

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF

## THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

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### FIRST DAY.

The Sixty-eighth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 4, 1897, President Wilford Woodruff presiding.

Of the general authorities present on the stand there were of the First Presidency—Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph L. Smith; of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill and Anthon H. Lund; Patriarch John Smith; of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies—Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjelsted, B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds and Jonathan G. Kimball; of the Presiding Bishopric—William B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder.

Heber J. Grant of the Quorum of the Twelve was absent in consequence of his being in feeble health.

Conference called to order by President George Q. Cannon.

The choir sang:

“Zion stands with hills surrounded—  
Zion kept by power divine;  
All her foes shall be confounded,  
Though the world in arms combine.”

Opening prayer by Elder Anthon H. Lund.

Singing by the choir:

“Captain of Israel's host, and Guide  
Of all who seek the land above.  
Beneath the shadow we abide—  
The cloud of Thy protecting love.”

PREST. WILFORD WOODRUFF.

OPENING REMARKS.

I thank God my Heavenly Father that I have again the privilege of meeting with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the capacity of a Semi-Annual Conference. This is our Sixty-eighth Semi-Annual Conference. We have passed through a great variety of history from the organization of the Church until the present day. I trust that while we are assembled together during this Conference the Spirit of God may be with us, and with the Apostles and Elders who are called upon to speak to us, that we may be edified by the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and be prepared for that work which still rests upon us to carry out. We have a great work upon our hands. It has been a labor from the organization of the Church until the present time. We have the world to preach to. That is one of the duties God requires at the hands of the Elders of Israel. We are held responsible for this work and the building up of the kingdom of God according to the best light and knowledge and revelation which God has given unto us. We ought to be thankful to the Lord for His mercies unto us. I feel as though His hand has been visible in the establishing of His Church here in the Rocky Mountains, from our first arrival as Pioneers in the valleys of the mountains, when we found a barren desert, until the

present. The hand of the Lord has been with this people and with the Elders of Israel, and will continue to be. The Lord is in earnest, in fulfillment of His promises from the creation of the world down to this day, with regard to His dispensations to man. I hope and trust that while we dwell in the flesh we all may realize and understand this. It is a great blessing to receive the Gospel of Christ, to receive the Holy Priesthood, and to be called to labor in the Priesthood for the salvation of the children of men. This labor is upon us and will remain upon us until the coming of the Son of Man in the clouds of heaven, to reward every man according to the deeds done in the body.

I pray God to bless you and to pour out His Spirit upon us all, that while we are assembled together in this capacity we may have union of heart and spirit, and the Spirit of God resting upon us, to dictate and direct us in our labors. Amen.

#### ELDER ANTHON H. LUND.

Missionary Work Effective.—Good Effect of Conferences.—Object of the Saints to Build up Zion

I am pleased to have the privilege this morning of meeting with you, my brethren and sisters, and of hearing our President address us. I am glad that he is with us and able to talk so that we can all hear him. This has been our Jubilee year—fifty years since we arrived in these mountains; and we have all reflected more or less upon the history of Zion since the people arrived here when this region was a wilderness. We have made comparisons between today and then, and all have, no doubt, felt to thank the Lord that He has so richly blessed His people, and though they have gone through times of trial, yet they have seen His overruling providences in their behalf. Zion has prospered; the people have been blessed, both temporally and spiritually; and while they have tried to build up Zion at home, they have not forgotten the great duty resting upon them of sending men to the different nations to preach the Gospel. And the Lord has been with them, so that they have been able to bring thou-

sands into the fold of Christ. The best of reports are coming to us from the different missions, showing that the Lord is still with His servants, and that their efforts are crowned with more success than has attended their labors for many years past. This makes us rejoice, seeing the work of God prospering.

We have come together this morning to attend our Conference. I have often thought what a great blessing to the Saints are these conferences, bringing them together from the different parts of Zion, to where they can renew their old acquaintances, and where they can meet together under the spirit and influence of the Lord, and listen to instructions given them which are calculated for their best good. These are times of refreshing unto the Saints. And this is not something which has been evolved out of the system that God has revealed; but it was at first ordained and appointed unto the Saints to come together on these occasions. There is this difference between the work of God and the work of man—the work of God has a perfect Author, what He commands is not an experimental thing, but is something that was seen beforehand. The consequences were known before the law was given. By studying the word of God as given through His prophets, we find that He knew as well thousands of years ago what was for the best good of His people as today, and that when the prophets spoke of Zion they saw it, understood how it should be built, and could foretell the Lord's dealings with His people.

We have come to this country to build up a Zion unto our God. I hope that we have not forgotten the object of our coming. I hope that we can be classed among the laborers in Zion. The Lord has declared that the laborer in Zion shall work for Zion, and he adds, "if they labor for money, they shall perish." I believe it is the Prophet Nephi who wrote these words. He wrote them in a chapter that is devoted to our time. After having described what should come to pass between his day and the present period of time, he speaks of the com-