

A VISION.

HEAR, O ye heavens, and give ear, O earth, and rejoice ye inhabitants thereof, for the Lord is God, and beside him there is no Savior; great is his wisdom; marvelous are his ways; and the extent of his doings, none can find out; his purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay his hand; from eternity to eternity he is the same, and his years never fail.

For thus saith the Lord, I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end; great shall be their reward, and eternal shall be their glory; and to them will I reveal all mysteries; yea, all the hidden mysteries of my kingdom from days of old; and for ages to come will I make known unto them the good pleasure of my will concerning all things pertaining to my kingdom; yea even the wonders of eternity shall they know, and things to come will I show them, even the things of many generations; their wisdom shall be great, and their understanding reach to heaven; and before them the wisdom of the wise shall perish, and the understanding of the prudent shall come to naught; for by my Spirit will I enlighten them, and by my power will I make known unto them the secrets of my will; yea even those things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor yet entered into the heart of man.

We, Joseph Smith, Jr., and Sidney Rigdon, being in the Spirit on the sixteenth of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, by the power of the Spirit our eyes were opened, and our understandings were enlightened, so as to see and understand the things of God; even those things which were from the beginning before the world

was, which were ordained of the Father, through his only begotten Son, who was in the bosom of the Father, even from the beginning, of whom we bear record, and the record which we bear is the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the Son, whom we saw and with whom we conversed in the heavenly vision; for while we were doing the work of translation, which the Lord had appointed unto us, we came to the twenty-ninth verse of the fifth chapter of John, which was given unto us as follows: speaking of the resurrection of the dead, concerning those who shall hear the voice of the Son of Man, and shall come forth; they who have done good in the resurrection of the just, and they who have done evil in the resurrection of the unjust.

Now this caused us to marvel, for it was given unto us of the Spirit, and while we meditated upon these things, the Lord touched the eyes of our understandings, and they were opened, and the glory of the Lord shown round about; and we beheld the glory of the Son, on the right hand of the Father, and received of his fullness; and saw the holy angels, and they who were sanctified before his throne, worshipping God and the Lamb, who worship him forever and ever.

And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him, that he lives; for we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the only begotten of the Father, that by him and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created; and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God.

And this we saw also, and bear record,

that an angel of God, who was in authority in the presence of God, who rebelled against the only begotten Son; whom the Father loved, and who was in the bosom of the Father; and was thrust down from the presence of God and the Son, and was called Perdition; for the heavens wept over him; he was Lucifer, a son of the morning. And we beheld, and lo, he is fallen! is fallen! even a son of the morning.

And while we were yet in the Spirit, the Lord commanded us that we should write the vision; for we beheld Satan, that old serpent, even the devil, who rebelled against God, and sought to take the kingdom of our God and his Christ; wherefore he maketh war with the saints of God, and encompasses them round about. And we saw a vision of the sufferings of those with whom he made war and overcame, for thus came the voice of the Lord unto us.

Thus saith the Lord, concerning all those who know my power, and have been made partakers thereof, and suffered themselves, through the power of the devil, to be overcome, and to deny the truth, and defy my power; they are they who are the sons of perdition, of whom I say it had been better for them never to have been born; for they are vessels of wrath, doomed to suffer the wrath of God, with the devil and his angels, in eternity, concerning whom I have said there is no forgiveness in this world, nor in the world to come; having denied the Holy Spirit, after having received it; and having denied the only begotten Son of the Father; having crucified him unto themselves, and put him to an open shame: these are they who shall go away into the lake of fire and brimstone, with the devil and his angels, and the only ones on whom the second death shall have any power; yea, verily, the only ones who shall not be redeemed in due time of the Lord, after the sufferings of his wrath; for all the rest shall be brought forth by the resurrection of

the dead, through the triumph and the glory of the Lamb, who was slain, who was in the bosom of the Father before the worlds were made.

And this is the gospel, the glad tidings which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us, that he came into the world, even Jesus to be crucified for the world, and to bear the sins of the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness; that through him all might be saved, whom the Father had put into his power, and made by him; who glorifies the Father, and saves all the works of his hands, except those sons of perdition who deny the Son after the Father hath revealed him; wherefore he saves all except them; they shall go away into everlasting punishment, which is endless punishment, which is eternal punishment, to reign with the devil and his angels in eternity, where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched, which is their torment, and the end thereof, neither the place thereof, nor their torment, no man knows; neither was it revealed, neither is, neither will be revealed unto man, except to them who are made partakers thereof: nevertheless, I, the Lord, show it by vision unto many; but straightway shut it up again; wherefore the end, the width, the height, the depth, and the misery thereof, they understand not, neither any man except them who are ordained unto this condemnation.

And we heard the voice saying, Write the vision, for lo, this is the end of the vision of the sufferings of the ungodly!

And again, we bear record for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ, concerning them who come forth in the resurrection of the just: they are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believe on his name, and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name, and this according to the commandment which he has given, that, by keeping the commandments, they might be

washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power; and who overcome by faith, and are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true; they are they who are the Church of the First Born; they are they into whose hands the Father has given all things; they are they who are priests and kings, who have received of his fullness, and of his glory, and are priests of the Most High after the order of Melchisedek, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the only begotten Son; wherefore, as it is written, they are gods, even the sons of God; wherefore all things are theirs, whether life or death, or things present, or things to come, all are theirs, and they are Christ's, and Christ is God's; and they shall overcome all things; wherefore let no man glory in man, but rather let him glory in God, who shall subdue all enemies under his feet; these shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ forever and ever; these are they whom he shall bring with him, when he shall come in the clouds of heaven, to reign on the earth over his people; these are they who shall have part in the first resurrection; these are they who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just; these are they who are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the City of the living God, the heavenly place, the holiest of all; these are they who have come to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and the Church of Enoch, and of the First Born; these are they whose names are written in heaven, where God and Christ are the judge of all; these are they who are just men made perfect through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood; these are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God, the highest of all; whose glory the sun of the

firmament is written of as being typical.

And again, we saw the terrestrial world, and behold and lo; these are they who are of the terrestrial, whose glory differs from that of the Church of the First Born, who have received the fulness of the Father, even as that of the moon differs from the sun in the firmament. Behold, these are they who died without law; and also they who are the spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterward received it, these are they who are honorable men of the earth, who are blinded by the craftiness of men; these are they who receive of his glory, but not of his fullness; these are they who receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fullness of the Father; wherefore they are bodies terrestrial, and not bodies celestial, and differ in glory as the moon differs from the sun; these are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore they obtained not the crown over the Kingdom of our God. And now this is the end of the vision which we saw of the terrestrial, that the Lord commanded us to write while we were yet in the Spirit.

And again, we saw the glory of the celestial, which glory is that of the lesser, even as the glory of the stars differ from that of the glory of the moon in the firmament; these are they who received not the gospel of Christ, neither the testimony of Jesus; these are they who deny not the Holy Spirit; these are they who are thrust down to hell; these are they who shall not be redeemed from the devil, until the last resurrection, until the Lord, even Christ the Lamb, shall have finished his work; these are they who receive not of his fullness in the eternal world, but of the Holy Spirit through the ministration of the terrestrial; and the terrestrial through the ministration of the celestial; and also the celestial receive it of the administering of

angels, who are appointed to minister for them, or who are appointed to be ministering spirits for them, for they shall be heirs of salvation.

And thus we saw in the heavenly vision, the glory of the teſtial, which ſurpaſſes all underſtanding; and no man knows it except him to whom God has revealed it. And thus we ſaw the glory of the terreſtrial, which excels in all things the glory of the teſtial, even in glory, and in power, and in might, and in dominion. And thus we ſaw the glory of the ceſtial, which excels in all things; where God, even the Father, reigns upon his throne forever and ever, before whoſe throne all things bow in humble reverence and give him glory forever and ever. They who dwell in his preſence are the Church of the Firſt Born; and they ſee as they are ſeen, and know as they are known, having received of his fullneſs and of his grace; and he makes them equal in power, and in might, and in dominion.

And the glory of the ceſtial is one, even as the glory of the ſun is one. And the glory of the terreſtrial is one, even as the glory of the moon is one. And the glory of the teſtial is one, even as the glory of the ſtars is one, for as one ſtar differs from another ſtar in glory, even ſo differs one from another in glory in the teſtial world; for theſe are they who are of Paul, and of Apollos, and of Cephas; theſe are they who ſay they are ſome of one and ſome of another, ſome of Chriſt, and ſome of John, and ſome of Moſes, and ſome of Elias, and ſome of Eſaias, and ſome of Iſaiah, and ſome of Enoch, but received not the goſpel, neither the teſtimony of Jeſus, neither the prophets, neither the everlaſting covenant; laſt of all, theſe all are they who will not be gathered with the Saints, to be caught up unto the Church of the Firſt Born, and received into the cloud; theſe are they who are liars, and ſorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whoſoever loves and makes a lie; theſe are they who ſuffer the wrath of God on the earth; theſe are they who ſuffer the vengeance of eternal fire; theſe are they who are caſt down

to hell, and ſuffer the wrath of Almighty God, until the fullneſs of times, when Chriſt ſhall have ſubdued all enemies under his feet, and ſhall have perfected his work, when he ſhall deliver up the kingdom and preſent it unto the Father ſpotleſs, ſaying: I have overcome and have trodden the wine preſs alone, even the wine preſs of the fierceneſs of the wrath of Almighty God; then ſhall he be crowned with the crown of his glory, to ſit on the throne of his power to reign forever and ever.

But, behold, and lo, we ſaw the glory and the inhabitants of the teſtial world, that they were as innumerable as the ſtars in the firmament of heaven, or as the ſand upon the ſea ſhore, and heard the voice of the Lord, ſaying: Theſe all ſhall bow the knee, and every tongue ſhall confeſs to him who ſits upon the throne forever and ever; for they ſhall be judged according to their works; and every man ſhall receive according to his own works, and his own dominion, in the manſions which are prepared, and they ſhall be ſervants of the Moſt High, but where God and Chriſt dwell they can not come, worlds without end.

This is the end of the viſion which we ſaw, which we were commanded to write while we were yet in the Spirit.

But great and marvelous are the works of the Lord and the mysteries of his kingdom which he showed unto us, which surpasses all understanding in glory, and in might, and in dominion, which he commanded us we should not write, while we were yet in the Spirit, and are not lawful for man to utter, neither is man capable to make them known, for they are only to be seen and understood by the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him and purify themselves before him; to whom he grants this privilege of seeing and knowing for themselves; that through the power and manifestation of the Spirit, while in the flesh, they may be able to bear his presence in the world of glory. And to God and the Lamb be glory, and honor, and dominion forever and ever. Amen.