

has been the lot of the Apostles, and of thousands of our Elders. We have been called to warn the inhabitants of the earth of the judgments which are to come, to teach them the law for the salvation of the human family. Strong testimonies have been borne by the various speakers during this conference concerning the revelations of Jesus Christ to the inhabitants of the earth. Moses gave unto us the revelations of Israel. We have the Bible, the stick of Judah, the law of God through Moses through the ancient prophets and patriarchs, which has been handed down to us. While thousands of years have passed and gone, the Bible and other revelations of God have been preserved unto this generation. The Book of Mormon and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants contain some of the most glorious and sublime revelations that have ever given to man. They show what lies before us, what awaits our nation and the nations of the earth. These things are clearly pointed out and will be fulfilled, whether men believe them or not. The question of revelation sometimes arises in our day. President Young led us for a good many years; he led us to these valleys; he was a man of God and filled with revelation. He laid the foundation for the building up of this Territory, and in all that he did the Lord was with him. The same may be said of President Taylor. If men do not have the Holy Ghost they have no business to teach others.

I would say to the President of the United States, to his Cabinet, to all the inhabitants of this land—sixty or seventy millions of people—to all the nations of the earth, to kings, emperors, and princes, "Do not worry about these Latter-day Saints. If they are not the people of God, if this work has not been established by the Almighty, they will fall of themselves; they will be swept away as with a besom of destruction from off the face of the earth by His judgments." Have the nations forgotten that there is a God in Israel, who created the heavens and the earth, who governs and controls all these things? Jehovah holds this work in His hands; He rules the destinies of all men; but here has been the great difficulty with all the world in every age that the people have failed to acknowledge the hand of the Lord in all things. The work of the Lord has been an uphill business throughout the entire history of the world. No person who believes in the Bible, in the revelations of God, can deny that the Lord has proclaimed that in the latter days He would set His hand to build up a Church and to gather together His people. The hour of His judgments has come, and we are called upon to warn the nations, to preach the Gospel unto them. Whether we are popular or unpopular, if we had not obeyed that command we would have been condemned; the Lord would have cut us off and raised up a people who would do the work. No king, emperor, prince or president, has any

power over the souls of men, and their subjects should have the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of their own consciences. Our rulers are not the creators of those subjects over whom they preside. Our Creator, has placed us here, and we are responsible to Him alone for our religion, for our faith and work. God will bless no ruler who will not guarantee his subjects their rights and privileges in their relationship and communion with Him.

We are here on a mission and can we afford to reject the gospel of Christ or turn away from His commandments because it does not suit the world? I cannot. There is a power above all men and governments, and when men shed the blood of the righteous because they follow the word of the Lord they will have to pay for it by and by. The blood of Joseph and Hyrum Smith was shed; but the bill is not paid yet.

Let not your hearts be troubled. If we do our duty, if we unite together and keep the commandments of the Lord, all will well in Zion. The world is looking for the destruction of this Church and kingdom, striving for our overthrow, but in vain. There has never been but one gospel on earth, and there never will be. A great responsibility rests upon us; let us not be afraid with regard to our work. Serve and trust in God, for you cannot put your trust in man. I thank Him for the privilege of bearing my testimony to this great work. If we were not God's people there would not be the combination which exists now for our destruction. Watch the signs of the times, watch for what is approaching—thunder, lightnings, earthquakes, storms, cyclones, pestilence and famine. When the judgments of the Almighty are gathered together in the heavens, when the testimony of the Elders of Israel is closed, God's awful messengers will visit the earth. Therefore, prepare yourselves for these things which await us, for they are assuredly coming, and no power can stay the hand of the Almighty.

Apostle Franklin D. Richards next addressed the conference. Following is the substance of his remarks: I esteem it a great blessing to be at this conference and to be permitted to be with you and to hear such precious testimony from our venerable President. What has been said are the eternal truths of heaven. They are the eternal truths by which the people of this generation will be judged. Brother Woodruff has lived and labored in this work fifty-seven years. I have lived in it fifty-two years. It is not the work of man but of God. It has confounded the wisdom of the worldly wise. God has taken the young and the inexperienced, and through them brought His decrees to pass.

There is a philosophy in the gospel, and those who are ripened in experience understand the necessity of some things which exist. Those who have come into the work later are not practically familiar with the past and probably, in consequence,

cannot so clearly see the future as can those who have been longer identified with the Church. Those who were scattered and peeled and were driven here have felt grateful for the season of rest we enjoyed for a time. When we came here, we were united and happy. We had no drunkenness nor profanity. Since the avenues of communication have opened, however, all manner of allurements has come among us, and every Saint should be on his guard. If the Elders all had the spirit of revelation, there would be no difficulties among the people. The Church courts would have but little to do. The people being taught correct principle, would govern themselves. All should cultivate the spirit of prayer and humility. Prosperity is causing many to forget their prayers. If you cease to keep up communication with God, you will dry up and go away, unless you repent. It is important that we keep up a connection between us and the heavens. When we send a telegraph message and get no reply, we understand there has been a storm and the wires are out of order. When connection is unbroken we know all is well. We have had a precious season during this conference. Every soul must have been comforted and fed.

I wish to say I have been blessed of the Lord to know of these things. I obtained a testimony of them on the so-called Grand Prairie, while crossing it in November, 1838. It was there that I learned that the Prophet, some Apostles and Elders, to the number of about thirty or forty had just been taken to prison. We were told we need never expect to see them alive again. The enemies of the Saints were determined to destroy their lives. I was made to feel as only a boy of seventeen years old would naturally feel under such circumstances, when about 2000 miles from my native home, in search of the Gospel, the servants, and the Kingdom of God. It was there, in that lonely place, where the blessing and glory of God shone around me, and it was manifested to me that we would have them among us again; that the Church would not be destroyed—that it could not be broken up. And it was shown to me just how it looked to Peter and his brethren when Christ was crucified.

When I saw these manifestations, I rejoiced exceedingly and I traveled over that dreary prairie with great delight, and afterwards associated with the people. This was the first testimony from God that I received. And during the last fifty years I have been traveling throughout the nations of the earth preaching the Gospel in this and European countries. I have been permitted to witness from time to time many blessings such as the gift of tongues, the interpretation thereof, the gift of healing, prophecy, revelation, the still small voice in divers ways and I know this to be the Kingdom of God. I know this is the work of the Lord just as truly as I know any earthly thing, and knowing this I feel that the short time I have to remain here is sacred, and with what little