

God as it exists today. And what has been the consequence of this? I desire to bring the minds of the brethren to those days. Just as quick as the Twelve Apostles were appointed and the Church was set in order, the devil labored with all the power that he possessed to turn aside these men and inspire them to leave the Church of God. Because of this it seemed to be very hard work many times for men who had received the Priesthood and even the Apostleship to magnify that Priesthood and to stand in their calling until they could finish their work in the flesh. I have made a remark once or twice in my teachings with regard to the great apostasy in Kirtland. I passed through that scene, as did some others who are now with us, and I wish now to refer to it because it is something we should lay to heart. Even Apostles took occasion to rise up and endeavored to dictate and direct the Prophet of God. Here, brethren and sisters, was a manifestation—and a very strange one, too—of the power that the devil had over the leading men whom God raised up to assist in laying the foundation of this Church and in bringing forth the Book of Mormon. Those who testified to the Book of Mormon were led away through not keeping the commandments of God and thinking that they themselves were great men. Some of them were learned men; some of them considered themselves very smart men, and they were so smart that they wanted to dictate and direct the Prophet of God. The consequence of all this was that they turned aside from the commandments of God. Some of them had been true and faithful in their labors in the ministry. I have heard Oliver Cowdery testify of the Book of Mormon by the power of God when it seemed as if the very earth trembled under his feet. He was filled with the Holy Ghost and the power of God while he was faithful; and so were many of these men. But Oliver Cowdery yielded to the temptation of the evil one, and we may say he apostatized. So did Martin Harris, and several others connected with them. They left the Church, they turned against Joseph, and they said he was a fallen prophet, and they themselves wanted to direct the Church. I have remarked that there was a time when there were but two of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles then in the town of Kirtland who stood by Joseph Smith and upheld him as a prophet, seer and revelator. I was not a member of that quorum at that time; I was a Seventy. Several of these men called upon me in the time of this apostasy and asked me to join them against the Prophet; the Prophet was fallen, they said. Now, I had seen enough myself of the Prophet of God, and I had read enough of the revelations of God through him, to know that he was a Prophet of God and not a fallen prophet. I saw that these men were yielding to the devil, and I told them so. Said I: "You will all go to hell unless you repent. Joseph has been raised up by the power of God; he has organized this Church, he has been true and faithful to God and to the Church and kingdom of God here on the earth, and you will fall and go to perdition unless you repent of your sins and turn from the position you are in today." A good many of them did fall. I will here name one instance. I saw one of these apostles in the Kirtland Temple, while the Sacrament was being passed, stand in the

aisle and curse the Prophet of God to his face while he was in the stand, and when the bread was passed around he reached out his hand for a piece of bread and flung it into his mouth like a mad dog. He turned as black in the face almost as an African with rage and with the power of the devil. What did he do? He ate and drank damnation to himself. He did not go and hang himself, but he did go and drown himself, and the river went over his body while his spirit was cast into the pit, where he ceased to have power to curse either God or His Prophet in time or in eternity. I may say that David Patten was not in Kirtland at this time; he was in Missouri. He never apostatized, but died a martyr.

Brethren and sisters, I have passed through these scenes, and it was a serious time. And I will tell you the devil is not dead today, but will war against us and against this Church, as far as he has power, while we dwell in the flesh. I thank the Lord, however, that I know for myself that this Church will stand, and the Lord will bear it off triumphant. We have passed those days of affliction and sorrow; but I want to say to my brethren, one and all, we still have got to watch unto prayer. If there is any place where the devil can lead us astray he will do it. We are not safe until we get through with this probation. I thank God for one thing: I am satisfied for myself that those days are passed and gone. There is no man in heaven or on earth will ever live to see such a day again. We are too near the end; we are too near the coming of the Son of Man. The Lord Almighty has called a class of men upon whose shoulders He has laid the responsibility of this great work. He has chosen the weak things of the world, and we have these responsibilities resting upon us. I am satisfied for myself that the servants of God whom He has chosen will, as a rule, be true and faithful unto death. How dark a man must be in his mind to get into such a condition as these Apostles were. I heard some of them bear testimony before God, angels and men that they had received the ministration of angels, and having that knowledge, what a condition they must have been in when they apostatized! We want to guard ourselves with regard to these matters. We have got to look to the Lord to assist us in the cause in which we are engaged. I hope and pray that I may live to see the perfect union of the Twelve Apostles with the Presidency of this Church and the union of the whole Church. We have this work upon our shoulders, and the Lord is watching over us. I will say to all the nations of the earth, you cannot turn aside or overthrow the designs of the Lord; they will come to pass in the earth exactly as they have been promised to the children of men.

We are here upon a mission, and it is a great mission. We are blessed in living in this day and generation. We ought to try and make the most of it we can. We ought to try and improve our time, magnify our calling and do our duty. I will say to the Latter-day Saints, the Lord has called and chosen us to stand as the leaders of the people—the Presidency, the Twelve Apostles and the various quorums and positions which we are in, and we are responsible to God for the course we pursue in these matters. True, we need the faith and fellowship of the Saints; we need

their assistance; but inasmuch as we do our duty the blessings of God will be with us. I know for myself that the Lord has set His hand to carry out His great purposes and prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man. We have passed through a long period of time, as men count time, in our history. I will here refer to one incident: When Christ and Peter, James and John, went into the mount, Moses and Elias were manifest to them, and Jesus was transfigured before them. The last time the Apostles ever met with the Prophet Joseph Smith, there were eleven of us present—nine Apostles, himself and his brother Hyrum. He likewise was transfigured before us, as far as mortal man can be. The room which he was in was filled as with consuming fire by the power of God. His face was clear as amber, he was clothed with the power of God. We did not know he was going to leave us any more than the Apostles knew the Savior was going to leave them in that day. But he told us what our duties were. He laid before us what God required at his hands and the ordinances unto which he had been ordained by the power of God. He said the Lord had sealed upon his head every ordinance, every key and every power belonging to this dispensation of the fulness of times; and, he added, "I have sealed these things upon you heads; now you must go forth and bear off this kingdom or you will be damned." That was a very strong remark to us. I have never forgotten it from that day to this. I realize that God was with him. And He has been with His people. He is with Zion today. He will continue to be. Though all the powers of darkness may war against us, the Lord is our Friend, and He will sustain us and give us power to build up Zion and to carry out this work until the coming of the Son of Man. Therefore, let your hearts be comforted. These Apostles, I am satisfied, are of one heart and mind. I know they are united with us; I know we are united with them. This is a great joy and consolation to me. We all should be united in the cause in which we are engaged. Inasmuch as we do this we shall come off triumphant. I have no fear about Zion; I never had. It is written, as with a pen upon a rock, and is the voice of God, that Zion shall stand. And the prophecies that the Lord has given as contained in the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants will be fulfilled to the very letter. Not one jot or one tittle will fail unfulfilled. Zion will arise and flourish, and the glory of God will rest upon her. When I cast my mind over the signs of the times, when I look at the fulfillment of prophecy and observe what is taking place in the earth I see the hand of God manifest and the fulfillment of prophecy and revelation. These angels of God that have been standing in the temples of heaven holding sharp sickles day after day pleading with God to let them go forth to reap down the earth have been commanded of the Lord to wait until the wheat was gathered into the garner, and then they might go forth and reap down the earth. If the world wants to know what is coming to pass, let them read the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants; let them read these revelations of St. John. As God lives they will come to pass. Not one of them will fail unfulfilled. And the