harmony with this theory. All along the path that has been trodden by the Latter-day Saints are to be found evidences of their loyalty and friendliness to the United States government. When, we may ask, have we ever sought to oppress anyone, or acted unfriendly toward those principles which underlie this government? Had the Latter-day Saints been disposed to manifest any antagonism toward the government, a number of crises have occurred in their experience which would have afforded them a very excellent opportunity. There are those among us who remember very clearly when they were driven from the States of Missouri and Illinois. Some of the most prominent senators of that day called upon the Church leaders and asked them to leave. Our fathers complied with that request, unjust though it was; they left their beautiful city on the banks of the Mississippi River, and sought for that peace and liberty among savages which had been denied them among the so-called Christan people of the Western States. After this expulsion from their homes—for it can be called nothing else—and while en route for this region, that government which had treated them so unkindly—even refusing them that protection which was theirs by right—sent a representative to our fathers—who were then encamped with their tents and wagons upon the banks of the Missouri—and had the audacity to ask them to furnish five hundred of their able-bodied men to go to California to engage in the war with Mexico. What did our fathers do at that juncture? Did they say: "You permitted us to be driven from Missouri, to be stripped of all our earthly possessions, our homes given to the flames, our wives and children sent adrift over the frosted ground until their tracks could be followed by the blood in their footprints; you permitted us to be harassed and perplexed by mobs in Illinois, even while under the pledged honor of that State; you permitted our leaders to be murdered in cold blood, and mobs to murder and burn until we were compelled to leave the confines of your nation?" Did they bring all these horrible witnesses against the injustice of our government and say, "We can furnish no battalion to such a government as that?" No; on the contrary. The Church leaders rejoiced that they now had an opportunity to display their friendliness to the government and to give them an unmistakable testimony of their loyalty and fealty to the land of their birth, or choice. President Young's reply therefore was: "You