

## THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF THE ENDOWMENT

The Mormon Temple Endowment was proclaimed by Joseph Smith to be a RESTORATION of ancient temple worship rites. Although LDS authorities and scholars claim today that their Temple rituals relate to the Jewish Temple worship, a careful perusal of what is known about Biblical Judaism indicates that there is nothing substantial upon which to base this claim. Hiding behind a cloak of Temple secrecy, they continue to make vague references to the Temple of Solomon as the precursor to the Mormon Temple, generally avoiding specific references, or detailed comparisons. Our experience indicates that most Mormons accept these assertions without question or doubt.

The Endowment ceremony, which incorporates ritual drama, oaths, covenants or promises, secret handsigns and gestures, and special ritual clothing, is not unique to Mormon Temples. Many Brotherhoods, lodges, and secret societies present their own version of the Endowment ritual drama as part of their initiation and advancement ceremonies. The Freemasons are the best known and most similar; they also claim to have originated with Solomon's Temple. Masons, however, are cautioned to refrain from claiming that ancient historical figures were members of their order, without justification. Mormons claim that Jesus received His Endowments on the Mount of Transfiguration, along with the Apostles Peter, James and John; they claim that all the early Saints received them secretly. They also claim that Adam received his Endowments, and that all the ancient Patriarchs held the Mormon Holy Melchizedek Priesthood and were probably Endowed. Their justification for these claims comes mainly from Mormon scripture or revelations and mininterpretations of the Bible.

The oldest historical record of this type ritual is found in Ancient Babylon, in the Balylonian Mystery religions, which worshipped Nimrod, the original false Messiah. While the Jews looked forward to the day when Jehovah would provide salvation for his people, these cultists believed that Nimrod had already done so, having been slain and then miraculously restored to life. There are many differing versions in various cults, but the theme was the same, and some elaborate mythologies were developed around it. The most common versions centered around the queen of heaven, who was both Nimrod's mother and wife, and her miraculous conception after his death. His worshippers wore his symbol, the spotted leopard skin, while performing worship of him. In the original edition of the Mormon Book of Abraham, Facsimile number 1 showed Abraham being sacrificed by a Priest wearing a spotted garment. This has been changed to stripes in today's edition.

After God confused men's languages (see Gen 11:9) Nimrod worship was carried throughout civilization, and developed into many versions of complex mythologies. The Two Babylons, by Alexander Hislop, is a scholarly study of the ancient pagan legends and worship upon which the Roman Catholic Church is based. In presenting the pagan cult religion's relationship to Catholicism, he unintentionally identifies many similarities and Parallels with Mormon Temple worship.

Initiates into the Mystery religions were stripped nude, prepared by magical ceremonies and dressed in a special sacred garment, which they wore continually thereafter, finally being buried in it. They believed it had magical powers to protect them from evil forces and demons, and was especially beneficial in the afterlife. There are indications that this garment had secret markings on it. There were mystical secret words and gestures which the initiates received, and later had to demonstrate. There were extremely severe oaths of secrecy. The purpose of this initiation was to impart secret knowledge of great value to the recipient; hence the name "Mystery" religion. These worshippers considered this their most cherished possession, and it appears they were generally respected for their membership.

On Page 152 of The Two Babylons, Hislop discusses the cuttings and slashings, prohibited in the Bible, which were practiced in the pagan worship rites. In memorium of Osiris (Nimrod in Egyptian) being cut in pieces and reborn, cuttings were made in the flesh of the initiate. Bloodletting is a part of many initiation rituals to this day, especially Witchcraft type cults. Originally Mormons took plain Long John underwear to the Temple, where the Priesthood markings were added. Some of the marks were cut into the garment after it was placed on the person's body, nicking the flesh, and drawing the initiate's blood into the garment. Blood oaths, including several "ways in which life may be taken", are still included in the Endowment. The Priests of Baal "look upon the shedding of their own blood as a most meritorious penance that wipes away many sins". This relates directly to the Mormon doctrine of "Blood Atonement" wherein the blood of the sinner must be shed to atone for his own grievous sins. It is reflected in the Catholic practice wherein the devout crawl over rocks and scrape their flesh to draw blood as they approach some sacred shrine or grotto.

Finally, the pentagrams and sunstones which adorned the Nauvoo Temple were a clear indication of what went on inside. Nimrod was closely connected in legend and lore with Baal, and was frequently referred to as the SUN, or "the Son of God" in connection with Baal worship, he being both the Father and the Son. The occultic face of ancient Baal or Amen'ra shone forth, interspersed with inverted five pointed stars or "Goatheads" associated for eons of time with all pagan and Satanic worship, as the principle decoration of this famous Mormon Temple in Illinois. The LDS explanation that all things originally belonged to God, and that Satan appropriated them, is not compatible or consistent with the strict Mormon teaching to AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF EVIL!!

Joseph Smith was undoubtedly correct in asserting that he was restoring ancient Temple rituals in his Temple ceremonies. It is evident to the serious investigator that it is ancient pagan Mystery Religion Temple rituals which Smith restored, rather than Solomon's Hebrew Temple worship. Very few Mormons are aware of these pagan origins. Mormon scholars and authorities go to great efforts to keep them from discovering the true beginnings of their highest and most sacred "Ordinances." We believe that all Mormons deserve to be enlightened, thus enabling them to make an intelligent decision regarding their personal involvement in these pagan rites. We encourage you, the reader, to help some of them to have this opportunity to become informed.



CAPSTONE OF THE NAUVOO TEMPLE  
Now at the Quincy Historical Society



The Black Magic Pentagram.  
THE WARLOCK'S BOOK  
by Peter Haining



ENTERED APPRENTICE, OR FIRST DEGREE

FIG. 6.



SIGN OF A MASTER MASON.

[Explanation of Fig. 6.—In making this sign, draw the right hand (thumb in) across the stomach as low down as the vest, then drop the hand suddenly.]

[Explanation of Fig. 7.—Raise the hands as represented in the cut, and drop them with spirit. Repeat this three times.]

FIG. 7.



GRAND HAILING SIGN OF DISTRESS.

FIG. 18.



MASTER GIVING THE GRAND MASONIC WORD ON THE FIVE POINTS OF FELLOWSHIP.

It is done by putting the inside of your right foot to the inside of the right foot of the one to whom you are going to give the word, the inside of your own knee to his, laying your breast close against his, your left hands on each other's back, and each one putting his mouth to the other's right ear.

FIG. 3.



DUE-GUARD OF A FELLOW CRAFT MASON.

[Explanation of Fig. 3.—The left arm, as far as the elbow, should be held in a horizontal position, and the rest of the arm in a vertical position, forming a square. The right hand detached from the stomach, fingers extending outward.]

FIG. 4.



SIGN OF A FELLOW CRAFT MASON.

[Explanation of Fig. 4.—In making the due-guard and sign of the Fellow Craft, or Second Degree, care must be taken to drop the left arm suddenly and with spirit, as soon as the two motions are accomplished.]

ENTERED APPRENTICE SIGN. WORD AND GRIP.

SIGN OF AN ENTERED APPRENTICE.

Made from due-guard by dropping left hand to side, and at same time raise right arm, with hand still open, and draw hand quickly across the throat, the thumb being next to the throat, then hand drops to side. [See cut.]



Sign of Entered Apprentice.

ENTERED APPRENTICE SIGN WITHOUT DUE GUARD.

Draw open right hand across the throat, thumb next to throat.



Entered Apprentice Grip.

of each other's fore-finger.

ENTERED APPRENTICE GRIP.

Grasp hands as in ordinary hand-shaking, and press ball of thumb hard against the knuckle-joint

FIG. 11.



PASS GRIP OF A FELLOW CRAFT.

Here the candidate is requested to pass his thumb from the first joint to the space between the first and second joints, which is the pass grip of a Fellow Craft. (See Fig. 11.)

FREEMASONRY IN THE MORMON TEMPLE

These figures and explanations are taken from Masonic handbooks published and readily available in New York State during Joseph Smith Jr.'s lifetime. The figure numbers are from the original, Duncan's Ritual of Freemasonry, published by David McKay Company, Inc., New York, circa 1840. (1st ed.) These are illustrations of the Ancient York Rite of Freemasonry, familiar to Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum, who joined this order circa 1825 in Palmyra, New York; Joseph joined on March 16, 1842 in Nauvoo, Illinois. Six weeks later, on May 2, Joseph began teaching these as his own "revelations" to Mormon leaders, saying "In this council was instituted the ancient order of things for the first time in these last days." (See Smith's History of the Church, Vol IV, pg. 551,552; Vol V, pg. 2.) Illustrated here are the Masonic version of these Mormon Temple secrets: the First and Second Tokens of, the Sign of the Second Token of, and the Execution of the Penalty of the First and Second Tokens of the Aaronic Priesthood; the Execution of the Penalty of the First Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood, or Sign of the Nail; the Sign and the Five Points of Fellowship associated with the Second Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood, the Patriarchal Grip, or Sure Sign of the Nail. Other Mormon Temple secrets can be identified within the rituals of other Masonic Orders, about which Joseph Smith may have been knowledgeable; however, his access to this information has not yet been clearly established.

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