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## GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Fifty-Ninth Semi-Annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints assembled in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 o'clock this (Friday) morning, October 6th, 1888, Apostle Lorenzo Snow presiding.

There were on the stand, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Moses Thatcher, John Henry Smith and Heber J. Grant; of Counselors to the Twelve, Daniel H. Wells; Patriarch, John Smith; of the Presiding Council of the Seventies; Henry Herriman, Jacob Gates, Abram H. Cannon, Seymour B. Young; of the Presiding Bishopric, John R. Winder. There were also present a number of Presidents of Stakes and other brethren of various parts of Utah and surrounding States and Territories.

Conference was called to order by Apostle Lorenzo Snow.

Singing by the choir:

Praise ye the Lord! 'tis good to raise  
Your hearts and voices in His praise;  
His nature and His works unite,  
To make this duty our delight.

Opening prayer by Apostle John Henry Smith.

Singing:

What wondrous scenes mine eyes behold!  
What glories burst upon my view!  
When Ephraim's records I unfold,  
All things appear divinely new.

APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW.

We are much pleased to meet with brethren, sisters and friends, in a conference capacity. Many changes have occurred since the previous gathering of this kind. Some of them have been pleasurable and others sad. Apostle Erastus Snow has passed away from his earthly labors, to mingle with the faithful in another sphere. Also Brother Horace S. Eldredge, of the Presiding Quorum of Seventies, and others who have finished their earthly probation and done well. Whether we will be present at the next General Conference we cannot tell.

It is probable that in the spirit world before we came here to assume mortality, we agreed when we should come, to aid in the establishment of the work of God on the earth. It is not probable that we were ignorant in that regard. We were doubtless able then to see the outcome of this work. We meet many things associated with this labor that are not pleasant, but there is a great pleasure connected with it. When we look back upon our determinations to devote ourselves to the cause of truth and keep our covenants, we have great joy, because the spirit of our callings rests mightily upon us, without which spirit we cannot keep pace with the kingdom of God.

Of late years the spirit of persecution against us has been manifested, and those even who have not been immediately affected by it, have suffered in their feelings through sympathy. There is a solace in the hour of persecution; it is useful that we be tried that we may have opportunities to make sacrifice for the cause of God and truth, and it is through self-abnegation for the sake of right that we are enabled to take hold of eternal life. We have before us illustrious examples of the past, as for instance the cases of the three Hebrew children and Daniel. These were glorious examples, through which God was glorified. The sacrifices they made were of the noblest character. How was it that Daniel accomplished his safety? When Darius appeared at the den of lions, and enquired of Daniel whether the God he served had saved him, Daniel replied that God had sent an angel to him to protect him, as He had found innocency in him and he (Daniel) had done the king no harm. This was how deliverance came. So it will come to us as a people.

It is ordained that we be tried in a fiery ordeal. It cannot be avoided. Otherwise we cannot receive our celestial crowns. Notwithstanding that attempts have been made to rob us and to bring us into slavery, the work of God has not been stayed. Many of the brethren have gone to prison, and have shown to the heavens and all men how much they feel grateful for what God has revealed.

People differ in their dispositions. To some small trials are as powerful as larger ones are to others. Some of the sisters who meet with perplexities in raising their families are tried to as great an extent as they can bear. But none of us need take an unpleasant view of trials. Many who suffer them enjoy themselves better than in days of peace. They humble themselves to a greater extent before the Lord, and His Spirit rests mightily upon them, and their joy is great, this being the compensating condition.

There are plenty of opportunities for

all Saints to make themselves useful. These exist in many shapes, as for instance in the various forms of improvement and Relief Societies that have been instituted. The sisters can prepare themselves to be useful in a public capacity, and there is no class of people who have such privileges in this regard as the Saints.

A short time previous to the last General Conference a Central Educational Board was organized, that schools in keeping with the genius of the Gospel might be instituted. In them the scriptures, ancient and modern, could be used, and the children's minds be familiarized with the principles of the gospel as well as with matters of secular education. It was deemed a matter of regret by the central board that our financial condition was not favorable to giving the degree of substantial assistance to this movement that was desired. It was decided to move in the direction of establishing at least one academy of the kind in view in each Stake, as a commencement. It was concluded to make Brother Karl G. Maeser—who had done so well in the work of educating the youth of the community in line with the genius of the principles of salvation—the general superintendent of the system. Means had been appropriated to the extent of the present ability, to carry out the object in view in the various stakes. It was expected that parents would contribute of their means for this object. We cannot sacrifice too much in this direction, as it is impossible for us to labor too diligently and exhibit too much self-denial for our children. It is expected that the contemplated educational system will eventually spread until it extends to the Wards.

It is good to be a good Latter-day Saint, but most undesirable to be a bad one. The people are progressing. They are learning to bear trials. No other people would have borne such indignities and wrongs as they have suffered. This patience shows the character of God, and they will continue, aided by His power, to pursue this course. It will yet come about that those who now afflict us will be glad for us to officiate for them in the temples of God, that they may be redeemed, after they have paid the penalty of their misdeeds in this probation.

May the blessing of God rest upon the people.

ELDER JACOB GATES,

of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies, was the next speaker. He had listened with pleasure to the remarks that had been made regarding the experience of the Saints in past ages, and the present condition of affairs among this community. I have been associated with this people for over fifty years, and I am not discouraged. There is a glorious outcome for this people. They have the truth in their hearts, and no amount of persecution can root it out. There is power in this Gospel, and if we embody it we will see the power, thereof, exemplified in the individual cases of Latter-day Saints. That power will be similar to that manifested in the days of Enoch, by the potency of whose words the very earth was shaken. That same priesthood by which great things were accomplished in ages of the past, has been revealed anew, and exists in this Church. It was by its exercise that in ancient times on this hemisphere and the other side of the globe, prisons were opened. [The speaker here narrated the instance related in the Book of Mormon telling that Alma and Amulek, when in prison, were delivered and their enemies destroyed.] This work was established through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, the great Prophet of the latter-day dispensation, and the work he inaugurated is to stand for ever. No power can uproot it. It is the kingdom foreseen by the Prophet Daniel. The demolition of all systems adverse to truth and justice will be brought about by the spread of Gospel knowledge embodied in the system revealed through Joseph Smith. I rejoice in the truth, and thank God that I heard the sound of the Gospel in early youth. I have not seen a moment since then in the most gloomy day when I have felt the least misgiving in regard to the truth of this work. All that it needs to demonstrate the excellence of the gospel is to apply its principles to every-day life.

PATRIARCH LORENZO D. YOUNG

Addressed the conference. He was grateful in the privilege of being present and hearing what had been said. He simply desired to express his feelings regarding this work. The congregation is composed of people who have been brought together from the nations of the earth through obedience to the gospel of Christ. Great efforts had been made by the servants of God to proclaim the gospel message, yet the great bulk of the people of the world were ignorant of the nature of the mission of Joseph Smith. A great many more than are might be informed upon the subject if they were willing. The fact is, that they do not want to know anything about it. It is now as in ancient times, "light has come into the world, but the world loves darkness rather than light." The world will yet discover, however, to their dismay, that this is the work of God, as will the Jews in due time that Jesus is the Christ.

The speaker continued for some time, stating he had been pleasantly acquainted with Joseph Smith, whom he declared to be a man called of God. He rejoiced in the work he was in the

instrument in establishing, and knew it would prevail.

The Lord will comfort Zion,

was sung by the choir.  
Benediction by Elder George Goddard.

Adjourned till 2 p. m.

2 p. m.

The choir sang:  
Great God, indulge my humble claim;  
Thou art my hope, my joy, my rest;  
The glories that compose thy name  
Stand all engaged to make me blest.

Prayer by Elder Elias Morris.  
The choir sang:  
Praise ye the Lord! my heart shall join  
In work so pleasant, so divine,  
Now while the flesh is my abode,  
And when my soul ascends to God.

PRESIDENT A. O. SMOOT,

of Utah Stake, was the first speaker. I am pleased, he said, to meet with the Saints in the capacity of a general conference and to partake with them of the things pertaining to eternal life, the greatest gift of God. We assemble to learn the ways of the Lord and how to walk therein, and also to point out that way, in order that others may walk therein. The calling of the Saints is no ordinary calling, because the name means a great deal more than is generally comprehended. It implies that we are, strictly, the servants of His counsel. It means that we are missionaries to gather Israel home in this the dispensation of the fullness of times, in order to prepare the way for the second coming of the Lord, when he will come, not to be slaughtered like a lamb, but to appear as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. The name of the Saints implies that we are called to gather Israel from the four quarters of the earth unto this goodly land. It implies that we are temple builders and have the privilege of entering into the houses of the Lord to perform work both for the living and for the dead, ordinances for the redemption of Israel. A Saint is supposed to perform all the commandments of God, and thereby obtain eternal life, the greatest gift of God. Ours is therefore no idle calling, no appellation to be tampered with. If we wish to be great, we must be the servants of all, standing as saviors on only Zion. As two of a family and one of a city, we are gathered from all nations on the earth, and have, indeed, more than an ordinary work to do. We must bring the glad tidings of salvation to every tongue and people before the end shall come. The day of the coming of the Lord is near at hand. The signs of the times indicate this, and the prophets, both ancient and modern, have foretold it. We must prepare for that day, in order that the bridegroom may have a suitable bride when he comes, a suitable place to rest in, and that we may be able to associate with the Church of the Firstborn, when Christ shall come to reign on this earth a thousand years, the adversary be bound and a day of rest be ushered in.

For this reason we find ourselves a strange people in the eyes of the world. The generation in which we live look upon us as a marvelous people. With all their wisdom and learning, the world cannot comprehend Zion. It is now as it was in the days of our Savior. The world persecuted Him, and like causes always produce like effects. It would be strange, indeed, if Zion's children should find their work endorsed by the world.

A gentleman the other day said: "If you people would only let polygamy alone, you would have no more troubles;" but past experience does not justify this conclusion. Before polygamy was revealed, the path of this people was much rougher than it is today. The people were driven from state to state until they came out here, where a white man's foot had hardly ever trod. They were robbed and scattered, and their leaders martyred. Why? Because God had communicated His will to the earth. Just as soon as this was done, before the Book of Mormon had been translated even, or the Church organized, the youthful Prophet, Joseph Smith, was persecuted by the enemy, as the Church has been from that moment till the present time. Persecution may not end, perhaps, until Zion has been redeemed and built up, and the Lord reigns triumphant.

But this people are in the Lord's hands. It only remains for us to be steadfast and follow our leaders. May we live our religion, build temples, tabernacles and places of education. These are some of the privileges of the Latter-day Saints. Many, however, begin to weaken and be fearful, and to give way to skepticism, wondering if the Lord has forsaken Zion. But He has not and never will. The ordeals we have had to pass through have all been for our good, as well-being in the form of chastisement.

President Young used to say, that with us it is the Kingdom of God or nothing. Let me tell you that this is the Kingdom of God, established never to be overthrown, worlds without end. Zion will rise and shine, and be prepared to meet the Lord and the Lion of Enoch. May God help us to live so that we may obtain the places prepared for the Lord's people in His glorious mansions.

ELDER SEYMOUR B. YOUNG

was the next speaker. He did not anticipate the pleasure of addressing the Saints this afternoon. I desire your faith and prayers and attention.

The meetings of the Saints are really feasts of good things. This is really a time of schooling to the Latter-day

Israel. In the time of Joseph, the Prophet, there were many scenes of trial, through which the Saints were required to pass. And it seems to be necessary for the establishment of the Church that the people should pass through them. On the very announcement that God had spoken, the powers of evil were aroused, and the youthful Prophet had to contend with them, as best he could. When persecution raged, he called upon a little band of Saints to go to Missouri in the year 1834. This band was called Zion's Camp, and such has been their appellation to the present time. Ten of their number are still alive on this earth. They have gone behind the veil and are laboring and moving for the cause of this people in the courts above.

After this band had arrived in Missouri, a fearful scourge in the shape of Asiatic cholera broke out among them. Joseph stood among his brethren at that time, as long as he was permitted, until the Lord told him to stand out of the way or to be destroyed. Departure from the way of the Lord, was this time, as always, visited by the Lord's judgment. Two years after this, the Prophet proclaimed at the time of the organization of the Quorum of the Twelve: "I have seen those who were with us in Zion's Camp and met their deaths by the scourge of cholera, and if I ever receive a crown as bright as theirs, I shall be satisfied for ever afterwards." This was his testimony concerning the brethren.

The people were afterwards called to pass through persecution, but it is a fact that the Lord at this time was near His people. All the Prophet had to do was to inquire in regard to any line of conduct or doctrine, and he received an answer. The Lord was near to him and to the people. The greater the tribulation, the greater the blessing. In looking over this, I am satisfied that had we not been called to pass through such scenes, we would not have been able to keep the faith, or to obtain the blessings upon our labors, which we have received. When the Saints have obeyed their leaders they have always had manifestations of God's power in bringing them safely through all difficulties.

After the Saints had left Nauvoo, and the Camp of Israel was located between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, the government requested them to furnish a battalion to go to Mexico and fight the battles of our common country. In the condition of poverty and exile in which the people then were, there was no need of complying with that request. They were utterly destitute, and yet the government made the demand on them to go and protect the interests of the country. Brigham Young, with the eye of a prophet, saw the necessity of yielding obedience, and he said to Col. Allen, you shall have the number required, even if the leading Elders have to go. The wisdom of the Lord expressed through Brigham Young was manifested in this answer. It proved that this people was a loyal people, that there was nothing they so much desired as the welfare of their common country. Although ostracized by a few wicked people, they felt confidence in the general government. They proved that they loved the Constitution for which our fathers had bled and died, and they went cheerfully to defend the interests of the country and to plant the flag of our country on disputed soil. When Brigham Young led his band of pioneers to Utah, he consecrated this land for God, but took possession of it for the general government.

The first petition formulated and presented was for a railroad to connect us with the eastern states; also for a telegraph line. A state constitution was framed and admission asked into the Union as a state.

The Saints know that this great nation was founded by inspiration of God. However the laws may be perverted, whoever may be the President of the Union or Governor over the States and Territories, whether the judges be wise or unwise, we know that God has His hand over this continent. He has prepared it to be a place of refuge to all the oppressed and downtrodden.

God had a people in this land many hundreds of years ago. The brother of Jared led a colony into it and they became a great nation. But they also grew strong in iniquity and were swept away, for God would have this land inhabited by a righteous people. So with the colony that came here led by father Lehi, 600 years before Christ. They were finally overthrown by their brethren, the Lamanites, who were a numerous people upon the discovery of this country by Columbus.

We believe that Columbus came here through being inspired by God. We know from whence everything that is good comes to this great and goodly land. It comes from God.

The majority of the Saints are from the States, or have been born and raised here, and have learned to love the country's institutions. Although patriotic, they have been misunderstood and consequently persecuted as they still are. But the time will come when we will be understood. The Gospel is being proclaimed everywhere. Everything is being done to further the cause of God. Many will be faithful and true until the Lord comes to gather his jewels.

PRESIDENT HUGH S. GOWANS,

of Tooele Stake: I have been pleased to listen to the remarks of the brethren who have reviewed the history of this people. It may seem strange to some

to hear that the people are in a better condition than they ever were, notwithstanding all persecution. This is encouraging. In the midst of these things, I ask myself, Do I live according to the profession I make? We profess to be endowed with the characteristics which should result in holiness. Am I living so that my life can bear criticism, for temperance, purity and virtue? Is there no deceit, no hypocrisy? Living honestly teaches me that I will receive a testimony, that the word of God's servants is true. I rejoice in the work. The sufferings superinduced by persecution have developed a class of men and women that have been tried and found faithful. The interests of this kingdom should always be uppermost in our hearts. We should always know that our ways are clear. It is the right of every man and woman to know that this work is true, that they are God's children, as when Jesus was baptized and received the testimony of the Spirit that He was God's beloved Son. It is not necessary to be cast into fiery furnaces or a den of lions, but it is necessary to be cast into circumstances, that are trying, in order to be led nearer to our heavenly Father. It is necessary that we should be surrounded by tempting conditions, but it is not needful to partake of those questionable influences. We must partake of those things that can develop in us divine characteristics. Such will be the condition of the Saints when they live according to the things of God.

COUNSELLOR D. H. WELLS.

It is a source of pleasure to meet with the Saints. The plan of salvation is before my mind. Everything pertaining to the Gospel commends itself to my reason. There is nothing unreasonable in the supposition that God should speak from heaven, and send forth the Book of Mormon. [This book is a record of God's dealings with the people on this continent. It would be strange if this people should not have communication with God. The book itself was kept very much like the sacred books of the eastern hemisphere. Those who kept them used to engrave on various materials. Why should not the Lord communicate His will to this people? The testimony is that God had a people on this continent. I see nothing unreasonable in this. We are told that the Bible is sufficient, that we need no revelation from heaven. But it would be very unreasonable to suppose that the great work predicted to take place in these latter days should be inaugurated without revelation. No man could by his own wisdom do this work. Therefore it was necessary to have communication between heaven and earth established again. The invitation to come to the Lord has been given all the day long. Now is the dispensation of the fullness of time come. Who is acquainted with God? Who knows Christ? It is life eternal to know God. Men have forgotten God, it seems, but God has not forgotten them. He has always tried to lead men the right way. I believe He inspired Columbus, George Washington and other men, but He did not confer upon any of these the authority of the Priesthood, probably because they would not have received it. God conferred this authority when He saw the time was come, when men were prepared for it. We have a very great privilege in building temples and performing work for the living and the dead. This latter-day work has grown from the beginning, and cannot be put down. Its principles are all true. The educated world think it is all delusion. All true science and all that is for the benefit of men, is embraced in the Gospel. The world is full of unbelief and superstition. Men have gone astray. But God has looked down upon this and again sent the everlasting Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation, to every one who receives it.

The choir sang the anthem:

"Jerusalem my glorious Home."

Benediction was pronounced by Elder John Morgan.

## SECOND DAY.

OCT. 6TH, 10 A. M.

The choir sang:

Great God, attend while Zion sings,  
The joy that from Thy presence springs;  
To spend one day with Thee on earth  
Exceeds a thousand days of mirth.

Prayer was offered by Apostle Moses Thatcher.

The choir sang:

God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.

APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT

was the first speaker. It was a great pleasure to him to stand before the Saints once more in a general conference. We would all be benefited in our meetings, if we came with the intention of being instructed. We should not assemble simply out of curiosity but desiring earnestly that the light of our heavenly Father might be with us all to build us up in our faith. If we have assembled with this mind and intention we will be built up, and go away rejoicing in the blessings bestowed upon us.

God is the author of our existence, wherefore we owe to him the undivided gratitude of our hearts.

The Saints many times feel discouraged, as if our tribulations were more