

holy mountain, for the earth (not heaven; we are not talking about heaven), shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the seas; and you shall not have to say to your neighbor: 'Know ye the Lord, but all shall know Him from the least to the greatest.' (Isa. 11:6-9; Isa. 40:4; Isa. 65:21-25; and Amos 9:13.)

#### A Transformed Earth.

I remember having a discussion with a revered gentleman several years ago. I chanced to quote Isaiah 11:6-7: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling, together; and a little child shall lead them, and the cow and the bear shall feed and their young ones shall lie down together and the lion shall eat straw like the ox." He pitied me for my ignorance and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, that is not to be literalized; that is descriptive of the spiritual ecstasies that shall be enjoyed by the converted. To illustrate, he said: Now we come to a revival meeting, the husband takes a seat in the rear of the church, commonly called the "sinners corner." During the meeting the wife finds the Lord, or in other words, is converted. She repents of her sins, she is filled with a lamb-like spirit; but the man is not converted, the meeting closes, husband and wife go home together; they only have one bedroom, and hence the lamb and the lion lie down together." Now, don't let anybody in this audience think that I am ridiculing the Bible; I am merely ridiculing the nonsensical interpretation the preacher put upon it. I meekly replied, perhaps that is so, but the Bible says: "The lion shall eat straw like the ox." Will that make the poor husband chew straw? The facts are, the spirit of God is going to be poured out upon all flesh and will bring back to Eden conditions, whether we be man, lamb or lion. When God's power came upon the lions they became pretty good friends with Daniel. Another says: Since the curse the earth is filled with valleys and hills and mountains. True, my friends, but the Bible says every valley shall be brought up, the mountains brought down; in a word, every curse is to be removed. Do we not read: "There shall be no more curse?" While in the face of this we are told the curse is to continue eternally.

#### Heaven Comes Down to Earth.

We have been taught to believe that at death we would go to heaven, enter the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. Now, just notice, the New Jerusalem is described in the 21st chapter of Revelation. It is fifteen hundred miles square, or in Bible terms, twelve thousand furlongs. I believe I learned at school eight furlongs made a mile. It is to have twelve gates, the walls are of jasper, the gates of pearl, the streets of gold, and the blessed of the Lord are to live in the city. John says: "I saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven." Some might say, Mr. Evans, you don't understand Greek and Hebrew. Perhaps not, but you cannot make me believe that coming down in Greek means going up in English. Paul speaks of the hope of Abraham and the faithful, as follows: "And Abraham looked for a city, which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." (Heb. 11:10.) Here is a solid city, not a fancy, not a dream, but something with solidity about it, and so the faith of the Former Day Saints and the Latter Day Saints is fully supported by the Bible. The earth will be redeemed, Christ will return; a complete reconciliation between God and man will result, death shall pass away, there shall be no more sorrow, nor crying, nor pain; but every creature will join in the song of redemption, singing blessing and honor and glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever. May we be enabled to join in this holy chorus is my earnest prayer.