

prophecy, revealed twenty-four hundred years ago the present condition of the world and the situation that His Church would be in when it should be established upon the earth in our day. And we need not fear. No matter what may happen, we have no need for fear. The only cause that will create fear in my mind—and that feeling does sometimes assail me—is the knowledge that the Latter-day Saints are not living as they should do; that there is division among them, that there is strife, that they are loving the world and the things of the world, and that they are placing their affections upon something else more than upon the building up of the Kingdom of God. When I witness such a spirit, I confess that I am assailed with fear; not that the work of God will be endangered, not that the purposes of God will be turned aside; but I fear lest the Latter-day Saints, as a people, will be scourged, because of the conduct of those who profess to be Saints and bear the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. If, however, we are living as we should do, keeping the commandments of God and walking in the straight and narrow path, then we have no need for fear. The question that I propounded awhile ago, as to whether these forces that are arrayed against us would have power over us, can easily be answered if this be our condition. If you Latter-day Saints in Weber County are all living as you should be, I can promise you, as a servant of God, that He will come to your deliverance in ways that you never dreamed of, and that which may seem to be a disaster and to interfere with your future prosperity will be changed into a blessing and be overruled for your good. This has been the case in the past; it will be so in the future.

These troubles that we now have are comparatively light to those that we shall have to meet with. But when they come we shall have the strength necessary to rise above them; for as they increase, our strength will increase in proportion. The forces which now antagonize us are insignificant compared with forces that we shall yet have to cope with, and with which we shall cope successfully.* Threatening and formidable as the powers arrayed against us now may be because of our weak condition, we will find as we grow in strength, as we gain influence and power, the opposing forces will also increase, until, as I have said, it will not only be a nation, but it will be the whole world that will fight against Zion and will seek her destruction. And under those circumstances what will save us? Nothing will save us but the righteousness of the Latter-day Saints, and the power of God which that righteousness will bring forth. The hour was as dark when a neighborhood fought this Church as it is today. The Prophet Joseph Smith and his fellow-servants had as much cause to feel, in the beginning, that the work was as much in danger of destruction then as some may think it is in danger of that fate now, because they had all they could con-

tend with, and it was just as much as they could do to live. The Prophet's life was sought for diligently, and it was only by the power of God that he escaped. Afterwards, when the Saints moved to Kirtland, they were surrounded with just as many threatening difficulties and dangers, and it seemed no more possible to the unbelieving at that time for the Church to live than it does to that class today. Yet the Church did live and prospered. So in Missouri and Illinois, and so it has been from that day until the present time.

Shall we have trying hours? Yes. Why should we not have? Do you think that you can be connected with a work that has such a destiny as this and not have trouble and difficulty, and not seem sometimes as though you would be overwhelmed? It would be impossible. But, in these hours which seem to men so dark, God has promised unto us the outpouring of His Holy Spirit and the comfort which that Spirit gives, which makes men and women happy in the midst of the deepest distress and affliction. He has promised that unto us, and it has never yet failed. When the Saints have been suffering the direst afflictions, when it has seemed as if they would be overwhelmed, they then have had the sustaining hand and power of God extended to them, and their hearts have been comforted, and they have been led to look forward with hopeful anticipation to the future. Thus it has been, thus it is, and thus it will be. We have got to live independent of these surrounding circumstances and to carry within us that peace which God designs we shall enjoy. No matter how dark the clouds may be, or how threatening the future may appear, it is our privilege to have within us this peace which comes from God. It is our privilege to have the Holy Ghost in our hearts—to have, as it were, the presence of God himself with us, to sustain us and to give unto us the assurance that though our enemies are strong and numerous and full of threatenings, yet He is near unto us with His power, to assist and deliver us and to give unto us that comfort and consolation which we need.

Brethren and sisters, it resolves itself into this, in our case: we must live that religion which God has revealed unto us—live it so that we shall have its power within us, so that its gifts shall abound and that we shall rejoice in them. We should live so that if we were in a subterranean dungeon, shut out from the light of day, the Spirit of God and the light of eternity would still come to us into that dark place and enlighten our minds and fill us with peace and joy. We should live independent of external circumstances and in such close communion with God that the consciousness of his power and presence will rest upon us every hour. Then, no matter what may occur, we shall be prepared for it, because we will know that He who is mightier than all the armies of the earth is our friend, and He will stand by us and deliver us in the very extremity of

distress and of trial. This is the way that we should live. But if we quarrel over water or over land, or are eager to sell land and make large prices on it, our minds running out after the things of the world, forgetting the things of God and that our labor is to build up His Zion in purity and power on the earth, and allowing our minds to become engrossed with the love of the things of the world and struggling to gain them—if this be our condition, then we are not safe and we need to repent with all our hearts and turn to our God and obtain His forgiveness, so that His Spirit will be poured out upon us in such power that we shall know we have His approval and blessing.

We have been talked to about famines, about pestilence, and about calamities of various kinds. These things have been predicted, and they will come. But I sometimes think that some of our people do not believe the prediction about famine; for when water becomes scarce and crops are likely to fail, there are some almost ready to fight over water. It is deplorable for Latter-day Saints to indulge in this spirit and give way to these feelings. The Lord permits a great many things to occur in order to test His Saints, and I believe that this scarcity of water will try the Latter-day Saints more than going to prison for unlawful cohabitation, polygamy, or anything else that they have passed through the last four years. It is not only trying the men who have had more than one wife, but it is trying those who have no wife or only one wife. It is likely to test the faith of all classes; and if this is going to test the faith of Latter-day Saints, I do not know but it is just as good a trial as the Lord can permit to come upon us. I do not see why we should not be prepared for that as well as anything else. It tests the faith of the Latter-day Saints; it tests their patience; and patience is a gift just as much as wisdom is, or just as much as the gift of tongues, or healing, or prophecy. Patience is a gift, hope is a gift, faith is a gift, and charity is a gift. If we have charity, we are filled with the pure love of God. If we have hope, we are not discouraged at forbidding circumstances, because it assures us that all things will work together for our good. If we have faith, we look forward with perfect confidence to the future. These are gifts which God requires the Saints to possess. If the Saints have the gift of patience, they will endure patiently and with fortitude and longsuffering the trials that they have to contend with. This hot weather is apt to make us somewhat impatient and irritable; and when we see our trees perishing and our crops going back into the ground, for the want of water, our patience is tried.

Brethren and sisters, let us pray to God for patience. We ought to pray always for the gifts that are suited to our condition and circumstances, and we need this gift especially in these days. We also need charity. "Charity suffereth