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DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BY

PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW,

At the Sixty-fourth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Friday morning, October 6, 1893.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

President George Q. Cannon's remarks this morning were full of comfort and consolation. The ideas that he has presented are true. There never was a day since the organization of this Church when the Latter-day Saints had more cause to rejoice than they have today. The Church was organized over sixty-three years ago, and from that day to the present the Lord has been with us. His manifestations have been our experiences, and He has accomplished in our favor all that any Latter-day Saint ever did or could anticipate. His glory has been upon us, as a people and as individuals. As President Cannon has said, trials and tribulations have been the experience of the Latter-day Saints. God so designed that it should be. I daresay that in the spirit world, when it was proposed to us to come into this probation, and pass through the experience that we are now receiving, it was not altogether pleasant and agreeable; the prospects were not so delightful in all respects as might have been desired. Yet there is no doubt that we saw and understood clearly there that, in order to accomplish our exaltation and glory, this was a necessary experience; and however disagreeable it might have appeared to us, we were willing to conform to the will of God, and consequently we are here.

From the time of our receiving the Gospel to the present, the Lord has from time to time given us trials and afflictions, if we may so call them; and sometimes these trials have been of that nature that we have found it very difficult to receive them without murmur and complaint. Yet at such times the Lord blessed us and gave us sufficient of His Spirit to enable us to overcome the temptations and endure the trials. In going through these trials and troubles we are doing no more than did

the captain of our salvation. We are told by the Apostle Paul that He was made perfect through sufferings. And even He, the Son of God, at times found it very difficult. For example, in the garden of Gethsemane, when the time approached that He was to pass through the severest affliction that any mortal ever did pass through. He undoubtedly had seen persons nailed to the cross, because that method of execution was common at that time, and He understood the torture that such persons experienced for hours. He went by Himself in the garden and prayed to His Father, if it were possible, that that cup might pass from Him; and His feelings were such that He sweat great drops of blood, and in His agony there was an angel sent to give Him comfort and strength. Even the Son of God required miraculous help under those extraordinary circumstances. So we have needed it at times, and so we may in the future. Some of us have had this divine help under peculiar circumstances.

God has wonderfully blessed Zion. It is remarkable the change that has occurred in our favor in the estimation of the inhabitants of the earth, especially the people of our own nation. The course that has been taken by the House of Representatives within the last few days, compared with their action a few years ago, is amazing. It is God that has effected this change, because He is disposed to favor Zion, and because through our suffering in the past we have secured His favor, and He is determined to assist us and accomplish His purpose in regard to our redemption.

The work that has been accomplished in the nations of the earth and the islands of the sea is grand and glorious. And this is not all; within the last few months thousands of persons in the spirit world have been placed in a condition that they may receive the word of God and be saved, through the ordinances that have been administered in these four temples in this Territory. A wonderful work is being accomplished in our temples in favor of the spirits in prison. I believe, strongly too, that when the Gospel is preached to the spirits in prison, the success attending that preaching will be far greater than that attending the preaching of our Elders in this life. I believe there will be very few indeed of those spirits who will not gladly receive the Gospel when it is carried to them. The circumstances there will be a thousand times

more favorable. The brethren are laboring in these temples with their hearts and souls in the interest of the dead. The Savior said on a certain occasion, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God;" and He continued and made this remarkable expression: "and they that hear shall live." I believe there will be very few who will not receive the truth. They will hear the voice of the Son of God; they will hear the voice of the Priesthood of the Son of God, and they will receive the truth and live. These brethren and sisters that are laboring so industriously in the temples will have the honor of being, as it were, saviors to their kindred and friends in whose favor they administered these ordinances.

It is a glorious work, it is a grand work, and the kingdom of God moves on with force and power, and with grand and glorious success. Of course, our financial affairs pinch a little; but we are not dependent particularly upon the condition of financial affairs in order that we may rejoice. It is very nice to have things go along pleasantly and agreeably in relation to our interests in this world; yet we are not dependent upon those accidental circumstances. We are told that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and joy in the Holy Ghost. It is the privilege of the Latter-day Saints to live in the Gospel in such a way that they will feel approved of God. Of course, we do things sometimes that we are ashamed of when we come to consider them; but we repent of them in our hearts and determine to do them no more. That is all the Lord asks of us; and men and women who so live, live without condemnation. They have righteousness and joy in the Holy Ghost, no matter what may be their temporal circumstances. We live above and independent of these accidental things that occur today or tomorrow. We have acted, I believe, as the wise man that built his house upon the rock. Jesus said: "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock." What rock? The rock of revelation; the rock that Jesus said He would found His Church upon and the gates of hell should not prevail against it. We read that when Jesus