

DISCOURSE Elder WILFORD WOODRUFF

DELIVEBED At the Semi-Annual Conference, in the New Tabernacle, Salt

Lake City, Oct. 8, 1873.

REFORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS I AM called upon to occupy a little time this morning, and I realize that I and my brethren are all de-pendent upon the Spirit of God to guide, dictate and direct us in all pendent upon the Spirit of God ta guide, dictate and direct us in all our public teachings, as well as in all other acts we are called upon to the kingdom of God. The apostle says there is no pro-phecy of the Scripture which is di nul other acts we are called upon to the kingdom of God. The apostle says there is no pro-phecy of the Scripture which is di nul other acts we are called upon to the word, we may say, almost the holy men of old spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. The Lord has told us in some of the revelations which he has given in our day that all of his messen-ert forth to teach, should speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost. The Lord has told us in some of the revelations which he has given in our day that all of his messen-ert forth to teach, should speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost. The Lord has told us in some of the revelations which he has given in our day that all of his messen-ert forth to teach, should speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost. The Lord has told us in some of the word, we may say. The preach is gospel and to build up his king-they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost. They are moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and when they follow this they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost. They are moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and will of the Lord, it is the word an ensample unto you, even all my servants who go forth to declare the words of life unto the inhabi-

tants of the earth." Again, the Lord has said that it matters not whether it be by my own voice out of the heavens, whether it be by the administer-ing of angels, or whether it be by

and will of the Lord, it is the woril of the Lord and it is the power of Cod unto salvation. "And this is an ensample unto you, even all my

of God, a man who could not be swayed by the traditions and relig-ions of the day. Whom did the Lord call? The patriarchs and pro-phets not only pointed out the Zion of God and the manuer in which

to pick out this king. All the boys were brought before him except David. He was the smallest of the flock, and was out taking care of the sheep. Jesse never thought of him at all. He brought his other sons, who had been trained in all the arts, sciences and learning of the day, and when they came in Samuel could not see the one he wanted. He asked Jesse if he had not any more sons. Yes, he had a boy taking care of the sheep. "Let's see him," said the prophet; and when he came he was anointed king. Jesus himself was born in a stable and cradled in a manger and travel-

There was no man on the face of

the earth, nor had not been for the last seventeen centuries, who had power and authority from God to go forth and administer in one of the ordinances of the house of God. What did he do then? Why, the Lord sent unto him John the Bap-tist, who, when upon the earth, held the Astronic priorthood who was of God and the manner in which the Aaronic priesthood, who was his church and kingdom should be beheaded for the word of God and

three years upon the face of the earth than in two thousand years before. These mighty prophecies, as I said before, like a band of iron, governed and controlled Joseph Smith in his labors while he lived on the earth. He lived until he received every key, ordinance and law ever given to any man on the earth, from Father Adam down, touching this dispensation. He re-ceived powers and keys from under the hands of Moses for gathering the house of Israel in the last days; he received under the hands of Ellas the keys of sealing the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts

Joseph Smith lived until he gave his testament to the world, and when he had sealed all these keys, powers and blessings upon the head of Brigham Young and his breth-ren; when he had planted these keys on the earth so that they should be removed no more forever; when he had done this, and brought forth that record, that book of revmany dangers in one position and another as anybody else? Because the Lord has had a hand and a meaning in this, and he has pre-served him for a certain purpose, and other men have been prese having seen a prophet or apostle, and without having the word of the by the same power. The whole of earth been the work of God on the earth. The sector of God have revelations of God in ancient days affect him and the apostles, and the elders of Israel as much as they have affected any people in any

filled though the heavens and the and if they had not done it they

on sitting on a hemlock slab sing-ing ourselves away to everlasting bliss; we have to cultivate the earth, to take the rocks and elements out of the mountains and rear temples to the Most High God; and this temporal work is demanded at our hands by the God of heaven as temporal work is demanded at our hands by the God of heaven, as much as he required Christ to die to redeem the world, or as much as the Savior required Peter, James and John to go and preach the gos-pel to the nations of the earth. This is the great dispensation in which the Zion of God must be built up, and we as Latter-day Saints have it to build. People think it strange be-cause so much is said with regard to this. I will tell you Latter-day cause so much is said with regard to this. I will tell you Latter-day Saints, and the Christian world too, our work will fall short, we will come short of our duties, and we will come short of our duties, and we will cod Almighty has decreed we shall perform unless we enter into these temporal things. We are obliged to build cities, towns and villages, and we are obliged to gath-er the people from every nation shall perform unless we enter into these temporal things. We are obliged to build cities, towns and villages, and we are obliged to gath-er the people from every nation under heaven to the Zion of God, that they may be taught in the ways of the Lord. We have only just begun to prepare for the celes-tial law when we are baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-ter-day Saints.

filled though the heavens and the earth pass away. Having been brought to Zion an-other subject presents itself to our onsideration—namely, the position which President Young occupies in regard to us to-day. He calls upon us to build temples, cities, towns and villages, and to do a great deal of temporal work. Strangers and the Christian world marvel at the "Mormons" talking about temporal things. Bless your souls, two thirds of all the revelations given in this world rest upon the accomplish-ment of this temporal work. We have it to do, we can't build up Zi-on sitting on a hemlock slab sing-

we have here all operation of the bary means the bary the animister here being of the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in catalities in the same and their words shalls be alled in the manner in which the prophels, appendent the tables of the local going to catalities in the same and the was to be all the same and the was to be all the same and the the same and the have fifty times as many people to preach to as we have on the earth. There they have all the spirits who have lived on the earth in sevenas long as he dwells in the flesh. He is as much under the power of God and the revelations of Jesus teen centuries-fifty generations, fifty thousand millions of persons Christ as any man that ever breathed the breath of life. We have got to build this temple. who lived and died here without The Lord requires it at our hands. and woman who has entered into covenant with the Lord in these latter days; and if we do not dis-charge it we shall suffer, the Lord will chastise us. He is not going to leave us, and he is not going to take this kingdom away from the Latterwere. Jesus himself preached to the antediluvian world, who had been in prison for thousands of years. So with Joseph Smith and the elders—they will have to preach to the inhabitants of the earth who have died during the last seventeen centuries; and when they hear the testimony of the elders and accept it there should be somebody on the earth, as we have been told, to at-tend to the ordinances of the house of God for them, that they may be judged according to men in the flesh and come forth in the morning of of God for them, that they may be judged according to men in the flesh and come forth in the morning of of the Zion of God. The servant of These are eternal principles of the gospel of Christ. We have been commanded and have been under the necessity of going forth under There are some prophecies per-taining to these latter days that are unpleasant to contemplate. Presi-dent Young has been calling upon the daughters of Zion day after day, now, for years, to lay aside these Babylonish fashions. I have been reading the third chapter of Isalah and I have been hoping, all the days of my ministry, that the sayings contained in that chapter would What power has sustained them? As I have said before, these revela-tions of God, these great command-ments and prophecies that have been given for the last six thousand years. They have been inspired by have been commanded to go forth and warn this generation by preach-ing the gospel to them. Here is President Brigham Young has trav-eled, as poor as any man could be, tens of thousand miles, without purse and scrip, to preach the gos-pel to the sons of men. So have his brethren. They have been sus-tained by the hand of the Almighty,

you any other gospet than that to the world, and until he translated which we have preached, let him be accursed." All the teachings of the patriarchis and prophets have shown us but one gospel. There is but one gospel, there never was but one and there never will be. The gospel revealed for the salvation of man is the same in every age of the world Adam our first great proworld. Adam, our first great progenitor and father, after the fall, received this gospel, and he received the holy priesthood in all its power, and its keys and ordinances. He sealed these blessings upon his sons —Seth, Enos, Jared, Cainan, Ma-haleel, Enoch and Methusaleh. All these men received this high and holy priesthood. They all professed holy priesthood. They all professell to give revelation. They all had inspiration and left their record on the earth; and not one of them but what saw and prophecied about the great Zion of God in the latter-days. And when we say this of them we say it of every apostle and pro-phet who ever lived upon the earth. Their revelations and prophecies all point to our day and that great kingdom of God which was spoken of by Daniel, that great Zion of God spoken of by Isaiah and Jeremiah; and that great gathering of the house of Israel spoken of by Ezekiel and Malachi and many of the ancient patriarchs and pro-

phets. When the Lord has attempted to perform a work on the earth there has been one peculiarity with him, and that is, the instruments which he has made use of have occupied a peculiar position in the world. He has generally chosen the world. He has generally chosen the weak things of the world to confound the wise, and things that were nought to bring to pass things which were. When he wanted a man to deliver Israel he called Mo-ses, who was in an ark of bulrushes ses, who was in an ark of bulrushes hands of God, was the savior of the among the crocodiles and aligators house of Israel and of the Egyptof the river Nile, put there by his mother, a Hebrew woman, because Moses was her first born, and all the firstborn of the Hebrews had to be slain. The daughter of Pharaoh, through the providence of God, preserved Moses, and by her he was given to his mother to raise. When called to deliver Israel Moses told the Lord that he was a way slow the Lord that he was a man slow

in the last days. These prophecies, revelations, and decrees of the Almighty, as it were, surrounded that man, and he had to be taught, not by man nor by the will of man, but he required the angels of God to come forth and teach him; it re-quired the revelations of God to teach him, and he was taught for years by visions and revelations, and by holy angels sent from God out of heaven to teach and instruct

him and prepare him to lay the foundation of this church. As I before remarked, these prophecies surrounded him, forming, in one sense of the word, a band and a power he could not get out of. Why? Besause no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpre-Scripture is of any private interpre-tation, but holy men of old spoke as they were moved upon by the in-spiration of the Holy Ghost, and when any of those prophets and patriarchs for the last six thousand years spoke, when wrapped in pro-phetic vision, of the Zion of God being established in the last dispen-sation, those decrees had to be ful-

filled to the very letter.

When Joseph Smith received these revelations he was an illiterate boy, like David among the sheep. The Lord, in this day, did sheep. The Lord, in this day, did not choose one from among the great, mighty, rich or noble, but he chose one prepared from before the foundation of the world, to come forth in the last days, through the loins of ancient Joseph who, in the hands of God, was the savior of the house of Israel and of the Egypt-ians in his day. This man was raised up in his proper time, and came forth into the world, and the Lord began to feel after him and to prepare him; but he, himself, did not know even when he laid the foundation of this work. The Lord raised up in his particulation of the world, and the stand the stand the stand the foundation of this work. The Lord told him—"you will lay the foundation of a great work, but you know with not." Joseph himself could not the work the foundation of a the was wrapher the visions of eternity, the the visions of eternity, the the visions of eternity, the the vision of the foundation of Father Adam down to the breathed the the vision of the foundation of the foundation of the foundation of the foundation of a prophecy delivered since the vision of the foundation of the foundation of the foundation of the foundation of a great work the foundation of a great work but you know with the the visions of eternity, the the visions of eternity, the the vision of the foundation of the found

after he received the priesthood, and on the 6th day of april, 1830, he or-ganized this church with six mem-bers, which was the foundation of what we see to-day in this tabernathrough this american depart miles has all come from that single. This the foundation of the great king-dom of our God upon the earth.

What did Joseph Smith do after having received this priesthood and its ordinances? I will tell you what he did. He did that which seventeen centuries and fifty generations, that have passed and gone, of all the clergy and religions of Chrisgeneration. tendom, and the whole world com-bined were not able to do—he, al-though an illiterate youth, present-ed to the world the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fulness, plainness and simplicity, as taught by its Author and his anothes: he presented the and his apostles; he presented the church of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God perfect in their organization, as Paul represents them —with head and feet, arms and hands, every member of the body perfect before heaven and earth. How could he, an illiterate boy, do that which the whole of the learning of the Christian world for sev-enteen centuries failed to do? Because he was moved upon by the power of God, he was instructed by those men who, when in the flesh, had preached the same gospel them-selves, and in doing this he fulfilled that which Father Adam, Enoch,

of speech. He did not feel qualified to perform so great a work, yet the Lord chose him, and he performed the work the Lord assigned him. So when the Lord solution of which he had laid. When his mind was opened he could un-the family of Jesse. The prophet went and called for the sons of Jesse

Lord sent unto them. They are shut up in prison, awaiting the mes-have only selders of Israel. We lions of people on the earand mil-the spirit world they have fifty thou-sand millions; and there is not a single revelation which gives us any I will speak of another branch of reason to believe that any man who this subject. We have the king-dom organized, the prophecies have been fulfilled, the church has been enters the spirit world preached the gospel there to those who lived after him; but they all preach to men who were in the flesh before they planted in the earth, and now there are other portions of these revela-tions which must be fulfilled. We were. Jesus himself preached to were settled in Jackson County, Clay County, Caldwell County, in Kirtland and finally in Nauvoo. We were driven from one place to another until we settled Nauvoo, and at last we were driven from Nauvoo into the wilderness and to this land, led here by President Brigham Young under the inspira-tion of Almighty God. Some felt their faith tried that we had to leave our lovely Nauvoo and go into the wilderness. Bless your souls, there would have been a flood of revela-tion unfulfilled if these things had not been so. Isaiah speaks of the foundation of this great Zion, and writes the whole of her history and travels up to the present day, and from this time on until the winding from this time on until the winding up scene. If we had not been driven from Nauvco we would never have come up the Platte river, where, Isaiah says, he saw the Saints going by the river of water wherein went

the necessity of going forth and de-claring it to the sons of men. I will ask by what power have these apos-tles and elders taken their knapsacks on their backs, wading swamps and rivers, and preaching without purse and scrip, as they have done for years and years past and gone. What power has sustained them? no galley with oars; a great compa-ny of women with child and her that travailed with child would never have come here to the mounhever have come here to the moun-tains of Israel if we had not been driven from that land, and a whole flood of prophecy would have re-mained unfulfilled, with regard to our making this desert bloasom as the rose, the waters coming forth out of the bergen desert our building