

lives that which has already been given to us. In this way we seek to conform to the image of God's own beloved Son. Thus we can see ourselves progressing from grace to grace and faith to faith, on the way to a fullness after the similitude of Christ. I am often reminded, in reading the Book of Mormon, in the work of the revision in translating the volume into the Jewish language, of the fact that Lehi and his family were brought from the land of Jerusalem, which the Lord predicted was to be visited with destruction. They were planted in this land, which is choice above all others.

Having been engaged in looking over the Book of Mormon, I am reminded of those earnest and impressive words of one of the early prophets, I believe Nephi—and reiterated also by Benjamin—with regard to the goodness, mercy, and blessings of God unto us. He realized that the Lord had compassion on his father, Lehi. He informed him that Jerusalem was going to be taken captive. In His great mercy He had shown him the impending ruin, and brought him and his family forth into this goodly land of America, which the Lord had said was the choice land above all others. In the multitude of God's mercies to us, we have occasion to be thankful that our lot is cast in this land of promise—this land of Joseph; a land choice for its richness and fertility of soil. But still of greater importance because of the liberty and the constitutional government that has been established herein; for we can see now what the liberal principles of republican government give unto us, in the inconvenience which we and our brethren and our families experience from time to time because of the limitation of their liberty on account of religion. It is thus in this land of free government, what would it be under an absolute monarchy, or even a limited monarchy? We read of the Bartholomew massacre. Some of us may have traveled over the very places where men have been burned at the stake for their religious faith when their faith only extended to their morality, because they had no authority to administer under the ordinances of the Lord. If men in those times could so readily give themselves up to be a consuming sacrifice for the little faith they had to hope for, the little knowledge that they possessed, how much more have we occasion to be thankful? We have reason to be full of gratitude to God.

The speaker then delineated many of the glorious promises that had been prophetically made concerning the land of America and which were being realized by the Saints. He then spoke upon a number of themes, included among which were the object for which the Saints have gathered—to learn of the ways of the Lord; the things of God can only be understood by His Spirit; the necessity of prayerful devotion; keeping the Sabbath holy; the necessity of avoiding all profane expressions; the observance of fast days; the great work devolving

upon the Saints to be done in behalf of the dead; the proper use of the authority of the Priesthood; the resurrection, and other subjects. An adequate idea of Brother Richards' discourse could not be given in a synopsis. It was reported in full.

BISHOP ORSON F. WHITNEY.

I hope you will sustain me by your faith and prayers while I address you. I have rejoiced with you in the instructions received during this Conference; in the glorious manifestations of the Spirit of God, exhibited in the remarks that have been made. I am thankful to be numbered among a people who receive such great blessings. I rejoice that we have with us so many of the brethren of the Twelve, who have been released from imprisonment, in which they have been held for the testimony of Jesus. We, as the people of God, are expected to acknowledge His hand under all circumstances, and in all things, whether they be pleasant or disagreeable, whether they appear like success or seeming failure. Even if we had not the leading brethren with us there is a faith in the hearts of the Saints that would acknowledge the hand of the Almighty in that condition. Job remembered his Creator in the day of his prosperity, but more fully exhibited the greatness of his soul in his subsequent adversity, which he bore with exemplary patience, giving glory to God. When advised by his wife to curse God and die, his answer was, in effect, "The Lord hath given and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." He knew how to confess God's hand in all things. It is in the midst of trouble, persecution and trial that the greater opportunity is given to men to show the metal that is in them.

A few weeks ago we listened to a discourse from this stand in which the speaker eloquently portrayed the greatness of General Grant on the field of Appomattox, and showed the magnanimity of his great soul towards his fallen foe. But I consider that General Lee, the man who then surrendered, evinced equal valor, equal greatness, at least, when on the field of Gettysburg he saw his shattered forces falling back and the hopes of the Confederacy melting like snow before the sun under that decisive stroke, which in reality decided the question of the war. In the moment of defeat, when a weak man might have blown out his brains or fallen to cursing, all that General Lee did was to say, with a sigh, "We cannot always win victories." The patience that he there manifested showed the greatness of his soul no less than the magnanimity of his victor on the field of Appomattox.

Of all people on earth there are none having stronger opportunities for exhibiting great qualities than the Latter-day Saints. All will have in their time the privilege of showing patience, courage, heroism—the attributes of a Job. Against none is the anger of the Lord kindled except those who will not keep his commandments and

acknowledge His hand in all things. The Saints are led by faith, but the world by the grosser senses. In the spirit world we maintained our stand by sight. We are having a more severe test now, when the face of our Father is hidden from our gaze. It is greater to believe and not see than it is to believe because we have seen. It is greater to receive a silent revelation of God's will than to demand visible manifestations to bolster up our positions. The inward evidence is superior to the visible, the latter being but a product of the former. The genius which creates is greater than that which is created.

Then let us go on and manifest the virtue of the Savior and His followers, even though we do not see him. We should do this because the spirit of revelation impels us forward, doing right for right's sake. May God bless his Church, His Priesthood and people. The victory of this work is as sure as the rising of tomorrow's sun.

Singing:

To who are called to labor and minister for God

Bless with the royal Priesthood, and called by His word.

Benediction by President Angus M. Cannon.

Adjourned till 2 p. m.

Monday Afternoon.

Arise! Arise! With joy survey
The glory of the latter day,

was sung by the choir.

Prayer by Elder Junius F. Wells.

Singing by the choir.

How are Thy servants blest! O Lord,
How sure is their defense,
Eternal wisdom is their guide,
Their help, Omnipotence.

APOSTLE FRANCIS M. LYMAN

addressed the conference. He said: I am pleased with the privilege of meeting with the Saints in General Conference and listening to the testimonies of the servants of the Lord. He also was willing to bear his testimony and speak of the goodness of God. We have greater cause to rejoice than any other people. The Lord has revealed the truth regarding Himself, His Son and the Holy Ghost, and our relationship to Him and the principles that will enable us to be His sons and daughters. We are charged with the duty of preaching the Gospel to the whole world. He has given us the Spirit of the Lord to enable us to accomplish this. The Church has now been established for nearly a generation. We are gathered on this land, and God has given us the living oracles, who are within our reach. Each individual Saint worthy the name has a personal testimony that this is the work of God, never to be removed nor abolished. The Church is fully organized and the organization is perpetual. The Church cannot be diminished by the loss of any member or quorum. The God of heaven has established and maintains it. He has sustained it since the first revelation of the Father and the Son to Joseph Smith. The hearts of men have been pre-