

AT THE TABERNACLE.

Closing session, 2 p. m.

The choir sang the anthem:

Praise the Lord, all ye nations.

Prayer was offered by Elder David John.

The anthem:

"Hark! hark! my soul!

was sung by the choir.

PATRIARCH JOHN SMITH.

My brethren and sisters, it is with peculiar feelings that I stand before you. For one reason, I was not expecting to occupy this position; but I trust, by your faith and prayers I may say something which will be of benefit, not only to you, but to myself. I can bear testimony to the truth of that which we have heard thus far during this conference. I can bear testimony that the Spirit of the Lord has been with us, and has guided those who have spoken to us. I trust that we as Latter-day Saints, will treasure up in our minds that which we have heard, and carry it with us to our homes, that it may abide with us and guide our actions in the future. I can bear testimony that this is the work of God, and that we are His people. So far as we will follow the instructions we receive from those who are set to preside, and be guided by our Father in heaven, I know that His blessings will rest upon us. If we will strive to do our duty, live our religion, and conduct ourselves in that way that shall be pleasing unto our Father in heaven, all will be well with us. I know that my Redeemer lives, and that Jesus is the Christ, and that if we will do our duty as Latter-day Saints we will reap the reward which our Father has in store for us. I feel to exhort my brethren and sisters to faithfulness and to diligence; for we understand that every Latter-day Saint has certain known duties to perform. We realize that it is our duty to remember our prayers, to pay our tithes and offerings, and to do unto others as we would wish them to do unto us under like circumstances. But if I have a hobby, it is what I have said in times past: I feel to exhort my young brethren to faithfulness, to diligence of

duty, to prepare themselves by study and by attending the Mutual improvement associations, and striving to inform their minds at home, that when they are called to labor in the ministry they may go forward enabled to perform that duty unto which they may be called; for I realize, from many circumstances I have seen, that oftentimes our boys, although they are honest and willing to do their duty, have neglected to prepare themselves for the ministry, so much so that when they get into the field they are at a loss, and it takes them sometime before they can commence to do that amount of good that they would do from the start if they informed their minds before they left home. I feel to strive to know my duty and to perform the same in that way and manner that shall meet the approval of my Father in heaven. I desire an interest in the prayers of the Saints, that I may be able to fill my mission in honor and accomplish the work whereunto my Father in heaven has called me. May the blessings of our Father rest upon all Israel, and guide us in the true path, that when we have finished our course we may be worthy of the blessings which He has promised us, in my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG.

The time to favor Zion come—Prophetic declarations fulfilled—Evidence of God's hand over the Saints—Martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum

This is a day of rejoicing, and I feel to bless the name of my Redeemer for the privilege that I have of meeting with the Latter-day Saints in this conference. It is not often that we behold so many of our people assembled together as we witness this day, beneath this roof. God is exceedingly merciful unto the Latter-day Saints, and I am satisfied that prosperity and peace will dwell in their midst, as long as they observe to keep His commandments. The set time has come to favor Zion. Zion has been favored all the days that I remember in this life. Though driven and peeled by our enemies, God has sustained us, and we have grown, and enlarged, and built up the country, and become a great people. I have often heard the brethren prophesy of the day

which we now behold—that the few who were gathered here upon a ten-acre block would multiply, others would gather in, and a great people would be established in these mountains. How speedily have these words been fulfilled! God is blessing the people. We witness it upon every hand; and if we continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth as it is in Him, this people will soon be the head, not the tail; for virtue, uprightness, honesty and continuity of purpose will bring the honest and the pure to the head of the whole world. I know something about the condition of the nations, our own nation included. The wickedness that is abroad in the land is a reproach to the United States. It is a reproach to us that wickedness should prevail to the extent that it does. But as true as there is a God in heaven, the Latter-day Saints—not the latter-day sinners, but the Latter-day Saints—and the pure who do not claim to be Latter-day Saints, will rise up and be the head of this nation. I do not say that we are a government within a government. We are one with our parent government. But purity, excellency and honesty are sure to bring a people to the front. God designs it, and it will come to pass.

I feel to bless this people with all my heart and soul. I feel to bless every man and woman, of whatever land or religious denomination they may be, who feel to exalt Christ and Him crucified, and who preach this doctrine for the salvation of the human family. God help them; God help us. When the record is written and published that this people have made, under the guidance of inspired men, it will equal if not surpass any record that the people of God have ever made on this globe. It is a testimony in and of itself that should convince all men who are acquainted with it, that the people are guided by the hand of Jehovah. But there is something beyond this to the Latter-day Saints. Who is there in this congregation that has the living testimony and the fire of the Spirit of God in them? Brethren and sisters, answer that yourselves. Have I that testimony in me? Have you that testimony in you? It is the priceless gem that God

bestows upon His anointed, and upon His sons and daughters who seek Him with undivided hearts. I know that this people have it, because I see and feel it. The inspiring influences of that Spirit are in the midst of this people; and we are bound to succeed, because there is no power that can resist the influences of that Spirit and the revelations of God. Never in the history of this people will evil come upon them, unless they forsake their Redeemer. Never will sickness, death or anything come in your homes, but what God designs it for the benefit, the upbuilding and enlarging of the dominion of the Latter-day Saints. We have control over sickness—how far? Are there any deaths among us? There are, and good people die; but there is something in this that is far beyond my understanding; for I remember the time well when our Prophet Joseph Smith and our Patriarch Hyrum Smith—two of the noblest men that ever stood upon the earth—rode to their death. They went to death at Carthage. What for? To leave the people without a shepherd? To leave us there in the midst of our enemies, trembling and like lost sheep? Oh, no! They went to seal their testimony with their blood, which cannot be refuted by all the world. They gave their lives to sustain this work, and it was necessary, according to the revelations that we have received. Are we any better than they? Are we any better than Christ? No. If God permits a thing, shall we complain at it? But I do testify to you this day that nothing will come to me, nothing will come to you, to your families, or to anything that God has given you, but what you will acknowledge His hand in it, and it will be for your salvation and the salvation of your families. I know it because God is doing this work. He has the issues of life and death in His hands, and I know that when these things occur, His hand is in them, if we are living right before Him; and there is no power beneath the earth nor above the earth that can check this handiwork of the Almighty for the uplifting, guiding and consolidating of His people. These things are hard to bear; but, brethren and sisters, I say to you as I say to myself; in my pray-

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ers every day I acknowledge His hand in all things, because I know He has my welfare at heart, come life or death, poverty, riches, persecution, or whatever it is. The Church of Christ will rise; the kingdom of God will burst forth, His purposes will be accomplished, and the exaltation of the faithful will be assured, and no one can hinder it.

I testify of these things unto you. I would like to talk a little longer, but there is no time; indeed I am not able to talk more. But I want to bless the people. I want you to hear my voice, for it is not stilled yet. I want you to hear me say, God bless you, brethren and sisters, and all the Latter-day Saints, from the center to the extremities. God be with the people. He is with them, and He will continue to be. We need not to fear famine, nor drouth, nor grasshoppers, nor insects of any kind; we need not to fear any foemen, nor any weapon. Fear God, and Him only; for He will bear us off victorious under all circumstances. We will live and grow and become better, and rise higher and become nobler and more efficient in our labors, if we serve Him with undivided hearts. God grant that this may be the case with all of us; that we may never shirk a duty, nor turn pale nor our knees tremble before our enemies. May He give us the Spirit of the Lord, and much of it, to send the Gospel forth to the nations, open up new missions, go to those who sit in darkness, preach the Gospel by the power of the Spirit to the poor and the destitute, to those who are not civilized as well as those who are. May He give us the power to accomplish this great work, and build up His kingdom, labor in His Temples, and accomplish a work for the living and the dead, that all may rise together, and that we may become a power in the earth and fill the whole earth, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The choir sang the anthem:

Let the mountains shout for joy.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH presented, to be voted upon by the conference, the

GENERAL AUTHORITIES OF THE CHURCH,

as follows:

Joseph F. Smith, as Prophet, Seer and Revelator and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

John R. Winder, as First Counselor in the First Presidency.

Anthon H. Lund, as Second Counselor in the First Presidency.

Brigham Young, as President of the Twelve Apostles.

As members of the Council of Twelve Apostles: Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill, Matthias F. Cowley, Abraham O. Woodruff, Rudger Clawson, Reed Smoot and Hyrum M. Smith.

John Smith, as Presiding Patriarch of the Church.

The counselors in the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles as Prophets, Seers and Revelators.

First seven presidents of Seventies: Seymour B. Young, Christian D. Fjeldsted, Brigham Henry Roberts, George Reynolds, Jonathan G. Kimball, Rulon S. Wells and Joseph W. McMurrin.

William B. Preston, as Presiding Bishop, with Robert T. Burton and Orrin P. Miller as his first and second counselors.

Joseph F. Smith, as Trustee-in-Trust for the body of religious worshippers known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

As members of the General Church Board of Education: Joseph F. Smith, Willard Young, Anthon H. Lund, James Sharp, John Nicholson, George H. Brimhall, Rudger Clawson, Joseph M. Tanner and John R. Winder.

Anthon H. Lund, as Church Historian and General Church Recorder.

Andrew Jenson, O. F. Whitney, A. M. Musser and Brigham H. Roberts, assistant historians.

John Nicholson, as clerk of the conference.

All of the voting was unanimous.