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## DISCOURSE

*Delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, May 20, 1894, by*

**PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON**

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR [WINTER.]]

We are a people who believe in revelation and that God speaks in our day as he did in ancient days. In our Book of Doctrine and Covenants there is a translation of a portion of the 24th chapter of Matthew, which I think may be interesting to read this afternoon. The Lord says:

For verily I say unto you that I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the light and the life of the world—a light that shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehendeth it not.

I came unto my own, and my own received me not; but unto as many as received me, gave I power to do many miracles, and to become the sons of God, and even unto them that believed on my name gave I power to obtain eternal life.

And even so I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard for my people and for the Gentiles to seek to it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me:

Wherefore, come ye unto it, and with him that cometh I will reason as with men in days of old, and I will show unto you my strong reasoning.

Wherefore, hearken ye together and let me show it unto you, even my wisdom—the wisdom of him whom ye say is the God of Enoch, and his brethren,

Who were separated from the earth, and were received unto myself—a city reserved until a day of righteousness shall come—a day which was sought for by all holy men, and they found it not because of wickedness and abominations;

And confessed they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth;

But obtained a promise that they should find it and see it in their flesh.

Wherefore, hearken and I will reason with you, and I will speak unto you and prophesy, as unto men in days of old;

And I will show it plainly as I showed it unto my disciples as I stood before them in the flesh, and spake unto them, saying, as ye have asked of me concerning the signs of my coming in the day when I shall come in my glory in the clouds of heaven, to fulfill the promises that I have made unto your fathers,

For as ye have looked upon the long absence of your spirits from your bodies to be a bondage, I will show unto you how the day of redemption shall come, and also the restoration of the scattered Israel.

And now ye behold this temple which is in Jerusalem, which ye call the house of God, and your enemies say that this house shall never fall.

But, verily, I say unto you, that desolation shall come upon this generation as a thief in the night, and this people shall be destroyed and scattered among all nations.

And this temple which ye now see shall be thrown down that there shall not be left one stone upon another.

And it shall come to pass, that this generation of Jews shall not pass away, until every desolation which I have told you concerning them shall come to pass.

Ye say that ye know that the end of the world cometh; ye say also that ye know that the heavens and the earth shall pass away;

And in this ye say truly, for so it is; but these things which I have told you shall not pass away until all shall be fulfilled.

And this I have told you concerning Jerusalem, and when that day shall come, shall a remnant be scattered among all nations;

But they shall be gathered again, but they shall remain until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth.

And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound;

And when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fullness of my gospel;

But they receive it not, for they perceive not the light and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men;

And in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled;

And there shall be men standing in that generation, that shall not pass, until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land;

But my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices, and curse God and die.

And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another.

And, now, when I the Lord had spoken these words unto my disciples, they were troubled;

And I said unto them, be not troubled, for when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled;

And when the light shall begin to break forth, it shall be with them like unto a parable which I will show you:

Ye look and behold the fig-trees, and ye see them with your eyes, and ye say when they begin to shoot forth, and their leaves are yet tender, that summer is now nigh at hand;

Even so it shall be in that day when they shall see all these things, then shall they know that the hour is nigh.

And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of man:

And they shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath.

There is a natural curiosity on the part of those who are not familiar with

the Latter-day Saints to know why they have gathered together as they have done in these mountains. The remark has been made perhaps thousands of times, "Why cannot you stay in your own lands and be Latter-day Saints, instead of leaving the places of your nativity and your kindred and old associations and going off to a distant place? Why cannot you worship God in New England, or in the Middle, or Southern States, or in Europe, without going to live with the Mormon people in the Rocky Mountains?" Visitors to this country wonder why it is that the Latter-day Saints should be so tenacious about living together as they appear to be. They wonder why they did not scatter, especially in the hard times, through which we have passed when we have been in poverty, and could have gone to some place not far distant and apparently done better temporally than we were doing here. This creates a feeling of wonder in the minds of those who are disposed to investigate. And perhaps Latter-day Saints themselves sometimes wonder why they gathered, why they could not have stayed where they were and probably done just as well or better than they have done by leaving their old homes and coming out to live with the Latter-day Saints.

There is a purpose in all this, and God revealed that purpose in an early day. Through the revelations that He gave to His Church and through the outpouring of His Holy Spirit He impressed upon the people the great importance of gathering together. Our first gathering place was in Kirtland, Ohio. From there we were compelled to move into Missouri. A settlement, however, had been made in Jackson county, Missouri, directly after the settlement in Kirtland. And from county to county in Missouri we moved until we were compelled to leave the state and go to Illinois. That feature of our religion, together with the union of the people, created fear. We were too united. It was a new feature to see a people as united as the Latter-day Saints were. On this account we were obnoxious. We came to these valleys and we are living here in a gathered condition. Wherever the Mormon people live, however remote, they have an intense desire to gather to the mountains to be with their co-religionists. In the remotest parts of the earth this spirit takes possession of them when they receive the Gospel. It is one of the most remarkable features of this age. It is something that should attract the attention of everybody that is fond of examining into the motives that prompt people to do strange or uncommon things. No matter where men and women receive the testimony of the Elders and become members of the