

## DISCOURSE

By Elder G. C. CANNON, Delivered  
in the 14th Ward Assembly Room,  
Salt Lake City, Sunday Even-  
ing, Jan. 12, 1873.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

THE SUBJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN TOUCHED UPON

by Elder Taylor are the most delightful

that the human mind can contemplate. It

is true that men can find employment and

considerable enjoyment in the acquisition

of wealth, and in expending the same

in the busy scenes of life, but after all,

there is something unsatisfactory and un-  
real about everything of this character.

It is written upon everything that is human,

death will overtake everything that we

put our hands to and upon ourselves.

We know that we are here but for

a short time; we know that everything we

possess will, like ourselves, perish and pass

away; that our existence here is an ephem-  
eral one—short-lived, therefore when we

can contemplate the future and the life that

is to come, and can understand anything

connected with it that we can rely upon,

there is something in the contemplation

that lifts us above everything of a sublu-  
nar or perishable character. We are

brought nearer to God, we feel that there is

a spark of immortality within us, that we

are indeed immortal and partakers of the

Divine nature, through our inheritance as

the children of God. And this is the effect

that the principles of the gospel, when

properly understood, have upon mankind.

They had this effect upon them in ancient

times; they have this effect upon them in

these days. It is on this account that men

are capable of making sacrifices; and that

when in the midst of a conflict, they will

sacrifice and submit to the most ignominy

and tortures and death. It is knowledge

concerning the future, which God has given

to the Latter-day Saints, that has sus-  
tained them in their persecutions and

trials in the past; and which sustains them

at the present time; and it is this which

has sustained thousands of other people

who have not been Latter-day Saints, and

who have not had a fulness of the gospel,

but only understood the principles of the

gospel to a partial extent. What is there

that is calculated to fill the heart of man

with greater joy than the knowledge that

God has revealed the plan of salvation—a

plan which not only comprehends within

its scope man's individual salvation, but

the salvation of his ancestors and his pos-  
terity, and gives unto him, to a certain ex-  
tent, the power to be a savior of men, to bea progenitor in the earth, as Abraham,  
Isaac and Jacob were; to be the means in

the hands of God of bringing to pass also

the salvation of those who have passed

away in ignorance. It has been a matter

which has puzzled thousands of well-mean-  
ing, honest people who believed in God

and in the gospel as far as they knew it, to understand

what disposition would be made of those

who died in ignorance of the gospel. For

instance, the millions of heathen who have

died without having heard the name of the

Lord Jesus Christ. Many men, including

ministers, have entertained the idea that

they go to a place of punishment from

which there is no escape, but that they wait

there in torment throughout the end-  
less ages of eternity. Others, more chari-  
table, have scarcely any idea what will be-  
come of them, and they therefore do not

venture an opinion respecting the subject.

Others still have a feeble idea that the fate

of the heathen, or of any, that God must

be unjust. There is something

revolting to the merciful mind in the idea

that God, our Heavenly Father would con-  
demn millions of people to endless painbecause of their ignorance of the prin-  
ciple of truth, which he might have

communicated to them but did not. For

instance, millions of people have lived in

Polygamy and the laws of the Lord have

been broken, and yet they have never been

told how many they have transgressed

against—how many they have sinned un-  
til quite recently. The Latter-day Saints

never knew that he was the Son of God

and the Savior of the world. They have

died by millions, and yet they have never

known the plan of salvation as taught in the

Scriptures. Millions died on this great con-  
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fact, we reject the whole of the Bible, and

that is to be the Latter-day Saints we

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We do not say we will receive this and reject that

principle. We cannot say. We will re-  
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