

through that Spirit, that He lives, that His Prophets are upon the earth, that He has established His Church in the earth with all the ordinances and authority, with every key and gift necessary for the salvation of the children of men. He has also testified to them that this is a preparatory work to the second coming of the Son of Man, when He shall again stand upon the earth, not enduring the contempt and scorn of the children of men, but He shall come as King of kings and Lord of lords, surrounded by hosts of holy angels, and that He shall establish upon the earth a kingdom that never shall be thrown down, but shall stand forever and forever, immutable and indestructible.

Doubtless, in the days when the Savior lived upon the earth, those by whom He was surrounded looked upon the claims that He made as being very pretentious; and in like manner, the children of men today very probably consider that the Latter-day Saints make very great claims. Well, they do; and they are entitled to do so because of the work in which they are engaged. It is a work which will fulfil the sayings of the Prophets from the beginning until now, and is preparatory to the coming of the Son of Man, and the ushering in of the millennial reign, wherein there shall be peace on earth and good-will to men. But before that day should come, it has been declared that there should come in the earth a situation of affairs that would cause the hearts of men to fail, for fear of the things that were coming upon them. In the 24th chapter of Matthew it is recorded:

And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us when these things shall be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

His disciples had been calling His attention to the mighty temple at Jerusalem, to its size, to the proportions of the building, etc., and this called forth from Him the remark:

See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Whereupon the disciples asked Him when these things should be. Evidently there was further conversation, for they asked Him, What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? Jesus answered and said unto them:

Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

We heard at our recent conference that there were right in our own Territory a number of individuals who claimed to be Christ, and who were going among the people telling them that Christ had come and that He lived in a certain section of the country. Doubtless, if we had the correct number of those who have come since He was upon the earth, declaring themselves as Christ, we would be astonished. There has been a great number of them; and in this day they seem to be multiplying. Jesus, however, cautioned His disciples against such individuals, and said further:

And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled; for all these must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted

and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

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.

This Gospel of faith, repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands, of the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment, was to be preached in all the world for a witness. Was it taught in all the world for a witness in His day? No. Looking forward to some future time, when that Gospel should be upon the earth, He saw a time when it should be preached in all the world. What for? For the purpose that these Elders of Israel have gone to the nations of the earth—as a witness to the world, that the day of God's judgment is at hand, and that the end of wickedness on the earth is approaching.

"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."

\* \* \* \* \* For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; for the elects' sake those days shall be shortened.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Behold I have told you before.

Wherefore, if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers, believe it not.

\* \* \* \* \* But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered the ark.

And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be."

The Elders shall proclaim the coming of the Son of Man and the dawn of the millennial rest; but before those events shall transpire there shall be such tribulation in the midst of the children of men as has never been dreamed of. Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath the mind of man conceived the condition of affairs that shall exist before that coming.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

In this description that He gave in answer to the question, What shall be the sign of thy coming? He said that before these things should take place this Gospel of the kingdom should be preached in all the world for a witness.

There are today hundreds of Elders, clothed upon with the holy Priesthood, raising their voices in the high places of the earth as well as among the lowly, in proclamation of that Gospel, and men everywhere are hearing the sound thereof. Some are being brought to the knowledge of the truth of the Gospel.

The great body of the human family, however, treat it as the proclamation of the Gospel was treated in the days of Noah. But what was to follow this proclamation of the Gospel? Tribulation, commotion, wars and rumors of wars, pestilence, famine, and earthquakes. We look abroad upon the nations of the earth today and what do we find? Is there commotion? Is there fear? Is there dread? Are there not peculiar influences taking hold of the hearts of women and men and causing them to make movements that we cannot explain? Who is there today, with the wisdom of the world, can give the philosophy of this movement that today is sweeping across our land and gathering men together by the thousands with their faces turned toward the capital of our nation? Who can explain, with the wisdom of the world, the conditions that environ our own nation and the nations of the earth? Why is it that in the old world the nations maintain armed forces such as were probably never gathered together before on the face of the earth, and this is a time of peace? Only yesterday the declaration was brought across the telegraph wires from the heir apparent to the throne of England that the only chance for peace was the increasing of their army and navy. We know what the inevitable result of this must be. Somewhere and some time the fuse will be ignited. For the nations of the earth today dwell upon a volcano that is liable to explode at any minute. In our own nation how many times do we hear from the pulpit and from the rostrum expressions with regard to the condition of affairs that exists in this land and the results that must flow therefrom.

All these things have been foretold by the prophets of God. Two thousand years ago, Jesus, seated upon the Mount of Olives, delineated to the disciples the condition of affairs that should surround us in this day. We are but living in the day of the fulfillment of prophecy; and in that fulfillment there shall come to the nations of the earth such a condition of affairs as doubtless the world has never seen. Why? From the very fact that "except those days should be shortened there should be no flesh saved." These judgments and calamities shall overtake the earth with lightning rapidity, for this is a day of rapid movement. We go from one end of this country to the other in five or six days. We travel around the globe in about sixty days. We talk with the furthermost parts of the earth in a moment or two. Therefore, I say, we are living in a day of rapid things—a day in which events can be cut short, and yet more can be accomplished in a day thus shortened than could have been accomplished in the past. We read from time to time that some nation has discarded the arms with which they have equipped their soldiers, because they have found more destructive weapons. It does not take today so long to destroy an army as it did fifty or a hundred years ago; with the advantages they have now, it can be done almost in the twinkling of an eye. So these things shall be accomplished speedily, and sudden destruction shall come upon the children of men, surrounded as they are today with these instruments of death. The nations of the earth shall find that in the end the word of God will be fulfilled, His kingdom will be established, and He will bring to pass His purposes,