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## REMARKS

Made by President Wilford Woodruff, at the St. George Stake Conference, held at St. George, June 12th and 13th, 1892.

REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER

I arise with a heart full of gratitude and thanksgiving to my Heavenly Father for preserving my life until I again have the privilege of visiting St. George and beholding the faces of my brethren and sisters with whom I stand connected in the new and everlasting covenant—a covenant which will last not only in this world, but in the world to come.

I think you are all acquainted with my motto with regard to public speaking. No man, in this generation or in any other, can preach the Gospel or edify the Saints of God unless he is led by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost; and what little I may speak to you this afternoon, I need and desire that Spirit. I hope I may have the faith and prayers of the Saints of God unto this end.

I have some things upon my mind that I would like to speak of this afternoon, if I can get the spirit of them. I will say that some of the most interesting history of my life has been the time that I have spent here in St. George, and in the Temple of God which is built here. There is no eye that has seen, nor ear that has heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man to conceive, the future reward that will be given these people who dwell here and who have labored in the Temple of God. For myself, I can say that I feel under deep obligation to the people who dwell here—an obligation that I feel will last with me throughout all eternity. In my early days there were two things for which I desired to live. One was the redemption of the dead—my father's house, my mother's house, and the progenitors who are in the spirit world, and who never heard the Gospel. I have been preserved in the flesh, as one of their descendants, to hold the keys of their salvation and redemption, the same as you have for your progenitors, whom you are called to redeem and labor for here in the flesh. This has been a work that I have greatly desired to do for years that are past and gone, and through the blessing of the Lord and the assistance of my brethren and sisters

who dwell in St. George, I have lived to see it accomplished to a great extent, which I look upon as one of the greatest blessings God ever bestowed upon me. So I look upon it with regard to all of us.

The Lord has had certain purposes in gathering us together, and the redemption of our dead is one of them. And when I reflect upon the work which the Latter-day Saints have been called to perform in these latterdays, I rejoice before the Lord that I have lived in this day and generation, and that I have been numbered among the Latter-day Saints who have been called to perform these great and mighty works which are necessary to be performed before the coming of the Son of Man. The building of these Temples in these mountains of Israel is among the marvelous events of the day in which we live. Of course, we built Temples before we came to these valleys; one in Kirtland, and one in Nauvoo. I was not at the dedication of the Temple in Kirtland; but I was present at the dedication of the Temple in Nauvoo. The history of these Temples you have before you. You know the Prophets were slain, and the Lord required the building of that Temple at the hands of the Saints before they were driven into the wilderness. There was a certain revelation given that inspired in a great measure the Elders of the Church of God to perform that work. They labored with all the power they possessed, and they accomplished that work. They went into that Temple and received ordinations and endowments before they left to go into the wilderness. These Temples that we have built here stand as a monument before God, angels and men, to the faith and works of the Latter-day Saints.

Brother George Q. Cannon has referred to your labors in settling here. You were called to come here by the servants of God. You left your homes to come here and you have done what was required of you in this matter. You have had power to finish the Temple, and you have had power to go in and redeem your dead. A great many of you have done this, and I hope all of you will continue as long as you have any dead to redeem. Never cease that work while you have the power to enter into the Temple. I have greatly rejoiced in my work in this Temple, and in the blessings that I have received at the hands of the

Latter-day Saints here. Gold and silver are no comparison to these things. I have had some thousands redeemed here. I have had baptisms, ordinations, washings and anointings, endowments and sealings for them, the same as if they were standing in the flesh themselves. I shall go and meet them on the other side of the veil. You will go and meet your relatives. You will hold the keys of their salvation to the endless ages of eternity, if you attend to this labor for them.

There is no principle on earth that I rejoice more in than in the power that we hold as Latter-day Saints to build these Temples, to go into them, and to redeem our dead. It will require immortal bodies, immortal spirits, immortal revelations to enable men to comprehend the full extent of this work; they cannot comprehend it in mortality.

Now, I desire to live to see the Salt Lake Temple finished. I want to be with my brethren the Apostles, the High Priests, the Seventies, the Elders and all the authorities of the Church when that Temple is dedicated to God. We have been as long building that Temple as Moses was leading the children of Israel through the wilderness to the land of promise, and I would like to see it finished.

I view our position as Latter-day Saints, and all that is transpiring here, as well as our history before we came here, as in fulfillment of the revelations of God. A great many of our friends felt bad when we had to leave our lovely Nauvoo to go into the wilderness. It was a great trial to them. But had that not taken place, the Bible and the Book of Mormon and many of the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants would have fallen to the ground unfulfilled. This is the place pointed out by the finger of God for the people to stand in holy places while the judgments of God go forth in the earth. It is marvelous in my eyes that I have lived to see the Temples that have been built in these mountains of Israel and the mighty work that has been performed in them, considering the condition in which we came here. A little handful of men, in poverty and affliction, came into this barren desert. I brought President Young in my carriage into the valley of Salt Lake. He was sick, and he asked me to turn my carriage so that he could get sight of the valley. I did so. He cast