

**DESIRABLE CONDITION OF THE  
SAINTS—CHARACTERISTICS OF PROPHETS—THE  
GOVERNING POWER OF GOD IN HUMAN AFFAIRS—MAN'S  
INGRATITUDE TOWARD GOD—THE ENLIGHTENING  
POWER OF GOD'S SPIRIT—MAN'S ORIGIN, PROBATION  
AND DESTINY—A BASE CONCEPTION OF THE OBJECT OF  
LIFE—THE SAVIOR'S NOBLE EXAMPLE—THE SOURCE OF  
TRUE HAPPINESS—GREAT TRUTHS REVEALED  
THROUGH JOSEPH SMITH—ETERNAL ASSOCIATIONS  
AND DESTINY OF THE SAINTS—HOW TO ATTAIN TO A  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE THINGS OF ETERNITY.**

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH, DELIVERED IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL, SALT  
LAKE CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 17, 1884.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE.

I trust that the Spirit of the Lord may direct what I may say. It is some-time since I stood before a congregation in this building; my labors have been directed in a great measure in other settlements where I have enjoyed seasons of pleasure and profit, witnessing a good spirit and a lively feeling among the Latter-day Saints wherever it has been my privilege to meet with them. I believe that the same good spirit prevails among the Latter-day Saints in this City and throughout this Stake of Zion, and that there is generally a feeling of confidence and faith in the hearts of the Saints in the work of the Lord, and in His servants. This is gratifying, when we realize the importance of our being united, and of our faith being centered in the Lord, and in the great work God has begun in the earth in these last days. Without unity and confidence no faithful Latter-day Saint can be truly happy.

Brother Abraham Hatch has dwelt upon the idea he had when a boy, in relation to the characteristics of a Prophet. I presume that his idea

was similar to that entertained by most of the civilized world today, and yet I do not think that there is any ground or reason for such opinions respecting the character of men who have been inspired of God. While he was speaking upon this subject, my mind reverted to some of the ancient Prophets whose words have been handed down to us as words of inspiration, and so far as my mind can recall, all those eminent men of ancient days were, I believe, young men when they were called to their respective positions. From the first man Adam, down to the latest inspired man of God of which we have any account in the Scriptures, they were all chosen, so far as my knowledge goes, when they were in their youth. Abraham became an inspired man when very young. He was called to be a Prophet and Patriarch in his youth. His sons Isaac and Jacob, were not at all old men when the prophetic inspiration fell upon them. And when we come down to later times we find that the Prophet Samuel was chosen and