DISCOURSE

## PREST. GEORGE Q. CANNON

DELIVERED

In the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, April 24th, 1881.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE. THE principles which have been advenced this afternoon are so strictly in accord with the principles which were taught by the servants of God in ancient days that every one, upon reflection, must acknowledge be the Church of Christ there must experience proves to be true, even passing on the earth? If God were thing come out of Nazareth?" So come to Utah and see the condition of necessity be in it, if the ancient the experience of those who have to reveal himself as many would they feel in respect to this Church. of things existing here, it is so di principles be adhered to, the spirit of revelation. In the Bible that has come to us as the record of God's dealings with His people from the follower of the Lord, and especially plan that he shall pursue in saving needs be that there is an opposition had a yearning, anxious desire for Now, as I have said it takes fait those who belonged to the Church His children. Men frequently say, in all things." We could not enjoy something higher, something nobler, and a love of the truth to embrace difficult to conceive-if we did not see around us organizations professing to be the churches of Christof the existence of a people professing to be His followers and not enjoying His Holy Spirit, or the Holy which deny present communication from God, who say that revelation is no longer needed; that the canon of scripture is full, that all the revelations that God had to give to men He has given, and that they are embodied in the Old and New Testament. We have, as I have said, any number of churches which make this statement, teach these doctrines and train the children and the grown people in the belief that God had ceased to speak that He has ceased to communicate His mind and will unto His children; that the But, as I have said, if it were not the existence of these organizations; if it were not for the fact that these are the teachings that mankind receive; if we were to read the Book rely upon Church of Christ to have communications from Him, for the reason, as croft who says that the natural man, the foundation of the world, to die for helievers, but in the abundation of the world, to die for helievers, but in the abundation of the world to believers, but in the abundation of the world to believers, but in the abundation of the world to believers. the barbarian, believes in God natu- man and atone for the original in, rally; but skepticism and unbelief and to bring to pass the resurrection are the attendants of civilization, of from the dead, He being the first churches around them no such gifts it

enlightenment so called. There is fruits of them that slept. God de- existed. They were dissatisfied ven, and it was communicate no man who has not stifled that signed that He should come here with this condition of things, being through an humble instrumer portion of the spirit of God which is and be clothed upon with humanity. conscious that God was the same whom men despised. born in him, who does not desire to He designed we should struggle and then as he had been 1800 years be- It is a test of faith to embrace know something concerning God, contend here in this probation with fore. They sought for the restora- gospel taught by a man with the re concerning His purposes, concerning a glimmering of knowledge, a little tion of these gifts, and when an El- pute that the world gave to Josep the plan of salvation, concerning the light. He gave unto us His word. der came along with the glad tid- Smith, with all the falsehoods that object of his creation and of his be. He has commanded us to seek unto ings that a church had been organing placed on the earth, and also Him, and he that seeks shall find, to ized after the old pattern, and they is a test of faith to-day to the inhal concerning his future destiny. And him that knocks it shall be opened, were convinced it was tree, it filled itants of the earth to receive any because this knowledge does not and He that asks shall receive. their souls with gladness, and Presi- thing that has an origin among th come in the way in which men would How? Will it come in such a man- dent Taylor and a number of others "Mormon" people. Why, you migh like it to come, because God does not ner as to convince all the world? No. who are now in this city, or in this as well accuse a man of being conform to men's ideas and to men's There would be no faith if this were Territory, members of this Church leper in some societies as accuse his expectations, a great many deny the the case; there would be no room for received the doctrines gladly. At of being a "Mormon!" Men wil existence of God and say that if the exercise of faith. God wishes His first they doubted its truth. It shun coming in contact with him there be a God He certainly children to be developed. And what seemed too good to be true. And To those who know the Latter-day would reveal something to those better position could we be placed they also felt a good deal like the Saints, it is laughable to see the who seek earnestly to compre- in for development of every kind people of Judea in olden times when feeling that is manifested, and ther hend him. But there is one saying than in such a school of experience Jesus was on the earth. People is no greater cause of wonder in the recorded by an ancient Prophet that as that through which we are now asked then, "Can there any good minds of this class than when the known God best, and have been best like there would be no room for the People say, "What good can come ferent from everything they have acquainted with the plan of salva- exercise of faith, there would be no from such a source as this expected. Men and women from tion. The Lord said that, "as the necessity to struggle. But there are is reported to be from." The quently get filled with the mo heavens are higher than the earth, two great powers on the earth. same with Brother Woodruff, outrageous ideas respecting the La so are my ways higher than your Here is the power of God on the the same with hundreds of men and ter-day Saints. They come here er the days of the last disciples of Jesus ways, and my thoughts than your right hand, and on the left hand women. And I do not know that it pecking to see monsters, as thought Christ, in that record we are told thoughts." We cannot comprehend here is the power of evil, and as the should be limited to hundreds; it you were horns or were beings of that every man who professed to be a God; we cannot dictate to Him the Bo k of Mormon tells us "it must may be said hundreds and thousands different species to other people "How easy it would be for God to the sweet if we had never tasted something more certain, something the gospel under such circumstances Lord that spirit of revealties. It is reveal Himself; how easy it would the bitter. There are two principles that was from God. This feeling And the devil is doing all he can, as be for Him to make His mind and at work, and we have to contend with animated thousands of hearts in va- he always has done, to prejudice will known so indisputably that no them. Jesus, our Great High rious lands, and the Elders were men's minds, to deceive them, to one could cavil about or reject it; Priest and Elder Brother, when He guided to them, and when they saw throw dust in their eyes by malign how easy it would be for Him to was upon the earth had to their faces, when they heard their ing the servants of God and open the heavens and make mani- contend against evil. He was teachings and humbled themselves the people of God. He did fest His glory, and send angels that not free from temptation. He in obedience to the commandments with the Saviour. Why was it the all might see." No doubt the Elders was tempted in all things like of God, they became profoundly con all Judea did not believe in the mind and His will unto those who of this church have been frequently unto us, but He differed from us in vince by the testimony of Jesus Saviour? a holy being whose life we met by the objection -whenever being able to overcome temptation, Christ, that the gospel they taught spotless, performing mighty mirack us in Christendom any number of they had testified that God had es- in being sinless through the power was indeed the ancient gospel restor- in the midst of the people. Coul tablished His church in its ancient that He had through His sonship. ed. And from every land where they not all have embraced the go churches of Christ, the members of power, with its ancient gifts, restor- But He set us the example. He the glad tidings have been carried pel? Was it God's design that the ed the everlasting gospel, and the knows through that which He had by the Elders of this Church have should not embrace it? No. Go authority to administer its ordi- to contend against the meekness of these humble people crossed conti- gives unto us our agency, and we nances, and that He had done this human nature. He stands as medi- nents and oceans, forsaking all be- not ourselves realize how great this by the administration of holy angels ator at the right hand of the Fath- cause of the gospel, glad in their is. There is no limit to our agency -they have been met by the objecter pleading for his brethren and hearts that they had received it; like The power to choose good, the power tion, "Well, if this testimony be sisters who, like Himself, are sub- the man that had found the pearl of to refuse evil, the power to choose true, why did He not send angels to ject to the trials, temptations and great price, they were ready to sell evil and refuse good is given to ever somebody or to some people whom afflictions that exist in this mortal all for the purchase of that, so that human being. We can, if we choos all would believe, and concerning life. But because of this shall we they could have it in their posses- accept God, we can, if we choos whose testimony there could be no say that God does not speak? Be- sion. They were ready to forsake reject God. There s no compulsit doubt, instead of sending them to an | cause we do not see His face, shall home, kindred, old associations; they | about Him, about His gospel, obscure youth, an illiterate boy, in | we say He does not exist? Because | were ready to sacrifice their good | about the plan of salvation. If yo the State of New York, and with- we do not hear His voice, shall we name-for that had to be sacrificed and I are saved, we will be saved he holding from the rest of mankind all say He has no voice? Because we -all the past repute that they cause we have been obedient, at knowledge concerning this wonder- do not see His hand or His arm- might have had, everything had to we have exercised the power the ful event." Of course this sort of that is, that which we call a hand be thrown as it were to the winds. God has given unto us. There is the sort of that is, that which we call a hand be thrown as it were to the winds. once opened and by which all who argument applies to the Saviour or an arm-shall we say that He I ut they had found the pearl of limit to this. We can seek un himself, it applies to the whole plan has neither hand nor arm? Cer- great price. They had obtained a Him in humility in the name guished—that that is forever closed. of solvation, it applies to every Pro- tainly not. He will be sought after testimony from God, and they could Jesus and continue faithful to phet that ever lived, and cannot be and all those who seek Him will re endure persecution. Mobs could not end; we can walk humbly and u confined alone to Joseph Smith or ceive His blessing. He will give extinguish the love of truth. The rightly with all the ability of which to the Latter-day Saints. With equal certainty, He will remove doubt burning of houses, the destruction of we are capable, observing virtue force it might apply to those who and misapprehension and give light property, and even the loss of life it chastity, honesty and truthfulness lived at the time of the resurrection and enable all such to comprehend self, could not cause them to aban- or we can on the other hand turn of the Saviour. Why was He not and see as far as necessary that don the truth. They cast their lot evil, we can reject everything the seen by all the people? Why was which is good for them; He will with the Saints. This feeling of is good, we can be untruthful clusion would be that it would be the Son of God born in so obscure a lead them on step by step until they unity has pervaded this entire peo- we can be unvirtuous, the privilege of every man and of place, born in a stable and cradled in reach His presence if they will obey ple, go where you will. You may can be dishonest, we can practice it every woman who belonged to the a manger? Why did He not reveal His commandments. They will go to the antipodes and find a bra ch iquity. As the Lord said to Call Himself in power? Why did He not | not have to do this in darkness or in | of the Church of Jesus Christ of "It thou doest not well, convince all the inhabitants of the doubt, they will not have to throw Latter day Saints. They may have lieth at the door." If I have already stated, that it was earth so irresistably that they would aside or surrender their judgment, never seen an Elder from Utah, and would do right, he would be accept the distinguishing characteristic of be compelled to accept Him as but He will give unto them His, yet when you go into their congre ed. The agency was within him the organization known as the the Son of God. This argu- mind and will in such plainness gations and meet them, you find God had given it to him, and E Church of Christ in the Messianic ment would apply to other dis. that they will know and compre- that they believe in the same doc would not take it from him. dispensation. It was the distin- pensations than that oi the hend for themselves, although they trines, they have precisely the same should cease to be the beings H guishing characteristic also of the Son of God. It would apply to may be tempted and tried and af- spirit and the same faith. Before designs us to be if He did. We a men who were the servants of God Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, and to flicted. anterior to the days of Jesus. It the whole of the Prophets and Aposwould be a most singular idea—if it tles that ever lived. But God, as I gospel as it has been of leaving their native land, but as string. God will control our a were not for the existence of those have said, has a way of doing these taught in our day has brought peace soon at they have received the gos- tions, but He will not dictate to a traditions to which I have referred— things that does not comport with to thousands of seek- pel you will find in their and compel us. He overrules a that God, our eternal Father, our the ideas of men. There is one ing souls. It was very remarkable bosoms, even if no Elder has things for His glory and for the a Great Creator, should cut off His thing that we as a people should at tue time that this Church was ever taught it, an unquenchable complishment of His purposes. You children from all communication understand, and that is, that God organized how the spirit of God desire to come and associate with acts and mine and the acts of all the with Him, and leave them to grope has purposely drawn a vail between moved upon a great many people the people of God in the Rocky inhabitants of the earth are subject in the dark, wandering hither and himself and the inhabitants of the United States, in Mountains, and they are never con- to God, who is the overruling proving the dark, wandering hither and himself and the inhabitants of the United States, in Mountains, and they are never conthither without any certain means earth to accomplish His own de- Canada, in Great Britain, Denmark tent until they can gratify their de- dence over all, and He controls a of knowing His divine mind, of signs He has the power-we all and in other countries to which the sire. Go to the north and the south, to suit His divine purposes through comprehending His divine will con- admit it, that is, all who believe in Elders went, carrying the glad tid- to the east and the wes, and to His superior knowledge and suprem cerning themselves and the affairs God-to reveal Himself in His ful- ings of the restoration of the ancient the most distant lands upon the power. But if you get to heaven, of the earth. I can join with Bro. ness; He has the power to open the gospel In many places members face of the earth, and you will find I have said, if you sing the songs Nicholson who gave expression to heavens and show every living being of churches were dissatisfied with in their hearts the same feeling, the redeemed, you will do it, because his joy and gratification that we live all that the heavens contain. There in a day when God has once more is no limit to His power. He conbroken the silence which has reign- trols the innumerable hosts of heaed for ages, and has revealed His ven. He has but to utter His commind and made known the plan of mand and they obey. Jesus said, on salvation in its old plainness and one occasion, "Thinkest thou that I some knowledge concerning the should cherish. It is dearer to us darkness and endure the misery purity to the inhabitants of the cannot now pray to my Father, and earth. And if there is one thing He shall presently give me more that causes my joy to be greater than twelve legions of angels?" But than another, it is the fact that this God, as I have said, has purposely aged nice, who in their early youth | with bonds that are stronger than the light that was within them an knowledge, as he has stated, is not drawn a vail over the inhabitants of or early manhood were in this con- death, death cannot break them. which comes from God-if any confined to one man, nor to three the earth. He permitted Adam to dition - President Taylor in Canada Where that feeling is cherished, there it will be because they have men, nor to twelve men, but that it | fall; He permitted him to transgress is communicated unto every humble His law, to bring about the fall of necticut, one of them a Methodist fierceness that is possible, it cannot leads in that direction, and Jest soul who seeks for it in a spirit the human race, in order that man which is acceptable unto God. It is might be, for without the fall man a constant cause of thanksgiving to | would not have had an existence | years sought God with all the ear- it, that I live in such a day me that a people have been gathered together who are relieved, to a very great extent, from the uncertainty, are that they may have joy." There is divining that I am permitted to the contrart to do so. There is divining that I am permitted to the contrar that prevail throughout Christendom. There is in every human beginning. It was all arranged. The heart a desire to know something Son of God was foreordained to

which they belonged and other And

would gather togather to read the taste of the eit. This brotherScriptures and investigate the prinexist in the om God. It is a foreciol a taught by the Savior and His confidence of the co

were circulated concerning him. they heard the truth they might not automatons to be moved b proclamation of the not have desired and never thought some master hand or pulled with the want of power in the churches nothing else will satisfy them. God you yourselves have chosen the to which they belonged, dissatisfied has spoken, God has touched their path and have determined, by H with the absence of gifts, and they hearts by the power of the Holy aid, to walk therein all your days: met together and prayed unto God to Ghost, and it is this that has sus- any are ever numbered with the reveal Himself or to give unto them | tained us. It is this feeling we damned, if any ever go into out old plan of salvation. Here are my than life itself. It is the spirit of those who have rejected the trut two brethren on this stand, President God that unites heart to heart, that and violated those laws which Go Taylor und President Woodruff, unites man and woman has given, violated, in other word and President Woodruff in Con- persecution may rage with all the chosen to walk in the path the preacher and the other a member of destroy it. I thank God from the came not to save them unless the no denomination. Both of them for depths of my heart, when I think of seek to save themselves; it would by to the plan of salvation isting condition of affairs. President Taylor with other members of the church to which he belonged bership in the Church this kind; wisdom, there wisdom wisdom, there wisdom, there wisdom, there wisdom, there wisdom, the wisdom, there wisdom, there wisdom, the wisdom wisdom, the wisdom wisdom wisdom wisdom, the wisdom wisdom wisdom wisdom wisdom with the wisdom wis ciples taught by the Savior and His of that up t brotherhood that will in all solemnity before the Lord. nion and that love that know that God is a God of revel vail there, and without tion. I know it for myself. I kno I whence its origin? Where did answers prayer. I know that He riginate? It originated in hea- a God that heals the sick when