

had the assurance of scripture that this would be the case in the hour of our Lord's coming to judgment.

In the revelations of St. John we were told that, among the many glorious visions given to him on the Isle of Patmos, he saw an angel flying through the midst of heaven having the everlasting Gospel to preach to them that dwell upon the earth—to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, saying with a loud voice "Fear God and give glory unto Him, for the hour of His judgment has come." So here was proof positive that in the hour of God's judgments every nation, kindred, tongue and people would be without the everlasting Gospel; or why the necessity of restoring it to this people? Hence that was an event connected with the times in which the Son of God should come again to the earth.

Many biblical students and many commentators on the Holy Word maintained that the prediction of Malachi, which he had just before read, was fulfilled when John the Baptist came from the wilderness of Judea preparing the way for the coming of the Son of God, by preaching the doctrine of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins. And truly John was a messenger of the Lord; he was preparing the way for the Son of Man's coming; he was a witness for Him, and testified that this was He who should give repentance and remission of sins unto the house of Israel.

Notwithstanding all that, however, John did not then fulfil the terms of the prediction. From the words which he (the speaker) had quoted it would appear that when the Lord Jesus Christ should come, following this messenger who was to "prepare the way" for Him, it was going to be extremely difficult to abide that day; and the question was asked, "Who shall stand when He appeareth?" He would now put this question to his hearers: Was it difficult to abide the day of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ when He appeared among men in the flesh? Was it difficult to stand when He appeared then? Well, he thought not. It seemed to him that the wicked and the ungodly had no particular difficulty in abiding that day or standing when He appeared. As he remembered it, they heaped indignities upon the Lord Jesus Christ, they ridiculed His words, hounded Him from place to place, sought His life, finally dragged Him before their tribunals, insulted him, whipped and beat Him, contrary to the law, and "as a lamb that is dumb before its shearers," He opened not His mouth in those days. After He had been thus insulted before the Jewish Sanhedrim, the rabble dragged Him through the streets of Jerusalem to the judgment seat of Pilate, that the sentence pronounced upon Him by the Sanhedrim might receive the approval of the Roman governor; and when Pilate would have let Him go, the rabble raised their voice against Him, defied Him, and said, "Let His blood be upon us and upon our children after us." Then after the death-warrant was signed they placed His cross upon His shoulders. He bowed beneath the weight as He bore it along, and such was His affliction that the

women standing upon the streets wept out of very pity for His sufferings. He was led to the place of execution and fastened upon the cross between two thieves, one of whom, impenitent in his sufferings, reviled and challenged Him to the manifestation of His power: "You have saved others; save us and we will believe." The crowd below continued to mock Him even in His anguish, the soldiers parted His raiment, cast lots for His vesture, and, in mockery above the cross was placed the words, "This is the King of the Jews."

Was it difficult to stand then; was it difficult to abide His presence? Why, no. But when He should come in fulfillment of this prediction, when He should come as those two messengers who stood by the disciples while they watched the receding form of the Son of God going from the earth, when He should come again in like manner as He ascended in the glory of His Father, surrounded by His angels, to reward the righteous and to punish the ungodly, then indeed, we might abide His coming and stand when He should appear.

Turning again to Malachi, here was another event identified with this important circumstance:

Behold, I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

He could think of no greater day of the Lord Jesus than that.

In the 18th chapter of Revelations, in describing a vision which he had, the Apostle said:

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power: and the earth was lightened with his glory.

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double.

How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine: and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

So it would seem that there were again associated with this judgment to be executed upon the world the gathering together of God's people. The Lord knew the evil influences that man's surroundings had upon him, and how extremely difficult he would find it to walk in His ways and keep His commandments.

The Christian world doubtless believed those prophecies contained in holy writ concerning the second coming of Christ; but he had sometimes wondered whether it had equal faith in the things which were associated therewith. He feared not.

He wished to bear his testimony to the strangers present that afternoon in regard to this strange and wonderful thing which challenged their curiosity, and which was derisively called "Mormonism"—which was a laughing-stock in the world's conversation, which was so despised of men—that it was the result of the fulfilment of some of those events which were to precede the Lord's coming.

The speaker, having dwelt briefly upon the important work performed in our Temples for the dead, remarked that the connection between heaven and earth was still open; the veil grew thinner and thinner as the years passed by; the zeal in this work, so frequently condemned, was not becoming less, but would continue to grow and increase. A great deal was being done by the Latter-day Saints in the way of preparing for the coming of the Son of Man. Therefore to the strangers now present he would say, "When you hear the 'Mormons' derided and their faith ridiculed, when you see so-called Christians deny to us an inheritance in the House of God and cast us out as being unworthy to bear the name of Christ, tell them that this people, whatever their faults may be, whatever their failings, they are at least, in their weak way, seeking to prepare for that coming which they believe most fervently is at hand, bringing truth, peace, and righteousness with it.

Let the Latter-day Saints be cheered by these reflections. The day and the hour in which the Lord Jesus Christ would come was a matter of perfect indifference to him; it was enough for him to be assured that come it would. Our part today, tomorrow, and henceforth was merely to be prepared and to prepare others. It was for them, as Latter-day Saints, to gather together the righteous and bring them to the valleys of these mountains, to be taught in the ways of the Lord and to walk in His ways.

Had they not enough to comfort their hearts and make them strong? True, the clouds gathered thickly about them at times. Their foes looked formidable, the heavens seemed now and then unpropitious, and it looked as if the forces arrayed against them were sufficient to overthrow them. But they need not fear. Who could doubt while God's hand was at the helm? Let them wait a while and it would be seen that truth would triumph, justice would not be defeated. He who said it would lie in the face of God. As one of our modern writers had said: "Justice is immutable, immortal, and incorruptible; and though the guilty globe should blaze, it would rise above the crackling pile, with not a downy feather in its crest ruffled." Those who expected that "Mormonism" would fall into decay and have nothing left but its history were doomed to disappointment. This was God's work and He could manage it.

Might the Lord bless and help them to grow in peace, in the knowledge of truth, and prove even to the skeptic and