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## RECORDS OF THE SAINTS.

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by

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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

Beloved hearers: I have greatly rejoiced with you during the sittings of this Conference, yesterday and this morning, in the very precious instructions that have been given to us. I realize that they have been the dictation of the Holy Ghost unto us, and my soul has been feasted therewith. We have had a blessed variety of instructions given to us, of many things both temporal and spiritual.

Inasmuch as you are in the habit of raising up your hands twice a year to sustain me as the historian of the Church, and are liable to be called upon to do the same thing again before this conference closes, I feel impressed with the importance of presenting to you some thoughts for consideration which appertain to that part of the labor in which I am engaged—that of historian. There is a great work devolving upon God's people in their daily life in the organization which has been set forth to us this morning. An important feature of that work is the keeping of the sacred records of the Church. This involves something more than is generally contemplated by those who are called to be clerks, secretaries and recorders in the Church. I wish to call the attention of this congregation to a consideration of this subject a few minutes this morning, but before proceeding further I desire to read a few sentences of sacred writ, beginning with Genesis, second chapter and 4th verse:

"These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens."

Pearl of Great Price, edition 1888, page 7:

"The Lord spake unto Moses saying, behold I reveal unto you concerning this heaven and this earth; write the words which I speak."

Page 26:

"And then began these men to call upon the name of the Lord, and the Lord blessed them, and a Book of Remembrance was kept, in the which was recorded, in the language of Adam, for it was given unto as many as called upon God to write by the spirit of inspiration; and by them their children were taught to read and write, having a language which was pure and undefiled.

Now this same Priesthood, which was in the beginning, shall be in the end of the world also. Now this prophecy Adam spake, and he was

moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and a genealogy was kept of the children of God. And this was the book of the generations of Adam."

Enoch in the seventh generation from Adam, who lived and built the City of Zion, has left on record the following, page 31:

"The heavens he made; the earth is his footstool, and the foundation thereof is his. Behold he laid it, an host of men hath he brought in upon the face thereof. And death hath come upon our fathers; nevertheless we know them, and cannot deny, and even the first of all we know, even Adam. For a book of remembrance we have written among us, according to the pattern given by the finger of God; and it is given in our own language."

These extracts which I am now reading are from a Revelation which the God of Heaven has given to us through the Prophet Joseph Smith, which he received soon after the organization of the Church in 1830, and which are found in the Pearl of Great Price. I quote from the latest edition published in 1888, in this city.

Further scripture concerning this superlatively important subject may be found on pages 121 and 538 of the Book of Mormon. The Lord said to Nephi about 550 years before His incarnation, Book of Mormon, 2nd Nephi, chapter 29, verses 11-12:

For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the Islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books that shall be written, I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written. For behold I shall speak unto the Jews, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the House of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth, and they shall write it.

In fulfillment of His promise that He would speak unto the Jews and that they should write it, we have that precious book the Bible. His promise to speak to the Nephites and that they should write it, is also fully made manifest in the coming forth of the plates containing the Book of Mormon.

With a fulfillment of these prophecies so perfectly before us, we may with entire confidence expect the fulfillment of that part which relates to the tribes of Israel which He has led away, and also that which relates to all nations of the earth.

Again on page 538:

Behold all things are written by the father; therefore out of the books which shall be written, shall the world be judged.

In most beautiful harmony with the foregoing does the Prophet Malachi say, chapter 3, v. 16:

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened, and

heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord and that thought upon his name.

From the word of God we see that in the early ages of the world, soon after its creation, that wonderful Prophet Enoch was deeply impressed with the importance of a "Book of Remembrance," being kept in which was contained the record of the generations of Adam.

Not only were Enoch and his contemporaries interested in this, but it appears that the Lord was interested, and probably commanded it to be done, for the Prophet states that to as many as called upon God it was given to write by the spirit of inspiration, and by this spirit of inspiration in their parents they were taught to read and write the pure and perfect language which God had given to their great father Adam, so that they kept a genealogy of the children of God; and this was the Book of the Generations of Adam.

That it was the design, purpose and commandment of God that a good faithful record of Adam's descendants should be kept is unquestionably true, seeing that the greatest of all the antediluvian Prophets has left on record that "a book of remembrance we have written among us, according to the pattern given by the finger of God."

Having now obtained some slight idea of the significance attached to record keeping in ante-deluvian times, let us see if the people since the flood have entertained similar ideas on this important subject.

Noah gives us no account of having preserved a history of the creation or of the Church organization, building of Enoch's city, Zion, and its translation, nor of the persecutions of the righteous by the wicked during that time, but the following from Abraham, the friend of God and father of the faithful, who lived in the tenth generation, about 400 years after the flood, has found its way down to us.

He says, pages 45-50:

"I sought for the blessings of the fathers, and the right whereunto I should be ordained to administer the same; having been myself a follower of righteousness; and desiring to receive instructions, and to keep the commandments of God, I became a rightful heir, a High Priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers; it was conferred upon me from the fathers; it came down from the fathers, from the beginning of time, yea, even from the beginning, or before the foundations of the earth to the present time, even the right of the first-born, on the first man, who is Adam, or first father, through the fathers unto me.

"I sought for mine appointment unto the Priesthood according to the appointment of God unto the fathers concerning the seed."

By this latter paragraph we are informed that Patriarch Abraham was not