

history, that Cyrus pursued this course all his life. Whenever he took a city he went and offered sacrifice to the great God, the God of heaven. You may trace this through the whole history of the world until the present hour and you will find that that God who sits enthroned on high has governed and controlled all these things. He will do the same today. That same God has set His hand to fulfill the volume of revelations contained in these records of divine truth, which portray the winding-up scene of the work and Kingdom of God in the last dispensation and fulness of times. Our Heavenly Father called His servant Joseph Smith. He laid the foundation of this Church and Kingdom, and he organized the Church with prophets, apostles, pastors, teachers, gifts and graces, for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ, until we all come to the perfect stature of a man in Christ Jesus, in fulfillment of the revelations of God. Our numbers are few, it is true; but the people of God always were few in every age of the world. Noah, after preaching 120 years, while building the ark, only succeeded in saving eight souls out of all the inhabitants of the earth. The rest were destroyed by the flood, and they were shut up in prison and there visited by Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. While his body lay in the tomb three days His spirit went to preach to those spirits that were in prison, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh. The work of the Lord always has been an uphill business, so far as laboring among the children of men is concerned. But there is no person who believes in the Bible can deny that the Lord has proclaimed that in the latter days He would set His hand to build up His Church and Kingdom, He would gather together His people, and He would send an angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto every nation, kindred, tongue and people under the whole heavens, crying with a loud voice: "Fear God and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." This was the proclamation of the angel of God who delivered the Gospel of Christ to Joseph Smith. "The hour of His judgment is come." So say we. We have been called upon to warn the nations. We have been called to go forth without purse or scrip. We have had to travel abroad, swim rivers, wade swamps, travel on foot, and visit the nations of the earth in various ways, to preach the Gospel unto them. We have been obliged to do this, for we have been called to do it, whether we were popular or unpopular. If we had not done this, we would have been condemned; the Lord would have cut us off and raised up a people that would perform His work. These thousands of Elders, gathered out from the nations of the earth, upon whose shoulders rests this Priesthood, are the instruments in the hands of Almighty God, and are called to go forth to warn

this generation; and their testimony will rise up in judgment against this generation and condemn them, and I declare it in the name of Jesus Christ, as an Apostle of the Lamb of God in this day and age of the world. I say there is not a nation under heaven, there is not a king, a prince or a president, or any other man who has power over the sons of men, but should give unto their subjects the privilege of worshiping God according to the dictates of their own consciences. These subjects are the creatures of God, they are the children of God. They are placed here on the earth and are responsible to God Himself for their religion, for their faith and for their worship. They are not responsible to the emperors, or kings, or presidents, or governors who rule over them. Every man is responsible for the course he pursues before the Lord. And God will bless no king, no emperor and no president who will not give unto his subjects the rights and privileges in their relationship to God which the Father Himself has given unto them. Whenever these subjects are deprived of their rights, those who preside over them are held responsible.

We are here upon a mission. This is not our home. This is not the place where we expect to dwell forever. We are going into the spirit world. I have been associated with the Church for 57 years. I was intimate with the Prophet Joseph Smith and those that laid the foundation of this Church, who were martyred for the word of God and testimony of Jesus. They today are in the spirit world, mingling with the Gods, where they can plead for their brethren. So, too shall we go in our day and time. In view of this can I afford to reject the gospel, or to turn away from that which the Lord has required at my hands, because it does not suit the world? I cannot. I have got to meet my acts before the throne of God, and so have this nation and all the inhabitants of the earth. They will understand then that there is a power above them, and that is the God of heaven. All men have got to appear at the judgment seat of Christ. And when men shed the blood of the righteous because they follow the words of the Lord, they have to pay for it. No man can shed the blood of the righteous without it costing him something. It was so in the days of Jesus Christ. No man was more unpopular on the face of the earth than Jesus Christ was from the day He was born until He ascended into heaven. All Jerusalem was against Him. The Jews were against Him. The Gentiles were against Him, in a great measure. They cried out against Him and accused Him of everything that was wrong, and labored very hard to find some accusation against Him whereby they might put Him to death. It is true that the Gentile judge who heard the testimony against Jesus told the Jews: "I find no fault in this man," and he washed his hands, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see you to it." All right, said they, "his

blood be on us, and on our children." How little did those Jews know what it would cost them to shed the blood of Jesus Christ. Well might the Son of God, while on the cross, cry out, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Strange language for a man that was expiring on the cross! Why did He say this? He knew what would be the result to the Jewish nation for the next two thousand years. Whenever the nations of the earth have taken a stand against the Gospel of Christ or the people of God, they have had to pay the bill. It has cost something to shed the blood of Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith, and the price is not fully paid yet.

While the world look upon us as a strange people, while they have no faith in us or in our teachings, and while they have no faith in the Bible which they profess to believe in, still their unbelief will not make the truths of God without effect. The inhabitants of the earth know not what awaits them. The Lord is going to cut short His work in righteousness. If He did not no flesh would be saved. As I have said before, we have been called upon to warn this generation. How was it when we first went to New York, to Philadelphia, to Boston, and to the various states of the Union? We went there and found hundreds of people who were ready to receive the Gospel of Christ. We organized churches throughout the United States, north and south, more especially in the northern and middle states. At that time there was not the feeling that there is today. There were a great many who were willing to open their eyes to see, their ears to hear, and their hearts to understand. The Lord told Joseph Smith that He had set His hand to prune His vineyard once more for the last time, and He commanded him and others to go forth and warn this generation to gather out the honest and meek of the earth, and to prepare for the day of His judgment. And in one place in this book of Doctrine and Covenants, in explaining the parable of the wheat and the tares, the Lord says: "Behold, verily I say, that the field was the world, and the Apostles were the sowers of the seed; and after they have fallen asleep, the great persecutor of the church, the apostate, the whore, even Babylon, that maketh all nations to drink of her cup, in whose hearts the enemy, even Satan, sitteth to reign, behold he soweth the tares, wherefore the tares choke the wheat and drive the church into the wilderness. But behold, in the last days, even now while the Lord is beginning to bring forth the word, and the blade is springing up and is yet tender. Behold, verily I say unto you, the angels are crying unto the Lord day and night, who are ready and waiting to be sent forth to reap down the fields; but the Lord said unto them, pluck not up the tares while the blade is yet tender (for verily your faith is weak) lest you destroy the wheat also."

Do the inhabitants of the earth realize the judgments that hang over