

Temple fifty years ago in a vision, and when I got through that work, I felt that I had arrived at the end of my work in the flesh. The Lord gave me power and strength of lungs to fulfil my mission there, until we nearly got through. But one day I staid there some six hours and I heard all the speeches of the presidents of Stakes. I staid too long and that prostrated me, and I went down apparently to the gates of death. The Twelve and my family were there; and no one expected me to live. But what was the fact? There were many thousands of Latter-day Saints calling upon God to save my life; and that is the reason that I am here today. And I thank God that I am here, and that I enjoy good health, and feel much better than I did before I was sick. Now why has it been thus? I have had a mission to perform; and I feel as though I had got through that mission. But while I do live, I want to do what good I can.

Now I want to say to these societies and to these aged sisters, you, with myself, will pass from our missions, and go in our day and time behind the veil; and the children will follow us in the labors of mortality. Who is going to build up Zion when we pass away? Our young sons and daughters who are growing up here; in the midst of these societies is where instructions should be given them to prepare them and qualify them for this great work.

Here are your Relief Societies. The Prophet Joseph Smith organized them; and they have been a great help to the Church. They have had a great deal to do, and will continue to be helps to the Zion of God until Christ comes.

Now, brethren and sisters, that is about all I want to say to you this morning. May God bless you. I am glad to see you, and so many of you, on an occasion of this kind. Do not be discouraged in relation to anything pertaining to this work.

The labors of the sisters have been very heavy and onerous in many respects. They have been laying up wheat; and some men feel and say to themselves, "We have no famine." But then, I tell you, we will have famine; and the people of the earth will be visited with every affliction that the Lord has said should be poured out upon this generation. Not only famine, but sickness and storms and the flames of devouring fire, and cyclones and whirlwinds and the sea heaving itself beyond its bounds. And the world do not understand the cause of these things. The blood of the martyrs of all dispensations will be avenged upon the earth, and the messengers of God have been standing in the Temple in Heaven before the Lord crying to God saying, Let us go down and reap down the earth. These personages are messengers, and have a mission to perform on the earth. They are commanded to withhold their hands until the Saints of God are gathered in Zion, and stand in holy places; then may they go forth and perform their work.

Now, as an individual, I believe that some of these messengers have come to the earth and are fulfilling their missions, and the rest will come, until every calamity that we read of in the Revelations of St. John will be carried out, and all will be fulfilled in the earth.

And I am thankful that we have a place here in these valleys of the mountains, that God gave to the Prophet

Jacob; and we are here in fulfilment of this promise.

Let your hearts be comforted. This people never were so well off as they are now. Go to your houses, and you have plenty to eat; and you are certainly well dressed; and you are not called to pass through the sufferings and drivings that your fathers were. You ought to be thankful for all of these things.

I pray the Lord to bless us in our labors on the earth; and when we come to the resurrection, you and I and every other man and woman who behave themselves, will have the privilege to be organized with our fathers and mothers, our wives and our children in the family organization, to remain forever and forever. Which may God grant for Christ's sake. Amen.

Afternoon Session.

Now I have asked Sister Jane S. Richards a question—"what does she think I can do in addressing a congregation of this kind." If I were to talk hour after hour it would be a hard matter for me to answer my mind, and express my feelings concerning those before me. When I contemplate what has brought you to the position which you occupy today, and also what lies before you hereafter, both in this world and in the world to come, about all I can do is to look at you, shake hands with you and say a little about many things; but then these things do not answer my mind. In mortality I never expect to be able to answer my mind concerning eternal things. Perhaps I may in immortality, and begin to comprehend in eternity, things that we cannot fully understand here. Certainly, I am pleased to have the privilege of meeting with so many of my brethren and sisters, and I realize in a small measure, the position we occupy, the responsibilities we are under, and the blessings that the Lord has been pleased to bestow upon us.

When I look upon the Latter-day Saints in these mountains, I look upon men and women who are chosen out of the fourteen hundred millions of all who dwell in the flesh, to build up Zion, to preach the Gospel, to warn the world of judgments to come, to establish the Church of God, to carry out His work on the earth, while many hundreds of years have passed and gone since the days of Christ and His Apostles, without a prophet, without inspired men tabernacling in the flesh, who had power to preach the Gospel and minister in the ordinances of life and salvation to the inhabitants of the earth. These are truths that the world did not comprehend, until Joseph Smith, called of God and ordained of Him; to stand in the flesh and organize this Church and Kingdom on the earth. Since the days of the Apostles, who were put to death for the testimony of Jesus Christ, and ascended into heaven, until the days of Joseph Smith, the earth has been without the organization of the Church of Christ in its full organization.

Can you and I comprehend the whole truth of these things—that we have been chosen and raised up in these latter days to build up the Church and Kingdom of God upon the earth? That the spirits of Presidents Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, and others, have been kept in the spirit world for thousands of years to be born in the flesh in the last days, and stand in the flesh to establish His Church and build

up the Zion of God on the earth? Nevertheless these things are true. And while we look upon a large congregation of this people, yet our numbers are small compared with the numbers of the inhabitants of earth. But the Lord has set His hand to work a marvelous work and a wonder, in the eyes of all people, as declared in these sacred books, and prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man in power and great glory. We have been organized over sixty-three years. The Lord raised up a Prophet and organized His Church exactly as it was in the days of Christ and the Apostles, with Prophets, Apostles, Pastors, Teachers, Deacons, helps and governments, to prepare the way for the establishment of His Kingdom and the coming of Christ.

These things are all proclaimed in these sacred books by the Patriarchs and Prophets who were moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and their words are true, and we are fulfilling them today. Therefore, I say it is an impossibility for me or any man in the flesh to lay before the Latter-day Saints, the fullness of these great and glorious truths and blessings.

Over sixty-three years have passed away since God commenced to carry out the plan of salvation for the children of men upon the earth, in this dispensation. I think we do not realize the magnitude of this work. It is a hard matter for us to comprehend the responsibility that we are under to God, to the heavens, to the dead, as well as the living of our fellow men.

Now, when I look at these things, I also look at what there is before us. The organizations, which have been established in this Church from the beginning, are all helps and governments, and are associated together to carry out this great work. The eyes of the heavens are over us. The Son of God and all the Prophets and Patriarchs that have lived upon the earth are watching over this great work—this great organization preparing for the coming of the Son of Man.

Then what manner of men and women and children ought we to be in our time and generation? These things are of great importance, and of heavy weight for us to consider. I have said to our young men that if their eyes were opened to see and comprehend their work, their responsibilities and the numbers that are connected with them and looking to them, you could not get a boy to smoke a cigar, or a young man to enter a liquor saloon. But the enemy is in our midst, and seeks to lead astray the Latter-day Saints. There are no persons upon the earth that the evil spirits labor so hard with as with men bearing the *Holy Priesthood*—men, women and children under the covenant. These are the people whom they labor to destroy.

Even the Savior Himself was not free from contact with the powers of evil. He was tempted forty days of the devil. And when He went into the mountains to pray, Satan met Him there and urged Him to cast Himself down upon the rocks, and to make bread out of stones. The devil is working all the time to lead men from the work of God in which they are engaged.

Now, when I look at these things I rejoice in everything that tends to life and salvation. I rejoice in all the organizations that are in this Church to promote the principles of life and salvation.