

I believe some of the children now born among this people will stand in the flesh when Christ comes in the clouds of heaven. The days are at hand when Christ will come; and the Lord will cut His work short in righteousness upon the earth.

We are here in these valleys of the mountains. I came here with the pioneers. I came with President Young. I brought him sick in my carriage, into the valleys of the Great Salt Lake. When we entered the valley he turned around in my carriage and sat up and looked upon the valleys westward, and he was wrapped in vision there when he saw in reality what he had before seen in vision. And he said—"Now drive down, this is the place for us to stop, I have seen this place before."

When we came here we found the Great American Desert. All the maps and charts in our schools have counted this region the greatest American Desert.

We were driven here by our enemies, and a good many felt bad that they had to leave our beautiful Nauvoo. But the hand of the Almighty was in it. He ordained this. The whole record of the Bible would not have been fulfilled, and the blessings of Jacob would not have been fulfilled without it. It was the will of God.

But thank God, there has a change come over the world and over this nation. The office of the President of this Church has been visited within the last few years by more people from all nations than ever before visited us since the organization of this Church. They have come out here, and found that there are no horns upon our heads, and see that we have been misrepresented. And there is a meaning in all this. There has a change taken place. And I rejoice in these things. Men come and talk to us, and they are interested in our position here, and they do not understand why these things are so. But certain things have been suffered to be.

Zion must arise and shine, for the glory of God must rest upon her, and this prophecy must come to pass; and here is Zion in the Rocky mountains. And the blessings given to the seed of Jacob, shall be upon the head of Joseph, and upon the heads of his posterity. We are the descendants of Joseph. Ninety-nine out of every hundred of this people are the descendants of Ephraim, that have been scattered among the nations.

Now this is our position today. We are here raised up of the Lord, and the Lord is with us, and the power of God is manifested according to our faith and patience before Him, and has been the case since the organization of this Church.

Here are aged sisters whom I used to shake hands with when they were young women in the old country, in the county of Herefordshire. How came you here? How came any of you from the nations of the earth where the Elders visited you; and many of them went out as boys to preach the Gospel, and they came there because they were sent. Many of our boys go now and they call on the people to gather; and they tell them, "we have the Gospel to preach to you. If you will receive our testimony and obey the Gospel you shall be saved. We offer you the only Gospel that was preached and practiced by the Apostles and Prophets." They offer the people these principles, and what is the result? All of you who come from abroad heard

these Elders' testimony, and the Spirit of God bore record to you that it was true, and you went and were baptized, and had hands laid upon you, and you received the Holy Ghost. Now had not the Spirit of God been given to you you would have stayed at home. Utah would have been as barren today as when we first found it, unless the Lord had given His spirit to the people. Here you have this testimony and you have come from the nations to fulfill those things pertaining to the Gospel of Christ and the building up of the Church and Kingdom of God.

This is the condition today. Our numbers are but few compared to the nations of the earth. But we are not going to fail. Zion will remain here, and it will be a safe place for any person who gathers to it from the nations of the earth.

What is the matter in the earth? Do any of you read the signs of the times? Why, I was twenty years old before I heard of a murder anywhere in the vicinity where I lived. One murder was committed in the New England States. One man named Long cut his wife's throat, and the people felt as though a great calamity had come upon New England. How is it today? It takes several columns of a newspaper to tell you of the murders and suicides that are committed in the United States in one day. Who ever, in past days, heard of such cyclones, killing thousands of people! The angry waters washing whole towns into the sea! Where is there a man in the earth, who confesses or acknowledges the hand of God in these things?

We as Latter-day Saints ought to observe these things. There is a meaning to them. The Lord is visiting the earth with His judgments, and it will continue until all that you read in the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the book of Doctrine and Covenants, has its fulfillment in the earth.

These organizations here were given by the Prophets of God. We have our Relief Societies, our Young Ladies' Societies and others. These were organized for a purpose. The Sabbath Schools, Mutual Improvement Associations; all organizations of the young in the community, open the way whereby you can all exercise your rights and privileges, your gifts and graces together; and which will save our sons and daughters, our families and friends, and unite them to us in the Kingdom of God.

Now I want to say a few words concerning our Relief Societies. They were organized by the Prophet Joseph Smith, in Nauvoo, at an early day; and he took great interest in the organization of that society. And he knew by the spirit of inspiration, what result that organization would have in the Church, and he saw by the spirit of inspiration the necessity of that society. And now they are all through these mountains, in every ward. Now I want to talk a little upon this subject.

These societies are assistants to the presidents of Stakes, and to the bishops of wards; and I want to give a little counsel to the presidents of our stakes, and to the bishops. You call upon these relief societies that are in your midst, to build temples, tithing offices, and to give of their substance for one thing and another. Now I want to give a little counsel, and tell you how I feel. We as authorities of the

Church should look upon them in the position they occupy as having some rights.

Now about wheat. They have been called upon a long time ago to save wheat. And if we should have a famine, we would have to call upon our wives to feed us. Now I am opposed to throwing anything in the way of our sisters in laying up wheat. As President of the Church, I have no right to go and take that wheat from them. Why? Because they have rights as well as ourselves, and we should sustain them in those rights. Now I do not know about your stake here, but there has been a feeling by the bishops in some places, that they have a right to go and take that wheat without giving any receipts for it, and that it was not necessary for these societies to lay up wheat. But it is necessary and we should sustain them in it. And while the sisters are helping us to build our temples and tithing offices, we should assist them. The sisters ought to have the right to lay up something for themselves, to build granaries and save this wheat. It is true the wheat may get weevils in it; but these things we have to prepare for and guard against; and I feel as though the sisters ought to have these rights, and have some assistance in the various wards. And go to work and help them, and have a suitable place fixed to preserve their wheat in. Now in some places, in Salt Lake City, they have done that, and the sisters have laid up considerable wheat. And there have been times there when the sisters have felt that they were willing to loan that wheat to the bishops if they could have the assurance that they could get it back when they wanted it. Well, they loaned it to Bishop Preston, with the assurance that they would get it when called for. Now, that is all right.

Now, brethren and sisters, that is how Brother Woodruff feels about relief societies. I think they have rights and we should sustain them in those rights. They have done a great deal in assisting to build up this Church; done a great deal on the Temple, and in the tithing, and in the work of feeding the poor.

Now in regard to our tithing, we have been called upon to feed the poor out of the tithing, and now fifty per cent of the tithing has been returned to the poor to feed them. We have so many calls to support the Church, that we think we should have the tithing to assist in these matters; I do not want any person to neglect the poor. Presidents of stakes and bishops, I do not want them to neglect the poor. The poor we always have with us, more or less, but not so much as in other parts of the earth. Now, I want you to remember this.

There should be some place prepared in all stakes and wards where our sisters can have a place to put their grain, as far as it can be accomplished. Not having an available elevator, this should be done. I thank the Lord for these organizations, and for all the organizations of this Church.

Now there is the Young Men's M. I. A., which is good, and much good is growing out of it. Our young men are called upon to go abroad in the ministry, and preach the Gospel to the world, and the knowledge they have acquired in these societies is invaluable to them in their labors.

As was said this morning, the Primary