

they might carry out the purpose of God they had to be moved from that bondage and go to another country, where they could fulfil His designs in reference to them. And so in regard to Lehi, as we read in the Book of Mormon. There was a necessity for his being called out and going to a land which the Lord proposed to show him. So it has been all along in the dispensation of God's people, in the different periods of the earth's history. It is strange as to man, with his small intelligence and intellectual power, how far he can succeed in receiving the blessings of the Almighty when he pursues the proper course which the Lord marks out for him. If people bring their passions into perfect subjection to the principles of wisdom, this will tend toward their exaltation and glory.

We should understand distinctly that we have planted our feet upon the true and sure foundation that cannot be shaken—foundation of such a character that by pursuing a proper course we may secure to ourselves every advantage and every blessing that any man or woman has secured at any time in the various dispensations that God has given to the human family. This is a wonderful satisfaction, when we realize that we have started aright in the narrow path that leads to exaltation and glory, and there is no power under the heavens that can turn us from that path if we are faithful.

When we started out on this course, when the Gospel reached us, when we received these ordinances, there was something attached to the receiving of these ordinances that should help us to move in this path, and resist the various things that might oppose us; and that was something that the world knows not of. Thousands of the Latter-day Saints have received this supernatural aid and power, which will enable them to advance from one degree of perfection to another.

The same question might be asked of the brethren and sisters before me as Paul asked of certain disciples, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" If that question is asked of the Latter-day Saints, they should be able to answer it with satisfaction to themselves. If we have not received it why have we not? Those to whom Paul spoke had not received the Holy Ghost because they had not received the ordinance of baptism from those having authority to administer it. Paul understood this and instructed them to be baptized by proper authority and they should receive the Holy Ghost. It is the Holy Ghost which gives revelations and knowledge unto us. It reveals to us the fact that those men who administered the ordinances unto us did so under the authority of the Son of God. The Holy Ghost will take of the things of God and manifest them clearly unto us, and when we are in doubt as to the way we should go, it will direct us. I believe many of us feel like shouting Hosanna to God and the Lamb for our redemption from the spiritual Babylon.

Many tests have been given us which have been hard to stand, but we have received strength to resist. In Kirtland, Missouri, Nauvoo, and even in these valleys, where we thought all

would be peace, these tests have come to us. But any man or woman who has been progressing in intelligence, in increase of faith, and in knowledge, has been able to stand them and reap the reward following their faithfulness. The prospects before us are still bright, and though temptations are increasing around us, our reward for resisting them will increase in proportion. We are rapidly increasing in spiritual knowledge and faith, and in ability to make sacrifices for the advancement of the work of God.

May God bless all who are laboring for the advancement of the work of God, and may He bless the honest in heart wherever they may be, until the time comes when we shall go into the spirit world and there our spirits enter our glorified bodies, and we may look back with satisfaction upon the labors we have performed, and regard our sacrifices as blessings.

ELDER B. H. ROBERTS

was the next speaker. He had no doubt that those present had been very much impressed with the instructions, the words of counsel, given by the preceding speakers. The work in which we are engaged, he said, and whose progress we watched with such great interest, was indeed a mighty one, and it would help us materially to keep pace with that work if we held in remembrance its character and the object of its inauguration in the earth—the purposes for which it had been established. One of the revelations of God very clearly stated the character of this work, known as the dispensation of the fulness of times. That revelation was given under peculiar circumstances, and the speaker read a portion of it, beginning with the words, "Hearken, O ye people of my Church, &c." This revelation, which is to be found in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, was given November 31st, 1831. It states that the time would soon come when the Lord Jesus Christ would come to earth to judge the nations, that His judgments would be poured out upon the world and also upon the ungodly among the Saints. The Church is admonished to prepare for the future, and the Elders are commanded to go forth and invite all nations, first the Gentiles and then the Jews, to turn unto the Lord and take part in the work of redemption. Continuing, Elder Roberts said he thought he could discover in those paragraphs the great characteristic of the work in which we are engaged; and from those declarations of the Lord it was easy to conclude that this was a preparatory work. The revelation, in terms which could not be mistaken, set forth that the time of the coming of the Lord is at hand, when He would judge all the nations that forget God, even the ungodly among the Saints. This was in harmony with the visions and predictions of God's ancient servants. He desired to express the hope that the great body of this people—the Seventies in Israel—would prepare themselves by diligence, faith and study to perform their part in this great latter-day work, that they might go forth as witnesses to the world concerning those great principles which God had revealed from heaven.

It seemed to him that the summer clouds of prejudice and hatred which had for so long obscured the vision of

the people of the United States were breaking somewhat and promised to drift aside; and he firmly believed that we would make of this an opportunity to proclaim the truth again unto the nation with even greater fullness and power than before.

Since people from all nations of the earth would be visiting this continent during next year, we should certainly take some steps to inform them respecting this work, that they might be made acquainted with its true character. There are now some 2500 volumes of the Book of Mormon printed in the French language. Copies of these should be shipped away and placed within the reach of the French people who were coming to this land. So with other languages. We could thus warn the nations, and invite them to take part in this work, if they would, and so escape the judgments of God which threatened the wicked.

ELDER GEORGE REYNOLDS

was the next speaker. He said he was pleased to have the privilege of testifying to the truth of the words spoken by his brethren. As a people we had gathered with the hope that God would be with us; that the instructions might be such as we most needed. The Lord would not permit us to go away unsatisfied. Without His inspiration we could not bring to pass all His glorious purposes. We were living in the most important dispensation of the Almighty to the earth, because all other dispensations were to flow into it and contribute to its greatness. The people of God were necessarily a temple-building community. His people have always been commended, in all ages, to engage in erecting holy structures of that character. That labor required an effort on our part. This was practically needful, that it might be completed by the time designed by the Almighty. As a people we should prepare for the future. He was assured that we must seek to live near unto God if we would stand unmoved against all the forces that should be brought against us.

The choir sang the anthem, "Glorious is Thy name."

Benediction by Patriarch John Smith.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Singing by the choir:

On the mountain's top appearing
Lo! the sacred herald stands!
Welcome news to Zion bearing,
Zion long in hostile lands.

Prayer by Bishop William B. Preston.

The choir sang:

Praise ye the Lord! my heart shall join
In work so pleasant, so divine.

ELDER CHARLES W. PENROSE

Expressed the pleasure which it afforded him in having the privilege of meeting on this occasion with so many of his brethren and sisters. He rejoiced in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which our Father had revealed for our obedience and for the obedience of all mankind, and that he lived in a day when God had commenced the greatest work that He had ever undertaken to perform among the children of men. This was the last dispensation—the dispensation of the fulness of times. When that dispensation was opened up through