

of the human family, and He rewarded them for their services. It was so in the days of the Apostles. The Savior promised them great blessings. On one occasion he said: "Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." What a great blessing this was! What dignity! And He not only promised to them these blessings, but He sealed them upon them. We are also told that the Saints of God are to be kings and priests unto the Most High God.

God gave His ancient servants extraordinary marks of favor. He called Abraham His friend, and made great promises to him and his posterity. He told him that in his seed all the nations of the earth should be blessed. He repeated this promise to Isaac and to Jacob, and their descendants received the fulfillment of it. He gave to Abraham a promise that he should have the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession, and that his posterity should inhabit that land. And through the faithfulness of those men their posterity today are marked because of the miraculous care that God has had over them, in preserving them amid the vicissitudes that have befallen the human family, and keeping them as a distinct people, in many respects, up to the present time. I refer now to the Jews. There are also other branches of the House of Israel that have been in like manner preserved, and will be preserved, through the promises which were made to their fathers. There was some use in serving God in those days. There were blessings promised that were very great, and that encouraged the men who served Him to endure all things, even death itself; for they had the promise that they should become kings and have dominion and rule, and their posterity should be blessed in the earth, and they should have great rewards in eternity. These were incentives for them to keep the commandments of God. Where are any people who receive such promises now? Outside of the Latter-day Saints, there are none to be found on the face of the earth. Why is this? Is it because God is dead? Is it because He is not the same today that He always was? Is it because He has become a respecter of persons, and in one generation He will bestow great blessings upon His servants and in another generation will withhold them? No, it is not for any of these reasons. It is because the inhabitants of the earth have not lived up to His commandments and they have not exercised the faith that the ancients had in order to receive these blessings. Can you not all perceive what a difference there is in the world today, outside of our Church, from that which existed in ancient times when men served God and kept His commandments? The Bible is full of promises to them. They were favored individuals, favored families, favored races and favored nations, because they kept the commandments of God. There is certainly something wrong in this condition that exists now in the world. Either God has changed, or else He has died, or gone to sleep, or else the inhabitants of the earth do not

live so as to receive His blessings. I prefer to believe that God lives, that He has not gone on a journey, and that He has not gone to sleep. I prefer to believe that the failure to receive these great blessings and promises is due to men.

Now, God has restored the Gospel, through which these blessings are to be received. How shall they be received; and where shall they be received? Why, God has commanded us to build temples, and we have had the same anxiety in relation to building temples that the children of Israel had in the days of David and of Solomon; and we have built temples and have received blessings in them. We have received promises, endowments and keys by which we can go to God as the ancients did, exercise faith before Him, and obtain the promises that they received. It is for this purpose that temples have been built. I said to you the other day that this is the only people on the earth that I knew anything of where every reputable male member of the Church held some portion of the Priesthood and where every man, as fast as he was prepared, received the Melchisedek Priesthood and the power and authority connected therewith. Why is it that God has distributed this power among this people? It is for the purpose of raising them up and making them a holy nation—a nation of kings and of priests. Not three men standing between God and the people. Not twelve men sitting on a platform and being the oracles to the people without the people having the chance to know whether they are the servants of God or not. Not seventy men, nor any number of men. No caste, no distinction, no classing of the people in that way; but every one that behaves himself and serves God, receiving the same as all the rest. Where is there anything on the earth like it? You cannot find it among men. It is the beginning of that great power that will overshadow the earth, and that will lift every man near to his God. No man need be afraid, for he will get all that he can bear. It ought to make us rejoice from the bottom of our hearts that in this respect we are so blessed. Other churches have their preachers, and they are divided into classes. The preachers are lifted up. They explain the word of God to the people, and the people sit and listen. Do they tell them that it is their privilege to know for themselves? No, they do not, because it has become a profession to preach the Gospel for money and to divine for hire. Men are educated in colleges and in universities to give them these distinctions and to lift them above their fellows. That is not God's way, and that is not His design connected with this people. He intends to make us a great and mighty people, and He wants to get us to realize—and the servants of God are striving to that end as fast as they can—our own importance and our own privileges. The First Presidency and the Twelve do not want the people to think that everything depends upon them. They are trying to infuse into the hearts of all the men and women of this Church the dignity of their calling and the closeness of their relationship to God, and to have them feel that they are important in His sight.

We are building temples for the express purpose of bestowing blessings upon the people and preparing the people for eternity. We have come to the earth for that purpose. We have not come here to be like so many animals—to eat, drink and die. That is not the purpose that God had in view in sending us here. We are filled with the aspirations of Deity. We have great and godlike qualities lying latent and undeveloped within us; but they will be developed, for we are the offspring of God, and He wants to make us like Himself. That is why He has sent us here; not merely to eat and drink, but to prepare ourselves for eternity. How shall we live in eternity? I said in the beginning of my remarks that the religious world did not tell us anything about this, for they did not know. Will husband know his wife? Will wife know her husband? Will there be any closer tie between the husband and the wife in eternity than between the husband and a strange woman or the wife and a strange man? "I think not," the religious man will say; "The Savior says there is no marrying or giving in marriage in the resurrection, and I think, therefore, that we will all live separately." Well, how about these delightful associations that we have in this life? How is it that when men are separated from their wives, or when women are separated from their husbands, they frequently die themselves? How is it that mothers, when they lose a loved child, almost feel as though they wanted to die, too, and do sometimes die through grief? Are these affections anything? Are they to be obliterated? Are none of them to survive the resurrection? Are we to be mixed like so many cattle in eternity? Is that the fate which awaits men and women, created in the image of God? Is the procreative power to be lost—that gift which is the greatest that God has given to a human being? Are all these affections that are so delightful and so tender to be crushed out and never have room for expansion? Why, it is the most hideous thought that can be presented to reflecting men and women. No; God has taught us better than this. He has revealed to us that these relationships that are so tender and that make life so delightful will exist beyond the grave. Wife will be united to husband. Children will be united to parents. The family relationship will exist in eternity, and the glory of a man and a woman will be in dwelling in the midst of their posterity and seeing that posterity increase. For after God seemingly had exhausted every blessing that He could give to Abraham, or that human heart could desire, He took him out and showed him the stars of heaven and said to him: "In blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore." That seemed to be the crowning blessing—the blessing of all blessings—that He pronounced upon His faithful servant Abraham, after he had expressed a willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac. And this is the blessing that God has promised to every faithful man and woman—that to the increase of their seed there shall be no end. This will constitute the great glory of eternity—