

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Sixty-first Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, convened at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 4th, 1891, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, President Wilford Woodruff presiding.

There were on the stand: Of the First Presidency, Wilford Woodruff and George Q. Cannon; of the council of the Twelve Apostles: Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Moses Thatcher, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Mariner W. Merrill, Anton H. Lund and Abraham H. Cannon; Patriarch, John Smith; of the Presiding Council of the Seventies: Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjeldsted, John Morgan, B. H. Roberts and George Reynolds; of the Presiding Bishopric: William B. Preston, R. T. Burton and John R. Winder.

There were also numbers of Presidents of Stakes and of other leading brethren from various parts of Utah and surrounding region.

Conference opened by President Wilford Woodruff announcing that the choir would sing the hymn commencing:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation;
No longer as strangers on earth need we roam.

Prayer was offered by President Angus M. Cannon.

Singing by the choir:

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He whose word can not be broken,
Chose thee for His own abode.

President Wilford Woodruff.

We are highly blessed of God in being permitted to meet together on this the sixty-first anniversary of the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I feel that we ought to be thankful before the Lord, that our hearts should be filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for this privilege which we now enjoy. It is true many of our friends have been called from our midst during the past year, to the other side of the veil. The Lord has been merciful to us, as a people, in preserving us through our history, in all the vicissitudes of life through which we have been called to pass since the establishment of this Church and Kingdom. I feel that we should lift our hearts in prayer to God our Heavenly Father for His mercies, and that He will guide and direct us by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, that our minds may be enlightened, our understanding opened to comprehend His mind and will concerning His people. I rejoice in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in the revelations that come from heaven to both Jew and Gentile, with the various dispensations of God to man. Generation after generation has passed away since the early patriarchs stood in the flesh on

the earth. The Lord has expressed through the mouths of inspired men, from generation to generation, His mind, His will, His work. Those revelations which were delivered thousands of years ago have been fulfilled today in our midst and among the nations of the earth. God has set His hand to establish His work, to warn the world once more, for the last time, before the coming of the Son of man, and He has called Elders into the vineyard of the Lord, to labor while the days last; for "the night cometh, when no man can work." We have the fruits of this labor before us today, in this Tabernacle, in the valleys of these mountains.

I trust while we are together that our prayers may be lifted up to the Lord, that our hearts may be united; that while our brethren, the Apostles and Elders, stand before us and give unto us their testimony of the word of God we may have a full share of His blessing.

I do not think I ought to occupy much more of your time this morning, but I feel thankful that I am still with you, and able to meet on this occasion with so many of the Latter-day Saints who have entered into covenant with the Lord, and upon whose shoulders He has laid the holy Priesthood, to administer, to warn the world, to devote their time and attention to the ordinances of the House of God, both for the living and the dead. I feel myself that of all people under heaven that have ever lived, the Latter-day Saints have the greatest cause to rejoice that they live in the day and generation when the Lord has set His hand to gather together His people, to establish both Jerusalem and Zion, to fulfil His promises made to Father Abraham and the ancient patriarchs and prophets.

The Jews have been a hiss and a bye-word among the Gentiles since the death of the Savior, eighteen hundred years ago. Their redemption is at the door today; it has been proclaimed by inspired men to their own tribe. It is left on record that the Jews will return home, that Jerusalem will be rebuilt, their temple established and all those great and mighty promises given by inspiration and revelation will come to pass.

I pray God our Heavenly Father to bestow His blessing upon us, that it may continue to rest upon His Saints who have entered into covenant with Him; that we may recognize our responsibility and magnify our calling day by day, so that when we pass to the other side of the veil we may be justified in His sight. This is my prayer and desire for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Apostle Anthon H. Lund

addressed the Conference. Following is substantially what he said: I am pleased to meet with the Saints and listen to the remarks of President Woodruff. In looking back on their history the Latter-day Saints have much cause to rejoice. We can see that the Lord has been with His people, notwithstanding the opposition they have had to meet. In the early history, which was marked by great difficulties, if the Lord had not been close to the Saints they would not have been able

to stem the opposition which confronted them. We need have no fear of the outcome. The Lord has power to protect His people. But we should look to ourselves. We have received the truth. We should show our gratitude for this boon by our works. You know of the Lord's parable of the sower. I have no fear that the word has been in the case of the Saints, sown on stony ground. But with some of us it has, I fear, been sown on soil on which briars have grown and partially choked it. As a rule, however, the loss of this world's goods and of friends have had no power to draw us away from the truth. Generally speaking the truth was sown on good ground.

We have need to beware, lest, in times of peace, riches become the chief object of our lives. We have so much to live for that we cannot afford to do this. We should be honest in our dealings. I have seen more trouble arise among the Saints from temporal matters than any other cause. We should all deal justly and remember the debt we owe to our Heavenly Father and pay our tithing. If we neglect this duty our faith and love for God's work will decrease. If we attend to this duty, those conditions will increase with us. There is a special debt of honor that not a few have omitted to discharge—the refunding of means supplied by brethren to enable them to come to this country. This is not right, as such an obligation is sacred. We should remember our benefactors and not be guilty of the base sin of ingratitude.

We should not forget the object of gathering. It is to learn more fully the ways of the Lord. We have progressed in this respect, but many have neglected to give their children proper instruction in these matters. Some have imagined that their time has been too much occupied to give their children these beneficent teachings. Those who cannot occupy much of their own time in this labor should be particular to send them where they can get the instruction—Church and Sabbath schools. In this way they may become grounded in the faith of the Gospel and be able to give reason for the hope that is in them. Many parents, seeing the result of former negligence in this regard now regret their sins of omission. Some have thought that their children could receive all that was necessary at ordinary meetings. This is an error, as children are only capable of receiving but a little at a time.

The speaker bore testimony to the divine character of the work in which he is engaged, stating it to be the preparatory labor for the coming of Christ to govern the world.

Apostle Mariner W. Merrill

said he was pleased to meet with such a large number of Latter-day Saints in conference. He had had many reflections since coming here in relation to the past. Thirty-eight years had gone by since he first became associated with the Saints in this city and Territory, and during that period how many of the brethren with whom he had been intimately acquainted had passed away! He dared say there were many present that morning who had never seen the face