

Apostles—Brother Lorenzo Snow. It was something to this effect: That as God now is, we will be; as man is, God was. It is very comprehensive. And we descend from this Father. We are His offspring. We possess His attributes. It is true they are not developed, but we possess them; and He desireth to lead us forward until we shall be like Him. This is the object of the Gospel.

Men talk about evolution. This is the true evolution—being such as we are and developing and advancing and progressing in that upward and onward career until we shall become like Him, in truth; until we shall possess the powers that He possesses and exercise the dominion that He now exercises. This is the promise that is held out to us. It is an incentive to faithfulness on our part. Talk about sin; talk about defilement; talk about committing one's self. Who that comprehends the nature of the promises that God holds out to us would sacrifice them for sexual indulgence, or for indulgence of any kind? We talk about laying all that we have upon the altar. Who would not give everything they had for such glorious promises and prospects as are held out to the Latter-day Saints? I tell you that no man or woman will ever commit a sin knowingly who has a true conception of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the glorious future that awaits the faithful. They would shrink from it with horror. They would not think of sacrificing such prospects for so small a price. Whenever Latter-day Saints do commit sin it is because they lose the Spirit of God, and they are blinded for the time by their passions and by the deceitfulness of Satan. We may things do inadvertently and without thinking, or when we are not fully conscious of the consequences; but no Latter-day Saint will deliberately commit sin in view of these glorious blessings and promises that God has extended unto us. Would you do it if you knew that by denying yourselves and making sacrifices of a certain character you could gain an earthly crown, with great honor and distinction among men? There have been thousands who have made all kinds of sacrifices for this; but who shall compare this with the great glory that God has in store for us? Who shall compare it with the Kingdoms that God has promised unto us? He has promised us that we shall sit upon thrones, that we shall have crowns, and that we shall have a posterity as numerous as the stars in heaven, as countless as the sand upon the sea shore; for, said He, "I seal upon you the blessings of kingdoms, of thrones, of principalities, of powers, and of dominions. I seal upon you the blessings of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob. I seal upon you the promise that you shall come forth in the

morning of the first resurrection clothed with glory, immortality and eternal lives." These are the promises that are made to the Latter-day Saints. The most of them have been sealed upon your heads. The Lord promised unto Abraham that as the stars of heaven were innumerable in multitude, and as the sand on the sea shore was countless, so his seed should be. That same promise has been sealed upon your heads, ye Latter-day Saints who have been faithful. Think of it! If men and women will make sacrifice for earthly thrones and for earthly honor, and will undergo all manner of peril and encounter every conceivable danger, for the sake of earthly reward, what shall be said of us who have these great promises made to us? What sacrifice is there that we should not be willing to make? Can you think of anything, in view of what God has promised to us? No. I feel sure that there is not one in this congregation who understands the nature of these promises, and who has partaken of the powers of the world to come, who will not willingly make any sacrifice.

"But," says one, "suppose an objector were to talk to us about this. He would talk very differently to what we do. He would tell us that we were deceived in all these things."

Our opponents endeavor to destroy our faith by ridiculing it. They think that our doctrines are very strange. But are they any more strange than things which are believed in by the Christian world? What is the faith of the Christian world concerning the God whom they worship? They worship, and worship truly, Jesus Christ as their God. Who was Jesus Christ? Why, He is called the babe of Bethlehem. He was once a babe, then? Yes. He was born of the Virgin Mary. There is a large class of Christians who adore and pray to the Virgin Mary, in order that she may intercede with her Divine Son in their behalf. They render her vows and adoration; they implore her intercession, and ask her to mediate for them with her Divine Son. Who is this Divine Son? Jesus Christ. Was He, the Son of God, born of a woman? Yes. Well, then, if one God was born of a woman, why not other Gods be born of women? Is He the exception to the entire race? Is He the only Being, born of woman, that can attain to the Godhead? That is not logical. It is not reasonable to suppose this.

Now, we are told that there is no such thing as pre-existence; that our spirits came into existence just as we were born into the earth, or a few minutes before; that this eternal spirit that we possess never had a beginning until a few minutes before our birth. This is the doctrine that is believed by the Christian world, and the idea of pre-existence is ridiculed. Yet it is ridi-

culed in face of the great and incontrovertible fact that Jesus, who was the Son of God, who was God Himself, was born of a woman. When Jesus said, "I am that I am," when He appeared unto the brother of Jared; when He appeared unto Moses, He was doubtless then at the full stature of a man. Yet He was born of a woman. I do not wonder at Paul saying, "Great is the mystery of godliness." God manifested in the flesh! It is a mystery to human beings; for they do not comprehend these things. But if Jesus, who was at one time at the full stature of a man, was compressed that He could enter the world as an infant, is it unreasonable to say that the rest of mankind could be born in that way? I think not. It appears to me that if Jesus could be born that way we could be; that our spirits could be compressed, although we might be six feet six inches in height, or weigh 300 pounds, so as to be born as a little infant. It is a strange thing to state; but because we do not understand all things, shall we reject truths? or shall we wait until a full revelation comes to us? I am reminded of a circumstance which illustrates this to some extent. On one occasion Jesus went into the country of the Gadarenes. While there He was met by a lunatic, who worshipped Him and said unto Him, "What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the Most High God? I adjure thee by God that thou torment me not." Jesus undertook to cast the devil out of the man. He was a violent devil. He could not be bound with chains nor with fetters, so powerful was he. When Jesus asked him his name, he said, "My name is Legion, for we are many!" Jesus was about to cast the devils out, when they besought Him that they might enter into a large herd of swine that was close by. Jesus gave this permission, and the devils entered the swine, and the whole herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and were drowned. Just think of it! A human being possessed of a legion of devils! What are these spirits? According to that which has been revealed to us, they were in form like unto us. But at the great controversy which took place in heaven, they espoused the plan of Lucifer, the Son of the Morning—a mighty angel in the presence of God. They took sides with him against the Father, and against the Son, Jesus Christ. As a punishment for that they lost their first estate. They were not permitted to take tabernacles. They were cast out of heaven—one-third, we are told, of the whole hosts of heaven—and they became angels to the devil; and from that day until the present they have been wandering about in the earth, tempting the children of men, seeking to lead them astray; infusing into their hearts rebellion and disobedience against