

Chapter 1

Discourses of the Prophet Joseph Smith

Given on October 25th, 1831

At a general conference of the church, in Orange, Ohio (near Kirtland)

The following paragraphs are excerpted from the original minutes taken by Oliver Cowdery, the final and only extant copy being found in the Minute Book 2 (also known as the Far West Record) in the hand of Ebenezer Robinson. Transcription follows the one provided by the Joseph Smith papers project except where noted by brackets.

Brother Joseph Smith Jr. said: 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 Lambs' Book of Life, for the Lord has spoken it. It is the privilege of every Elder to speak of the things of God, etc., and could we all come together with one heart and one mind in perfect faith, the vail 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.

Brother Joseph Smith Jr. said: that the order of the High Priesthood is that they have power given them to seal up the Saints unto eternal life. And [he] said it was the privilege of every Elder present to be ordained to the High Priesthood.

Brother Joseph Smith Jr. said: that it was not intended to tell the world all the particulars of the coming forth of the book of Mormon, and also said that it was not expedient for him to relate these things, etc.

Brother Joseph Smith Jr. said: that he intended to do his duty before the Lord, and hoped that the brethren would be patient, as they had a considerable distance [to go]. [He] also said that the promise of God was that the greatest blessings which God had to bestow should be given to those who contributed to the support of his family while translating the fulness of the Scriptures; [he] also said until we have perfect love, we are liable to fall; and when we have a testimony that our names are sealed in the Lamb's Book of Life, we have perfect love, and then it is impossible for false Christs to deceive us. [He] also said that the Lord held the Church bound to provide for the families of the absent Elders while proclaiming the Gospel. [He] further said that God had often sealed up the heavens because of covetousness in the Church. [He] said that the Lord would cut his work short in righteousness and except the church receive the fulness of the Scriptures that they would yet fall.

Brother Joseph Smith Jr. was appointed to examine [the] brethren, presenting themselves for ordination, [and] after prayer, said that he had a testimony that each had one talent, and if after being ordained they should hide it, God would take it from them. [He] exhorted them to pray continually in meekness. [He] said that those who had been previously ordained Priests would be ordained Elders, and the others would be ordained Priests.