

The choir sang—

With joy we own thy servants, Lord,
Thy ministers below.

ELDER JOHN TAYLOR

Addressed the conference. When we met together, as at present, it was absolutely necessary that we place ourselves under the guidance of the Almighty. It was very important that we have his Spirit, not only in speaking, but in hearing. Although we of ourselves might be very weak and ignorant, yet by his assistance, we might be enabled to acquit ourselves in the discharge of our duties, honorably before God in the building up of his kingdom on the earth. It was an unspeakable privilege for us, thus assisted, to be co-workers with God in bringing about his purposes. Joseph Smith was an instrument in the hands of God, in performing the labor and bringing forth the revelations that came through him. We were indebted to God for a knowledge of the priesthood, both the Melchizedek and Aaronic. The world was entirely ignorant of it until it was revealed through Joseph Smith.

He spoke of the condition of the world when God raised up Joseph Smith, gave him authority to preach, and ordain Elders and send them forth to preach the Gospel without purse and scrip, as did the ancient apostles. God was the same yesterday, to-day and forever. Whenever a dispensation of the Gospel was committed to man, those who received and obeyed those principles which the servants of God were sent forth to promulgate, were always entitled to the same blessings and privileges that the Gospel holds forth. The saints now before him could bear witness that they had received the same blessings that the ancient saints enjoyed, hence God was no respecter of persons.

He spoke of the designs of the Almighty from the beginning of the world. In our day he had opened up the dispensation of the fullness of times. Thus heavenly principles were revealed to the earth and some of them were so plain and simple that a wayfaring man need not err therein. To disseminate these principles God had given his holy priesthood, which was nothing short of his rule and government upon the earth. We had an organization now as in ancient times, with prophets, apostles, bishops, sevens, elders, pastors, teachers, &c., placed in the church, for the perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry, &c. The Almighty gave the pattern for the organization of the various quorums of the priesthood to Joseph Smith, and to God be all the glory.

He also spoke of the marriage relations, the relations between a man and his wife or wives, which God had made known to us, the building of temples, and what our duties were pertaining to them. Before obeying the Gospel, our ideas pertaining to the future state were very vague, as was the Christian world at the present time. The outside world never could see or comprehend the Kingdom of God, for it could only be discerned by the Spirit of God, and that Spirit could only be obtained by baptism for the remission of sins and the laying on of hands by those having authority, for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

After relating a very interesting conversation he had with Baron Rothschild, while on a visit to Salt Lake City, on the subject of religion, he closed by an earnest appeal to the Latter-day Saints to be full of integrity and faithful in observing the commandments of God.

Conference was adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10 a. m.

The choir sang an anthem—

Worship the Lord evermore.

Benediction by Elder F. D. Richards.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, April 7, 10 a. m.

The Choir sang—

Father, how wide thy glory shines,
How high thy wonders rise!

Prayer by Elder LORENZO SNOW.
The choir sang—

The time is nigh, that happy time,
That great, expected, blessed day.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW

Said forty-six years had passed away since the organization of the Church, and it had withstood all the storms that had been brought to bear against it. A man by the name of Joseph Smith started out with a declaration that God had

spoken to him, committed to him certain principles and authority, which he was commanded to make known to the people, with a promise that whoever would receive his testimony and be obedient to the heavenly message, should receive the Holy Ghost, that would reveal to its recipients a knowledge of the truth of that testimony. Many thousands who were assembled here to-day, gathered from the various nations of the earth, had received that Spirit, that was given them by the laying on of hands, which the servants of God had promised them. The greatest gift that God could possibly give to the sons of men was the gift of salvation, and after we had embarked in the great work, there was no sacrifice too great for us to make, so that we might secure the blessings of eternal life. The ordinances and gifts of the Gospel we appreciated so highly, that no earthly consideration would deter us from cleaving to the pearl of great price. If we would only keep the commandments of God, our whole body should be full of light, and we would be able to comprehend all things.

He exhorted the Saints to become more and more allied to the Spirit of the Lord, and improve day by day in their life and conduct, to be governed not by their own will, but by the counsel of those whom God had placed over us. Let us discharge all our obligations in the fear of God, that we might finally be saved in the Kingdom of God.

ELDER C. C. RICH

Said the labor of the Latter-day Saints was to build up the Kingdom of God. We had been very much favored in being permitted to come forth in this dispensation to assist in establishing the great work of the last days. God required his people to become one and we were required to adopt every principle that would bring us to a oneness. We had been forty-six years, since the organization of the church, trying to become one. How far had we succeeded in this? Unless we accomplished this, we should surely come short of a fulness of glory in the world to come. God required of us nothing but what would redound to our salvation, and what we could easily accomplish. Since we came into these mountains, by our union a great deal had been accomplished, but by becoming more united much more might be done in the future than had been done in the past. Much responsibility rested upon us as elders of Israel. The judgments of God were beginning to be poured out. The time was short to bring about the purposes of God in carrying salvation to the nations of the earth. The labor therefore that rested upon us was very great. Let us become sanctified in our spirits, and in our bodies, and guided and directed in our labors by the counsel of the servants of God.

He prayed that the blessing of God might rest upon his servants during this Conference, that all might be refreshed and edified.

ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

Said if all the saints could be present together during Conference, to hear what was spoken, it would be far easier to control and govern the people throughout the Territory.

He dwelt considerably on the necessity of union, to enable us to accomplish what lay before us to be done. We needed much culture and education, and if we endured in the counsels of the servants of God, our union would increase. The union that was wanted was that which united us in the Spirit of God, and prompted us to keep God's holy will. Divisions, discord and wickedness were becoming very general among the inhabitants of the earth. Let us be united in these valleys, in the building of Temples, by carrying out faithfully the law of tithing, which God gave to Joseph Smith about eight years after the organization of the Church. Let us put away the evils of the world, and cultivate the pure principles of the Gospel, and be willing to labor in our sphere in doing the will of God. Let us practise our secret prayers and all other duties devolving upon us. That we might see the work of God prosper was his earnest prayer and desire.

PRESIDENT B. YOUNG

Made a few remarks on the subject of tithing and consecration.

The Conference was adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

The choir sang an anthem—

O praise God in his holiness.

Benediction by Elder BRIGHAM YOUNG, Jun.

2 p. m.

The Choir sang—

All hail, the glorious day
By prophets long foretold.

Prayer by Elder ORSON PRATT.
The Choir sang—

We're not ashamed to own our Lord,
And worship him on earth.

ELDER ISAAC BULLOCK,

A returned missionary, said he felt truly happy to bear testimony to the goodness of God to him. He was called on a mission last November to go and labor in the western part of Iowa. He met in that state every kind of apostate; many of them were very anxious for discussion, but he told them he was sent there to preach the Gospel. Himself and Elders Joseph E. Taylor and Claudius V. Spencer had been laboring together, and their united labors had been crowned with the blessing of God. They had baptized quite a number and organized several branches of the church.

ELDER CLAUDIUS V. SPENCER,

A returned missionary, said he felt thankful to be here, and far more honored than to be in the presence of princes and kings. He knew that this was the Kingdom of God, though a great many judged us by our imperfections, but if such would only examine our condition and their own, they could more easily acknowledge us to be the Saints of the Most High. The Elders sent lately to Iowa had a greater measure of apostasy to contend with than perhaps any other Elders ever had to cope with. God had been with them by his Spirit and endowed them with the gift of testimony, and whatever good had been accomplished by their labors God was the author of it, and to him be the glory. He then exhorted the Saints to be faithful, to keep their covenants, and endeavor to do his will.

ELDER JOSEPH F. SMITH

Contrasted the difference, and spoke of the superior condition of good, faithful Saints who had kept their covenants, both temporally and spiritually, to that of those who had apostatized from the faith. Many people in the world believed that the Latter-day Saints were being led by a few cunning, shrewd individuals, who were only guided and influenced by sordid and selfish motives. The majority of the Latter-day Saints were once associated with some religious body, and became fully convinced that they had not got the gospel of Jesus Christ, but a form of godliness without the power, and when they had the privilege of hearing the testimony of the servants of God, the Spirit of God bore witness to their hearts that they were the truths of heaven. The Latter-day Saints were not an ignorant people, as many supposed, and those of them who were living their religion knew that this was the place for saints to be in, where they could be guided and directed by the counsels of the servants of God. We had in view the building up of Zion. We had in view the spread of the principles of the gospel, hence we sent forth our Elders to the nations of the earth. The evil of infanticide, spoken of by Elder Spencer, so rife in many countries, the murder of innocents, could not be laid at the door of the Latter-day Saints. So also the sins of profanity and drunkenness were neither tolerated nor practised by Latter-day Saints in good standing.

He spoke of the wisdom and safety in the Saints being guided and directed by their leaders, who were inspired of God. He spoke of the necessity of being united in the new and everlasting covenant, to deal justly with each other, to be kind to the poor, to pay our debts, and then keep out of debt, to pay our tithes and offerings. He did not believe it was pleasing to God for the Saints to mortgage their homesteads at the risk of being turned out of doors. If every Latter-day Saint would pay an honest tithing there would be an abundance in the storehouse of the Lord, that would be amply sufficient, not only for the building of temples, but all other purposes for which it might be required.

The conference was adjourned till tomorrow at 10 a. m.

The choir sang an anthem—

Sing to the Lord in joyful strains.

Benediction by PATRIARCH JOHN SMITH.

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY, April 9, 10 a. m.

The conference was called to order by Elder B. YOUNG, Jun.

The choir sang—

When earth in bondage long had lain,
And darkness o'er the nations reigned.

Prayer by Elder GEO. GODDARD.
The choir sang—

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

ELDER C. W. PENROSE

Said the church with which we were connected was the Church of God, and though we as a people had many weaknesses God was very merciful to us, and would continue to own and bless us, so long as we showed forth a disposition to honor him, and keep his commandments. God had taught us how to pray, so that our prayers could be heard. He had blessed us with means and with influence, and caused the earth to yield its increase. He would bless us with the riches of eternity, if we would only humble ourselves before him and keep his commandments.

He rehearsed the goodness of God in his providences while bringing us into this goodly land and since our arrival here, and partaking so freely of the blessing of our Heavenly Father, yet many of our hearts had been more or less alienated from him, by becoming worldly minded and sensual. In our partial blindness, we were apt to complain that the power of God did not accompany the administrations of the Elders in the laying on of hands to that extent that it did formerly, but where that was the case the fault was with us, and not with God, for he was just as willing to exert his power and manifest his blessings among his Saints as ever, if our faith was only sufficient to secure and appreciate them. The Saints of God were willing to be led and guided by the power of God. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was not given to a few only, but to all who were willing to receive it, and the Spirit of Christ was poured out not only on the preacher, but the people. We were not tyrannized over as a people by our leaders, as was generally supposed by our enemies, but we were willing to be led and guided by wise and judicious counsel. The people who inhabited this Territory had come out from many countries, and from under a great variety of circumstances, and many of them had met with difficulties and trials and disappointments, but had been enabled to surmount the same by the prevailing conviction that their chief business in coming here was to help to establish and build up the kingdom, hence they continued to hold on in their allegiance to Jesus Christ, their living head.

He referred to the great lapse of time there was when no prophet nor the voice of God was heard among the people, but in the course of time God again spoke, and revealed his authority to man. That authority was here, and his kingdom was being established, and would continue to grow and increase until the kingdoms of this world would become the kingdoms of our God and his Christ.

He bore a strong and faithful testimony that this was the work of God, in which the people called Latter-day Saints in these mountains were engaged.

ELDER ORSON PRATT

Spoke of the willingness of the Saints to hearken to and carry out the counsel of the servants of God. No person had been compelled or constrained to do what he had no disposition to do, since the organization of the church. All was freedom in this church, and no individual had any right to exercise any other influence over the people but that of moral suasion, for such would be a violation of the most sacred and holy principles of civil and religious liberty. Of course if any members violated the laws of the church, they were liable to be disfellowshipped, as in any other community. He then spoke of the Constitution of our country, which instrument was indited under the spirit of inspiration, and we as a people had never violated or set at naught any of its principles. We held it sacred, and were willing to sustain it at any cost. And although we had been charged with its violation, no instance of proof could be found on record. But we were driven from our homes and our lands which had been honestly paid for to Government, and in the midst of our distress and persecutions, when an appeal

was made for redress and protection at the hands of our general government, though they admitted our cause was just, yet they could do nothing for us. Thus they permitted us to become the victims of the most bitter persecution. What was all this for? Because we told them of their wickedness and called upon them to repent. We also told them of the illegality of all their marriages as regards the law of God, for no marriage can be legal in the sight of God, unless it is performed by a man inspired of God, having authority.

He then stated the object and intent and use of temples. They were not intended for the people to meet in for worship, as this Tabernacle was used for, but for the performance of those ceremonies and ordinances which had reference to time and also to eternity, by men holding divine authority. A great many of our young sisters who understood these things, would rather be married to a man having more wives, by a man of divine appointment, than be married by one not authorized of God to a man having no wife.

The Conference was adjourned till 2 p. m.

The choir sang an anthem—

O praise the Lord.

Benediction by ELDER JOHN TAYLOR.

2 p. m.

The choir sang—

Praise ye the Lord, 'tis good to raise
Your hearts and voices in his praise.

Prayer by ELDER WILFORD WOODRUFF.

The choir sang—

How beautiful are their feet,
Who stand on Zion's hill.

Elder BRIGHAM YOUNG presented the authorities of the Church, who were unanimously supported by the conference as follows—

Brigham Young, Prophet, Seer and Revelator, and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world.

Daniel H. Wells, counsellor to President Brigham Young.

Lorenzo Snow, Brigham Young, Jr., Albert Carrington, John W. Young, and George Q. Cannon, Assistant Counsellors to President Brigham Young.

John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, Sen., Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Jr., Joseph F. Smith and Albert Carrington, members of the Quorum of the Twelve.

John Smith, Patriarch of the Church.

Angus M. Cannon, President of this stake of Zion, and David O. Calder and Joseph E. Taylor his counsellors.

William Eddington, Thomas E. Jeremy, John H. Russell, Miner G. Attwood, Dimick B. Huntington, Theodore McKean, Hosea Stout, Milando Pratt, J. R. Winder, Geo. J. Taylor, Henry Dinwoodey, Milen Attwood, Joseph Horne, Andrew W. Winberg and George Nebeker, members of the High Council.

Elias Smith, President of the High Priests' Quorum, and Edward Snelgrove and Elias Morris, his counsellors.

Joseph Young, President of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies, and Levi W. Hancock, Henry Herriman, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates and John Van Cott, members of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies.

E. W. Davis, President of the Elders' Quorum, and W. W. Taylor and Junius F. Wells his counsellors.

Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop, Leonard W. Hardy and Robert T. Burton, his counsellors.

James Latham, President of the Priests' Quorum; Geo. Whittaker and William McLachlan, his counsellors.

Adam Splers, President of the Teachers' Quorum; Henry I. Doremus and Martin Lenz, his counsellors.

James Leach, President of the Deacons' quorum; John H. Picknell and Thos. C. Jones, his counsellors.

Brigham Young, Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Albert Carrington, President of the Perpetual Emigration Fund to gather the poor.

Truman O. Angell, Architect of the Church.

Orson Pratt, Historian and Gen.

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