

sins of the whole world. The Lord has blessed us through this knowledge and inspiration by the Prophet Joseph. Think what a work he did while here. He, with his brethren, built a Temple and dedicated it, and received the personal approval of the Lord within its walls, and the promise that His name should be there, and that the Gospel should go from that house to the people in foreign lands. That is the work that is upon us, and it has come to us with a responsibility and power beyond that of any former dispensation of the Gospel, to labor for the gathering together of all things which are in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on the earth. This is also according to the fulfillment of the prophecy of Moses. Away back in his day, he had a glimpse of this. Read in the 30th chapter of Deuteronomy, where he read to Israel the law, and got their vote that they would keep it; he then went on to tell them that if they would keep it, so and so would be their blessed future; and if they transgressed the laws, he told them of the terrible affliction that should come upon them. He says:

And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee,

And shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

That then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee,

If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee.

That is the promise; that is what this work of the last days is adapted to, what is being carried on, and what it will accomplish. While the Church on the earth outwardly numbers only about three hundred thousand, there have been already nearly one million of baptisms performed in the Temples for the deliverance of those that are dead. Thus the work is going on; and by and by, when the Kingdom of God is established in the earth, and the Savior reigns here upon the earth in person, and when His great work is such that He will have a multitude of those that sleep in Jesus to come with Him, as well as the righteous on the earth that are prepared for Him, then will come to pass that glorious saying, that "if any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee." This is the purpose of that work of which the Apostle Paul also spoke when he said "that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth."

Latter-day Saints, this is the glorious work in which you are engaged in these latter days. Do not forget it. Keep these great and glorious truths before your minds; let your attention be absorbed by these things, instead of going into contention and strife, envying and jealousy, folly and nonsense, with distraction, discord and unbelief. Remember that this is the work of the Lord entrusted to you, and that you are called to perform it. The Priesthood that is put upon you is not for to curse, nor to

create discord, contention or strife; it is put upon you to bless the people, to bless each other, to bless the human family, to bless the dead, and to labor for them, seeing "that they without us shall not be made perfect," that by and by we and they may together enter into the fulfillment of the promises made to the fathers, even the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We want to live so as to inherit and receive them in their fulness; so that when the time comes that Abraham, our father, shall come upon the earth to receive that inheritance that has been promised him, they who are the children of Abraham will be blessed with faithful Abraham.

We are only just getting this vast labor started, the work of those in the heavens and the work of those on the earth; and while we seem already to be considerable of a people, we are but infantile compared with what we shall become. I testify that these principles of the Gospel are true. If there are any in our midst this day who do not believe the Gospel, I want to tell them that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established, and you are having it established here. You may think perhaps there is not much significance to the testimony of two or three, but you will see the time when it will be very important to you. The Lord established that rule under the Mosaic law, and it is a rule that has come down in the jurisprudence of the ages, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established. They who hear these things taught by those who have experienced and know them to be true, will have to answer for the fact that they heard and might have received a knowledge of these things themselves if they would. When a man is brought into court and convicted of a crime by the mouth of two or three witnesses, he finds that the testimonies of those witnesses are very powerful. Many a man has been made to swing on the gallows, or has been shot, on the testimony of two or three witnesses, whose testimonies were unimpeachable. So when we come into the court of heaven, they who are hearing the word of the Lord and living amongst us in the daylight of the Gospel, and hearken not unto its ways, but rather persecute God's people, by and by they will be liable to feel the force of two or three witnesses in their case. You had better look into it yourselves, and all of us had better find the means of self-justification and live so that we can be above conviction of the law in any sense. It is one thing to live so that we can be justified individually, or before our families. It is comparatively an easy matter to preserve union and fellowship with those of our household and those who are of kindred faith with us; but when we come as members of a ward, or of a stake, there is where we are required to carry the union and fellowship of the Holy Spirit in our labors, that will unite, cement, bind together and make strong, instead of taking a course that will divide and render discordant, impotent and unprofitable. We ought to study these principles, and seek to enlarge our understandings and views of the things of God and of His character, that we may be able to take a more comprehensive view of His work, the nature and extent of our acts and the consequences thereof, so that we may be more useful and more influential for good in the

earth, as we have opportunity, both for the living and for the dead.

It is the duty of the Apostles to see to it that the Gospel is sent into all the world. We have not been able yet to send the Gospel into all the nations. Some nations are so bound up that they will not admit the preaching of this Gospel among them. They cannot believe it, because they entertain their old and venerated faiths. But the time is coming when they will. The Lord will open the way by and by that they who are worthy shall have their bonds loosened till they can be gathered out. It was very much so in Germany not many years ago. I recollect when I went over into Dresden, the capital of Saxony, and hunted out a few of the faithful there, among whom was our beloved brother, Doctor Karl G. Maeser, who has made himself known to all Israel by his faithful labors. We had to go by night to baptize him, lest we should be taken up by the officers of the law; and he soon after had to make his escape from the country. So the work is moving and gradually finding its way, like darkness gradually dispelled by the rising light of the sun. The Lord will bring these things to pass as fast as He shall see fit. We want to be continually increasing, growing in grace and in the knowledge of the truth, and to live our religion at home righteously and faithfully, so that we may be able to administer in all things as we may have occasion hereafter.

This is a wonderfully great and glorious Gospel. It holds up before us grand inviting conditions and rewards, which will make us rejoice in all that we have suffered; and instead of our calling it sacrifice as we now do, we shall feel that it is only like the sowing of the seed of the husbandman. He might call sowing his seed a sacrifice; but it is not, because he gets thirty, forty, sixty, and a hundredfold in return for it. So we, in all that we are called to deny ourselves of in these latter times, shall realize by and by a reward for it all, and more than all, and we shall rejoice and thank God we had the opportunity to pass through this experience. Everyone of us ought to treasure up these experiences with the greatest interest, and realize that it is more to us than all the gold of Ophir to know the truth and to abide in it and be sanctified by it unto Eternal Life.

Brethren and sisters, I did not expect to speak but a few minutes, but these things have come to mind, and I have spoken impromptu, having nothing premeditated. I rejoice with you in the work of the Lord. The more I see of it, the more thankful and gladsome I feel concerning it. I beseech you, read the Scriptures more. There are a great many things hidden up that if we would take time to read and hunt out would make us to feel our own insignificance and unworthiness in the sight of God, except for Him to work within us by His Spirit, to will and to do His good pleasure. We should pray much, that we may not be overcome by temptation, and that we may have power to contend against every principle in the earth that is not ordained of God. We ought to seek for strength and ability to live and to prevail against every evil, in order that the truth may triumph, and salvation, immortality and Eternal Life be brought to light through our efforts and labors, as they were through the efforts