

In the afternoon meeting ... Lorenzo Snow now spoke of his association and acquaintance with the Prophet Joseph [Smith], and bore a strong testimony to the divinity of his mission. He then spoke of the work being done in the temples for the living and the dead, and urged the Saints to take advantage of the opportunities offered them to redeem those who have passed away. Sealings of those who died without the knowledge of the truth are quite numerous, and there is a disposition to extend every opportunity for the work to be accomplished according to the unions formed while the parties lived in the flesh. ...

After meeting I met Simon Bamberger. I told him of my suspicions concerning Clawson's actions in getting possession of Father's property, and informed him of Clawson's conduct in getting possession of his present stock in the Bullion-Beck Company. We also talked about [John W.] Judd, who has been seen by Bamberger. Judd says he will gladly act as attorney for the Guano Co., and will be pleased to be associated with Bamber[ger], [John] Beck, myself and the other directors.

[April 7, 1895; Sunday] I was engaged in reading at home until time for meeting, when I went to the tabernacle. Pres. Woodruff spoke first: "There has been a warfare between the powers of light and darkness ever since the fall of Lucifer. The Lord raises up holy men and prophets at various times to warn the wicked of their destruction unless they repent, and thus He never allows them to be destroyed without first giving them an opportunity to repent of their sins and be saved. Joseph Smith was one of these men. He did a mighty work for the good of mankind, but as is the case with other prophets, he has been misunderstood. He had enemies among his nearest friends, for at one time in Kirtland [Ohio] members of the Twelve, and even the witnesses to the Book of Mormon turned against him, and sought to take his life. They were smart men according to the ideas of men, and sought to direct the affairs of the church, and this was the cause of the apostasy. Only two of the apostles who were then in Kirtland stood faithfully by the Prophet. I was a seventy, and was visited by the apostates, but I told them they would all go to hell if they did not repent. One apostle stood in the aisle of the Kirtland temple and cursed the Prophet. As the sacrament was passed to him, he seized a piece of bread and threw it into his

mouth, like a mad dog. He thus ate and drank damnation to his soul. He afterwards drowned himself.¹⁸ No man will ever see a repetition of those scenes. We are too near the end. Those whom God has now chosen will be true to the end. We should watch and pray, however, that we fail not. I hope I may live to see the union of the Priesthood and people. All that has been spoken will be fulfilled. When Joseph and Hyrum [Smith] met with nine of the apostles for the last time, shortly before his death, he was transfigured before them, his face shone like amber, and he gave us all the keys of the kingdom.¹⁹ He told us we must warn the world or God would hold us accountable. I am the only one of that quorum now left. These apostles and the Presidency are united. Whatever we do that is wrong we will have to atone for. I want you Elders to cease troubling about who God and the other holy personages are. We know enough about them for our salvation, and when we get where they are we will know more.” ...

Pres. Jos. F. Smith said: “One of the most important acts of our Conference is to hold up our hands in covenant to sustain the authorities of the Church. Some think nothing of this ceremony. Those who violate the Word of Wisdom do no greater evil than those who violate their covenants to sustain the Authorities. I am sorry we have to bother ourselves so much about financial matters. Jesus gave no concern to these things, yet He had the power to combine the elements to feed the hungry, to turn water into wine, and to obtain

¹⁸ Woodruff apparently refers to Lyman E. Johnson. When Johnson drowned in the Mississippi River in 1859, his death was reported in the local newspaper: “L. E. Johnson, the landlord of the Prairie Hotel, was accidentally drowned night before last. He was in a sleigh with others, when it went through an air-hole in the ice of the Mississippi” (“Drowned,” *Prairie du Chien (Wisconsin) Courier*, Dec. 22, 1859).

¹⁹ Cannon gives the impression, although ambiguously, that Joseph Smith might have conferred additional authority on the Twelve Apostles at that time. However, Woodruff’s sermon was reported in full in the *Millennial Star* and indicates only that Smith reminded the Twelve of the authority they already possessed. Woodruff mentioned this on two other occasions. In April 1893 he said that in Nauvoo, Joseph Smith “spoke to them for more than three hours” and “was transfigured before them, that his face shone like amber,” but without any mention of authority. In another sermon, this one in June 1894, Woodruff said Smith “called the Twelve together the last time he spoke to us, and his face shone like amber,” but again without referencing the conferral of additional authority. None of the other apostles mentioned a transfiguration, so this was probably Woodruff’s private impression; nor did they claim they were given the right of succession at that time (Brian H. Stuy, ed., *Collected Discourses* [N.p.: B.H.S. Publishing, 1987], 3:283, 4:110, 291).