

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL,

EXTRACTED FROM A WORK

BY P. P. PRATT, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST.

NOW RE-PUBLISHED

BY RICHARD BALLANTYNE, PRESIDING ELDER OF
THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, TO MADRAS,
AND SURROUNDING COUNTRY.

ALSO, A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THIS
CHURCH.

"Prove all things and hold fast that which is good."—PAUL.

"He that judgeth a matter before he heareth it is not wise."—SOLOMON.

Price 2 Annas, or to be returned when called for.

CHAPTER I.

A NEW DISPENSATION.

AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST, to the people of the coasts and islands of the Pacific, of every nation, kindred, and tongue—Greeting:—

It has pleased the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who died on a Roman Cross at Jerusalem, over one thousand eight hundred years since, and who arose from the dead on the third day; and, after giving commandments to his apostles, ascended into the heavens, henceforth to reign till his enemies are made his footstool; to send forth his angels in this present age of the world, to reveal a NEW DISPENSATION.

Thus restoring to the earth the fulness and purity of the gospel, the apostleship, and the church of the Saints, with all its miraculous gifts and blessings.

Which gospel, thus restored, with its apostleship and powers, must be preached to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people under the whole heavens, with the signs following them that believe: and then shall the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Messiah and King, descend from the heavens in his glorified, immortal body, and reign with his Saints, and over all the kingdoms of the earth, one thousand years.

Having obtained a portion of this ministry, and being appointed and set apart by my brethren of the apostleship, to take the presidency and especial charge of a Mission to the countries mentioned herein—which includes nearly one-half of the globe—I have, in pursuance of these responsibilities, commenced my mission by sending forth this proclamation; first, in English; and to be translated and published by especial messengers, in due time, in every language and tongue included within the bounds of the Mission.

First of all, (having declared my object, purpose, destination, and commission) I hereby invite, and most earnestly plead with all men to repent, to turn away from their sins, and to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and come with humble hearts and contrite spirits, and be baptized, (immersed) in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins; and they shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands, in the

name of Jesus, of the apostles and elders, who are sent forth by the church of the Saints.

Which Holy Spirit shall bear witness of the truth of this message, and of the remission of the sins of all them who obey the same with full purpose of heart; and shall fill their minds with joy and gladness, and with light and intelligence; and shall also open to their understanding many things which are to come.

While some shall be blessed with visions, with the ministry of angels, with the spirit of prophecy and revelation:

And others, with the gift to heal the sick, or to be healed by anointing with oil in the name of the Lord, accompanied with prayer, or the laying on of hands in the name of Jesus.

The deaf shall hear, the dumb speak, the lame walk, and the eyes of the blind see, inasmuch as they have faith sufficient to receive the same. And not many years hence, as faith, knowledge, union, and power increases, the dead shall be raised in some instances; the violence of fire be quenched; the prisons rent, if necessary; and the very elements controlled by the servants of God, in the name of Jesus.

All these gifts are included in the new dispensation, and are to be bestowed upon man in due time, as faith shall increase.

The church being yet in its infancy, its members have not yet attained to all these gifts; but they have progressed with astonishing rapidity, and are in many instances, enjoying many of these gifts in various countries.

I am aware that the astounding declarations contained in this proclamation, of necessity come in contact with the traditions of this and former ages; and also with the various priesthoods, organizations, and ordinances of the world called Christian, as well as with the various religions of the Pagan, Mahomedan, and Jew; but with all kindly feelings and respect for my fellow man, I cannot avoid this contact. I am the friend of man, and the friend of truth.

I, therefore, feel myself bound to bear witness of the truth as it is, and was, and is to come.

The Christian minister will inquire, "What need of a new dispensation, where the old has been perpetuated by an apostolical succession?"

To which I reply, "That I know of no succession of the kind; I acknowledge none; but, for the satisfaction of others, I will point out the way to determine the negative or affirmative of that all-important question."

Search the sacred writings of the apostles of old for any other order of apostles, ministers, ordinances, gifts, or powers, as constituting the true church, or connected with it, than the order set forth in the foregoing pages. and you will search in vain. The New Testament system was a system of inspiration, apostolical powers, miracles, healings, revelations, prophesyings, visions, angels, and all the gifts recorded in that book.

It was a system of ordinances—such as baptism for remissions of sins, by immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ; the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit; the laying on of hands for healing the sick; also anointing with oil for the same purpose: also the administration of bread and wine, in remembrance of the death of Jesus Christ, and the blood of atonement.

Such was the New Testament system, Peter himself had no right to alter it, neither had Paul: in so doing, they would have forfeited their apostolic powers and their Christian standing; and would have been accursed, as it is written by Paul, "THOUGH WE, OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN, PREACH ANY OTHER GOSPEL, LET HIM BE ACCURSED."

This being an undeniable fact, which no man can successfully controvert

or deny; the question of apostolical or church succession resolves itself thus:—

Has the foregoing order of things been handed down in purity and power to this day? its apostleship, its powers of vision, revelation, prophecy, miracles, gifts, ordinances, and powers unaltered, unimpaired, unperverted?

If so, we have apostles, church, &c., now; without a new dispensation, or a new commission.

If not so, then there is no apostleship, no church, no Christian ministry and gifts on the earth, except commissioned by a new dispensation.

In the latter case, I would inquire, by what standard shall the Millennium, the age of peace, and universal truth, and knowledge be ushered in?

By what standard *shall the knowledge of the Lord cover the earth as the waters cover the sea?*

By what standard *shall there be one Lord, and his name one, and he be the king of all the earth, as saith the prophets?*

To what standard shall the Jews and the other tribes of Israel be restored, when the fulness of times is come in? *when their times are fulfilled*; when the full time arrives for the *restoration of the things spoken of by all the holy prophets since the world began?*

In which, of all the branches of the so-called Christian church, shall the power and miracles of God, be manifested, when he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in the restoration of all the tribes of Israel and Judah?

Will his power and wisdom be displayed to restore them to a broken covenant? to doctrines corrupted? to ordinances perverted? to a Church divided, and destitute of the miraculous powers and gifts?

In short, to Christendom, who has ruled all nations with a rod of iron, and made the nations and their rulers drunken with the wine of their abominations?

NO, I BOLDLY ANSWER NO!

What then? shall the words of the prophets fall to the ground unfulfilled?

NO, NEVER!

Hence the unavoidable necessity of a **NEW DISPENSATION, a new Apostolic Commission.**

Such commission is now restored; such dispensation is now committed, and is held by the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, their apostles and elders.

Such the cause in which martyrs have bled, and a whole people been disfranchised, robbed, plundered, dispersed, slandered in every possible way, and driven to the mountains and deserts of the American interior.

Honest, pious, and well meaning Christians (for such there are in every sect under heaven) we hereby solemnly warn you, and intreat you, in the name of the Lord, to come out of every sect, and from all the Christian "*Babels*;" yea "*come out of her my people,*" as saith the ancient Apostle, "*for her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*"

Come out, then, and unite with the church of the Saints, and henceforth devote your faith, your prayers, your strength, and your means to the work of God.

This same invitation is meant for all sincere, well-meaning, and devoted clergymen, whether Roman or Protestant, as well as the other members.

The sincere, zealous, and devoted missionaries and their supporters, who bear the *Bible* to foreign lands; and who toil amid fields of ice, or burning sands; amid deserts, mountains, or in the solitude of the wilderness; or in the lone and distant isles, surrounded by the infinite expanse of air and ocean, because of their love for Jesus and their fellow man.

To you we bring tidings of great joy !
 The latter day glory has dawned upon the world !
 The prayers of the faithful of all ages are heard !
 The heavens have been again opened !
 Angels have descended, bearing a dispensation to man !
 The Holy Ghost has been again shed forth !
 The fulness of the Gospel is revealed !
 The sick are healed !
 Demons are cast out !
 The Kingdom of God has come !
 The standard of truth and freedom is reared !
 And to those who are in darkness a light has dawned !
 And ere long, darkness, ignorance, and oppression shall cease from the earth !

Open your hearts, then, and receive and learn the way of God more perfectly ; return fully to the system of that Bible which you publish, and to that God whom you serve.

And to those who are only Christians by nation, by birth, or by profession, and not by conduct ; I would say by the commandment of the Lord, and also by way of invitation, turn from all your iniquities and abominations, your lyings, deceivings, whoredoms, blasphemies, drunkenness, gambling, idleness, extravagance, pride, and folly.

Also from your murders, theft, and robbery, and from all sin. Cease to take the name of God, the Father of Jesus Christ, in vain. Pledge yourselves by a covenant and a fixed purpose to serve the Lord, and come and be baptized in his name, and you shall receive remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost. And then, if you endure to the end in keeping the commandments of Jesus Christ, you shall be saved in the celestial kingdom of God. You shall also have part in the first resurrection, which will come in a few years, and shall reign, in the flesh, on the earth with the King, the great Messiah, one thousand years.

CHAPTER II.

ADDRESS TO PAGANS.

To those who are not Christian, but who worship the various Gods of India, China, Japan, or the Islands of the Pacific or Indian Oceans, we say—turn away from them ; they are no Gods ; they have no power. Open your ears and your hearts, and hear the apostles and elders of the church of the Saints. Learn of the true God, and of his Son Jesus Christ, who was dead and is alive, and shall live for ever more ; and who is your King, and will soon come down from the more glorious planet where he dwells, and reign as the King of all nations ; and your eyes shall see him, your acclamations hail him welcome, while he is crowned Lord of all.

Open your houses and your hearts, and receive and feed the elders who come among you ; give them means and aid them in their travels ; and verily your sick shall be healed, the evil demons which trouble you shall be cast out, and you shall have good dreams and visions of the Lord, and angels shall minister to some of you, and your hearts shall swell with love and gladness ; and you will feel to forsake your sins and be baptized by the elders ; and in so doing, they shall lay their hands upon you, the Holy Ghost bearing witness in your hearts of the truth, and enlightening your minds in the same.

CHAPTER III.

ADDRESS TO THE JEWS.

To the Jews we would say—turn from your sins and seek the God of your fathers. Search the prophets, for lo your Messiah cometh speedily, and all the Saints with him. Yea he will descend upon the Mount of Olives near your ancient city, disperse your enemies, defend Jerusalem, and establish his kingdom over your nation and city, and over all the earth.

But what will be your astonishment, when gazing at him, and falling at the feet of HIM as your great deliverer, you discover the wounds in his feet, in his hands, and in his side, and inquire, “*What are these wounds in your hands and in your feet?*”

And he will exclaim, “These are the wounds with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. I am Jesus of Nazareth whom your fathers crucified. I am the Son of God, your deliverer and your eternal King.” O who can describe the mingled feelings of joy and gladness, and gratitude, and shame, and remorse, and repentance, and amazement, and wonder which will then fill your bosoms. How you will repent and flock to the water, and be baptized in his name for the remission of your sins. With what power the Holy Ghost will fall upon you, when the apostles shall lay their hands upon your heads in the name of that Jesus who will stand in your presence. The big tears of joy will gush forth and stream upon the ground, while many of you will fall upon his neck, or kiss his feet, and bathe them in your tears.

Blessed is he that has seen him and believed; but more blessed are they who have not seen him and yet believed.

If any of you can so far overcome your prejudices and traditions, as to admit the probability, or even possibility, that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, and that when your Messiah comes to fulfil your national redemption, and to establish his kingdom over all the earth, it will not be the first time that he has appeared among men, or even to your own nation; why, then, search diligently on the subject, and earnestly pray to Jehovah that you may understand the truth of a subject of such thrilling and vital importance.

After you have carefully reviewed your own prophets, search the New Testament with the same careful and prayerful attention, and then obtain a copy of the Book of Mormon, and search that with the same degree of candour and earnestness, and I think your minds will expand, and you will be constrained to say, that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ.

If so, then come to the standard of the New Dispensation—to the apostles and elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for you will readily see that there is no other system now extant, which even resembles, or will compare at all with the system established by him and his former apostles. Yea, come to them, repenting and turning from your sins, and go down into the waters of baptism, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Receive the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. You will then know the truth, and be prepared for less surprise and a more glorious triumph on the Mount of Olives, in the day of your returning King.

I have now shown you the door of admission into the kingdom of God, into which you would do well to enter; and after entering therein, it will be required of you to keep the commandments of Jesus, and to look earnestly and daily for the fulfilment of the prophets which speak of the restoration of Israel and Judah, the downfall of Gentile rule, and the prevalence of that kingdom which shall be universal and have no end.

You would also in the meantime do well to contribute liberally of your means to the elders and missionaries of the church, for they are your brethren; they verily believe the Prophets, and they look, and pray, and labor earnestly for their fulfilment.

CHAPTER IV.

ON LAWS AND GOVERNMENTS.

Having borne my testimony, as a faithful and true witness, of the gospel, and of things past, present, and to come; I will now give some information on the subject of the laws and governments of men; and the duties we owe to them, and the duties we sustain to them, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ in all the world.

Every government of man is permitted by the Lord, and is needful, until he reigns whose right it is to reign; and until he subdues all enemies under his feet.

We are not sent forth to revolutionize the world in a political sense; but to warn the world of approaching events, instruct the ignorant, and call sinners to repentance.

The laws of every land will be our law, in a civil and political sense of the word.

We are in duty bound to obey magistrates, judges, rulers, governors and kings, who hath the legitimate rule in the various countries where we live, or where we travel, or sojourn.

RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH.

As it may be interesting to many of the people of Madras, and surrounding country to obtain information respecting the first rise and subsequent history of this church, I will here give a few extracts from the writings of Joseph Smith, the martyred Prophet and Revelator of said Church.

He says in an article published in the "*Times and Seasons*" March 1st 1842 "I was born in the town of Sharon, Windsor County, Vermont, on the 23rd of December 1805. When ten years old, my parents removed to Palmyra, New York, where we resided about four years, and from thence we removed to the town of Manchester, in the same State.

My father was a farmer and taught me the art of husbandry. When about fourteen years of age I began to reflect upon the importance of being prepared for a future state, and upon enquiring the plan of salvation I found there was a great clash in religious sentiment; if I went to one Society they referred me to one plan, and another to another; each one pointing to his own particular creed, as the summum bonum of perfection; considering that all could not be right, and that GOD could not be the author of so much confusion I determined to examine the subject more freely, believing that if GOD had a Church it would not be split up into fractions, and that if He taught one Society to worship one way, and administer in one set of ordinances, He would not teach another principles which were diametrically opposed. Believing the word of GOD I had confidence in the declaration of James; "if any man lack wisdom let him ask of GOD who giveth unto all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." I retired to a secret place in a grove and began to call upon the LORD; while fervently engaged in supplication my mind was taken away from the objects with which I was surrounded, and I was enwrapped in a heavenly vision and saw two glorious personages, who exactly resembled each other in features, and likeness, surrounded by a brilliant light which eclipsed the sun at noon day. They told me that all religious denominations were believing incorrect doctrines, and that none of them were acknowledged of GOD as His Church and Kingdom. And I was expressly commanded "to go not after them," at the same time receiving a promise that the fulness of the gospel should at some future time be made known unto me.

On the evening of the 21st of September A. D. 1823, while I was praying unto GOD, and endeavouring to exercise faith in the precious promises of Scripture, on a sudden a light like that of day, only of a far purer and more glorious appearance, and brightness, burst into the room; indeed the first sight was as though the house was filled with consuming fire; the appearance produced a shock that affected the whole body; in a moment a personage stood before me surrounded with a glory yet greater than that with which I was already surrounded. This messenger proclaimed himself to be an angel of GOD sent to bring the joyful tidings, that the covenant which GOD made with ancient Israel was at hand to be fulfilled; that the preparatory work for the second coming of the Messiah was speedily to commence; that the time was at hand for the gospel, in all its fulness to be preached in power, unto all nations, that a people might be prepared for the millennial reign.

I was informed that I was chosen to be an instrument, in the hands of GOD, to bring about some of His purposes in this glorious dispensation.

I was also informed concerning the aboriginal inhabitants of this country, (America) and shown who they were, and from whence they came; a brief sketch of their origin, progress, civilization, laws, governments, of their righteousness and iniquity, and the blessings of GOD being finally withdrawn from them as a people, was made known unto me: I was also told where there was deposited some plates, on which were engraven an abridgment of the Records of the ancient prophets that had existed on this continent. The angel appeared to me three times the same night and unfolded the same things. After having received many visits from the angels of GOD unfolding the majesty, and glory of the events that should transpire in the last days, on the morning of the 22nd of September A. D. 1827 the angel of the LORD delivered the records into my hands.

These records were engraven on plates which had the appearance of gold, each plate was six inches wide and eight long, not quite so thick as common tin. They were filled with engravings, in Egyptian characters, and bound together in a volume, as the leaves of a Book with three rings running through the whole. The volume was something like six inches in thickness, a part of which was sealed. The characters on the unsealed part were small, and beautifully engraved. The whole book exhibited many marks of antiquity in its construction, and much skill in the art of engraving. With the records was found a curious instrument which the ancients called "Urim and Thummim," which consisted of two transparent stones set in the rim of a bow, fastened to a breastplate.

Through the medium of the 'Urim and Thummim,' I translated the record by the gift, and power of God.

In this important and interesting book the history of ancient America is unfolded, from its first settlement by a Colony that came from the tower of Babel, at the confusion of languages, to the beginning of the fifth Century of the Christian era. We are informed by these records that America, in ancient times, has been inhabited by two distinct races of people. The first were called Jaredites, and came directly from the tower of Babel. The second race came directly from the city of Jerusalem, about six hundred years before Christ. They were principally Israelites of the descendants of Joseph. The Jaredites were destroyed about the time the Israelites came from Jerusalem, who succeeded them in the inheritance of the country. The principal nation of the second race fell in battle towards the close of the fourth century. The remnant are the Indians that now inhabit this country. This book also tells us, that our Saviour made his appearance upon this continent after His resurrection; that He planted the Gospel here in all its fulness,

and richness, and power, and blessing, and that they had Apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, and evangelists; the same order, the same priesthood, the same ordinances, gifts, powers, and blessings, as was enjoyed on the eastern continent. That the people were cut off in consequence of their transgressions, that the last of their prophets, who existed among them, was commanded to write an abridgment of their prophecies and history; and to hide it up in the earth, and that it should come forth and be united with the Bible for the accomplishment of the purposes of God in the last days.

On the 6th of April, 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, was first organized in the town of Manchester, Ontario Co; State of New York. Some few were called, and ordained by the Spirit of revelation, and prophesy, and began to preach as the Spirit gave them utterance, and though weak yet were they strengthened by the power of God, and many were brought to repentance, were immersed in the water, and were filled with the Holy Ghost, by the laying on of hands. They saw visions, and prophesied, devils were cast out, and the sick were healed by the laying on of hands. From that time the work rolled forth with astonishing rapidity, and Churches were soon formed in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois Missouri, &c."

The foregoing is a plain unvarnished statement of facts, and a very brief outline of some of the important events connected with the restoration of the Gospel in these last days agreeably to the 14th Chap. of John's Revelation and verse 6th; also a fulfilment of the prophesy of Daniel Chap. 2d verses 44,45 "and in the days of these Kings shall the God of Heaven set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed: and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these Kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever &c." Also a beginning of the fulfilment of the 11th Chap. of Isaiah and the many prophecies that relate to the gathering of Israel the setting up of the Kingdom of God and the great restitution of all things, of which all the prophets have testified. For references in relation to the coming forth of a book see the 85th Psalm, the 29th Chap. of Isaiah and 37th of Ezekiel.

After enduring much persecution in the "United States" wherein the prophet and his brother were martyred, and many others, the Gospel of salvation was rejected by that nation, the Saints cast out, and in fulfilment of the command of the Lord through Isaiah, which says "O Zion that bringest good tidings get thee up into the high Mountains" the people wandered through the western wilderness and found an Asylum among the elevated regions of the Rocky Mountains of North America, where they now enjoy tranquility, prosperity, unity and peace, and where the voice of thanksgiving and melody resound to Jehovah, from the habitations of the righteous, throughout those lonely, yet beautifully fertile and lovely valleys. See the 4th Chap. of Micah.

The population in those elevated valleys at the present time is over Thirty thousand, Ten thousand more are expected from various nations, the present summer, while among the various nations of Europe and America there is estimated to be nearly one hundred thousand more professing the faith of the Latter-day Saints."

We now through this Tract call upon the people in the name of the Lord Jesus to open their houses, and churches, and we will cheerfully unfold unto you the scriptures of eternal truth that relate to these things, without money or price.