

SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS,

Convened in the Tabernacle, Great Salt Lake City, Saturday, October 6, 1860, 10 A.M. President Brigham Young, presiding.

On the Stand: Of the First Presidency: Presidents Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Daniel H. Wells;

Of the Twelve Apostles: Orson Hyde, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Ezra T. Benson, Lorenzo Snow and Franklin D. Richards;

Of the First Presidency of Seventies: Joseph Young, Levi W. Hancock, Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood and Horace S. Eldredge;

Of the High Priests: John Young, Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards;

Of the Presidency of the Stake: David Fullmer and George B. Wallace;

Patriarchs: John Smith, John Young and Isaac Morley;

Reporters: George D. Watt and John V. Long.

The conference was called to order by Elder Orson Hyde.

Choir sung, "The morning breaks, the shadows flee."

Prayer was offered by Elder Ezra T. Benson.

Choir sung, "I'll praise my maker while I've breath."

President H. C. Kimball made pointed and spirited remarks on the organization of the kingdom of God in the last day; said it is a kingdom which differs from all others in one respect, viz: it concerns everybody in every nation, land and clime upon this earth. It is the duty of all members in this Church, to lay aside their selfishness, and let all their interests be in the kingdom of God, for the Almighty will bring every son and daughter of Adam to an account for their acts in relation to His kingdom. Remarked that we had come together to worship God, to speak of His purposes and bear testimony of His works, and all should feel that they have a portion of the responsibility upon their own shoulders. Counseled those holding the priesthood to honor their calling.

Elder George A. Smith bore testimony to the truth of the gospel he had received, and spoke of the great pleasure he felt in being able to meet with the brethren and sisters once more, after having been deprived of that privilege for over thirteen months, through lameness. Observed that if we are in the path of duty, we shall continually have the Spirit of the Lord to assist us to bear record of what is taught to us by the First Presidency of the Church; but if our minds are set upon earthly things we become darkened in our vision; reviewed the labors of the Saints in this Territory, since their first settlement here; he testified to the revelation of the fulness of the gospel, and the visible manifestation of the power of God in the affairs of this people; said that if the Saints will be faithful they will have a lamp to guide them in the ways of life.

President Brigham Young expressed himself very thankful for the favorable circumstances that surround the Latter Day Saints at the present time; spoke of the wisdom, ability and talent that we see displayed among the children of men, and observed, that all they possess is the gift of God to them, although they do not appreciate those things as from the Almighty. He said that he had frequently been much pleased and gratified in hearing the Elders speak, in observing their manner of communication, feeling and testing their spirits, and learning what was in them. When the sound of this gospel goes to the nations, it carries conviction to the hearts of the people. In alluding to the travels of the Saints in these days, he remarked: We have been driven, and thank God, for the last time. We are here, and this is where the Lord wants us to be. Men who have within them that living testimony of the Holy Ghost, obtained through obedience, lose it when they deny the faith, but it is our duty to keep that constantly within us, to be able at all times to give a reason for our faith and hope. Gave an important lecture to the Bishops relative to their respective duties; related some circumstances that transpired in Nauvoo, with the Temple Committee, that every man seemed to look to his own interest instead of looking to the interests of the kingdom of God, which he contended was the first duty with every true Saint.

President B. Young pronounced the benediction, and the conference adjourned till 2 o'clock.

2 P. M.

Choir sung, "Come all ye Saints who dwell on earth."

Prayer by Elder Orson Hyde.

Choir sung, "Come ye that love the Lord."

President Brigham Young gave a brief account of the Church train that has come across the plains this year, in charge of Elder Joseph W. Young; he would like to have enough wagons go to the frontiers to bring all the Saints who wish to come here, and it can easily be done, if the people will send back their teams, as some few have done this year. Briefly referred to the travels of Zion's Camp, how that they traveled over 2,000 miles in three months; enlarged upon the facilities for gathering the poor, by sending teams from this place to the Missouri river in the spring, loading up and returning in the same season.

Bishop Edwin D. Woolley referred to his trip to the States; complimented Elder Cannon for his good management of the emigration. He was very grateful for having been preserved on his journey. Alluded to his visit to St. Louis, and other cities in the States. Admonished the Saints to keep their covenants, and to be diligent in all things.

Elder Joseph W. Young gave an interesting lecture on the science of ox-team-ology, explaining the art of preserving cattle upon the plains, and making them perform two trips across the plains in one season. He was glad to be at home again, in the society of his friends and brethren, and prayed that the people might be faithful in the performance of all their duties as children of the Most High. Choir sung, "Rejoice ye servants of our God."

BOWERY, SUNDAY, Oct. 7, 10 A. M.

Choir sung, "All praise to our redeeming Lord."

Prayer was offered by President Joseph Young.

Choir sung, "Arise O glorious Zion."

Elder Orson Hyde said the testimony of the servants of God is destined to search the hearts of the people wherever it goes; bore testimony to the truth of the work of God, and gave an interesting account of the revelation given in Hyde Park Branch relative to the re-organization of the First Presidency, and remarked that the revelation was given some time before the subject was named in public, making the organization of the First Presidency *Vox dei vox populi*. Asked the question, who does not know that the voice of President Young is the voice of God? Whatever is spoken by the Spirit of the Lord is scripture, as much as that which has been written. Referred to a revelation which the Lord gave 27 years ago last December, speaking of the division of the American government, and specifying the place where it should commence, and commented upon this revelation at some length, advertising in a particular manner to the Democratic party having been broken to pieces at the late Charleston Convention. Quoted the texts: "Out of Egypt have I called my son." "Whosoever falleth upon this stone shall be broken to pieces." Said the Lord will visit the United States with famine, tornadoes and a thousand plagues that it has not entered into the heart of man to think of, and testified that all the words of the Lord will be fulfilled, whether spoken by his own voice, or by the voice of his servants.

President Brigham Young said that he realized there were hundreds and thousands of Elders present, who would like to have the privilege of speaking to the people and bearing testimony to the truth; he considered the testimony borne in the morning was full of meaning, of matter and of spirit. Reasoned upon the question of authority and the necessity of having the proper credentials. The world of mankind suppose that they are persecuting us with the same effect and result as they persecuted Martin Luther, John Wesley, John Knox, and all the reformers, from the fifteenth century till now, but it is not so; they will have to pay every debt they contract with the Latter Day Saints. The Lord gave a revelation 27 years ago, in which it was stated that they would be divided in the United States, commencing just where they have. All we can do is to preach to them, plead with them, and offer them the words of eternal life. The present Government will be broken—the adhesiveness has already gone from the nation, and it is fast departing from the people.

The Lord will consummate his work where he commenced it; He commenced here, the garden of Eden was upon this land, but in the floating of the Ark of Noah the Lord took the family of Noah to another land, and now he has brought back Zion to this continent, and here he will consummate his work, and come and reign with his people. Made a few remarks upon the figure of the Potter's vessel, and the parable of the ten virgins, and asked the question, where did the five foolish virgins go? Spoke of the kingdoms that are prepared for the Saints of God, and also of the different degrees of glory in store for those who know not God—who live and die and go into the spirit world without receiving the gospel in its fulness and power.

Remarked that the centre stake of Zion is Independence, Jackson county, Missouri, and that the Saints will be gathered there, and rear a temple to the Most High. The religion we profess is fulfilling the words of Jesus; it is calling the people out from the nations, causing them to leave fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives and children for the gospel's sake, and thus having their relationship in the gospel of Christ exclusively; the love that this gospel produces is the love of eternal lives, and hence it prevails over every other feeling.

Choir sung, "Come listen to a prophet's voice."

Benediction by Elder George A. Smith.

2 p.m.

Singing by the choir.

Prayer by Elder Lorenzo Snow.

Choir sung, "Behold the Savior of mankind."

The sacrament was administered by Bishops Hunter, Hardy, Little, Smoot and McRae.

Patriarch John Young next addressed the meeting. He dwelt at some length on the great blessings enjoyed by the Latter Day Saints; he rejoiced in the society of the people of God, and felt as willing to share with them their afflictions as he was to participate

in their blessings. Reasoned upon the passage of Scripture which says, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation." He felt satisfied that the Saints never had such good times as they now have, and they ought to show their appreciation by their faithfulness and integrity; said the gratitude of every Saint ought to be called forth by the plentiful harvest they are reaping this season. Testified to the truth he had received, to the revelation of the fulness of the gospel, the restoration of the priesthood and the patriarchal order; prophesied that the ship Zion will move forward despite all opposition; it will ride triumphant over all its enemies, and every man and woman that wants to go with it must keep on board the old ship. Encouraged the Saints to be faithful in all their duties, and blessed them by his authority as a Patriarch in Israel and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

President Heber C. Kimball bore testimony to the discourses delivered by Elder Hyde and President B. Young in the morning, and to that just preached by uncle John. He knew the power of God was in the Conference; it was exhibited in every discourse; it was manifest in every countenance, and enjoyed by every Saint. He felt to prophesy that the gospel will go forth in greater power to the nations than it has done heretofore, and eventually the Scripture will be fulfilled which saith, "A nation shall be born in a day," and if the people will wake up from their slumbers, the work of God will spread abroad and shortly commence in all nations; the power of God manifested here is felt by the Saints in the nations afar off, in as short a space of time as pain in a man's foot is felt in the head.

Made some appropriate remarks on the cares of this life, the responsibilities of the holy priesthood, and the necessity of constantly walking in the path of rectitude and duty. Counseled the people to multiply in the knowledge of God, as well as in the good things of this life; contended that whatever is spoken by the Holy Ghost is Scripture and essential to the salvation of the Saints; alluded to the power displayed in the days of Elijah, how the Almighty overturned the wicked and established his truth, and in a similar manner will he magnify his servants in the last days.

President Daniel H. Wells said he had rejoiced exceedingly in the good things he had heard from the brethren since the commencement of the conference, especially that part which pertained to the practicability of sending 200 wagons and teams to the frontiers next season to gather the poor; the practical duties of the Saints always interested him. Called the attention of the brethren to the fact that the Lord's Store House is empty, and if the people feel an interest in the building of the temple next year, let them bring in their tithes and their offerings to feed the hands that are expected to be employed in this work, that those who have the supervision of the public works may not have their hands tied, as has been the case heretofore. The nations of the wicked are offended because of the interference of the Almighty in their affairs, and hence they seek to overthrow his kingdom. Counseled the brethren to assist the President by their means, as well as by their prayers, to carry on the work of the Lord.

Elder John Taylor spoke of the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency of the Church, and the duties of the Saints to assist them; said the Presidency, Twelve Apostles and Elders have traveled thousands of miles to preach the gospel, that the nations might be brought to the knowledge of the truth; reviewed the folly of men politically, religiously, physically, morally and philosophically; observed that all their systems are as corrupt as the devil wants them to be, and all their movements show their feebleness and imbecility. The people pray—Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven, and to accomplish this, much labor is required, and to do it completely and fully, he knew of no other way than that of implicit obedience to the truths of heaven, to the will of God made known through his servants; and here is the nucleus where the spirit, the light, the intelligence that God has revealed to man in all ages, is to be gathered together, for the perfection of the Saints and for the effectual carrying on of the ministry in the last days.

President B. Young made a few encouraging remarks, and blest the people in the name of the Lord, and all the congregation said Amen. He remarked that when the earth is sanctified and prepared for the abode of the righteous, it will be brought back into the immediate presence of the Father, and the earth will be like a Urim and Thummim.

Choir sung, "Guide us O thou Great Jehovah."

Benediction by Elder Wilford Woodruff.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 10 A. M.

Singing by the choir.

Prayer by Bishop Abraham O. Smoot.

Choir sung, "O happy souls who pray."

President B. Young desired the congregation to keep as quiet as possible while the business of the conference was presented.

Elder Orson Hyde then presented the authorities of the Church as follows:

Brigham Young, as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Heber C. Kimball, his first and Daniel H. Wells his second counselors;

Orson Hyde as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin

D. Richards and George Q. Cannon as members of said Quorum;

John Smith, as Patriarch of the Church; Joseph Young, as President of all the Seventies, and Levi W. Hancock, Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood and Horace S. Eldredge as his counselors;

John Young, as President of the High Priest's Quorum, and Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, his counselors;

William Eddington, James A. Little, Samuel W. Richards, George Nebeker, John T. Caine, Joseph W. Young, Gilbert Clements, Edward Partridge, Franklin B. Woolley and Orson Pratt, jun., members of the High Council;

John Nebeker, President of the Elders Quorum;

Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop, and Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, his counselors;

Lewis Wight, President of the Priests' Quorum, and William Whiting and Samuel Moore, his counselors;

Mc. Gee Harris, President of the Teachers' Quorum;

John S. Carpenter, President of the Deacons' Quorum, and William Cook and Warren Hardy his Counselors;

Brigham Young, Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Daniel H. Wells, Superintendent of Public Works;

Truman O. Angell, Architect for the Church; Brigham Young, President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund to gather the poor, Heber C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells and Edward Hunter, his assistants and agents for said fund;

George A. Smith, Historian and general Church Recorder, and Wilford Woodruff his assistant. The foregoing quorums and authorities were all voted for separately, and each and all were unanimously sustained by the Conference.

Elder John T. Caine then read a report of the cash tithing received during the last four years, and of the cash disbursements of the Trustee in Trust during the same period.

The following named persons were then appointed Door Keepers, to preserve order in the Tabernacle and Bowery during the holding of meetings for public worship:

Israel Ivins, Albert Dewey, Andrew Burt, Hiram Mikesel, John W. Woolley, Ephraim Green, Ansel Harmon, Solon Foster, William Carter, Lewis Robbins, Robert J. Golding, William P. McIntire.

President B. Young made a few remarks on the duties and responsibilities of the Trustee in Trust. In relation to the public hands he said: "My policy is to let the men who labor hard have the beef, and those who sit in their easy chairs and do nothing, can do very well with lighter food." Said he wished to build the Temple, not for the people to meet in, but for the priesthood to meet in and receive instruction in the things of God."

Elder John T. Caine read a financial report of the Missionary Fund.

President B. Young discoursed on the subject of sending missionaries to the nations; observed that if the Elders when abroad got more money than was necessary for their immediate wants, they were henceforth expected to give it to the people, and understand that they go to the world to save the honest in heart and not to fleece them. Made some observations upon the conduct of the government officials; complimenting some two or three of them for their gentlemanly deportment and honorable treatment of the Saints.

Moved by the President, seconded and carried that this Conference adjourn till Saturday, the 6th day of April, 1861, at 10 o'clock a.m.

Choir sung, "Praise ye the Lord."

President Heber C. Kimball pronounced the following

BENEDICTION:

O God the Eternal Father, in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, we ask thee to look down from the heavens upon us, thy servants and handmaidens who have assembled together at this time to worship thee in a conference capacity. Sanctify what has been done in accordance with thy holy will; grant that every one may go home rejoicing meditating and contemplating upon those things that have transpired. Sanctify our hearts and our affections, and all that is within us unto thine own self. Fill us with wisdom, light, knowledge, discernment, and clothe us with the power of God that we may do right, walk in the holy commandments of our Father and God, do that which will please thee at all times, and worship thee in spirit and in truth.

Let thy blessing rest upon all those that have attended this conference, that they may not receive any harm from the changeableness of the weather, and where any have received colds rebuke them, and bless thy people with health. Bless thy Saints throughout the valleys of these mountains, and also all those scattered among the nations of the earth, and upon the islands of the sea.

Take us into thy kind care and protection, dismiss us with thy blessing; help us to be humble and faithful. Let the light of Christ be in us, and let the Holy Ghost take up his abode with us—with all thy servants, from the presidency down to the lowest member in thy kingdom, not only here but throughout the world.

Hear us, O Lord, in these things, for into thy hands we commit ourselves, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ our Redeemer: Amen.

J. V. LONG,
Clerk of Conference.