

# THE DESERET WEEKLY.

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## ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

### The Sixty-Fourth General Anniversary of the Church.

The Sixty-fourth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a. m. on Friday, April 6th, 1894. The following were on the stand: Of the First Presidency—Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith; of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill, Abraham H. Cannon; Patriarch John Smith; of the Presidency of the Seventies—Seymour B. Young, C. D. Efelsted, John Morgan, B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds and Jonathan G. Kimball; of the Presiding Bishopric—William B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder. There were also a number of Presidents of Stakes and other prominent Elders from different parts of Utah and surrounding territories and states.

Conference was called to order by President George Q. Cannon.

The choir and congregation sang:

Redeemer of Israel,  
Our only delight,  
On whom for a blessing we call;  
Our shadow by day,  
And our pillar by night,  
Our King, our Deliverer, our all.

Opening prayer by President Joseph F. Smith.

Singing by the choir:

Praise ye the Lord! my heart shall join  
In work so pleasant, so divine,  
Now while the flesh is my abode,  
And when my soul ascends to God.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

delivered a brief opening address. He expressed his gratitude to God for the privilege the Saints enjoyed in assembling in the Sixty-fourth Annual Conference of the Church, and that there were present the entire First Presidency, ten of the Twelve Apostles, and other members of organizations and authorities. It was a matter of congratulation that the work of the Lord was progressing at home and in the nations. The Lord was with us and would continue to be so long as we sought the salvation of our fellowmen and performed our duties. The President spoke of the testimonies which had been borne and left on record by all the holy prophets, from Adam down, concerning the

raising up of a Prophet in the latter days to establish the Church of Christ in fulness and prepare a people to meet the Savior when he should come to reign during the millennium as King of Israel. He concluded by expressing a fervent desire that the spirit of inspiration and revelation might rest upon speakers and hearers during the present Conference.

ELDER A. H. CANNON

said he rejoiced in the testimony of the Gospel which the Lord had given him, and though he felt his own imperfections and weaknesses and saw them every day he lived, yet he hoped, through the faith and power which God would give him, to bring himself in due time under complete subjection to His mind and will. He was greatly pleased in traveling among this people to find how richly God was blessing them, especially in spiritual matters. It was said in some quarters that the Saints are gradually drifting away from the old love which inspired their hearts formerly and brought them into such close communion with the Lord our God. There were doubtless many cases of this kind—too many considering the day in which we live and the momentous events which lie before the people. But he was thankful to know, and to bear his testimony, that the vast majority of the Latter-day Saints were striving to live their religion and in possession of the Holy Spirit. But he realized also that there was still much room for improvement, and never before had there been so great an effort made by the adversary of our souls to lead away the children of God, to deceive the people and lead them into darkness, as at the present day. The speaker warned his hearers to beware of the false doctrines and lying statements of those who were going abroad among mankind. We might be sure by the testimony within us, if we lived faithful to the covenants made with God, that when Christ came again, we should know Him; there would be no need then for men to tell us that He had again come to the earth. Elder Cannon offered some good counsel to the young in this regard, and referred to the signs which had and would accompany those who believed. It was fashionable nowadays for some men to ridicule those who prayed to God. Infidels made light of the supplications which were offered to the Throne of Grace; but we might rest assured that God always gave to those who sought Him in prayer the things which would be for our good. The subject of faith was touched upon, and illustrations were given to show how the Lord, to teach us some divine

lesson, sometimes tested us to the uttermost by sending afflictions which we seemed hardly able to endure. The speaker testified that the Lord was near unto us; He heard and answered our prayers and gave to His children who served Him faithfully and sought Him continually those blessings which would be for their temporal as well as their eternal happiness. He admonished the young to seek Him while he was near, for there were troubles coming upon the earth which would try the souls of all men; and those who leaned upon the testimonies of others instead of depending upon their own faith and works leant upon a broken reed. In conclusion Elder Cannon prayed that the peace and blessings of God might rest upon all present during this Conference.

ELDER MARRINER W. MERRILL

was the next speaker. He said it was a matter of congratulation that we had with us the First Presidency, and that we had heard the voice of Brother Woodruff, who was so much beloved by the Saints. We were fortunate in having a part in this glorious work in the Lord. It was not necessary that any member of the Church should be in the dark. Each could have a testimony concerning the divine mission of Joseph Smith for himself. We had seen some persons occasionally who presumed to have revelation to direct others. We had seen men arise up in the ranks of the Saints with a feeling in their hearts that they were of more than usual importance and had the right, in certain instances, to direct the affairs of the Church. But sensible and thinking people looked upon that class with pity. The Lord had His work organized, His servants appointed to labor in the various callings of the Church and each had his allotted place. The training of the young in the work of the Gospel was dwelt upon, and examples cited for their guidance. We wanted, he said, to see our young men valiant in the cause of God, willing when called upon to go forth and proclaim the Gospel tidings without excuse or hindrance. We should teach our children the principles of the Gospel as fast as they were capable of comprehending them; here a little and there a little as the opportunity presented itself. He knew there was a feeling in the midst of the Latter-day Saints in some directions, on the part of parents—how extensive he did not pretend to say—that in regard to baptism their children should be left alone until they arrived at maturer years, and that they might then judge of the matter and what they wished to do for themselves.