

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Jan. 4, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., President Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir sang the hymn:

Lord, Thou wilt hear me when I pray!
I am for ever Thine.

Prayer was offered by Elder B. F. Cummings, Jr.

The choir sang the anthem:

Praise ye the Father.

The Priesthood of the Twelfth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER ANDREW JENSON

was called to address the congregation. He was happy, he said, to meet with the Saints under such favorable circumstances as those which surround us at the beginning of a new year. We have reason to be thankful to our father for both temporal and spiritual blessings. Zion is increasing in numbers and in faith and the fulness of the Gospel is being sounded among the nations of the earth. We enjoy the privilege of having the Gospel in its purity; we have among us the Priesthood and the voice of revelation.

I feel thankful for having a testimony of the truth of the divine revelations given to the Prophet Joseph and for the restoration of the Priesthood and for the various manifestations of heavenly messengers, who appeared to the Prophet and qualified him for the great work he was called to perform. We can appreciate these blessings, although there are people who do not believe in these facts, but dispute them. It has often been a wonder to me that they will listen to our admonitions to repent, be baptized and have hands laid upon them for the reception of the Holy Ghost, but when we speak of the ministrations of angels, they will listen no longer. There is an inconsistency in this which is inexplicable. People will delight in reading of the former revelations given in Palestine, but they will not hear about the fact that God has given similar manifestations in these last days, and in our country.

I have tried to follow the history of the Prophet Joseph and test the principles which he laid down, and they seem to me to be the most natural imaginable. Those who do not believe in the Gospel should reflect upon the fact, that God sustained Joseph Smith in all his labors. The Lord restored through him the Gospel, and thousands can testify to this.

The early Christian church was organized by Christ. Notwithstanding this, the dark ages came when the gifts of the Holy Ghost ceased. The reformers of the middle age were great men in their days, but none of them had been able to promise that the blessings and gifts of the Gospel should be restored, but as soon as Joseph Smith came, he promised all these gifts and blessings,

and the promises he gave have been fulfilled wherever the Elders have gone. With these facts before us, we must acknowledge that Joseph Smith was indeed an inspired Prophet, a mighty man imbued with the Holy Spirit. The speaker now referred to incidents in the life of the Prophet which proved him to be in possession of a power more than human. The speaker said he felt thankful for the raising up of this man, and also for the succession of the Priesthood and for those servants of the Almighty who after the death of Joseph have stood forth as mighty men of God. Now, as Saints, we should live up to our profession and be faithful in the discharge of our duties. It is necessary that we should all have a testimony of the restoration of the Gospel and then be true to our callings.

ELDER JOSEPH HENRY DEAN,

a missionary recently returned from the Samoan Islands, was the next speaker. He gave a brief and interesting account of his labors among the natives. As a synopsis would not do justice to the subject, we forego the publication of the narrative at present.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

next addressed the congregation. He explained the reason why the world rejected the testimony of the Elders relating to the revelations which God has revealed in our day. Mankind for ages had been instructed that divine revelation had ceased, and there is evidence enough that such was the case, until Joseph Smith was raised up. The Elders should govern themselves accordingly and preach the first principles of the Gospel to the world. The speaker next corroborated remarks made by Elder Dean to the effect that the inhabitants of the Polynesian Islands are descendants of Israel. In closing he referred to the Jews and said that the time was apparently drawing near when that nation shall also hear and receive the Gospel message.

The choir and congregation sang:
Come let us anew our journey pursue.

Benediction, by Counselor Daniel H. Wells.

ATHEISM AND IDOLATRY.

January 6th, Dr. Talmage lectured in the Fourteenth Ward Assembly Room. He had an audience which filled the hall to overflowing. The subject of the lecture was "Atheism and Idolatry." The lecture was highly interesting, instructive and entertaining. In one hour's discourse without notes or manuscript there was not one redundant word, not one misplaced word, no tautology, no repetition, no tiresome and hackneyed logic.

In listening to the Doctor one cannot help being carried back in imagination to Antioch, when, some fifteen centuries ago, John Chrysostom, who was called the golden-mouthed, inveighed against the "Atheism and Idolatry" of his time. Even in those days Christianity had fallen, the priests were corrupt, the golden calf was

still worshipped and John of the golden mouth told the people so. His action excited the enmity of the Patriarch Theophilus and of the Emperor Eudoxia, and the result was that he of the golden mouth was banished from the civilization of the time, and had to fly into the mountains of Taurus.

In the opening periods of his lecture he defined atheism, polytheism, theism, deism and pantheism. Further on he explained what infidelity and idolatry consisted of.

The Professor demonstrated that there could not be, nor was there, any such person as an absolute atheist according to the etymological meaning of the word. He said that even the writings of pronounced and professed atheists invariably referred to some great unknown cause, some supreme something, some mighty mystery which lay behind all. This proves that atheism does not exist in the absolute meaning of the word.

He referred to that great meteorological event of Joshua's time, that is, the standing still of the sun. Infidels and scoffers dwell on this as an example of Biblical myths. They said no mention was made of such a supernatural circumstance by profane writers of that age. The Professor proved this was not so. He cited from Chinese history a supernatural event in the days of Emperor Yell, when the sun remained above the earth the length of two whole days in succession. The people were terrified and consternation prevailed among the wise and great of the time. He said that Yell and Joshua were contemporaries, and that this was one instance where profane records mentioned the standing still of the sun.

He also referred to the mythology of Rome, and recited the case of Phaeton, the son of Helios. Helios was the sun god of the Greek mythologists. He was supposed to drive the chariot of the sun around the heavens in every twenty-four hours. He had a son named Phaeton, who was a presumptuous youth. He begged his father to let him drive for one day. The father, like many other fathers who are often too indulgent to presumptuous youths, gave the reins to the youth. The result was that the horses ran away, became unmanageable, and the inhabitants of the earth were terror-stricken. They implored the mighty Jupiter to stop it. Jupiter hurled a thunderbolt and killed Phaeton and stopped the steeds. This is mythology, but it is evidence that some great event of a supernatural character occurred in those times.

The lecturer referred to the changes and reforms in our day. He asked if it could be possible to convince our grandmothers that a flock of sheep could be sheared and the wool turned into a bolt of cloth in six hours, aye, and even made into wearing apparel in that time. He said they would not believe it, simply because it took them six months to make a suit of clothes from the raw wool, and they could not conceive of any process by