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THE CLOSING NUMBER.

THIS issue of THE DESERET WEEKLY closes the current volume. The last six months have been pregnant with many remarkable events and developments. These will all be found recorded within the contents of this magazine. This preservation of current history is one of its chief features, and will render it invaluable in years to come as a work of reference. It will be a factor in the compilation of a condensed history of our times, which will, doubtless, in due course be written and published in popular shape. But whether this shall be done or not, our weekly will always be a source which can be applied to for correct information regarding the current of events in one of the most interesting epochs in the history of Utah and of the world at large. Those who have been subscribing for this magazine and have taken care of the back numbers should have them bound into volumes. Those who have not can obtain them ready bound at this office. Now is a good time to subscribe for the forthcoming volume.

A DAY OF DECEPTION.

ONE of the prominent doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the coming of the Savior again to earth. This advent is not to be like the first. Then He came as "the babe of Bethlehem." He was despised and rejected of men, crowned with thorns, spit upon and derided, and finally crucified and slain. When He comes again it is to be as the royal Son of David to reign and rule as King of kings and Lord of lords.

This advent the Saints believe is near at hand. As foretold in scripture it is to be preceded by several important events which are to be signs of His approach. Among these are the restoration of the "Gospel of the Kingdom" with all its powers, gifts and manifestations and the authority to administer its

ordinances; the preaching of that Gospel to all nations; the gathering of the elect, that is, the Saints of God who are obedient to His will, from all parts of the world; the establishment of Zion; the restoration of the Jews to Palestine; the outpouring of the latter-day judgments; signs in heaven and on the earth; wars, plagues, famine, earthquakes, land and ocean phenomena, trouble, perplexity and distress unexampled; and the preparation of a people to receive Him in His glory.

Incidental to His coming to take possession of His kingdom, there are to be temporary appearances of the risen Redeemer. He is to "come suddenly to His temple," to manifest Himself to "those who look for His appearing;" to stand upon the Mount of Olives; to descend as He ascended after His resurrection, etc. These are preliminary appearances. His advent with ten thousand of His Saints in the glory of His Father will be the crowning event of this wonderful age, the grand climax of the world's drama, the beginning of a new era.

Many of the occurrences which He and other prophets of old time predicted as signs of His coming have already taken place. Others are happening daily. As surely as the buds herald the Spring so do the signs of the times portend the Second Advent.

One of the warnings He gave of His near approach and of which He bade His people beware, was of "false Christs and false prophets." In another column we print an account of a few of the vagaries, deceptions and impostures which have recently disturbed society, and led away many credulous people. These should serve as caution signals to the Saints. There are to be such strong delusions in the latter days that they will deceive, if possible, "the very elect."

There is a disposition among many people to accept as divine almost anything that appears miraculous or out of the ordinary course of nature. The love of the marvelous is not confined to any class or community. It exists largely among some of the Latter-day Saints. Lack of faith is a striking characteristic of the age in which we live and particularly of the class who are called educated. It is a great defect. But the other extreme of too large credulity is an evil of which all should be on their guard. Every wonder is not a reality. And as all is not gold that glitters, so all is not

divine that appears to be supernatural.

Satan is a factor in the sum of this world's realities. He is the embodiment of all the opposites to those attributes that constitute Deity. He is the Prince of the power of the air, the ruler, within certain bounds, of the lower world, and he is the Arch-deceiver of men and nations. He is a great imitator, and will counterfeited the Divine so as to lead astray the most astute who have not the grand key to test and detect his impostures. As an angel of light, ay, as the Messiah Himself, he may appear to deceive and destroy.

The Latter-day Saints should be careful to preserve themselves from error, and to keep within the lines of the law of God and the revelations He has given for their guide. While they ought to "covet to prophesy" and "desire spiritual gifts," they should not be too anxious for marvels. They ought not to accept as divine every manifestation of extraordinary power. And they must beware of impostures, which will multiply and become more and more delusive as the advent of the Lord draws near.

The promise of His coming is true and faithful. It will not fail. And to those who are prepared and worthy, He may reveal himself in vision or otherwise as He may condescend. But there will be false appearances and lying spirits, and designing men; and the foolish, both ignorant and learned, will be led astray.

In the Church of Christ are ample safeguards against delusion and error. Under the keys and guidance of the Holy Priesthood none need be beguiled by the Evil One. Possessed of the Holy Ghost as a gift from God, the humblest Saint may be kept from straying, and may walk in the light though darkness surrounds. Mystery is of Babylon. Simplicity and plainness are of the truth. And safety lies in the strait and narrow way of duty where no ignis fatuus leads to the quagmires of folly and despair.

By straightforward, every-day obedience to the word of the Lord and compliance with the rules He has revealed, and by seeking for the guidance of that calm, common sense, and rational Spirit which is His gift to the faithful, they will learn all that is needful to know of His great designs and coming purposes, and be prepared for the grand consummation. While those who are too eager for the mysteries and too ready for the marvelous, may be blinded by the adversary and become a prey to the deceiver. Beware of false Christs, beware of false prophets!