

ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN?

The darkness falls, the wind is high,
Dense black clouds fill the western sky,
The storm will soon begin;
The thunders roar, the lightnings flash,
I hear the great round rain drops dash—
Are all the children in?

They're coming softly to my side;
Their forms within my arms they hide—
No other arms are sure;
The storm may rage with fury wild,
With trusting faith each little child,
With mother feels secure.

But future days are drawing near—
They'll go from this warm shelter here,
Out in the world's wild din;
The rain will fall, the fierce winds blow,
I'll sit alone and long to know,
Are all the children in?

Will they have shelter then secure,
Where hearts are waiting strong and sure,
And love is true when tried?
Or, will they find a broken reed,
When strength of heart they so much need
To help them brave the tide?

He knows it all; His will is best,
To shield them now, and yield them rest,
In His most righteous hand;
Sometimes sorrows he loves are given
By tempests wild, and thus are driven
Nearer the better land.

If He should call us on before
The children go, on that blessed shore,
Afar from care and sin;
I know that I shall watch and wait
Till He, the Keeper of the Gate,
Let all the children in.

DISCOURSE

BY

PRES. WILFORD WOODRUFF

Delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt
Lake City, Sunday Afternoon,
Oct. 31st, 1880.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE.

I will read a few verses of the xiv. chapter of the Revelations of St. John. [The speaker then read the first eight verses]. I have not read these verses (continued the speaker) because I expect to confine my remarks to them alone. I very seldom take a text to preach from; but I will say this, that the Bible is full of prophecy and revelation which belong to our day and generation. There is not a prophet nor an apostle from Father Adam down to our day that I have any knowledge of who has left any testimony or prophecy which has reached us in our generation but what has had his mind opened concerning the last dispensation of the fulness of times. These prophecies and revelations are contained in the Scriptures, but as the Apostle Paul has said, "No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old times by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." And the prophets and apostles who have spoken concerning the work of God on the earth, what they have spoken is true: they have said what they meant and meant what they said, and it requires no prophet, apostle, preacher or any body else to tell us what God meant. We have the plain reading of the word of the Lord. The Bible is full of revelations concerning the last dispensation. Here is the prophecy of Daniel, which every school boy that has ever read the Bible should be acquainted with and know what is said concerning the latter-days in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. It is a singular thing that so great an event as the establishment of the kingdom of God in the last days, the great and last kingdom which the God of heaven should set up in the earth, should have been presented as it were in a dream. King Nebuchadnezzar no doubt had many dreams, but the dream which Daniel interpreted, as recorded in the 2nd chapter of the Book of Daniel, gives us plainly to understand that the God of heaven would set up a kingdom in the last days: of course, you have all read about this matter; you have read about the great image representing the various kingdoms from the days of Nebuchadnezzar down to the coming of Jesus Christ, and in this representation it goes on to show that "a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet, and brake them to pieces." * * * And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in

pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and a great many other prophets also referred to the great kingdom of God in the last days.

It has been, in the providence of God, your lot or calling to stand in the flesh on the earth in the day and generation when the God of heaven has set up this kingdom to be thrown down no more forever. Formerly the Church of God was destroyed from off the face of the earth. John, the Revelator, was banished to the Isle of Patmos for the word of God and testimony of Jesus; and I will here remark that there is no subject that God has ever revealed to man, there is no subject the human family have been engaged in no matter what name or nature, religious, political, civil or ecclesiastical—that has been so unpopular as the religion of Jesus Christ. There is nothing will stir up the hosts of hell, and all the inhabitants of the earth who yield to these fallen spirits—there is nothing that will stir up antagonism, warfare, and hatred in the hearts of the children of men quicker than to have a man raised up of God to go forth and declare the gospel of Jesus Christ. You may trace the history of the whole world; and you cannot refer me to any prophet or apostle who was ever popular with the inhabitants of the earth ever since Cain slew Abel—ever since the Devil had any power with the children of men.

John, the Revelator, while upon the Isle of Patmos had his mind opened to the winding up scenes of the last days. He saw the great judgments of our God following each other in succession, the pouring out of the plagues and pestilences before the second coming of the Son of Man. John revealed what was to come to pass in the latter days. He saw an hundred and forty-four thousand men—twelve thousand out of each tribe of Israel—men bearing the holy priesthood who were chosen of God, and who followed the Lamb whithersoever he went; and following this he says: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea and the fountains of water. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen," etc.

Now, in the whole history of God's dealings with the human family he has never brought any general judgment upon cities or nations but what he has always raised up a prophet, or an apostle, or some man to warn the inhabitants of these cities or nations of the nature of the judgments that awaited them. This has been the case in all ages of the world; and in the days of the Apostle Paul, when the gospel was first brought to the Jews, he argued with the Gentiles upon this subject. "Because of unbelief, the Jews had been broken off; they had lost the spirit of God, they had done a great many things that were sinful; and when Christ came they looked for him to come in kingly power and glory—as a military commander, to deliver them from the hands of the Gentiles. Instead of that, he was born in a stable and cradled in a manger. Now the Jews were not looking for that class of person at all, and they were the worst enemies he had, and finally put him to death. His ministry lasted only some three and a half years, but during that time he established his church, called and ordained his apostles, prophets, pastors, helps, etc. After the death of Christ, the Apostle Paul went to the Gentiles and offered them the gospel, but the majority of the people gave no heed to his testimony. They united with the Jews to persecute the Saints of God as long as there was a man left on the earth that held the priesthood or that had any power or authority to administer the ordinances of the house of God. Hence, after the church was driven off the face of the earth it was necessary in the last days for the God of Israel to send an angel flying through the midst of heaven "having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people." It has therefore fallen to our lot to live in the day and generation in which the God of heaven has set his hand to fulfil this great and important prophecy and revelation. The Lord sent the angel here spoken of to Joseph Smith, a young man in

his teens, and that angel instructed him from time to time. He had, however, the ministration of more than one angel; he had the ministration of a number of heavenly messengers, and they instructed him until he was qualified and prepared to lay the foundation of this great church and kingdom, over 50 years ago. The history of the organization of this church is before you. It is unnecessary for me to repeat it at the present time. The church and kingdom of God had again to be restored to fulfil the revelation of St. John. The angels of God have again delivered the gospel, the only gospel that God ever revealed to the human family in any age of the world for the salvation of the children of men. As the Apostle Paul said, "though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Paul taught the same gospel that Adam taught, that Moses taught, that all the prophets taught, and that Jesus taught. And this gospel, revealed to Joseph Smith, has been preached to all the world in the last 50 years, as far as we have had time and opportunity to declare it to the children of men. Joseph Smith was an illiterate man, as far as human knowledge is concerned, but in his illiteracy he was raised up and sustained by the hand of God, in spite of all the opposition of the Christian world, until he accomplished the work for which he was called and ordained. He lived until he received, under the hands of the ancient prophets and apostles, every key belonging to every age and dispensation of God to man, and when he had finished his work and sealed these keys upon the heads of his brethren, he was then martyred, along with his brother, Hyrum, in Carthage jail. But, as I have said, Joseph Smith, accomplished all that the God of Israel ordained that he should accomplish, for which he was kept in the spirit world for 6,000 years, to come forth in the flesh in this generation. He holds the keys of the kingdom of God on both sides of the veil, and will hold them throughout the endless ages of eternity, appertaining to this dispensation.

The church and kingdom of God has again been organized on the earth. The elders have gone forth to proclaim the gospel to the nations of the earth, sojourning without purse and without scrip. And what are the doctrines they teach? Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance of our sins, baptism for the remission of sins, and laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. What has been the result of this preaching? Hundreds and thousands have embraced the truth. The elders of Israel, chosen from the various occupations of life, have gone forth bearing precious seed, and they have cried long and loud upon the inhabitants of the earth to repent of their sins, to go forth and be baptized, and they would receive the Holy Ghost. Is there another set of men on the footstool of God to-day that dare go forth and make this proclamation to the world? Not one. Had we been deceived, had this work not been of God, what would Utah have been to-day? Utah would to-day have been as barren as it was on the 24th of July, 1847, when we came here. But we went forth bearing the gospel of the Son of God, and our testimony was sustained by the testimony of the Holy Ghost. Tens of thousands have been baptized, and thus, through obedience to the ordinances of the gospel, have received a knowledge of the truth of this work for themselves.

This work has gone on from county to state and from state to nation. But the spirit of persecution is abroad, and it will spread until the world more or less will be arrayed against this church and kingdom as far as they have power. Yet I will say to the Latter-day Saints, and I would say it to the whole world if I had the opportunity—that this spirit of persecution and hatred is one of the greatest evidences you can have of this being the work of God. The whole world more or less hate you. Why? They say to-day that it is because of polygamy. Ah, but stop a moment. Long before polygamy was ever revealed to us, and long before the world knew anything about it, we had the worst persecution we have ever had. We were driven from one place to another, our prophets were murdered, and the general cry then was, "Why, you believe in revelation; you believe in prophets and apostles; you believe in dreams and visions, etc." They wanted us to do away with our religion; but we had too

much knowledge of, and faith in, God to do anything of the kind. Hence, our persecution then was not because of polygamy. What does the world care about polygamy? What does our own government care about it? It is only a handle by which to persecute the Saints of God.

Yet, notwithstanding all this opposition, the work of God is progressing. The Latter-day Saints are being prospered. Why have you power to build these tabernacles? Why have you power to build the temples you are building to-day? Why have you prophets and apostles still in the flesh? It is because the God of Israel has declared that in the latter days he shall "set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people." That is the key to the whole. The God of heaven has set his hand to establish a kingdom. He watches over it. He holds the destinies of the Latter-day Saints in his hands. He also holds the destinies of all the nations under the sun in his hands. This is the great dispensation which the God of heaven decreed before the world was made should be ushered in for the gathering together of his people that they might prepare for the coming of the Son of Man.

When I speak to the Latter-day Saints in regard to these things I speak to a people who believe what I say. They know these principles are true. But "straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Very few men or women have got independence enough to come out and maintain these principles before the world. The tendency is rather to seek for riches, and to seek for the honors of men. But it requires a man to have faith in God and in the revelations of God to bear the testimony of Jesus. It requires sacrifice, it requires men who will humble themselves before the Lord.

What is the condition of Christendom to-day? It is a generation of unbelief. Neither priest nor people believe in revelation. They say such things have been done away with generations ago. We hear some men say that they do not want temporal matters mixed up with that which is spiritual. But the God of Israel will show this generation, Jew and Gentile, high and low, rich and poor, that he controls the affairs of the children of men and will govern them whether men wish it or not.

This is the condition of affairs to-day. The Latter-day Saints have power because the God of heaven has ordained it. He will break every weapon that is formed against Zion, and every tongue that shall rise against her shall be condemned. You are chosen from out of twelve hundred millions of people, a little handful of men and women from all nations. You have been gathered here by the gospel of Christ. You have the Bible, Book of Mormon and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and you know the different glories which are set forth by the prophet of God, by the revelations of Jesus Christ to the human family. You occupy a position in which you are commanded to keep the celestial law of God in order that you may obtain the blessings pertaining to that law. I pray God my heavenly Father that we may obtain these blessings, but in order to obtain them we certainly have got to keep the commandments of God. If we attempt to get into the kingdom of heaven any other way than by keeping the celestial law we will miss it.

I felt in my heart to rejoice this morning at the congregation of so many children—some eight or ten thousand—young men and young women, born here in the valleys of the mountains—in this tabernacle. When I think of the destiny of these young people, as well as the destiny of their parents, I feel to say that of all people under the whole heavens we are the most blessed. But in order to obtain these blessings we have got to prepare ourselves, to go onward, and keep the commandments of God. The world has got far away from the Lord. The Christian world to-day—our own nation, the nations of the earth, Jew and Gentile, and I may say almost all men—have departed so far from the Lord that it is a strange thing for them to hear a people talk about receiving revelation. That is the difference between us and the world. And I will say to my brethren and sisters—we are too far from the Lord ourselves. If we will draw near to the Lord he will draw near to us, and when we have the Spirit

of God upon us we can go forth and accomplish what is required of us. The Lord is looking to us to perform this great work—the greatest work that was ever performed in any age of the world. We have got to preach the gospel to all nations under heaven; we have got to gather together the honest in heart; we have got to build these temples that we may redeem the living and the dead. You and I, brethren and sisters, are not going to stay here a great many years. We are living in the generation when the signs indicate the coming of the Son of Man. In the revelations given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ in the Doctrine and Covenants, he says, "I am at the door. Behold I come quickly."

We have this work to perform. The eyes of all the heavenly hosts are over us. Every prophet and apostle that ever breathed the breath of life is watching over the Latter-day Saints.

And now, before I close, I want to say that I don't want to see my brethren and sisters apostatize from the gospel of Christ; there is no money in it, no glory in it, no good in it. You will be sorry if you turn away from the revelations and commandments which God has given you; and I want to say to our young people, as I said in this place this morning, if you have any respect for yourselves keep out of these beer saloons, grog-shops, and other miserable hell-holes, introduced by what is called civilization (?) in Salt Lake City. Those of our young men who smoke and drink and mingle with the drunkard very soon go down to the grave. They miss a crown of glory; they dishonor their parents and themselves. I have an anxiety about our boys and girls, that they may walk upright before the Lord; for whether you believe it or not, the Lord has preserved you and preserved this people; you have been kept in the spirit world for 6,000 years, and been born here in the land of Zion to assist in building up this kingdom. Let us try then to live our religion, to keep the faith, and to do our duty. Let us draw near unto the Lord, that we may obtain the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in all things. Let us not miss the glory for which we have started out. Many men have fallen away from the truth through various causes. Many have fallen through the love of wine and women. Others who received the Holy Priesthood have been lost and destroyed because they made use of the priesthood of the Son of God to build up themselves, or to build up something else than the kingdom of God. The priesthood must be used for the purpose for which it is intended. Any man who undertakes to use it otherwise, amen to the power of the priesthood of that man, whether he be an apostle, seventy, high priest, elder—it makes no difference what office he may hold. The priesthood is an important trust, and unless we make right use of it, we are liable to slip and do things that are wrong. I would rather not live another hour than live long enough to lose the Spirit of God, or my interest in the gospel and the saints of God. No man can comprehend such a loss until he meets with it. Then let us be faithful to our God. Let us do our duty while we live upon the earth. What is gold and silver and the honors of this world compared with eternal life? As I have said before, this is not our home. We are going to pass away the same as scores of others who helped lay the foundation of this church and kingdom. They are in the spirit world where many of us will go in a short time. Then all the gold of California, all the wealth of the world will be no use. We cannot take it with us. We brought neither gold nor silver, nor horses, nor carriages, when we were born. We came naked into the world and we shall go out the same.

I desire the brethren and sisters to contemplate upon these things; that you may keep the faith, honor God, and finally inherit eternal life, which is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHRISTMAS SCENES IN MEXICO.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK P. M., CHRISTMAS EVE, 1880.

"The great Cathedral of Mexico was begun in 1573, by order of Philip II, and was finished in 1667. It is of the Doric order and cost about \$2,000,000. The principal facade has three entrance doors and is flanked by two square towers. At the base