

I had learned to call Thee Father,
Through Thy Spirit from on high;
But, until the Key of Knowledge
Was restored, I knew not why.
In the heavens are parents single?
No; the thought makes reason scarce!
Truth is reason; truth eternal
Tells me I've a mother there.

When I leave this frail existence,
When I lay this mortal by,
Father, Mother, may I meet you
In your royal courts on high?
Then, at length, when I've completed
All you sent me forth to do,
With your mutual approbation
Let me come and dwell with you.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

spoke as follows: My beloved friends, it is with great weakness that I arise before you to make a few remarks on this occasion. I feel more than ordinarily touched in my heart with the loss that we have sustained in the death of one of our number who has been so active, so energetic, so full of wisdom and of intelligence. We have nothing to mourn over in relation to Brother Abraham H. Cannon, because, as it has been remarked, all is well with him. It would be impossible for me to give a history of his character and life, and it would be unnecessary for me to attempt it; for his life is an open book, which has been before the people, to be read of them, for many years; and all the people are more or less acquainted with his life and his labors. I believe that his course has been acceptable unto all who have known him, unto all who have been interested in his life, and that it has been especially acceptable to God. He has truly fought the good fight, and he has kept the faith, and henceforth there is surely laid up for him a crown of glory; for he is worthy to be numbered among the good that have dwelt upon this earth, and among those whose lives have been, it may be said, sacrificed, not only for his own advancement, but for the advancement and good and exaltation of the people. He has labored for the good of mankind, as his writings and the fruits of his labors which may be seen in the Juvenile Instructor and in the various publications of the Church will testify. These will live after him, and by and by we will realize, more perhaps than we can or do today, the worth of the labor of the sacrifice of this young man, and we will see the fruits of his labors where today they are but partially discerned. We will feel the loss of his co-operation and his presence and assistance with us in the great labor in which he was engaged from an early period of his life. He was but a young man—37 years of age last March, and he has been associated in the ministry for a long time in comparison with his life. For some eight years he was associated with the First Seven Presidents of Seventy, and labored diligently in that quorum; and since being chosen from that quorum to be associated with the quorum of the Twelve Apostles he has devoted himself, in writing, in publishing, in preaching and laboring in every capacity that he was called to labor in for the fulfillment of the mission that he was called unto, which is a great and glorious mission.

But the time remaining this afternoon is short, and it is desired that others of his quorum perhaps shall speak to you, and therefore I should be brief. I felt, however, in my heart to read a few words from the revelations

of God through Joseph Smith the Prophet to the people of the world in the dispensation in which we live. The Lord says:

Behold! mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion.

Will I accept of an offering, saith the Lord, that is not made in my name?

Or, will I receive at your hands that which I have not appointed?

And will I appoint unto you, saith the Lord except it be by law, even as I and my Father ordained unto you, before the world was!

I am the Lord thy God, and I give unto you this commandment, that no man shall come unto the Father but me, or by my word, which is my law, saith the Lord;

And everything that is in the world, whether it be ordained of men, by thrones, or principalities, or powers, or things of name, whatsoever they may be, that are not by me, or by my word, saith the Lord, shall be thrown down, and shall not remain after men are dead, neither in nor after the resurrection, saith the Lord your God;

For whatsoever things remain, are by me; and whatsoever things are not by me, shall be shaken and destroyed.

I read these few words in order that the ground upon which we stand may be seen by those who are assembled here this afternoon. We stand upon the ground described in the words which I have read. We acknowledge nothing that is not ordained of God himself, and that He has not commanded; we do not acknowledge the authority of man, nor the right and power of man to administer in the ordinances of the house of God or in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, except as they are ordained of God and appointed by him through his voice, or through the voice of his angels or ministering spirits which are sent to the children of men, and from them through those who are ordained of God under the hands of angels descended from the throne of Almighty God to administer in the house of the Lord and to proclaim the Gospel of life and salvation unto the children of men. That which is received from above in this way, direct, without any doubt in the minds at least of those who have their eyes opened and their understanding touched by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to know of the doctrine, whether it be good or evil, whether it be light or darkness, whether it be true or false—all such we accept; and those who received this know the truth; for God has revealed it unto them and they know in whom they trust, and they know whom they obey. This was the testimony which was borne in his lifetime by Elder Abraham H. Cannon. He has stood in this stand and he has proclaimed this belief and this testimony to congregations similar to this, and I know not but he has done so to those who are here today. He has received of the Lord that which he has obtained. The authority by which he acted here was not his, but it was God's authority delegated unto him; and he acted in the name of the Lord, by virtue of the Holy Priesthood, which had been conferred upon him by divine authority and not by the choice of man nor by the will of man.

I want to bear this testimony to you, my brethren and sisters and my friends, because I know it to be the

truth. And I would that all men should know the truth; for it is the truth that will make men free. No error will ever make men free. But when we know the truth, the truth will make us free indeed, and we shall know the doctrine, that it is of God. Therefore, what Brother Abraham received is of God, and he will not have an end now that he is dead, but it will continue with him as he shall continue, an immortal being, redeemed by the blood of Christ, and exalted into the presence of God, whom he obeyed and whose laws he kept here, and he shall enjoy this throughout eternity as well as for time; for that which God gives is an eternal gift; in other words, God bestows no gift on man except those gifts which pertain to eternal life and to eternal exaltation and glory in His presence. Therefore, the Priesthood that he received was from the Almighty, and it was given to him to magnify as a talent. He did not wrap it up in a napkin and bury it in the earth, but he put it to use, and he has gained other talents thereby; for he has gained the favor of God in many other ways than in receiving the Holy Priesthood which is after the order of the Son of God.

His family has been spoken of here by those who have preceded me. I want to tell this congregation—and I do it with the utmost pleasure—that Brother Abraham H. Cannon has received at the hand of God his family, not of man. When they were joined to him it was for time and for all eternity. It was not for time alone, but for time and all eternity. The blessings that bind fathers and mothers to their children, that bind children to their parents, and that bind the husband to the wife and the wife to the husband, are eternal ties. They are ties which man was created to enjoy. They are ties which are sacred and which are eternal in their nature, and without which man can never be satisfied in time or in eternity. Therefore, when God has given these blessings and these gifts unto a man for eternity as well as for time, they continue with him after he is dead, and in the resurrection from the dead he will come up possessed of the gifts which were bestowed upon him hereby divine authority and in accordance with divine law and in obedience to the divine will and word and command of God Almighty, which has been spoken in the day in which we live—not 1800 years ago, to the ancient prophets and apostles of Christ; but the voice of God that has been spoken to us in the age in which we live. And there is no man within the sound of my voice or upon the face of this broad earth who possesses common intelligence but he may come to a knowledge of the truth for himself; that he shall be able to say, as I say, I know that my Redeemer lives, and I know that He shall stand upon the earth in the latter day. I know that He has spoken from the heavens now, and that He has restored the fullness of the everlasting Gospel to the children of men; and He has commissioned men with authority from on high to administer in the ordinances of His house and in the ordinances of the Gospel of life and salvation for the children of men.