

# Temple Opens in Davie

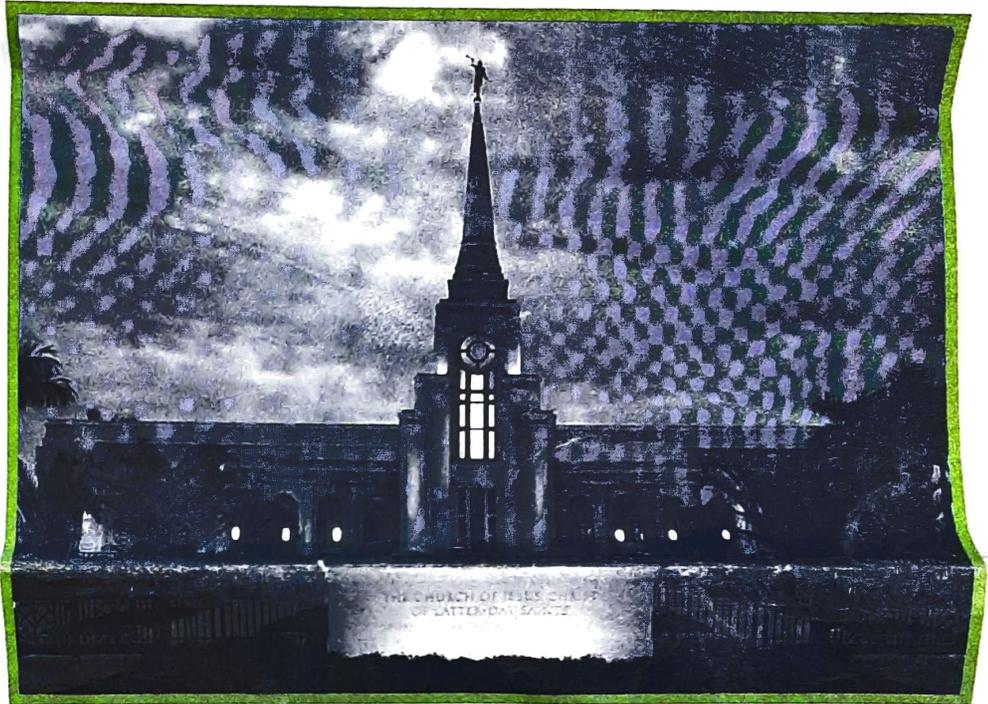
March - April 2014

## LDS temple to be dedicated on May 4

DAVIE, FL — The Utah-based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon) is celebrating the completion of its second temple in the State of Florida. A temple in Orlando opened in 1994. The new Ft. Lauderdale Temple (located in the town of Davie) will serve LDS members throughout South Florida.

Mormons believe that their temples are the most sacred places on earth. They are only used for special ceremonies, unlike the numerous neighborhood LDS chapels which are used for Sunday worship and various other programs. Today there are over 140 Mormon temples.

*According to the LDS Church, the purpose of the temple is to enable one to "receive the ordinances that will enable us to return to the presence of God" (Temple Preparation Seminar, Teacher's Manual, p.15). The ceremonies that are conducted within these walls are considered essential for personal salvation.*



Temple rites include...

- Washing & anointing of each person
- Clothing in temple garment
- The Endowment ceremony— a dramatic presentation and religious instruction
- Giving of tokens (handshakes), oaths, and names at the temple veil

### Baptisms for the Dead

In order to assist the conversion of deceased individuals into the Mormon faith, Latter-day Saints perform a ritual called "baptism for the dead." Over 140 million such baptisms for the dead have been performed, with plans to baptize by proxy every person who has walked the earth. (See page 3)

### Eternal Marriages

Besides the rituals for the dead, Mormon temples include the performance of "eternal marriages." The LDS teach that a marriage ceremony outside the temple is only good for

### FAST FACTS ON TEMPLES

Temples in Florida: 2  
Total in operation: 142  
Under construction: 14  
Temples announced: 14

"time" or "until death do us part"; whereas the temple offers a marriage that will never end. These temple marriages are believed to be essential for exaltation, or "godhood" for the Mormon people.

### Sealings

Parents (usually converts) have their children "sealed" to them immediately following a marriage ceremony to each other. This is believed to enable the family to remain a unit in the eternities. Other family sealings are per-

formed in a similar way. One of the wedding couple may be sealed to his or her deceased parents or have their parents sealed (married) to each other by proxy. Following an open house for the public, those who desire to enter an LDS temple must be members in good standing and found worthy by "a judge in Israel" and another church leader. Members will be interviewed every two years to determine worthiness. Members are required to tithe their income to the LDS Church; abstain from alcohol, coffee and tea; express support for church authorities; and "honor the power of procreation" (Apostle Russell M. Nelson, *Personal Preparation for Temple Blessings*, the Ensign, 5/01, pg. 33).

For more on temples, see page 2

**This is a non-LDS  
publication**

# Understanding Temples

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches that God commanded man to always build temples "for the glory, honor, and endowment" of the Saints. (Mormon scripture, Doctrine and Covenants Section 124:39-40) It claims temples have always been built, even in America by the Indians, since the days of Adam. It maintains these holy sanctuaries are used for the same purposes as the Biblical temples in Israel. Mormon Apostle Mark E. Peterson wrote, "In Biblical times sacred ordinances were administered in holy edifices for the spiritual salvation of ancient Israel. These buildings were not synagogues, nor any ordinary places of worship... Following the pattern of Biblical days, the Lord again in our day has provided these ordinances for the salvation of all who will believe, and directs that temples be built in which to perform those sacred rites." (Why Mormons Build Temples, pg. 2) Despite the claim by Mormons that their temples are a restoration of Old Testament temple worship, there are many important differences:

## MORMON & BIBLICAL TEMPLES COMPARED

**LDS: 142 temples in operation & many more planned or under construction.**

**BIBLE:** Only one temple at a time built to represent the worship of the one true God. The temple must be built on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem.

**LDS: Temple work in behalf of the dead.**

**BIBLE:** Temple work for the living only.

**LDS: Baptisms for the dead.**

**BIBLE:** No baptisms of any kind in the temple.

**LDS: Endowments for the living and the dead.**

**BIBLE:** No endowments of any kind.

**LDS: Marriages for the living and the dead.**

**BIBLE:** No marriages of any kind.

**LDS: "Sealings" for the living and the dead.**

**BIBLE:** No sealings of any kind.

**LDS: No animals sacrificed.**

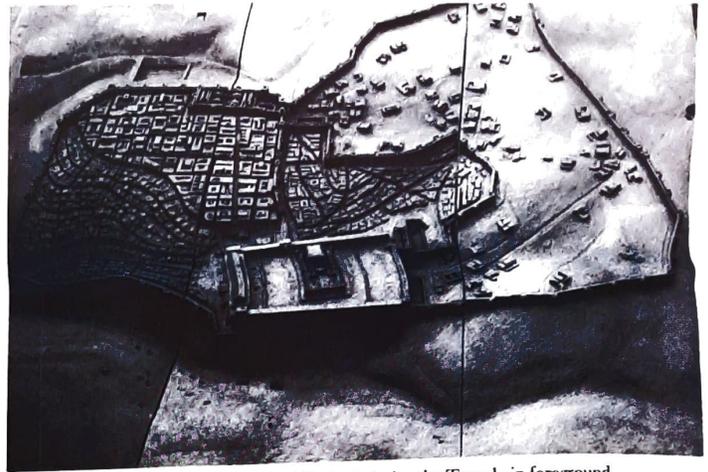
**BIBLE:** Sacrificing of animals on behalf of sinful people.

**LDS: Many rooms.**

**BIBLE:** Two rooms: The Holy Place & the Most Holy Place.

**LDS: Seating throughout the temple.**

**BIBLE:** No seats to illustrate the unending work of the priests until the time Christ finished the work and sat down at the right hand of the Father.



Model of Jerusalem during the time of Christ featuring the Temple in foreground.

**LDS: Both men & women permitted inside.**

**BIBLE:** Only male priests allowed inside.

**LDS: Two priesthoods: Aaronic Priests (age 12 and up) and Melchizedek Priests (age 18 and up).**

**BIBLE:** One priesthood: Levitical Priests must be at least 30 years old.

**LDS: Many High Priests.**

**BIBLE:** One High Priest at a time.

**LDS: Priests from any background.**

**BIBLE:** Priests only from the tribe of Levi.

**LDS: After dedication, only the "worthy" allowed inside.**

**BIBLE:** Priests made intercession for the unworthy and he first needed purification for himself.

**LDS: All white garments worn. Undergarments bear the square, compass and level - symbols of Masonry.**

**BIBLE:** High Priest's clothing was white, blue, purple, and red, decorated with pomegranates and bells on the hem.

**LDS: Purpose of temples: To enable men to attain godhood.**

**BIBLE:** Purpose of the temple: A picture of Christ and His redeeming work.

As in Old Testament times, God still demands an atoning sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Jesus Christ, the only High Priest, by virtue of His perfect sacrifice of Himself on the Cross, paid that price in our place. We must humbly accept the fact that the debt for our sins has already been paid at Calvary and that we cannot work for or contribute anything toward our salvation.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary provides the definition of travesty: a disguise or grotesque translation or an imitation. This is what Mormon temples are, for they place man back under the law, which was fulfilled in Christ.

*"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands..." (Acts 7:48)*

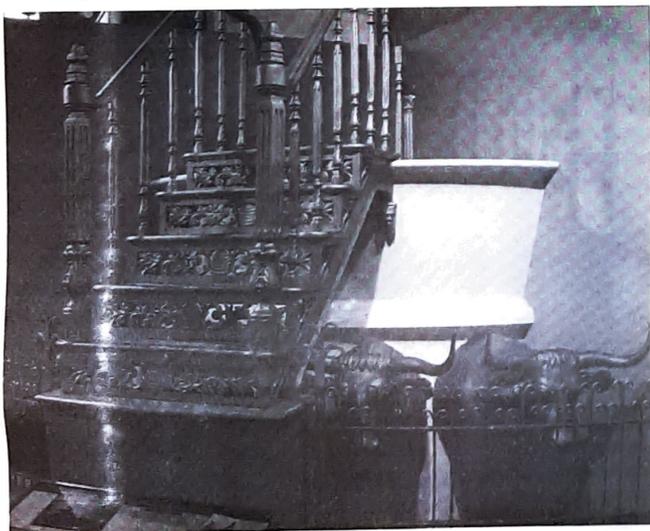
# Baptism for the dead Rite or Wrong?

The practice of baptism for the dead is very significant within the Mormon Church and one of the important purposes for LDS temples. Mormons point to 1 Corinthians 15:29 as proof that baptism for the dead is biblical and was done in the early Christian church. Here the Apostle Paul wrote, "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?"

Paul was teaching about the doctrine of resurrection. In verse 12 he pointed out that there were some people who did not believe the dead would be raised. In presenting his argument against this false teaching, Paul referred to a group of people who apparently practiced baptism for the dead, using them as an example.

It is noteworthy that the Apostle Paul did not associate himself or his fellow-believers with the practice of baptism for the dead. Throughout chapter 15, both before and after verse 29, Paul used inclusive first-person pronouns: "we," "us," "your," and "you" (KJV: ye). In verse 29 Paul switched to the third-person, "they," clearly speaking of "others" of which he was not a part. *Paul merely used these people as an example to illustrate his point.*

First Corinthians 15:29 does not teach that followers of Christ are to baptize the living as proxy for the dead. On the contrary, the Bible teaches there is no chance for conversion after death, for it is "appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). □



A museum model depicting the Salt Lake Temple font used for baptisms for the dead. Mormon Temple baptismal fonts rest on the back of twelve symbolic oxen.

# The Book of Mormon

## The Keystone of Mormonism

On average, fifteen thousand copies of the Book of Mormon are printed each day. They are given away at LDS visitor centers and historic sites, freely offered in television commercials, given as gifts by Latter-day Saints to friends and relatives, and distributed by LDS missionaries as they go door-to-door around the world. So important is the Book of Mormon to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that its founding prophet Joseph Smith said, "Take away the Book of Mormon and the revelations, and where is our religion? We have none" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 71).

Smith also said, "I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book" (*History of the Church* 4:461).

Mormons accept the Book of Mormon as scripture, believing it to be "Another Testament of Jesus Christ." Yet it is no secret that historical Christianity rejects the book and its claims. Former LDS Prophet Gordon B. Hinckley said, "I can't understand why those of other faiths cannot accept the Book of Mormon. One would think that they would be looking for additional witnesses to the great and solemn truths of the Bible" (*The Ensign*, 6/00, 18).

Clearly, a book revered by millions of people across the globe as a companion to the Bible deserves examination. Therefore, we offer the following for your consideration.

## HISTORY

Though no objective evidence has ever been produced by non-LDS scholars to substantiate the story, the Book of Mormon text is said to have come from a set of gold plates Joseph Smith received at the hands of an angel in 1827. The engraved text, "Reformed Egyptian," was translated by Smith into English "by the gift and power of God" (Book of Mormon, Introduction).

The official story supplied by the LDS Church is that Smith, though poorly educated, viewed the gold plates and was able to miraculously translate them. However, friendly eyewitness accounts indicate Smith actually used a "seer stone" - a stone with magical powers. English words purportedly appeared when Smith placed this stone in a hat and blocked out the light with his face (David Whitmer, *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, 12; Martin Harris, quoted in B.H. Roberts, *Comprehensive History of the Church* 1:129).

Continued on page 4

## (BOOK OF MORMON CONT.)

Whatever the process, the resultant manuscript was printed as the *Book of Mormon* in Palmyra, New York in 1830, the title page bearing Joseph Smith's name and identifying him as author (Smith's designation as "author" was removed from subsequent editions).

Eleven men stepped forward to act as witnesses, stating they had seen the gold plates. Some even claimed to have been told by God Himself that the work Smith produced was true.

Interestingly, four of these eleven witnesses were related to Smith, five were brothers from the Whitmer family, and two were married to Whitmer sisters.

Great American humorist Mark Twain found this situation amusing and quipped, "I could not feel more satisfied and at rest if the entire Whitmer family had testified" (*Roughing It*, 105).

By 1838, of the eleven witnesses, only Smith's father and two brothers remained in the LDS Church; two were dead and six others had fallen out of favor with the Prophet and left the faith. Some of these later returned.

In 1841 Smith proclaimed the *Book of Mormon* to be "the most correct of any book on earth," yet today's edition contains about four thousand changes from the first edition text. The nature and number of these revisions go well beyond what were required to correct transmission and printer errors. Not even considering spelling and punctuation corrections, these four thousand-plus changes are **historical** (e.g., Mosiah 21:28: "king Mosiah" vs. "king Benjamin"), **grammatical** (e.g., Alma 9:32: "they were angry" vs. "they was angry"), and **doctrinal** in nature (e.g., 1 Nephi 13:40: "the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father" vs. "the Lamb of God is the Eternal Father" 11:18, 21, and 32 have been similarly changed). One is left to ponder why a book produced "by the gift and power of God" would require such corrections and alterations.

### OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE

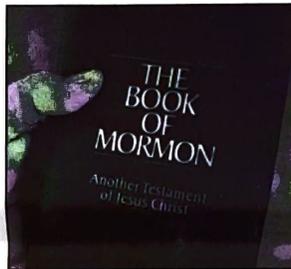
The stories related in the *Book of Mormon* talk about civilizations including millions of people who lived in large cities and built magnificent structures. Their industry was quite advanced in the areas of agriculture and metallurgy. Yet, even with concerted effort by LDS archaeologists, no artifacts have been found and officially accepted — even by the LDS Church—as being traceable to these cultures.

Additionally, many things mentioned in the *Book of Mormon* are out of place for the time and area in which they purportedly occurred.

Some examples of these anachronisms include references to iron and steel tools (2 Nephi 5:5), linen and silk clothing (Alma 1:29), and domesticated animals such as cows, pigs and horses (1 Nephi 18:25; 2 Nephi 17:21; 3 Nephi 7:8). According to the Smithsonian Institution, none of these things existed in the New World during the *Book of Mormon* times (approximately 600 B.C. to A.D. 400).

### CONTENT

The *Book of Mormon* claims it contains "the fullness of the everlasting gospel," Joseph Smith said it was the "keystone" of his religion and people "would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book." (*Book of Mormon*, Introduction) Yet much of what



Mormonism promotes about God and insists is necessary to achieve one's full spiritual potential cannot be found in the *Book of Mormon*. For instance, important in the

LDS faith but missing from the *Book of Mormon* are: temple endowment ceremonies; Melchizedek and Aaronic Priesthood as presently understood in the LDS Church; plurality of Gods; God the Father as an exalted man; three degrees of heavenly glory; the preexistence of human souls; man's eternal progression to Godhood; a Heavenly Mother; and an evil person's assignment to hell as temporary.

### BIBLE COMPANION?

The LDS Church looks at the *Book of Mormon* and the Bible as companion volumes, both important, both scripture. However, the *Book of Mormon* is not kind to the Bible, making a point of proclaiming the Bible to be both corrupted and incomplete. The *Book of Mormon* states, "they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious, and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away" (1 Nephi 13:26). Later the book says anyone who thinks the Bible is sufficient is a fool (2 Nephi 29:6).

Even though the LDS Church claims the *Book of Mormon* is entirely consistent with the Bible (*Church News*, 1/1/00, p. 16), this is not the case. For example, the Bible teaches about the grace of God, which is given as a gift; the *Book of Mormon* teaches this grace is, in a sense,

earned through obedience (Ephesians 2:8-9 vs. 2 Nephi 25:23, Moroni 10:32). The Bible speaks of the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Christ, describing His plea from the cross for the Father to forgive those who crucified Him. Tombs were opened and the dead raised. The *Book of Mormon* speaks of the same occasion, but in this account, taking place in the New World, Christ brings judgment on the people, destroying entire cities, bringing about the deaths of "our mothers and fair daughters and our children..." (Luke 23:34; Matthew 27:50-54 compare to 3 Nephi 8:6-9:15).

The *Book of Mormon* has a distinct biblical sound to it, stemming from the fact that it is written in an Elizabethan King James style. Also contributing to the biblical flavor are the multiple chapters and verses straight out of the Bible which are included in the *Book of Mormon* text. There are over eighteen chapters from Isaiah reproduced in the *Book of Mormon*, some verbatim, some with minor changes, and some with extensive changes not supported by ancient biblical documents.

One of the more blatant alterations made to *Old Testament* text recorded in the *Book of Mormon* is found in a prophecy which Isaiah originally gave predicting the destruction of Jerusalem. It has been rewritten in the *Book of Mormon* as an alleged prophecy portraying the coming forth of that very book (Isaiah 29 vs. 2 Nephi 27).

### CHANGED

We have prayerfully examined the *Book of Mormon* and discovered it is not what The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints claims. We invite you to examine the evidence and reach your own conclusion. People all through the ages have regarded numerous and varied texts as scripture. Men have copied and even changed the Word of God to achieve their own ends, but only the true Word of God, the Holy Bible, can succeed in changing men.

The Bible says all people are sinful-enemies of God—and must be changed in order to be acceptable to Him (Romans 3:23, John 3:3). But we cannot change ourselves. This is a work of God, a gift given to us by His grace, through faith (Ephesians 2:4-10). This precious, life-giving faith is brought to us through the Word of God (Romans 10:17) which says:

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

# Amazing Quotes of Joseph Smith

"I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet" May 26, 1844 (*History of the Church* vol. 6 pp. 408-409).

"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted Man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens...I say, if you were to see him to-day, you would see him like a man in form — like yourselves, in all the person, image, and very form as a man...it is necessary that we should understand the character and being of God, and how he came to be so; for I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity, I will refute that idea, and will take away and do away the veil, so that you may see...and that he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ himself did." (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 6, p. 3).

"In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it," (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 6, p. 5).

". . . I prophesy in the name of the Lord God of Israel, unless the United States redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints in the state of Missouri and punish the crimes committed by her officers that in a few years the government will be utterly overthrown and wasted, and there will not be so much as a potsherd left..." (*History of the Church*, vol. 5, p. 394).

# History Timeline

1805 Joseph Smith born at Sharon, Vermont.  
1820 Smith claims his "First Vision" visit from God the Father & Jesus.  
1823 Angel Moroni visits Smith and tells him of ancient gold plates.  
1827 Smith receives gold plates at Hill Cumorah, near Palmyra, NY.  
1830 The Book of Mormon is published; Mormon Church founded in upstate New York.  
1831 Church relocates to Kirtland, OH.  
1836 First Mormon temple dedicated.  
1835 Twelve apostles chosen and first quorum of the Seventy organized.  
1835 First edition of the Doctrine and Covenants published.  
1837 First Mormon missionaries arrive in England.  
1838 LDS Church relocates to Independence, MO. 1838 Missouri Governor expels all Mormons.  
1838 Hauns Mill Massacre in which 18 LDS are killed.  
1838 Smith and other church leaders imprisoned in Liberty Jail.  
1839 10,000 Mormons flee Missouri for Illinois.  
1839 Smith freed from jail and Nauvoo, Illinois is settled by Latter-day Saints.  
1842 Women's Relief Society organized.  
1843 Smith receives "revelation" on polygamy.  
1844 Smith declares his candidacy for U.S. President.  
1844 Nauvoo Expositor newspaper destroyed on Joseph Smith's orders.  
1844 Smith turns himself in to face trial; mob storms Carthage Jail and kills Joseph & his brother Hyrum.  
1846 Mormons begin exodus west.  
1846 Battle of Nauvoo - remaining LDS leave Illinois.  
1847 Brigham Young enters the Salt Lake Valley on July 24.  
1848 Nauvoo Temple gutted by fire.  
1849 Perpetual Emigrating Fund established. The fund helps 26,000 emigrants find a home in Utah.  
1850 Deseret News published as first newspaper in Utah Territory.  
1850 Brigham Young appointed governor of Utah Territory.  
1852 Plural marriage doctrine publicly announced.  
1853 Construction of the Salt Lake Temple begins.  
1856-60 Handcart system brings thousands of emigrants to Utah.  
1857 Mountain Meadows Massacre occurs in

southern Utah - 120 emigrants killed on September 11th.  
1861 Transcontinental telegraph joined near Salt Lake City.  
1867 First General Conference held at new Salt Lake Tabernacle.  
1869 Church-owned ZCMI opens; first department store in the U.S..  
1869 Transcontinental Railroad completed at Promontory, Utah.  
1870 First edition of Mormon Tribune (later The Salt Lake Tribune).  
1870 Utah Territorial legislature gives women the vote.  
1875 Salt Lake Tabernacle dedicated; Brigham Young Academy founded (later known as BYU).  
1877 Death of Brigham Young.  
1880 John Taylor succeeds Young; The Pearl of Great Price accepted as holy scripture.  
1882-90 1,035 Utahns imprisoned for polygamy.  
1885 Taylor and other church leaders go into hiding.



The Salt Lake Temple

1890 President Woodruff issues "The Manifesto," banning polygamy within LDS Church.  
1893 Salt Lake Temple dedicated.  
1894 Genealogical Society of Utah organized.  
1896 Utah gains statehood.  
1900 LDS membership approx. 283,000.  
1912 LDS seminary program begins.  
1929 Mormon Tabernacle Choir begins national radio broadcasts.  
1936 Church Welfare Program established.  
1947 LDS Church reaches 1 million members.  
1955 First temple outside North America opened in Zurich, Switzerland.  
1964 Church membership surpasses 2 million.  
1965 Family Home Evening program inaugurated.  
1978 Blacks allowed into the LDS priesthood.  
1980 LDS membership surpasses 4 million.  
1990 LDS membership surpasses 7 million.  
2000 100th Mormon temple opens.  
2000 Conference Center completed in Salt Lake City.  
2002 Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City.  
2006 LDS member Mitt Romney announces his run for U.S. Presidency.  
2011 LDS Church claims 14 million members.

# Missouri's Key Place in Mormon History & Belief

*The State of Missouri sits in the center of the United States- and at the center of Mormon beliefs regarding the Latter-days. Mormons believe that in ancient times the Garden of Eden was located in the Kansas City area. LDS leader Heber C. Kimball said:*

"The spot chosen for the Garden of Eden was Jackson County, in the state of Missouri, where Independence now stands; it was occupied in the morn of creation by Adam and his associates, who came with him for the express purpose of peopling this earth" (*Journal of Discourses*, 10:235).

Coming full-circle, Independence, Missouri was to be the end-times gathering place of "Zion" according to Mormon prophet Joseph Smith. Independence was to be the location of the New Jerusalem in which Christ would rule the earth. In the New Jerusalem Christ was to have a special temple:

"For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it" (*Doctrines and Covenants* 84:5).

Amazingly, the LDS Church has been able to build over 140 temples throughout the world, but not on the location in Missouri that Smith said Christ had specified to him. (The property is now controlled by a small Mormon sect called *Church of Christ, Temple Lot*)

The rapid growth of Mormons in Missouri led to political and social conflict with non-Mormons in the area. In July 1838 a prominent LDS Church leader, Sidney Rigdon, delivered a public address wherein he warned of a coming "war of extermination" the Latter-day Saints would wage against the Mormon Church's perceived enemies. A few months later the Governor of Missouri echoed Sidney Rigdon's threat. In an effort to reign in what he understood to be rebellion and depredations committed by the Mormon community, Governor Boggs issued an Executive Order designating the Mormons as "enemies" and calling for their removal from the state "for the public peace." Conflicts had escalated to armed skirmishes between the Missouri State Militia and

the Mormon militia, reaching its unhappy culmination at a Mormon settlement named Haun's Mill. Here Missouri troops attacked unsuspecting and unprepared villagers, killing 18 Mormon men and boys.

The so-called 1838 Mormon War came to an end when Joseph Smith and several of his compatriots surrendered to Missouri officials. While Smith awaited trial in Liberty Jail, the Mormon people left Missouri under extreme duress and migrated east en mass where they were welcomed and supported by sympathetic Illinois



residents. A few months later Joseph Smith escaped his incarceration and joined the Saints in Illinois. The little settlement of Commerce along the Mississippi River was transformed into a thriving Mormon community renamed "Nauvoo" by the new arrivals.

Under Joseph Smith's leadership Nauvoo grew to be one of the largest cities in Illinois. The granting of a powerful city charter created a fairly autonomous government for the Mormons, with Joseph Smith as the top governing official. This, coupled with the creation of the powerful Nauvoo Legion state militia commanded by Smith, once again set the Mormons at odds with their non-Mormon neighbors. But it was not only the non-Mormons who were concerned. Rumors of Joseph Smith engaging in the practice of polygamy were circulating. While Smith publicly denied having more wives than one, he was in fact married to at least 33 women. Some members of the Mormon Church began to believe Smith was a fallen prophet. Battling dissenters within and opponents without, Joseph Smith was facing a crisis in his leadership.

On June 7, 1844 dissidents published a newspaper, the *Nauvoo Expositor*, in which Smith was exposed as a polygamist and his political theocratic aspirations were laid bare. Joseph Smith quickly held a city council meeting and, as mayor of Nauvoo, called for the destruction of the "nuisance" newspaper. On the evening of June 10, without prior notice, the press was destroyed--with the Nauvoo Legion providing military support.

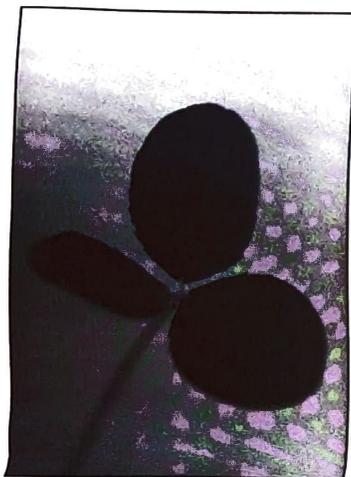
This action caused a firestorm in the surrounding area. On June 25, after various legal maneuvers failed, Joseph Smith, along with other council members and Mormon Church leaders, surrendered at the county seat of Carthage, Illinois. While incarcerated at Carthage Jail, on June 27, 1844, a group of armed men stormed the building. Joseph Smith, though himself armed with a smuggled six-shooter pistol, was unable to fend off so many attackers. Two non-Mormons were mortally wounded; Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were killed.

Following the deaths of the Smith brothers, tensions between Mormons and non-Mormons in and around Nauvoo continued to intensify. Brigham Young, as senior Apostle, decided to move the church west. In the winter of 1846 the Mormons began their difficult exodus toward the Salt Lake Valley, leaving behind their beloved city.

Instead of building the New Jerusalem and a temple at Independence, Missouri, Smith and his followers built their temple in Nauvoo. After arriving in the American West, several more temples were constructed by the Mormons, and in time LDS temples could be found in nations around the world. In 1997 the first Mormon temple to be erected in Missouri was opened in the St. Louis area, and in 2012 the Kansas City, Missouri temple was completed. Even though it is very close in proximity to Independence, the LDS Church does not claim that this Kansas City temple is a fulfillment of Joseph Smith's prophecy. In fact, the prophecy regarding an end-times temple at Independence cannot be fulfilled because Smith said the temple would be built in the generation of Mormons *then living*. Latter-day Saints may wonder why their church can build so many temples—but not the one temple Jesus supposedly commanded them to build so long ago. □

# MORMON VIEW OF OTHER CHURCHES

## Are Christian creeds an abomination?



“this loathsome, filthy, debauched, degraded monster is held up for our veneration and worship by its corrupt Christian devotees...”

all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God- he would be a giant or a monster" (Joseph Fielding Smith, Teachings, 370-74).

Following Smith's lead, many subsequent LDS leaders have continued the attacks:

"The Devil could not invent a better engine to spread his work than the Christianity of the nineteenth century" (John Taylor, 1858 Journal of Discourses 6:167).

"But to return to the Christian's idol... Their god is overlaid with gilt and tinsel... Yet this loathsome, filthy, debauched, degraded

Joseph Smith's "First Vision" account set Mormonism on an immediate path of hostility toward those of other faiths. In regard to Christian churches Joseph Smith said God revealed to him some amazing things - "they were all wrong ...all their creeds were an abomination in his sight...those professors [church members] were all corrupt" (The Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith - History 1:19).

Smith went on to ridicule the Triune God of the Christian churches; "Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say that is a strange God anyhow- three in one, and one in three! It is a curious organization... All are to be crammed into one God, according to sectarianism. It would make the biggest God in

monster is held up for our veneration and worship by its corrupt Christian devotees..." (John Taylor, 1882 Journal of Discourses 23:36).

"I do not know but [traveled] hundreds of thousands of miles, and mingled with all classes and creeds and conditions of men, religious and irreligious... But I never found anywhere, wherever I went, any person holding the doctrines of Christ as taught by Him..." (John Taylor, 1884 Journal of Discourses 25:263).

"...when we come and tell you that if you do not repent of your sins--you Catholics, Protestants, and all other denominations--and receive the message that God has commissioned his servants [The Latter-day Saints] to declare in your hearing that everyone will be damned" (Orson Pratt, 1880 Journal of Discourses 23:164).

"The Christian world, so called, are heathens as to their knowledge of the salvation of God" (Brigham Young, 1860 Journal of Discourses 8:171).

"In large part the worship of apostate Christendom is performed in ignorance, as much so as was the worship of the Athenians who bowed before the Unknown God..." (Mormon Doctrine, Bruce R. McConkie, Second Edition p. 374-375).

The official LDS Church magazine stated in 1984 that "Satan sits in the place of God in Christianity after the time of the Apostles" (Ensign, Dec, 1984, p. 9). Mormon authorities have never issued an apology for these attacks against the faith of traditional Christians. □

Early Christians used this diagram to explain the Trinity:

