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## DISCOURSE

Delivered at the Salt Lake Stake Conference in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, June 7th, 1896, by  
**PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON**

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

It is exceedingly interesting to me, and I doubt not to this entire congregation, to hear President Woodruff's voice in testimony in our midst. I never hear him speak in public without feeling that I would like every little boy and every little girl, as well as the congregation, to be impressed with the fact that they had the opportunity of listening to the voice of a servant of God who has lived nearly ninety years. I think parents when they have their children at our public meetings where he is and where he addresses the people, should impress upon the minds of the children that they have the privilege of listening to a man of God, whom God has chosen to stand at the head of His Church, and whose life He has preserved through so many vicissitudes almost from the beginning of the Church until the present time—that is, as a member and as an officer in the Church. President Woodruff's testimony is valuable for many reasons; not on account of his age alone, but because he has participated in nearly all the scenes through which the Church has passed. He has seen the progress of the work, and has been active in spreading the truth and declaring the Gospel to the nations of the earth. He is the only living man today that I know of who received his endowments at the hands of the Prophet Joseph, and he is a living witness to many things that are disputed by apostates and others concerning the teachings of the Prophet Joseph and that which he did before his death in connection with bestowing upon the Twelve Apostles the authority to stand at the head of and carry on the work after he had gone. He is the only man living today who was an Apostle when the Saints entered this valley, and he is familiar with all the history of the Church since we came here. He was actively engaged with President Brigham Young when they came here as pioneers and helped him lay the foundation of this city, and has seen the growth, not only of the city, but of the entire state. I mention in this hasty manner some thing, which the children ought to remember that in years to come they may be able to relate to their children and to others that they heard the voice of a man who has been so singularly blessed and preserved of the Lord, and who has lived to such an advanced age in our midst.

We are living in a very remarkable time. We are living in a time when events are crowding themselves one after

another upon us with extreme rapidity. It seems sometimes as though the time that remains is but short, everything appears to be in such haste. Great events are taking place, and great changes are occurring, and a spirit of haste seems to rest down, not only upon us as a people, but upon the world. Does this betoken the near approach of the end? Or what are the reasons for these things that we witness? The discoveries that are made of a scientific nature are of a most wonderful character. The progress that is being made by mankind is almost supernatural. When we contemplate that which is being done, the discovery of new powers of nature, their application to human wants and to human progress, and that which is foreshadowed by the discoveries already made, we cannot fail to be impressed with these wonderful developments. We live in an age, it may be said, of miracles. Events and performances which are now of everyday occurrence, only a few years ago would have been deemed impossible. Electricity, with its wonderful powers, is effecting great revolutions, and the human mind cannot conceive of its future possibilities. It is admitted by all who have given thought to this subject that we stand as it were upon the threshold of the most stupendous discoveries and applications of force and power.

To us who see the hand of God in everything that takes place, who acknowledge His power, who give to Him the glory for every invention man brings to light, who look upon these great inventors, with their ingenuity and skill, as men moved upon and inspired by the Lord—I say to us who take this view, these things come with peculiar significance, and we can see in them that which God is doing preparatory to the winding up scene. Sixty-six years ago He revealed a system of theology by the direct ministration of angels, as well as by His own personal appearance, accompanied by His Son Jesus Christ, in this manner bearing witness that the earth and the inhabitants thereof were about to enter upon an extraordinary era. The very fact that the Father and the Son came from the mansions above to introduce this work attaches to it an importance that is without example, so far as we know, in the history of our race. It was an evidence of the truth that this is the great dispensation of the fulness of times—that this is the last time in which the Priesthood shall be bestowed and the power of God be manifested unto man, and that the Priesthood which was then bestowed had come to earth to stay, until all that had been predicted by the mouths of the holy prophets should be fulfilled. The more this system of theology is examined the more its perfection appears. No man can examine this system dis-

passionately, free from prejudice and with a disposition to receive that which is true, without being convinced that it is the most perfect, the most magnificent organization—so far as the organization itself is concerned—and the most scriptural and the most harmonious with all revealed truth that has come to man in the records of divine truth, that is to be found upon the face of the whole earth. No infidel ever examined into the doctrines believed in by the Latter-day Saints that has not been compelled to say that if the Scriptures were true then the Latter-day Saints had the Gospel, and that their system was the only one in Christendom which was in perfect harmony with the doctrines of the Bible.

Now, we are living in this age when these marvelous developments are taking place. Frequent allusion has been made from this stand to the extraordinary character of the work that has gone on through the nations in the gathering of the Latter-day Saints from the nations of the earth—one of the most marvelous occurrences that has ever happened, and one that ought to attract the attention of the whole world; one so significant that it should not be allowed to pass without serious examination, because it appeals to all humanity, and it has been a testimony to the different nations of the earth. England, with her millions of people, has heard the tidings now for over fifty years. Upwards of fifty-six years ago the emigration of the Latter-day Saints from Great Britain commenced. The newspapers of the kingdom have proclaimed to the inhabitants of the land that there was an extraordinary movement on foot—that yearly the converts to the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints were gathering by shiploads to a land that they called Zion, and the purpose of their gathering was to escape the judgments and the calamities which they testified the Lord was about to pour out upon the inhabitants of the earth. So it has been in Germany and Switzerland, in France, in Italy, in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Thousands of people have left there, and the cause of their leaving has been widely circulated and made known to the inhabitants of the land. In our own land this movement has been going on from the beginning.

It is nearly sixty-six years since the Latter-day Saints moved from the State of New York to Ohio. The object of their moving was to gather together and to escape the judgments that were coming upon the inhabitants of the land. From Canada it has been the same; from the Pacific Islands the same; in fact, from the remotest ends of the earth it has been the same, and the inhabitants of the earth have been warned to a great extent by this movement. Then the persecutions the people have endured, the manner in