August 31
1899

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*"—JOHN 15: 18, 19.

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DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW.

[*Concluded from page 533.*]

I COULD reason with you upon this, but what need is there of showing why we should do these things. We receive from the different Stakes of Zion requests for help, some to build meeting houses and some for other purposes. Well, we feel that we ought to help them, because they are deserving of help; but we cannot do it. I do not think I will say much about the financial condition of the Church. The Church, of course, is very much in debt. And I do not know that anybody is to blame for it being in debt. It has been partially explained to-day by the brethren, and I will leave it in that way. But we are going into debt no longer. All the enterprises that we have gone into, have been for the benefit of the people. Well, I do not care to talk about this. It is sufficient to say to the Latter-day Saints that we must now pay our tithing. I have scarcely ever talked about tithing. I have said it was the duty of the Latter-day Saints to pay tithing, but I have never made it a business like some of my brethren have. You will not hear much from me now in regard to tithing. I simply tell you the truth straight out; and I have faith in the Latter-day Saints to believe and know that they will respond to this.

Brethren and sisters, I feel and know that you are a good people. I do not flatter you when I say this. I simply tell the facts. The Lord has helped you, as He has helped other portions of the people in Zion. He has done this, not because they have done right under all circumstances, not because they have paid their tithing properly, but because they have paid it partially and have done some good. But when the

voice of the Lord comes to us and His will is expressed, then is the time for us to act.

Now, I have shaken hands with over 800 children, and I want to see those children grow up and become 80, 90, 100 or 140 years of age; and this will surely be the case if you will teach them these things that I am talking to you about to-day. Teach them to pay their tithing while they are young. You mothers, teach your children that when they get any money they should pay one-tenth of it to the Lord, however little it may be. Educate them to pay their tithing in full. Then we will have a people prepared to go to Jackson County. President Smith was talking yesterday about the land of Zion. Yes, surely, this entire continent is the land of Zion, and the time will come when there will be Temples established over every portion of the land, and we will go into these Temples and work for our kindred dead night and day, that the work of the Lord may be speedily accomplished, that Jesus may come and present the kingdom to His Father. He is coming soon, too. But we will not hear His voice until we build up Jackson County. Now we should make the preparation for this. We are not only going to have Zion throughout this continent, but we will have it over the whole earth. The whole earth is the Lord's. The time will come when it will be translated and be filled with the spirit and power of God. The atmosphere around it will be the spirit of the Almighty. We will breathe that Spirit instead of the atmosphere that we now breathe. But now it is for us to make the preparation, that we may be worthy to be called into the house of the Lord and receive our second blessings. I do not want the presidents of Stakes to send any person to our Temples to receive the highest blessings that have ever been bestowed upon man since the world began, until it can be said of him, "He pays his full tithing." When you find an honest, faithful Latter-day Saint who is worthy of receiving His blessings, send him along. I do not care how fast they come. The time is now at hand when the Latter-day Saints can be greatly and abundantly blessed, so that they can make the preparation in its fulness.

Now, if I say anything more, I am afraid you may forget what I have said—I will take that back; I said it without thought. You will not forget, you cannot forget what I have said to you here. I do not know how soon we may be called to build up Jackson County; but I feel it is nearer at hand than Latter-day Saints generally believe. When you look upon Jackson County and its surroundings at the present time, it looks like an impossibility. There are perhaps thirty thousand people settled there, adjacent to the Temple location, and they are doing business very extensively. Looking at it naturally, it would seem as if a favorable arrangement for us to go back there could never arise. But when the Lord sets about to accomplish His purposes, He finds it easy to make it effectual. It will be so in this. I can imagine several ways in which the road would be perfectly clear, and the people be very glad for the Latter-day Saints to go back to Jackson county. As I said yesterday, establish the principles of Zion in your hearts, and then you will be worthy to receive Zion outside, with beautiful houses and castles, and lovely surroundings, and

by and by go into a city the streets of which will be made of pure gold, where everything will be just as good and grand as the experience of millions of years has given to those who have to do with such buildings. Just read the last chapter in the Bible and see what a glorious city Latter-day Saints will have the privilege of living in, if they are faithful. And we will be able to build cities of our own after a time. It may be thought that I am going away into the future; but I do not say any more to you than I can find in the revelations of the Lord in the Doctrine and Covenants and in the Bible. It is all there; but only those can understand it who have the Spirit of the Lord.

I want to say a word or two on another subject. I understand that there are in St. George about eighty widows and about one hundred marriageable sisters, and there seems to be considerable lamentation in regard to this condition. There is no need of this particularly. A lady came into our office the other day and asked to see me on a private matter. She informed me that she felt very badly, because her opportunities for getting a husband had not been favorable. She was about thirty years of age, and she wanted to know what her condition would be in the other life, if she did not succeed in getting a husband in this life. I suppose this question arises in the hearts of our young people, especially the marriageable sisters and the young widows; and some very foolish doctrine has been presented to some of the sisters in regard to this and other things of a kindred nature. I desire to give a little explanation for the comfort and consolation of parties in this condition. There is no Latter-day Saint who dies after having lived a faithful life who will lose anything because of having failed to do certain things when opportunities were not furnished him or her. In other words, if a young man or a young woman has no opportunity of getting married, and they live faithful lives up to the time of their death, they will have all the blessings, exaltation and glory that any man or woman will have who had this opportunity and improved it. That is sure and positive. Faithful Elders in the Church have died without having married. You that have been in the temple of the Lord understand the arrangements that are there made for such persons. Where we have the names of husbands and wives who lived a thousand years ago, they having been married according to the laws then in force, we consider that those parties have a right to all the blessings that they would have if they were living now, because if they were honest and honorable they did all that the Lord required of them under the circumstances. The Gospel was not then being preached; therefore they could not receive it; but they raised families, and that was the very thing that the Lord commanded in the Garden of Eden. The first commandment given was to multiply and replenish the earth. Now we make these relations sacred over our altars. People who have no opportunity of marrying in this life, if they die in the Lord, will have means furnished them by which they can secure all the blessings necessary for persons in the married condition. The Lord is merciful and kind, and He is not unjust. There is no injustice in Him; yet we could scarcely look upon it as being just when a woman or a man dies without having had the oppor-

tunity of marrying if it could not be remedied in the other life. There would be injustice in that, and we know that the Lord is not an unjust being. My sister, Eliza R. Snow, I believe, was just as good a woman as any Latter-day Saint woman that ever lived, and she lived in an unmarried state until she was beyond the condition of raising a family. She was sealed to Joseph Smith, the Prophet; but she had no children to bear her name among the children of men. I cannot for one moment imagine that she will lose a single thing on that account. It will be made up to her in the other life, and she will have just as great a kingdom as she would have had if she had had the opportunity in this life of raising a family.

As to plural marriage, I want to say a few words; for I may not have the opportunity of bearing my testimony to you again. There is no man that lives that had a more perfect knowledge of the principle of plural marriage, its holiness and divinity, than I had. It was revealed to me before the Prophet Joseph Smith explained it to me. I had been on a mission to England between two and three years, and before I left England I was perfectly satisfied in regard to something connected with plural marriage. When I returned to Nauvoo with my company of about 250, it was made manifest to me in reference to the truth of this principle. I was at Joseph Smith's one afternoon on a visit, and after conversing upon different subjects he asked me to walk out with him, as he wished to speak to me privately. We went down to the banks of the Mississippi river and sat down on a log that lay there in the sand. Then and there he explained to me the principle of plural marriage most perfectly and clearly; he told me in regard to the angel coming to him and making this principle known to him, and what would follow if he did not practice it. He informed me that my sister Eliza R. Snow had been sealed to him, and also mentioned the names of others. In that conversation, which lasted about half an hour, he told me all about it, and referred to his brother Hyrum.

I know this principle is true, pure and sacred, and I want everyone to understand my testimony that it is true as the Lord is true. Yet the Lord has seen proper that the principle of plural marriage should no longer be practiced. Therefore that Manifesto was issued. I will say now before this people, that the principle of plural marriage is not practiced. I have never, in one single instance, allowed any person to have that ceremony performed, and there are no such marriages at the present time, nor has there been during the time of my presidency over this church. There is no man or woman that can ever say that any such thing as this has been done. The Lord has commanded it, and I see that it is carried out. Such marriages are not done. There has been an impression in the minds of some that such marriages have been done in the Temple at Salt Lake City; but not a single marriage of the kind has ever been performed in that temple, nor in any other temple. I want this to be distinctly understood.

Now brethren and sisters, God bless you and pour out His Spirit upon you. This may be the last time that I may have the opportunity of speaking to you; yet there may be other opportunities. President Smith

thought he would not prophesy, but he might just as well have done so, and I would have sustained him in it—that there will be a spur of the railroad right through here, that you may go right up to Salt Lake City, and then to Brigham City if you want to, on the railroad. If you do as I have told you, the blessings of the Lord will be upon you, and He will open your way in a manner that will astonish you. Be of good cheer. Everything is going along, and prosperity will attend the exertions of the Latter-day Saints, victory will be ours, and we shall accomplish the very things for which we have come into the world, and be exalted and glorified in the presence of God, if we are faithful. Amen.

AN UNEXPECTED EXPERIENCE.

It was with many strange feelings that the writer journeyed to Halifax, to sympathize with an only brother on the loss of a devoted wife aged 62, and the mother of quite a family, two of whom had gone before into the spirit world, five had married and two remain single; with one exception, now in Utah, all the living ones were present, and full of sorrow for a mother, good, kind and considerate to a fault. Both husband and family will miss a thousand attentions which a self-sacrificing spirit was ever ready to bestow.

President Woolfenden kindly came over from Bradford, from sympathy and for comfort, for Elizabeth Naisbitt was becoming quite interested in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and it was the intention, by permission of the family, to have memorial services in the Halifax meeting house, at which they would all have been present but for the weather, which prevented attendance at their usual Church in the Sabbath morning, as is customary in religious Yorkshire.

The circumstances however colored the addresses nevertheless, and a large congregation was comforted and blessed by the remarks made and the prevailing spirit, so much in contrast with the services of the occasion elsewhere; in fact, it was remarkable how little of sympathy, how little of hope, how little light was given and how much the occasion seemed to demand. It was remarked that "If all quotation from the Bible and New Testament had been eliminated, not a solitary word of comfort would have been left," so spiritually poverty stricken is the routine of so-called religion in "this blaze of Gospel day."

May the comforting influence of the ever blessed Spirit rest upon the stricken husband and family "until the day dawns and the shadows flee away."

N.

"MOTHERHOOD OF GOD."

The revival among Western nations of a belief in the very ancient doctrine of the feminine element in the Deity, is the subject of an article in a late number of the *Literary Digest*. In this it is pointed out that the primitive belief of the Hebrews contained the idea of the dual nature of the Godhead; that this feminine element, which of course has been recognized in almost all the great religions of the world, ancient and