

June 6
1895

LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

354

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

"Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."—ST. JOHN VII: 16, 17.

No. 23. Vol. LVII.

Thursday, June 6, 1895.

Price One Penny.

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF.

[CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 340.]

BRETHREN and sisters, I have passed through these scenes, and it was a serious time. And I will tell you the devil is not dead to-day, but will war against us and against this Church, as far as he has power, while we dwell in the flesh. I thank the Lord, however, that I know for myself that this Church will stand, and the Lord will bear it off triumphant. We have passed those days of affliction and sorrow; but I want to say to my brethren, one and all, we still have got to watch unto prayer. If there is any place where the devil can lead us astray he will do it. We are not safe until we get through with this probation. I thank God for one thing: I am satisfied for myself that those days are passed and gone. There is no man in heaven or on earth will ever live to see such a day again. We are too near the end; we are too near the coming of the Son of Man. The Lord Almighty has called a class of men upon whose shoulders he has laid the responsibility of this great work. He has chosen the weak things of the world, and we have these responsibilities resting upon us. I am satisfied for myself that the servants of God whom He has chosen will, as a rule, be true and faithful unto death. How dark a man must be in his mind to get into such a condition as these Apostles were. I heard some of them bear testimony before God, angels and men that they had received the ministration of angels, and having that knowledge, what a condition they must have been in when they apostatized! We want to guard ourselves with regard to these matters. We have got to look to the Lord to assist us in the cause in which we are engaged. I hope and pray that I may live to see the perfect union of the Twelve Apostles with the Presidency of this Church and the union of the whole

Church. We have this work upon our shoulders and the Lord is watching over us. I will say to all the nations of the earth, you cannot turn aside or overthrow the designs of the Lord; they will come to pass in the earth exactly as they have been promised to the children of men.

We are here upon a mission, and it is a great mission. We are blessed in living in this day and generation. We ought to try and make the most of it we can. We ought to try and improve our time, magnify our calling, and do our duty. I will say to the Latter-day Saints, the Lord has called and chosen us to stand as the leaders of the people—the Presidency, the Twelve Apostles and the various quorums and positions which we are in, and we are responsible to God for the course we pursue in these matters. True, we need the faith and fellowship of the Saints; we need their assistance; but inasmuch as we do our duty the blessings of God will be with us. I know for myself that the Lord has set His hand to carry out His great purposes and prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man. We have passed through a long period of time, as men count time, in our history. I will here refer to one incident: When Christ and Peter, James and John went into the mount, Moses and Elias were manifest to them, and Jesus was transfigured before them. The last time the Apostles ever met with the Prophet Joseph Smith, there were eleven of us present,—nine Apostles, himself and his brother Hyrum. He likewise was transfigured before us, as far as mortal man can be. The room which he was in was filled as with consuming fire by the power of God. His face was clear as amber, he was clothed with the power of God. We did not know he was going to leave us any more than the Apostles knew the Savior was going to leave them in that day. But he told us what our duties were. He laid before us what God required at his hands and the ordinances unto which he had been ordained by the power of God. He said the Lord had sealed upon his head every ordinance, every key and every power belonging to this dispensation of the fulness of times; and, he added, "I have sealed these things upon your heads; now you must go forth and bear off this kingdom or you will be damned." That was a very strong remark to us. I have never forgotten it from that day to this. I realize that God was with him. And He has been with His people. He is with Zion to-day. He will continue to be. Though all the powers of darkness may war against us, the Lord is our Friend and He will sustain us and give us power to build up Zion and to carry out this work until the coming of the Son of Man. Therefore, let your hearts be comforted. These Apostles, I am satisfied, are of one heart and mind. I know they are united with us; I know we are united with them. This is a great joy and consolation to me. We all should be united in the cause in which we are engaged. Inasmuch as we do this we shall come off triumphant. I have no fear about Zion; I never had. It is written, as with a pen upon a rock, and is the voice of God, that Zion shall stand. All the prophecies that the Lord has given as contained in the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants will be fulfilled to the very letter. Not one jot or one tittle will fall unfulfilled. Zion will arise and flourish, and the glory of God will rest upon her. When I cast my mind over the signs of the times,

when I look at the fulfilment of prophecy and observe what is taking place in the earth I see the hand of God manifest and the fulfilment of prophecy and revelation. These angels of God that have been standing in the temples of heaven holding sharp sickles day after day pleading with God to let them go forth to reap down the earth have been commanded of the Lord to wait until the wheat was gathered into the garner, and then they might go forth and reap down the earth. If the world wants to know what is coming to pass, let them read the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants; let them read these revelations of St. John. As God lives they will come to pass. Not one of them will fall unfulfilled. And the hand of God is beginning to be manifest in the earth. Judgment is at the door; calamity awaits the nations of the earth; but we ourselves should be prepared to stand in holy places while the judgments of God are manifest in the earth.

Now, brethren and sisters, let us be humble before the Lord; let us remember our prayers; let us try to do our duty; and when we do this the blessings of God will be with us. I felt yesterday that I wished I could see all the young men in Israel before Brother J. E. Talmage while he spoke to us for half an hour (it ought to have been two hours) on the evil of this tobacco business. We should let alone all these evils, and our children should also, that they might be prepared to go forth as holy vessels and servants of God to bear record of this Gospel. We are not yet through preaching the Gospel. We send our sons abroad, and many of them go before they know whether this is the Church of God or not. I need not stand up here and testify before this congregation that this is the Church of God on the earth. Thousands of you know that for yourselves. You have been abroad; I have been abroad; these Apostles have been abroad; and we have administered the ordinances of the Gospel of Christ. We have laid hands upon the sick, and the sick have been healed; devils have been cast out, the lame have leaped, the deaf have heard, the dumb have spoken, in this Church in our day and generation. Can men go through and experience these things and not know for themselves whether the work is of God or not? No. Any man that has gone forth and administered in the ordinance of the house of God knows that these things are true, if he has kept the commandments of God.

Before I sit down I want to say a word to the Elders of Israel on another subject. I am called an old man; I guess I am. I was thinking just now, in speaking of the Apostles and Prophets that were with Joseph Smith when he made his last speech, I am the only man living that was with him at that time. The rest are to-day in the spirit world. How much longer I shall talk to this people I do not know; but I want to say this to all Israel: Cease troubling yourselves about who God is; who Adam is, who Christ is, who Jehovah is. For heaven's sake, let these things alone. Why trouble yourselves about these things? God has revealed Himself, and when the 121st section of the Doctrine and Covenants is fulfilled, whether there be one God or many gods they will be revealed to the children of men, as well as all thrones and dominions, principalities, and powers. Then why trouble yourselves about these things? God is God.

Christ is Christ. The Holy Ghost is the Holy Ghost. That should be enough for you and me to know. If we want to know any more, wait till we get where God is in person. I say this because we are troubled every little while with inquiries from Elders anxious to know who God is, who Christ is, and who Adam is. I say to the Elders of Israel, stop this. Humble yourselves before the Lord; seek for light, for truth, and for a knowledge of the common things of the kingdom of God. The Lord is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. He changes not. The Son of God is the same. He is the Savior of the world. He is our advocate with the Father. We have had letter after letter from Elders abroad wanting to know concerning these things. Adam is the first man. He was placed in the Garden of Eden, and is our great progenitor. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, are the same yesterday, to-day and forever. That should be sufficient for us to know.

I pray God to bless these Apostles, and to bless us all, and to give us wisdom and power to magnify our calling and to do our duty before the Lord, that we may be prepared to give an account of our stewardship while dwelling in the flesh. I pray that the Lord will be merciful to us as a people, and give those who bear the Priesthood power to build up Zion and prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man, which may God grant, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TEMPLE MANIFESTATIONS.

THERE were many miraculous and powerful manifestations and remarkable healings in the St. George Temple. I will only mention the following cases: Brother George Jarvis was a very sick man. He had to be carried to the Temple and was laid on a pallet on the floor in the reception room. He was carried into the font, where he was baptized and confirmed for his health, and was healed, being able to walk home from the Temple. His house is a little over four blocks, or over half a mile from the Temple.

An aged brother by the name of Yardley of Beaver, came to the Temple. He was very deaf, insomuch that it was difficult to make him hear or understand what was said to him. After being administered to, he received his hearing, so that he could hear the tick of the watch distinctly. His testimony of this event was published in the *Deseret News* at the time.

Sister Ellen B. Matheny of Fillmore, who had suffered great affliction for seven years and was prostrated, and who could only walk when assisted, received her health. She was subsequently called as a worker in this Temple, where she remained until appointed to labor in the Manti Temple in 1888. She was at the time of her healing a poor, emaciated being, but has now grown quite fleshy.

Among the many remarkable healings in answer to prayer is the following: Professor J. A. Whitelock had been employed in the Central School in St. George. After fulfilling his engagement, himself and wife, Amanda, returned to their former home in Philadelphia. While there their little child Pearl became violently ill and wasted away to a mere skeleton. She was given up to die by eminent physicians there, as well as by all the