

before they delivered him to Pilate who sentenced him for treason. And they stirred up the whole Jewish people against their Messiah, and with them said, "Let His blood be upon us and upon our children." And it has rested upon them until the present day. The coming referred to by Malachi therefore cannot be the first. Then Judah and Jerusalem were rejected and were afterwards trodden under foot of the Gentiles. At the coming here spoken of, "the offering of Judah and Jerusalem shall be pleasant unto the Lord."

Let me read another verse:

"And I will come near to you to judgment and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right and fear not me saith the Lord of Hosts."

These five verses refer to the second coming of Christ, as everyone, who will read with an unprejudiced mind, will see. We are apt to be influenced by the traditions handed down from our fathers, not remembering that they have gone astray from the ordinances of God as predicted by Malachi in the 7th verse. After the Apostles of the Lamb were slain, darkness came upon the world. That great church, "the woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored beast," took the place of the true church, "the woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of stars," and who had to flee into the wilderness, where a place was prepared for her." And through that false church many erroneous notions were introduced into the world. She made all nations of the earth "drunk" with the abominations in her golden cup. When her power waned a little other churches sprang up; most of them were her offshoots; and although these had many good men among them who enunciated many good principles, yet they all lacked direct communication with God as well as that authority from Him which is essential to the administration of His ordinances. Having no revelations they fell into many errors and handed down many false traditions. One of these is that the prophecy quoted refers to the first coming of Christ.

Another erroneous "Christian" tradition is that when a person "dies in the Lord," that is the coming of Christ. But, as we have read, there will be a messenger sent to prepare the way and there will be a people ready to receive him. "Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me and the Lord shall suddenly come to temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in, behold he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."

It is a common custom in Christendom to "spiritualize" and thus pervert the plain meaning of the word. But the predictions of the Prophecy which have been fulfilled have taken place just as they were ut-

tered. For instance, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son," was fulfilled literally. Jesus predicted that the temple should be destroyed, and it was; not "one stone was left upon another that was not thrown down"—a literal fulfillment.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of His first coming. He preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, at the same time pointing to Him who was to baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire. The predictions relating to the second advent will take place as literally as those relating to His first coming.

Now, suppose that in fulfillment of this prophecy a messenger should come in our day and announce that he was sent to prepare the way of the Lord, how many would receive him? Some there were who received John, but the great body of the people and priests rejected him and he was beheaded. Is it probable that the people of this century, even though they are called Christians, would receive a heaven-sent messenger? No, they scorn the idea of a man being a prophet in this enlightened gospel age. They point to their learned divines and popular preachers and say that prophets belonged to the dark ages; there is no need for prophets now, nor for angels nor for revelation. Yet, in this age of gospel blaze, of enlightened civilization, so-called Christian nations are so advanced that they pray to the same God, in the name of the same Jesus, that they may be successful in cutting each other's throats. And their religious ministers cannot come together and talk about doctrine for an hour without a wrangle. Their creeds are conflicting, their effect is confusion, and they have no unity of the faith except as it relates to the one doctrine, the need of belief in the blood of Christ. This is all owing to the great apostasy that has taken place and the false traditions that have been introduced. And it is through tradition and false teaching that the sayings of the prophets concerning the coming of Christ and the Kingdom of God have been perverted and misunderstood.

The time will come—I hope it will not be thought treason to say it—when a universal kingdom shall be established upon this earth, according to the predictions of the prophets. It is to be the Kingdom of Christ, and all nations will serve and obey Him. Daniel saw this kingdom in a vision, as the stone that fell upon the feet of the great image and broke it in pieces, and the wind carried its shattered fragments away, while the stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. God revealed to Daniel that it was a kingdom that should be established in the latter days and stand forever. "And the Kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the Saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him."

This is Scripture. If anybody is

to be indicted for it Daniel must be the culprit. I believe in this Word of God; I think we have still the right to believe, though how long that will remain I cannot say, and according to this prophecy—the kingdom will be set up and Jesus will come and He will rule and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our God and His Christ.

Now, as a servant of the Lord, I testify that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The things I have been reading will take place and the Lord will come to His temple, built for that purpose, just as sure as we are building a temple on this block. I do not say that this is the temple referred to by Malachi, but I do say that a temple will be built on which the glory of God will rest and to which the Lord will come. There will be a people ready to receive Him, no matter how suddenly He comes. Like the wise virgins, they will have their lamps trimmed and burning, and be ready when the Savior comes. I speak of His preparatory appearing before He comes to judgment, before He comes in the clouds of heaven in power and glory.

A messenger is to precede His coming to prepare the people by showing them what to do to receive Him. The Prophet Joseph Smith was that messenger. He was the forerunner who was sent to prepare the way for the second advent of Christ. It matters not that evil men are filled with wrath at the very mention of His name.

I bear my testimony before God and the angels and before men that Joseph Smith lived a prophet and died a prophet, and that he will come again at the second coming of Christ, a prophet of the Most High. John the Baptist, whose body was beheaded for the truth, but whose spirit continued to live, came and ordained Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to the Aaronic Priesthood, of which he held the keys, and Joseph received them and was commissioned to be the second forerunner of Christ. He also received another ordination under the hands of Peter, James and John. The authority thus conferred is still among us, and by its ministrations we are being enlightened and prepared for that great event—the second advent. This preparation consists in living by the principles of the true Gospel. We have been baptized and cleansed from our sins through the blood of Christ. We have received the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. Now, having repented of our sins, having been baptized and received the Holy Ghost, let us see that we continue in the good work. Let us mark how Jesus lived and acted, and pattern after his virtues, be humble and meek and yet firm and unwavering in the truth. If we will do this we will know how to prepare ourselves for the second advent of our Savior. We will be able to "stand when He appeareth."

Let the world revile, persecute, and misrepresent as they may. We know that the Gospel is true, and that there is nothing evil in it, and that