

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism . . . It's HEART of the MATTER!</p>	<p>Show 39 Temples III</p> <p>And I'm your host Shawn McCraney.</p>
<p><b>LIVE STREAMING VIDEO</b></p>	
<p><b>IN-THE-HOUSE TONIGHT!</b></p>	
<p><b>SHOUT-OUTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark, for a great book on the Salamander nightmare.</li> <li>• Robert for Richardson's Monitor of Freemasonry</li> <li>• Laura and Jamie S!</li> <li>• Vaughn and Penny P.</li> <li>• Gladys H.</li> <li>• Gayle C.</li> <li>• Terry and Helen T.</li> <li>• Marilyn S.</li> <li>• Brian and Carol Young! Great meeting you both.</li> </ul>
<p>Since we've started airing <i>Heart of the Matter</i>, a number of my daughters friends have left the protection of their homes in Southern California and ventured up here to attend school in Utah.</p> <p>In an effort to protect these innocents from the information I provide and to demonize me so that if someone should listen they will do so with a biased ear, several rumors have been started by the parents of these otherwise great LDS kids which have even caused even the most dear friends of our family to offer the girls a cold shoulder.</p> <p>I'd like to quickly address these rumors.</p> <p><b>Rumor Number 1</b></p>	

*"I heard your Dad stood up at a stake conference and screamed that the Church isn't true."*

This is a total fabrication. Nothing even resembling the charge is true. In fact, I have even spoke in an LDS Church as an excommunicated non-believer and was complimented on my comments by a number of stalwart LDS.

I never have, and I never will, disrupt an LDS meeting with an outburst.

#### **Rumor Number 2**

*"I heard that your Dad left the Church because he had a homosexual affair."*

Sorry kids, not so. Not a homosexual, not a bi or metrosexual, not a child molester. I'm just a regular old male heterosexual.

I've never had a homosexual affair. You can charge me with a lot of other things but I'm not homosexual.

#### **Rumor Number 3**

*"I heard your Dad goes out to General Conference and shouts and screams and tells the LDS they are going to burn in hell."*

Again, not so. Never done that, never will do that. In fact, we have always stood against these horrible tactics.

"Well if none of this is true, what is your Dad doing?" the kids ask.

My middle daughter summarized my ministry this way to one of the friends:

*"My Dad cares that people experience being*

<p><i>born-again. He does not believe Mormonism teaches this reality to its people. He also does not believe that Joseph Smith's doctrines represent God. But" she continued, "but he loves Mormon people. He let's me choose who I hang out with and even where I want to go to Church. He has even driven me to Mormon dances! If I was in love with a Mormon boy and wanted to marry him he would give me his blessing. He just doesn't care about religion. What he cares about is Mormon people really knowing Jesus. And many of them don't."</i></p> <p>I don't think I can add much to this.</p>	
<p>Hey! We are planning a Special Event coming up in early October . . . we're calling it . . .</p>	<p><b>Pastor in an Oven!</b></p> <p>Yes, join us for the opportunity of a lifetime to tie me up and toss me into a burning oven.</p> <p>(Kidding)</p> <p>Actually, we are going to take our "Pastor in the Pub" concept south (to what is probably the true Mecca of Mormonism) and meet for one night only right off the campus of Brigham Young University at a popular restaurant called "The Brick Oven!"</p> <p>When? Monday Night, October 8<sup>th</sup> From 6pm to 8:30 pm.</p> <p>All are invited. All are welcome! Bring a friend - even a friend from BYU.</p> <p>We'd love to see you there.</p>

	<p>That's Monday night, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Brick Oven Restaurant in Provo, Utah from 6 - 8:30 pm.</p> <p>Now, remember, we have our weekly Pastor in the Pub tonight at Denny's on 5<sup>th</sup> South and 250 West in downtown SLC.</p> <p>We'd love to see you there too. Last week we had about 40 people from all walks of life.</p> <p>It's great fun.</p>
<p>We've received some feedback from people who profess themselves experts in hate speech and there seems to be a consensus among these legal geniuses that I am guilty of distributing the stuff - and that I must be stopped.</p> <p>You may recall last weeks email from the "FIRST YEARA" BYU law student who said she was going to use every bit of her influence to "galvanize" the hearts of anyone within earshot against me.</p> <p>We'll these singular voice have stirred up a minor swarm of attorneys-trainees over at the J Reuben Clark nest and most of them who have contacted us seem to think that they are in possession of superior knowledge of which we are completely ignorant.</p> <p>All of their threats fall under the charge that I am guilty of some unconscionable form of "hate-speech" because Mormonism is a "religion" and as such, it is somehow protected under the unwritten laws of common decency from</p>	

being criticized.

(beat)

When **John Krakaur** published "*Under the Banner of Heaven*," a rather scathing indictment on LDS church history and culture, official Mormondom renounced him as an unreliable author because he is an atheist.

Now like it or not, atheism is a faith. It is its own religion. Therefore, according to your definitions, the LDS Church you blindly defend is guilty of the very "hate-speech" of which I am accused by you of committing!

Was it hate speech when Joseph said all the other churches are corrupt?

Was Brigham Young's comments on blacks hate speech? You attend the university that bears his name? Are you proud of the things he said?

**Finally, can what I do here on the show really be defined as hate speech?**

Imagine for a moment that a group pops up and call themselves *The Church of the Smoking Herb*.

This church claims a person **MUST** smoke herbage to be acceptable before God and to live with God after this life.

Now, okay. I give them that right. I have opinions about their doctrines but, hey, whatever. There are a million churches in the naked city and I can only speak to the ones I know and understand.

Besides, the Church of the Smoking Herb

stays pretty much to itself.

What? The Church of the Smoking Herb now has some legs and not only teaches their strange "Gange to God," doctrine, but they also teach publicly that their doctrines are *Christian* - and that unsuspecting people are buying into their teachings as biblically sound.

Can I not say anything publicly against this? I guess not. Because they're a religion.

And I might hurt some ones feelings!

Then . . . then . . . then the Church of the Smoking Herb claims that they are The Only True Christian Church on the face of the earth!

That all other churches are false and cannot lead people to eternal life with God - *only* the Church of the Smoking Herb can do this! And NOBODY will get to live with God after this life unless they "smoke the gange!" And the more gange they smoke, the higher the heaven obtained!

Would it be alright to make a public criticism yet, Brother and Sister J. Reuben Clark?

Let's forget that it's called the Church of the Smoking Herb.

What if it was called the "Church of the You-Must-Turn-Your-Brain in with your Wallet and Your Daughters Church?"

Could we say something critical about them?

<p>Or would that be hate speech?</p> <p>According to your logic, it would all be “hate speech” because they are a religion.</p> <p>Jesus would never attack the Church of the Smoking Gange, or the Church of True Necromancy because He loves everyone, no matter how badly they have twisted Him up for resale.</p> <p>(Beat)</p> <p>Now I don’t know if there is or ever will be a Church of the Smoking Herb, but in my opinion you can be certain the admissions board at a Law School out there in the Brigham Young University believes in its doctrines.</p>	
<p>Now last week we had a nice show. Answered a lot of emails and had some excellent calls.</p>	<p>Please don’t be angry with me if I didn’t read your email on the air. We try but there is a lot of ground to cover and limited time.</p> <p>But know that I personally read every single email you send – good or bad.</p> <p>So keep them coming.</p> <p>We’ve received quite a bit of response about Daniel the BYU Baseball Player’s call, where he asked the question:</p> <p><i>Are you forgiven because you’re obedient OR are you obedient because you have</i></p>

	<p><i>been forgiven.</i></p> <p>This statement struck clearly and truly to the heart of many viewers LDS and not.</p> <p>Thanks, Daniel.</p> <p>If you are LDS and your heart and mind tell you that you are forgiven because you are obedient, you do not understand Jesus, His grace or His gospel.</p> <p>In light of what you have been taught, this is totally understandable.</p> <p>I don't blame you or castigate you for your view. But I will tell you that the view is from the mind of Man, it is founded on a false theological premise, and there is no peace to ever be found in it.</p> <p>When you arrive at the place where you genuinely want to be obedient to God's will because you recognize that you have been so graciously and unconditionally forgiven for your sins, you will then possess a regenerative knowledge of Jesus.</p> <p>Hope this helps.</p> <p>Alright . . . let's have a word of prayer . . . .</p>
<p><b>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</b></p>	
<p>A few weeks ago we discussed the evolving doctrines of Joseph Smith</p>	

relative to exaltation.

We spoke about several revelations that amount to what the LDS call “The Vision” and how these detail the levels of heaven that await the peoples of this earth.

Directly tied to the exaltation of Man and the levels of heaven was an evolving concept of temples that took hold of Joseph’s imagination and morphed over time into a factory whose aim was to produce a plan to save the dead and perfect living human people.

Being the religious synthesizer that he was, Joseph borrowed heavily from other “temple” ideas found in other cultures and groups.

This inspiration came from both the temple of ancient Israel, which we covered in Temples I three weeks ago, and from the Masonic temples, which we examined two weeks back.

Well tonight, let’s look at how LDS temples got started and how they’ve changed.

Now Joseph thought big. His dreams and visions of things were grand. Where other founders of faith might have focused and stressed on the minutia of matters, Joseph had a constant eye on “MAGNITUDE.”

The plates weren’t tin, they were gold.

The Lamanite nation and their battles were of an enormous proportion!

The restored Gospel was to someday take over the world!

Temples were no different.

So back around 1832, Joseph organized a group of men to train for missionary work (among other things) and he started a thing called the School of the Prophets.

I believe - my opinion - that this school of the Prophets" was a precursor to some of the things that would be stressed in the temples to come.

*It was a place of instruction.*

*It was a place for the men to "purify themselves."*

*A place where holiness was stressed.*

In it, the students were challenged by revelation to:

*"Sanctify yourselves, yea, purify your hearts, and cleanse your hands and your feet before me, that I may make you clean."*

They were warned, like members today are warned in the temple, to mind their

*"carnal thoughts, their light-mindedness, and their lustful desires."*

Like temple today, the perfecting of man, the exaltation of Man, was the focus.

In fact, in the school of the Prophets, each day the president of the school would go to the classroom and greet each pupil with his hands raised above his head and

he would say the following:

*"Art thou a brother or brethren? I salute you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, in token, or remembrance of the everlasting covenant, in which covenant I receive you to fellowship in a determination that is fixed, immoveable and unchangeable, to be your friend and brother through the grace of God, in the bonds of love."*

The men would then lift their hands up and repeat the phrase or agree to it by saying "Amen."

Herein we find more fodder for the thing Joseph would eventually present as the endowment.

Where God revealed what was to be done and how things were to be done in the Old Testament regarding His temple, *and has never varied in these instructions*, Joseph's temple rituals - even today - have always been an evolving (or devolving) work in progress.

Start with this.

Add that.

Change this.

Modify that.

In a revelation given about the School of the Prophets, Joseph mentions establishing "a house of God." (D&C 88:119)

Right here every Christian who was following the Mormon movement should have referred to their Bibles and read that since Christ, God does not dwell in building made with hands, but in the hearts of believers.

But men's ideas overshadowed God's.

The LDS have also egregiously misinterpreted Malachi 3:1, which says:

*Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Forgetting that this verse is referring to the messenger John the Baptist they LDS misapply the verse and have deduced that if the Lord is going to "come to His temple" He has to have a temple to come to.

Anyway, Masons met in what they called "Temples," and it is likely that Joseph, having visited NYC prior to constructing the first temple in Kirtland, he could have viewed the newly constructed Gothic style Masonic temple and, like so many other things in his life, received some tremendous inspiration from the sight.

Other than making temples the center of Mormon life - and community - Joseph didn't have any idea how they would function or what they would ultimately be used for.

I'm not sure it was a build it and they will come sort of thing as much as it was a "I want to build it and we'll figure out what we'll use them for in the future."

In Joseph's visions of Mormon cities, the temple was always center.

Bushman notes that *"City planning, was common for utopian and religious visionaries. In many respects," he continues, "the Zion format, with its square blocks and central squares, resembled plans devised by other town founders in these years."*

If you recall, we stated last week that a number of early American towns were laid out by Masons, who, with their own temples on the brain, laid cities out based on "the Square."

**(I remember being taught how evident it was that Brigham Young was of God due to his miraculous layout of Salt Lake City - with its temple at the helm and all the street laid out in N/E/S/W squares.** No one ever told me this was standard fare for both religious visionaries and the Masons who came before them).

So remember, the Saints were first in Kirtland. And at the same time, there were a group of them in Jackson County Missouri, which Joseph claimed was to become Zion.

Anyway, when plans were drawn up for a temple in Kirtland, a second temple was planned for in the City of Zion, or Missouri.

Each were to be the centerpiece of the town and would appear very much the same.

Conflict led to the Mormons being kicked out of Missouri and ending the temple

plan - and Joseph's revelatory claim that it was to become Zion. But the Kirtland temple moved on full steam.

The Kirtland temple was built at a great expense. The first ritual - a washing and anointing - was done therein in 1836.

This washing and anointing was nothing like what is done in LDS temples today, but was more like a total bath, and literally was to clean the people up.

These washings and anointing tubs grew to the point where they held several naked men or women (separately). Even the SLC temple once had these large tubs for these total washings at one time.

Temples at the time also provided a foot washing ceremony and a time for the people to eat of a sacrament of bread and wine.

QUOTE from Power from On High by Gregory Prince, Signature Books, who is quoting from William Harris, writing in 1841 about his experience in the Kirtland temple.

READ QUOTE

The endowment, at this point, was seeking a spiritual confirmation of sorts, and not what the LDS know the endowment to be today.

By the way, as the Saints moved west, wine consumption - even at the sacrament table - was changed to water.

In 1916, Apostle Orson F. Whitney addressed the sacrament change by

saying:

*“If we use water instead of wine in the sacrament of the Lord’s supper, it is because Christ has so commanded. Divine revelation adapts itself to the circumstances and conditions of men and change upon change ensues as God’s progressive work goes on to its destiny.”*

(From October Conference Report 1916)

The Kirtland temple still stands today. It was unique in that it related architecturally to levels of priesthood and the order of the Kingdom of God as Joseph saw it.

Kirtland fell apart because of the Church’s involvement in the Kirtland Safety Society bank, which failed, and the leadership moved its headquarters to Far West Missouri.

There plans were made for a temple, but the construction never took place due to the Mormons leaving Missouri all together by 1838.

But in 1839, having found a new home in Nauvoo, Illinois, the Saints were commanded once again to build a house of the Lord. (D&C 124)

Now some time had passed here, and time and experience always gave Joseph more to draw from in creating doctrine and practice, so the Nauvoo temple was conceived and planned on a much grander scale.

Now, many buildings were referred to as temples back in the day. Offices, storage units, and even meeting houses, were

often called them temples.

The School of the Prophets ended up in the Kirtland temple. So did the Church headquarters.

But it was in Nauvoo that temples began to serve as ordinance houses for the living and the dead.

You see, in Nauvoo, on the second floor of Joseph's Red Brick Store, new rites and rituals were introduced.

They took the upper room - which was above his store below - and they decorated it with murals and white veils and carpets.

Now remember, Joseph had reconstructed a priesthood that, over time, was divided into a hierarchy.

*The temple in Nauvoo was centered on the functions of these resurrected but obsolete priesthoods.*

Remember that Joseph had introduced not only eternal marriage, but the eternal and godly principle of plural marriage.

*The temple in Nauvoo had become the place to solemnize these Man-centered unions.*

Remember that Joseph had experienced most of what the Masons had to offer him by way of exalting man.

*The Temple in Nauvoo became the place to reinforce this process.*

And remember Joseph - amidst his grand

and flourishing city of which he was mayor - had tasted for the first time in a long time, the POWER and prestige of politics (he ran for president at this time), the luxury of some money, and the verve of knowing many women, and having the control of many men.

Upon this foundation, upon this history, upon these purposes, Mormon temples today stand.

So, with plans to erect a new temple in Nauvoo, and some practice time in a room above his store, Joseph prepared himself to introduce the full endowment, some expanded marital rituals, and some elitist gatherings within its walls.

But in 1844, he was killed by an angry mob.

The Nauvoo temple only operated for a very short time - months, if memory serves - before the Saints left it for the west.

It was later decimated by mobs - again, if memory serves.

Out west, Brigham Young, like the masons before him, used the temple based on the City of Zion plan and located four of them in the center of specific cities in the State.

All were larger than Nauvoo.

The first to be completed was St. George. Then Logan, Manti, and finally, Salt Lake City.

Temple building stopped until around

1910 when Joseph F Smith announced two more – one in Hawaii and one in Canada.

Bruce McConkie said:

*Where temples are not, the Church and Kingdom of God are not.* (Mormon Doctrine 1979 ed. page 780-781)

Spencer Kimball said:

*Only through celestial marriage can one find the straight and narrow way, the narrow path. Eternal life cannot be had in any other way.* (Deseret News, Nov. 1977)

Perhaps Brigham Young said the purpose of the temples best:

*“Your endowment is. to receive all those ordinances in the House of the Lord, which are necessary for you, after you have departed this life, to enable you to walk back to the presence of the Father, passing the angels who stand as sentinels, being enabled to give them the key words, the signs and tokens, pertaining to the holy priesthood, and gain your eternal exaltation in spite of earth and hell.”* (JOD vol. 2 page. 31)

And I always though Jesus was enough.

Let’s go to the phone lines:

(801) 973-TV20

(801) 973-8820

Please turn your televisions down.

EMAILS??? YES!

Conclusion

Pastor in the Pub at Denny's tonight.

Pastor in the Oven at Brick Oven in Provo, Monday night October 8<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8.

Lordsword: For the religiously disaffected!