

came into the coasts of Cæsarea He asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I the son of man am?" He wished to ascertain what sort of opinion the people round about had formed in regard to him. He had been performing miracles in their midst; He had been teaching and instructing them in their synagogues, and He wished to know what the people said about Him. The answer was, "Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets." "But whom say ye that I am?" He asked. Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Then Jesus said unto him, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." And He did so. When the gospel was preached, those who believed were promised that they might know for themselves whether it was true, and whether the men who preached it had authority from God. They were promised that they should receive the Holy Ghost, which should be a revelation to them, and upon that they should be founded; and they should build their spiritual house upon it, and when the storms came, and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, they should not be driven from this position. If we are in this condition, the trials and afflictions that we have to pass through will not have power to move us, because we are founded upon the revelations of the Almighty. God has fulfilled His promises to us, and our prospects are grand and glorious. Yes, in the next life we will have our wives, and our sons and daughters. If we do not get them all at once, we will have them some time, for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is the Christ. You that are mourning about your children straying away will have your sons and your daughters. If you succeed in passing through these trials and afflictions and receive a resurrection, you will, by the power of the Priesthood, work and labor, as the Son of God has, until you get all your sons and daughters in the path of exaltation and glory. This is just as sure as that the sun rose this morning over yonder mountains. Therefore, mourn not because all your sons and daughters do not follow in the path that you have marked out to them, or give heed to your counsels. Inasmuch as we succeed in securing eternal glory, and stand as saviors, and as kings and priests to our God, we will save our posterity. When Jesus went through that terrible torture on the cross, He saw what would be accomplished by it; He saw that His brethren and sisters—the sons and daughters of God—would be gathered in, with but few exceptions—those who committed the unpardonable sin. That sacrifice of the divine Being was effectual to destroy the powers of Satan. I believe that every man and woman who comes into this life and passes through it, that life will be a success in the end. It may not be in this life. It was not with the antediluvians. They passed through troubles and afflictions; 2,500 years after that, when Jesus went to preach to them, the dead heard the voice of the Son of God and they lived. They found after all that it was a very good thing that they

had conformed to the will of God in leaving the spiritual life and passing through this world.

God will have His own way in His own time, and He will accomplish His purposes in the salvation of His sons and daughters. We are here to do what God requires of us, and in doing what God requires of us we keep ourselves established upon that rock referred to, and these difficulties that arise will not affect us particularly. Go back sixty-three years and see how we have given our coat, and our overcoat, to our enemies, and given everything that they asked of us, and we would have given them more if they had asked it. We do this in the name of the Lord. We know all things will be right with us in the end, and we can afford to conform to their wishes to a certain extent; we can afford to be stripped; we can afford to sacrifice our houses and our lands, as we have done more than once. We can afford to do all these things in order to carry out the purposes of God, and to make this generation understand that we are the friends of the world. When President Woodruff and his counselors went to Independence the feeling there was wonderfully changed since he had passed through there a good many years before. Then he had to skulk and hide to save his life. But this time the Mayor came out with a fine span of horses and beautiful carriage and asked President Woodruff to sit by his side, and did everything that he possibly could to show him honor and respect. What a wonderful change! I have wondered, since reflecting upon these things, in regard to our going back to Jackson County, whether by and by they would not actually be glad to have us return and build up a city and a temple, and to protect them from various troubles that they see approaching. I would not be astonished at all, because the Lord does things so differently to what man does. I would not imagine naturally that this would be the way we would go back; but the Lord may help us in this way. We surely will go back; there is no question about that, and we will build one of the grandest temples that was ever built upon this little globe.

God bless you, brethren and sisters. *Do not be discouraged* is the word I wish to pass to you; but remember that righteousness and joy in the Holy Ghost is what you and I have the privilege of possessing at all times. And may God bless our President, and remove from him the effects of his cold, that he may stand up here, and that the Holy Ghost may be upon him, that his words may cause our hearts to burn with joy. Amen.

CREATION

What field for thought this word supplies,
O'er which to range 'mid earth and skies!
Nor can the Great Creator's plan,
Be fathomed by the mind of man.

The mind may contemplate, however, with awe and admiration, that with which it is brought in contact, and ever be learning lessons which seem to familiarize man more and more with the designer of vast creations, which demand the veneration of intelligent beings who occupy them.

The earth on which we dwell, and the heavens thereof surrounding it, the spheres that pertain to this entire solar system of worlds to which we belong, and the multiplied systems that fill immensity of space, all bespeak a majesty

and intelligence incomprehensible to man. These, all of infinite duration, are subject only to such changes in their formation and growth to maturity as would adapt them to the wants and necessities of life, and intelligences destined to inhabit them in their career to celestialization, which is the destiny of all created things that keep the law and fill the measure of their creation. The field for thought is enlarged to an immensity in which the mind of man is lost—a field where Gods only have power to tread.

Wonders in science, art and skill,
Combine the etherial space to fill
With worlds, and systems eternalized
For spirit homes celestialized.

It is but little we know of the universe by actual inspection; its extent escapes the grasp of our limited vision; but reasoning leads us to conclusions beyond the reach of sense.

Reasoning from facts which are within our comprehension, we may arrive at correct conclusions relative to those things which mind only can reach to form any idea of, and may obtain a degree of knowledge through reason that we cannot reach through the senses, and to which they have no relation by reason of perception.

We know, for instance, that an earth or planet does exist upon which living beings dwell, and that this organized planet is capable of sustaining the animal life of intelligent and other creatures dwelling upon it. It seems entirely adapted to that purpose, and to have been created for that end. We see many other planets or worlds moving in space, and reason and analogy suggest that they may have a similar end or destiny appointed unto them; that none of the Creator's works are vain, when considered in view of the utility and perfect adaptation of the one on which we dwell, to the great end in view—the eternal celestialization of the earth and its inhabitants who keep the law of their creation.

Our earth we know to be the residence of organized, sensitive and thinking beings; observation teaches us that other planets of the solar system resemble the earth in many respects; and we therefore conclude that they are the residences of sensitive and rational beings. This may be the conclusion of astronomical observation, and there are also other evidences in support of such conclusions. It is written that Enoch walked and talked with God, the Creator of these many worlds. He says that if man could number the particles of the earth, it would not be a beginning to the number of God's creations, and that His hands could hold and His eyes could pierce them all.

Further observation makes it probable that the fixed stars are bodies like our sun, shining by their own light, and never changing relative positions; from which it is conjectured that each of them has its train of planets like our earth, and that there are as many solar systems as there are fixed stars, and as all the bodies of our system are mutually related to each other, the inference is drawn that the different solar systems are also connected with each other, and that the whole hosts of stars, with all their planetary trains revolve around some common center, and that the system of the universe is the same on a vast scale, as the solar system is in miniature.

This bewildering thought seems be-