

Necessity of Union and Obedience to Counsel

George Q. Cannon

April 7th, 1867

Section I

There have been a great many excellent remarks made to us since we assembled ourselves together to celebrate the anniversary of the organization of the Church, remarks which, if treasured up in our hearts and practiced in our lives, cannot fail to make us a much better people than we are today. It should be clear to the mind of every Latter-day Saint that there is an extreme necessity for us to be united. It is to our union alone, imperfect though it may have been, that we may attribute our success in the past, under the blessing of God. If we have any name or prestige in the earth, if there is anything attached to the name of Latter-day Saint or "Mormonism" that conveys the idea of power to the minds of the people, it has its origin in our union, obedience, concentration of effort, and our oneness of action, and the more this oneness increases the more marked and distinct we will be among the nations of the earth. What is it that has made us the people we are today? It is obedience to the counsels which God has revealed through His servants. If there is anything on the earth that will continue to add distinction and power to us, and elevate us and make us strong and mighty, it is an increase of this obedience which has already given us this distinction.

I have thought considerably since we have been together of the counsels which have been given to us, and of the action of the people in the past. There was a time when every Latter-day Saint who had the spirit of his religion felt as though he wished to devote himself and all that he had to the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God. This feeling doubtless predominates today, but it has been partially buried up and covered by other feelings—the love of gain, the desire to acquire property, and feelings akin to these. There was a law revealed to us—the law of consecration—through obedience to which every man expected to hold all that he possessed subject to the dictation of the servants of God. It is right that we should recollect this law, and continually seek to carry it out. We should feel that we are placed as stewards over the property God has placed in our hands, and that all we have is subject primarily to the counsels of God's servant, and that before we take any step of importance it is our duty to seek counsel from him who has the right to counsel. Imagine the power there would be in this Territory, and it would be felt throughout the nations of the earth, if this entire people, from Bear Lake Valley in the north to the settlements on the Muddy in the south, were thus united, holding themselves and all the wealth that God has so bountifully bestowed upon them, subject to the counsel that God has placed in His Church. What would be the effect of this? If you will allow your minds to expand you may be able to contemplate to some small extent the great results that would follow such a concentration of action on the part of this people. Is it the will of God that it should be so? It is.

The Lord has placed a man at our head upon whom He has bestowed great wisdom. There has never been a time when he has lacked the wisdom necessary to guide all the affairs of the Kingdom of God. Joseph of old had wisdom given to him by which he was enabled to save

Egypt. God has given to us a leader who has wisdom equal to any emergency, and if we will be obedient to his counsels we shall realize as great salvation as was wrought out by Joseph for those with whom he was associated. Herein we possess advantages not possessed by other people; we have revelation to guide us, we have the word of the Lord in our midst; we are not dependent upon man's wisdom, nor upon human plans, but we have the wisdom of eternity manifested through the servants of God to guide us.

We have the opportunity of building up the Kingdom of God and of carrying out the designs of heaven according to His plan; and if we will do so we shall fulfil the word of the Lord given anciently, when speaking of and comparing his people with the people of the world. Said he, "My servants shall eat, and you shall be hungry; my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty; my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed; my servants shall sing with gladness of heart, but you shall sorrow with sadness of heart and howl with vexation of spirit. And ye shall leave your name as a curse to my chosen: for the Lord God shall slay thee, and call His servants by another name."

Brandon's Thoughts:

One of the overriding themes of this passage in the JD by George Q Cannon is oneness. He directly states "It should be clear to the mind of every Latter-day Saint that there is an extreme necessity for us to be united. It is to our union alone, imperfect though it may have been, that we may attribute our success in the past, under the blessing of God. If we have any name or prestige in the earth, if there is anything attached to the name of Latter-day Saint or "Mormonism" that conveys the idea of power to the minds of the people, it has its origin in our union, obedience, concentration of effort, and our oneness of action, and the more this oneness increases the more marked and distinct we will be among the nations of the earth."

These remarks remind us of the many times the Lord has gathered and separated groups of people throughout the scriptures. Not only has there been a consistent effort from the times of Adam till the present to have a righteous people, but also to separate the righteous from the wicked. We have learned together and studied at length the requirements that need to be met for the redemption of Zion, the ways in which Zion differs from other mortal societies, and the qualities the people need to have to dwell there in. The gospel of Jesus Christ, culminating in the faithful obedience to the Law of Consecration, is the program that imbues us with the needed quality to live in Zion. It's also important to remember one of the, in a manner of speaking, catchphrases of Zion which is "One heart one mind, dwelling in righteousness" correct tense notwithstanding.

In reference to the Law of Consecration Brother Cannon mentions "There was a time when every Latter-day Saint who had the spirit of his religion felt as though he wished to devote himself and all that he had to the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God" Obedience to this law unifies the faithful and makes us one in just about everything. One in purpose, we share the same goals. One in substance, we have all things common among us and no distinctions of class or wealth. One in righteousness, we are all clean and pure, spotless before God. By obeying this counsel from the Lord and receiving this law as established through his Prophets and Apostles, we are given great protection and aid in times of great need. The examples

provided in 4th Nephi readily come to mind. We have precious to few words describing the conditions among the Lamanites and the Nephite after the visitation by the Lord, but the words we do have speak volumes. In 4th Nephi verses 2 through 16

2 And it came to pass in the thirty and sixth year, the people were all converted unto the Lord, upon all the face of the land, both Nephites and Lamanites, and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another.

3 And they had ^aall things common among them; therefore there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly ^bgift. **4** And it came to pass that the thirty and seventh year passed away also, and there still continued to be ^apeace in the land.

5 And there were great and marvelous works wrought by the disciples of Jesus, insomuch that they did ^aheal the sick, and ^braise the dead, and cause the lame to walk, and the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear; and all manner of ^cmiracles did they work among the children of men; and in nothing did they work miracles save it were in the name of Jesus.

6 And thus did the thirty and eighth year pass away, and also the thirty and ninth, and forty and first, and the forty and second, yea, even until forty and nine years had passed away, and also the fifty and first, and the fifty and second; yea, and even until fifty and nine years had passed away.

7 And the Lord did prosper them exceedingly in the land; yea, insomuch that they did build cities again where there had been cities burned.

8 Yea, even that great ^acity Zarahemla did they cause to be built again.

9 But there were many cities which had been ^asunk, and waters came up in the stead thereof; therefore these cities could not be renewed.

10 And now, behold, it came to pass that the people of Nephi did wax strong, and did multiply exceedingly fast, and became an exceedingly ^afair and delightsome people. **11** And they were married, and given in marriage, and were blessed according to the multitude of the ^apromises which the Lord had made unto them.

12 And they did not walk any more after the ^aperformances and ^bordinances of the ^claw of Moses; but they did walk after the commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God, continuing in ^afasting and prayer, and in meeting together oft both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord.

13 And it came to pass that there was no contention among all the people, in all the land; but there were mighty miracles wrought among the disciples of Jesus. **14** And it came to pass that the seventy and first year passed away, and also the seventy and second year, yea, and in fine, till the seventy and ninth year had passed away; yea, even an hundred years had passed away, and the ^adisciples of Jesus, whom he had chosen, had all gone to the ^bparadise of God, save it were the ^cthree who should tarry; and there were other ^ddisciples ^eordained in their stead; and also many of that ^fgeneration had passed away.

15 And it came to pass that there was no ^acontention in the land, because of the ^blove of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people.

16 And there were no ^aenvyings, nor ^bstrifes, nor ^ctumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of ^dlasciviousness; and surely there could not be a ^ehappier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God.

So we have some wonderful insights on what we may look forward to enjoying ourselves through full application of obedience to all the laws of the gospel including the Law of consecration.

Going back to what it means to have oneness as members of the church, I am reminded of the Lord's direct verbiage on what being one really is. In 3rd Nephi we have the words of a prayer the Lord offered to Father in Heaven

22 Father, thou hast given them the Holy Ghost because they believe in ^ame; and thou seest that they believe in me because thou hearest them, and they pray unto me; and they pray unto me because I am with them.

23 And now Father, I ^apray unto thee for them, and also for all those who shall believe on their words, that they may believe in me, that I may be in them ^bas thou, Father, art in me, that we may be ^cone.

This occasion where the Lord spoke to the ancient Nephites and Lamanites is instructive to us. Here we have some insight into the relationship the Lord has with our Father in Heaven and the desire the Lord has to extend to us that same relationship.

How has the full application of oneness, as described by the Lord, ever been achieved at anytime in the earth's history? After reflecting on this a lot on my own by my own observation, it would seem that in every case proceeding the realization of this particular kind of oneness that a full separation was always required. Before the people fully became one, and able to have the Lord Himself dwell among them, an event that separated the righteous from wicked

inevitably seems to have occurred. The city of Enoch prior to the flood is one such occurrence. In this case Enoch, being commanded of God, prophesied repentance and obedience to the commandments of God to the people. Those who hearkened to the counsel of Enoch and subsequently repented and were baptized, were ultimately separated out of the remainder of the world.

10 And the Lord said unto me: Go to this people, and say unto them—^aRepent, lest I come out and smite them with a curse, and they die.

11 And he gave unto me a commandment that I should ^abaptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, which is full of ^bgrace and truth, and of the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of the Father and the Son.

12 And it came to pass that Enoch continued to call upon all the people, save it were the people of Canaan, to repent;

13 And so great was the ^afaith of Enoch that he led the people of God, and their enemies came to battle against them; and he ^bspake the word of the Lord, and the earth trembled, and the ^cmountains fled, even according to his command; and the ^drivers of water were turned out of their course; and the roar of the lions was heard out of the wilderness; and all nations feared greatly, so ^epowerful was the word of Enoch, and so great was the power of the language which God had given him.

14 There also came ^aup a land out of the depth of the sea, and so great was the fear of the enemies of the people of God, that they fled and stood afar off and went upon the land which came up out of the depth of the sea.

15 And the ^agiants of the land, also, stood afar off; and there went forth a ^bcurse upon all people that fought against God;

16 And from that time forth there were wars and bloodshed among them; but the Lord came and ^adwelt with his people, and they dwelt in righteousness.

17 The ^afear of the Lord was upon all nations, so great was the ^bglory of the Lord, which was upon his people. And the Lord blessed the ^cland, and they were blessed upon the mountains, and upon the high places, and did flourish.

18 And the Lord called his people ^aZion, because they were of ^bone heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them.

19 And Enoch continued his preaching in righteousness unto the people of God. And it came to pass in his days, that he built a city that was called the City of Holiness, even Zion.

This is quite incredible as the Lord Himself dwelt among them! It's difficult to imagine the great joy to be had from this. Among the many reasons we have to be obedient to the Lord's call to become one, this certainly features at the top. To have the companionship of the Lord Himself. What an immense and indescribable blessing!

Now to call our attention back to the separation that occurred beforehand, it is important to understand why this separation took place and how we can prepare for it. The words the Lord used when He prayed on behalf of His disciples provide some insight.

27 And he turned from them again, and went a little way off and bowed himself to the earth; and he prayed again unto the Father, saying:

28 Father, I thank thee that thou hast "purified" those whom I have chosen, because of their faith, and I pray for them, and also for them who shall believe on their words, that they may be purified in me, through faith on their words, even as they are purified in me.

29 Father, I pray not for the world, but for those whom thou hast given me "out" of the world, because of their faith, that they may be purified in me, that I may be in them as thou, Father, art in me, that we may be one, that I may be glorified in them.

According to what Jesus said here, a person must be purified before we can be one with Him. Those who wish to dwell with the Lord must go through this purification process and it is this specific qualification that is the separating mechanism between the faithful chosen and the remainder of those in Babylon for no unclean thing can remain in his presence.

In the days leading up to the Lord's visitation to the inhabitants of the ancient Americas, we see a dramatic separation between the wicked and the righteous take place as earthquakes, whirlwinds and other disasters swept off the wicked. In 3rd Nephi 10:12 it reads

11 And it was the "more" righteous part of the people who were saved, and it was they who received the prophets and stoned them not; and it was they who had not shed the blood of the saints, who were spared

So again we witness the pattern repeating. The scriptures contain these accounts of the separations of those who are obedient from the wicked so that we will recognize the pattern and prepare ourselves. The Prophets and Apostles of our day teach us the same things that the prophets of old did, that we might repent and be gathered out of Babylon from among the wicked. That we might be sanctified, thus able to dwell in the presence of the Lord in Zion. I testify in the name of Jesus Christ that a similar pattern is playing out again to this day. There will be another great separation of the righteous from the wicked and it is already happening. President Nelson has reaffirmed that those who do not keep the commandments of God will be separated from those who do. That in the coming days we will need to become sanctified

ourselves to be able to be spared and separated from the wicked in our time that we may dwell in joy and safety in Zion. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Micah's Thoughts:

I don't know of very many doctrines that are taught as often and as clearly as the doctrine of gathering, unity amongst the Saints, separation and distinction from the people of the world etc. etc. Once we have a testimony of God the Father, His son Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost (Article of Faith #1) everything else taught and every ordinance performed is done with the single intent to create that unity amongst those believers and separation from the world. Once that separation occurs Jesus Christ himself comes and makes that city a city of holiness by his very presence.

Moses 7:16-20

16 And from that time forth there were wars and bloodshed among them; but the Lord came and dwelt with his people, and they dwelt in righteousness.

17 The fear of the Lord was upon all nations, so great was the glory of the Lord, which was upon his people. And the Lord blessed the land, and they were blessed upon the mountains, and upon the high places, and did flourish.

18 And the Lord called his people ZION, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them.

19 And Enoch continued his preaching in righteousness unto the people of God. And it came to pass in his days, that he built a city that was called the City of Holiness, even ZION.

20 And it came to pass that Enoch talked with the Lord; and he said unto the Lord: Surely Zion shall dwell in safety forever. But the Lord said unto Enoch: Zion have I blessed, but the residue of the people have I cursed.

3 Nephi 21:22-25

22 But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;

23 And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

24 And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

Article of Faith 10

10 We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.

2 Nephi 32:6

6 Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and there will be no more doctrine given until after he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh. And when he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh, the things which he shall say unto you shall ye observe to do.

"We have assembled together to do the business of the Lord and it is through the great mercy of our God that we are spared to assemble together, many of us have gone at the command of the Lord in defiance of everything evil, and obtained blessings unspeakable, in consequence of which our names are sealed in the Lamb's book of life, for the Lord has spoken it. It is the privilege of every Elder to speak of the things of God; and could we all come together with one heart and one mind in perfect faith the veil might as well be rent today as next week, or any other time, and if we will but cleanse ourselves and covenant before God, to serve Him, it is our privilege to have an assurance that God will protect us at all times."

- **Joseph Smith Jr** a—FWR, pp. 13–14. (Oct. 25, 1831.)

"When will Zion be redeemed? When will the Savior make His appearance in the midst of His people? When will the veil be taken away, that we may behold the glory of God? Can any of you answer these questions? Yes, readily, when I tell you. The redemption of Zion is the first step preparatory to the two last-named events.

"Just as soon as the Latter-day Saints are ready and prepared to return to Independence, Jackson County, in the state of Missouri, North America, just so soon will the voice of the Lord be heard, 'Arise now, Israel, and make your way to the Center Stake of Zion.' We must be pure to be prepared to build up Zion."

-**Brigham Young** (July 28, 1861, Journal of Discourses 9:138)

And so we have got to continue to labor, fight, toil, counsel, exercise faith, ask God over and over, and have been praying to the Lord for thirty odd years for that which we might have received and accomplished in one year.

- **Brigham Young** (vol. 11, pp. 291-305)

Righteousness to Sweep the Earth (TPJS 83)

But to proceed. In the letter alluded to, the principles of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins were not only set forth, but many passages of scripture were quoted, clearly elucidating the subject; let me add, I do positively rely upon the truth of those principles inculcated in the New Testament, and then pass on from the above-named items, to the item or subject of the

gathering, and show my views upon this point. It is a principle I esteem to be of the greatest importance to those who are looking for salvation in this generation, or in these, that may be called, "the latter times." **All that the prophets that have written, from the days of righteous Abel, down to the last man that has left any testimony on record for our consideration, in speaking of the salvation of Israel in the last days, goes directly to show that it consists in the work of the gathering**

Then how is it that we are to gain this unity required for the next steps to take place? By following the keys.

Elder Cannon then gives a correct understanding and teaching of the arm of flesh. Those who "trust in the Lord with all their heart" are those that "lean not unto their own understanding" while those who trust in the arm of flesh are "wise in their own eyes" and "fear not the Lord" and very much so lean unto their own understanding and their own spirit-o-meters. And recall the words of Brigham and Nephi that I just read above, until we learn and master this there shall be no more doctrine given. And as soon as we learn this and master this, Christ will come and more shall be given- and the Saints could accomplish this in one year.

Section II

It seems as though the day had come when God will slay the wicked, and when He will call His people by another name. How will these words of the ancient prophets be fulfilled? By our listening to the counsel of him whom he has placed to preside over us, and being guided in wisdom in all things. When we do this we will be a mighty and a powerful people, and President Young will be what he ought to be today, the head of this people, the mouthpiece of God in our midst; and when his counsel is given it will be listened to by all Israel; no one will disobey from one end of the land to the other. How much good could be accomplished if this were the case! What mighty labors could be achieved if this people were in this condition today. What hinders it being so? Nothing but the disposition within us to be careless and indifferent to the principles taught us.

This condition of things will be brought about, and it might be more rapidly than it is if the people would be obedient and diligent in carrying out the counsels given to them. All within the sound of my voice, probably, have heard that Israel, in the days of Moses, were commanded to sprinkle their doorposts with the blood of a lamb, that they might escape destruction; now if we had been told that Israel were destroyed because they paid no regard to this instruction, who among us would not have said, How foolish Israel must have been to have suffered destruction rather than do such a simple thing as this! Yet what has God said to us in these days with regard to the Word of Wisdom? He has said that "all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, and walk in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health to their navel and marrow to their bones; And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures; And they shall run and not be weary, and walk and not faint. And I, the Lord, give them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them." Here is a promise that the Lord has given to us on condition that we obey this requirement, or rather this counsel. It is wise counsel; we have proved its wisdom. What has disobedience to this counsel done for this people? It has made us in many respects, to a certain extent, subject to our enemies. How many called Latter-day Saints, through disobedience to the Word of Wisdom, have been led away to California and other places where they could obtain

these things which they thought so necessary to their comfort, but which God had counseled them to forsake? A great many have been led away through this; and every time we disobey this counsel we bring ourselves more completely under bondage to our own appetites and to the enemies of the Kingdom of God.

As a people we should arise, and with one effort say we will follow the example, in this respect, of him who leads us. Does President Young drink tea, or coffee, or liquor, or chew tobacco? No; his life is exemplary, and we should copy after it. There is no man among us more exemplary in these things than he is; and it is a shame to us, as a people, if we do not follow his wise example.

The Lord is bearing testimony to us through His Spirit, that we should carry these things into effect; and I trust that the people from one end of the Territory to the other, will manifest by their future course that they will observe the counsel that has been given at this Conference, and thus seek to be one with the President. There is no need to disguise the fact that he is anxious to have us subject to him in these matters. He is anxious that his power should be felt through the length and breadth of this Territory sufficiently to control and govern the people for good. Why? Because he knows that God has revealed principles by which they can be led back into His presence if they will only be obedient to His counsel.

Short sermons are the order, and I will not lengthen out my remarks. My prayer is, my brethren and sisters, that God will enable everyone of us to see these things aright, and to understand the obligations resting upon us; and that union may pervade the bosoms of the Saints from the lowest to the highest, from the least in the land to the Presidency of the Church, which may God grant for Christ's sake. Amen.

Elisha's Thoughts:

It seems as though the day had come when God will slay the wicked, and when He will call His people by another name. [My first thought here was to be privileged to take upon the Name of Christ weekly as we renew our covenants](#) In gospel topics it states [We take upon us his name as we publicly profess our belief in him as we fulfill our obligations as members of his church and as we do the work in his kingdom.](#) Every worker in the the Kingdom of God has a role and a purpose. Our goal should be to fulfill our role to the best of our ability despite our natural man inside telling us it's a lame calling, or it doesn't make a difference, or they just wanted to make me busy ect. We need to see the service we give to the Lord after all he has given us everything can we not do a small task in his name for him.

[I think it is helpful to look back at some examples in our history of how we failed and how we can improve](#)

Doctrine and Covenants 104

6 For I, the Lord, am not to be ^amocked in these things—

7 And all this that the innocent among you may not be condemned with the ^aunjust; and that the guilty among you may not escape; because I, the Lord, have promised unto you a ^bcrown of glory at my ^cright hand.

8 Therefore, inasmuch as you are found transgressors, you cannot escape my wrath in your lives.

9 Inasmuch as ye are ^acut off for transgression, ye cannot escape the ^bbuffetings of ^cSatan until the day of redemption.

4th Nephi

23 And now I, Mormon, would that ye should know that the people had multiplied, insomuch that they were spread upon all the face of the land, and that they had become exceedingly rich, because of their prosperity in Christ.

24 And now, in this two hundred and first year there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride, such as the wearing of costly apparel, and all manner of fine pearls, and of the fine things of the world.

25 And from that time forth they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them.

26 And they began to be divided into classes; and they began to build up churches unto themselves to get gain, and began to deny the true church of Christ.

27 And it came to pass that when two hundred and ten years had passed away there were many churches in the land; yea, there were many churches which professed to know the Christ, and yet they did deny the more parts of his gospel, insomuch that they did receive all manner of wickedness, and did administer that which was sacred unto him to whom it had been forbidden because of unworthiness.

28 And this church did multiply exceedingly because of iniquity, and because of the power of Satan who did get hold upon their hearts.

transgressions- not obeying the commandments they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I required at their hands full of all manner of evil do not impart of their substance, as becomth saints

- mocking God = breaking covenants President Harold B LEE: "Satan's greatest threat today is to destroy the family and to make mockery of the law of chastity and the sanctity of the marriage covenants" 1973. and now days we see people leading others away from the truth and light

- false churches being laid up -be lifted up in pride

- deny more parts of the true gospel

-even current church members deny the more part of the doctrine of Christ ie: family proclamation, priesthood,

-people divided up in divisions- labels!

-preistcraft- using Christ doctrine To make money

- treating the commandments and principles lightly

Things to work on:

- be taught more perfectly

- have experience

- know more perfectly concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands.

- mine elders are endowed with power from on high.

- continue in humility before me

- never Mock God

-become sanctified

- fear the Lord
- Righteous priesthood holders
 - teach children in light and truth, to pray, to repent
- pray for others even enemies
- desire zion -deal justly with one another
- do everything in the name of Jesus Christ
- truly repent -meet together oft
- no labels except: First, I am a child of God, I am a son of God; then a son of the covenant; then a disciple of Jesus Christ and a devoted member of His restored Church
- perfect our current stewardships
- understand correct principles by actually studying the word of God ie scriptures and words of the prophets.

D&c 104:35 There has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing; and let those be chosen that are worthy

This condition of things will be brought about, and it might be more rapidly than it is if the people would be obedient and diligent in carrying out the counsels given to them- deffinantly failed on that end therefore:

Given the kind of high adventure that we know is coming to us such as is contained in the prophecy of Heber C. Kimball, we must be prepared to speak plainly. President Kimball said that prior to the rebuilding of the Church in Missouri, "The Saints will be put to tests that will try the integrity of the best of them. The pressure will become so great that the more righteous among them will cry unto the Lord day and night until deliverance comes."

- **Neal A. Maxwell** (Wherefore Ye Must Press Forward [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1977], pp.109-123)

Give heed to the words of the Prophets'

After he spoke about the 100th anniversary of Education Week, Aug 16th 2022 Elder Cook shared key doctrines from Latter-day Prophets given over the past century. He examine worldly knowledge through the lens of revealed doctrine.

The Lord has always admonished His people to keep His commandments and follow the prophets. There has always been opposition in all things.

But, Elder Cook said, "The major difference for our day is that the 'great-and-spacious-building' skeptics are louder, more contentious and less tolerant than at any time during my life."

In the past, the vast majority of people understood they would be judged by obedience to God's commandments, not the views or philosophies of the day.

“In this intense, social media-fueled world, many seem more concerned about being mocked than about being judged by God. Many people mistakenly conclude that there is not a moral, righteous standard to which all people should adhere,” Elder Cook said.

He emphasized doctrine and initiatives that have been provided by some of the Presidents of the Church over the last 100 years.

The Word of Wisdom:

To me this is in no doubt a prophetic and protection warning and command to all. As someone who works in healthcare I have seen first hand the damage not following the WOW can do.

President Heber J. Grant, who led the Church 1918-1945, continually emphasized the principle of the Word of Wisdom. At the time, mass marketing and the developing movie industry glorified the use of cigarettes and alcohol and led to an increase in consumption.

It took decades for scientists and doctors to evaluate and acknowledge the health risks — and data now continually show the dangers of smoking and the detrimental affects of alcohol.

“Avoiding cigarettes and alcohol is an excellent example of prophetic guidance preceding education and scientific understanding of the significant detrimental impacts of smoking and alcohol consumption,” Elder Cook said.

(Brigham Young knew it then, President Nelson knows this now) Because he knows that God has revealed principles by which they can be led back into His presence if they will only be obedient to His counsel.

This is the Pure Truth and Pure Doctrine President Nelson has asked us to find and feast upon , may we continue to do so every moment of every day till we meet our Savior again. In the Name of Jesus Christ Our Master and Savior AMEN

Micah's Thoughts:

Elder Cannon continues his teaching of following the prophet and says something that has been voiced by myself, Ammon and Topher often in our Three Brothers Come Follow Me, which is this- that when we look back at the children of Israel in the past we are quick to say how foolish they have been, and yet living in the present we are just as quick, if not quicker, to disregard and abandon the counsel of the keys. We may look upon those who disregarded the counsel and that were destroyed and say it is just, and likewise, looking to our future President Nelson said, “The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do (see Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–7)” or as the Lord warns us in the Doctrine and Covenants:

Doctrine and Covenants 1

12 Prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh;

13 And the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth.

14 And the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people;

15 For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant;

16 They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

Doctrine and Covenants 112

22 Inasmuch as they shall humble themselves before me, and abide in my word, and hearken to the voice of my Spirit.

23 Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face.

24 Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.

25 And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord;

26 First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord.

The next thing Elder Cannon does is provide the example of the Word of Wisdom. And note carefully how he teaches it- look to President Brigham Young, there is your example. Follow what he does, put what he puts into his body, don't put into your body what he doesn't. In our standard works, in Official Declaration 1 President Wilford Woodruff teaches us very clearly that the Lord will not allow his mouthpiece to lead the people of God astray. Listen to the counsel of the prophet, do what he tells us to do, and if there is ever any doubt on what he is telling you to do or not do, watching what he himself, the first presidency and the quorum of the twelve apostles do, will clear up any doubt or confusion for the honest seekers and followers of Christ.

Anyone who muddies the water on the counsel given from the prophet cuts the thread and sinks themselves to hell. And those that do so with the added witness of a uniformed show of action by The First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and all the area seventies, comes out in open rebellion against God and treads the very dangerous waters of becoming a son of perdition.

Do Not Betray the Brethren

O ye Twelve! and all Saints! profit by this important Key--that in all your trials, troubles, temptations, afflictions, bonds, imprisonments and death, see to it, that you do not betray heaven; that you do not betray Jesus Christ; that you do not betray the brethren; that you do not betray the revelations of God, whether in Bible, Book of Mormon, or Doctrine and Covenants, or any other that ever was or ever will be given and revealed unto man in this world or that which is to come. Yea, in all your kicking and flounderings, see to it that you do not this thing, lest innocent blood be found upon your skirts, and you go down to hell. All other sins are not to be compared to sinning against the Holy Ghost, and proving a traitor to the brethren.

-Joseph Smith Jr (TPJS p.156)

Elder Cannon's closing remarks and commitment was so good I just want to read it again make them my closing remarks:

My prayer is, my brethren and sisters, that God will enable everyone of us to see these things aright, and to understand the obligations resting upon us; and that union may pervade the bosoms of the Saints from the lowest to the highest, from the least in the land to the Presidency of the Church, which may God grant for Christ's sake. Amen.