

GOD IS LIGHT—GOD OUR FATHER—GOD A PERSONAGE—THE
HOLY GHOST—THE EARTH AS PART OF THE UNIVERSE—THE
PURPOSE OF EXPERIENCE—THE RESURRECTION—ZION TAKEN
FROM EACH OF THE CREATIONS—SPIRITUAL FACULTIES

DISCOURSE BY ELDER ORSON PRATT, DELIVERED AT THE FOURTEENTH WARD
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON,—, 1878

Reported by Geo. F. Gibbs

These words are found in the 5th verse of the 1st Epistle of John: “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

Inasmuch as God is represented to be a being full of truth, full of knowledge and intelligence, having almighty power, we would naturally suppose that he was also a God of light, that is full of the principle of light; and that there is nothing too deep for him to understand, or too great for his understanding to comprehend or reach. He being full of light, there can be no darkness in him. Indeed, he is spoken of by James as the “Father of lights.” In other words, his offspring, his children, his sons and daughters, partake of a portion of that light which dwells in the Father; the same as our children, born unto us, partake, in some respects, of the light and intelligence which dwells in their parents. All creatures that we are acquainted with, that have life, and being, and power to move upon the earth, have a degree of light, a degree of understanding, and that light or understanding is meted out to them, according to the decree of heaven, and according to the

condition in which they are placed, to fill the object of their creation.

The Lord does not entrust a fullness of light to any of his creatures in this world, not even his own sons and daughters have this privilege, while in this mortal state of existence. It seems to be in accordance with the great purpose of Jehovah, to place his own children here in this creation and impart to them a very small degree of light and truth. They are required to improve upon this degree of light, adding thereunto understanding, knowledge and truth. Some, in reflecting upon this subject, might ask the questions, “If the Lord is an almighty being, possessing all power, and is full of intelligence, knowledge and truth, and if we are his children, why did he not impart unto us the fullness of this light in the beginning of our existence in this world? Why should he give us little by little? Why are we not born with an understanding of all things past, all things present, and all things to come?” To my mind these questions are easily answered. The Lord designed, in placing his children here upon this creation, that they should not only