PART 2 DESERET EVENING NEWS. 9 TO 12

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1894. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

REVELATION AND JUDGMENT.

Remarks at the Weber Stake Conference, Ogden, Sunday, July 15, 1894, by

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF.

[REPORTED BY DESERET NEWS.]

I had very refreshed to get away from home once in a while and mingle with the people, and listen to the teachings, revelations and prophecies of the prophets, apostles, seers and revelators among the Latter-day Saints. I am glad to meet with the Saints today in Ogden.

I have a good many things upon my mind that I do not expect I shall express here this afternoon; but a few things I want to say.

The subject of revelation is frequently referred to. We occupy a position before God, angels and men, and at least the world, that is very interesting and important. God never gave to man a dispensation of more importance than the one you and I live in, and to suppose that this Zion of God, this great work of preparing the way for the final triumph of the Son of God and the establishment of His throne and kingdom on earth could pass through a generation without revelation is one of the most mysterious things on the face of the earth. God never had a people or a Church in any age of the world that was not governed by men who held the Holy Priesthood and the keys of the kingdom of God, and those men were obliged to have revelation. We have the records containing some of their revelations before us.

With regard to this dispensation I want to give you some of my views. In the first place, the dispensation was ushered out and proclaimed through the mouth of almost every prophet that has ever dwelt in the flesh. These prophets pointed to this Zion, to this work, to this gathering together, and to the warning of the world by prophets, apostles and elders, called of God to go out and proclaim the Gospel and warn the nations, that they might be left without excuse in the days of God's visitation of judgment upon the world. There is no Elder who has gone out to preach and who has baptized anybody but knows that he has had to have revelation to enable him to magnify his calling. He could not live without this and do his duty. In the commencement of this work the Lord raised up a man to be a prophet, seer and revelator. Joseph Smith was kept in the spirit world for thousands of years to be born in the flesh at the right time, and to be inspired of God, to be visited by Him, and to be qualified and prepared for the mission given into his hands. How long did Joseph Smith live in the flesh after he organized this Church? A little over fourteen years. What did he do during that time? He organized the Church of God, upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the chief corner stone. He also gave unto us a code of revelations. No more sublime revelations were ever given by God to man. Read the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and all the books on earth, and then read these revelations, and you will see the Spirit of God, not only in him, but in the dispensation in which these revelations were given. He gave us a foundation to work upon, and revelations to guide us and carry us into the celestial kingdom of God. The question now be asked, How is it with regard to those that followed him? Where are the revelations of President Young? Do you find them on record? Only a few; but the Holy Ghost and the revelations of God were with Brigham Young from the day that he received the Gospel until the day that he laid down his life and his tabernacle was carried to the grave. There was no necessity particularly for Brigham Young to give written revelations, only in a few incidents, as he with John Taylor, and Wilford Woodruff. And so in a great measure probably with all who may follow us, until the coming of the Son of man. But are we without revelation? We are not. We have our duty, and it is a treasure we know what we believe so. Some of the people have had the idea that the Presidency of this Church and the Twelve Apostles should have nothing to do with temporal matters. Well, we would be in a bad fix if we did not feel in temporal matters. Joseph Smith stood at the head of this dispensation of the days he dwelt in the flesh, so did Brigham Young. He resided with Brigham Young at home and abroad, and I never saw a day in my life but what he had the spirit and power of revelation of God with him. The power was with him when he came to this land. It was with him when he laid the foundations of our temples, and when he laid out the city of Salt Lake. He did all these things by the inspiration and Spirit of Almighty God.

The Lord requires a great deal of this people. The Elders of Israel were called from the various occupations of life to go and preach the Gospel. They preached the same in their native lands. They told you, in the name of the Lord, if you would receive the Gospel, repent of your sins, and be baptized for the remission of them, you should receive the Holy Ghost. Did you not receive it? You not all, but a great many have received it here. You would not be here if you had not been inspired by the Spirit of God. These are truths, and you know them for yourselves. The sons of the Gospel have been manifest from the beginning of this Church, and will be until the second is waited for.

I see a curious thing here today as I came to meeting. I saw a military camp at the depot. It brought a flood of revelation to my mind. I traveled with Joseph Smith, sixty years ago this summer, one thousand miles, to Jackson County, Missouri, our brethren having been driven for a military body from their homes. We went up there and consolidated all we were sent to do. We have had military gatherings in this land, for the last sixty years. We had quite a military display in Jackson County. We had a military gathering in Clay County. We had a military gathering in Ray County, and in Caldwell County. What were all those military gatherings for? Was their object to protect the rulers of the nation? Not at all. What was their purpose? It was to drive the Latter-day Saints, to destroy them, to take their property, and root them out of the earth if they had the power; and except for the power of God they would have accomplished it. I was singularly struck in looking at this military body. What are they here for? Are they here to drive the "Mormons" out of Ogden? Is there any thought of that? I think it is to protect the property of these saints. What does all this mean? Does it not mean that there is a change of affairs in the world? What are the signs of the times? In the Latter-day Saints commenced there? This is a Saint city. The Lord is going to cut His work short in righteousness. Read those revelations, as they contain the history of what is going to pass in the earth. The Lord said to Joseph in the beginning of this Church:

"Behold, verily I say unto you, the judgments are sitting upon your land; and they shall come suddenly and swiftly, and who can abide the day of my coming? And who can stand when he appeareth? For behold, the Lord hath spoken it; obey the voice of the living God, lest you perish in your sins; yea, lest you perish in the day of visitation and wrath, upon the wicked, like unto Sodom and Gomorrah, whose end you have seen, for their destruction was sealed upon them."

Revelations of the nature and the same power rested with the Saints in the days of Joseph. Did you receive the Holy Ghost? Did you receive the Gospel, repent of your sins, and be baptized for the remission of them, you should receive the Holy Ghost. Did you not receive it? You not all, but a great many have received it here. You would not be here if you had not been inspired by the Spirit of God. These are truths, and you know them for yourselves. The sons of the Gospel have been manifest from the beginning of this Church, and will be until the second is waited for.

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