

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, June 26th, 1892, commencing at 2 o'clock p.m., Elder H. P. Richards presiding.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Lord, Thou wilt hear me when I pray,  
I am forever Thine.

Prayer was offered by Elder Prime Coleman.

The choir and congregation sang:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning,  
The latter-day glory begins to come forth.

The Sacrament was administered by the Priesthood of the Eighteenth ward.

## ELDER JOHN MORGAN

was the first speaker. He expressed his earnest desire that, during the time he was led to occupy that afternoon in addressing the Saints, he might have an interest in their faith and prayers so that he might be blessed with a portion of the Spirit of the Lord to instruct them. He realized that none could know the things of God except by the Spirit of God and that it is necessary to be endowed with this Spirit when speaking to the Saints of God.

The speaker now read a portion of the book of the Revelation of John, chapter xiv, 6, 7:

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come; and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

The revelator had been told that the Lord was about to show him "things that were and things that should come to pass," and among the latter were this glorious vision of an angel flying in the midst of heaven, having an everlasting Gospel. At the time when this vision was spread before the Apostle John, the Gospel had been preached to that generation, by Jesus Christ and afterwards by His Apostles, by Seventies and Elders. It had spread in the land, and churches had been established in various places. The Gospel was then extant on the earth. But John saw that a time would come when it should no longer be on earth but be taken away and consequently have to be restored by a mighty angel. The speaker recognized the fact that the great body of the Christian world held that the Gospel has been on earth since the appearance of our Savior or even since the first preaching of John the Baptist. To this it is a sufficient answer to say that there has always been truth on earth. There have always been good men and women, desiring to do right as far as they understood it. Many were even willing to suffer martyrdom for what they considered to be right and for the principles they held to be true, but the power and authority of the Gospel have not always existed among men, and this fact was admitted by many of these men themselves. They declared

that the scriptures were completed and that the voice of revelation had been silenced, never to be heard again. Roger Williams declared that the true church did not exist anywhere, but he expected that it would be again established and that Christ should come and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Many reformers have left similar expressions on record as Roger Williams, the founder of the Baptist denomination on this continent. Yet, these men were all moved upon by the Spirit of the Lord. They were necessary in the work of the Lord to prepare the way for the Gospel when it should be restored in its fulness and power.

When in the providence of God, Martin Luther stepped forward as a reformer, he did not recognize the fact that he should be the instrument of bringing about a revolution in human thought, the effects of which should go down through generations for all time to come. He had but a faint idea of the grandeur of the work he was about to commence. But so it was. The Latter-day Saints see in all such men the instruments in the hands of the Almighty to prepare the way for the coming of the mighty angel with the everlasting Gospel, which should be preached to all nations, kindreds and tongues on the whole earth.

The speaker then wished to refer to a passage in the Book of Mormon. He had recently read an account published in the newspapers, of the discovery of what was called prehistoric remains in Wisconsin, proving that there had been a highly civilized people upon this continent, but the whole race had gone, no one knew whither, leaving only the evidences of their existence behind. The Book of Mormon, the speaker said, contains the history of these ancient people. It shows who built the cities and highways, the ruins of which still remain in various parts of North and South America. In the preface to this volume we read the following:

"And we declare with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon."

Here is recorded the fulfillment of the prophecy uttered centuries ago on the Isle of Patmos.

The Gospel had suffered many changes during the past ages until it was no longer the Gospel preached by Jesus Christ. Now the time had come for its restoration.

In accepting these renewed revelations from God, the Latter-day Saints have but been keeping pace with the plans of God in His dealings with His people. It is the world that is lagging behind. It is with the world today as it was in the time of Noah. It is with the world today as it was in the time of our Savior, when they cried, Crucify Him, crucify Him, and His blood be over us and our children. It is with the world today as it was in the time of John the Revelator, who was sent an exile to Patmos for the testimony he bore. The world is lagging behind. Nor is this strange, in view of the history of the world in these matters. There is a remarkable similarity between the circumstances surrounding the Saints today and those of former days. History repeats itself.

History also teaches what the results have been of rejecting the message of God. Have the purposes of the Almighty ever failed? Has man prevailed? Never. We read the results of man's failure to recognize the power of his Maker in the legends of the nations that have been handed down from generation to generation; in the devastations of whole countries and the ruins of cities. Christ prophesied that a time would come when there should not be left a stone upon another in the magnificent temple of the city of Jerusalem. And it was fulfilled to the very letter. As it has been in times gone by, so it will be in times to come. God lives. He rules the destinies of men and of nations.

In accepting the principles of the Gospel, the Saints have accepted the teachings of Jesus Christ. They have accepted the doctrine of repentance, of baptism, of laying on of hands and of gathering. The everlasting covenant has been renewed in their midst.

In accepting the principles of the Gospel, the Saints have had but one thought, and that is a desire to bring about the salvation of the human family. No people have labored more assiduously than the Saints to save and redeem the human family. Our Elders have gone to the world, suffering all manner of contumely and persecution, but faithfully testifying that this work is the work of God. Temples have been erected for the purpose of having ordinances performed for the dead. These things testify to the earnest desire of the Saints to save mankind. That the Saints have been misunderstood is not strange. The servants of the Lord have always been maltreated by the world.

In promulgating the principles of the Gospel, the Saints have followed the rules laid down in the Bible and in the revelations given in these days.

The Saints are not surprised at the situations with which they have found themselves surrounded from time to time. All these things have been foreshadowed by His servants. Not one movement has been made but by the sanction of God and for the good of His people. We have a God who is not far away, but one who is living and hearing, to whom the children of men can go and ask for and obtain information. No one need be in doubt or falter and waver because of anything that surrounds us. The purpose of all is that we shall be tried and receive an experience which will be for our good not only in this life, but in a life to come. What we do reaches behind the veil and has an influence over us for good or for evil. Here we sow, and as we sow we shall reap. As we build so we shall be in the life to come.

The speaker said he was aware that in the circumstances now surrounding the Saints there were things, the tendency of which was to lead many astray from the pure principles of the Gospel and induce them to look with allowance upon many things which were formerly abhorred. The profanation of the Sabbath was one of these things. It has become almost a mania. The Sabbath is the day when people think they can go to the lake, to races and all sorts of pleasure resorts. People who have covenanted with God in holy places violate those