

ministers to the Church "for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, into a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." The Lord required Joseph Smith to organize the Church of Christ after this order. He did so, and this Church has remained intact in its organization from that day to the present; and it will continue to remain until the coming of the Son of Man. And I would say here that there is no change of the Gospel of Christ in this, neither has there been in any other age of the world. There never has been any change from eternity to eternity, neither has there been any change of the ordinances, or of the Holy Priesthood; they are the same "yesterday, today and forever."

I will also make a remark with regard to our views of the Priesthood. Jesus Christ is our High Priest. He held the Priesthood after the order of Melchisedec, which is without beginning of days or end of years, being from eternity to eternity. We have been informed that Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah, were all High Priests. In all the dispensations whenever God has had a people upon the earth, no man has ever been called to administer in any of the ordinances of the Gospel except by and through the eternal and everlasting Priesthood. We cannot learn from the Bible—"the stick of Judah," the record of the Jews—that God ever called a man to officiate in the offering of sacrifices, or to administer in any of the ordinances of the Gospel, except by and through the Priesthood. And our belief is that no man has a right to minister in this age in the ordinances of the House of God, except he be duly called and ordained. The Holy Priesthood is the channel through which God communicates and deals with man upon the earth; and the heavenly messengers that have visited the earth to communicate with man are men who held and honored the Priesthood while in the flesh; and everything that God has caused to be done for the salvation of man, from the coming of man upon the earth to the redemption of the world, has been and will be by virtue of the everlasting Priesthood.

Our Elders who are called to bear this Priesthood are being sent abroad to preach the Gospel without purse or script, and they are blessed in their labors. Truly has it been said the Lord has called the weak things of the world to confound the wisdom of the wise, and to bring to pass the purposes of God. And they like the servants of the Lord of former days have promised to all those who obey the Gospel that they should receive the Holy Ghost. I have often said, and I say again, we might have preached to the whole world until we had become as old as Methuselah if the testimony of our Elders had not been backed up by the gift of the

Holy Ghost, Utah would be today as barren as we found it in 1847; that is, as far as our being here is concerned. It is the Spirit of God, the testimony of Jesus, that has been imparted to the Saints in fulfillment of the promise of the Elders who preached the Gospel to them in their native lands, that has impelled this people to gather to these valleys of the mountains. And if I were to call upon all those of this congregation who have received this testimony to rise to their feet, the Latter-day Saints of this congregation would respond in a body. If the people had not received this testimony they never would have left their homes and friends to come here. You knew it was not the work of man, but the work of God, and you labored diligently to effect your deliverance from Babylon because you were moved upon by the Spirit of God, and you never rested until you emigrated.

We are called of God to establish His Zion upon this land of Joseph. You have the Bible, which the Christian world profess to believe in, as well as the Book of Mormon, which you believe in. These records and revelations of God testify of your day. Isaiah pointed out your history, your travels in coming to these western valleys, your labors here; and if we had not gathered here, much of the Bible prophecies would have failed in their fulfillment. Many say these revelations are to be spiritually construed, that they are not intended to be understood in a literal sense. We view these things differently. We take it what the Lord through His servants has said concerning this matter means what He has said and said what he means. It is true we have passed through a good deal of persecution; but in this we are no exception to the rest of God's servants and people of other ages. The records that have come to us testify of these things. Opposition to God and His Christ, opposition to light and truth has existed since the beginning to the present day. This is the warfare that commenced in heaven, that has existed through all time, and that will continue until the winding up scene, until He reigns whose right it is to reign, when He shall come in clouds of glory to reward every man according to the deeds done in the body.

We live in a peculiar dispensation—I will say the great and last dispensation of God to man. And what is the state of our nation and that of the Christian world? Unbelief with regard to the fulfillment of what the prophets have said should take place in the last days. I have felt that the Lord has become very unpopular in this generation, and that His revelations have become very unpopular. Common schools turn the Bible out of doors. Of course there is a general profession of faith and belief in God, but a decided unbelief exists, and a general indifference with regard to the fulfillment of the predictions contained in the Bible. A great many too believe when a man dies that is the end of him, that there is no hereafter. Can

any sensible man believe that the God of heaven has created two or three hundred thousand million spirits, and given them tabernacles, merely to come and live upon the earth and then to pass away into oblivion or to be annihilated? It seems to me that no reflecting man can entertain such belief. It is contrary to common sense and to serious reflection. Generation after generation has lived and died, has passed into the spirit world, and we have to a limited extent an account of the doings of God with them. The Prophets, Apostles and Patriarchs have left their inspired writings on record for our use and benefit, and we shall be held accountable in the exercise of our agency for the manner in which we treat the Word of God that has come unto us.

I testify that the God of heaven has set His hand to establish His Kingdom, and to build up His Church and establish His Zion upon the foundation of Prophets and Apostles, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone. We live in a dispensation different from any other. The dispensation that ushered in the Christian era was one of sacrifice. The Savior came and tabernacled in the flesh, and entered upon the duties of the Priesthood at 30 years of age. After laboring three and a half years He was crucified and put to death in fulfillment of certain predictions concerning Him. He laid down His life as a sacrifice for sin, to redeem the world. When men are called upon to repent of their sins the call has reference to their own individual sins, not to Adam's transgressions. What is called the original sin was atoned for through the death of Christ irrespective of any action on the part of man; also man's individual sin was atoned for by the same sacrifice, but on condition of his obedience to the Gospel plan of salvation when proclaimed in his hearing. This gospel we are called to preach to the children of men, calling on them to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins, and promising them through their obedience and faithfulness the gift of the Holy Ghost, which shall lead and guide them in the ways of all truth and deliver them from darkness and doubt. And the results of the preaching of the servants of God are seen today in what is being done by this people; and it is our duty to continue this work, to warn mankind and to gather the Israel of our God. We will be held under condemnation if we do not do our duty; if we do not warn the nations. Whenever a nation or city has ripened in iniquity, the Lord has raised up Prophets to warn them of the destruction that awaited them unless they repented. The Lord raised up Noah and commanded him to preach repentance to the people of his day, and instructed him to build an ark for the salvation of those who should believe on Him. Enoch and his people were peculiar from the rest of the world of his day, and the wicked sought his life; but the power of God was upon him