

**INTEREST IN THE WORK OF GOD—FAITH IN THE
DESTINY OF THE PEOPLE—"MORMONISM" A "KNOTTY
PROBLEM"—NO FREEDOM FOR THE SAINTS—GOOD
EFFECT OF SIFTING—GROWTH OF THE
KINGDOM—COMMANDMENTS TO THE SAINTS—TRAVELS
OF THE SAINTS COMPARED WITH JOURNEYINGS OF
ANCIENT ISRAEL—INSPIRATION OF PRESIDENT YOUNG.**

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH, DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE, PROVO
CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 3, 1882.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE.

I am deeply interested in the welfare of Zion. There is nothing that tends to benefit the people of God in the least degree in which I have not a deep and abiding interest. My feelings and desires are interwoven and centered in this latter-day work. I should have no other interest, desire, or feeling, and so far as I know I have not. I am thankful for this, because it does not seem to me to be any task to do, so far as I am capable, whatever the Lord calls me to do in the work of the ministry, or in the building up of Zion. I am proud to say this comes natural to me. I have no praise to bestow upon myself for it, and I ask none. I have no credit to claim on that score. I have this disposition and desire and I thank God for it. I feel that if Zion prospers all is well, and if Zion does not prosper, then my own happiness and prosperity is in jeopardy. For I expect nothing outside of the Gospel. I expect to gain no favors of the world. I do not court nor expect the love or sympathy of the ungodly. I do not care for their favor. I do not seek nor desire their society any further than it may be possible to do some good. If I am

sent to preach the Gospel to them I am willing to go and labor among them and do all the good I can; but when I get through with the labor that devolves upon me, by virtue of that calling and appointment, I feel—and I speak from experience when I say this—like other missionaries, most grateful for the privilege of getting home. I never was particularly pleased to go away. I went on a mission when I was quite a boy—some 25 years ago—and I have been engaged in missionary duties and labors more or less ever since. I have never been out of the harness, nor laid my armor on the shelf, nor have I sought to be released from that day to this. I have always been on the altar, so to speak, ready and willing to do whatever is required of me to the best of my ability. I am just as willing today as I ever was in my life. I expect to become more and more willing as I gain experience, as I get older—that is, if it is possible to advance in that direction, and I presume it is.

I have great faith in the destiny of this people. I never had any doubts or fears in regard to the destiny and final triumph of the people