

referred to? If there has been any such nation, the history of them has escaped my notice. I have never been able to obtain such information.

What then has been the position of the world for generations past? They have been governed by rulers not appointed of God; if they were appointed by him, it was merely as a scourge to the people for their wickedness, or for temporary rulers in the absence of those for whose right it was to govern. They had not the legitimate rule, priestly and authority of God on the earth, to act as his representatives in regulating and presiding over the affairs of his kingdom.

Perhaps it may be well at this stage of my remarks to give you a short explanation of my ideas on government, legitimacy, or priesthood (if you please). The question, "What is priest-hood," has often been asked me. I answer, it is the rule and government of God, whether on earth, or in the heavens; and it is the only legitimate power, the only authority that is acknowledged by him to rule and regulate the affairs of his kingdom. When every wrong thing shall be put right, and all usurpers shall be put down, when he whose right it is to reign shall take the dominion, then nothing but the priesthood will bear rule; it alone will away the sceptre of authority in heaven and on earth, for this is the legitimacy of God.

In the absence of this, what has been the position of the nations? You who have made yourselves acquainted with the political structure and the political intrigues of earthly kingdoms, I ask, from whence did they obtain their power? Did they get it from God? Go to the history of Europe, if you please, and examine how the rulers of those nations obtained their authority. Depending upon history for our information, we say those nations have been founded by the sword. If we trace the pages of history still further back to the first nation that existed, still we find it was founded upon the same principle. Then follow the various revolutions and changes that took place among subsequent nations and powers, from the Babylonians through the Medo-Persians, Grecians, Romans, and from that power to all the other powers of Europe, Asia, and Africa, of which we have any knowledge; and if we look to America from the first discoveries by Columbus to the present time, where are now the original proprietors of the soil? Go to any power that has existed upon this earth, and you will find that earthly government, earthly rule, and dominion, has been obtained by the sword. It was the sword of man that first put them in possession of this power. They have walked up to their thrones through rivers of blood; through the clotted gore and groans of the dying, and through the tears and lamentations of bereaved widows and helpless orphans; and hence the common saying is, "thrones won by blood, by blood must be maintained." By the same principle that they have been put in possession of territory have they sought to sustain themselves; the same violence, the same fraud, and the same oppression has been made use of to sustain their illegitimacy.

Some of these powers, dominions, governments, and rulers, have had in their possession the laws of God, and the admonitions of Jesus Christ; and what have they done to his servants in different ages of the world when he has sent them unto them? This question I need not stop to answer, for you are already made too familiar with it. This, then, is the position of the world. Authority, dominion, rule, government, has been obtained by fraud, and consequently is not legitimate. They say much about the ordination of kings and their being anointed by the grace of God, &c. What think you of a murderer slaying hundreds and thousands of his fellow creatures because he had the power, and while his sword is yet reeking with human blood, have a priest in sacerdotal robes anoint him to the kingship? They have done it. What think you of the cries of the widows, the tears of the orphans, and the groans of the dying, mingling with the prayers and blessings of the priest upon the head of the murderer of their husbands and their fathers?

It is impossible that there can be any legitimate rule, government, power, or authority, under the face of the heavens, except that which is connected with the kingdom of God, which is established by new revelation from heaven.

In a conversation with some of our modern reformers in France, one of their leaders said, "I think you will not succeed very well in disseminating the principles of your religion in France." I replied, "You have been seeking to accomplish something for generations with your philosophy, your philanthropic societies, and your ideas of moral reform, but have failed; while we have been seeking to accomplish the thing that you have particularly, and yet have accomplished it." We begin with the power of God, with the government of heaven, and with acknowledging his hand in all things, and God has sustained us, blessed and upheld us to the present time; and it is the only government, rule, and dominion under the heavens that will acknowledge his authority.

Brethren, if any of you doubt it, go into some of those nations, and get yourselves introduced into the presence of their kings and rulers, and say, "Thus saith the Lord God," they would at once denounce you as a madman, and straightway order you into prison. What is the matter? They do not acknowledge the legitimacy, the rule, and government of God, nor will they enquire into him. They receive not their authority from him. Nations honor their kings, but they do not honor the authority of their God in any instance, neither have they from the first made government to the present time. If there has been such a nation, or is at this time such a government, it is a thing of which I am ignorant.

The kings and potentates of the world profess to be anointed by the grace of God. But the priests who anoint them have no authority to do it. No person has authority to anoint a king or administrator in one of the least of God's ordinances except they are legally called and ordained of God to that power; and how can a man be called of God to administer in his name that does not acknowledge the gift of prophecy to be the right of the children of God in all ages? It is impossible. These men have been grasping after power, and for this they have laid waste nations and destroyed countries. Some of them possessed it for a little while, and others were cut off, and then they went. What became of them afterwards? I saw in vision some of the kings of the earth gathered together as prisoners in a pit, and after many days they were to be visited.

Having said so much in relation to other governments and governments, we will now notice the difference between them and Abraham of old. Abraham was a man who contended for the true and legitimate authority. God promised to him, and to his seed after him, the land of Canaan for their possession. "The Lord said unto Abraham, after that Lot was separated from him, 'Lift up thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.' What did Stephen say generations afterwards? 'That God gave him none inheritance in it; no, not so much as to set his foot on; yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.' Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones explains this seeming contradiction. The Lord said to him, 'Son of man, can these dry bones live?' &c. Who are they? We are told they are the whole house of Israel, in the same chapter, and that they shall come out of their graves, bone come to its bone, and sinew to sinew, and flesh come upon them, and they shall become a living army before God, and they shall inherit the land which was given to them and their fathers before them. The measuring line laid again for fourth upon those lands and mark out the possessions belonging to the tribes of Israel.

Abraham was a man who dared fear God, and do honor to his authority, which was legiti-

mate. God tried and proved him the same as he has tried many of us, and felt after his heart-strings, and twisted them round. When he had tried him to the utmost, he swore by himself because he could swear by no greater, saying, "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thee, and in these and thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." Abraham obtained his dominion by legitimate authority; his priesthood was obtained from God; his authority was that which is associated with the everlasting gospel, which was, and is, and is to come, that first and abiding Father. And the promises made to him will rest upon him and his posterity through every subsequent period of time, until the final winding up scene of all things.

Will he ever obtain them? Yes. For we are eternal beings, and I am now talking as though we were in eternity. We shall wake up in the morning of the resurrection, attain to all the blessings which have been promised to us, and strike hands with Abraham, and see him inherit the promises. Abraham and all his children will then inherit the promises through the principle of legitimacy, and there are many of the sons and daughters of Abraham among men at the present time; these will be baptized for their dead brethren and sisters, and by this means bring them unto Christ, beginning on the outside branches of the tree, and so progress to the main stock, and from that to the root. "And it is come to pass that all Israel shall be saved." Why? Because it is their legitimate right, and they are Israel who do the works of Abraham.

Thus it is, then, with Abraham. The old man feels perfectly easy about the matter; and if he does see many of his descendants existing as a curse to the eyes of their transgressors, many of them enjoying no higher vocation than crying "Old clothes!" Still the time of their redemption will come, and by means of the eternal gospel and priesthood, they will be made perfect, and we with them. While the faithful are operating in heaven to bring this about, the saints are operating on earth, and by faith and works will accomplish all things; they will redeem the dead and the living, and all shall come to God, and Abraham will stand at the head of his seed as their ruler. This is his legitimate position.

We will now notice those men who are contending for it without any authority, and make a contrast between the two. We see them gathering their forces, and using their influence to destroy the poor among men. How long will the kings and rulers of the earth do this? Until they are dead and damned. And what then? They will be cast down into a pit. Isaiah saw them there, along with many others; counsellors, murderers, and scamps. After many days they will be visited, but they have got to lay in prison a long time for their transgressions. The one is legitimacy, and the other is illegitimacy; the one is the order of God, and the other is the order of the devil.

Such is the position of things in relation to the world, to legitimacy and illegitimacy, in regard to things that are right and things that are wrong. Jesus Christ created all things, and for him were they made, whether it be principles, powers, thrones, or dominions. Now the question is, is he going to be dispossessed of his right because scoundrels exist in the world, and stand in power and dominion; because his subjects have rebelled against him from time to time, and usurpers have taken his place, and the dominion is given to another? Verily, no. But the time will come when the kingdom and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven will be given to the saints of the Most High, and they will possess it for ever and ever. And some of the acts of those who have been under the dominion of Satan: those who have had dominion over the world; the proud and haughty tyrants, and the shedders of innocent blood—these are they that have lived in the world and possessed all the good things of it. And what has been the situation of the saints in every age? All those who dared acknowledge that God lived, that this kingdom belonged to him; that it was his right—and that he would without doubt possess it—have been trampled under foot; persecuted; cast out; hated; killed; they wandered about in sheep skins and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted, and tormented.

One of old says, in speaking of the Jews: "Which of the prophets have not your fathers killed, who testified before of the coming of the just one?"

This was the case in ancient days, and has been carried on in modern times. I have seen holy prophets expire with my own eyes, who were killed by the hands of blood-thirsty assassins; by a murderous gang, because they bore the same testimony that the holy prophets did in days of old. How many more of their brethren who dared acknowledge the truth, have fallen beneath the same influences—shot, whipped, imprisoned and put to death in a variety of ways, while hundreds of others, driven from their homes in the winter, have found their last bed; they were worn out with suffering and fatigue; the weary wheels of life stood still; and they were obliged to forsake the world in which they could no longer remain, because of the persecution heaped upon them by the enemies of the truth.

The reason of all this vile outrage upon innocent men, women and children, is because there is no legitimate rule upon the earth. God's laws and government are not known; and his servants are despised and cast out.

Legitimacy, and right, whether in heaven or on earth, cannot mix with anything that is not just, and equitable; and truth is free from oppression and injustice, as is the bosom of Jehovah. Nothing but that which is ultimately true. What has been the position of the world generally, among nations? You see men marshalling armies, and making war with one another to destroy each other and take possession of their territory and wealth. One man who is in possession of wealth, power, and authority, sees oppression exercised by kings; so he follows the example, as do rulers who exercise authority under their sovereigns; then others in a still lower degree do the same; thus oppression treads upon the heels of oppression, and distress follows distress. You will find this to exist in a great measure through every grade of society, from the king on his throne, down to the match-maker, or the chimney sweep.

There are a great many institutions introduced into the world to ameliorate the condition of man, in the shape of Tract Societies, Bible Societies, and many more; and many of them are to be commended. Many of them are sincere, but commencing on the wrong foundation, they keep wronging the time, and fail to accomplish the object desired.

If any of these different institutions were to carry out their own principles, they would not only fail in accomplishing the object they have in view, but ultimately destroy themselves.

There are peace societies among the rest; their object is to bring peace into the world without the Spirit of God. They see plainly that peace is desirable, but they wish to graft it on to a rotten stock.

In Europe they had a "Peace Congress," and sent their representatives to all parts of the world; and of course this "Congress of Peace" wished to regulate the world, make an end of war and bring in universal peace.

Talk about peace, when rancorous discord makes its nest in the councils and cabinets of all nations, and the hearts of their statesmen are steeped in hatred one of another; jealousy, and hostility and strife, like the influence of a deadly contagion, may be found in almost every family; brother rising up against sister, sister against brother, the father against the mother, and mother against the father, etc. We can find discord reigning even in the "Peace Society" itself.

Jesus Christ says, "my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you," &c. Wherever this peace exists, it leaves an influence that is comforting and refreshing to the soul of those who partake of it. It is like the morning dew to the thirsty plant. This peace is alone the gift of God; and it can only be received from him through obedience to his laws.

If any man wishes to introduce peace into his family or among his friends, let him cultivate it in his own bosom; for sterling peace can only be had according to the legitimate rule and authority of heaven, and obedience to its laws.

Everything is disordered, and in confusion in the world. The reason is, because no legitimate authority has been known or acknowledged on the earth. Others have been trying to build up and establish what they supposed to be the kingdom of God.

The socialists of France call themselves religious people, and they also expect to bring about a reign of glory through a species of Robespierreism. I was told by a man well acquainted with matters of fact in relation to these things, that if they gained the ascendancy in France, their first object would be to erect a statue to Robespierre. They were going to cut off thousands of people to accomplish their designs; and had not Napoleon taken active measures to head them, bands of men were ready on a moment's warning to cut off the heads of thousands; and among these I was informed fifty thousand priests were doomed.

These are some of the principles and ideas that exist in the world, among the various nations and institutions of men, which are framed according to illegitimate principles; a change of government changes not the condition of the people, for all are wrong and acting without God.

Our ideas are, that the time has come to favor God's people; a time about which prophets speak in pathetic strains and poets sung. These men of God looked through the dark vista of future ages, and being wrapped in prophetic vision, beheld the latter day glory—"the time of the dispensation of the fullness of times, spoken of by all the holy prophets since the world began;" for they all looked forward with joyful anticipations to the things which have commenced with us; they all had their eye upon the time when legitimacy would obtain its proper place upon the earth, in the shape of the kingdom of God established in the world; all false rule and dominion be put down, and the kingdom of this world become subject to God and his Christ. These are the ideas that they had, and these are the things we are seeking to carry out.

If we look at what illegitimacy has done in former times, we shall see the absolute necessity of the restitution spoken of by the prophets, for it has filled the earth with evil; it has caused the world to groan in bondage, laid millions in the cold embrace of death, and caused disease to spread its pestiferous breath among the nations, leaving ruin, misery, and desolation in its path, and made this fair earth a howling wilderness, and nothing but the wisdom and intelligence of God can change it. The kingdom of God will establish truth and correct principles, the principles of truth, equity, and justice; in short, the principles that emanate from God; principles that are calculated to elevate man in time and through all eternity. How shall this be? It will be by a legitimate rule, authority, and dominion.

Who have we for our ruling power? Where and how did he obtain his authority?—or how did any in this church and kingdom obtain it? It was first obtained by a revelation from the Lord of the Universe; by the opening of the heavens; by the voice of God; and by the ministering of holy angels. It is by the voice of God and the voice of the people that our present President obtained his authority. Many people in the world are talking about miracle and misgovernment. There is no form of government, under the heavens where we can have legitimate rule and authority, it is among the people. In the first place, we have a man appointed by God, and in the second place, by the people. This man is chosen by yourselves, and every person raises his hand to sanction the choice. Here is our President Brigham Young whom we made choice of yesterday, who is he? He is the legitimate ruler among this people. Can anybody dispossess him? They cannot, because it is his legitimate right, and he reigns in the hearts of the people. He obtains his authority first from God, and secondly from the people; and if a man possesses five grains of common sense when he has a privilege of voting for or against a man, he would not vote for a man that oppresses the people; he would vote according to the dictates of his conscience, for this is the right and duty of this people in the choice of their president, and other leading officers of the kingdom of God. While this is being done here, it is being done in every part of the world, wherever the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has a footing. Is there a monarch, potentate, or power under the heavens that undergoes a scrutiny as fine as this? No, there is not; and yet this is done twice a year before all the saints in the world. Here is legitimacy and rule; you place the power in their hands to govern, to regulate, and put in order the affairs of the kingdom of God. This is *vox Dei*; *vox populi*: God appoints, the people sustain. You do this by your own act; very well, then, it is legitimate, and must stand, and every man is bound to abide if it takes the hair out of his head. I know there are things among times that are hard, tough, and pinching; but if a man is a man of God, he has his eyes upon eternal things, and is aiming to accomplish the purposes of God, and all will be well with him in the end.

What advantage is there, then, between this government and others? Why, we have peace, and as eternal beings we have a knowledge of eternal things. While listening to the remarks made on this stand, what have we not heard—what have we not known? The curtains of heaven have been withdrawn, and you have gazed by vision upon eternal realities; while in the profane world doubt and uncertainty throw their dark mantle over every mind. Let us now notice our political position in the world. What are we going to do? We are going to possess the earth. Why? Because it belongs to Jesus Christ, and he belongs to us, and we to him; we are all one, and will take the kingdom and possess it under the whole heavens, and reign over it for ever and ever. Now ye kings and emperors help yourselves if you can. This is the truth, and it may as well be told at this time as at any other.

"There's a good time coming saints,

A good time coming;

There's a good time coming saints,

Wait a little longer."

Having said thus much on this point, we will return to the principle of legitimacy. God is our legitimate Father, and we are his children and have a claim upon him, and he has a claim upon us. We have come into this world to accomplish a certain purpose, and we have come in the dispensation of the fullness of times when God decreed to gather all things together into one, whether they be things in heaven or on earth, and everything that has been in existence in any age of the world, or that is or will be, which is calculated to benefit and exalt man we shall have; consequently it is for us to look after anything and everything that ever has been true, or that has ever been developed in any period of the history of man, for it all belongs to us, and has got to be restored, for restitution means bringing back that which is lost. If the Antediluvians enjoyed anything that was good, true, and eternal, which is not yet made known to us, it has to be restored; or if anything existed among the ancient patriarchs and prophets that has been lost, it has to be restored. If there are any people of God upon any detached part of this world, they will have got to be restored.

God's word will also be gathered into one, and his people and the Jews will hear the words of the Nephites, and the ten tribes must hear the words of the Jews and Nephites; and God's people be gathered and be one. All things will be gathered in one, and Zion be redeemed, the glory of God be revealed and all flesh see it together. God's dominion will be established on the earth, the law go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem, and the kingdoms of this world will become subject to God and his Christ.

As eternal beings, then, we existed with our Father in the eternal worlds. We came on to this earth, and obtained tabernacles, that through taking possession of them and passing through a scene of trial, and tribulation, and suffering, we may be exalted to more glory, dignity, and power, that would have been impossible for us to have obtained had we not been placed in our present position.

If any of you do not believe this, let me refer you to a passage of scripture or two. How was man created at first? We are told that God made "man a little lower than the angels;" then says Paul, "I know ye not that saints shall judge angels." What through? It is through the atonement of Jesus Christ, through the taking of our bodies, the powers of the holy priesthood, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ that it was possible for us to enjoy, if we had not fallen. To do right in our present state, then, we must carry out the principle of legitimacy according to a correct rule, and if we profess to be subjects of the kingdom of God, we must be subject to the dominion, rule, legitimacy, and authority of God. No person can escape from this unless he apostatizes, and goes to the devil like a fool. He must be a fool who would barter away eternal life, thrones, principalities, and powers, in the eternal world, for the paltry trash which exists in the shape of wealth and worldly honor; to let go his chance of heaven [and of God, of being a king and priest unto him, of living and reigning for ever, and of standing among the chiefs of Israel. I cannot help calling such men fools, for they are damned now in making such a choice, and will be hereafter.

We will say a little more on legitimacy and right to rule. What would be the position of a man who would take a course to rob his neighbor, or take advantage of him in the case of his legitimacy, which you have heard of this morning; such a man must be a greater fool than the other.

For instance, a good man dies, who has served God in righteousness all his days; the weary wheels of life stand still, and he has gone to the world of spirits. He believed in the principles of justice, equity, righteousness, and truth, and that his rights would be held sacred to him by his brethren after he was gone. But some professed man of God comes to his widow, and wants to steal her away from him; he would rob the dead with impunity under the ostensible garb of justice to her, and her dead husband; he will tell her he is doing it out of pure love to them both, and he is going to exalt them in the kingdom of God. We read of the kingdom of God suffering violence; if violence is ever attempted, it is in a case of this kind. It is bad enough to steal from a man his earthly property, his oxen, his cows, his horse, his harness, his wagon wheels, and other paraphernalia; but what think you of a man that would rob the dead of a treasure which he holds the most dear, and prized as the most precious thing he possessed on earth—his affectionate wife. Such a person will assuredly miss his figure.

You will find in the ancient laws of Israel, there were proper rules in relation to these matters; one was that if a man died without a child, his brother or the nearest relation of the husband should take the widow, and raise up seed to her husband, that his name might be continued in Israel, and not be blotted out. Where did these laws come from? We are told they came from God. But instead of doing this, suppose he should try to steal this woman away and rob his brother, how would they get along? I wonder, with such a case against them at the bar of justice? The laws and ordinances that exist in the eternal world have their pattern in the things which are revealed to the children of men on earth. The priesthood as it exists on the earth is a pattern of things in heaven. As I said in a former part of this discourse, priesthood is legitimate rule, whether on earth or in heaven. When we have the true priesthood on earth, we take it with us into the heavens; it changes not, but continues the same in the eternal world.

There is another feature of that ancient law which I will mention. It was considered an act of injustice for the nearest relation not to take the wife of the deceased; if they refused to do it, they were obliged to go before the elders of Israel, and "his brother's wife shall loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, 'so shall it be done unto the man that will not build up his brother's house; and his name shall be called in Israel the house of him who hath his shoe loosed.'"

If the restitution of all things is to be brought to pass, there must be a restoration of these things; everything will be put right, and in its proper place.

There is another thing which is most grievous, afflictive, and distressing to contemplate. When a man takes to himself a woman that properly belongs to another, and defiles her, it is termed adultery; the foundation of life and corrupts the very source of existence. There is an offspring comes forth as the fruit of that union, and that offspring is an eternal being; how can it be looked upon? To reflect upon it, wounds the finest feelings of human nature in time and will in eternity. For who can gaze upon the degradations of their wife and the corruption of their seed without peculiar sensations. How much more is this feeling enhanced when the wronged man considers that he has been robbed by one who professed to be his friend. This thing is not to be trifled with, but is of the greatest importance; hence the necessity of the sealing powers, that all things may be pure, chaste, maintained, and lasciviousness be rooted out from among the saints. Why so? That we may have a holy offspring that shall be great, and clothed with the mighty power of God to rule in his kingdom, and accomplish the work we propose they shall fulfil; and that when we go to sleep, we may sleep in peace, knowing that justice will be administered in righteousness; we shall know that we have a claim upon our own in the first resurrection; we shall know that our wives and our children will be there to join us; justice will be administered, and we shall have a claim upon them in the eternal world, and that no unprincipled scoundrel will be permitted to set his foot on or rob another of his just claims. Why is a woman sealed to a man for time and all eternity? Because there is legitimate power on earth to do it; this power will bind on earth and in heaven; it can seal on earth, and it is sealed in heaven. There is a legitimate, authorized agent of God upon earth; this sealing power is regulated by him; hence what is done by that, is done right, and is recorded. When the books are opened every one will find their proper mate, and have those that belong to them, and every one will be deprived of that which is surreptitiously obtained.

Let us do righteously, and you who would seek to injure another and take advantage of one who was just and faithful to his God in his day, how would you like, when you get a few years older and drop into eternity, for somebody to come and serve you the same. You could not expect anything else; you could not die without being menaced by this supposition, and your dying pillow would be made unhappy; you would know you had done wrong, and would expect somebody to measure to you the same measure pressed down, shook together, and running over.

We have been told to preach confidence, correct principles, and just dealings alone will inspire it. If a man speak that which is not true about another, can you have confidence in him? No. If a man defraud another, can you have confidence in him? No. But if you would through a principle of righteousness seek to sap the foundation of another's happiness, by trying to wrench from him those sacred rights which pertain to his interest in the eternal world, how much greater will be your condemnation?

Nothing but truth, integrity, virtue, honesty, and every pure principle, will stand in the great day of God Almighty. If such a person happens to get through this world, he will find barriers in the next, and probably miss a chance of obtaining a place in the first resurrection. Nothing contrary to the authority, rule, and government of heaven, will stand in time or in eternity, and if any man wants to be blessed, and honored, and to obtain a high place in the eternal world, let him pursue a course of honor, righteousness, and virtue, before his God, and if he wants to find himself amongst usurers, defrauders, op-

pressors, and those in possession of illegitimate claims, let him take an opposite course. If time would permit, much more might be said about social, family, and individual legitimate rights; but as time hastens, I forbear for the present. Well, brethren and sisters, may God bless you. Amen.

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Israel, there were proper rules in relation

to these matters; one was that if a man

died without a child, his brother or the

nearest relation of the husband should

take the widow,