

# The 79th Annual Conference

*Of the Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter-  
day Saints*



25c

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bly Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah,  
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a long way from it in other things. In temporal things we do not sufficiently respect each other's opinions. Are we going to sit in judgment upon men? I am not in favor of it. I am not in sympathy with men who are intolerant, I am afraid of them. What does the Lord say? They were trying to tempt the Savior just as they have tried to tempt the Latte-day Saints. We are being tempted and tested. We are being dazzled and bewildered by the things of the world, and some are trying to make men offenders for a word. The Savior said to those who were tempting him:—

"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation." We can talk about other churches that Brother Bassett has been reading about, but there is a division amongst other people than the Christian churches, even among the people of the Latter-day Church. It is a kingdom divided against itself, to some extent, on temperance and political questions, and they are considered weighty problems too. "A house divided against itself falleth." "If Satan be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand?" The Latter-day Saints must be united to be successful. It is a great warfare between Satan and the Savior, and to some men it would appear as if Satan was going to be victorious. Not so. Through long continued patience, the victory will be the Lord's. It may take years, yea hundreds of years, but, as Brother McMurrin so beautifully portrayed to you, God will save His children after all. A condition of antagonism puts me a good deal in mind of a spectacle analogous to that represented in the caricature called the combat of the two serpents; after having devoured every-

thing around them, the two reptiles attacked each other, finally there remained on the battle field but two tails.

Now, brethren, let us repent, if we have got any bitterness in our hearts toward each other, let us be generous, and forgiving. No man has any influence or power for good when angry. It is "amen to the priesthood and the authority of that man when he uses unrighteous dominion," etc. It doesn't matter who he is. When a man has the Holy Ghost his heart is full of meekness, it is full of love unfeigned. He loves the souls of the children of men and he realizes how precious they are in the sight of God. May we as Latter-day Saints enjoy the fullness of the Holy Spirit, I ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS.

God's Kingdom on earth to unite with the Heavenly Kingdom.—Conditions essential to admission into the Kingdom.—Faithful Saints sustained by the Holy Spirit.—Evil is overcome by resistance.

It is nearly time to bring our meeting to a close. I feel that we have had a good service. I can bear testimony to the truth of what has been said this afternoon.

I desire, in the few moments that remain, to express some sentiments which I have in my heart with regard to this work. We have in the 65th section of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants a revelation on prayer, given through the Prophet Joseph, the Seer, in the year 1831. From this revelation I read the following:

"The keys of the kingdom of God

are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which was cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth until it has filled the whole earth; yea, a voice crying, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the supper of the Lamb, make ready for the bridegroom; pray unto the Lord, call upon His holy name, make known His wonderful works among the people; call upon the Lord, that His kingdom may go forth upon the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of Man shall come down from heaven, clothed in the brightness of His glory, to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth; wherefore may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, mayest be glorified in heaven so on earth, that thine enemies may be subdued; for thine is the honor, power and glory, for ever. Amen."

Here it is very plainly set forth that God has established His kingdom upon the earth, and the time will come when His kingdom which is established in heaven shall come forth to meet His kingdom upon the earth. The Lord has made clear to us that no sinful thing can enter into His presence. He dwells in the celestial kingdom. The kingdom of God in heaven is most perfect, and all that pertains unto it.

We have heard some remarks with reference to the perfection of the Church of Christ, organized on the earth in these last days, through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith. This kingdom of our Father is most perfect, the Church and kingdom, so far as it has been revealed to us. We know not but there are some things pertaining to the perfection of the organization of the Church not yet revealed, for, as has been stated, we believe all that God has revealed, and we believe that He will yet re-

veal many important things pertaining to the Church and kingdom of God upon the earth, as well as doctrine. This Church, then, and embryotic kingdom of God, is typical of the kingdom of our Father in heaven; and as no sinful thing can enter the kingdom of God in heaven, go where our Father is and enjoy celestial glory with Him and with our elder brother and Savior, so we cannot enter this preparatory kingdom in our sins, but every man and woman must of necessity repent of sin, with broken heart and contrite spirit, or they cannot obtain admission. If they have been admitted under any other conditions, they are still in their sins even though they may have yielded obedience to the ordinance of baptism, and though that ordinance may have been performed in the way the Lord has appointed, by immersion in water, and by one who has held the authority, their sins are not remitted; and though hands may be laid upon their heads to confer the Holy Ghost, the Holy Ghost has not come upon them, and the testimony has never been borne through the Holy Ghost to their souls concerning the truth of the work and the acceptance by the Lord of their course of life. We must begin at the bottom. We must repent of our sins before we can obtain acceptable admission into the Church. Repentance comes through faith, through the hearing of the word, and we hear the word by the preaching of those whom the Lord has appointed. We learn of our Father, and of His Son, and of His gospel, the provision made for the salvation of the children of men, by searching the scriptures. As the Savior said, "Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal

life, and they are they which testify of me." If we close up our hearts and minds, give ourselves over to evil thoughts, disregard the will and wishes of our Father, and disregard the influence of His Holy Spirit, which actuates the soul of every man to know good from evil, and do not bend our energies in the way of doing good, cleave to the truth and eschew evil, the condemnation of the Lord will follow us.

The Lord expects us to trust in Him; He expects us to seek after Him, and that we may have faith in Him, and having faith in Him and in His Son, our Redeemer, He expects us to yield obedience to His will, keep His commandments, forsake all sin, and be advocates of the truth. That is our mission. I bear you witness today, I do know, for I have yielded obedience to the law, that I have had a testimony from the Lord, through His Holy Spirit, that my course in so doing has been accepted of Him. I know that the gospel is the truth; and I know that His saving power is had by those who have yielded obedience unto it, who have rid themselves of sin and wickedness, who have received the Holy Spirit in their souls, and hope for a glorious resurrection and the blessings of eternal life. All such can look back upon their past lives and contrast their present with the former condition. They do know most positively that the gospel has been a saving power in their lives; they know that if they retrace their steps and resort to those evil things which were part of their conduct before this still small voice, these words of life came to them, it means their utter condemnation and destruction. The Lord comforts His faithful people all along the pathway of life.

As we undertake to do what is right, to aid in His cause, and to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth, He blesses us with the manifestations of His Spirit in our work, by dreams and vision at night, by the gift of prophecy, the gift of tongues, and by the gift of healing. In numerous ways the Lord, all along the line of our life's work, gives encouragement, and faith, and knowledge, and the hope of a glorious resurrection; we are not left in doubt and darkness. Such is my testimony to you, my brethren and sisters. We are not yet perfect in this earthly kingdom, though it is our Father's. Though we have repented of our sins, man is prone to do evil, even as the sparks fly upward. When we find ourselves overcome by that which is evil, the Lord requires that we will, with broken hearts and contrite spirits, undertake again to forsake those evils, return to them no more. With the Lord's help we will finally succeed and triumph over evil; just as he who was once addicted to the use of liquor, every time he passed the saloon going to and from his day's work, was tempted to go inside. After a time, by resisting that evil, remembering that intoxicating liquor was not good for him, the temptation passed away; the Lord strengthened him against that evil, and he became able to successfully withstand it. Such is our mission here in this life, to battle all the day long with ourselves; and as we obtain additional light and knowledge, to make known that light and knowledge to others, that they may participate with us in the joy of that knowledge, and the hope of obtaining everlasting life through fighting the battle faithfully to the end.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon us all. Assuredly we all need the Lord's help; we need strength from Him. As we engage faithfully to overcome, to perfect within ourselves the attributes of our eternal Father, He will help us, and we will succeed and triumph. May the Lord bless us to this end, I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

An anthem entitled, "Our God shall be glorified," words by Elder Richard S. Horne, and music by Prof. Charles J. Thomas, was rendered by the Temple choir.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Josiah E. Hickman.

## OUTDOOR MEETING.

The Tabernacle and Assembly Hall were uncomfortably crowded, and thousands were unable to obtain admittance, consequently, the weather being favorable, an outdoor meeting of the Conference was held, at 2 p. m., near the Bureau of Information building, at which 2,500 persons were present.

Elder Benjamin Goddard presided, and Prof. Elihu Call conducted the singing.

The congregation sang the hymn, "High on the mountain top."

Prayer was offered by Elder Jacob F. Gates.

The congregation sang the hymn, "We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet."

### ELDER BENJAMIN GODDARD.

It is gratifying, my brethren and sisters, to observe the crowds of our Church members so interested in the work of the Lord that they come from the south and the north,

the east and the west, from Canada on the north to Mexico on the south, for the purpose of attending our annual conference.

We realize the disadvantages attending this open air meeting, but we are thankful that we have not the same disadvantages nor the spirit of antagonism that we so often encounter upon the street corners of large cities, where people are not of our faith. The brethren, however, who will address you have been accustomed to street meetings. They have good voices. They are filled with the Spirit of the Lord, and I think they can make you all hear.

Upon this block, we also have a missionary work constantly in operation. I simply want to refer to the fulfillment of prophecy in connection with our work here, as it may be particularly interesting to some of our friends who are now in the audience, and who are not of our faith. Every day in the week, every day of the year, from early morning until late at night, we are entertaining "strangers within our gates," explaining unto them the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and all that the structures upon this block stand for. Amongst other things we direct special attention to our magnificent Temple, a monument to the faith of the people, and a palpable evidence of the restoration of the gospel. In that connection, too, these words are now verily fulfilled:

"But, in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come and say [mark you, they are saying it every day of the year, and this prophecy is thus fulfilled, for from every nation