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DISCOURSE

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG, delivered in the Tabernacle Salt Lake City, Sunday Peb. 20th, 1870. BEPOBTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.]

been revealed is a plan or system of laws No. Because we can lie more and better and ordinances by strict obedience to than others? Well, can you steal better which, the people who inhabit this earth are assured that they may return again into the presence of the Father and the Son.

I frequently contemplate the condition of this so-called strange people-the Latter-day Saints. "A strange people" is a peculiar expression, as though we are different from others! I know that we are so principles contained in the word of God, considered, but in my opinion we are the most rational, common sense people that lives on the face of this earth. We are trying to become natural in our habits and are striving to fulfil the end and design of our creation. When we read of and contemplate the manners, morals and customs that prevail in the world and compare them with those of the Latter day Saints, we may justly come to the conclusion that we are "a strange people," for, in these respects, we are very different to the rest of call Him Father; He says that we are His the world. How strange it is that we should do differently from the rest of mankind! How strange it is that we should believe differently from our neighbors! agination that we believe the Bible, we It is very strange indeed, that we cannot embrace the so-called Christian religion and be satisfied therewith. If we were to eider brother,-that He is actually the son ask the infidel world some few questions of our Father and that He is the Savier of they might talk, philosophise and bring up their sophistry, but they could not prove We are just so foolish and shortsighted as a truth to be an untruth. The whole intidel world cannot prove that we are not here on this earth, that the sun does not shine, that we do not speak and hear; that hear my voice; you know that you are would command a man to an here in a building, rude as it may be, and you know that you walk on the ground; you know that you breathe the air, and you also know that when you are thirsty you desire water to drink, and that when you are hungry you want something palatable to eat. We all know these things by the ham. are many things of which we are ignorant. We may look at gurselves and the people generally, and the earth upon which we walk, and without the revelations of God we know not who we we are, whence we came, nor who formed the earth on which we live, move and have our being. Did I bring the particles of matter together and form the earth? No. Did you, Mr. Philosopher, did you, Mr. or Jew? No, not any of us. We know that we are here, but who brought us here the earth with regard to their own creation and destiny, and with regard to the destiny of the earth are very crude and vague. dividual, being, power or influence superand brought us forth and holds us in excan controvert; the whole Christian and Who understands the modus operandi by tion and research and search out the prinwe are sustained. The strangest phenomenon to the inhabitants of the earth to-day is that God, the maker and preserver of the hands here. What would there be strange speaking to it and admiring the beauty, regularity and order of its motions? Nothing whatever. Well, to me it is not at all strange that He who framed and fashioned this beautiful world and all the myriads and varietles of organizations it contains, should come and visit them; to me this is and compare the belief of this people with that of the rest of the world we need not be people." Brother George A. Smith has been relat-

of Mormon, both of which are precisely the same as the principles contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenant, each one corroborating the other. It is written that out of the mouths of two or three witnesses every word shall be established, and here, in the New Testiment, we have the words

of the evangelists; in the Old Testiment the

words of the prophets and patriarchs; and again, the testimony of others in the Book of Mormon, and last of all, given in our

own day, the testimony of Joseph Smith in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, all coinciding, and the two latter corroborating the tact that the Bible, as far as it is correctly translated, is the word of God. The Bible contains the word of God, the word of Jesus, of angels, of good men, of those tolerablygood, of wicked men and the words of the devil, the enemy of

[REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.] It is some time since I have spoken to the people in this capacity, and I have a few words to say to Saints and sinners. That is a common expression, but as we are all sinners, I might say, a few words to sinners, exclusively. The gospel of the Son of God that has been revealed is a plan or system of laws

than others? No; I will defy you to do that. Are you better gamblers? No. Do you revile the name of the Savior more than others? No. Well then why are we considered so strange a people? Simply because we believe in the reality of the and maintain that man, in this day, needs and obtains direct revelation from his Creator for his guidance.

Let us look now for a moment at what is termed the "moral code," the ten commandments revealed by the Lord to the Jews, the House of Israel, for a law to control their everyday walk and conduct. Do the Latter-day Saints keep this? Yes, Does that make them so very strange? Why should it? Does that fact make them a speckled bird in the communities of the world? It should not. Then why is it that we are so considered? We have a Father; Me is in heaven; He has told us to children. Now, excuse me everybody that does not believe in the Bible or who is inclined not to believe in it, we are so un-wise, so shortsighted, so foolish in our imactually believe that God the Father is our Heavenly Father, that we are His children; and we believe that Jesus Christ is our the world, and was appointed to this before the foundations of this earth were laid. to believe all this.

We know that this age, by the outside world, is considered a fast age; we think it is very fast, so far as unbellef goes. The shine, that we do not speak and hear; that we do not see with our eyes and handle with our hands; that we have not the pow-er of tasting and smelling and have not the use of our natural senses. You all say, "O, don't have any such ideas, be k now that I have got eyes, for you can see more liberal, be as we are;" and I heard them; you know I can speak for you can in, worship nor scknowledge a God who son, as Abraham was called to sacrifice Isaac, We Latter-day Saints are just so unwise and foolish as to believe that the Lord Almighty required this at the hands of Abraham; and He did not tell Abraham that he would have that ram ready in the bushes. He said "Have you confidence in me, my sou Abraham?" "Yes," said Abra-ham. "Well, I will prove you. Bring up exercise of our natural senses, but there your son Isaac to Mount Moriah, build an altar there, place the wood on the altar and bind your son and place him on the altar and sacrifice him to me, and this will prove whether you have faith in me or not." The sacrifice was offered and accepted, and the Lord provided a way whereby Isaac could iive. We are just so foolish, unwise and short sighted, and so wanting in philosophy that we actually believe God told Abraham to do this very thing. Who is that God? He is my Father, He is your Father; we are His offspring. He has planted within each of us the germ of Infidel, or you Messrs. Christian, Pagan the same intelligence, power, glory and or Jew? No, not any of na. We know exaltation that He enjoys Himself. This proves that we are a peculiar race. We be-long to the highest order of intelligences; or how we came are questions the solution of which depends upon a power superior to ours. The ideas of the inhabitants of ing, and the more we learn to-day, the better for us, for it does not destroy the knowledge we had yester-day; and when we learn more to-morrow it does not des-But we must all acknowledge that some in- troy the knowledge of to-day. We are creatures susceptible of continual educafor to ourselves produced us and the earth tion and improvement. And we take this and brought us forth and bolds to book, the Bible, which I expect to see voted out of the so-called Christian world istence, and causes the revolutions of the very soon, they are coming to it as fast as earth and of the planetary system. These possible, I say we take this book for our are facts that neither we nor all mankind guide, for our rule of action; we take it as way to salvation like a fingerboard pointeven the heathen world will acknowledge ing to a city, or a map which designat-s all this: but what do they know about it? the locality of mountains, rivers, or the latitude and longitude of any place on the surface of the earth that we desire to find, which all this was brought about and con- and we have no better sense than to believe tinued? Who is able to leap forth into the it; hence, I say that the Latter-day Saints immensity of thought, space, contempla- have the most natural faith and belief of any neople on the face of the earth. any people on the face of the earth. We believe in God the Father, in Jesus cipies by which we are here and by which Christ the Mediator; we believe in theordi-we are sustained. The strangest phanom, nances that He has placed in His house, we believe in keeping the laws that He has left on record by which His Saints are reis that God, the maker and preserver of the earth and all it contains, should speak from heaven to His creatures, the works of His hands here. What would there to His and when the moral code. Others do this, and when we reflect upon the righteous course of many of those who have lived before us, in the mechanician, after constructing the most beautiful and ingenious piece of mechanism it is possible to conscion of mechanism it is possible to conceive of, strange by those who profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? One says "you believe in baptism by im-mersion and we do not believe in it; you Latter-day Saints believe that a person should come to the years of accountability before he is baptized; but we believe in taking our infants and dipping our fingers, or in the priest dipping his fingers in the water and touching the children's foreheads parfectly natural, and when we remember and that they then become members of the living church and heirs of salvation." that of the rest of the world we need not be surprised at being considered "s strange nance of baptism is a much disputed point among the different sects of the religious world, the Baptists alone maintaining that immersion is absolutely necessary. Some are so liberal in their views on this sub-ject that they will either sprinkle or im-merse at the option of the candidate. None, It was with them, as it was in the days of the Apostles,—some were for Paul, some for Apollos, some for Cephas and some for Christ. To me it is more rational for an

baptized for the remission of sin. "Well," says the Christian, "if you real-ly believe in being baptized by immersion, I expect it is correct for you, and it will answer every purpose; but we think sprinkling will answer for us." If, however, sprinkling infants be the correct method of administering the ordinance of baptism, we are safe even on Christian grounds, for all Christians will acknowgrounds, for all Christians will acknow-ledge that immersion is as good. If, on the other hand, immersion, or being buried with Christ by baptism, be the only correct method of administering the ordinance, and it is, according to the testimony of more than one of his disciples, our system will not avail those who have been sprinkled. But we are safe anyhow.

Again, with regard to faith in Jesus. Along comes a man and says "it is all folly ancientize observe it, is conclusive proof to have faith in the name of Jesus. It is that it was so considered by Him, why is to have faith in the name of Jesus. It is true that Christ died for all, but it is folly for you to fret yourselves about keeping as far as some of our lecturers in the East, His commandments and observing the ordinances feft on record in the scriptures. Jesus will save all. He did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance, and if he cause to save sinners do you lieve a great many things the so-called not think he will accomplish the task?"

We, the Latter-day Saints, certainly believe that Christ will accomplish all that He undertook to do, but He never yet said He would save a sinner in his sins, but that He would save him from his sins. He has instituted laws and ordinances whereby this can be effected. Rut this gentleman you intrude more on your neighbors' says "Christ will save all." The Mormon rights than others? No. Do you bear false witness more than others? No. Can to Him, all who hearken to His word and to Him, all who hearken to His word and best that can be led. I say to the world keep His commandments, and Jesus has said "if ye love me keep my command-ments." Now this character to which I the Bible. "We will'not," says the Christments." Now this character to which I the Bible. "We will'not," says the Christ-have referred, says he loves Jesus, but it ian world, "if you will not practice it." is nonsense to keep His commandments; but the "Mormon" says "I love Jesus, and in proof of it I keep His commandments." Now, suppose the former is correct and and practice them, or they who possess and Christ will save all whether they do or do not keep His commandments, in that case the "Mormons" are right again, for they will all be saved; but suppose that Jesus requires strict obedience to His laws and ordinances and commandments, those who merely believe without rendering obedience to His laws are slightly incorrect, and, in the end, the disalvantage will

again be with them. Now the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believes every word of truth tue and efficacy of His blood, I would say I believed in by the holy Catholic Church,the mother church of the Christian world; lieve enough to practice what He has told and then every truth believed in by every Protestant reformer and revivalist that say so, and I would live as fast and as close has ever come out from the mother church as my feeble capacity would permit me to or from any of her children; and having all this, we wish to frame, fashion and build after the pattern that God has revealed; and in doing so we take all the laws, rules, ordinances and regulations contained in the scriptures and practice them as far as possible, and then keep learning and im- bring them up or they are forever lost. proving until we can live by every word Who is right, and who is wrong, who are that proceeds out of the mouth of God. on sure ground, and who are not? This is

ians, deists, atheists, spiritualists and everybody else, and if any or all of them are right we are sure that we are, for every family of children, little girls, who were particle of truth believed in by any one of them, and all the truth possessed by the whole of them combined is believed in by the Latter-day Saints; but if we are right the Latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right the latter day Saints; but if we are right they will fail. Now, who is on the safe get on your best clothing, for I want to ground? Who is most likely to be deluded take you home with me to a feast." The and to be found wanting? Let the people children, all but one, kept on playing and decide.

what she was doing she said she was wash-

accountable and consequently cannot be marriage is one of the highest and purest of salvation. Not that I would say marriage is one of the highest and purest of salvation. Not that I would say ever revealed to the children of men. I do not say that it will not injure a great many. I heard Brother Joseph Smith say a num-ber of times, "There is no question but it will be the means of damning many of the

I say, with regard to this principle, if it was good in the days of Abraham and of the patriarchs and prophets or at any other period of the world's history, and the fact that the Lord commanded His servants it not good now? It certainly does not go who advocate the abolition of the marriage ceremony by government. We do not go quite as far as this; we can't receive all that they do or would receive. We can't be-Christian world believe, because they are neither scriptural nor true.

Now, with regard to this moral code, of which I have been speaking, I will leave it to the greatest infidel, or to the smallest infidel on the earth, or to the wickedest and most riotous person that can be found, and I am satisfied that he will say that lives squared according to its precepts, whether of individuals or communities are the very do not blame us for believing it. Do not Aye, there's the rub! Now, I ask the question: Who manifest true wisdom, they who possess the principles of truth profess to believe them and yet refuse to practice them? I leave jit to the world to say which is the wiser course. I think that if I did not believe in baptism enough to be baptized for the remission of my sins, I would say I do not believe and con-sequently I will not be baptized. And if I did not believe in the Lord's Supper, I would say so, and would set that aside in my practice. If I did not believe in the

atonement of the Son of God or in the virdo not believe in them. If I could not beme, I think I would be honest enough to what I did believe in.

When I look at Universalianism, deism, atheism and at the various sects of the day I feel that if we fail they are ready to catch us; but if we are right, they are wrong, and we must officiate for them and MR. WILLIAM MACDONALD, You may take the mother church of the an important question. It brings to mind Christian world, the reformers, universal- a little anecdote that I have heard my Reserved Seats in Dress Circle \$1.00 and \$1.50 Parquette 75 " 1.00 Second Circle 75 " 1.00 Third Chile iecide. There is not a word in these three books, house and washed herself. When asked

eiders of Israel; it is nevertheless true and ful machine of any kind you please, and must be revealed; and the Lord designs when the machinist has finished his work that it shall be revealed and go forth, and and set it in perfect order, how could it be expected to operate satisfactorily if a hook that it shall be revealed and go forth, and that this people must receive the oracles of truth, and they must receive this holy ordinance, and that that pertains to the celestial world; and they will retrograde if they do not embrace more of the celestial law than they have yet." I say, with regard to this principle, if it I say, with regard to this principle, if it reas good in the days of Abraham and of and disorganization would soon result and

the machinist might very properly say what a pity that I bestowed so much labor on such unruly members of my machine. The priesthood of the Son of God, which we have in our midst, is a perfect order and system of government, and this alone can deliver the human family from all the evils which now afflict its members, and ensure them happiness and felicity hereafter, Brethren and sisters, God bless you, Amen.

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ing to us something about the history and belief of some of his forefathers, and others; one believed one thing and another another. It was with them, as it was in the days of intelligent being to embrace truth, than it is ing to the testimony of the disciples of

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ible. Book of Mormon and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, that I have ever found yet, that has been delivered by the Lord to Hisservants, but what if it is lived up to, or practiced in thelife of an individual, it makes him or her better in every sense of the word. There is no code ever ot up by the children of men that would and sat until the king's carriage returned; direct them so purely in their lives as that contained in these three books, and if the people of the Christian world, or any portion of them were to throw away or set aside faith in God and in Jesus Christ, and the various ordinances of the gospel as contained in the scriptures, and were to observe only the moral code, and observe it strictly, it would make them a better people than any who now live on the face of the earth the Latter-day Saints excepted.

But what is the use of forsaking any portion of the law of the Lord? It is true hat some portions of it, through disuse or neglect, are now looked upon as obsolete, just as it is with some laws still remaining on the statute books of the nations of the earth; but a law possesses neither more nor less intrinsic merit on this account. The law once passed in England inflicting a penalty upon all who ate bread until it was three days old possesses no less merit or virtue now that it is obsolete than in the day when it was interested." It was gotten up many years ago because fresh bread was considered injurious to the stomach; but, although jit is not) enforced now, I believe it has never been repealed. Did my English brethren and sisters observe this law while they lived in England? I think not; perhaps they did not know anything about it. If, however, that law was good when it was made, it is good now, and there is no person in that country who uses bread under that age but is liable to be prosecuted. So it is with regard to many aws under our own and other governments. They are found to be inapplicable to the situation and condition of the people, and, hence, they become obsolete, We may take the laws contained in the Old and New Testaments, and if they were good in the days of the apostles, prophets and patri-archs, why are they not good to-day? It is not because they are not good that they are passed over, but in some respects they are not as applicable to the feelings of the Christian world now as when they were given, because of the traditions of the athers.

I know that the outside world say, "Oh, you Mormons, what a poor degraded peo-ple you are!" You know, one public lecturer says there is not a public school in all Utah. I can say that if there are no public schools there are plenty of private chools, and there are no people on the face of the earth that support as many children in private schools as the people of Utah, according to their numbers. Still the world declare that we are degraded, miser-able and ignorant; and, "Oh, that horrid principle! Oh dear, it makes me blush!" Yes, it makes one think of a little circumstance that transpired with one of our elders who went after machinery to Massachusetts. He went to inquire about machinery for a cotton factory, and the gentleman to whom he applied said, "Where are you from?" "Utah." "O, you are out among the Mormons?" "Yes." "Are you a Mormon?" "Yes." "Well, I believe," said the interrogator, "you, out there, believe in having more wives than one?" "Yes, that is true," said the elder. "Well," said the gentleman, "I want you to come up and see my partner." So our brother was invited up to see the partner of the to see it and its board of this code of gentleman who had questioned him so to understand the excellency of this code of laws and ordinances that God has revealed? SALT LAKE CITY OR OGDEN. the number of people here, and the improvements, etc. The first thing, on meeting the partner, was to pitch into the "Mormon" about how many wives he had, and he replied that "he had just enough to enable him to keep from troubling his make the rule of Heaven, and the rule of wicked-ness that now prevails on the earth, and see which will make the people the most

ing for the king had promised to take her in his carriage if she would do so. She was laughed at for believing that he would do any much thing, and told to go on with her play. But she washed and dressed and she, being the only one ready, the king took her up, carried her bome, gave her presen's and blessed her; but the rest of the children, not having heeded the words of the king, received no blessing at his hands. So it is with the whole world of mankind. They say it is folly in the extreme to believe as we Latter-day Saints believe; it is all nonsense. They say "Jesus will never call us to judgement; He will never come to receive his own; He will never come to reign on the earth;" but they

ing and was going to put on her best cloth-

will find their mistake out when the king comes along; and I am thankful that I am DOORS. looking at some who, like the little girl, are preparing for His coming.

Let me ask again, who is on safe ground? Is the apostate on safe ground? What has he got? If he has, found truth, it is here. We have embraced all truth in the Heavens, on the earth, under the earth, on other planets, and in every kingdom there is in all the eternities. Every truth in every kingdom that exists is embraced in our faith, and the Lord reveals a little here and a little there, line upon line, and He will continue to do so until we can reach into eternity and embrace a fullness of His glory, excellency and power. Who are on safe ground, them? These poor despised "Mormons" are the only people who live on the face of the earth that we know anything of who are on safe ground. Whether the Bible is true or not, no matter.

Now then, for a few words on the oppo-site side. Leaving the difference between the good and the evil, between light and darkness, and between right and wrong, truth and error, as marked out by the dividing line, let us glance at the efligence, good, that which is of God, creates. fashions, forms, builds up, brings into existence, beautifies, makes excellent, glorifies, extends and increases; while on the other hand that which is not of God burns, destroys, cuts down, ruins and produces darkness and unbelief in the minds of the people. Light and intelligence lead peo-ple to the fountain of truth; while the opposite principle says, "don't believe a word, don't do a thing; burn up and des troy." Well now, when you leave the truth you have nothing but unbelief. And

this latter is precisely the condition of the ungodly world, and, as fast as the wheels of time can roll they are going downward, downward to confusion, distress, anarchy and ruin. Their much boasted liberal feelings and extended views will not bring peace or truth to them; but they are bringing contention and darkness, hatred and malice. That system that brings present security and peace is the best to live by, and the best to die by; it is the best for do-ing business; it is the best for making farms, for building cities and temples, and that system is the law of God. But it re-

quires strict obedience. The rule of right and the line which God has drawn for the people to walk by ensures peace, comfort, and happiness now and eternal glory and exsitation; but nothing short of strict obedience to God's law will do this.

Brethren and sisters I can bear my testi-mony that the gospel is true. But what will this do for a person who has no eyes to see it and its beauties, no mind or heart



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