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DISCOURSE,

By Elder JOHN TAYLOR delivered in the New Taternacle, Salt Lake City. May 6th, 1870.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

The scriptures inform us "that no man knows the things of God, but by the spirit of God;" and then no man can speak the things of God unless aided by the spirit of the Lord; and no people can a mprehend comprehend some of the principles which the things spoken unless inspired and are developed in nature, and only a few of guided by the same spirit. We need this spirit continually and so do all mankind, to guid us; to enable us to comprehend the laws of life; to regulate and can tell upon what principle this world concentrate our thoughts; to elevate and ennoble our feelings; to give force and vitality to our actions, and to place us in a position before God, before men and before the holy angels, that will be right, acceptable and proper to all true intelligence to the angelic host, and to our Heavenly Father. It matters very little what we are engaged in, it is impossible for us to do right without the guidance of the Almighty; but aided and mind-each individual man, woman and directed by the spirit of the Lord, we and child; but who can draw aside the veil can act in consonance with the dignity of our high position as immortal beings possessing the holy priesthood, and particinating in the new and everlasting covenant; by the aid of that unerring spirit we can fulfil the measure of our creation and prepare ourselves for an inheritance in the celestial kingdom of our God.

We are told "that the world by wisdom k nows not God;" yet they do comprehend a great many things, and because of the spread of general intelligence and the great progress of science, literature and the arts they believe they can find out God. Like the arts and sciences and the expansion of the framers of Babels Tower they seek to penetrate the heavens on natural principles Like them they are mistaken, as all men have been who have sought to solve the problem of life through the influence of human wisdom. No man ever did understand mortal agency alone understand the principle of life and salvation. No man in the present generation comprehends them on this principle neither will have a wild rolled into a visitor of the structure? He that organized the mind shall not He understand it? Before this sion like the other "isms" that exist in the it; that is the way He has pointed out. I this principlet neither will human wisdom | world rolled into existence or the morning enable any man who ever will live to un-derstand them. It is true that mankind, within a short time, have made great advances in the arts and sciences. During that they would occupy and the intellithe last half century scientific research has made many wonderful developments; and He then made. It is vanity, puerility and and many things which, before that time, were unknown to the human family, are now quice familiar. There was very little now quite familiar. There was very little they discovered awhile ago that there is known of the application of the power of such a thing as electricity. Who made that steam half a centuary ago. I remember, electricity? Did man? Did he originate very well, the first steam-boat and locomotive that were propelled by steam, and ligence and his expansive mind? The, it riding on the first railway. Before that, locomotion had to depend upon the winds ered it-a little smarter than his fellowsand tides and horse power and a few other agencies. These are now supplanted by what all will acknowledge as a very superior agent,-namely, the power of steam.

Electricity, or rather its application, so as to subserve the wants of man, was unknown until a comparatively recent period. I refer now more particularly to the electric telegraph. That has been a means of greatly form anything of the kind. So we might and the spread of intelligence among the late as that, we had to depend upon ox known it to be four, five, and sometimes as long as six months before we knew great improvement in such matters.

I can remember the time when we had to plod along at night, nearly in the dark, in our largest cities, the streets being lighted only by dim oil lamps. Now we have gas, and various luminous oils, which we have made the earth teem forth by millions of gallons, that are almost equivalent to gas. Dauguerrotyping, or as it is more generally called, photography, is another great achievement of the human mind, conferring the power to take likenesses landscapes and views in a moment, which formerly required days or months even

by the most eminent artists. In machinery and chemistry manufactures and many other scientific developments connected with human life wonderful advances have been made, and the world seems to have been progressing with

up as teachers of things pertaining to spirtual matters, of which they know nothing. But the moment they do that, they exhibit their folly, vanity, imbecility and shortsightedness, for, as I have stated, they never did comprehend the things of God without the spirit of God, and they never will. What folly it is, for men with the breath in their nostrils, who are but worms of the earth, existing as it were for a day, and to morrow are cut down like the grass; or like the moth or butterfly, which flutters around for a brief space and then passes away into everlasting oblivion, I say what folly it is for beings so circumstanced so weak, imbecile, circumscribed and con-troled to set themselves forward, unaided by the spirit of the Almighty, to fathom the designs of God, to unravel the princi ples of eternal life, to comprehend the relationship that subsests between God and man and to draw aside the curtain of futurity. Who is there who has seen God or can comprehend Him, His designs and was organized or anything about the denizens of those worlds that we see moving around us? It is true that by the science of astronomy nice calculation in regard to the heavenly bodies can be made; but none can tell who put those bodies in motion, how they are controled, or by what class of people they are inhabited. As the scriptures say "What man, by his wisdom, can find out God?" No one can compre-hend Him. We find ourselves to be a remarkable enigma, both in regard to body and tell how or why we came here, and what awaits us when we lay aside this mortal coil? None can do this unless God reveals it. There never was a man, neither is there a man now, nor ever will be that can comprehend these things upon the principle of natural or human philosophy, and nothing short of the philosophy of

heaven,-the intelligence that flows from God can unravel these mysteries. Some men will stultify themselves with the idea that in ages gone and past the human race was in a semi-civilized or barbarous condition, and that any kind of a religion would do for the people in those days; but with the progress of intelligence, the march of intellect, the development of the human mind, it is necessary that we should have something more elevated, refined and intellectual than that which existed then. To me such notions are perfect foolishness If I read my Bible aright and believe in it, known unto God were all things from before the foundation of the world, and I weakness for men to attempt to gainsay the designs of God, or to boast of their own intelligence. What do they know? Why, and place it among the nature's forces? Did only found out one of the laws of nature that emanated from and originated with God. It is just so with steam—the proper-ties which render it so useful in subserving man's purposes always existed, but man discovered them; if there had been no God gases and their properties, with minerals—their attractions and repulsions—they originated with God; man is incompetent to

facilitating the transmission of thought go on through all man's boasted achievements, they amount to no more than the human family, and has been a great ad-vantage to the world at large. When we came to this valley, for instance, even so late as that we had to depend upon ox discovery of some of the active or latent is the boasted intelligence of man. Science teams to bring our mails and to convey reveals the beauty and harmony of the intelligence from the East, and I have world material; it unveils to us ten thousand mysteries in the kingdom of nature, and shows that all forms of life through what President was elected. Now we can have it in fewer minutes; this exhibits a great improvement in such matters.

fire and analogous decay are returned again to its bosom. It unfolds to us the mysteries of cloud and rains, dew and frost, growth and decay, and reveals the operation of those silent irresistible forces which give vitality to the world. It reveals to us the more wonderful operations of distant orbs and their relations to the forces of nature. It also reveals another grand principle, that the laws of nature are immutable and unchangeable as are all the works of God. Those principles and powers and forces have undergone to change since they were first organized, or if changed they have returned again to the original elements from which they were derived. All of the properties of na-ture were as perfect at the creation as now; all the elements of nature possessed the same specific properties, affinities and cap-acity of combination that they do at present. Trees, shrubs, plants, flowers, birds, beasts, fishes and man were as perfect then great rapidity in the arts and sciences, in regard to manufactures. Some years ago every texture had to be spun by a single thread, now, by the aid of steam and machinery, it is done by thousands and hundreds of thousands. We might go on enumerating many other improvements which have taken place within the past few years; from which it is very evident that the progress of the present generation has far eclipsed that of any preceding it, of which we have any knowledge. Because of these things it has been supposed by many that the human intellect is capable of grasping everything in this world and the world to come,—even eternal things, and many men have got puffed up and the station was capable of comprehending it. great rapidity in the arts and sciences, in as now. God's works are all perfect and

dom of God, or the purposes of the Most struction of kingdoms; we can read of wars the whole matter, one thing you all know,—
High. But because of the advancement to and rumors of wars. History points out that once you were blind but now you see.

which I have alluded men set thems elves what has transpired in relation to the na- You understood that years ago and you undures." Who can tell in relation to this something the worldly-wise, and great, future? Who can tell things pertaining to know nothing about. You who are here toour heavenly existence, or the object God day, who have obeyed this gospel, are withad in view of creating this and other nesses of the truth of which I speak; I am worlds, and the destiny of the human family? No man, except God reveals it to him. We are told that Jesus said on a certain What has been and still is the position of the world in relation to these things? It has been governed by areas kind of the companion of

time, is no more enlightened than other systems have been. What does the Christian world know about God? Nothing; yet these very men assume the right and powers to tell others what they shall and make the setting up human intellect. these. But who can grasp the intelligence that dwells in the bosom of Jehovah? Who can unravel His designs and penetrate the unlathomable abyss of the future? Who can tell upon what principle this world. nor the things of God. Our Government is every heart will be "O, God, thou that engaged just now in an act of this kind, rulest in the heavens; O thou Supreme Our legislators would tell me what I shall Governor of the universe, that created all and shall not believe in, what shall be the things and controls all things, impart to me course of my morals, as if they were im- a small moiety of Thy wisdom! Inspire and had found out the truth in all its rich- Thy Holy Spirit that I may comprehend conversed with the heavens and were actual to Thy commands!" This will be the feelquantited with God. Oh, fools! What do ing of that individual. O God, teach me they know about the truth? No more than the paths of life and then give me power to the paths of life and life a ness, power and glory; as though they had Thee and Thy laws and walk in obedience a child about its hand. They are imbecile | walk in them!

church was organized that that part of scripture that I quoted before is true,—name-ly "No man knows the things of God but was placed upon it; what the position of it. by the Spirit of God." We, as Latter-day the human family is in relation to the pre-Saints, understood no correct principle until sent, past and future; find out what God's it was revealed to us. I did not, nor have dealings had been with the human family world that we live in, and have met with fold things to come, it should draw back nations. We, as Latter-day Saints, are in-debted to the revelations of God, given un-to Joseph Smith, for the knowledge of the future. It should comprehend the destiny very first principles of the doctrine of of the human family, and by the revela-Christ and he could not have known it un- tions which God should communicate, less it had been revealed to him. One make known the life to come in the eternal thing I did know of myself before I came worlds. This is the kind of thing that the into this church, and that is more than a everlasting gospel communicates and it is great many know of themselves, namely, the revelation of God to man. But the that I was a fool, and did not know any-world, as I said before, know not the things thing unless God revealed it. It takes a of God, and they cannot comprehend them. great deal of hammering to get that into some men's minds. The main questions God on this principle; neither can they by nineteenth century can enlighten His were "Is this true?" "Is this from

what will be in accordance with philosophy, this all you propose to ameliorate the conif we can comprehend it. As there is a dition of the world?" "Yes." He answerto comprehend the heavenly things. But, as I said before, "no man knows the things of God, but by the Spirit of God." The scriptures show unto us how we may obtain that spirit, which will give us a know-

ledge for ourselves. When this gospel was revealed it was declared unto us that it was an everlasting gospel, that there was a priesthood associated with it, and that that priesthood was everlasting; so we were presented with an everlasting priesthood, and with an everlasting gospel. There was also an everlasting covenant associated with it. We were told how we might obtain a knowledge of this gospel for ourselves,—the promise being that if we would repent of our sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of them, by one having authority, that we should receive the Holy Ghost. We were also told that that Holy Ghost would place us in communication ted with it, and that that priesthood was Ghost would place us in communication cultivated. You have wise men among God." with God; that it would take of the things you,—the wisest, the creme de la creme of I was of God and show them unto us, and that we should know for a certainty, each of us favorable circumstances under which your for ourselves, of the truths that had been people commenced there, what have you proclaimed unto us.

This was the position that we were placed in. We went forward and obeyed it, for we were told that God had revealed Himself from the heavens, that He had restored the gospei by the means of an holy angel, as referred to by John the Revelator, and that He had restored, by authority direct from heaven, communication between Himself the heavenly world and His creatures here. We were told that by obedience to that gospel we should be made the recipients of a spirit which would bring things past to our rememberance, that would lead us into all truth and show us things to come.

Believing in this message this vast crowd of people before me, to-day, went forth and bowed, in obedience, and they received that spirit, and they knew and do know that the gospel they had preached unto them same not in word only but in power and in the many that the human intellect a capable of grasping everything in this world and the world to come,—even eternal things the world the

world in relation to these things? It has been governed by every kind of dogma and theory of religion. "Isms" of every kind of dogma and the property of religion. "Isms" of every kind of theory of religion. "Isms" of every kind of dogma and the property of religion. "Isms" of every kind of the property kind of theory and dogma that the buman imagination could invent. Such contrarieties show definitely and positively that men, by wisdom, cannot find one Lord, one faith, one baptism: one God tively that men, by wisdom, cannot find one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God out God. And Christianity, at the present who is in all and through all, will inspire maculate and had been made perfect; as me with a little of that intelligence that though they had inspiration from on high, dwells in Thy bosom! Give me a little of Jesus told them they should have the

I have had it asked me by philosophers, Is this the only way you propose to ameliorate the condition of the human family, -faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, baptism principle revealed but what has been strictly philosophical and is in accordance with good, sound common sense; and, furthermore, I will go on beyond that and say that no principal ever will be revealed but Ghost, the first principles of our gospel: "Is philosophy of the earth and a philosophy of ed, "I hope you will succeed, but I am the heavens it needs heavenly instinction afraid you will not." "Permit me," I said, "to draw your attention to one or two things. I am a religionist." "Yes." "I profess to have had revelation from God; you do not." "That is so," said he, "You have sent out to Nauvoo a number of your most intellectual men, well provided with means of every kind and with talent of the first order. Now what is the result? They have gone to a place that we have deserted; they found houses built, gardens and farms people commenced there, what have you done? Every time that I take up a paper of yours the cry from there is: 'Send us means;' 'we want means;' 'we are in difficulty; 'we want more money.' This is their eternal cry, is it not?" "Yes." "Now," said I, "on the other hand, we left our farms, houses, gardens, fields, orchards, and everything we had, except what we it with him. I therefore bear this testitook along in the shape of food, seeds, farming utensils, wagons, carts, and we wanted the same of bring in our emigration; we are sending hundreds of thousands of dollars, and have expended half a million a year in teams to bring in our poor from the nations. But what of you wise men who know not God, demonstration of the spirit, and
Holy Ghost accompanied it. You know, and I know, that when you obeyed this gospel and had hands laid upon you for the reception of the Holy Ghost that you received it. Who else knows anything about it? Nobody. Do any of these strangers around? No. Jesus said to Nicodemus, around? No. Jesus said to Nicodemus, is born again he can not see the bring in our poor from what of you wise men who know not God, and think you know better than He does, what are you doing,—you philosophers, intelligent men and philanthropists? Cryding out eternally, "Send us help." Which is the best?" Said he, "Mr. Taylor, I have nothing to say."

worlds. That is a thing that is very much time that Jesus was here on the earth; and found fault with. He has unveiled the on one occasion we read that he was on the future to us and told us that man is not mount with three of his disciples, Peter. in the image of God, male and female, and having had developed to us the laws of this of this world he returned to minister to life and the laws of the life to come, we

by your own ingenuity. No matter about the future. Is that all man was made for, -to live, marry and die, -and nothing pertaining to the future? Is man made in the image of God? Is God our Father? Is there

What man has a claim upon his wife in eternity? It is true that some of the writers of the yellow-backed literature have a of the day. Some of them do tell us about before God, and the books were opened eternal unions. They expect to be married and another book was opened, called the in these matters. God has revealed the principle, and our wives are sealed to us greatest difficulty in the matter is — they are fools and don't know it.

We consider, and always have since this brance, it should enable them to compressociated in the next, and therefore we pur-

Our course is onward. The Lord has revealed to us the pearl of great price. We have sacrificed everything that the world I ever met with anybody that did and I have traveled very extensively over the world. Then it should unsion and we will not part with it for worlds. We "fear not men, who can kill the body," all classes and grades of men in different the curtain of futurity and by the inspira- as Jesus said; and after that there is no more that they can do. We fear God who is able to cast both soul and body into hell.

Yea, we fear him! We make our covenants, then, for eternity, because the gospel is an everlasting gospel. Every truth that ever did exist is everlasting. Man is an eternal being; his body is eternal. It may die and slumber, but it will burst the barriers of the tomb and come forth in the resurrection of the just. I know that some of our wise men, even some among us, profess to think that these things are only folly. However I look at them different. I believe the Bible, I believe in the revelations of God and in the manifestations of the spirit of God. would rather possess the feeling that Job had when he was afflicted, cast out, op-pressed and despoiled, when he lay scrapworld; if he has it is for me to obey, no remember, on one occasion, being in the ing himself with a potsherd, wallowing in extend, that Zion will be built up, that the matter what the consequences may be. matter what the consequences may be.

There is one thing that has always been satisfactory to my mind in relation to this satisfactory to my mind in relation to this associated with a system of socialism, very associated with a system of socialism. to the world that He organized and the people who should inhabit it: the position that they would occupy and the intelligence that they would possess; their future destiny and the destiny of the world that He then made. It is vanity, puerility and vine origin. Never one principle but what philosophy in France, and they aimed to see for myself and mine eyes shall behold, could be substantiated by the word of God bring about the Millennium. They never not for another; and though worms destroy although we did not know it before, and the world does not know it now. And I human intelligence. This gentleman, Those were his feelings. This transpired may also say that there has never been a whose name was Krolikrosky, called upon in the "dark ages," when men did not in the "dark ages," when men did not know so much about electricity, locomotives and a few other scientific discoveries, as they do in this enlightened age. I also read in the sayings of the prophets, given under the inspiration of the Almighty, that, "the dead, small and great, shall rise, and that home shall be idened to its bare. and that bone shall be joined to its bone, sinew to sinew, and they became a living army before God." I knew a man, whom many of you knew, who built a tomb for himself in the city of Nauvoo. His name was Joseph Smith, and many of you heard him say what I shall now relate. Said he, "I expect when the time of the resurrection comes to rise up in my tomb there, and strike hands with my brethren with my father and with my mother, and hail the day when we shall burst from the barriers of the tomb and awake to immortal

> you,—the wisest, the creme de la creme of I want a part in the resurrection. The your society, yet with all this and the angelsaid, "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection." I want to have part in the first resurrection. It is that which leads me to hope. It is that hope which buoys me up under difficulties and sustains me while passing through tribulation, for I know as well as Jeb knew that my "Redeemer lives, and that

> dered for from ten to fifteen hundred miles, know that there is a saying, by one of the with hand-carts, ox teams and any way we could, and settled, finally, among the red savages of the forest. We had no fields to go to and no houses built; when we went there it was a desert,—a howling wilderness, and the natives with which we were surrounded were as savage as the country itself. Now then what is the result? We aman like that? We are told that Jesus itself. Now then, what is the result? We a man like that? We are told that Jesus have only been there a few years, but what was a priest for ever after the order of Melare we doing? We are sending money to chizedec. Now, there never was a man

Now we talk about the everlasting gos-pel, and we will go back to some of these dark ages rafered to. The Melchizedec priesthood holds the mysteries of the reve-lations of God. Wherever that priesthood exists there also exists a knowledge of the know about it? You talk to a blind man about colors, and ask him to tell the difference between red and white, black and blue, and he would tell you perhaps that one was living epistles, known and read of all men."

Inch what do they know about the opinions of laws of God, and wherever the gospel has been revelation; existed there has always been revelation; where there has been no revelation and he would tell you perhaps that one was living epistles, known and read of all men."

Judge us by our works. Do thieves, renether the gospel was preached unto Abraham, the gospel was preached unto Abraham, we care nothing about the opinions of laws of God, and wherever the gospel has

what has transpired in relation to the nations of the earth and to men who have lived upon it, but who can penetrate into the future? Man is an immortal being: he information. No man can reb you of that the future? Man is an immortal being: he information. No man can reb you of that sidestined to live in time and throughout all eternity. He possesses not only a body but a soul that will exist while "life or thought or being lasts, or immortality endures." Who can tell in relation to this something the worldly-wise, and great, dures." Who can tell in relation to this something about. You who are here to the us and told us that man is not made for here alone, and then to die and be forgotton, or to sing himself into and be forgotton, or priesthood; and having got rid of the affairs Jesus when he was on the earth. Was take the privilege of walking according to these laws, despite the ideas and notions doing there? He died long before, but having held the everlasting priesthood he lived Who is there among the men of the world again, and lives for ever more. We will that existed then. What did they do with him? They banished him and sent him to the Isle of Patmos; and compelled him to labor among the slaves in the lead mines: he was not fit for civilized society, but they gone; things present—the condition of the churches that then existed; and also things to come the world with all its myriads of inhabitants down to the winding up scenphilosophy a little in advance of the priests He saw the dead-small and great, stand here and hereafter. They know nothing Book of life; and he saw a hundred and about it, still they are in advance of the clergy. They follow the instincts of nature, man can number, who sang a new song decend from above, and the Zion from above meeting the Zion from below, and they were matried and became one. He saw the end of the nations, and of the world "Cloud-capped towers and gorgeous palaces were dissolved," and everything passed away. He gazed upon the whole; and a mighty angel stood before him, and he was about to bow down before him and to worship him. But the angel said: "Stop, do not worship me!" Why? Who are you? You are a glorious personage; you are filled with greatness, and surrounded by majesty, glory and power, and the visions of eternity seem to be at your command, for you have unfolded them to me. Will you not let me worship you?" "No." "Who are you?" "I am one of thy fellow-servants, the prophets, who kept the testimony of Jesus, and the word of God, while here upon the earth, and feared God and kept His commandments. Do not worship me, worship God." Said he: "I am one of those old fellows who was buffeted, persecuted and misrepresented just as you are: despised as you are by fools who knew nothing about God or eternity.

Well, now, we believe these things. W. believe in a religion that will reach into eternity, that will bring us into connection with God. We believe that God has set up His kingdom on the earth; we believe and know that it will roll forth and spread and extend, that Zion will be built up, that the will become the kingdoms of our God and His Christ, and that He shall rule and reign for ever and ever. And we expect to join in the universal anthem, "Hosanna, hosanna, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth," and will reign until all enemies are under His feet.

God bless Israel. God bless all His Saints, and let the wrath of God be upon the enemies of Zion from this time henceforth and for ever, in the name of Jesus.

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