

#18: Establish a House of God

Monte F. Shelley, 31 May, 2009

Quotes

- Your future is as bright as your faith. (Pres. Monson)

| Timeline of Key Events Related to Kirtland Temple | |
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| 1832 <i>100*</i> | Mar. D&C 79. Jared Carter called on 2 nd mission to east. Dec. 27: D&C 88. Build a temple, school of prophets |
| 1833 <i>150</i> | Jan-Mar. School of prophets met. Word of Wisdom and Lectures on Faith. Mar. 18: First Presidency organized Mar. 23: Agents appointed to buy property for temple, ... May 4: Building committee (Hyrum Smith, Jared Carter, and Reynolds Cahoon) to raise funds and supervise. Jun. 1: D&C 95 explains need and urgency of temple. Jun. 3. First Presidency prayed and saw the temple Jun. 5. Land cleared, men start digging trenches Jul. 23, noon. Cornerstone was laid at southeast corner. |
| 1834 <i>400</i> | May 1–June 23. Zion’s camp. 207 men, 11 women, 11 kids Dec. Joseph and Oliver prayed for help to pay mortgage. John Tanner had a dream that he needed to go to Ohio. |
| 1835 <i>900</i> | Jan. John Tanner loaned Joseph \$2,000 to pay mortgage. Feb. Twelve Apostles and Seventy chosen. 79 of these 82 men were part of Zion’s Camp. March. Apostles sent on missions to Eastern States July. Joseph received Book of Abraham papyrus. Aug.–Sept. Book of Commandments (LF, 1–102) printed |
| 1836 <i>1300</i> | Jan. 18. Hebrew School & School of Elders meet in temple Jan. 21: D&C 137. In the temple, Joseph saw brother Alvin in the celestial kingdom with Adam and Abraham. Jan. 21–Mar. 30: Leaders and other members received washings and anointing in the temple Mar. 27: D&C 109. Solemn Assembly, temple dedication Mar. 28 & 29: Attended Hebrew school in temple. Mar. 30: Washing of feet ordinance, sacrament, blessings Mar. 31: Second temple dedication Apr. 3: D&C 110. Lord, Moses, Elias, and Elijah appear. |
| 1837 <i>1800</i> | US depression. Money problems, lawsuits, mobs, apostasy June 4. Heber C. Kimball and Orson Hyde sent to England |
| 1838 | About 2,000 Saints left Kirtland and 100 stayed. |
| 1842 | May 4. First full temple endowments given in Nauvoo |
| 1980 | 19 operating temples |
| 1997 | 51 temples. (Oct.) Pres. Hinckley announces small temples |
| 2000 | 102 temples |
| 2009 | May. 129 temples and 17 announced or under construction |

* Italicized numbers give LDS population. About 5 per family.

1. Kirtland, Mar. 27, 1836. Temple dedication

Some people arrived at 7:00 AM. The doors closed at 8:00 when the room was full with about 1000 people. There were about two people per seat. Some were standing. Children were sitting on laps of parents. One man who had donated \$700 got upset because he could not get in and later apostatized. Donations were accepted at the door to help pay the \$13,000 debt and \$963 was collected.

9:00: Opening hymn. Prayer. Hymn by choir and congregation.

Sermon by Sidney Rigdon (2.5 hours)

Closing hymn: “Now let us rejoice”

Intermission: 20 minutes

Brief address by prophet and sustaining of leaders

Dedicatory prayer (D&C 109) read by the Prophet.

Hymn: “The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning”

Vote of priesthood quorums to sustain the dedication.

Sacrament administered to the congregation.

Testimonies: Joseph, Oliver, Fredrick G. Williams, Hyrum Smith.

Closing prayer: Sidney Rigdon

Hosanna shout and raising of arms (Hosanna means “save now”)

Brigham Young spoke in tongues and David Patten interpreted.

Conclusion: Blessing from Prophet. (Ended at 4:00 PM.)

Eliza R. Snow: “No mortal language can describe the sweet spirit of love and union. No language can describe the heavenly manifestations of that memorable day. A sense of divine presence was realized by all. Each heart was filled with joy inexpressible.”

2. As “on the days of Pentecost” (D&C 109:36–37)

Evening session: Joseph instructed 416 priesthood bearers on the washing of the feet ordinance and on the spirit of prophesy.

“George A. Smith arose and began to prophesy, when a noise was heard like the sound of a rushing mighty wind, which filled the Temple, and all the congregation simultaneously arose, being moved upon by an invisible power; many began to speak in tongues and prophesy; others saw glorious visions; and I beheld the Temple was filled with angels, which fact I declared to the congregation. The people ... came running together (hearing an unusual sound within, and seeing a bright light like a pillar of fire resting upon the Temple), and were astonished at what was taking place. This continued until ... eleven p.m.” (HC, 2:428)

“Lorenzo Snow ...: ‘There we had the gift of prophecy—the gift of tongues—the interpretation of tongues—visions and marvelous dreams were related—the singing of heavenly choirs was heard... The sick were healed—the deaf made to hear—the blind to see and the lame to walk. ... It was plainly manifest that a sacred and divine influence ... pervaded that holy edifice.’ The Savior appeared in five different meetings held in the temple. Visions, including a vision of the Father and Son, were beheld at eight meetings, and the congregation saw heavenly beings or angels in nine meetings. ... Over 1,000 people attended these meetings, many of whom testified to having had sacred experiences and put their observations and feelings in letters and journals.” (Karl Ricks Anderson, *Joseph Smith’s Kirtland*, 1989, 170)

3. Kirtland, Apr. 3, 1836. Lord, Moses, Elias, Elijah.

“In the afternoon, I assisted ... in distributing the Lord’s Supper to the Church. ... After having performed this service ..., I retired to the pulpit, the veils being dropped, and bowed myself, with Oliver Cowdery, in solemn and silent prayer. After rising from prayer, the following vision was opened to both of us.” (110:hdng)

The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened. We saw the Lord standing ... before us; and ... saying: ... I have *accepted this house*, and *my name shall be here*; and I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house. Yea, *I will appear unto my servants*, and *speak unto them with mine own voice*, if my people will keep my commandments, and do not pollute this holy house.

| Person | Keys restored |
|--------|---|
| Moses | Gathering of Israel; lead 10 tribes from <i>land of the north</i> |
| Elias | Dispensation of the gospel of Abraham; eternal increase |
| Elijah | Sealing power; turn hearts of “children to <i>the fathers</i> ” |

4. Dedication week parallels

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| Mar. 27: Palm Sunday. Temple dedication; Hosanna shouts | Savior’s triumphal entry as multitudes shouted Hosanna. |
| Mar. 30–31: Washing of feet; Second temple dedication | Thurs. Last Supper. Jesus washes feet of apostles. |
| Apr. 3: Easter Sunday. Jesus comes to temple; keys restored | Priests wave “first fruits.” Jesus resurrected and seen by many. |

5. Faith precedes the miracle (D&C 63:9–10)

Faith in Christ= hear and obey commandments, keep covenants.

Covenants

Obedience = sign of faith in and love of God. Commandments or promptings contrary to our desires or expectations try our faith.

Sacrifice: willing to give property and live to sustain and defend

Gospel: (D&C 42) How we treat and talk about others. Not kill, steal, lie, adultery, speak evil, harm. Love spouse. Help poor, sick, needy. No idleness, pride, contention, fault finding, backbiting.

Chastity: Bridle or guide desires and passions.

Consecration: Use time, money, etc. to build up kingdom (preach gospel, redeem dead), and to establish righteousness (perfect the saints). Accept and magnify callings. Offerings.

6. Quotes

President Howard W. Hunter: Consider the majestic teachings in the great dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple, a prayer the Prophet Joseph Smith said was given to him by revelation. It is a prayer that continues to be answered upon us individually, upon us as families, and upon us as a people because of the priesthood power the Lord has given us to use in His holy temples.

“And now, Holy Father,” pleaded the Prophet Joseph Smith, “we ask thee to assist us, thy people, with thy grace ... that we may be found worthy, in thy sight, to secure a fulfillment of the promises which thou hast made unto us ... in the revelations given unto us; That thy glory may rest down upon thy people. ...

“We ask thee ... that thy servants may go forth from this house armed with thy power, and that thy name may be upon them, and thy glory be round about them, and thine angels have charge over them; And ... they may bear exceedingly great and glorious tidings ... unto the ends of the earth, that they may know that this is thy work, and that thou hast put forth thy hand, to fulfil that which thou hast spoken ... concerning the last days. ...

“We ask thee to appoint unto Zion other stakes ... that the gathering of thy people may roll on in great power and majesty, that thy work may be cut short in righteousness. ...

“And may all the scattered remnants of Israel, who have been driven to the ends of the earth, come to a knowledge of the truth, believe in the Messiah, and be redeemed from oppression. ...

“Remember all thy church, O Lord, with all their families, and all their immediate connections, with all their sick and afflicted ones, with all the poor and meek of the earth; that the kingdom, which thou hast set up without hands, may become a great mountain and fill the whole earth; ...

“That when the trump shall sound for the dead, we shall be caught up in the cloud to meet thee, that we may ever be with the Lord” (D&C 109:10–12, 22–23, 59, 67, 72, 75).

Has there ever been a people with such stirring and wonderful promises! ... Truly, the Lord desires that His people be a temple-motivated people. It would be the deepest desire of my heart to have every member of the Church be temple worthy. I would hope that every adult member would be worthy of—and carry—a current temple recommend. ...

Let us be a temple-attending and a temple-loving people. Let us hasten to the temple as frequently as time and means and personal circumstances allow. Let us go not only for our kindred dead, but let us also go for the personal blessing of temple worship, for the sanctity and safety which is provided within those hallowed and consecrated walls. The temple is a place of beauty, it is a place of revelation, it is a place of peace. It is the house of the Lord. It is holy unto the Lord. It should be holy unto us. (Ensign, Oct 1994, 2)

President Ezra Taft Benson: “When you attend the temple and perform the ordinances that pertain to the House of the Lord, certain blessings will come to you: You will receive the spirit of Elijah, which will turn your hearts to your spouse, to your children, and to your forebears. You will love your family with a deeper love than you have loved before. You will be endowed with power from on high as the Lord has promised. You will receive the key of the knowledge of God. (See D&C 84:19) You will learn how you can be like Him. Even the power of godliness will be manifest to you. (See D&C 84:20) You will be doing a great service to those who have passed to the other side of the veil in order that they might be ‘judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.’ (D&C 138:34) Such are the blessings of the temple and the blessings of frequently attending the temple.” (Ensign, Aug 1985, p10)

7. Kirtland Temple Plans and Construction

Two main rooms= 55' by 65' (22' high)
Exterior= 80' by 59' (60' high)
Tower = 110' high
Walls= 2' thick sandstone, stucco, painted lines
Roof= hand split cedar shale
Attic has 5 long rooms
Large curtains could be lowered to divide rooms.
Bench seats could move to face either direction.

