

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, May 11, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Chas. W. Penrose presiding.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Come hither, all ye weary souls;  
Ye heavy-laden sinners come.

Prayer by Elder Wm. B. Barton.  
The choir sang:

How beautiful are their feet  
Who stand on Zion's hill.

The Priesthood of the Twenty-first Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

## ELDER JOHN MORGAN

was called to address the congregation. He said the Latter-day Saints differed from the world in that they accepted the principle of direct and present inspiration and revelation. Believing in this they looked for instruction by the Holy Spirit. In contradistinction to this is the belief of most of the world that the canon of scripture is full, and that revelation has ceased to be given to men. The natural result of this difference is to draw a strong line of demarcation between the Saints and the rest of the world; it has been the line of distinction since the boy Prophet, Joseph Smith, declared that he had obtained a visitation from the Divine Master, and also from His heavenly messengers. We find the same distinction between two classes when John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness. The Scribes and Pharisees declared that the volume of prophecy had ceased, and the heavens were closed. But when John declared that he had received light from heaven, and that God had again spoken, a strong line of demarcation was drawn between his position and that of the Jews; and the line became stronger when the lowly Nazarene came. He and His followers were ostracised, till their blood was shed as a testimony of the truths they taught. So also, in this day, the ostracism followed till the youthful Prophet Joseph sealed his testimony with his blood.

From the time John the Baptist came till Christ was crucified was a day of days to mankind. The Jews were told that as a nation they would cease to exist, because of their attitude toward their Lord; they were also warned that their great city should be trodden down of the Gentiles. This prophecy was fraught with interest to each individual in Israel. It was predicted by one of the ancient prophets that one of the results of the scattering abroad of Israel would be their return to the same land, and that they should behold the wounds that had been inflicted upon the Lord Jesus, and should lament over the things which they had done. The Lord declared that in the latter days He would gather Israel together and make them one nation. This foreshadowed the gathering, after the dispersion, into the land of

Judea. There they should be cleansed, and would be the people of God. This prophecy is contained in the 37th chapter of Ezekiel.

The Lord had made a covenant with Abraham and others that their seed should possess the goodly land for ever. The Prophet Ezekiel saw the day when Israel would reject the Shiloh that was to come, and would be scattered therefor. They would depart from the path of righteousness. Ezekiel farther saw that the Lord would gather them together again, and they would work righteousness and be His people. Thus would He keep the covenant which He had made with their fathers. He renewed this covenant with them through Ezekiel. The covenant made by the Lord is unchangeable, immutable. In the day of the restoration of Israel, the Lord said He would make a covenant of peace with them, which covenant should be eternal. He foreshadowed the day as that of the glorious redemption of Israel, when they would be sanctified.

After the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the people went into by and forbidden paths, and passed into bondage. Not only had Israel in the flesh forgotten God, but it appears as if Israel behind the veil were murmuring at the condition of the people. They lamented that the covenant of the Lord had not been kept. But the Almighty saw farther than this, and showed to Ezekiel, in the vision of the dry bones, that He was able to and would fulfil His covenant. Those who murmured said they had been cut off from the resurrection; just as many today declare there is no resurrection. But the Lord gave unto Ezekiel light so that when he passed beyond the veil he could declare to those who murmured that which he had beheld. He had portrayed before him the resurrection of the house of Israel. He was thus prepared to declare to them that the resurrection would come to pass; that their graves should be opened, and they would be brought up out of them and be made one nation in the land and upon the mountains of Israel.

In this prophecy, connected with the Latter-day Saints, are the instructions given in regard to the sticks of Judah and of Ephraim. The stick of Judah is the Bible, and the Book of Mormon is the stick of Ephraim. This latter is a record of the people who formerly occupied this land, and the events of today are proving its divinity beyond the possibility of a doubt. The Lord told Ezekiel He would make these two sticks one in the hands of His people in the latter day. This prophecy has received its fulfilment with the Latter-day Saints.

The Lord also explained to Ezekiel now He would gather the scattered of Judea. The Prophet Joseph Smith sent a messenger, Apostle Orson Hyde, to dedicate the land of Palestine for the return of the Jews, and the mission was performed. We are today witnessing the literal fulfilment of this part of the prophecy, in the reassembling of the Jews to

the land of their inheritance. They are setting their faces toward their own land, and the Lord is opening up the way for them for their gathering from among the heathen. Though for a time they may have lost sight of these promises and thought that God had forgotten them, yet it can now be seen that he has not done so. The Saints today are watching with great interest these occurrences, and are looking forward to the fulfilment of the glorious promises of the Almighty, when peace shall come upon the earth, and the kingdom of God be established. Previous to this, latter-day Israel is, as former-day Israel was, passing under a cloud. But a brighter day is coming, for God has spoken it, and Zion will become the joy of the whole earth. May God hasten the day, when this shall be accomplished.

The choir sang the anthem:

The earth is the Lord's.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder John W. Whittaker.

## PALESTINE.

As many persons have questioned me respecting the climate and fruitfulness of the land of Palestine, I have thought it well to reply through the columns of the NEWS, seeing that we, as a people, are very much interested in the future of that land, knowing more about its destiny than any other people. Those who will be favored to live in Palestine will be called "the people of the Lord" and be "the bride of the Lamb of God." Hence it is no wonder that we concern ourselves so much about the changes that are soon to take place there.

As for the climate, it is of the finest. The very air seems filled with fertility. A heavy coat of dew falling upon the ground every night, in that way the necessary moisture is provided for the maturing of the crops. It seldom snows in Palestine, and if it does frost is very rare. This is, however, not the case with Lebanon, which is high and covered with snow almost every winter. The climate of Judea and Samaria is semi-tropical, and these places are most agreeable and pleasant for winter residence.

Along the coasts of the Mediterranean garden produce grows all the winter, so that in March and April the new crops are realized. Oranges are ripe in December, and continue good for five or six months. In order to preserve them they are allowed to remain on the trees until required, when they are gathered and shipped. Those gathered late have generally a thick peel, but they are otherwise good. The orange orchards along the coast furnish a most delightful sight, as the trees bloom in March, while the un-gathered fruit yet remains on other trees. Thus, the air being filled with a sweet perfume, and the orchards speckled with the yellow oranges, the beholder has before him a picture not soon to be forgotten. Orange trees flourish all over Palestine, but they are chiefly cultivated