

## TO THE WORLD, THE NATION AND THE SAINTS.

AN APPROPRIATE EXPRESSION FROM  
APOSTLE WILFORD WOODRUFF.

THE LESSONS OF HISTORY.

SALT LAKE CITY, May 7th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

Jesus asked the Jews the question, "While ye observe the face of the sky, can ye not discern the signs of the times?" What nation, kingdom, power, or people on the face of the whole earth has power to stay the hand of Almighty God in the fulfillment of his purposes, in the destiny of any work which he has set his hand to perform? It is something that has never been accomplished heretofore. It is something that cannot be performed hereafter. To the reflecting mind it seems strange that the inhabitants of the earth in our day do not learn wisdom from the history of the dealings of God with men, cities, nations and peoples for the last 6000 years. Witness the final overthrow and destruction of Thebes, Memphis, Nineveh, Tyre and Sidon, Babylon the Great, and Jerusalem itself, the holy city. Those cities and nations all fell and were destroyed by the chastening hand of Almighty God, when they were ripened in iniquity. They fell in fulfillment of the declaration of the word of God, through the mouths of inspired men, who spoke as they were moved upon by the inspiration of eternal truth. "Who am I, saith the Lord, that I command and am not obeyed? Who am I, saith the Lord, that I promise and do not fulfill? Though heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or tittle of my words shall fall unfulfilled." Yet the inhabitants of the earth in our day seem determined to pay no attention to former examples, but fight against God and rush on to their overthrow and utter destruction.

John the Baptist and Jesus Christ came in the meridian of time, and the Son of God organized the Church, in the midst of the Jews, with Apostles and Prophets, Pastors, Teachers and Evangelists, for the perfecting of the Saints, and the work of the ministry, as God the Father had ordained. But the Jews had departed from the Lord, and they put to death their Messiah and the Apostles. Consequently the Gospel was taken from them and given to the Gentiles, and the Jews had to pay the debt for putting to death the Lord's anointed, and fighting against God. The judgments of God had been proclaimed against them by Moses their law-giver, by Christ their Saviour, and by the Apostles and Prophets, and every word which they proclaimed against the Jews as a nation, has been filled to the very letter, so far as time has permitted. Their temple and city were thrown down and destroyed. The inhabitants fell by the sword, famine and pestilence; and a remnant was taken captive, scattered among all nations, and trampled under the feet of the Gentiles. The Jews have been a hiss and a byword among all nations until the present day.

Jesus of Nazareth, whom they put to death, will come again and reign over all the earth, until He puts all enemies under His feet. The Apostles, whom the Jews and others slew, will sit upon twelve thrones and judge the house of Israel. They were raised up in their day and generation to perform the work unto which they were ordained.

### OUR OWN TIMES.

Let us look at our own day. We live in the last dispensation, the dispensation of the fullness of times. The Christian world profess to believe in the Bible translated by King James, which is the record or stick of Judah. Is there nothing written in that record to be performed in the last days? Has the God of Israel finished His work? He has not. There is no generation of men who have ever lived on earth, who have been called to pass through more important events than await this generation in which we live. That Bible declares that the God of Heaven will set up His kingdom upon the earth in the latter days, to be thrown down no more forever. That Bible declares that God will build up Zion upon the mountains of Israel, and gather His people into it from every nation under heaven. That Bible declares that righteousness will look down from heaven and truth shall spring forth out of the earth, and that God will bring forth the stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim, and it shall be put with the stick of Judah as an instrument in the hands of the Lord, for the gathering together of the twelve tribes of Israel in the latter days, and the Jews shall be gathered home and rebuild their city and temple. That Bible declares that in the last days "an angel of God shall fly through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, crying with a loud voice, fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come." That same Bible declares that in the last days the Lord will cause the seals to be opened and the plagues to be poured out, and will bring fire, sword, famine and pestilence upon the inhabitants of the earth, that the several rivers shall be turned to blood, and to gall, that Zion shall arise and be clothed with the glory of God, that Babylon shall fall to rise no more forever, that saviors shall stand upon Mount Zion, that the kingdom shall be the Lord's, and that the lost tribes of Israel shall return from the north country. A great number of other prophecies have been

proclaimed, which are recorded in the Bible, in which the Christian world profess to believe. Those prophecies must be fulfilled.

### TESTIMONY TO ALL THE WORLD.

Now, we testify and bear record to all the world that the God of Israel has set His hand to accomplish the fulfillment of these great and important events. The Lord has raised up a prophet in the last days. The angels of God have been sent unto him and have delivered into his hands the record or stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim, according to the 37th chapter of Ezekiel. It has been translated into our language through the Urim and Thummim, by the gift and power of God, and has been published in many languages and scattered abroad through the nations of the earth. The Lord ordained His Prophet Joseph Smith to the Aaronic Priesthood, under the hands of John the Baptist. The Lord also ordained him unto the Melchisedek Priesthood and Apostleship, with all the keys thereof, under the hands of the Apostles Peter, James and John. Elijah sealed upon his head the keys of sealing or turning the hearts of the children to the fathers, and the hearts of the fathers to the children. Moses sealed upon the head of this prophet of God the keys and powers of the gathering of the house of Israel in the last days. In fine, the Lord has sealed upon the head of Joseph Smith the Prophet every key and power necessary to build up His Church, His Zion, and His kingdom upon the earth in these last days.

These are hard sayings; who can hear them? Nevertheless they are true, as the work has manifested itself and will manifest itself unto the end of the world. The Prophet Joseph Smith, by the commandment of God, did organize the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on the 6th day of April, 1830, with six members, and Elders were ordained and commanded to go forth and preach the gospel of Christ to the inhabitants of the earth. As the Church grew and increased, it was more fully organized in 1835, with Twelve Apostles and two Quorums of Seventies, with all the quorums of the two Priesthoods organized and set in order. Thus the work of the Lord grew and multiplied, and hundreds of Elders have been preaching the Gospel of Christ for half a century to all nations under heaven, so far as doors could be opened, and tens of thousands of believers have been gathered home to Zion in fulfillment of the Prophecies, as recorded in the Bible.

### THE RECORD BROUGHT FORTH THROUGH JOSEPH SMITH, ETC.

Joseph Smith received the record, the stick of Joseph, from the angel of God, which record contains the history of the ancient inhabitants of America, the administration of the Savior upon this continent, and the establishment of His Church hereon after His resurrection. It contains the history of Lehi and his family, their travels from Jerusalem, their crossing the ocean and arrival upon this continent, with their subsequent growth, progress, prosperity and adversity, also their woes, tribulation and final overthrow, when they were ripened in iniquity, in fulfillment of the word of God to the brother of Jared, concerning every nation that should inherit the American continent, which is the land of Zion. All must keep the commandments of God, or they would be cut off when they were ripened in iniquity. The record shows that two great peoples have already been cut off in fulfillment of the word of God, and the end is not yet.

From the day that Joseph Smith received the record from the hand of the angel of God, it has seemed as though all earth and hell were moved. The millions of fallen angels, cast out of heaven with Lucifer, the son of the morning, became alarmed. What was the matter? If all the religions of the Christian, Jewish, Mohamædan and Pagan world were of God, and the millions of people who inherit the earth were all right, and the little ignorant boy called "Old Joe Smith" was the only one deceived, why need all earth and hell be stirred up? Why need the priests and the editors, wherever the sound came, run to and fro and cry aloud, Down with the false prophet! Kill old Joe Smith! Here lies the important question. If the priests, editors and people did not believe that the God of heaven had inspired Joseph Smith to lay the foundation of the church and kingdom of God on the earth, for the last dispensation and fullness of times, and prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man; the devils did know it, and they understood perfectly well that if the foundation of the work Joseph Smith was laying was not broken up and destroyed, the kingdom of God, that Daniel saw, would be set up in the last days, would fill the whole earth, and break in pieces all other kingdoms and stand forever. They also knew it would end in that same Jesus of Nazareth, whom they had inspired the Jews to crucify, coming forth in the clouds of heaven, holding in his hands the keys of death and hell, and that he would bind them in chains and cast them into the bottomless pit, and shut them up, that they would have no more power to deceive the nations for a thousand years. Is it any wonder, then, that the priests and editors and the Christian world generally are stirred up by the evil one to make war upon the Saints and seek to stop their testimony and destroy

them from off the earth? But it cannot be done. The Lord has ordained otherwise. But the same spirit that was manifest against Jesus Christ and the Apostles in ancient days has been manifested against the Latter-day Saints from the organization of the Church until the present hour. The Lord has set his hand to prune his vineyard once more, and for the last time, and no power will stay His hand. The gospel of Christ will be preached to all nations, and then the end will come.

### THE SPIRIT OF PERSECUTION.

The spirit of persecution increased against Joseph Smith and the Saints as fast as the work extended, and they were driven from town to town, and from State to State, until ten thousand of the Saints were driven from Missouri into Illinois, under the edict of Governor Boggs. Was that for polygamy? No, that doctrine was not then revealed to the world or the body of the church. The worst persecutions we have ever endured were before polygamy was known to the world. Joseph Smith continued to labor as the inspired Prophet of the living God for fourteen years after he organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, until the 27th day of June, 1844, when he was martyred, with his Brother Hyrum, in Carthage jail, Illinois, for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, and as the founder of the Church and Kingdom of God on the earth for the last dispensation and fullness of times. President John Taylor, at the same time, was shot with five balls and mingled his blood with that of the martyred Prophets, but his life was preserved for a wise purpose in God, for his hour had not then come. Joseph Smith sealed with his own blood the truth of the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants, and the establishment of the Church and Kingdom of God on the earth. Before his death he sealed upon the head of the Twelve Apostles all the priesthood keys and powers which had been sealed upon him by the power of God.

### REVELATIONS AND PROPHECIES OF JOSEPH SMITH.

The Doctrine and Covenants is a record of 492 pages, and contains the doctrine and principles of the Gospel, and the revelations of Jesus Christ through the mouth of His servant Joseph Smith the Prophet. This record contains some of the most sublime revelations which God ever gave to man. It unveiled the final destiny of the whole world, both for time and eternity, Jew and Gentile, Zion and Babylon, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the Devil. It also contains a revelation given in 1832, of the late rebellion and civil war, almost thirty years before it took place. It pointed out the very place where it would commence. That portion of the revelation relating to the United States has been partly fulfilled, sufficient to satisfy all parties, and that relating to Great Britain and other nations soon will be. Probably Joseph Smith did not know that this war would be brought to pass in consequence of the shedding of his own blood and that of his brother Hyrum, and others. But I am satisfied that the records will show in the day of judgment that that war was in consequence of the shedding of the blood of the Prophets. As we have the example that the shedding of the blood of Christ and the Apostles cost the Jews the destruction of their city and temple and their dispersion among the Gentiles for eighteen hundred years, so, in the shedding of the blood of the Prophets in our day, it cost the American government a four years' war and laid in the dust a million of men of the bone and sinew of the nation. It cost the Northern States above \$6,189,929,968.00, according to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury (Gaskell's Encyclopedia). This is without saying what it cost the Southern States, and the end is not yet.

### THE WORK STILL ONWARD.

Notwithstanding that the Prophet of God and the Patriarch was dead, the work did not stop, for it was of God, and not of man. Neither did the persecutions cease. The Saints were led by the Twelve Apostles, with Brigham Young as their President. They were driven out of the United States and fled to the Rocky Mountains, the land then owned by Mexico. The pioneers of that persecuted people arrived in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains on the 24th of July, 1847, led by President Brigham Young, the successor of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and there planted the American flag in this barren desert of the Rocky Mountains. They commenced to cultivate the earth, sow and plant seeds, dig canals to carry the water of the mountains to irrigate the thirsty soil, and have continued their labors until they have caused the desert to blossom as the rose. President Brigham Young lived until he, with the assistance of his brethren and blessings of the Lord, was enabled to fill the valleys of these mountains for nearly a thousand miles with cities, towns and villages, with gardens, fields and crops, herds and flocks, with school houses, meeting houses, tabernacles and temples. President Young directed the foundation, building and dedication of the St. George Temple. He dedicated the ground for the Manti Temple. The Salt Lake Tabernacle was built under his direction, as was the foundation and considerable of the superstructure of the great Temple in Salt Lake City, up to the time of his death, which was on the 29th day of August, 1877. He also gave the plan of the Logan Temple

and directed and was present at the dedication of the site for the same. He directed the first settlement of the Saints in Arizona.

After his death, the Twelve Apostles again directed the affairs of the Church, with John Taylor as their President, as in the case of the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith. This continued until the 9th day of October, 1880, at which time the First Presidency was again organized, with John Taylor as President of the Church. He chose for his Counselors, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, and those three form the First Presidency of the Church to-day. Under their presidency the Logan Temple has been built, dedicated and accepted. The Manti Temple has been built almost to its completion. The walls of the Salt Lake Temple, which is built of hewn granite, have been finished up to the square, with their parapets pointing towards heaven, in testimony of the industry and zeal of the Latter-day Saints.

Notwithstanding that they have been persecuted, scattered and driven by the spirit of the civilization and Christianity of the day, away from their homes and country into these Rocky Mountains, yet at their annual Conference in Salt Lake City, on the 6th day of April, 1884, in their statistical report, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in these mountains was represented as comprising the 3 First Presidency, 12 Apostles, 68 Patriarchs, 4,447 Seventies, 3,413 High Priests, 12,318 Elders, 1,636 Priests, 1,792 Teachers, and 5,022 Deacons. The Sabbath School children represented at the conference numbered nearly 50,000, with 6,583 officers. The Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association numbered many thousands, as did the Young Ladies'; the Female Relief Societies, which are organized in all of the settlements of the Saints, and are very numerous, have laid up nearly 40,000 bushels of wheat against the day of famine, which will surely come.

### THE WORLD SHOULD HAVE LEARNED BEFORE THIS.

Thus had the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints grown up to one year ago, which was organized fifty-five years ago, and which has been persecuted by the world and especially by our nation. We would naturally suppose by this time, if there were any wise men left in this nation, that they would be willing to take the counsel that Gamaliel gave to the Jews concerning the Apostles in that day. He said: "Now, I say unto you, let these men alone; for if this counsel or work be of men, it will come to nought, but if of God ye cannot overthrow it, lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." It would be wise if this nation and generation would take this counsel. But no. Notwithstanding the growth and progress of the Latter-day Saints, who move forward in the work as they are inspired by the Son of God and the Holy Ghost, unto the destiny unto which they are ordained by the God of Israel, still at this late day the Christian world, with the editors and priests at their head, cry aloud for the destruction of the Latter-day Saints, and even call upon the nations to pass laws to take away the last vestige of every political, civil and religious right which the Constitution of our government guarantees unto every citizen. What is the state of affairs in our nation to-day with regard to the Latter-day Saints? The priests of the Christian world have called loudly upon Congress to pass laws to put down the "Mormons," until Congress has listened to them and seen fit to pass laws against our religion, which wise jurists consider to be bills of attainder, *ex post facto* and unconstitutional.

### THE ARIZONA CASES.

Even these laws have not been strong enough to satisfy some judges in their decisions against the Saints, as in the case of the Chief Justice of Arizona—Judge Howard—who sentenced A. M. Tenney to three and a half years in the penitentiary, although he had not married a wife for many years. Judge Howard ruled that he had committed the crime of polygamy every day since the law had been passed. Attorney Fitch, while pleading his case before the Supreme Court of Arizona, said that, according to Judge Howard's ruling, the prosecuting attorney should have insisted that Tenney should have been charged with 600 indictments instead of one, and instead of being sentenced to three and a half years, he should have been sentenced to 2,050 years. A man who was present at the trial stated that he heard the witnesses who went there to testify against Tenney, say that they spent their nights, while there at the trial, in houses of prostitution, but they did not marry the women, so that the law could not touch them, and if they had married them, it would not have hurt them, for they were not Mormons, and the law was not made for anyone else. They were capable of telling so much truth, for this present raid would not have been made against any other people on earth, except the Latter-day Saints, and would not have been made against them if they had not been the Saints of the living God.

### PATRIARCHAL MARRIAGE.

The plurality of wives, the patriarchal order of marriage, has been given unto the Latter-day Saints by the commandment of God, and the revelation of Jesus Christ. They would never have entered into it had it not been by commandment. It is a tenet of our religion, and the world knows it. The

United States Commissioners, who were sent to Utah, have borne testimony to this truth before the nation. Though it is a principle of our religion and interferes with no man's rights, yet our enemies make use of it as a weapon with which to persecute and prosecute the Latter-day Saints. It is one of the most remarkable things in the whole history of the world, that although the American Government of 50,000,000 of people, whose country towns and cities are filled with blasphemy, whoredom, murder and every crime in the black catalogue of the last days, enough to cause the heavens to weep, and a eternity to be pained, yet that the people, editors, and priests of this nation should travel one thousand miles to the Rocky Mountains to visit a handful of Latter-day Saints to see if they could find there the only sin and crime that stain the great American nation. O my soul! how will these things appear when this great nation is brought to judgment before an assembled world?

### UNPUNISHED ASSASSINS—CAN THE SAINTS RELINQUISH? ETC.

There is another remarkable fact that is presenting itself before the civilized world, and that is, that although the American Government professes and possesses the most liberal constitution ever bestowed by inspiration of Almighty God upon any nation exists to-day upon the whole earth, yet this same government is the only one existing which will permit its citizens to be put to death for their religion without taking any steps to bring the murderers to justice. It has been reported that one of the leading men of the day, who has been noted for trying to destroy the Latter-day Saints, said, "I don't care a d—n about polygamy, but d—n the Mormon Church, their priesthood, their union, their organization." That reveals the grand key to the action of the whole Christian world to-day toward the Latter-day Saints. A few years since, Earl Roseberry, who seemed to be well acquainted with the history of the Latter-day Saints, while on a visit to Utah, asked President Taylor, "What excuse did Governor Boggs and his nation make for driving 10,000 Latter-day Saints out of Missouri into Illinois and depriving them of their homes and lands which they had bought the general government before polygamy was revealed to the world or the body of the Church?" President Taylor answered by saying, "Because he believed in prophets, apostles, revelations of heaven to us in our administration of angels and gifts and graces and ordinances of the Gospel as taught and practiced by Christ and the Apostles in ancient days." "Very well," said Earl Roseberry, "then if you give up polygamy you must give up every other principle in which you profess to believe as Latter-day Saints, before they will stop persecuting you." The Earl was correct.

### THE INEVITABLE ANSWER.

This is our condition to-day. Latter-day Saints, before all heaven and earth. As Latter-day Saints are we prepared for this? Can we afford this? Can we afford to give up the Church and Kingdom of God? Can we afford to desert wives and children that we have entered into covenants with for time and all eternity? Can we reject the gospel of Jesus Christ and dishonor the eternal everlasting priesthood, which has been handed down to us through the line of our fathers in this last day and dispensation, that we may administer the ordinances of life and salvation to the human family, both for the living and the dead? Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and his disciples of old, and the patriarchs and prophets, from Adam to Christ, afford it. If we could not, certainly the Saints of living God in this, the greatest of dispensations, cannot afford it. If editors, priests, people and rulers of the whole Christian world require our hands, it cannot be granted. Those who are laboring to bring this to pass neither know God nor understand Scriptures, nor comprehend the times. If the question is put to all intelligent beings in eternal worlds, if the Latter-day Saints could afford to give up any part of their religion, or if it would be right for them to do so, to gratify the request of those who require it at our hands, answer would come from the whole universe of God the sound of a trumpet. Our progenitors with all the patriarchs and prophets, with the celestial world would say, No! the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Ghost would say, No! Let all stand on the earth say, No!!! and God defend the right. Our government and its officers should learn this truth, that what they sow they reap, and the measure they mete others will be measured to them. Men should learn, if they send others to prison for three or four years for marrying women by the commandment of God that they themselves turn comes they will be sentenced to prison for 1,000 years and that too in outer darkness, where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. Tenney and his brethren do have light in the day, but their persecutors will be cast into outer darkness. Therefore let the Latter-day Saints be true and faithful to the Constitution of their country, faithful to their wives and children,