

there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day."

Do you think God revealed that? I am satisfied He did not. The person who revised these books added that by way of explanation. How do they know he died, or how do they know the Lord buried him? They simply learned that Moses went out of the midst of the people; they did not know what became of him; so they supposed he died and that the Lord buried him, because nobody else had done so. "No man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day." No wonder; because he did not have any sepulchre. According to what we have learned, he was treated the same as Elijah was; not taken up in a chariot of fire perhaps, but translated, quickened by the power of God, that he might remain as a witness of the Lord unto the last day. He appeared with Elijah to Jesus in the mount of transfiguration. It is appointed unto all men once to die; but some men have been translated, as it was in the days of Enoch, and they will like others pass through the great change. I just refer to this to show you that Moses could not have written that, although it is recorded in one of these books that were written by Moses—the fifth book, called Deuteronomy.

I might quote a number of passages from the Bible to show there are mistakes in it. As to the Bible being all the word of God, why, we have the word of the devil there. The devil spoke to Eve and we have his words. We have the words of an ass, spoken to Balaam. We have the words of wicked men and women. We have words of no inspiration at all, as well as words that were inspired of God. If you will examine this matter closely for yourselves, you will find that what I am telling you is the absolute truth.

It is no use for men to be bound up with creeds if the creeds are not true. I believe in being bound by a creed if that creed is the word of the Lord and is as true as the law of mathematics. It is good to have rules and regulations and fundamental principles, to which we can apply as a standard of truth, and to which we can bring other things to test them, to find if they are true. There are fundamental principles in all sciences; and when anything is contradictory to these fundamental principles, the scientist knows it is erroneous. So it should be, and is, in true religion. There are fundamental principles, and we can bring other truths to them, and if they harmonize with them, then they are right; if they do not, then there is something wrong about them. But the Bible is not such a standard. Yet it is the only standard that Christendom claims today. The only standard that the various sects have is the written word—the letter which killeth. Books which they claim were written by inspiration, every word of them the word of God, as I have shown to you, contain the word of the devil, the word of wicked men and women, the word of the serpent, as well as some speculations, some ideas that men had, and his ories of things that men wrote. You take the book of Chronicles and

the book of Kings, containing histories of the same things, and they do not exactly harmonize. That shows that both books were not written by inspiration of God; perhaps neither of them was. But they are very valuable because we get from them a great deal of information.

The Latter-day Saints were accused in the beginning of this Church of not believing in the Bible; but the people who now compose the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were once perhaps as big Bible-worshippers as anybody, only they have learned a little better. The Bible was brought to them by the Elders of this Church to prove the truth of the doctrine which was preached to them. It was not claimed that these doctrines were taken out of the Bible; it was claimed that God had revealed them; but they were referred to the Bible to prove that these principles were true, and that they were the same principles that were believed in and obeyed by the people of old who were Christians. Therefore, the claim that the people of the Church did not believe the Bible was not true. In latter times it has been claimed that they believed too much of the Bible. That is what Henry Ward Beecher said. He said: "It is a mistake to suppose that these Mormons out in Utah are not Bible believers; they believe in it like thunder." That was his remark. The fault that he found was that we believed in it too much. We do believe in the Bible. We believe that holy men of old wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. We believe that what they wrote was scripture. We believe that it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; and we believe that these things are able to make people wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus, just as it was with Timothy. Timothy could not be saved by merely believing in the Bible; but the scriptures which he had when a child bore witness of the Messiah, pointed to the time when Christ should come; and because of the wisdom that he gained from them they were able to make him wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, and by his faith in Jesus Christ he obtained a knowledge of what was essential to salvation, and by obedience to that he could be saved. But he could not be saved by the dead letter or by reading a book. Some people are so full of idolatry about this book that they think if they only read the Bible with a long face on a Sunday they are sure to be saved; and if they carry one, particularly if it is gilt-edged, in a nice, clean white pocket-handkerchief, to show their reverence for it, they are in the way to be saved. They sometimes sing:

Holy Bible, book divine;  
Precious treasure, thou art mine—

Mine to carry in a pocket-handkerchief.

The Latter-day Saints believe in the teachings of the Bible; but they do not worship it. They believe that there is a means whereby people may be brought into possession of the same spirit by which the prophets were actuated who wrote these things contained in the Bible. That is what gives life and light. That is the

power of God unto salvation; not a dead letter. They believe that by reading the scriptures they can find out something in regard to that. We can read of the operations of this Spirit upon the holy men of old who wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. We can read about the operations of the Spirit as it existed in the Christian Church, through reading the writings of the New Testament, which Timothy did not have when he was a child. We are more favored than he was. By reading the Old and New Testaments we learn something of the dealings of God with men hundreds of years ago, and we also read that God is the same "yesterday, today and forever," that He is "no respecter of persons," and therefore we come to the conclusion that today people may obtain the same gifts, blessings, inspiration and communion with God that the ancients had, because God is always the same. We can learn of that from the Bible. But we also learn from one of the writings of the ancient Apostles that there is something more than this mere letter which we ought to depend upon for guidance and direction. The Apostle Peter, in speaking to the Saints on this subject, said:

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your heart.

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.—II Peter, I chap. 19-21.

Peter had reverence for the words that were spoken by holy men of God as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and he wanted the people to understand in his day that they had no right to attach private interpretations to the words of these prophets. That has been the mischief in the ages that have intervened since darkness came on the earth—since the death of the Apostles. Private interpretations have been put upon these sayings, and people have gone astray, and they have divided, quarrelled and fought, and drenched the earth with blood, because of their private interpretations of these sayings of the old prophets. But mark the words of Peter: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place." Now, what did he refer to? Why, he referred to this same spirit. He was talking to them about the living oracles they had in their midst—Apostles that Christ had set in the church for a guide. Christ never told the church that He gave them a book for a guide. He gave them living men, inspired by the same spirit that the men had who wrote the old scriptures; Apostles that He had called and ordained and sent among them, clothed with the power of God, filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke by the Holy Ghost. They also wrote some things by the Holy Ghost, and they were for the good of the people to whom they were written, and for our profit, so many of them as we have; a great many of them are lost. But, says Peter, "We have also a more