

OBJECT OF GATHERING—OUR PRINCIPLES AND ORGANIZATION  
 REVEALED FROM GOD—HE IS COGNIZANT OF ALL THINGS—  
 OUR FAITH NOT AFFECTED BY THE IDEAS OF MEN—OUR  
 DEPENDENCE UPON GOD—ENOCH'S CITY—GOD'S JUSTICE IN  
 SENDING THE FLOOD, AND IN THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM  
 AND GOMORRAH—HIS JUDGMENTS WILL COME UPON THOSE  
 WHO PERSECUTE HIS SAINTS—THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS  
 PEOPLE—WE WILL STAND BY THE CONSTITUTION THOUGH  
 OTHERS IGNORE IT

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR, DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE,  
 SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 1884

Reported by John Irvine

We hear a great many things associated with the Church and Kingdom of God in which, as a people, we are very much interested.

We meet together, from time to time, to sing, to pray, to speak, to hear and to attend to the various duties and responsibilities that devolve upon us. We are taught of things pertaining to time and things pertaining to eternity, and perhaps we are more favored—well, there is no perhaps about it—we are more favored than any other people that dwell upon the face of the whole earth. We have been gathered together from among the nations of the earth in order that we may be instructed in the laws of God, and in the principles of truth and life, that we may be able to comprehend our relationship to our heavenly Father, to his Son Jesus Christ, to the Priesthood that exists in the heavens, and to the inhabitants of the earth by whom we are surrounded, and among whom we dwell.

There is something very peculiar

about the position which we occupy among the nations of the earth. We have not received any of the intelligence which we possess from these nations, with the exception of some matters pertaining to science, to art, and the common education of the day. But as regards our religious principles we are not indebted to any men who live upon the earth for them. These principles emanated from God. They were given by revelation, and if we have a First Presidency, if we have High Priests, if we have Seventies, if we have Bishops, Elders, Priests and Teachers, if we have Stake and other organizations, we have received them all from God. If we have Temples, if we administer in them, it is because we have received instruction in relation thereto from the Lord. If we know anything pertaining to the future, it comes from him, and in fact we live in God, we move in God, and from him we derive our being. Men generally will not acknowledge this, but we as Latter-