

their only desire, to sustain the Twelve as the First Presidency of this people?

Here are the Apostles, the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants—they are written on the tablet of my heart. If the church want the Twelve to stand as the head, the First Presidency of the church, and at the head of this kingdom in all the world, stand next to Joseph, walk up into their calling, and hold the keys of this kingdom, every man, every woman, every quorum is now put in order, and you are now the sole controllers of it.

All that are in favor of this, in all the congregation of the Saints, manifest it by holding up the right hand. (There was a universal vote.) If there are any of the contrary mind,—every man and every woman who does not want the Twelve to preside, lift up your hands in like manner. (No hands up.) This supersedes the other question, and trying it by quorums.

We feel as though we could take brother Rigdon in our bosom along with us; we want such men as brother Rigdon, he has been sent away by brother Joseph to build up a kingdom; let him keep the instructions and calling; let him raise up a mighty kingdom in Pittsburgh, and we will lift up his hands to Almighty God. I think we may have a printing office and a gathering there. If the devil still tries to kill us, he will have enough to do.

The next is President Marks; our feelings are to let him stand as President of the Stake, as heretofore. We can build the Temple, &c.

You did not know who you had amongst you. Joseph so loved this people that he gave his life for them; Hyrum loved his brother and this people unto death. Joseph and Hyrum have given their lives for the church; but very few knew Joseph's character, he loved you unto death—you did not know it until after his death; he has now sealed his testimony with his blood.

If the Twelve had been here we would not have seen him given up—he should not have been given up. He was in your midst, but you did not know him; he has been taken away, for the people are not worthy of him.

The world is wide; I can preach in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, &c. I can preach in all the world, and the devils cannot find us. I'll swear to you I will not be given up.

There is much to be done; you have men among you who sleep with one eye open. The foundation is laid by our Prophet, and we will build thereon; no other foundation can be laid but that which is laid, and we will have our endowment, if the Lord will.

As the authorities do not want us to do military duty, don't do it. If it is necessary, my neck is ready for the knife; as for myself, I am determined to build up the kingdom of God; and by the bye there will be a gleanings of grapes, and it may be said, 'To your tents, O Israel.'

We can build on the foundation that was laid by the Prophet. Joseph has finished his work, and all the devils in hell, and all the mobbers on earth could not take his life until he had accomplished his work. God said, I will put a veil over his eyes, and lead him up to the slaughter like a sheep, to be killed, for the people are not worthy of him, though God loves this people.

Let no man suppose that the kingdom is rent from you, that it is not organized; if all the quorums of the church were slain, except the high priests, they would rise up with the keys of the kingdom, and have the powers of the priesthood upon them, and build up the kingdom, and the devil cannot help himself.

You can go to a healthy country, buy the land, and don't let a cursed scoundrel get in your midst. Let there be good men, good women, and whenever a man comes with a wheelbarrow full of goods, don't sell him land, don't let him a house, nor buy of him.

Suppose we had ten thousand such places, and increasing in greatness, perfectly free from these poor devils, we should feel better than we do now. Let us all be humble and get our endowments, all be humble, industrious and prudent, what sort of a kingdom would it be: the foundation is laid for more than we can think or talk about to-day.

Is it the will of this congregation that they will be tithed until the Temple is finished, as they have heretofore been? If so, signify it by the uplifted hand. (The vote was unanimous.)

The men will act that have never acted before, and they will have the power and authority to do it. Is it the mind of this congregation to loose the hands of the Twelve, and enable us to go and preach to all the world? We want to know the feelings of the people. Is it your will to support the Twelve in all the world in their missions? (The congregation sustained this question by a unanimous vote.) Will you leave it to the Twelve to dictate about the finances of the church? and will it be the mind of this people that the Twelve teach what will be the duties of the bishops in handling the affairs of the church? I want this, because twelve men can do it just as well as calling this immense congregation together at any other time. (A unanimous vote.)

We shall have a Patriarch, and the right is in the family of Joseph Smith, his brothers, his sons, or some one of his relations. Here is Uncle John, he has been ordained a patriarch. Brother Samuel would have taken the office, if he had been alive; it would have been his right; the right is in Uncle John, or one of his brothers, (read sec. 3, par. 17, Doc. & Cov.) I know that it would have belonged to Samuel. But as it is, if you leave it to the Twelve, they will wait until they know who is the man. Will you leave it to the Twelve, and they dic-

tate the matter. (A unanimous vote.) I know it will be let alone for the present.

I feel to bring up bro. Rigdon; we are of one mind with him, and he with us. Will this congregation uphold him in the place he occupies by the prayer of faith, and let him be one with us, and we with him. (Unanimous.) The Twelve will dictate and see to other matters: there will be a committee for the Temple, and now let men stand to their posts and be faithful.

Adjourned to Oct. 6 Conference.  
Benediction by Elder P. P. Pratt."

Thus closes the History of Joseph Smith, the great Prophet, Seer and Revelator whom God has chosen to lay the foundation for the establishment of his church and kingdom upon the earth in the last dispensation and fulness of times.

He performed as great and mighty a work as any man that ever tabernacled in the flesh, save Jesus only. His mission lasted nearly seventeen years; from the time he received the plates from the angel Moroni on the 22nd day of Sept. 1827, to the 27th of June, 1844, when he was martyred in Carthage Jail, under the pledged protection of the Governor of Illinois, Thomas Ford.

The History of Joseph Smith is now before the world, and we are satisfied that a history more correct in its details than this, was never published. To have it strictly correct, the greatest possible pains have been taken by the historians and clerks engaged in the work. They were eye and ear witnesses of nearly all the transactions recorded in this history, most of which were reported as they transpired, and where they were not personally present, they have had access to those who were.

Moreover, since the death of the Prophet Joseph, the History has been carefully revised under the strict inspection of President Brigham Young, and approved of by him.

We, therefore, hereby bear our testimony to all the world, unto whom these words shall come, that the History of Joseph Smith is true, and is one of the most authentic histories ever written.

We were, much of the time, associated with him in his travels and ministry, since he organized the church of Christ upon the earth. He labored diligently for the salvation and benefit of the human family. He ever taught and practised, in public and in private, virtue, holiness and truth.

His brother Hyrum was martyred at the same time, with him; he also was a great and good man, a wise counselor to his brother Joseph and a Prophet and Patriarch in the church, and the spirit of his office was with him up to the time of his death.

They were slain for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, and the people and nation who have persecuted them unto death and shed their blood, will as assuredly find their words fulfilled upon their heads, even in speedy and certain destruction, as were the words of the Savior fulfilled upon the Jewish nation for stoning and killing the Prophets, and shedding the blood of the Lord's Anointed.

GEO. A. SMITH, } Historians.  
W. WOODRUFF, }

### DISCOURSE

By Elder Wilford Woodruff, Tabernacle, Sunday Afternoon Jan. 10, 1858.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

While I meet with the saints in this Tabernacle and partake of the sacrament with them, especially with such a large body of peoples there are here in these valleys of the mountains, it leads my mind in a train of reflection and thought concerning this work in which we are engaged, and whether I think of it long or short I have the same feelings and come to the same conclusions, and I say within myself it is the work of God, and it is marvelous in my eyes.

There is a marked difference between the work of God and the work of men, or the work of the devil, and that difference is manifest in the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. There is one characteristic connected with the work of God that has been manifested in its establishment in these last days as in all former periods, and that is that whenever the Lord has attempted to establish his Church and Kingdom upon the earth he always makes use of instruments whose peculiar circumstances in life will naturally lead them to acknowledge the hand of God in all that is manifested unto them. You have the example of all the Prophets from the days of Adam, and as far as we have any knowledge of them they were nearly all men of low degree and of humble birth, and the Lord has ever given them his Spirit to enlighten their minds, and to qualify them for the work assigned them. Men of this character have stepped forth and obeyed the Lord in various ages of the world, and they have given him the credit for what has been accomplished. This has been very clearly manifested in our own day.

Twenty years ago the 22nd day of last September, the Angel of God delivered unto the hands of Joseph Smith the plates containing the record from which the Book of Mormon was translated, in which is recorded the history of the ancient inhabitants of this country. Joseph Smith was a man of humble birth, and in one sense of the word he was poor and illiterate and, to look at things naturally, it looked strange that the Lord should undertake to build up his Church and Kingdom with such a feeble instrument. To some this may look a very small matter, but the work was great, and here was an honest soul, and the Lord made choice of that soul to give unto him the knowledge, the blessings and the glory associated with the coming forth of the Book of Mormon which should lay the foundation of

the Church and Kingdom of God in these last days.

What did that Angel tell Joseph Smith when he gave him the plates? The vision of his mind was opened, and the Angel showed unto him the condition of the nations of the earth, and said this record which I now commit unto your hand contains the words of life, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the Lord is now about to establish his Kingdom upon the earth. The world are in darkness, the Gentiles have departed from the gospel of Jesus Christ; they have forsaken the light, the glory and the power of the priesthood of the son of God, which was given to and enjoyed by the Gentile nations when Israel was cut off.

The Lord promised Joseph Smith at this early age that if he would obey his commandments and hearken to the voice of the Holy Spirit he would make him an instrument of bringing about this great work, that the Church may be brought out of the wilderness of darkness and Error and my name glorified among men.

The words that this record contains shall be preached to every kingdom, tongue and people, and whosoever this doctrine is preached your name shall be had in honorable remembrance among the virtuous, the holy, the righteous and those who desire to do good, but the godly will vouch your character, hold up your name to ridicule and scorn wherever the sound of this gospel goes, even to all nations.

The Lord also told Joseph Smith in the commencement of this work, as you will see by the revelations contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, that he was laying the foundation of a great and mighty work and kingdom which should be the kingdom of God and it should not be thrown down but stand forever, but you cannot now comprehend the extent of it. The mind of the Prophet was opened by the Spirit of revelation so that he could see and comprehend a great deal, but he required the Spirit of the living God, the inspirer of the Almighty to rest upon him continually to qualify him for the great duties that were constantly increasing upon him, and the same Spirit is required by any man in this kingdom, whether he be old or young, rich or poor to enable him to bring about the work of God, or to do anything that is of as much consequence as the upbuilding of this kingdom.

The Prophet was repeatedly told of the importance of the work in which he was engaged, and was commanded to obey the voice of God in all things, and then he was told that all that had been promised should be fulfilled. The Prophet saw the chains of darkness that were binding the souls of men, and although at that time he had not received the priesthood yet the Lord manifested himself to him in various ways and at many times before he was ordained, or before there were any baptized into the Church. In process of time, viz. on the 15th day of May 1829, he and Oliver Cowdery received the Aaronic Priesthood, and according to commandment they baptized each other. Then on the 6th day of April following the Church was organized, and the work of God established on the earth no more to be rooted out of it.

What must have been the feelings of the Prophet when, the moment he began to unboomer his thoughts, and to tell what the Lord had done for him, the Christian world began to mock and deride him. The devil opposed him, wicked men opposed him, and there was a spirit among the people to kick against the work of God, and there were whole communities that were opposed to the doctrine of administration of Angels, and consequently his path was rugged and thorny. Sometimes he would come across individuals who would listen to his message, and would receive his testimony. This made his soul rejoice to see that there were some persons who would receive the words of eternal life.

True, in the commencement this Church was small, and I frequently reflect upon what has come to pass in the world since God spake to Joseph the Seer; I also look at what has taken place with this people, and I can clearly see the fulfillment of the word of God spoken by the Angel to Joseph before the Church was organized; the Angel told the very scenery that I behold to-day, and from that time to the present this people have been fulfilling what the Angel told the Prophet would come to pass after he gave to him the plates containing the record of the Book of Mormon. We are daily working for the fulfillment of those things that were predicted from twenty five to thirty years ago; these very things that we are now witnessing both in relation to our friends and our enemies are in fulfillment of those promises made in the commencement of this work.

The Prophet's heart was made glad while he lived among us in beholding the signs of the times, and there are many here to-day who remember the early days of this Church and Kingdom. Some of the first Elders in this Church who went up to Kirtland to see the Prophet were made to rejoice in his society. The Saints who were gathered together were so few that they might all have been put in a small schoolhouse, but wherever the gospel had been preached some few had been brought to a knowledge of its truth and occasionally a few had been gathered up to Kirtland, perhaps one of a family and two of a city.

When br. Brigham and br. Joseph Young went up to see the Prophet they found him chopping wood for he was a laboring man and gained his bread by the sweat of his brow, they made themselves acquainted with him; he received them gladly, invited them to his house and they rejoiced together in the gospel of Christ and their hearts were knitted together in the spirit and bond of union.

Those of us who gathered to Kirtland in the early days of the Church can remember the scenes which happened in those days. I well remember the time when I first met with the Saints in Kirtland, it was in the Spring of 1834. I had

never joined any Church previous to hearing this gospel, and the first sermon I ever heard was preached by br. Zera Pulsipher, one of the senior Presidents of the Seventies, and my heart was made glad; I embraced the gospel, for I knew it was the first gospel sermon that I ever heard in my life. I was baptized by brother Pulsipher, and shortly afterwards br. Parley P. Pratt came along to gather up the warriors of the Lord to go up and redeem Zion.

I was deeply engaged in business at the time, but I felt that it was my duty to do all I could for the cause of truth, and when br. Parley came up I felt resolved to volunteer. We called a meeting and when br. Parley got up and said he was weary with traveling and did not want to say much, but he would talk a few moments, and when he got through it was about twelve o'clock at night; in fact he had preached about half the night—my feelings were such when he got through that if all the gold in the world had been presented to me I could not have been hired to stay at home. I went with br. Parley through Jefferson County, to the North, and then immediately prepared to go to Kirtland. I started to Kirtland on the 11th day of April 1834, and arrived in Kirtland on the 25th day of the same month. I then for the first time had an interview with the Prophet Joseph; he invited me to his house. I rejoiced to behold his face and to hear his voice. I was fully satisfied that Joseph was a Prophet before I saw him. I had no prejudices on my mind against him, but I expected to see a Prophet.

My first introduction to him was rather singular. I saw him out in the field with his br. Hyrum; he had on a very old hat, and was engaged shooting at a mark. I was introduced to him and he invited me home with him.

I accepted the invitation and I watched him pretty closely, to see what I could learn. He remarked, while passing to his house, that this was the first hour he had spent in recreation for a long time.

Shortly after we arrived at his house he went into an adjoining room and brought out a wolf-skin, and said, 'br. Woodruff, I want you to help me to tan this,' so I pulled off my coat, went to work and helped him, and felt honored in so doing. He was about going up with the brethren to redeem Zion, and he wanted this wolf's skin to put upon his wagon seat as he had no buffalo robe.

This was my first introduction to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the great Seer of this last dispensation.

I was not there long before I heard him talk about going to Zion, and it did my soul good to hear him speak of many things concerning Zion, the gathering of Israel and the great latter day work, and I felt truly satisfied with what I saw and heard.

I recollect that in the evening after I got there, several of the brethren came in and talked with br. Joseph, and asked what they should do, for they had not means to bear their expenses from there to Missouri. Br. Joseph said, 'I am going to have some money soon,' and the next morning he received a letter containing a hundred and fifty dollars, sent to him by sister Voce of Boston; I don't know but she is in the congregation to-day.

I have felt to rejoice exceedingly in what I saw of br. Joseph, for in his public and private career he carried with him the Spirit of the Almighty, and he manifested a greatness of soul which I had never seen in any other man.

The reason I speak of these things is because I want to refer to this congregation, and to this people generally as they have passed along, for truly, it has required a stretch of faith to be enabled to comprehend the accomplishment of all that has been done for the last twenty-five years. The Lord said by revelation in an early day, 'The harvest is ripe, and any man that desires in his heart to preach the gospel and will thrust in his sickle, he is called of God.'

The Elders that are called in this church, you can notice in them the spirit and disposition to preach the gospel and redeem the people from sin, tradition and error. At the commencement of the church, the Lord gave revelations to the church and to individuals, through the Prophet, to tell them what to do, be baptized, ordained, go on missions and anything that was required at their hands, and hence you can see in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants revelations given to Martin Harris, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, the Whitmers and many others, calling them to go forth and preach the gospel to the world. In those revelations are promised many great and glorious things, and the pattern is given and the foundation laid for a great and mighty work—a work not to be accomplished in ten, twenty, thirty, forty, nor fifty years, but a work that embraces the gathering together of all things which are to be saved both in heaven and on earth, and the establishing of the kingdom of God to remain for ever; and the Lord said, you are laying the foundation for a great and mighty work, but we did not understand nor comprehend its extent. He called upon us to go forth and warn the world of the judgments to come, and to call upon them to learn the ways of righteousness and to walk therein, and what has been the result?

Every man that has embraced it, whose heart was honest before God, has been inspired by the Spirit of God; he has been ready to engage in the work, to shoulder their knapsack and go forth and preach this gospel to all people whenever an opportunity presented itself, and the first Elders of this Church did preach diligently and faithfully, and many received the word with gladness and rejoiced in the truth.

Finally br. Heber C. Kimball was called to go to England, as you learn by the Church History, and he laid the foundation of a great work, as the Angel declared to Joseph should be the case.

The words of life that were engraven upon those plates have been preached to almost all nations, and have not the people had an opportunity of hearing? They have in a great degree, for the servants of the Lord have been inspired to