

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, November 8th, 1891, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Zion stands with hills surrounded—  
Zion, kept by power divine.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Wm. B. Preston.

The choir sang:

He died! the Great Redeemer died,  
And Israel's daughters wept around.

The Priesthood of the Sixth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

## ELDER GEORGE BYWATER

then addressed the congregation. He asked the Saints to sustain him by their faith and prayers in order that he might be able to speak in accordance with the will and mind of the Lord. He knew of no people who preferred to be guided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the same way as the Latter-day Saints do. But in making this statement he did not wish to be understood as saying that there are no people who profess not to be in need of that guidance. But he would say that the Latter-day Saints who have received the revelations of a new dispensation are under great obligation both to each other and to God, our Father. This age is noted for its indifference to divine revelations. It is an age in which by the aid of God much light has been shed on the human race. It is an age of invention. There is a marching onward towards a more grand and magnificent end of man's existence than has been formerly dreamed of by human mind. And this is due to Christianity. But this divine power has not obtained dominancy over the popular masses. It has not helped them to rule their passions, and control their vices, although it has found its way from century to century to the people, rolling on indestructible and, like its Author, unchangeable. To the existence and spread of these principles may be attributed the fact that men were, in a measure, prepared to receive the Gospel when restored after an interval of 1260 years.

The speaker, in reviewing the history of mankind remarked that always when principles of truth were expounded, some people were found willing to accept them with avidity. They have felt that the truths they received were not new to them. They seemed part of them—something they had known previously, but forgotten again. And when the Priesthood was restored, they felt that the day had dawned. The sacred records became plain to them, inspiring their souls with the feeling that the word of God endureth forever.

It has ceased to be a marvel to them, why Joseph Smith should be called to do the work he did, because they feel that this Gospel is the same which was preached, in previous historic ages, and that it is what was our eternal inheritance in a previous existence. Hence we do not marvel at these

things, as those do who do not accept them as eternal truths. The speaker had often wondered at the dense ignorance and darkness that rule in this world of boasted science and intelligence.

There are but few thinking men or women who some time or other have not asked themselves the questions, Who am I? What am I? Whither am I going? Or the questions may have taken a more general form, Whence are all things and whither are they tending? The fact that we exist this very instant is a sure proof that we must have existed a previous instant, and this reasoning takes us back to the origin of all things and leads us to the conclusion that we are the offspring of the Supreme Being, a view which is corroborated by Holy Writ, which declares, "Ye are gods, to whom the word of God came."

Many people have an idea that man's mission is two-fold—first temporal, and second spiritual; and that a broad line of demarcation is to be drawn between the two. A man inspired of God has said: "Fear God and keep His commandments, for that is the whole duty of man." The labor comprehended in keeping God's commandments is evidently all that a man can do. The line is thus swept away. Those who think that to give attention to temporal matters is not to keep God's commandments are mistaken. All things were first created spiritually, and divine revelations inculcate to serve God in all things—in agriculture, architecture, the forming of governments, the study of the sciences, etc. All things are included, and there are no truths, nothing good of which God is not the originator.

The speaker did not wish to depreciate anything of that which God has created. We have received the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There was a long time when the truth did not shine. But that period has passed. But while it lasted men groped in traditional darkness, inventing to themselves new systems of theology, but without success, and now the Christian world is in confusion, fulfilling the word of prophecy, spoken concerning these things centuries ago. The speaker did not mention this, so as to censure his fellow men or to find fault with them. Christ declares that this is the condemnation that men, when the light had come, preferred darkness to light, because their deeds were evil. People who are honestly striving to conform with the will of God, according to the light they have, will always have a certain measure of inspiration whereby they will be led onward. They will never be left to go astray, if they are willing to listen to the still, small voice whispering in their souls.

The speaker felt grateful for living in an age and dispensation foretold by the prophets—an age in which God has commenced to set up His government among the children of men. We have lived to see the fall, long ago, of the great kingdoms which once were the centers of the civilization of the world. The Babylonian kingdom, the Medo-Persian, the Grecian powers fell. The Roman was divided and subdivided, and the promise is given that in the days of these kingdoms, God would establish a

power that should stand for ever and ever. This is glorious to contemplate to those who believe in His word. We know the promises to be true. What He said, anciently, of Babylon, Nineveh, Tyre, the cities of the plain, came true, every word. There is, therefore, abundant reason for the belief that what He has said concerning these last days will also come literally true, in every particular.

The speaker expressed the hope that the Saints of God might be able to live according to the light of inspiration, that they might be directed right in all things and be preserved from falling into the pit where so many before them have perished. He also hoped that we may be instrumental in the hands of God to fulfil His plans and designs, and thus, finally, become of one heart and one mind and enter the kingdom of our God.

## PRESIDENT ANGUS M. CANNON

was the next speaker. Referring to the prophecy by Malachi: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse," the speaker said, this prophecy had been fulfilled in our day. God has revealed Himself to Joseph the Prophet. Christ appeared and instructed him in divine things. John the Baptist was sent to confirm on the head of the youthful seer the Aaronic Priesthood, which should never be taken away until the sons of Levi do offer an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. Then Peter, James and John appeared confirming the authority on him to preach the Gospel in its fullness and to administer in the ordinances thereof. The Prophet Elijah came and restored the keys of turning the hearts of the children to the fathers and the fathers to the children. Parley P. Pratt said before his death that he never rejoiced in any principle so much as in this; he felt happy to think that he should enjoy the society of his father and mother and ancestors and his wife and children, and enjoy the communion with God. Now, we all have these privileges, if we live in accordance with the light of the Gospel. Let our ears be open to the cries of the needy; let us love the country God has given us as our inheritance and cherish and sustain our wives and families as parts of ourselves. Remember that what riches we have we ought to hold only as stewards, and glorify God in our hearts and souls. We should not live as if there were no God in existence. Have not our fathers and mothers forsaken everything in order to come out here and serve God? Can we forget the promises made to us? There is not a man who has obtained a wife in the everlasting covenant who has not promised to educate his children in the fear of the Lord. Can we then set an example before our children worthy of idolaters? All who have received divine instructions from God are in danger if they forget the obligations those instructions involve.

Every family has a head, and the windows of heaven are open to his view that he may know the will and mind of the Lord, and be in a position to bless his wife and children. Let