

children. This I humbly ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

was the next speaker. He said: I feel that I want to say to you, my brethren and sisters, God bless you. And I feel to bless you. I am thankful that I have the privilege of spending a few moments here and bearing my testimony to the Church and Kingdom of God here on earth, backing up the testimony of Brother Cannon.

The God of heaven has set His hand to carry out one of His purposes concerning the history of this world and its inhabitants. In the formation and creation of the world the Lord had before Him the whole history of the children of God, of the inhabitants of the earth. All men who have been readers and are acquainted with the revelations of God in those records that have been handed down to us, can clearly see that if God has had a people on the earth, He has given unto that people the Holy Priesthood, the revelations of heaven, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We read in the Revelations of St. John and other portions of the Scriptures, that in the last days the God of heaven would set His hand to establish His Kingdom to be thrown down no more forever. You and I have lived to see that day. The Lord has set His hand to call forth the children of men to receive His Gospel and His Priesthood. There is this one peculiar principle connected with the Kingdom of God in every age of the world, and that is, every man and woman is dependent upon God Himself for all the blessings and all the power that they possess to carry out His purposes. There is no change of the Priesthood from eternity unto eternity. It has dwelt with the God of Israel from eternity unto eternity, and will remain unchangeable. There is no change in the ordinances of the Gospel of life and salvation. There never has been; there never will be to the endless ages of eternity. And whenever that Gospel has been offered to the sons of men, the Holy Priesthood has had to be sent down to aid in carrying out God's work. There is no man who ever breathed the breath of life since God made the world who has had power to go forth and administer in the ordinances of the Gospel of Christ without that Priesthood.

Another thing I wish to say: Almost sixty years have passed since the Church was organized here on the earth, and the Lord has carried out one peculiar principle, and that is this—He has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the wise, and things which are not to bring to pass things which are. You may begin with the creation of the world. You may take all the servants of the Almighty that the God of Israel has ever made use of in any age of the world to carry out His work, and they have been the weak sons of Adam; they have been the weak instruments, from a worldly standpoint, in the hands of Almighty God. Why has the Lord chosen that class of men? Because

they have been in a position that they were obliged to acknowledge the hand of God in all the power they possessed. Take our own day. Brother Cannon has referred to this people, to this Church and Kingdom. He has told you the truth. When the time came, in fulfillment of the revelations of St. John and the ancient patriarchs and prophets, for Him to establish His Kingdom on the earth, He raised up a class of men suitable for the purpose. I will here say, the Lord has never undertaken to perform any work, in any dispensation or generation, without preparing a people for it. The Lord raised up a young man—Joseph Smith. His spirit was kept in the eternal world for six thousand years, to come forth by appointment, through the loins of ancient Joseph and Ephraim, to stand in the flesh and to establish this Church and Kingdom. And he only lived long enough to perform it. He only lived long enough to bring forth the record of the Book of Mormon,—the stick of Joseph in the hands of Ephraim, and put it with the stick of Judah, in fulfillment of the revelations of God; and then go forth and organize the Church, with all the instruments, all the knowledge, that all the divines throughout the world did not have power to do, neither did they know how to perform that work. He was the first man in the last days that ever organized a church upon the foundation of Apostles and Prophets, Christ Jesus being the chief corner stone, according to the order as it was in the days of the Savior. And when He established this work, he established it with prophets, with apostles, with pastors, with teachers, with gifts, with helps, with graces, with the Holy Priesthood, with the power of God, and with the ordinances thereof. It is true, he waded in deep water. It is true that he was sacrificed. When he had got the foundation of this work laid, he himself laid down his life. He was martyred in a Christian country for the work of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. He was martyred for his religion. He sealed his testimony with his blood, as Jesus and other patriarchs and prophets sealed the dispensations in which they lived.

From that day until now, this Church and Kingdom has continued to grow and increase. It mattered not what amount of persecution, what amount of affliction, what amount of opposition we had to meet with. That God who created the heavens and the earth holds this Church and Kingdom in His hands. And I here say to my brethren and sisters, the Church and Kingdom of God is here. It has come to stay. It has been organized to stay; and that God who has organized it will sustain it until the scene is wound up.

I have been reflecting since sitting in the stand here, where are our brethren to whom we have listened for years and years? Where is President Young? Where is Brother Kimball? Where are Orson and Parley Pratt? Where is George A. Smith? Where is President John Taylor? And where are all those

other Apostles who have passed away? They are in the spirit world, mingling with the Gods, connected with all the patriarchs and prophets who have ever lived on the earth. You may ask the question: Why is it, then, that God, with the Savior, with Father Adam, with Noah, with Enoch, with the ancient patriarchs and prophets, and with all the Apostles who have lived in this day and generation, counseling together on the other side of the veil, do not have power to turn away this persecution that Brother Cannon has been speaking of? Jesus told His disciples that if he were to pray to the Father, He would give Him a legion of angels who would come to defeat Him; but, He said, the will of the Father would not in that way be fulfilled. So I say to you. If many things that we might desire in our hearts should be fulfilled, the work of the Lord would fail in being consummated. We should remember that this generation, like all other generations, have their own agency. The nation in the midst of which we dwell today has its agency. The nations of the earth all have their agency. All sects and parties have; in fact, all the human family. And the God of heaven will hold them responsible. He will hold us responsible, according to the course we pursue. If we work and fight against God and the Kingdom of God, we have got to meet that in days to come.

Brother Cannon has referred to the situation of men who have fought against this work. Yes, brethren and sisters, we have seen this from the organization of the Church; we shall see it until the scene is wound up. But I want to tell you one thing, and that is, the God of heaven has not gone to sleep; neither has He gone on a long journey; nor has He forgotten His people. Does He intend to withdraw His hand? "Leave judgment with me; it is mine, saith the Lord; I will repay." It is our business to leave judgment with the Lord in all these matters. Let us do our duty.

Joseph Smith said fifty years ago last June, in speaking of the Priesthood—you can read it in the history of the Church—"Men profess to prophesy. I will also prophesy. I say, in the name of the Lord, that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man have already commenced in the earth, and from this time henceforth will the judgments of God be manifest among the nations of the earth. Wars, bloodshed, earthquakes, storms, thunder, lightning, pestilence, famine and the judgments of God will follow in their turn; and when these things go forth upon the earth, they will never be returned or withheld until the work of God is wound up." Let Israel read, let the inhabitants of the earth read, with regard to the signs of the times, and what do you see? There are a great many things manifested that the world do not acknowledge the hand of God in; but we do and we should. Therefore I would say to the Latter-day Saints, it is the will of God that you should not be discouraged; that you