

Now then let me look back a little, and examine things as they have existed. What kind of a Gospel was it that Jesus introduced? We are told that it was the Gospel; but what sort of an organization did his Church have? Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers and Evangelists—inspired men—men who had the ministering of angels, the spirit of prophecy, and the principle of revelation; men who had the heavens opened to them, so that they could contemplate the purposes of God as they should roll along throughout every subsequent period of time until the winding up scene. Whence did they obtain this knowledge? They obtained it through obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and hence it is very properly said that “life and immortality are brought to light by the gospel.”

Well, who were the ancient Apostles? They were men chosen and selected by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Who were these Prophets? Men who were in possession of the spirit of prophecy; and you show me a man who is called and inspired of God to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and I will show you a Prophet, for we are told that “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy;” and if a man has not the spirit of prophecy and revelation he is not the man to teach the things of God, for that is the principle by which all God’s chosen and authorized ministers in every age have been inspired, and by which they have taught the things of eternal life to the children of men.

How was it with Jesus? He said that “he came not to do his own will, but the will of the Father who sent him;” and said he—“The words that I speak I speak not of myself: but the Father which dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”

When the disciples went forth to preach the Gospel, Jesus told them to go without purse and scrip, trusting in him; and he told them that when they were brought before kings, rulers and governors, they were not to think beforehand what they should say, for it should be given to them in the selfsame hour that they needed it. Paul said that the Gospel that he preached “he received not of man, neither by man;” but he received it of God, and the words that he spake were not his own, for he told the people definitely and distinctly that their words came to them “not in word only, but in power and in the demonstration of the Spirit of God, and with much assurance.” They were under the inspiration of the Almighty.

And where did we get our Bible from? “No scripture is of any private interpretation,” we are told, “but holy men of old spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost,” and while under that inspiration they uttered the word of God, and that word became the Scripture of truth, as we here find it. It was given by dreams, visions and revelations, and that which was thus communicated to man was written, and has become what we call the Bible.

When the inspired revelations which we call the Gospel were given to men there were Apostles and Prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists; and how did Jesus tell his disciples to teach his Gospel? He told them to “Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,” the promise being that “He that believed and was baptized should be saved.” And it was also said that certain signs should follow them that believed: they should cast out devils in the name of Jesus, “they should lay hands on the sick, and