

SECOND DAY.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn which begins,

Redeemer of Israel
Our only delight.

Opening prayer by Elder Elias S. Kimball.

Singing by the choir:

High on the mountain top
A banner is unfurled,
Ye nations now look up,
It waves to all the world.

ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

Books cannot give Authority nor administer Ordinances—The Gospel is a practical System—No Religion but Christ's reveals the Resurrection—The Christian Sabbath and its Importance—The only true Gospel and Priesthood.

In arising to address this vast congregation, I earnestly desire a continuation of that liberality of spirit which was enjoyed yesterday by those whose privilege it was to minister unto us, realizing that without it we shall not be edified in the truth and the knowledge of God. In arising to speak upon and testify of the work of God, it is desirable to know what to speak about as well as what to say about it. Yesterday I felt peculiar pleasure and joy of spirit in listening to the testimonies of the brethren, because of the simplicity and force of many of the truths that were uttered. One of them came forcibly to my mind, as well as to the rest of the hearers, concerning the value and importance of the living oracles to the Church of God on the earth as being the principle of precedence in the midst of God's people over written instructions that are given by men. Inasmuch as the Elders speak by the Holy Spirit, the word of the Lord is that their instructions should be scripture—"shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord and the power of God unto salvation." When the declaration was made concerning the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants how deficient they would be in administering salvation, if they alone

were enjoyed by the people. Now we know just how it has worked with all Christendom, to have the Bible without having authority to administer the ordinances mentioned in it. Now we may possess either of these books, or all of them, and they can not baptize a single man, or woman, into the Church. There is not power enough in all the books to do it, nor is there power in all the books to give any man authority to do it. Consequently, then, it requires the authority from the Lord to be present to administer in all His ordinances. The highest authority that we have known—the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, stated, that it was not possible without the birth of the water and of the spirit to enter the kingdom of heaven. Said He to the learned Nicodemus, "Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." That was a declaration of principle that was inexorable. He who created this earth and causes it to travel round the sun every three hundred and sixty-five days and six hours, established those great eternal principles that rule the heavens, also the law that except a man be born of the water and of the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God; and one is just as much a law of nature as the other. The latter is the law of nature and of grace to man. Who could administer these ordinances except they received the authority from God to do it? These books can neither baptize, nor confirm us. They cannot confirm upon us the Holy Ghost nor a membership in the Church of Christ, neither can they administer to us any other of the ordinances which we are receiving, and in which we rejoice so much, in the house of our God. It requires nothing less than a present living minister in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to administer in all the ordinances, in counsel, and in directing all the affairs of the Church of Christ. We have learned this, and understand it, or else we do not know where our safety lies.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a sys-

tem of things which, in order to be known and understood, must be lived. A man cannot preach with effect and power to another the forgiveness of sins through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, or baptism for the remission of his sins, unless he has himself been baptized for the remission of his sins and has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ himself. No man can administer in the ordinances of the Gospel of Christ with effect and with power, unless he has first been made partaker of them himself; and that is how we cannot, any of us, preach the power of the resurrection, because none of us have been raised from the dead. When, by and by, the time of the resurrection comes, men will teach it to us who have been raised from the dead, and who understand and have the power of it and the keys of it. That is why you cannot be baptized for your dead in the house of the Lord, until you have been first baptized and received ordinances yourself. The Gospel has to be lived in order to be realized and its power received. The man who goes forward with real repentance of heart for all his sins and covenants with God that he will serve Him the rest of his days, according to the best of his ability, with the grace of God bestowed upon him, and goes forward and receives this ordinance, rejoices in this Gospel; because this is the first step in it, and when a man does this with full purpose of heart and enters upon keeping the commandments of God he receives the Holy Spirit. The promise made to him is true, and is fulfilled, and everybody under the sound of my voice that has ever pursued that course knows that it is true. They know that in entering into the service and keeping the commandments of God they receive the Holy Spirit, when administered to by those who are authorized of God; and it gives to one the gift of tongues, to talk in a language that he does not know himself. That same spirit gives to another the gift of interpretation of what the first has been talking about, to the edification of all who have listened. It gives to another the gift of healing, that if he is sick, afflicted and distressed, and is living his religion, he can call upon the Elders, receive their bless-

ing and be healed. If he is a minister, of the Lord himself, and labors to receive it, he will have the gift to administer the anointing to others, and they will be healed; or he may receive the gift of prophecy, of faith, of wisdom, of visions, of dreams, or to hear the still small voice of the Holy Spirit giving inspiration to his soul. It requires a man to live in the continual state of humility and obedience towards God, of repentance for every imperfection, folly and vanity, and an effort to depart therefrom, and to sanctify himself by the working of the Spirit and the belief of the truth unto everlasting life. This Gospel brings with it the gifts, the blessings and the grace of God, so that the faithful Saint, as he goes along in the straight and narrow path, knows of the goodness of God, that he is in fellowship with the Lord; that he is not alone and without God in the world, but that the angels are about him, and the care of the Lord is over him.

Well, now, we have a Gospel that is full of joy and consolation. It opens up principles of intelligence, and revelation, of the knowledge of things past and present and to come. There are a great many other religions in the world, and some very powerful ones. For instance, there is the Mohammedan religion, and those people have a faith of their own, and they are very numerous, about 175,000,000, they estimate, I believe. They have their prophet, they have their faith, they have their ideas of futurity, and they are a sort of cousin in the relation to father Abraham's family. His son, Ishmael, and Isaac's son, Esau, in their seed, constitute a great portion of that class of people. They have had apostles raised up among them, from the seed of Abraham as they say, and they entertain a certain amount of faith. In fact, the promise of the Lord, wherein he said he knew Abraham, that he would command his children after him, is manifest in that people, in that they believe in one God, and they claim one prophet, Mohammed. Then, again, we look to the eastern world, in China, for instance, where are said to be about four hundred millions of human beings, and they believe in doctrines given them by Confucius and by Buddhah, and

others. But those four hundred millions are given up to the worship of idols. They are idolaters, with the rest; and so we may go on over the world, and find scores of these great branches of religion that have had their heads and chiefs, their faiths and beliefs. What I want to call your special attention to in this connection, is this: Has any one of them ever had a man of their number pass through death, rise again from the grave and declare to them the principles of having obtained through him or by him, a resurrection—been lifted up to immortality through their faith? We do not find it in history anywhere in the earth that they have ever had such a testimony or evidence of a resurrection and immortality beyond the grave. All that they have given to them is the exercise of a certain faith that lasts them through this life. But the Gospel of the Latter-day Saints, which is the Gospel of the former day Saints, as well, is different from any believed in by any other people as to all these things, and people who believe in the real Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel that He instituted, have something more and better and beyond what any other portion of the human family have to look to.

The great Captain of our salvation went into the grave with marks in His hands and in His feet and in His side, and He came forth out of that grave in three days, and He did not go away without being seen. He made Himself known, communicated with them, associated with them, in fact, and gave them a certain knowledge of the truth of the sayings he uttered Himself to Moses a good many years before, on the mountain. He said to Moses: "This is My work and My glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." This is His great work. The human family had, through transgression, come under the law of sin and death, and He had come to restore that which was lost, and to bring to pass the resurrection, to open the prison doors to the spirits in prison, them that were bound, and declared the acceptable day of the Lord, and bestowed gifts to men. This is the kind of a Captain of our salvation that we have, one who has re-

vealed this knowledge. Said He, "As the Father hath power in Himself to lay down His life and take it again, so hath He given unto the Son power to lay down His life and to take it again," and He did so. Now where is there another among those strange religions that do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Redeemer that entertain any such knowledge and understanding of eternal life and of the resurrection of the dead? That He has obtained these, we have abundant testimony. Stephen said he saw Him sitting at the right hand of God, while he, Stephen, was being persecuted and stoned to death; and Paul said he had seen and heard things not lawful for a man to utter. And the Savior, after He had done those wonderful works in His own land, came over here to America, and there was here no chance for deception, because He showed them the wounds in His hands and in His feet. He was the same person that went down into the grave and came out triumphant over the grave. Now, if any of these other religions have had any man that has gone through the grave and risen again, they certainly have been very lacking in kindness not to come and show their fellow worshippers of that knowledge and that power and that great attainment. But the Lord Jesus has shown unto the Saints composing His Church in the different parts of the world, the gifts and blessings of immortality and eternal life which He came and brought to light. The Apostles understood the same thing. Paul, in writing to Timothy, says that "life and immortality is brought to light through the Gospel." So then, we have the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as something that endures beyond the grave, while the knowledge that the rest of the human family possesses only leads them to the grave, and beyond that is to them darkness and ignorance, and they know nothing about the future, comparatively speaking.

Jesus came and taught the people upon this land; He came here and ministered repeatedly. The Book of Mormon tells us that He came oft, and broke bread with the Saints here.

and instructed them and testified to them; on one occasion He came and told them to gather together their sick, afflicted and distressed, and bring them before Him and He healed them. He made a business of it, as Joseph Smith went through the land of Nauvoo or Commerce and Montrose healing every one who was sick, of the people of God, and as the Savior wished to do in the land of Palestine. There He complained that He could not do many mighty works because of their unbelief; but here on the land of America, He found a greater measure of faith. He called together the people and healed their sick and distressed. On another occasion He blessed their little ones, and those little ones spoke and uttered things incomprehensible to mortals, and angels came down and surrounded them, and ministered unto them. And while the Savior Himself began with a degree of fearfulness concerning their unbelief, before He got through He said: "Now My joy is full." Yes, this great Redeemer, the author of life and immortality, came over to this land and labored among the Nephites, and said here, what we have no account of His saying in that other land, at any time: "Now, My joy is full." On the contrary, on the other land, He sorrowed and He wept because of their unbelief and their hardness of heart, and He couldn't do many mighty miracles among them because of their unbelief. Thus we have a Savior that has gone through the grave, a Redeemer that has triumphed victoriously over hell, and the grave; and it is said the last enemy that shall be destroyed will be death.

We see, then, that the Latter-day Saints have not only the advantages of the Holy Ghost here, and the power of faith; but O, the love that fills our hearts when we hear the pure principles of the Gospel taught to us! How happy we have felt as we sat together while the Apostles ministered unto us the bread of life. How joyful the people feel when they are full of love to each other. The principle of charity and the blessedness of the Everlasting Gospel belong to this people as it belongs to no other people.

I rejoice greatly in this Gospel, be-

cause it opens up unto us transcendent joys, blessings and glories in the future, which we have knowledge of, which our Savior taught, and which are taught to us here in our times, and which He has condescended to reveal again in these last days. Think of what this Savior has done for us here, and has gone to the Father to intercede for us, to forgive us of our sins, to heal us of our backslidings; and has condescended, after the lapse of eighteen hundred years, to come with His Father, the glorious Father. The Creator of all came and introduced that Savior, His Son, to the boy Joseph Smith, when fourteen years of age, and taught him to commence a great and mighty work, of which we are today some few of the fruits. The Father said, "This is my beloved Son, hear him." And the Son taught Joseph, and sent His angels to administer to him, to teach, to bless, to bring forth the Book of Mormon, and to build up the Church again, bringing it forth out of the wilderness through great suffering; and we ought not to forget that the truth is a costly article, and always has been. It has cost the best men that have ever lived in the flesh, their mortal lives, and may yet again. It is a work that is made altogether of what has been considered as sacrifice. Indeed, the old Prophet said, "Gather together my Saints, unto me, they that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." That is the principle upon which we are brought together. We sacrifice our sins, our pleasant enjoyments and worldly lusts, and turn unto God and serve Him.

This Sabbath day may become a very grave question if we are to build up the New Jerusalem. It was one of the first things that the Lord complained of through the prophets anciently, that they had polluted His Sabbath, and they had profaned it, and they had not observed it: and when they got so they could do these things with impunity, they left off paying their tithing, and the Lord told them they had robbed God, the whole nation of them—they had robbed Him because they had withheld the tithing which they owed Him. And when they could do a few of these things, they

went on in their transgressions into fornications, adulteries and murder, from one step to another, to the most heinous crimes, until, finally, they could crucify the Lord Jesus Christ. We must look out that we do not roll any manner of sin as a sweet morsel under our tongue, but strive with penitence day by day to put away from us everything that is contrary to godliness, that would hinder the working of the Spirit within us, that we may be able to get grace for grace, and go from faith to faith, until we can become pure in heart, for we are assured in the word of the Lord that nothing that is unholy or impure can enter into His presence. What a saying! No wonder the brethren said to Him, "Lord, are there any that shall be saved?" when we look at the touchstone, look at the criterion, look at the rule by which these things have to be brought about. And we should labor continually, striving to subdue ourselves and to put away the vices, the sins and the besetments that do so daily and so easily beset us, until we bring this living body of clay into the subjection of the Spirit, that our souls may live.

The Sabbath is the day that the Lord has appointed for a time of rest. He says that He finished His work, and that He rested on the Sabbath day, the seventh day. When the Lord came, in His day, He instituted the first day of the week, and ever since then it has been "His day," and He says, that we may keep ourselves unspotted from the world, we are required to meet together on His day and offer our sacraments, and make our acknowledgements, and our confessions, paying our devotions to the Most High. It is a common thing for the people to violate that sacred law concerning the Sabbath day. Many of the people, if they go on a journey, take pains in their calculation to make the Sabbath count one day in the trip; and many things are put off for Sunday especially. I would like to have it taken up with the people, and have the women make calculations on Saturday, and have the food cooked on that day, for the Sunday, and then go to meeting, instead of roasting over the stove cook-

ing, and see to having a little more leisure and good instruction, and feed the soul, instead of being so much at work and having so much to do on that day. The Lord said to Israel: "Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, for on the seventh day, the Lord thy God rested from His labors; and thou shalt not do any work, neither thy son nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates." Now it was a strict rule and law and commandment to Israel anciently, and you will find if you will look into the Book of Mormon that it was so there, and is going to become just as binding upon God's people in all time as it ever was with them, and we ought to be looking to it and practicing on it, so that we can do right, so as to be able to do the right thing when we get to it.

I testify to you, my brethren and sisters, that this Gospel is the Gospel of all others on the earth, the only one that is worthy the attention of mortals, as fast as it can be brought to their consideration. And as we have been blessed to learn these principles and to know them, and to know of the things of the future, and to know of some things of the past, we have reason to rejoice above all other people, and we have reason to deny ourselves of all unrighteousness just as fast as we can, and to learn the way of life and to hearken to the counsels of those that are called of God and to walk in His ways, and to receive continually the word of the Lord and His direction in all our affairs. I rejoice greatly in the work of the Lord, and I pray that His blessings may abound unto the people, that He may incline our hearts to keep His laws, to walk in His ways, for the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. The testimonies of the Lord are sure, and they even make wise the simple.

Now 'a word about the Priesthood and its restoration: Think of it! This same Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, ordained Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery Apostles by Peter, James and John, His servants. Joseph and Oliver 'having received this apostleship, confirmed it upon twelve brethren of the Church, and those

brethren have conferred it upon us who are in the stand today; thus some of us received this holy apostleship but the fourth in succession from Jesus Christ. And the fact is that the Priesthood has come down to us as the Lord promised when He said He would be with His Apostles always "even unto the end of the world." And He says to us concerning Peter, James and John: "Whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained you and confirmed you to be Apostles, and especial witnesses of my name, and bear the keys of your ministry, and of the same things which I reveal unto them; unto whom I have committed the keys of My kingdom, and a dispensation of the Gospel for the last days and for the last times; and for the dispensation of the fullness of times in the which I will gather together in one all things both which are in heaven and which are on earth." These are the men that have received this Priesthood—these that sit around me this morning. It was received from those resurrected men that have come to labor with us. This is the Priesthood by which we officiate, and it is not something that has come down through the ages and been lost. This is the Priesthood that was taken away into the wilderness anciently, and has been restored in these latter-days in its purity, in its simplicity and its power, And those who give themselves to it fully and faithfully in all humility, receiving the instructions and counsels of those holding that Priesthood, should be worthy of all acceptance, and we ought to realize it and avail ourselves of the benefit of it, and be found in no case speaking against each other or the Lord's anointed.

May the Lord give us His Spirit, intensify it in us, in our hearts, and train us in the principles of righteousness and truth, and help and inspire us in every good word and work, and then He will do better for us than we know how to ask or even to think. Amen.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW.

Personal appearance of the Savior—Promises made to the Elders—Have they been Fulfilled—Union of the Priesthood—Proper respect in Families.

Brethren and sisters and friends, I hope during the short time that I address you this morning I may have the

benefit of your prayers, and the exercise of your faith.

At these general Conferences it is the privilege of everyone who attends to receive instruction, suited to his individual needs and benefits, of great worth, and if we pay proper attention to what is said and exercise the proper faith, there will be no disappointment.

Now, I wish to read a few verses from the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 110, which describes one of the most important events of our day.

"The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened. We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit, before us, and under His feet was a paved work of pure gold, in color like amber. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and the hair of his head was white like the pure snow. His countenance shone above the brightness of the sun, and His voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying: I am the first and the last, I am He who liveth. I am He who was slain, I am your advocate with the Father. Behold your sins are forgiven you, you are clean before me, therefore lift up your heads and rejoice. Let the hearts of your brethren rejoice, and let the hearts of all my people rejoice, who have, with their might, built this house to my name. For behold, I have accepted this house, and my name shall be here, and I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house, yea, I will appear unto my servants, and speak unto them with mine own voice, if my people will keep my commandments, and do not pollute this holy house. Yea, the hearts of thousands and tens of thousands shall greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings which shall be poured out, and the endowment with which my servants have been endowed in this house; and the fame of this house shall spread to foreign lands, and this is the beginning of the blessing which shall be poured upon the heads of my people. Even so. Amen."

We have heard, brethren and sisters, very excellent principles, explained to us yesterday, and this morning by Apostle Richards, and our hearts have been made to rejoice in the contemplation of the positions that we occupy, of the prospects that are before us, and of the glorious records that many, and I hope all, have made in the past. It is strange, that there are so few that have come to an understanding that God has revealed Him-