

Build

Doctrine and Covenants

94-96



Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built. Haggai 1:2

The Center of a Town



If you were to design a city, what would you place at the center of that city?



Three Buildings

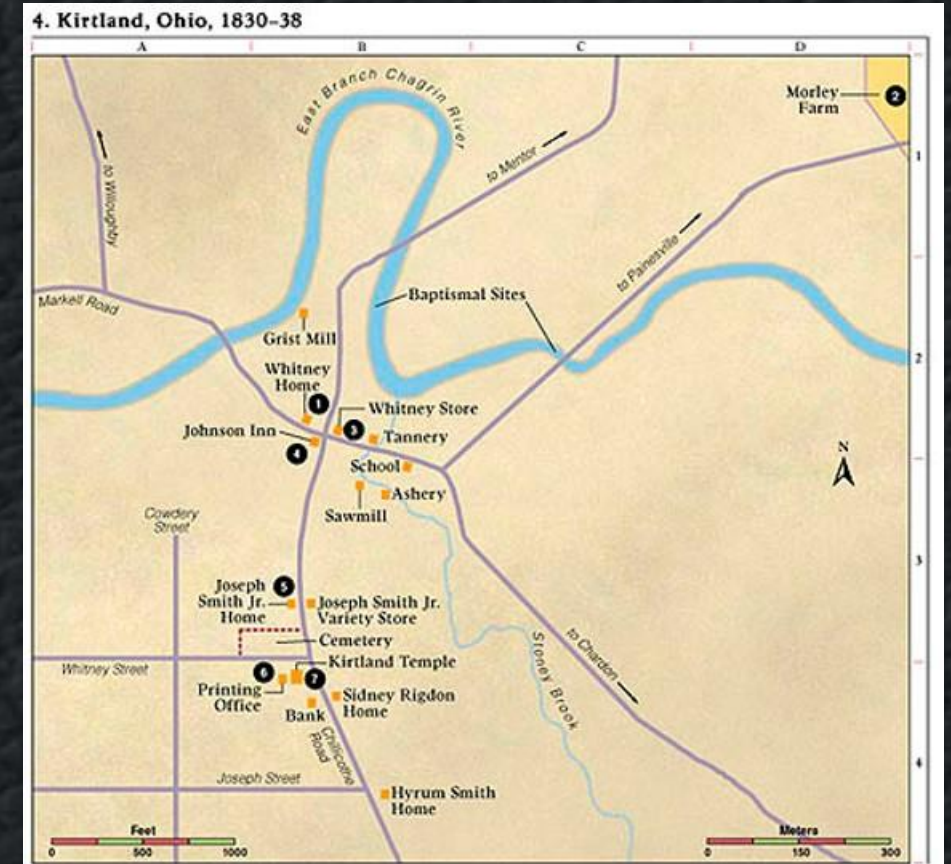
August 2, 1833
Kirtland, Ohio



A city of the Stake of Zion—to be laid out with the temple

A lot was set out for the work of the Presidency

A lot was set out for printing



D&C 94:1,3,10

The three buildings represent the Kirtland Temple, a house in which the Presidency could do their work, and a printing office.

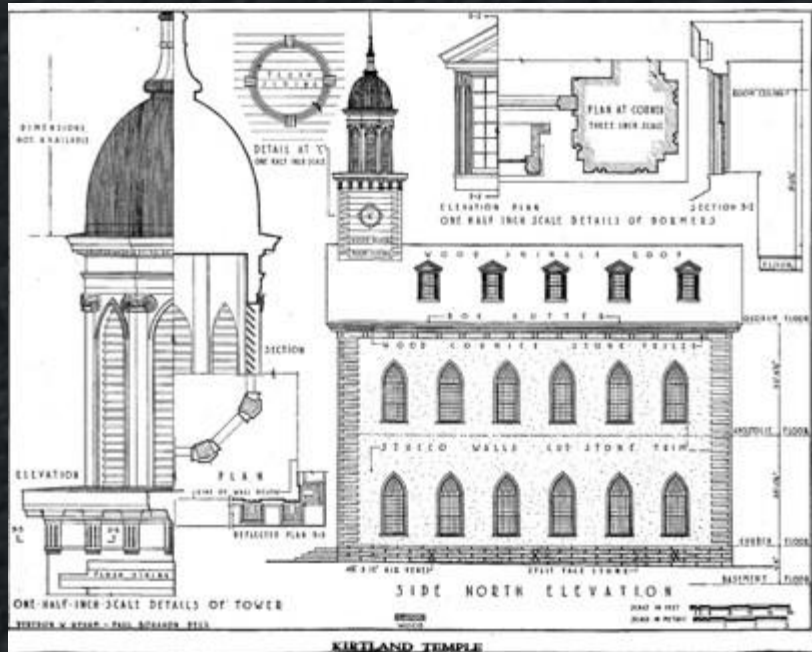
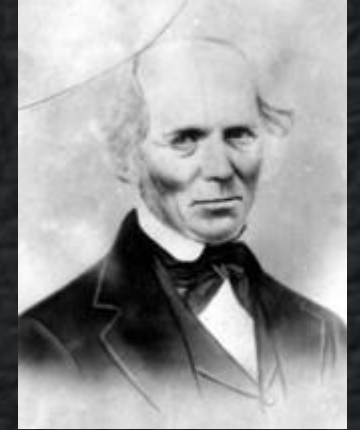
Why are These Buildings Important?

Temple ordinances, the work of the First Presidency in obtaining revelation and ministering to the Church, and the printing of scriptures and other works the Lord commands.



A Committee

Hyrum Smith, Reynolds Cahoon, and Jared Carter were appointed as a committee to oversee the completion of certain buildings in Kirtland. To aid them in their assignment, the Lord gave them land adjacent to the temple lot.



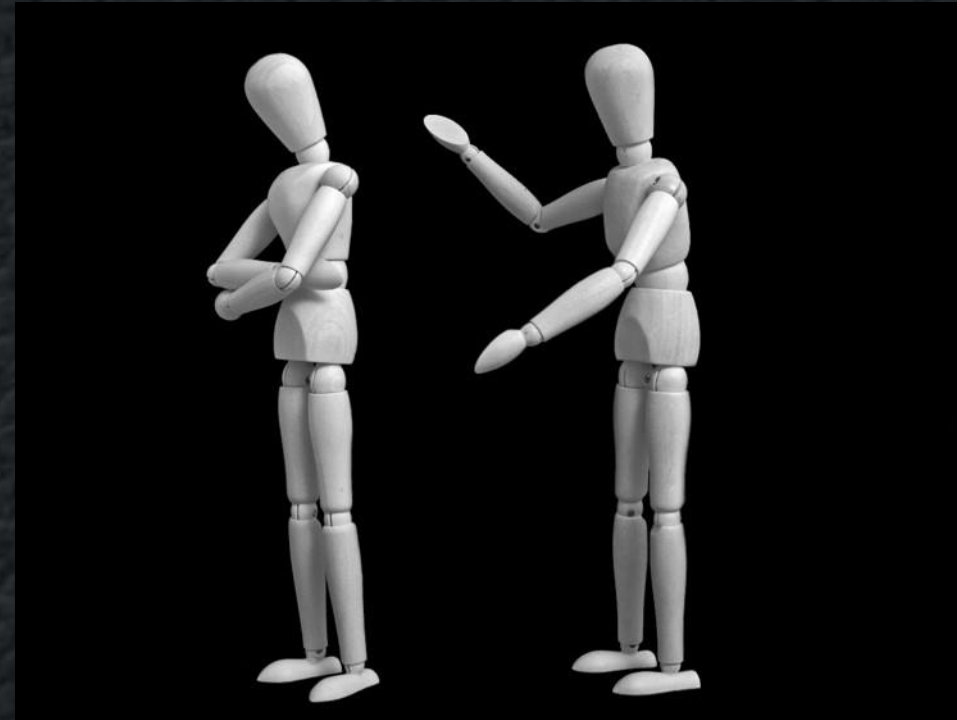
As it happened, the building of the Kirtland Temple took all the energy and finances of the Church. By the time it was completed, the faithful in Kirtland were compelled to leave for Missouri, so the other two buildings were not completed.

Student Manual

Chastening Out of Love

A Discipline or Correction

If we love someone in the highest sense of the word, we are deeply concerned for that person's eternal as well as temporal welfare.



The Lord chastened the brethren for their delay in building the House of the Lord

Commencement

“Four days after the Lord had rebuked the brethren for their neglect, without waiting for subscriptions, the brethren went to work on the Temple.

Elder George A. Smith, a recent convert, hauled the first load of stone for the Temple.

Hyrum Smith and Reynolds Cahoon commenced digging the trench for the walls, and they finished the same with their own hands.”

President Joseph Fielding Smith



The Vineyard

“The vineyard is the harvest symbol usually used to represent the world—the earth and all of the people who live on the earth

Pruning--calling out or separating the righteous from among the wicked or by the actual destruction of the wicked.



The Lord instructs his servants (missionaries) to prune his vineyard.

However, the Lord has also warned that when the pruning process is completed, the vines that continue to bring forth bad fruit will be burned.

This evidently refers to the burning of the wicked, which will take place at the second coming when Jesus Christ will come in power and great glory.

My Strange Act

“A fresh view is not always welcomed ... ; it can be jarring to those who are intensely set in their ways

Even the remarkable Enoch was not welcomed by many of his contemporaries. Of him and his labors it was said anciently,

Fresh and striking truths were necessary so that mortals could ‘hear and know that which they have never considered’

*For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.
Isaiah 28:21*

*And they came forth to hear him, upon the high places, saying unto the tent-keepers: Tarry ye here and keep the tents, while we go yonder to behold the seer, for he prophesieth, and there is a strange thing in the land; a wild man hath come among us.
Moses 6:38*

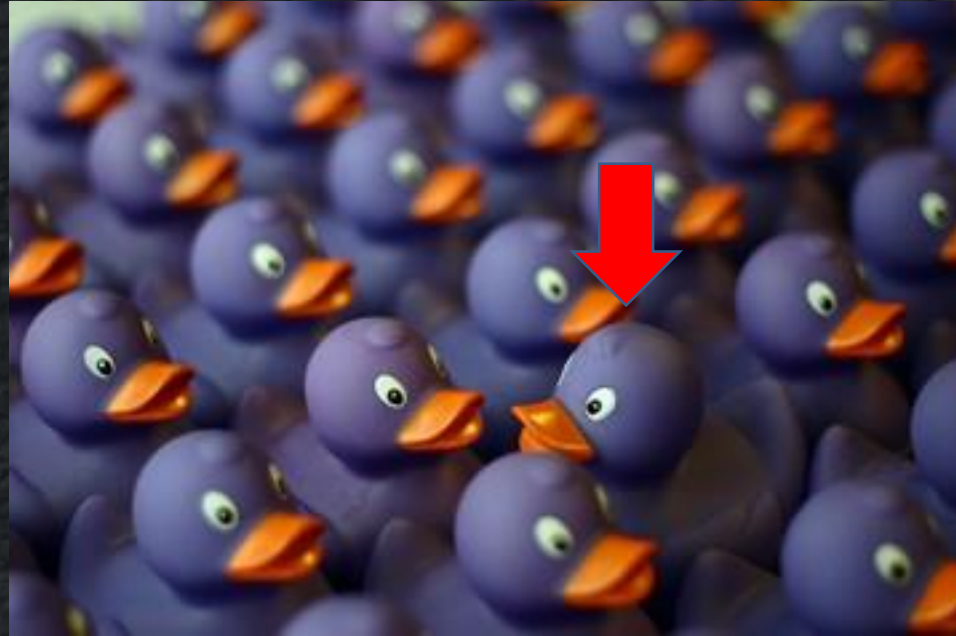
***That wise men and rulers may hear and know that which they have never considered;
D&C 101:94***

Go Against the Grain

“Having described the Restoration as his ‘strange act,’ and ‘my strange work,’ the Lord indicated that it would go against the grain of much of society.

Yet restitution of the unfamiliar, the uncommon, the unusual, and the unique would actually aid mortals by providing fresh, divine standards and help them in discerning between righteousness and wickedness, as God ‘poured out [His] Spirit upon all flesh.’

With values otherwise shorn of true perspective, the inversions of certain of them become almost inevitable. Finally, evil can end up being called good, and good evil.



Many Called—Few Chosen

It is one thing to be called to labor in the vineyard and another to be faithful in the performance of that work.

Only those who faithfully fill their callings are chosen by the Lord for exaltation in the kingdom of God.

Those who are called but not chosen “have sinned a very grievous sin, in that they are walking in darkness at noon-day” for they do not respond to the light of the restored gospel that surrounds them.



Solemn Assemblies

“Solemn assemblies have been known among the Saints since the days of Israel.

They have been of various kinds but generally have been associated with the dedication of a temple or a special meeting appointed for the sustaining of a new First Presidency or a meeting for the priesthood to sustain a revelation, such as the tithing revelation to President Lorenzo Snow. ...



“Joseph Smith and Brigham Young were first sustained by a congregation, including a fully organized priesthood. Brigham Young was sustained on March 27, 1846, and was ‘unanimously elected president over the whole Camp of Israel ...’ by the council.”

Bible Solemn Assemblies

Such assemblies are sacred meetings attended by the priesthood or those who seek to separate themselves from the world by keeping God's commands.



The purpose for the assembly was to help the elders spiritually prepare to continue their missionary work among the people of the world.

Leviticus 23:36

Numbers 29:35

Deuteronomy 16:8

2 Chronicles 7:9

Nehemiah 8:18

Isaiah 1:10-14

Ezekiel 45:17; 46:11

Endowment

A gift or a bequest

In the Church it usually refers to a temple ordinance in which members make certain promises and receive a gift of knowledge and spiritual power in return.

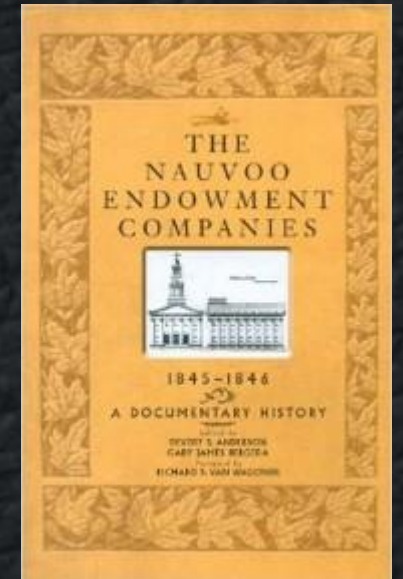
The endowment spoken of here, however, is not the same as the ceremony administered in later temples.



The endowment received in Kirtland included washings and anointings, as well as the washing of feet for official priesthood brethren. The Lord also poured out His Spirit, or in other words *endowed* them with spiritual power, and many received revelations or other gifts-- HC

Priesthood members in Kirtland did participate in a “partial endowment, the full ordinance being reserved for a future performance when a temple designed for ordinance work itself should be built” Bruce R. McConkie

The first complete endowment in this dispensation was given by Joseph Smith in Nauvoo on 4 May 1842.



Spiritual Power and Knowledge

“Until you have entered the house of the Lord and have received all the blessings which await you there, you have not obtained everything the Church has to offer. The all-important and crowning blessings of membership in the Church are those blessings which we receive in the temples of God”

President Thomas S. Monson



What are two saving ordinances that we can receive only in the temples of God?

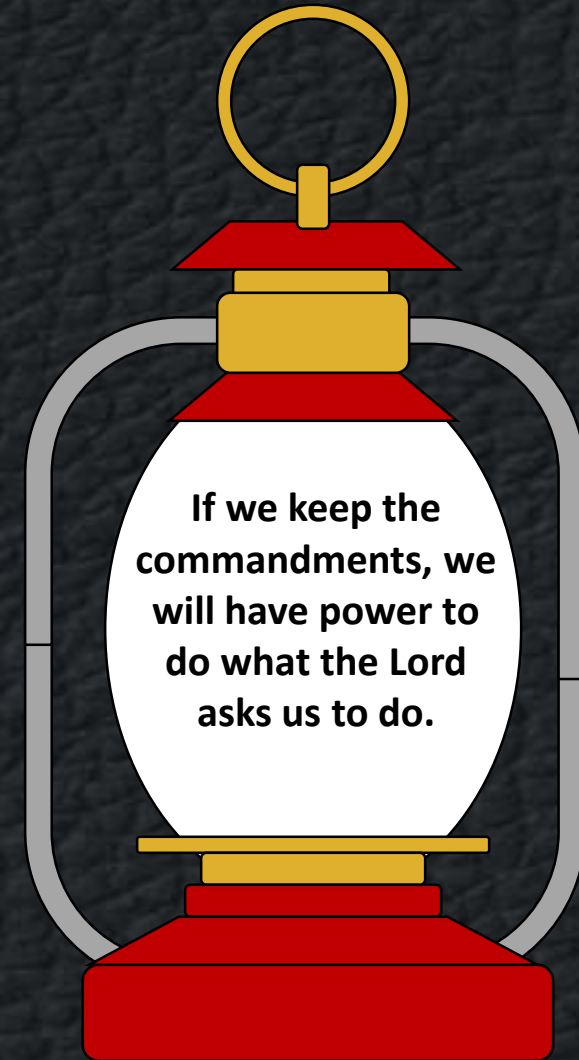
The temple endowment and the marriage sealing

Proceeding With Faith

The Temple was an enormous task for the Saints. In the early part of 1833, there were fewer than 200 members of the Church in Ohio, and most of them were poor



The Saints in Ohio proceeded with faith in the Lord's promise and constructed the temple.



Specific Design of the Temple

Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, and Frederick G. Williams prayed together and saw the temple in vision.

After viewing the exterior in detail, “the building seemed to come right over [them]” and they saw the interior of the building as if they were actually inside the building.

Later, when the temple was nearing completion, Frederick G. Williams said it looked like the model he had seen in vision to the smallest detail, and he could not tell the difference between it and the temple as built.



This Stake

To pitch a tent, one drives stakes into the ground to secure it. The deeper the stakes, the stronger and more stable the tent. The revelations of the Lord compare Zion to a great tent, whose stakes are its support and therefore must be strong.

“The expression ‘stake of Zion,’” wrote President Joseph Fielding Smith, “is taken from the expression in Isaiah: ‘Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities; thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.’ Again: ‘Enlarge the place of thy tent and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitation: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes.’

Isaiah speaks of Zion as a tent, or tabernacle, having in mind the Tabernacle which was built and carried in the wilderness in the days of Moses, and the cords are the binding cables that extend from the tent, or tabernacle, to the stakes which are fastened in the ground. Now the Lord revealed that Zion was to be built and surrounding her would be the stakes helping to bind and keep her in place.

This figure of speech has almost been lost through the intervening years, but it retains its significance, or beauty. To speak of Zion, the New Jerusalem, or even that section where the city will be built, as a stake of Zion, is a sad mistake. Zion is the tent, the stakes of Zion are the binding pegs that support her. Zion, therefore, cannot be a stake, it would be as improper to call a tent a stake as to apply this term to Zion.” HC

Who's In Charge of the Property?

The Lord instructed that Bishop Newel K. Whitney should take charge of the property held by the Church.

The temple would be built on the place designated by the Lord, and Bishop Whitney would divide the remainder of the property into lots for those who would seek an inheritance.

Some of these lots were designated for Church leaders responsible for the publication of the revelations.

Receiving this inheritance would help them devote their time to doing the work of the Lord, which included publishing the word of God.



John Johnson should be admitted as a member of the United Firm, which oversaw the Church's financial, publishing, and mercantile operations.

John Johnson

He was born April 11, 1778 in Chesterfield, New Hampshire and the son of Israel Johnson and Abigail Higgins

He moved to Hiram, Ohio in 1818 and purchased 100 acres and by 1830 he had 304 acres

He was affiliated with the Methodist Church, upon investigation with Ezra Booth of the Mormon Church, and when Joseph Smith healed his wife's lame arm, he and his wife were converted to the Church

In 1831 the Prophet and his family moved in with the Johnson's in Hiram

In March 1832 when a mob had taken Joseph and Sidney Rigdon to tar and feather them, he called for his shot gun but was knocked down and his collarbone was broken. David Whitmer healed it immediately with a Priesthood blessing

He soon moved into Kirtland, Ohio and in 1833 he was ordained an Elder and called as a member of the United Order, then ordained a High Priest

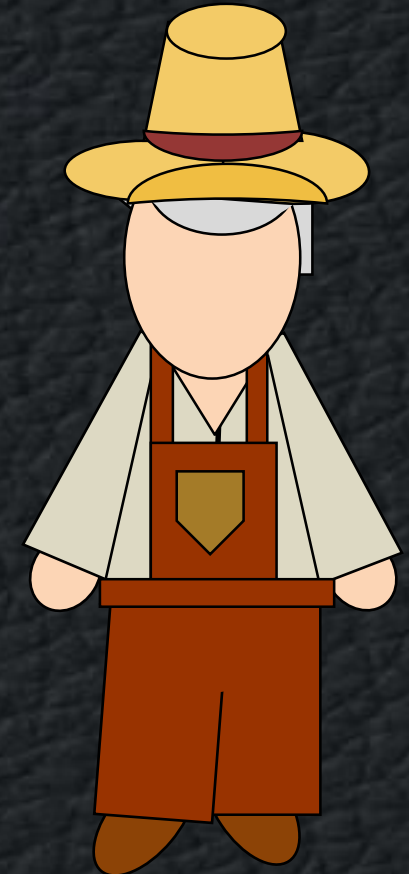
In 1836 he went into financial difficulties and he was a member of the Kirtland Safety Society which failed in 1837

His financial and legal issues combined with the loss of eternal truths led to his apostasy in 1837

He died on July 30, 1843 and buried near the Kirtland Temple at the age of 65



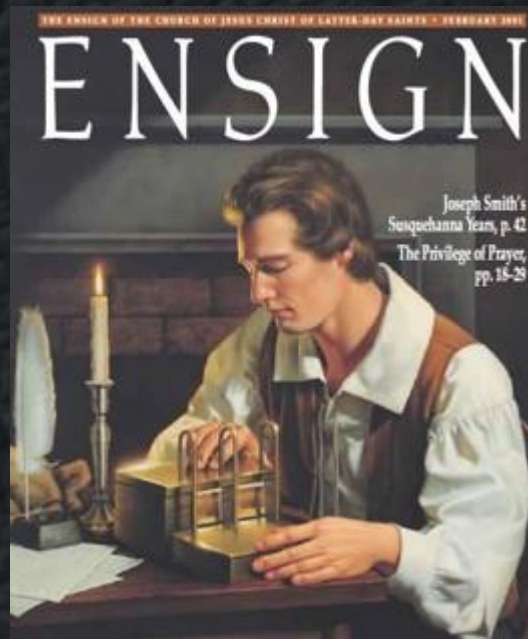
John Johnson Home—purchased by church in 1956 and used as welfare farm 1971-2002



Go To the World

“One day all the standard works will be so organized and prepared, to make them one monumental testimony that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Only Begotten of the Father. The doctrines of salvation must be available to all mankind, not just in their hands, but in their heads and hearts.”

Boyd K. Packer



The image is a screenshot of the LDS.org website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Sign In/Tools" and "CHURCH WEBSITES" on the right, and "Scriptures", "Teachings", "Resources", and "News" in the center. A search bar labeled "Search All LDS.org" is on the right. The main content area features a large banner image of Jesus Christ in a white robe, holding the hand of a young child, with a woman standing behind the child. Overlaid on the left side of the banner is a white box with the heading "BROADCAST" and the title "God Is Calling". Below the title is a short paragraph: "Watch as Elder Jeffrey R. Holland shares three experiences that illustrate the importance of standing as witnesses of Jesus Christ through our daily actions." A blue "View Now" button is at the bottom of the box. At the bottom of the page, there are three tabs: "Local Content", "LATEST FEATURES", and "Prophets and".

Subduing Your Hearts

Although some resist and even fight against the gospel's influence, others are tempered and influenced for good by its power and the example of those who have received it.



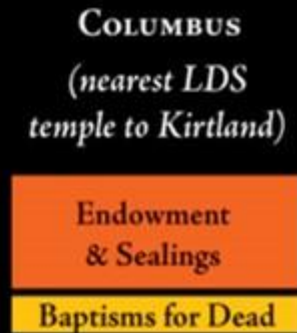
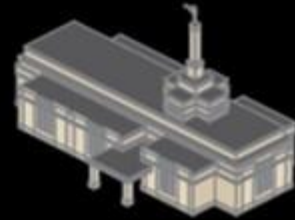
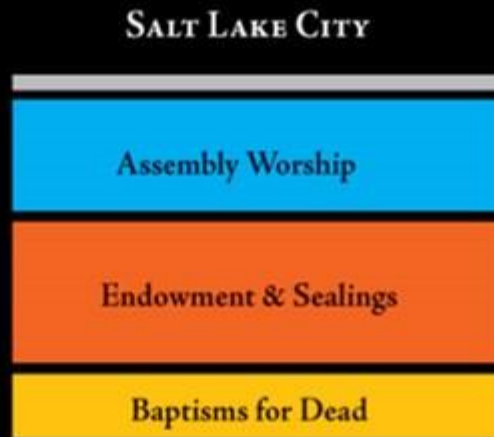
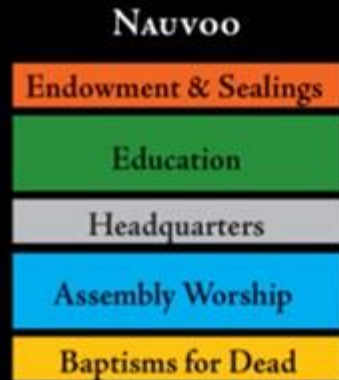
“Build up Zion, but build it up in the area where God has given you birth and nationality. Build it up where he has given you citizenship, family, and friends. ... The Saints who comprise ... Zion are and should be a leavening influence for good in all these nations.

“And know this: God will bless that nation which so orders its affairs as to further his work.”

Elder Bruce R. McConkie



Functions of the Temple Over the Years



Illustrations and Diagrams © John C. Hamer

Sources:

Video:

The Will of God (3:02)

The Crowning Blessings of Church Membership (0:26)



Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual Religion 324-325 Section 94

President Joseph Fielding Smith *Church History and Modern Revelation*, 1:406–7

(Ludlow, *Companion*, 2:318.)

Neal A. Maxwell (*A Wonderful Flood of Light*, 9.)

President Spencer W. Kimball (B. H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of the Church*, vo. 3, p. 52.)

(Bruce R. McConkie, “A New Commandment: Save Thyself and Thy Kindred!” *Ensign*, Aug. 1976, p. 10).

(“Come: Let Israel Build Zion,” *Ensign*, May 1977, p. 118.)

HC (see History of the Church, 2:308–10). (*Church History and Modern Revelation*, 1:321–22.)

President Thomas S. Monson (“The Holy Temple—a Beacon to the World,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 93).

Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith [2007], 271

Boyd K. Packer, “Teach the Scriptures” [address to religious educators], 14 Oct. 1977, p. 6.

President Joseph Fielding Smith explained:

“A lot was set apart for the building of a house for the use of the First Presidency and where revelation could be given and all matters pertaining to the progress of the Church could receive proper attention. ... It was to be dedicated unto the Lord from the foundation thereof, according to the order of the Priesthood. There is no question that the First Presidency needed a place where they could attend to the matters of Church government. This was to be a sacred house; no unclean thing was to be permitted to enter it, and if the builders would remember this the presence of the Lord should be in the building.

“The second lot south of this building was to be dedicated for the building of another house where the printing for the Church could be done and the translation of the scriptures, on which the Prophet had been working off and on for many months, could be published. ... This house also was to be dedicated to the service of the Lord, and set apart for the printing.” (*Church History and Modern Revelation*, 1:404.)

Chastisement:

“We are concerned that too many times the interviewing leader in his personal sympathies for the transgressor, and in his love perhaps for the family of the transgressor, is inclined to waive the discipline which that transgressor demands.

“Too often a transgressor is forgiven and all penalties waived when that person should have been disfellowshipped or excommunicated. Too often a sinner is disfellowshipped when he or she should have been excommunicated. ...

“Do you remember what was said by the prophet Alma? ‘Now,’ he said, ‘repentance could not come unto men except there were a punishment.’ [Alma 42:16.]

“Ponder on that for a moment. Have you realized that? There can be no forgiveness without real and total repentance, and there can be no repentance without punishment. This is as eternal as is the soul. ...

“Please remember these things when somebody comes before you who has broken the laws of God.

“It is so easy to let our sympathies carry us out of proportion; and when a man has committed sin, he must suffer. It’s an absolute requirement—not by the bishop—but it’s a requirement by nature and by the very part of a man.” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1975, p. 116; or *Ensign*, May 1975, p. 78.) President Spencer W. Kimball

The Building:

Church leaders held a conference to discuss the construction of the temple. “Some were in favor of building a frame house, but others were of a mind to put up a log house. Joseph reminded them that they were not building a house for a man, but for God; ‘and shall we, brethren,’ said he, ‘build a house for our God, of logs? No, I have a better plan than that. I have a plan of the house of the Lord, given by himself.’” After Joseph explained the full pattern of the temple, all the brethren were excited. They traveled to the building site, removed a fence, and leveled a field of wheat that had previously been planted by the Smith family. After the grain was cleared, Hyrum Smith “commenced digging a trench for the wall.” (Lucy Mack Smith, *History of Joseph Smith by His Mother*, ed. Preston Nibley [1958], 230, 231.)

My Strange Act 95:4:

The phrase “my strange act” comes from Isaiah 28:21, where the Lord said He would correct a people who did not believe they had any need to repent. The Restoration of the gospel and the establishment of the true Church upon the earth is a strange occurrence to people who consider belief in revelation, heavenly visitations, and other spiritual matters to be foolishness. The message of the Restoration of the gospel is preached to many who believe they already have the truth. Some of these people may consider our efforts strange.