

### #36: "The desert shall ... blossom as the rose"

Monte F. Shelley, 25 Oct 2009

#### Quotes

- When my wife was asked what I do, she said "he serves as a bad example and is getting better with age."
- Some of God's greatest blessings come wrapped as undesirable problems.

#### SOURCES:

1. MB= Matthew Brown, *Symbols in Stone*
2. CH= Church History Student Manual

Timeline of Events	
1847	<p>Jul 24. Brigham arrived in Salt Lake Valley.</p> <p>Jul 25. Brigham said no work on Sunday, no buying or selling land. Every man would get the land he could till. (CHC 3:269)</p> <p>Jul 28. Brigham said, "Right here will stand the temple."</p> <p>Jul 29. Some MB people arrived from Pueblo, CO. ~400 <b>About 400 now in valley.</b></p> <p>Aug. Began surveying city with temple at the center. Old Fort built (Pioneer Park). Dammed City Creek, watered hard ground, plowed and planted 35 acres. <b>The ground was ... so hard that the first attempt to plow was unsuccessful, and several plow-points were broken. By placing a dam in the stream (City Creek) they soaked the ground and in the course of a few days several acres were plowed and planted."</b> (ECT 450)</p> <p>Aug 16. Brigham and Apostles left for Winter Quarters. <b>They passed 1553 Saints on their way to the valley.</b></p> <p>High council responsible for making and enforcing laws; levying taxes; giving rights to land, water, and timber;</p> <p>Dec 21. Twelve encouraged emigration to Salt Lake Valley</p> <p>Dec 27. New First Presidency sustained in Kanesville, IO by 1000 Saints in small building (40' x 60').</p> <p>Winter. Mild. Wolves, foxes, mice annoyed Saints. Cats were valued in fort.</p> <p>Settlers in Bountiful and other Davis county areas. <b>2095 pioneers + MB people + others in 1847</b> <b>About 12000 American Indians lived in Great Basin. A few them lived in SLValley.</b></p>
1848 2400	<p>Feb 2. "Upper California" became part of United States.</p> <p>Mar-Apr. Heavy rain caused leaks in sod roofs. Food was rationed. Saints ate crows, animals, thistle, bark, roots.</p> <p>May-Jun. Frost, drought, and crickets afflicted crops resulting in the miracle of the seagulls</p> <p>Sept. Brigham and leaders returned to Salt Lake Valley. First Presidency and council of about 50 men form provisional government. Land rights distributed fairly. No private ownership of water and timber.</p> <p>Winter. Heavy snow, very cold and windy. Food was scarce: surplus put in storehouse and rationed to all. Settlers in Ogden and other Weber county areas.</p>
1849	<p>Jan 2. Money: gold coins and gold backed paper. <b>MB brought gold dust. A few men later sent to California on a "gold mission."</b></p> <p><b>On January 2, 1849, 830 notes were issued with a total value of \$1,365. The notes bore the signature of Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball and stamped with the private seal of the Twelve Apostles. Also, 256 notes of the Kirtland Safety Society Bank were placed in circulation (value \$1,331). These and other notes were secured by a 80% reserve of gold. This fulfilled a prophecy by Joseph</b></p>

	<p><b>Smith that one day the Kirtland notes would be as good as gold.</b></p> <p>Feb 12. <b>Charles Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, and Franklin D. Richards are new apostles to fill positions vacated by First Presidency and Lyman Wight.</b></p> <p>Mar. Saints established provisional State of Deseret with Brigham as governor. This <b>was the civil government in the Great Basin</b> for two years.</p> <p>Spring. Discontent due to harsh winter, hunger, meager harvest, and "California fever" led a few to leave. Brigham and Heber C. Kimball prophecies.</p> <p>Fall. Perpetual Emigration Fund established</p> <p>Oct. E. Snow to Scandinavia, L. Snow to Italy, J. Taylor to France and Germany, F. Richards to England <b>ASK about L Snow healing 3 year old boy in Italy. (OH)</b></p> <p>Settlers in Draper, Kaysville, Tooele, Provo, Manti, etc. <b>1850 ('49)+ 2100 ('50)+1500 ('51)+4050 ('52) = 14000</b></p>
1850	<p>Sept. Territory of Utah was established by US Congress. After 46 years of conflict/mistrust, Utah became a state</p> <p>GQ Cannon opened Hawaiian mission.</p> <p>Settlers in Alpine, AF, Lehi, Lindon, PG, SF, Springville...</p>
1851	<p>Parts of Pearl of Great Price published</p> <p>Settlers in Brigham City, Cedar City, Fillmore, Nephi. San Bernadino California.</p>
1852	<p>Aug. 106 elders called on missions to various countries. Doctrine of plural marriage publically announced.</p>
1853	<p>Apr 6. Salt Lake Temple cornerstones laid.</p> <p>Joseph F. Smith at 15 started 4 year mission in Hawaii (OH) <b>ASK. Very sick in 1857 (OH)</b></p>
1855	<p>Settlers in Las Vegas, Moab.</p>
1856	<p>5 handcart companies arrived. Martin &amp; Willie companies. <b>1857-1860. Five more handcart companies arrived.</b></p> <p><b>I will also ease the burdens which are put upon your shoulders, ... that ye may stand as witnesses for me ..., and that ye may know of a surety that I, the Lord God, do visit my people in their afflictions. (Mosiah 24:13-14)</b></p> <p>Utah applied for statehood. Politicians resisted it because of polygamy and Church control of government.</p>
1857	<p>Lies about Saints led Senator Douglas and others to speak against Saints. In 1843 Joseph said Douglas would aspire to be president but if he spoke against Saints he would "feel the weight of the hand of the Almighty." He ran for president in 1860 and lost to Lincoln.</p> <p>Jul 24. Brigham learns of army coming to Utah. War alert</p> <p>Sept 11. Mountain Meadows Massacre</p> <p>Sept 15. Brigham declared martial law, forbade army entry</p> <p>Over 100 towns now settled</p>
1858	<p>Salt Lake Saints moved south, hid records and assets, covered Temple foundation.</p> <p>Jun. Peace commission sent to Utah and offered pardon.</p> <p>Jun 26. Army entered mostly deserted capital. Only a few Saints left ready to torch property if army didn't leave it alone. Army set up Camp Floyd (Fairfield, <b>25 mi. SW of Lehi</b>).</p> <p>Jul 1. Brigham said Salt Lake Saints could return home.</p>
1860	<p>Work on Salt Lake Temple began again.</p>
1861	<p>Apr 12. Civil War began in South Carolina.</p> <p>Jul. Army left Utah and sold surplus goods cheap.</p> <p>1861-1868. "Church wagon trains" brought Saints west.</p> <p>Oct. Telegraph line reached Utah</p> <p>Settlers in St. George</p>
1865	<p>Civil War ended.</p>

1867	Salt Lake Tabernacle completed
1869	May 10. Connected two train lines at Promontory Summit, Utah, for transcontinental railroad.
1877	Apr 6. St George Temple dedication Aug 29. Brigham died. Twelve led Church for 3 years.
1880	Oct 10. John Taylor sustained as President of the Church
1884	May 17. Logan Temple dedication
1888	May 21. Manti Temple dedication
1893	Apr 6. Salt Lake Temple dedicated. (40 years)
1919	Laie Hawaii Temple dedicated

### 1. 1849 prophecies to discouraged Saints

In 1849, many were discouraged. They had struggled to wrest a living from the arid soil. Crickets had devoured their crops. That winter had been severe. Excessive cold and violent winds often made life miserable for the settlers. Food was scarce and rationed. The people ate wolves, hawks, crows, dogs, and animals that had been dead for some time. Those with surplus food were asked to give it to their bishop to be divided among the needy. The harsh winter, constant hunger, a meager harvest the previous year, created some discontent. Many wanted to go to California and get rich. In these trying circumstances,

**Heber C. Kimball:** “Never mind, boys, in less than one year there will be plenty of clothes and everything that we shall want sold at less than St. Louis prices.” (JD 10:247)

**Brigham:** “God has appointed this place for the gathering of his Saints, and you will do better right here than you will by going to the gold mines. ... God has shown me that this is the spot to locate this people, and here is where they will prosper. ... As the Saints gather here and get strong enough to possess the land, God will temper the climate and we shall build a city and a temple to the Most High God in this place. We will extend our settlements to the east and west, to the north and to the south, and we will build towns and cities by the hundreds, and thousands of Saints will gather in from the nations of the earth. This will become the great highway of nations. Kings and emperors and the noble and wise of the earth will visit us here.” (TPC:BY 101; Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, May 2002 and Oct. 2001).

### How were these prophecies fulfilled?

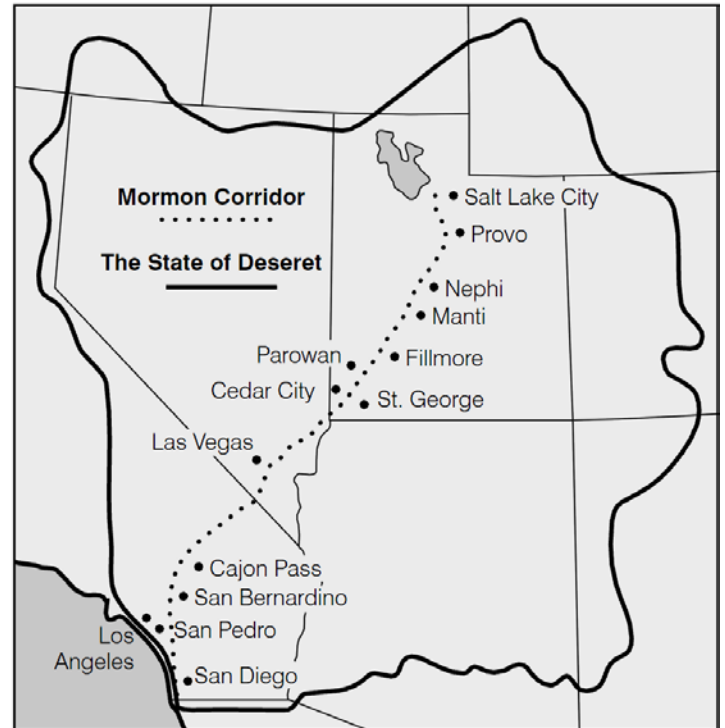
**CH Manual:** Most Saints remained loyal to the cause and planted their seeds. As summer came, the prophets of God were vindicated. The Lord did temper the elements, and there was a bounteous harvest, enough to feed the nearly five thousand Saints who were already in the valley and the fourteen hundred who immigrated during the summer. Moreover, an estimated ten to fifteen thousand gold seekers passing through Salt Lake City in both 1849 and 1850 provided an economic windfall for the Saints. Merchant companies, organized to haul goods to California, learned upon reaching Salt Lake City that food, clothing, implements, and tools sent by ship had already reached the marketplace. They sold their goods to the Saints at devalued prices rather than take an even heavier loss in California. The overland immigrants’ wagons needed servicing and re-outfitting, thus providing employment to Mormon blacksmiths, wagonsmiths, teamsters, laundresses, and millers. The Saints established ferries on the upper crossing of the North Platte, and on the Green and Bear rivers, which were used by the California-bound trains. Parties with empty wagons were sent out from Salt Lake to collect valuable items discarded along the route by those who had attempted to lighten their loads so they could hurry faster

to the gold fields of California. John D. Lee spent several days looking for a suitable stove for his family. He finally “found one to his liking, a fine large Premium Range No. 3 which would have cost more than fifty dollars to purchase. On the way back he started loading up with powder and lead, cooking utensils, tobacco, nails, tools, bacon, coffee, sugar, trunks of clothing, axes, and harness.” Thus the famous 1849 gold rush fulfilled the prophecies of Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball and directly enabled the Saints to survive in the Salt Lake Valley.

### 2. Construction of public works.

One day in ten and one-tenth of their production was donated. Public works included a wall around the Temple Block, building of a Council House, a small adobe church office building, public bathhouse at Warm Springs, an armory, and bowery on the temple block large enough to hold 3,000 persons. There was also a Church Farm of 800 acres created for producing food for the poor.

### 3. Colonization of Great Basin



The route through southern Utah across Nevada and into southern California was known as the Mormon Corridor. A string of settlements or forts along this route provided shelter and protection for the traveler all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

During his lifetime, all of the Salt Lake Valley and many surrounding areas were colonized. By 1877, when Brigham Young died, more than 350 colonies had been established, and by 1900 there were almost 500. Early Church authority Brigham Henry Roberts noted that the success of Mormon colonization stemmed from “the loyalty of the people to their leaders and [their] unselfish and devoted personal sacrifice” in carrying out their calls from President Young. (OH)

### 4. Missionary work in various countries

England, Denmark, and Switzerland were the most productive missions. About half of Utah settlers in 1800s from Great Britain.

## 5. Civil War

**Joseph:** “Thus saith the Lord concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls. ... For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States” (1832, D&C 87:1, 3). In 1843 Joseph said that the bloodshed that would begin in South Carolina “may probably arise through the slave question” (D&C 130:13).

As the conflict deepened, the Saints viewed the Civil War with mixed emotions. They considered the bloodshed and devastation in the “states” a judgment upon the nation for the murders of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, for not keeping the commandments of God, and for the injustices inflicted upon the Saints in Missouri and Illinois. Members of the Church followed Joseph Smith’s lead in firmly supporting the American Constitution.

**John Taylor 1861:** “We have been driven from city to city, from state to state for no just cause of complaint. We have been banished from the pale of what is termed civilization, and forced to make a home in the desert wastes. ... Shall we join the North to fight against the South? No! ... Why? They have both, as before shown, brought it upon themselves, and we have had no hand in the matter. ... We know no North, no South, no East, no West; we abide strictly and positively by the Constitution.” (CH, 381)

**Brigham 1862:** Had we not been persecuted, we would now be in the midst of the wars and bloodshed that are desolating the nation, instead of where we are, comfortable located in our peaceful dwellings in these silent, far off mountains and valleys. Instead of seeing my brethren comfortably seated around me to-day, many of them would be found in the front ranks on the battle field. I realize the blessings of God in our present safety. We are greatly blessed, greatly favored and greatly exalted, while our enemies, who sought to destroy us, are being humbled. (JD 10:38; CH 382)

**ILLINOIS CIVIL WAR:** 259,000 men. Only NY, Penn, and Ohio had more men. Illinois’s contribution to the war exacted a great price on the state. Men from Illinois comprised 16% of the total number of Union troops. The war took a devastating toll on them with a high death rate. By the end of the war, Illinois lost 34,834 men out of a total enlistment of 259,092 (Hicken 5). Of this number, 1,700 died in Confederate prison camps. The overall mortality rate attributed to the war was high due to a variety of issues. Poor sanitation, inadequate healthcare, and lack of proper nutrition contributed a high loss of life. For instance, one in twenty died from battle or wounds and 1 in 11.2 died from disease (23). Overall, one out of every 7.3 died in service to their country. (<http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/Museum/Illinois/ILCivilWar.htm>)

## 6. Salt Lake Temple Construction

On 6 Apr 1853 the cornerstones were laid. Brigham said: I scarcely ever say much about revelations, or visions, but suffice it to say, five years ago last July, I was here and saw in the Spirit the temple not ten feet from where we have laid the chief cornerstone. I have not inquired what kind of a temple we should build. Why? Because it was represented before me, I never looked upon that ground, but the vision of it was there. I see it as plainly as if it was in reality before me. Wait until it is done. I will say, however, that it will have six towers, to begin with, instead of one. Now do not any of you apostatize because it will have six towers, and Joseph only built one. It is easier for us to build sixteen, than it was for him to build one. The time will come when there will be one in the center of temples we shall build, and on the top groves and fish ponds. (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, 410)

Brigham drew a sketch in the architect’s office, and said to Truman O. Angell: “There will be three towers on the east, representing the President and his two counselors; also three similar towers on the west representing the Presiding Bishop and his two Counselors; the towers on east the Melchisedek priesthood, those on the west the Aaronic priesthood. The center towers will be higher than those on the sides and the west towers will be a little lower than those on the east end. The body of the building will be between these and pillars will be necessary to support the floors.” (MB 122)

(<http://rsc.byu.edu/pubPAndersonTrumanAngellArchitect.php>)

The Saints discussed what type of material to use. Brigham was in favor of adobe and pebbles.

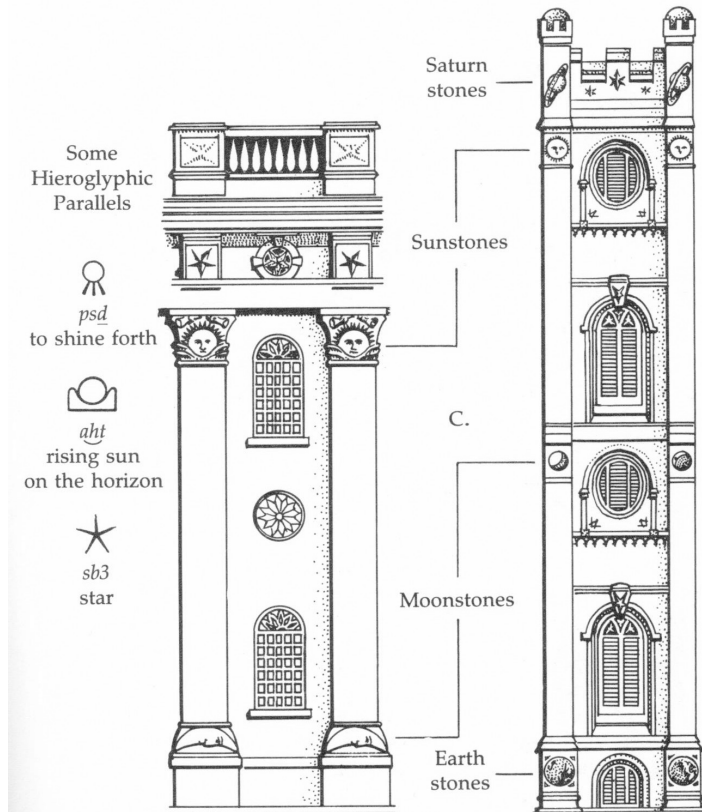
**Wilford Woodruff:** “Before we came to the Rocky Mountains, I had a dream. I dreamed of being in these mountains, and of seeing a large fine looking temple erected in one of these valleys which was built of cut granite stone. ... Whenever President Young held a council of the brethren of the Twelve and talked of building the temple of adobe or brick, ... I would say to myself, ‘No, you will never do it;’ because I had seen it in my dream built of some other material.” (JD 21:299–300; Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, Aug 1993)

In 1858, the foundation was covered. Work on the Salt Lake Temple was reinstated in 1860, but in 1861 Church leaders concluded that the foundation was defective. Brigham Young decided that a new foundation made entirely of granite quarried from nearby mountains was required to carry the massive weight of the proposed temple. The new footings were to be 16 feet thick.

**Brigham:** “I want to see the temple built in a manner that it will endure through the Millennium. This is not the only temple we shall build; there will be hundreds of them built and dedicated to the Lord. ... And when the Millennium is over, ... I want that temple still to stand as a proud monument of the faith, perseverance and industry of the Saints of God in the mountains, in the nineteenth century” (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, 395).

The work of rebuilding the foundation moved slowly, and the walls did not reach ground level until 1867. (CH)

## 7. Salt Lake Temple Symbols (not discussed before)



Some symbols came by revelation to Brigham. Some were based on the Nauvoo temple that Joseph saw in a vision. Brigham selected some symbols “after an intense study of the scripture, particularly the Old Testament.” (MB 123)

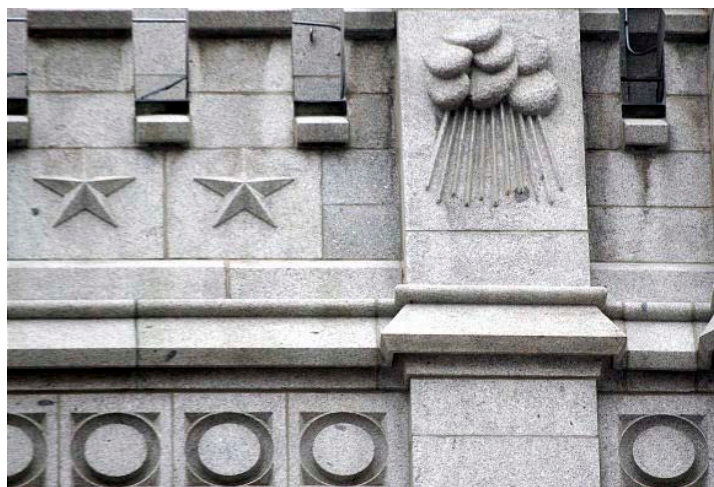
Heavenly bodies (1) testify of the creation and God’s power to keep them in their orbits, (2) are timekeepers of days, months, and years, (3) are used for signs and wonders, (4) provide different degrees of light.

**Earth stones:** The earth is “the footstool of God” (Isa 66:1)  
**Earth’s rotation = day.**

**Moon stones:** These stones show the different phases of the moon. The phases remind us of birth, life, death, and resurrection.  
**Moon phases = months.**

**Sun stones:** The sun is a symbol of celestial glory and beings.  
**Rotation around sun → years.**

**Saturn stones** were on the 1854 drawing above the sunstones.



**Star stones:** 5 and 6 point stars. 6→fixed stars; 5→morning stars

**Cloud stones:** On the east center tower are two “clouds and descending rays of light.”

**Circle in Square:** The 1854 plan also showed a circle in a square symbol. Hugh Nibley said the circle represented the circumference of the heavens and the square the four quarters of the earth. When joined they represent the temple where heaven and earth combine or meet. (MB 154)



**Big Dipper:** High on the west center tower are seven 6 point stars representing big dipper that helps people find directions. The pointer stars on the temple actually point to the North Star.

**Boyd K. Packer:** Symbols are chiseled on the granite stones which depict the sun, the stars, the planets, and the earth. To be sure that the stones representing the phases of the moon were accurate, Elder Orson Pratt, a competent astronomer, set up an observatory on temple block. He could open the slats in the roof to study the heavens with a three-inch lens. The symbolism is not mysterious. The clouds with rays of sunlight shining through are immortalized in Elder Parley P. Pratt’s great anthem: “The morning breaks, the shadows flee; Lo, Zion’s standard is unfurled! The dawning of a brighter day ... Majestic rises on the world.” The Big Dipper, with the pointers ranging to the North Star, means that the lost may find their way by the aid of the priesthood. The east towers represent the Melchizedek Priesthood and the west towers the Aaronic Priesthood. These and all the other symbols were carefully drafted by the architect, Truman O. Angell, under the watchful eye of President Brigham Young. (Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, Aug 1993, 7)



**Statue niches:** “Two flights of stairs lead up to two sets of large wooden doors on the east and west end of the temple. Beside each set of doors is a granite niche. For a number of years the statues of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, which are now located on Temple Square, occupied the niches on the east end of the building.” (MB 130)

**Doors:** The doors resemble those built for Solomon’s temple (1 Kgs 6:31–35; 7:50). It is covered with flowering vines and floral designs suggesting the Garden of Eden. After Jacob saw the Lord in a vision, he said, “This *is* none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven” (Gen 28:17).

**Beehives:** There are 24 beehives on the exterior of the temple. The Jaredites brought honey bees with them to the promised land (Eth 2:3). Moses brought the Israelites to a promised “land flowing with milk and honey.” (Ex 3:8)

## East and West Center Spires



**Dedication Plaque** is on the east center spire. “Holiness to the Lord” is the first phrase on the plaque. **[Jewish High Priest crown]** The next line is “The House of the Lord.” Joseph and Brigham said at cornerstone ceremonies that the temple would be a place for the Lord “to lay his head” (Luke 9:58)

While speaking face to face with Joseph and Oliver in the Kirtland temple, the Lord said “I have accepted this house, and my name shall be here; and I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house. ... 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.” (D&C 110:7)



**All-Seeing Eyes** are seen on the east and west center towers at the level of the sunstones. This symbol used anciently to represent God’s ability to see all things. Each eye is a right eye and looking out from behind a veil. “The Lord looketh from heaven ... upon all the inhabitants of the earth” (Ps 33:13–14). God’s “eyes are upon all men” (D&C 1:1) “Mine eyes are upon you. I am in your midst and ye cannot see me; But the day soon cometh that ... the veil of darkness shall soon be rent” (D&C 38:7–8). The rays of light radiating around the oval remind us of one who is “filled with light” and “comprehendeth all things” (D&C 88:67).



**Alpha and Omega Scroll** is at the level of the moonstones. It says "I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA"

**Handclasp:** The handclasp represents the "right hands of fellowship" (Gal 2:9) and indicates covenant making. Matthew Cowley said it reminded him of the marriage covenant. The oval has no beginning or end. The rays of light suggest celestial glory.

## 8. Brigham's Legacy

Near the end of his life, Brigham said, "The result of my labors for the past 26 years, briefly summed up, are:

"The peopling of this Territory by the Latter-day Saints of about 100,000 souls; the founding of over 200 cities, towns and villages inhabited by our people, which extend to Idaho in the north, Wyoming in the east, Nevada in the west, and Arizona in the south, and the establishment of schools, factories, mills and other institutions calculated to improve and benefit our community.

All my transactions and labors have been carried on in accordance with my calling as a servant of God. I know no difference between spiritual and temporal labors. God has seen fit to bless me with means, and as a faithful steward I use them to benefit my fellowmen-to promote their happiness in this world in preparing them for the great hereafter.

My whole life is devoted to the Almighty's service, and while I regret that my mission is not better understood by the world, the time will come when I will be understood, and I leave to futurity the judgment of my labors and their result as they shall become manifest." (Preston Nibley, *Brigham Young: The Man and His Work*, 492)

## 9. Conclusion

Why did they build temples?

Why did Saints settle strange areas?

Why did they go on missions?

Follow the prophet. Accept callings to serve.

## Hymn #5: High on the Mountain Top

Text: Joel H. Johnson (1850 or 1853). Original title: "Deseret"

Only 4 of the original 6 verses are in our hymn book.

In that day ... the Lord ... shall set up an \*ensign for the nations, and shall ... gather together the dispersed of Judah. (Isa 11:11-12)

\* HEB flag, banner, standard, signal (BDB, Strong's). On July 26 1847 a yellow bandanna was waved on a cane at the top of Ensign Peak. Soon "Old Glory" was raised there on a flagpole.

[http://www.utah.com/mormon/ensign\\_peak.htm](http://www.utah.com/mormon/ensign_peak.htm)

Ensign Peak is a prominent hill on the northern edge of the Salt Lake Valley. On July 26, 1847, two days after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, Brigham Young and seven other pioneer leaders climbed the hill to survey the valley. From its summit they laid out in their minds the city they intended to build. The men fastened a yellow bandanna to a cane and waved it from the mountain peak. Brigham Young named the spot Ensign Peak. The pioneers had carried two American flags with them across the plains. Within a short time a flagpole was erected and one of those flags was flown from the peak. (see also

[www.mormonhistoricsitesfoundation.org/articles/ensignPeak1.htm](http://www.mormonhistoricsitesfoundation.org/articles/ensignPeak1.htm))

In the last days ... the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the \*top of the mountains ...and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall ...say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: (Isaiah 2:2-3)

\* Two common definitions of Ute are "top of the mountains" and "people of the mountains." The best translation of Utah might be "The land of the people who dwell in the tops of the high places"

1. High on the mountain top  
A banner is unfurled.  
Ye nations, now look up;  
It waves to all the world.  
In Deseret's sweet, peaceful land,  
On Zion's mount behold it stand!
3. His house shall there be reared,  
His glory to display,  
And people shall be heard  
In distant lands to say:  
We'll now go up and serve the Lord,  
Obey his truth, and learn his word.
2. For God remembers still  
His promise made of old  
That he on Zion's hill  
Truth's standard would unfold!  
Her light should there attract the gaze  
Of all the world in latter days.
4. For there we shall be taught  
The law that will go forth,  
With truth and wisdom fraught,  
To govern all the earth.  
Forever there his ways we'll tread,  
And save ourselves with all our dead.

Text: Joel H. Johnson, 1802-1882

Music: Ebenezer Beesley, 1840-1906

[Isaiah 2:2-3](#)

[Isaiah 5:26](#)

Joel H. Johnson established a sawmill in Mill Creek Canyon soon after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley. ... He spent his time sawing prime lumber and delivering it to the tithing office. In lieu of wages, he would go to the storehouse and get what was needed for him and his family. As he made his wagon trips up and down the steep canyon, he often thought about the flag that had been planted on Ensign Peak. He knew he had safely made it down the mountain with his load when he turned north and headed for the tithing office. He always breathed easier when he could look up at that peak and see Old Glory waving.

In the early spring of 1850, Joel loaded up a load of prime lumber and headed for the tithing office. As he headed into the lot that housed this office, he noticed that there were several other wagon loads of tithing offerings ahead of him. He stopped his team, unhitched the horses and turned them into "Brother Brigham's" pasture, and sat down to wait his turn to unload.

Being a warm spring day, Joel sought the shady side of his wagon, leaned back against the wheel and waited. As was his habit, he pulled out a piece of paper and prepared to write. He found himself thinking about the breeze and how it must be making 'Old Glory' ripple. In his mind he pictured how it must look there on the top of the peak under the clear blue sky as it waved and fluttered in the breeze. His mind painted such a wonderful picture.

Almost as if written by unseen hands, words began to appear on the paper. ... He originally titled his poem "DESERET". It was later changed to HIGH ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP.

Joel finished his poem, folded up the paper, put it in his pocket, and went about the task of getting his lumber measured and recorded. Much later in the day, he went home.

Sometime later he showed his poem to John Taylor, then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve. President Taylor liked the poem so much, he asked if he could keep it. In those days, words only were written down and then sung to familiar folk tunes. In just a short time it became one of the favorite songs where ever the Saints gathered. (<http://www.boap.org/LDS/Early-Saints/Joel-J.-High-on-mout-top.html>)

