

them; He preached the same Gospel to them that He preached to men in the flesh, that they might be judged by the same law and Gospel—judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. And this is what is meant by that, to some people, obscure passage that "when He was ascended up on high He led captivity captive." He went to the prison house and released the captives. Isaiah predicted this hundreds of years before He was born, and He read this prediction in the synagogue one Sunday:

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." (Isaiah lxi, 1. Luke iv, 18.)

Christ went during the time that elapsed between His death and resurrection to preach to the spirits in prison. The gates of hell did not prevail against Him. He prevailed against them. When He appeared to the Apostle John, as we read in the book of Revelation, He said, "I have the keys of hell and of death." (Rev. i, 18.)

Now, Jesus Christ told His disciples: "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." So the mission of Christ's Apostles related not only to the proclaiming of the Gospel to every creature living, and to the sealing on earth that which should be sealed in heaven, and loosing on earth that which should be loosed in heaven; but they had power to penetrate into the under world, to preach to the spirits in prison; to prevail over the gates of hell, to continue the work commenced by our Lord and Savior, their spiritual head.

This opens up a vast field of thought. It has been brought to view through the revelations of God in our day. For hundreds of years these ideas have been shut out from the minds of men, and a narrow notion has prevailed that the only chance for mankind was in the flesh, and that when they died that was the end. What has become of all the heathens? What has become of all the good Jews who could not believe in Christ, it being in their very nature and training not to believe? What about the people who were surrounded by such environments that they had no chance to learn of Christ? Have they all perished? Yes, if what some "Christian" teachers say is true. But God, Almighty, through the great Prophet of the nineteenth century, Joseph Smith, upon whom he conferred the Holy Ghost and this same power that He conferred upon Peter, to bind on earth that which should be bound in heaven, and loose on earth that which should be loosed in heaven, revealed this glorious principle of salvation, by which we understand that the time will come when every soul of Adam's race will have an opportunity of hearing the truth and obeying it. If, unfortunately for them, they did not live on the earth at a time when the Gospel was here, or the Priesthood and power of it were here, they will hear it in the other land to which they have gone. The truth of the everlasting Gospel will be proclaimed in the spheres of the departed, and every prison house will echo with its sound; and the prisoners will go free, if they will repent and turn unto God. Some will have to be "beaten with many stripes" before they arrive at the right condition to receive it. Some will only be beaten with "a few stripes." Some will have to pay the "uttermost farthing" for

their abominations, corruptions and wickedness. But the time will come, thanks be to God! when, through the power of this holy Priesthood and this authority which binds and looses on earth and it is acknowledged in heaven, every soul will hear the sound of the Gospel, and they will repent and bow the knee.

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

"And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."—Phil. ii. 9-11.

And then from the heavens above, and the earth beneath, and from under the earth, will re-echo the glorious sound of "honor, praise and glory unto God and the Lamb forever, because He has redeemed them by His blood out of every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people." Every soul will find some place prepared where they can glorify God, enjoy their existence, and receive that which they are capable of receiving and enjoying; for in the Father's house are many mansions; and as the heavenly bodies differ in glory, so will it be with those who come forth in the resurrection of the dead.

This gives a little glimpse of the plan of salvation as revealed in olden times, and as restored in latter times. What I desire to impress upon the minds of this congregation this afternoon is, that without this power and authority that Christ held on the earth from the Father, and that He gave to His disciples, the door of salvation is not open to the sons and daughters of men. This is great power to place in the hands of men. But God knows His own business. He understands His own children. He knows those that were foreordained before the foundations of the world to come down on the earth at certain periods and perform the work that He allotted to them. He told Jeremiah that before he was born he knew him, and "ordained him to be a prophet to the nations." You can read that in the scriptures. (Jeremiah 1, 5) This is the doctrine of foreordination and predestination that the world has gone wrong about so much. No man is foreordained and predestined to be saved or damned; but there have been men chosen from the foundations of the world, even as Jesus Christ was chosen—"the Lamb slain from the foundations of the world;" men chosen to dwell on earth in different periods and places to accomplish the work of God. God calls them in His own time and season; and when He places that authority upon them He understands what He is doing. It was well understood that one of those Twelve whom Jesus chose would use the power and authority that was given Him to bring about the crucifixion of Christ. It was foreknown that he would be a son of perdition, and that he would betray his Lord. All that was necessary in the great plan. Not that his agency was interfered with in the slightest degree. He was left to carry out the devices of his own base nature, and he betrayed Christ. Peter stumbled and almost fell to the ground, spiritually, but he recovered himself, and repented, and was willing to do anything that he might atone for the fault he had committed in the hour of weakness when he denied that he knew the Savior. But Jesus understood him, and told him to go and feed His sheep. That was a rebuke that Peter understood; he saw that his business was not to go fishing, not to engage in the things of this world, but to work for the Master, to labor for

the truth and for the salvation of the souls of men. And he gloriously accomplished his mission. He was willing to lay down his life for the truth; and when they took him captive and were about to crucify him, he desired to have his head turned downward, that he might not be placed on a level with his Lord. He was willing to shed his blood, that he might atone for his faults, and that he might witness that his testimony of Christ was true. He knew it was true, because God had revealed it to him, and he carried that knowledge with him to the grave. He departed into the spirit world, and no doubt labored there mightily, that he might be able to finish the great work that Christ had given him to do; and the gates of hell could not prevail against him.

And that is not all. After the long night of darkness that I have briefly alluded to; after these divisions, strifes, contentions, and men's churches that have been set up—after all this, the Lord has been pleased to reveal the truth again, and has sent down this same authority that Christ gave to Peter. And who brought it here? Who should bring it here? Why, Peter came and brought James and John with him. Joseph Smith, the latter-day Prophet, was ordained under the hands of that man to whom Christ said, "I give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." That authority has been brought and conferred upon man upon the earth; and although the Prophet Joseph Smith, in his turn, has sealed his testimony with his blood, yet before his departure the Church had been organized under the gift and power of the Holy Ghost and this divine authority, until it was established in exactly the same form in which Christ established it Himself when He was in the flesh, with "apostles and prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, for the work of the ministry, for the perfecting of the Saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, until they all shall come to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God." just as Peter arrived at it. That power is here. That is the power of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The holy Apostleship is here—not in name merely, but in power and in the demonstration of the Spirit. And there are hundreds and thousands of witness that what these men, by the authority of God, loose on earth is loosed in heaven, and what they seal on earth is bound in heaven.

I voice the sentiments of the Latter-day Saints gathered in these mountain valleys from all the nations of the earth: I voice the testimony of the people who are still scattered abroad who have received this Gospel. These people have believed in Christ, have repented of their sins, have been baptized by men having authority for the remission of sins, and they know their sins are remitted. I know my sins were remitted by baptism through the shedding of Christ's blood. I was born of the water; and when the servants of God laid their hands upon me and sealed upon me the Holy Ghost, I was born of the Spirit. I have received a testimony from God that this work is true, and that these things contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew are true; that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God; that He lives on high; that He is the advocate with the Father; that He has come in person in these last days, with the Father, and restored the Church of Christ to earth; that He has opened up the long-lost communication between God and man, and that Peter, James and John have come and conferred this author-