

W. Merrill, Anton H. Lund and Abraham H. Cannon; Patriarch, John Smith; of the Presiding Council of the Seventies: Seymour B. Young, John Morgan and B. H. Roberts; of the Presiding Bishopric: William B. Preston and John R. Winder.

There were also present a large number of Presidents of Stakes and other prominent brethren from various parts of Utah and surrounding States and Territories.

Conference was called to order by President George Q. Cannon.

The choir sang:

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He, whose word can not be broken,
Chose thee for His own abode.

The opening prayer was offered by President Lorenzo Snow.

Singing by the choir:

How pleasant 'tis to see
Kindred and friends agree,
Each in his proper station move,
And each fulfill his part,
With sympathizing heart,
In all the cares of life and love.

President Wilford Woodruff

Addressed the Conference. He said: I feel this morning to offer up the gratitude of my heart to God, my Heavenly Father, that my life has been preserved to again meet in a semi-annual Conference with the Saints. I feel thankful that I have the privilege of meeting with so many of the Apostles, Elders and Saints who have assembled here on this occasion.

Our Heavenly Father revealed from heaven, over sixty years ago, to the inhabitants of the earth, through the mouth of the Prophet of God, whom He raised up, that He had set His hand once more, for the last time, to prune His vineyard and to prepare the people of the earth for the coming of the Son of Man. Over sixty years have passed away since those revelations were given. The Lord called upon the children of men, to take upon themselves the name of Christ—those who were willing to enter in the vineyard of the Lord and preach the Gospel of Christ to them. He gave us to understand that we should be called to go forth and preach the message of the Son of God in this last dispensation of the fulness of times. Many of those who engaged to carry out and fulfill these promises of God to mankind are today in the spirit world. They have closed their mission, they have borne their testimony, they have fulfilled the object of their creation, they have magnified the high and holy Priesthood which the God of heaven has sealed upon their heads, to go forth and administer in the ordinances of life and salvation. A few of us are left; some of us still remain here in the flesh, and we are still called upon to labor. We are still called to officiate in the Holy Priesthood, and to administer in the ordinances of salvation to the children of men.

It has been a very important dispensation, a very interesting generation in which we live as Latter-day Saints. The history of this Church is before the world, and we are still passing through many interesting portions of the experience of the work of God in the last days.

I will say to the Latter-day Saints, the Lord has fulfilled, so far, all that He has promised unto us. The Lord has called many men—hundreds of them—from the nations of the earth, who have received the Holy Priesthood, the authority by which the God of Israel has always administered in heaven and on the earth the ordinances of life and salvation. They have labored faithfully until the present day; they have warned the inhabitants of the earth. All nations under heaven have been visited by the Elders of Israel as far as the doors were open to receive them. The Lord, so far, has warned the world; He has, so far, carried out the object of the calling of the sons of men. The Gospel has been preached, and the children of men have heard it in every nation, including our own. They have heard the testimony of these Elders of Israel. And what was the mission given to the Elders? To go forth and deliver the Gospel message to all the world. The people were called upon to repent of their sins, to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and when they had faith in God, in the Gospel, faith to believe and receive those testimonies given to them, they were called upon to go forth and be baptized for the remission of their sins. Then they had the privilege of receiving the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

These are some of the principles that have been taught from the time of Father Adam down to that of every Patriarch, Prophet, Apostle—and even the Savior himself—in their day and generation, as the only Gospel ever revealed to the human family in any age of the world. There has never been but one Gospel; that Gospel is “the same today, yesterday and forever.” That Gospel is the same that was taught by Adam to his children; which Elijah, Methuselah, and all the ancient prophets and patriarchs taught to their posterity, and the inhabitants of the earth. Jesus Christ taught the same when He came in the meridian of time; He never deviated from it in any instance. Paul the Apostle, born in due time, received the Gospel at the hands of the Lord, who said, though he or an angel from heaven preached any other Gospel, let him be accursed. That Gospel was revealed to Joseph Smith in all its fulness, power and glory, with all its graces, gifts and principles. He taught it to those around him; he organized this Church on the 6th day of April, 1830; and through all the tribulations, persecutions and troubles of the Latter-day Saints, that same Gospel has been among us.

I feel thankful that I have lived so long, connected with this Church and Kingdom, and that I live now in the midst of the Latter-day Saints. As the Lord has set His hand to warn the world, to warn this generation, to prune the vineyard. He will leave every nation under heaven without excuse, in these days of judgments, calamities and tribulations, which are about to be poured out upon the earth.

I feel thankful that I have been

associated with this people up to the present day. How long I shall remain among the Latter-day Saints I do not know. It matters not with me; but I have the same testimony to bear today that I have had from the commencement of this Church—that it is the work of God—as promised and prophesied of through the mouths of inspired men for 6000 years. I bear my testimony to these things this morning.

I hope and trust that while we are assembled in this conference our hearts may be united in faith and prayer, that we may enjoy the Holy Spirit of God. Without the inspiration of that Spirit, Utah would be as barren a desert, as far as we are concerned, today as we found it on the 24th of July, 1847. When you heard the Gospel of Christ preached by those humble men who had been called from their various occupations, to go forth in the Lord's cause, inspired by the Holy Ghost, without purse or scrip, taking no thought what they should eat or what they should drink, you knew that what they taught was true. You heard and believed their testimony, and that same testimony is here with this entire people today. When you received the testimony you were baptized for the remission of your sins, you had hands laid upon you for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Without all this you would have remained at home.

I know that this is the work of God, and so do you; therefore let our hearts be thankful to God; let us unite together in our prayers to Him; let us do our duty faithfully while we dwell here in the flesh, and carry out those principles in which we have been taught. Let us continue to preach the Gospel, to warn the nations, to build up Zion, and establish righteousness; so that when we get through and go on the other side of the veil we will be satisfied with our labors here. We should try, therefore, to live our religion, to be true and faithful to our covenants, and to all those principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which will save all men both in time and eternity.

I pray to God my Heavenly Father that His blessing may rest upon us—upon these Elders of Israel, upon these Apostles of the Lamb of God, that they may be inspired to declare the words of salvation during this conference to their brethren and sisters, which may God grant, for Christ's sake, Amen.

Elder John Morgan,

Of the Presidency of the Seventies, was the next speaker. Following is the substance of his remarks: There is peace in the midst of the Latter-day Saints. For this blessing we should be grateful, in view of the efforts that are being made to harass the community. I bear testimony to the truth of Brother Woodruff's remarks. These principles will remain. They are the everlasting Gospel that has always existed and will continue. They unite the children of men together. In the end all men will know that God has spoken these things. It be-