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THE COMING OF THE LORD.

[Based on the twenty-fourth chapter of St. Matthew.]

As He sat upon the mountain,
Wisdom springing from the Fountain,
His disciples gathered round Him,
Saying, "When shall these things be?
Tell us, if we have found favor
In thy sight, our Lord and savior.
What the sign is of thy coming,
When the world's end we shall see?"

"While I do not wish to grieve you,
Take ye heed, lest men deceive you;
Many false Christs shall arise,
And your paths with snares beset."
Thus He spake, "When ye shall hear it,
Do not be alarmed nor fear it;
All these things must needs be passing,
But the end is not come yet.

"Nation shall arise 'gainst nation;
War shall be the proclamation;
Earthquakes, pestilence and famine,
Dire disasters, sore and great.
Then no trouble need ye borrow;
This is not the end of sorrow,
It is only the beginning,
Ye shall suffer for my sake.

"Then shall ye be persecuted,
Though ye cannot be confuted;
Nations hate you and afflict you.
Some of you they e'en shall kill.
Then shall many be offended,
Sin and sorrow shall be blended;
Hating take the place of loving,
Wickedness their hearts shall fill.

"But if ye are pure and holy,
Never failer, work no folly;
Then shall ye have life eternal.
In my Father's glorious home.
And this gospel of the kingdom,
Shall be carried, in my wisdom,
To all nations, for a witness;
After that the end shall come.

"Were it not that God elected
That the just should be protected,
And those woful days be shortened,
All flesh should be swept away.
There shall be false prophets many,
Crying 'Christ!' Believe not any.
If they say, 'he's in the chamber,'
Go not forth; I bid you stay.
"As the flashes of the lightning
Sweep the sky with lustrous bright'ning
From the eastern to the western
Horizon, with piercing gleam,
Such the coming of the Savior.
He will not meet all with favor,
But the eagles will be gathered
Where the carcass is, I woen

"How they'll wish that they had hearkened,
When they see the sun is darkened,
And the moon to blood is turning
And the stars from heaven fall;
When the earth and heavens are shaking,
And all hearts with fear are quaking;
When they see Him in His glory,
Then upon their Lord they'll call.

"Then the Lord shall call together
His elect, no matter whether.
On the land or sea they're scattered,
They shall hear the trumpet's sound.
As it was in the world's morning,
They'd not list to Noah's warning,
So it shall be at my coming;
Hideous evil shall abound.

"Watch ye closely for the hour,
When your Lord shall come in power.
No man knows, not e'en the angels,
Of that time, the hour or day.
And in spite of all the railing,
No word of mine is failing;
All these things shall be fulfilled,
Though the earth should pass away."

R. M. F.

DISCOURSE

Delivered by President Wilford Woodruff, at Springville, Tuesday Morning, March 5th, 1889.

REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.

Brethren and sisters: I feel to say, God bless you. I am glad to meet with you and to have the privilege of once more bearing my testimony to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. What Brother Cannon has told you with regard to the work of the Lord, is true. I have traveled in my day a great many miles with the Prophet Joseph Smith. I once heard him say that if he were the emperor of the world and had control of the whole human family, he would defend every man, woman and child in the enjoyment of their religion, no matter what their religion was, whether it was true or false. He said they had a right to that privilege, and the exercise of that agency which God had given to the whole human family. Those were his sentiments. They are my sentiments today. The

Revelator, St. John, represented to us that there would be about six hundred three-score and six different religions upon the earth in these last days—the number of the name that was spoken of by him. Today that number, I presume, is very nearly filled. The whole Christian world are as diverse in their views and principles of religion and roads to heaven or hell, as the stars are diverse in their position in the heavens. And while I would grant this privilege that I have spoken of, to all mankind, I claim the same privilege for myself and for all our people. We have a right to the enjoyment of our religion and belief, and to practice the same on the earth; and all other sects and parties have the same right.

Inasmuch as I claim this, I want to give some of my views and tell you my feelings with regard to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To commence with, I will quote the words of the Apostle Paul. You are doubtless familiar with Paul's history, and know what a persecutor of the Saints he once was, and how he became converted to the truth; and his conversion was so thorough and complete that he finally laid down his life in defense of the Gospel of Christ. That same Paul said:

"Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

That was a strong declaration; and to make it more emphatic, he repeated it.

Now, brethren and sisters, and friends, that Gospel which Paul taught is what I believe in. It is what I have believed in since I was old enough to read the New Testament. My belief in that Gospel was so strong that I never joined any sect or denomination on the earth until I heard a man preach to me