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SIGNS OF CHRIST'S COMING.

*Discourse Delivered in the Tabernacle,
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ELDER JOHN NICHOLSON.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I have been unexpectedly requested to address this large congregation assembled for the purpose of considering matters that pertain unto our present and eternal welfare. In undertaking to perform this important duty, I earnestly request not only the undivided attention of the audience, but likewise your sympathy and your faith, that whatever may be uttered on this occasion shall be the result of impressions made by the Spirit of truth.

There are many themes upon which it is proper for us to dwell when we come together, as we have done today, to worship our Heavenly Father. It appears to me that the general condition of human affairs can profitably occupy at least a portion of our consideration, especially when they are connected in any way with what the Lord has uttered concerning His children. This thought being present before me, I shall take the liberty of reading from one of the standard books of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, containing the revelations and commandments given in our day through the mighty prophet who was instrumental in founding the church to which the great majority of this congregation belongs. The Latter-day Saints believe in present as well as past revelation, and that communication from the Eternal Father for the guidance of His children is just as needful now as it was in any age of the world, especially in the midst of this great conflict of religious thought that exists in our own generation. Part of the revelation which it is my purpose to read refers to our time, and is a renewal of the teachings and predictions of Jesus Christ that were given to His disciples when He conversed with them on the Mount of Olives and described to them the events that were about to occur in the Jewish nation of that period, and He also directed their attention to our own day, and pointed with great clearness to the conditions that were to obtain in what are called the latter times. This revelation was given to the Church in 1831, and I will begin on page 184 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants:

And I will show it plainly as I showed it unto my disciples as I stood before them in the flesh, and spake unto them, saying, as ye have asked of me concerning the signs of my coming in the day when I shall come in my glory

in the clouds of heaven, to fulfil the promises that I have made unto your fathers.

For as ye have looked upon the long absence of your spirits from your bodies to be a bondage, I will show unto you how the day of redemption shall come, and also the restoration of the scattered Israel.

And now ye behold this temple which is in Jerusalem, which ye call the house of God, and your enemies say that this house shall never fall.

But, verily, I say unto you, that desolation shall come upon this generation as a thief in the night, and this people shall be destroyed and scattered among all nations.

And this temple which ye now see shall be thrown down that there shall not be left one stone upon another.

And it shall come to pass that this generation of Jews shall not pass away, until every desolation which I have told you concerning them shall come to pass.

Ye say that ye know that the end of the world cometh; ye say also that ye know that the heavens and the earth shall pass away;

And in this ye say truly, for so it is; but these things which I have told you shall not pass away until all shall be fulfilled.

And this I have told you concerning Jerusalem, and when that day shall come, shall a remnant be scattered among all nations;

But they shall be gathered again, but they shall remain until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth.

And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound;

And when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fulness of my gospel;

But they receive it not, for they perceive not the light and they turn their hearts from me because of the prospects of men;

And in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled;

And there shall be men standing in that generation that shall not pass, until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land;

But my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices, and curse God and die.

And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another.

And now, when I the Lord have spoken these words unto my disciples, they were troubled;

And I said unto them, be not troubled, for when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled;

And when the light shall begin to break forth, it shall be with them like unto a parable which I will show you:

Ye look and behold the fig-trees, and ye see them with your eyes, and ye say when they begin to shoot forth, and their leaves are yet tender, that summer is nigh at hand;

Even so it shall be in that day when they

shall see all these things, then shall they know that the hour is nigh.

And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come; even for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man;

And they shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath;

And they shall behold blood, and fire, and vapors of smoke;

And before the day of the Lord shall come, the sun shall be darkened; and the moon be turned into blood, and stars fall from heaven;

And the remnant shall be gathered unto this place.

And then they shall look for me, and behold, I will come; and they shall see me in the clouds of heaven, clothed with power and great glory; with all the holy angels; and he that watches not for me shall be cut off.

But before the arm of the Lord shall fall, an angel shall sound his trumpet, and the saints that have slept shall come forth to meet me in the clouds;

Wherefore, if ye have slept in peace, blessed are you, for as you now behold me and know that I am, even so shall ye come unto me and your souls shall live, and your redemption shall be perfected; and the saints shall come forth from the four quarters of the earth.

If I were to do no more than what I have done in reading a portion of this revelation, it embodies a whole sermon of itself. I wish now to state that what I have laid before you is virtually a repetition of that which is contained in the 24th chapter of Matthew. In what I have read, however, the events that are defined come in their consecutive order; first, that which was to befall the Jewish nation—the destruction of the temple, the scattering of the nation in all the world, and the gathering together of a remnant in the latter days, to whom Christ shall come when He shall descend in the clouds of heaven.

It is stated here that in the preparation for the gathering of the remnants a light should break forth among the Gentiles, which light "shall be the fulness of my Gospel." In the 24th chapter of Matthew the language is different. There Christ, it is stated, said, "And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Now, why should the prediction be made that a light should break forth in the latter times and it should be the fulness of the Gospel of Christ? Or why should Matthew say that in the latter times this Gospel—the same Gospel that was taught by Christ—should be preached in all the world to prepare the way for the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? This question can perhaps be more readily and definitely answered than is generally supposed. The answer is a delineation of what the Gospel is. We are told by the Apostle Paul that the Gospel is the power of