

has promised them unto you and all who will obey His Gospel in sincerity and singleness of purpose; and when you receive these gifts you can be strengthened, sustained, and upheld, because you will have the living testimony within you that you have done that which God has required at your hands. He has placed His seal of acceptance upon you, and upon your acts, by bestowing upon you these gifts and heavenly blessings. This is the testimony which everyone should receive and cherish, and without these things there would be no Church of Christ upon the earth. My brethren and sisters, these are important truths to us.

We are living in the last days. There is every indication that the words of the Lord are being fulfilled concerning judgments and calamities, wars and destructions. These things must come, and they will not be poured out without cause. God never punishes a people without first sending some message of warning to them. He never did in ancient days. Even Nineveh, guilty as it was, had the Prophet Jonah sent to it to warn the inhabitants of their wickedness and exhort them to turn to God, and through their humiliation and repentance, humbling themselves before Him, clothing themselves, and even their animals, with sackcloth, and by sitting in ashes, the Lord averted the destruction He had threatened, and they escaped for that time. He has sent His messengers now to the nations of the earth; they have been going about for nearly sixty years proclaiming the near approach of the day of the Lord. That day is coming and the judgments will be poured out. But will they be poured out without cause? No, they will not. It is because men reject God; it is because they will not accept the salvation that He proffers to them; it is because they will harden their hearts and reject the testimonies they might receive—it is on this account that these calamities will come. Yet when they do come those who witness them will not perceive in them the hand of God, and they will ask for signs. This was the characteristic of the generation in which the Savior lived. They wanted a sign. Although He was going among the people performing great and mighty works, they asked him for a sign; and when He hung upon the cross, in almost immortal agony, they said, "If Thou be the Son of God save Thyself, come down from the cross." They mocked at Him, and said, "He has saved others; Himself He cannot save." They derided the King of Glory, they derided the God of heaven because He would not do some mighty work in their sight in order to convince them that He was the Being whom He professed to be.

So it is always. Men ask for signs, and yet there are the greatest signs taking place at the present time. If they would but open their eyes to see and their hearts to understand they might perceive that the words of the Prophets are being fulfilled. To my mind there

is a most stupendous miracle being wrought out in the gathering together of this people from the nations of the earth. The concentration of the Latter-day Saints in these mountains is without a parallel in sacred history; there is nothing comparable with it in profane history. It is true, Moses gathered out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt and led them to the land of Canaan; but they inherited a tradition from their fathers, the promise which had been made to Abraham and also to the other patriarchs, Jacob and Joseph, that God would visit them at some time; and Joseph commanded them to carry his body with them when they should leave the land of Egypt; for, said he, the time would come when God would visit them and lead them out to the land which had been promised to their great ancestor, Abraham. Moses did this with mighty power; but this was one nation which had inherited traditions of this character for a long period of time, and they knew by these that the day would come when they would be visited.

How is it in our day? Here are gathered together people from nearly all the nations of the earth. I have myself stood on the decks at Liverpool and seen as many as eleven different nationalities, speaking eleven different languages, embarking on one vessel to come to Zion. If a man could understand every word they said he would have heard them singing in their own tongues praises to God, and saying they were going up to Zion in fulfilment of the words of Isaiah and Micah.

These Prophets plainly predicted that there should be such a gathering in the last days, that the people should go to the tops of the mountains to be taught in the ways of the Lord and to walk in His paths, and that they should come from all nations. These prophecies and predictions are being plainly fulfilled in the eyes of nations in a most miraculous manner, if men would open their eyes to see. Where has anything ever occurred in the history of our race like it? Nowhere, and it has no parallel.

Yet this is done by the preaching of the Word of God, by the declaring of the Gospel, by the message of salvation sent to these people. They hear it in their own lands, and their hearts are quickened and filled with joy by the testimony of the servants of God. Though they may never have dreamed of forsaking their native land previous to hearing the Gospel, yet after receiving it a desire sprang up in their hearts to gather with the Saints of God. The love they had before entertained for their ancestral homes and for the graves of their people, that love which had formerly been so strong in them and bound them by ties which could not be easily broken, began to be replaced by a stronger affection—an intense desire to gather with the Saints of God, to go to a strange land and live with a strange people of whom they knew nothing

until they heard of them from the Elders. Then they had the testimony of the Spirit of God in their hearts. From the various states of the United States, from Canada, from the islands of the sea, from the various continents have the people come in this manner, traveling in various ways, for the purpose of being taught in the ways of the Lord, as the Prophet said they would in the last days.

To me this is a most stupendous work; it is a great miracle; for I see nothing like it among the children of men; I read of nothing having taken place like it. Then when I witness the grand results and see these people from the different nations—with their various habits and forms of education—coming here as they have done and dwelling together in love and unity, I say it is most wonderful. What power could have accomplished this but that of God the Eternal Father? What is there to bind people together as this people are bound? What is it that makes this people so united and so full of love for each other? You may ask them in every settlement and every ward throughout these mountains where their affections are, and they will tell you they are bound to the Saints of God. They may have friends elsewhere—fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters—to whom they were formerly attached by the dearest ties; but since embracing the Gospel, their love has been with their fellow-believers, and they have been drawn to them by a strength of love which they had never felt before and could not explain, except that it was the love of God which had come into their hearts.

This has taken place in the eyes of all the world, and yet people say this is delusion—that the men who accomplish it are knaves and trying to deceive them. Then if it is by the strength of "delusion" that all this is done, how wonderful a work does this "delusion" accomplish.

If this is delusion, where is the truth? Where are the true servants of God if this be delusion? Where are the works which correspond with truth if this be delusion?

How is it that the Maories in New Zealand, the natives of the Sandwich Islands, and of the Navigator Islands are "deluded" as these other people are, that they also have a desire in their hearts to leave the land of their nativity and come and mingle with the Saints of God in these mountains?

I remember, in the Sandwich Islands, how attached the natives were to the soil on which they were born; they loved it; there was no other place in their affections like their one *hanau* and the genial climate, the food to which they were accustomed and the feeling which they had, almost that of disgust, for our forms of living and of food. But all these feelings disappeared under the influence of the Gospel, and they yearn with an unconquerable and unquenchable desire to come and join the Latter-day Saints in these mountains.