

my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of these a great nation." Moses, however, did not want this, and finally the Lord's wrath was turned away. But they had to destroy thousands of the transgressors, and sanctify themselves before God, and repent of these things, before He would allow them to go on.

I could talk all afternoon about the importance and sacredness of that tabernacle and that ark, and the Lord accompanying it; but I must not stop there. I wanted to call your attention to it, to show you how sacred and important the tabernacle and its contents were esteemed. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph in a revelation given January 19, 1841, that He always commands His people to build a house unto His name. Joseph had only a small branch of Saints together in Kirtland when he was commanded to build a temple there. This the Saints accomplished in great poverty and sacrifice — consecrating all they had to that work, for the law of tithing was not yet revealed. The Prophet was shown its dimensions and directed the people how to build it. The Lord had not revealed at that time these greater commandments, ordinances and covenant obligations that we now have; He had taught them the washing of feet, and anointing of their head and sealing their blessings on each other with the laying on of hands.

When the brethren had made these sacrifices and built this house, which was dedicated 27th of March, 1838, one day Joseph and Oliver went into the temple and retired behind the veil which separated the pulpit from the congregation, and bowed down in prayer. As they rose up, there appeared the Savior standing on the breastwork of the pulpit, declaring that He was the Son of God, that He acknowledged and accepted the house and their offerings, and blessed them. Under His feet was paved work like amber, and His voice, when He spoke to them, was like the sound of many waters. When the Savior had departed, Moses next stood on the breastwork, and gave unto Joseph the keys of the gathering of the house of Israel. This was before anything was said about the gathering. No Elders had gone to England then, it being April 3rd, 1838. Then Elias appeared and gave unto him the keys of the preparatory (Gospel); and last of all came Elijah and gave to him the keys of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to their fathers.

Think what a glorious manifestation of heavenly powers and truths that was! If we never had another temple but that, these visions would stand for an abiding witness to this generation for eternal salvation or eternal condemnation, and go down to succeeding generations with like eternal import. But it was only about five years after that we were building another temple in Nauvoo, and the Lord there revealed things that have been kept hid from before the foundation of the world. Are we sensible of what the Lord is doing for us? In that temple He conferred upon a few hundred of the brethren and sisters ordinances which should give them power to resist the Evil One, triumph over the

great afflictions of that terrible exodus, and succeed in coming here, planting a Zion and establishing the Church of Christ in these mountains, of which, my brethren and sisters, you are the blessed fruits.

How abundant has the Lord blessed us in these things—beyond all measure of calculation! We can say, if we contemplate the thing in its true light, that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, and our hearts have not power to comprehend what is the length, the breadth, the height and the depth of the love of God in giving us these things. Then with this we have gone to work and built temples here, and the Saints are beginning to get the spirit of laboring for the dead. How blessed! My soul delights in it! I think of it with a great deal of pleasure, and I wish I could stir up some of the brethren and sisters that do not care so much about it, to feel more interested in it, because I know it would make them feel very happy. Our religion is not in the heavens altogether; it is right here with us. We ought to realize that the Lord is not far from us but He is with us continually. Just think of that tabernacle, built in the wilderness, carried day by day with all sacredness up into the land of Palestine; and while it was at Shiloh, a certain sister there was not blessed to have any children, and her name was Hannah. She was a good woman, the wife of Elkanah. His second wife had children, and Hannah felt sad and sorrowful to think that she could not be a mother, too, and have children to rise up in her old age and call her blessed. In the 1st chapter of 1 Samuel, you may read how she went to the tabernacle, or temple, to pray unto the Lord, and Eli, the priest, thought she was full of wine. He watched her lips and saw them move, but heard no voice. He therefore said unto her, "How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee."

She took all this taunting, but stuck to it until the Lord answered her prayers and gave to her a nice little boy. That pleased her amazingly; she nursed him a year then carried him to the temple and there consecrated him to the Lord, giving him to Eli, the priest, to train and teach, and to bring up in the ways of the Lord. She came once a year and brought clothing and such things as her motherly, loving heart had to bestow upon him; for she realized that God had heard her prayer. That boy became the mighty prophet in Israel, named Samuel. When he had been there awhile and got to understand things in the temple, one night the Lord spoke to him. Of course, he expected it was Eli, and he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here am I; for thou calledst me." But Eli said, "I called not; lie down again." He did so, but was called four times. The third time he heard the voice and went to Eli. This time Eli perceived that the Lord had called him; so he said unto Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be if he call thee, that thou shalt say, speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth." So he went back and lay down. Again he heard the voice. He then said, "Speak, for thy servant heareth." The Lord then gave him a wonderful message for Eli. Eli had

got wrong, because he let his boys break away from him, and they committed abominations in Israel, and the Lord told Samuel to go and tell Eli what should befall him and his house. Soon after, news came to him of the death of his sons, and that the ark of God was taken, and at hearing this Eli fell from off his seat backward and broke his neck. This prophet Samuel judged Israel many years and anointed Saul and David to be kings over that people. He was the man that brought the word of the Lord and told of the lifting up of nations and the breaking down of them; and his testimonies have come down through the centuries to us, that we can read of his origin, of his being brought up in the holy place, and of his great ministry in the land of Judea. This is the blessing that came to a sister; a lesson to you sisters of the Relief Society and Mutual Improvement Association. People say sometimes, "Why, it is only a woman." Eli thought so in relation to Hannah. He watched her lips to see what she would say while in her earnestness she was beseeching the Lord from her spirit, and he told her to go away till she got sober.

The temples that are built for us in these latter days are the places that the Saints ought to resort to, not only to get married, but also to seek the Lord. By the way, I want to say to the praise of the people here, that it is a great blessing that your young people are getting married at proper age and in the temple as they should do. Keep this up, and encourage this spirit. When you marry those with whom you are acquainted, you feel safe and can trust yourselves with each other for time and for eternity. It is a joyful thing, of lasting blessing and reward. You parents and officers in the Church, cultivate this, and keep it so. There are places where the brethren and sisters are no doing this. They become perverse in their ways, and they do not like the ways of the Lord. They love to get after pleasure, and after fashion, and after society, until they do not know themselves hardly from the Gentiles, only that they live among the Saints. But it is a blessing to you that you are going on carefully and prudently in this matter. Teach your daughters how to become mothers as they should do, and teach your sons how to become husbands and fathers in the godly sense of the term. This is the great ordinance of life which they go to the temple to partake of; and their offspring will tell it, and it will be known among the nations. It will be an honor to say that this one, and that one, was born in Zion, and in the Morgan Stake of Zion. Let me say to the young men, as you grow up to manhood and come to a proper age, it is right in the sight of God that you should seek after a partner that is fitting and worthy for you to go with to the house of the Lord and start out in the ways of life. This ought to be done before you get too old. In one of the nations of the Gentiles a man who was past 25 years of age and unmarried was looked upon with suspicion and as a dangerous character in society. If all the brethren and sisters could take so wise a view of the matter as you seem to have done here, it would be a benefit and a blessing.