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PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE SAINTS—GROWING  
IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH FROM ITS ORGANIZATION—THE  
WORK OF GOD AND NOT OF MAN—GOD’S BLESSING UPON THE  
RIGHTEOUS; HIS CURSE UPON THE UNRIGHTEOUS—THE  
LIBERTY OF THE GOSPEL—THE SAINTS PRESERVED FROM WAR  
AND BLOODSHED—THEIR UNION AND UNIVERSAL GOODWILL

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON, DELIVERED IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL,  
SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 20, 1881

Reported by John Irvine

There is a passage in the Book of Mormon which has suggested itself to my mind, which I will read. It contains the words of Alma unto his son Helaman, and were among the last words which he spoke unto him. They will be found recorded on page 368 of the new edition, namely:

“And now it came to pass that after Alma had said these things to Helaman, he blessed him, and also his other sons; and he also blessed the earth for the righteous’ sake.

And he said: Thus saith the Lord God—Cursed shall be the land, yea, this land, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, unto destruction, which do wickedly, when they are fully ripe; and as I have said so shall it be; for this is the cursing and the blessing of God upon the land, for the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.

And now, when Alma had said those words he blessed the church, yea, all those who should stand fast in the faith from that time henceforth.”

President Cannon then continued: In rising to speak unto you this afternoon, my brethren and sisters, I do so with a desire in my heart that that which I may say may be prompted by the Spirit of God, and may be for your edification and comfort as well as my own. I am glad to have this opportunity of meeting with you—not so much for the privilege of speaking as of being here.

Some of us, as you know, have been traveling considerably of late, visiting the various settlements, and I believe President Taylor and party, when they return to this city, will have completed the entire round of the Territory and of all the Stakes outside of Arizona—that is so far as Utah and Idaho are concerned. We have found the people in a very prosperous condition and feeling exceedingly well. In almost every settlement the crops have been larger than they have been known to be before. And the people are prospering in their temporal circumstances and of course are feeling well, and I believe I do not