DATE: 08 January 1845

Nauvoo, Illinois

SOURCE:       Addresses/BY

UGHM 11:106-108

Meeting of the Richards and Young families  am

President Brigham Young said, in substance:

As I do not know where to begin, I will begin in the middle and work both ways.  With regard to our circumstances of being here this day I would have been happy to have seen the whole family.  We have recorded up 120 or 130 of Father Young's family now living, and there is not one-third part of the family present.  There are only a few of them here.  There must be 60 or 80 in the Church.  Almost all the posterity are members.  There are some things I will talk about.  When we come to the connections we discover that we all sprung back to the settlement of New England about 200 years ago.  It is but a little more than that time when Father Smith, the Goddards, Richards, Youngs and Kimballs were all in one family--as it were.  We are all relations.  It is only three generations back that Brother Joseph Smith's family were related to this family.  There are only three children of Grand father and Grand mother Howe--that is, only three families who have embraced the Gospel, but the others must, because the decree has gone forth.  I have preached to them myself, I have done my duty and now I have handed them over to other powers for a time.  There is a great deal might be explained here this day.  I will first set in order before these relations the true order.of the Kingdom of God and how the families hereafter will be organized; you have heard Joseph say that the people did not know him; he had his eyes on the relation to blood-relations.  Some have supposed that he meant spirit, but it was the blood-relation.  This is it that he referred to.  His descent from Joseph that was sold into Egypt was direct, and the blood was pure in him.  That is why the Lord chose him and we are pure when this blood-strain from Ephriam comes down pure.  The decrees of the Almighty will be exalted--that blood which was in him was pure and he had the sole right and lawful power, as he was the legal heir to the blood that has been on the earth and has come down through a pure lineage.  The union of various ancestors kept that blood pure.  There is a great deal the people do not understand, and many of the Latter-day Saints have to learn all about it.  In all the Kingdoms of the World you will find that there will be only one King, and all will be governed as one family, every man will preside over his own family.  We will have to work out some of the impurities.  There is a great deal that I have to say and the Brethren will have patience.  Mother Smith is here--she is our Mother, we hold her in a three-fold bond, for we hold her by blood, by the Spirit, and by the Gospel.  We are connected together.  The human family will find out who are the saviors of the Earth.  The world knew nothing of the office of saviors upon Mount Zion.  If Joseph Smith is not the man on whom the Keys of the Kingdom rest, I would not give the ashes of a rye straw for our Salvation.  If I teach my family correct principles and show them the way of Salvation I am in a sense their savior.  There is the same blood of Ephraim running in the veins of this family--and I know who has the blood and the Priesthood to carry the keys to the world.  The decree of the Almighty is so pure that it would seem like blunders in the eyes of the world; but the keys will rest upon the Prophet and there is no power on earth or in hell to take it from him.  This is a subject relating to the baptism for the dead.  We will tell you when the Temple is finished how to redeem your dead.  I want to tell you now don't be scared, don't be frightened, at what I tell you.  The Church does not understand the doctrine that Joseph taught--yet it---is plain as the sun at noonday--the order of redeeming our relatives originated in the Kingdom of Heaven.  If our progenitors had kept their records as the Jews anciently did they would be able to tell exactly where they came from--and see where they run down in one straight line.  We have.hundreds ready to be baptized for the dead.