

Foundations of the Restoration

Lesson 6: The Organization of the Church

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018

D&C 20:1-3

What happened to Christ's Church that he organized when he was on the earth?





“On April 6, 1830, just eleven days after the Book of Mormon was advertised for sale, a group of about 60 people assembled in the log home of Peter Whitmer Sr. in Fayette, New York. There Joseph Smith formally organized the Church, later designated by revelation as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (see D&C 115:4). It was a joyous occasion, with a great outpouring of the Spirit.



The sacrament was administered, believers were baptized, the gift of the Holy Ghost was bestowed, and men were ordained to the priesthood. In a revelation received during the meeting, the Lord designated Joseph Smith as the leader of the Church: ‘a seer, a translator, a prophet, an apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder of the church through the will of God the Father, and the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ’ (D&C 21:1). The Church of Jesus Christ was once again established on the earth” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith*[2007], 8–9).

Joseph Smith was called of God to organize the Church

“Joseph Smith and his associates met in the inconspicuous log house on the Peter Whitmer farm in the quiet village of Fayette, New York, and organized the Church of Christ. ...

“From the original six members has grown a vast family of worshippers. ... From that quiet village has grown a movement that today is scattered through some 160 nations of the earth. ... That is a remarkable development. More members of the Church reside out of this nation than in it. That, too, is a remarkable thing. No other church to come out of the soil of America has grown so fast nor spread so widely. ... It is a phenomenon without precedent” (“The Church Goes Forward,” *Ensign*, May 2002, 4).



D&C 20

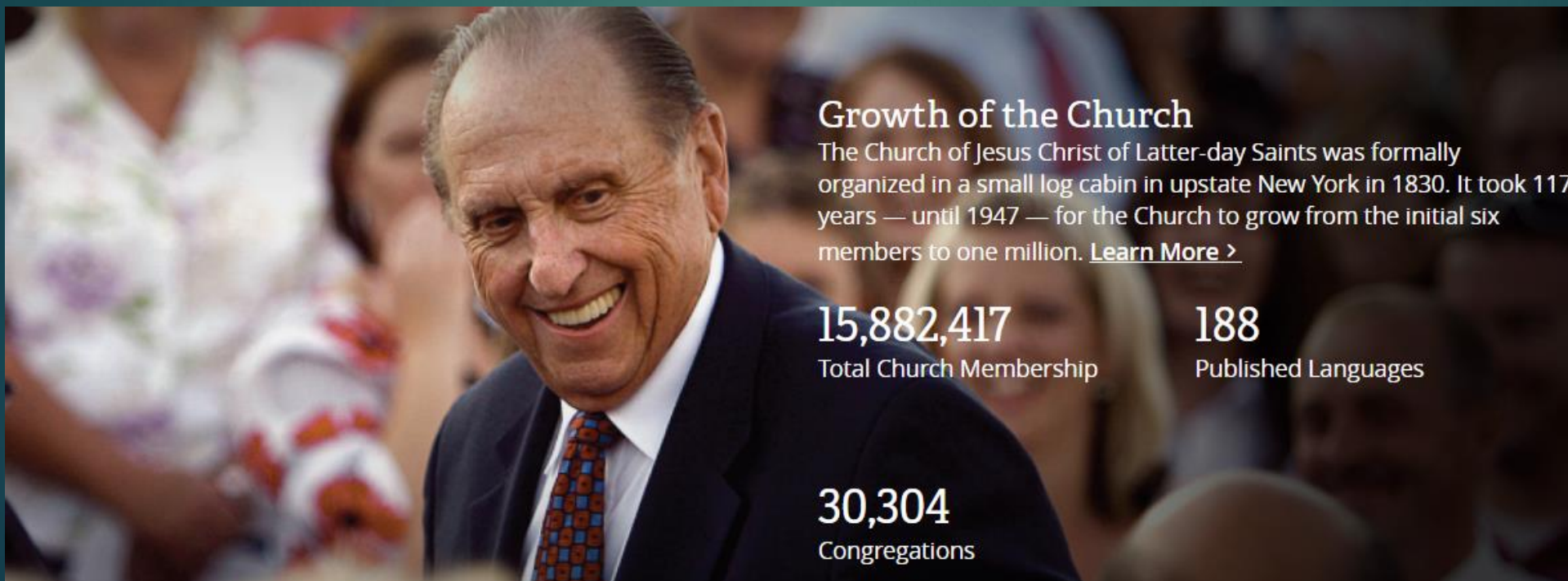
The Articles and Covenants of the Church

D&C 20:17-37, 68-69

Responsibilities of members

What the Lord said about his Church

D&C 1:30 What does this mean to you?



Growth of the Church
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was formally organized in a small log cabin in upstate New York in 1830. It took 117 years — until 1947 — for the Church to grow from the initial six members to one million. [Learn More >](#)

15,882,417 Total Church Membership	188 Published Languages
30,304 Congregations	

D&C 1:30 Only True Church

“This is the true Church, the only true Church, because in it are the keys of the priesthood. Only in this Church has the Lord lodged the power to seal on earth and to seal in heaven as He did in the time of the Apostle Peter. Those keys were restored to Joseph Smith, who then was authorized to confer them upon the members of the Quorum of the Twelve” (Henry B. Eyring, “The True and Living Church,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2008, 20).



D&C 1:30 Only True Church

“The Lord has declared that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is ‘the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth’ (D&C 1:30). This restored Church is true because it is the Savior’s Church; He is ‘the way, the truth, and the life’ (John 14:6). And it is a living church because of the workings and gifts of the Holy Ghost” (David A. Bednar, “Receive the Holy Ghost,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 97).



We cannot yield on this doctrine

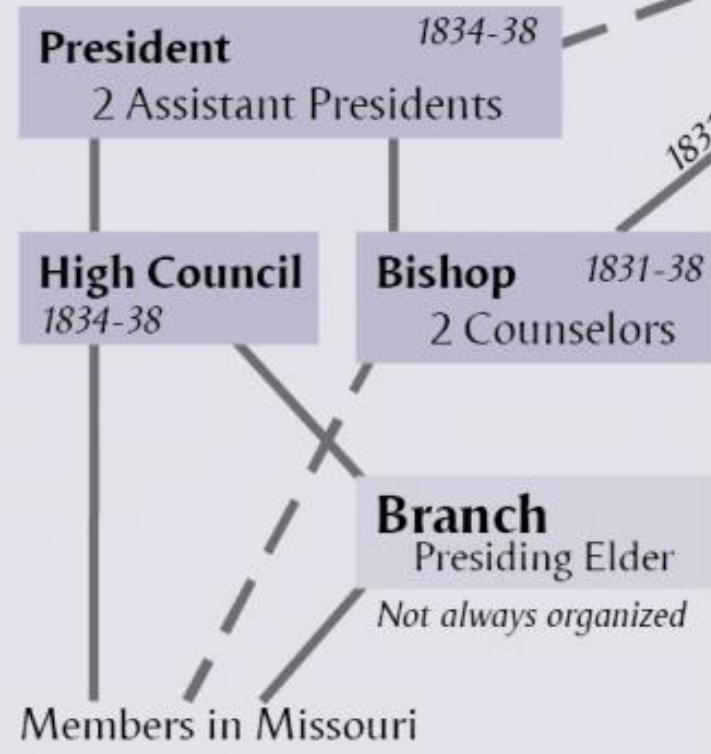
“Yield on this doctrine, and you cannot justify the Restoration. ...

“We did not invent the doctrine of the only true church. It came from the Lord. Whatever perception others have of us, however presumptuous we appear to be, whatever criticism is directed to us, we must teach it to all who will listen. ...

“We do not claim that others have no truth. The Lord described them as having “a form of godliness.” Converts to the Church may bring with them all the truth they possess and have it added upon” (“The Only True Church,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 82).



The Church in Missouri

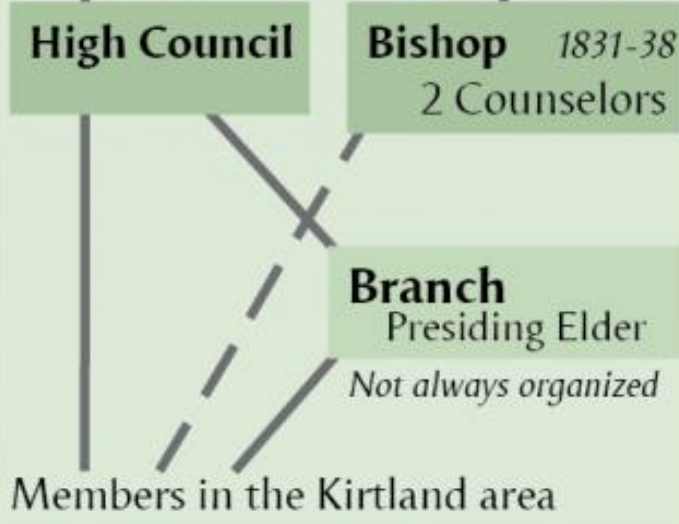


First Presidency 1832
"Presidency of the High Priesthood" 1832-33

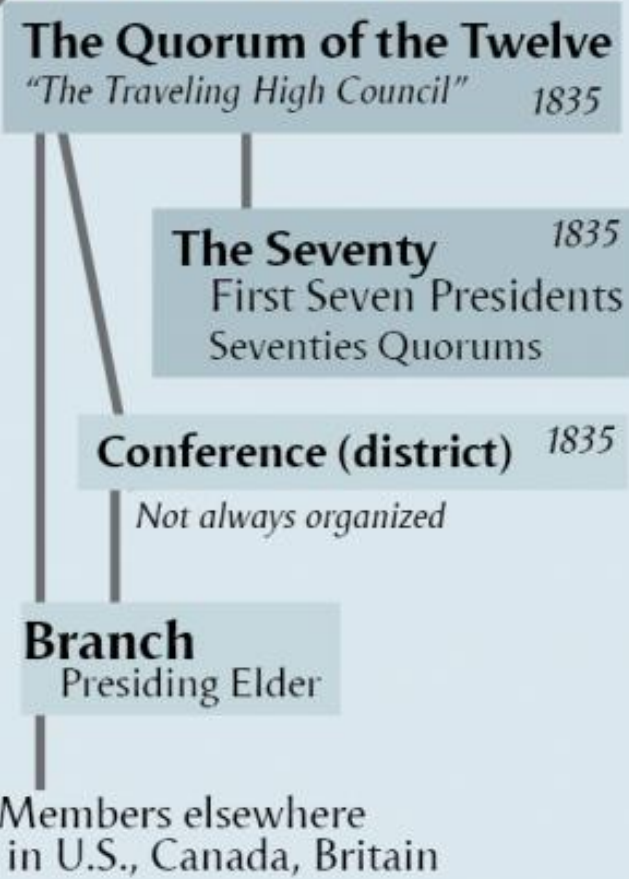
President
1st and 2nd Counselors
Assistant Counselors 1837

Assistant President 1834-38
Patriarch 1833

Kirtland Stake



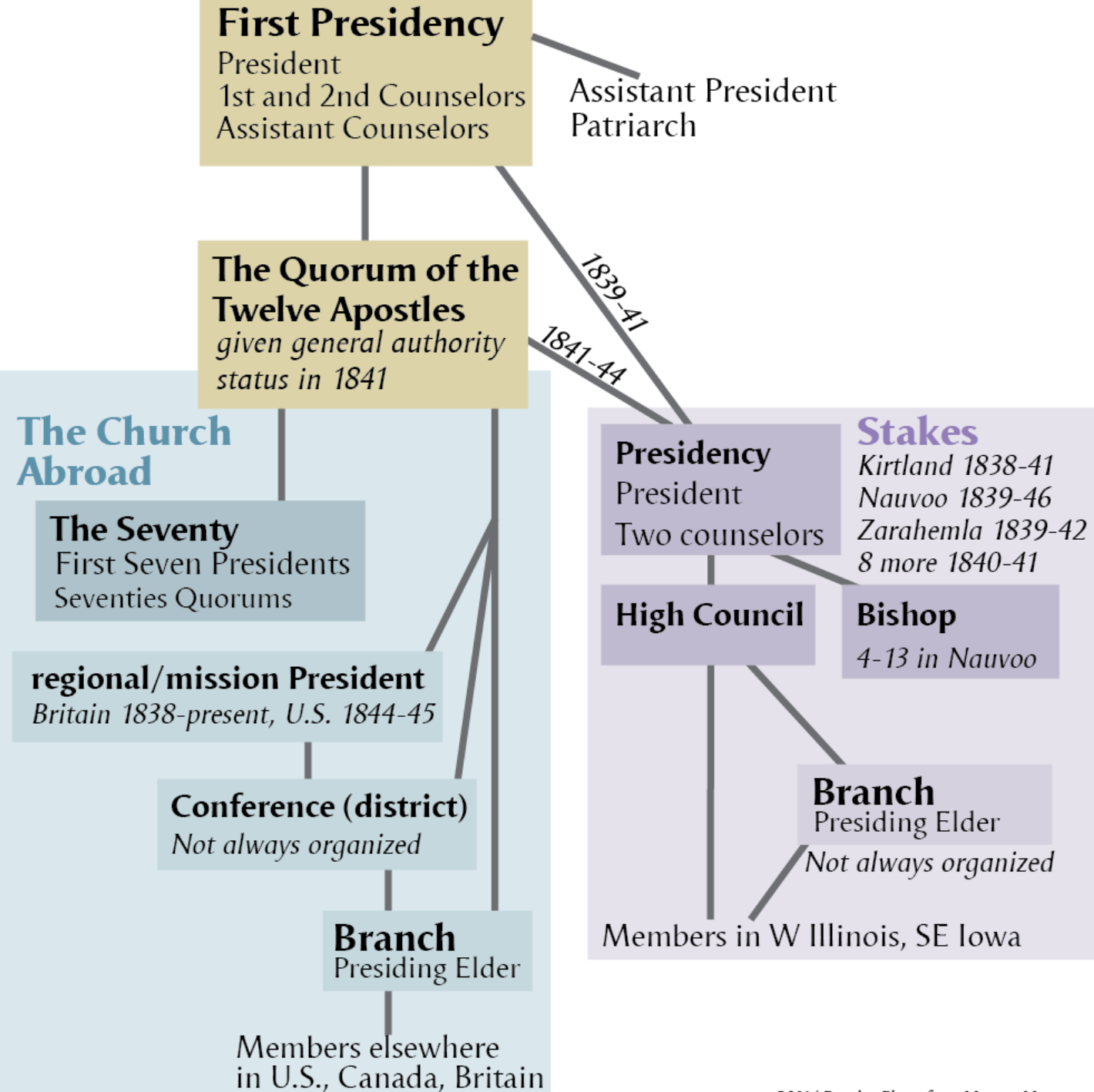
The Church Abroad



During this time, the branch president presided at meetings, while the bishop managed the Law of Consecration, church-owned lands, and other temporal affairs; they also acted as judges in disputes and disciplinary matters, until the High Council assumed that responsibility in 1834.

** February-October 1838, Kirtland Stake had a separate presidency after Joseph Smith left*

** June-November 1838, a second stake was formed in Adam-ondi-Ahman, Missouri*



THE MORMON HIERARCHY

3

FIRST PRESIDENCY

Each is addressed as president.

President and Prophet, First Counselor, Second Counselor



Mormons believe in modern-day revelation. The president of the church is considered a living prophet who speaks with God.

12

QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

The senior apostle is addressed as president. Each of the remaining 11 is addressed as elder.



~200

GENERAL OFFICERS

Primary



Relief Society



Sunday School



Young Men



Young Women



QUORUM OF THE SEVENTY

There are multiple Quorums of the Seventy, which, under the direction of the apostles, oversee the church's local lay leaders.

Seven Presidents



First Quorum



Second Quorum



PRESIDING BISHOPRIC



These men are collectively called general authorities. They are called to their positions by the apostles, and they in turn select the stake presidents for their posts.

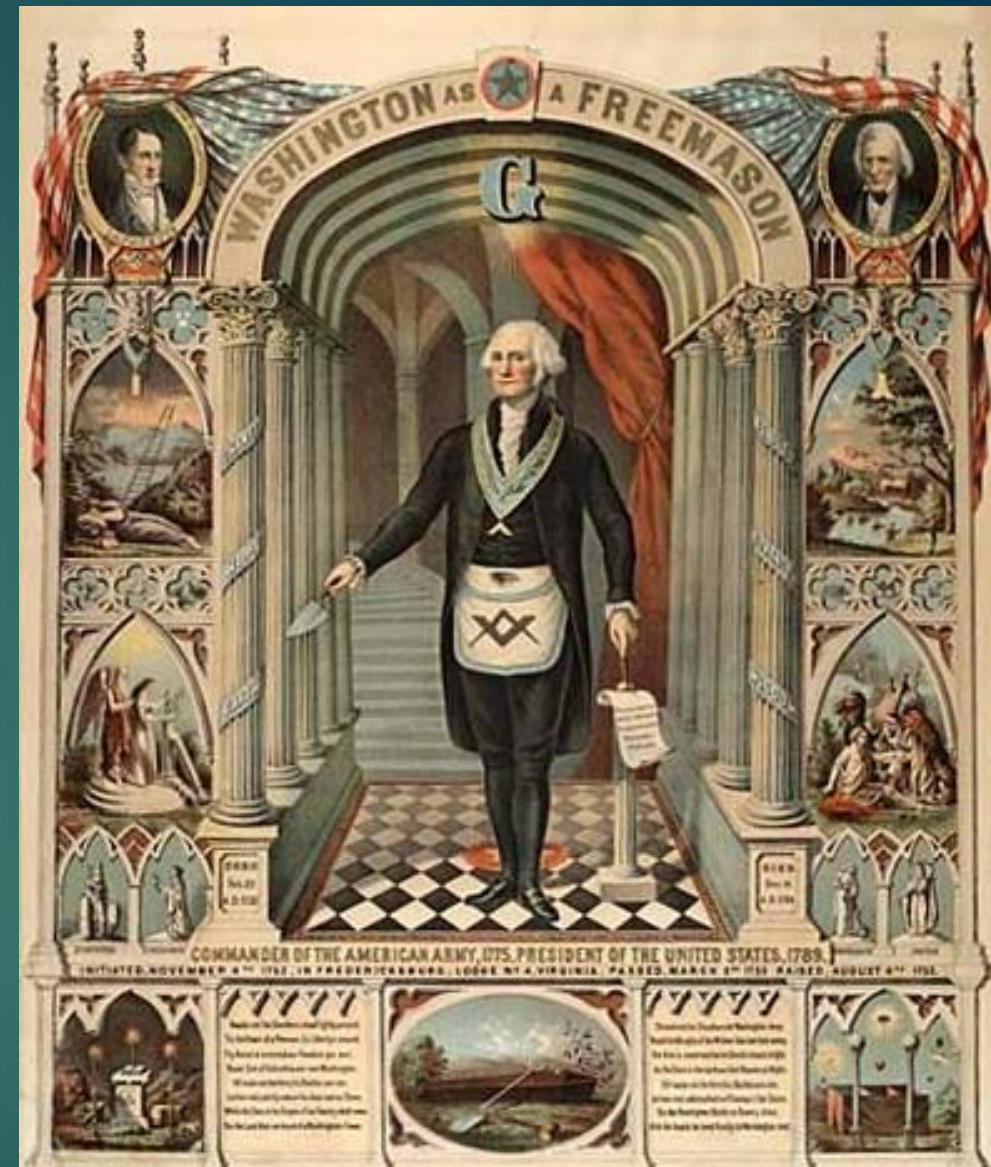
Masonry and Mormonism

What is *Masonry*?

Masonry and Mormonism



What is Masonry?

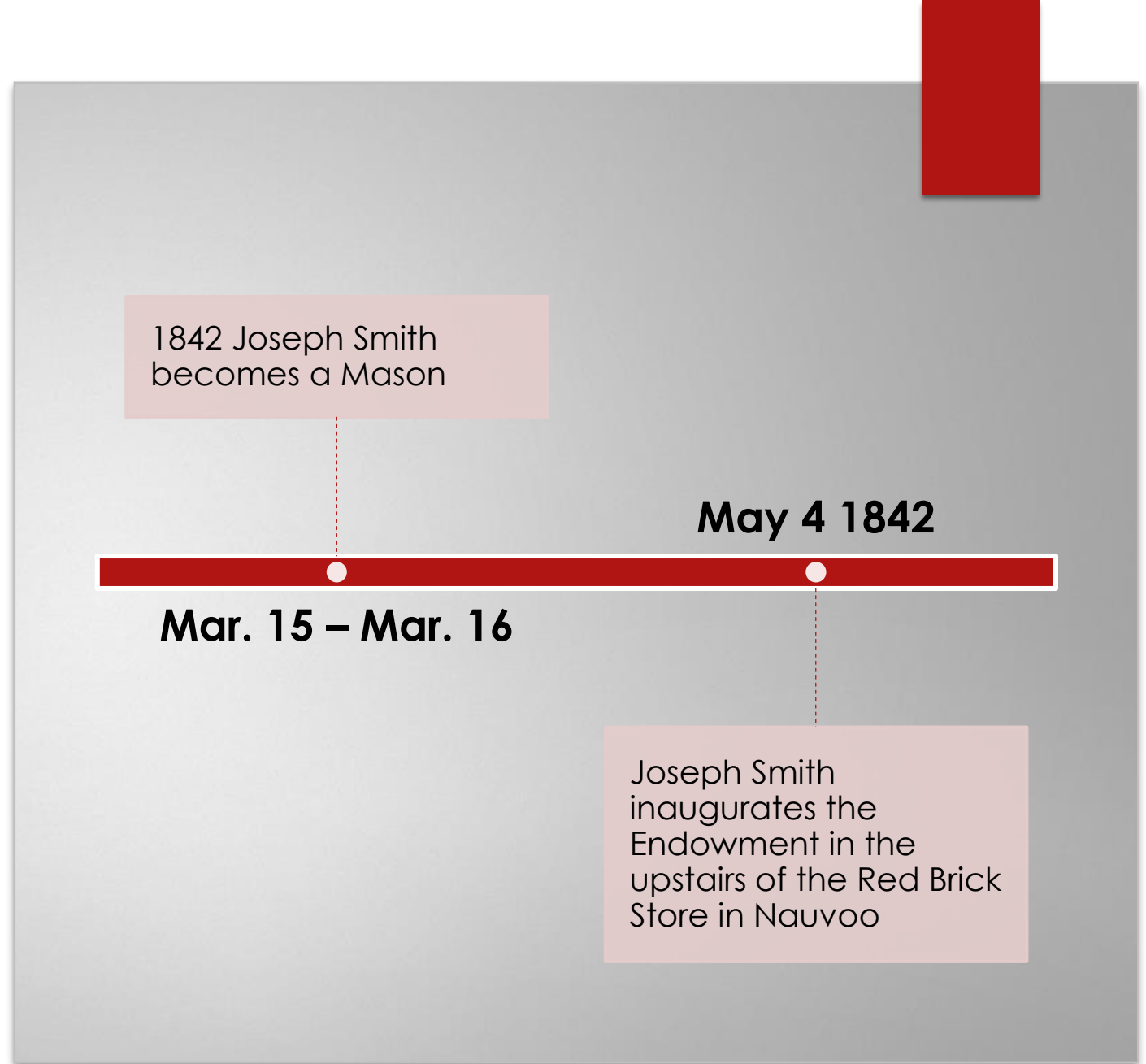


Masonry and Mormonism

Accusation: Because there is similarity between the Endowment and Masonry, some critics say Joseph Smith cribbed Masonic symbols to create the Endowment ceremony in the temple.

1. What was revealed to Joseph before he became a Mason?
2. Where did these symbols come from?
3. Can God reveal truths to us “in our culture?” (D&C 1:24)

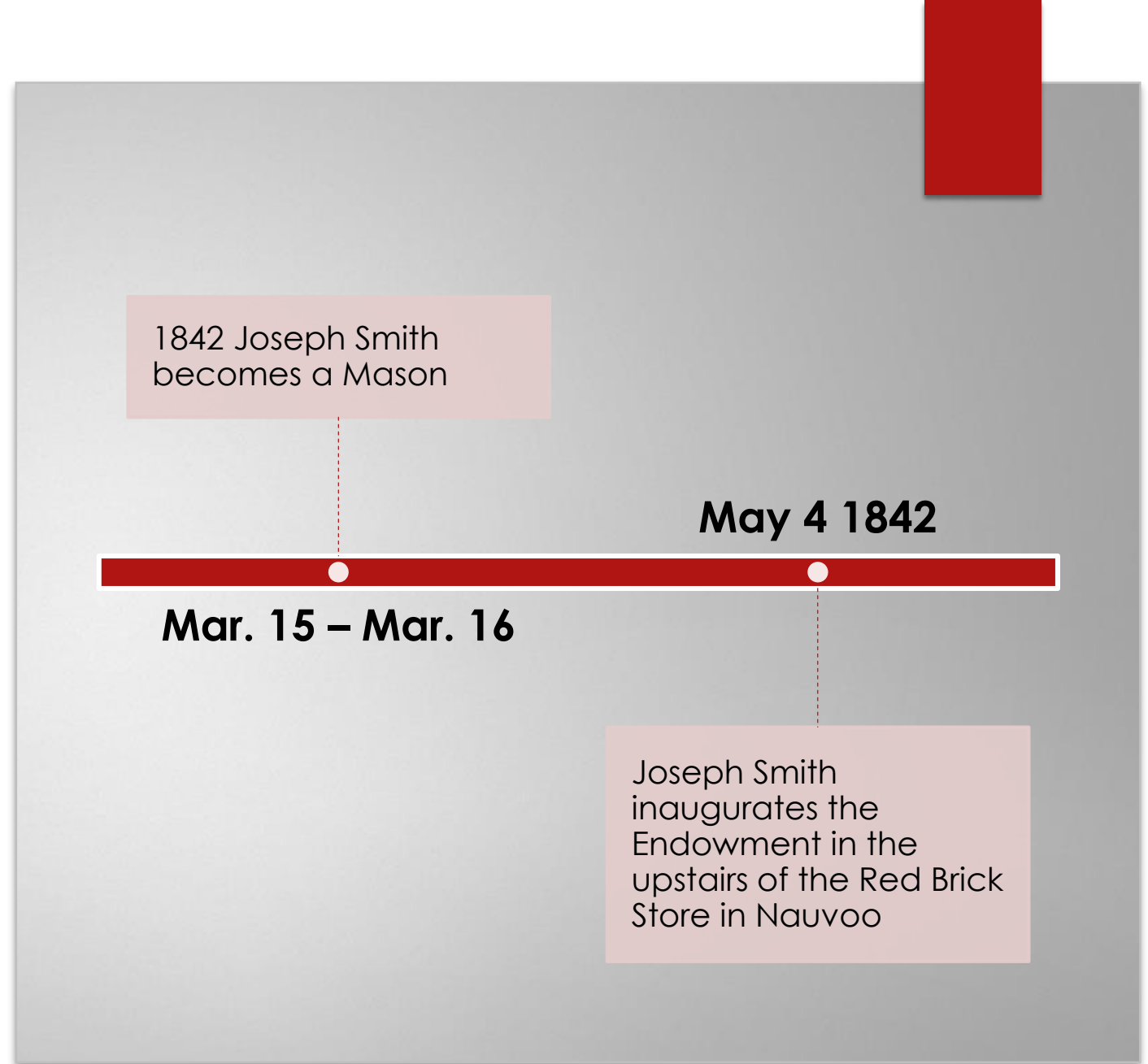
Masonry and Mormonism: A Timeline



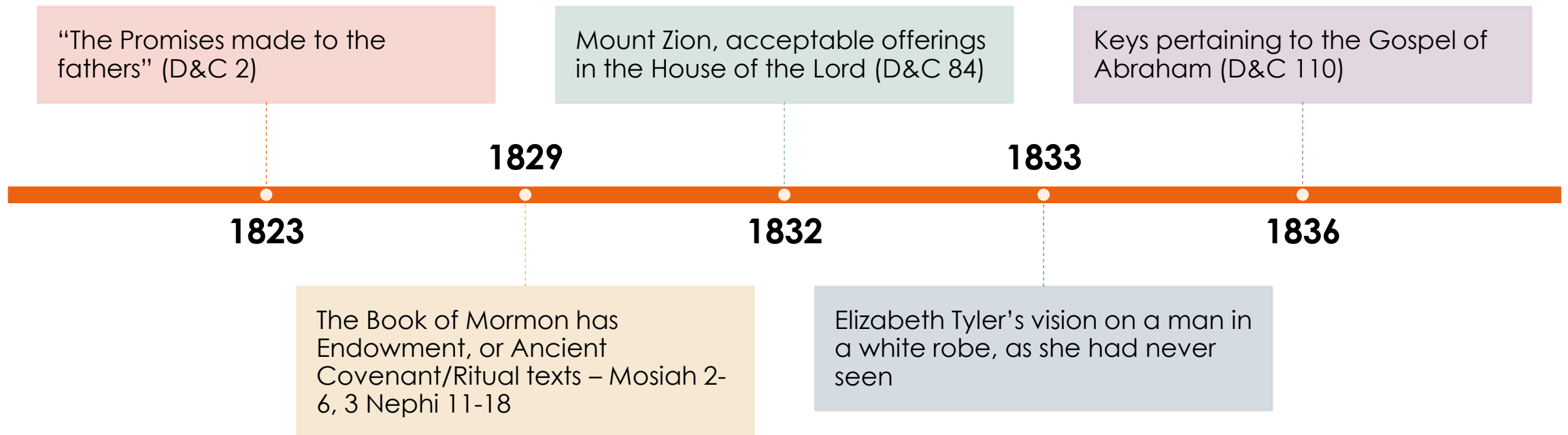
What was revealed
to Joseph before he
became a Mason?



Masonry and Mormonism: A Timeline



Masonry and Mormonism: A Timeline



Ancient Covenant Pattern

1. The preamble
2. Historical prologue (description of what the king has done for the subjects)
3. Stipulations – Terms of the Covenant (to secure fidelity of the subjects to the king)
4. Deposition of the text of the treaty or covenant (special writings and other means to ensure that the covenants aren't forgotten and are recorded and reviewed)
5. List of witnesses
6. Statement of curses and blessings (the results of disobedience or obedience)

(Source: Jon Levenson, *Sinai and Zion, An Entrance into the Jewish Bible*, 1985. See also Deuteronomy)

Elements	Deuteronomy	Mosiah 1-6
Preamble	1:5 (1:1-5)	2:9a (1:1-2:9a)
Antecedent History	1:6-3:29	2:9b-21, 23-24a, 25-30
Terms of the Covenant	chapters 4-26	2:22, 24b, 31-41; 4:6-30
Formal Witness	31:19	5:2-8
Blessings and Curses	27:9-28:68	5:9-15 (3:24-27)
Recital of the Covenant and Deposit of the Text	27:1-8; 31:9; 24-26	(2:8, 9a) 6:1-3, 6



CREATION

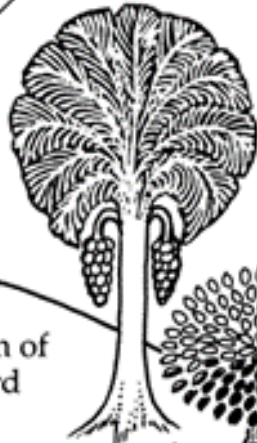
Moving East

FALL

throne in heaven



tree of life



tree of the
knowledge
of good
and evil



mountain of
the Lord

Garden
of Eden

cherubim and
flaming sword



Pison

Gihon

Euphrates

Hidekel

Adam & Eve
worship at altar



Moving West

ATONEMENT

Holy of Holies

cherubim
on the veil

Holy Place

cherubim on
the mercy seat
over the ark of
the covenant

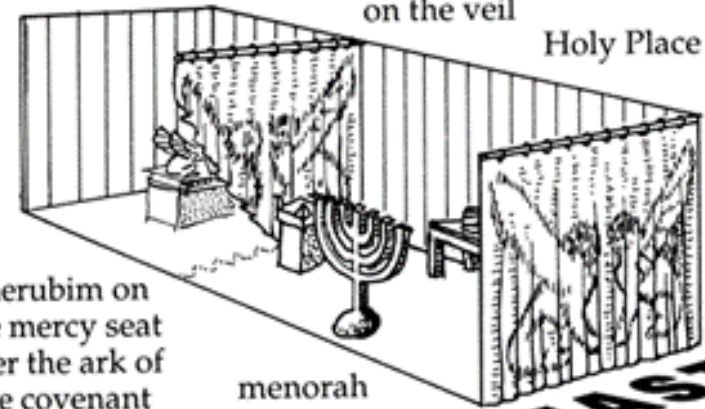
menorah

cherubim
on the veil

Mosaic Tabernacle

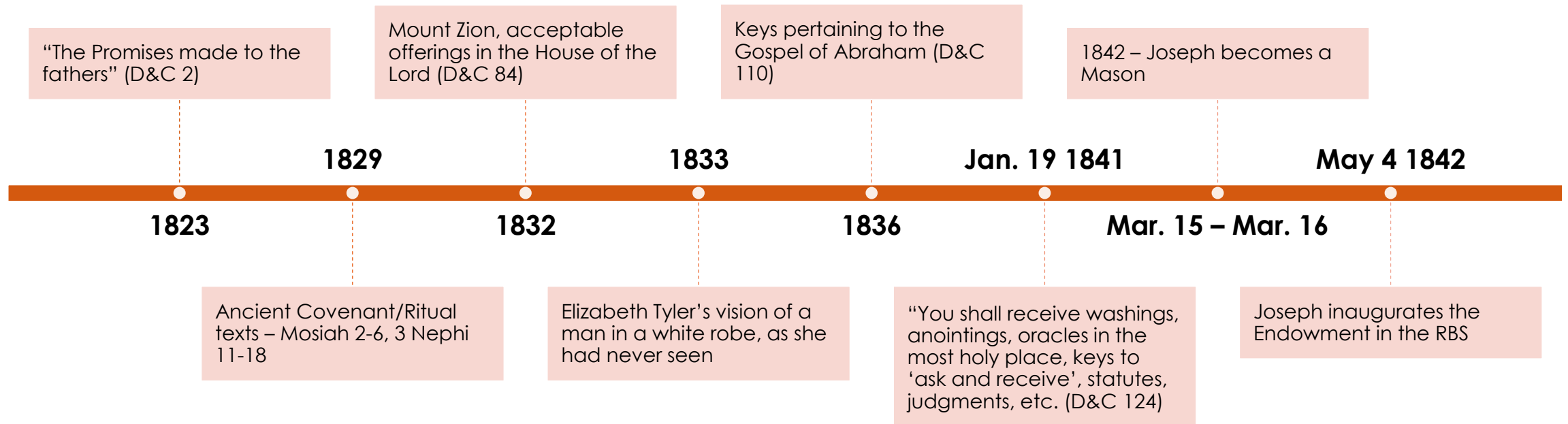
bronze laver

bronze altar

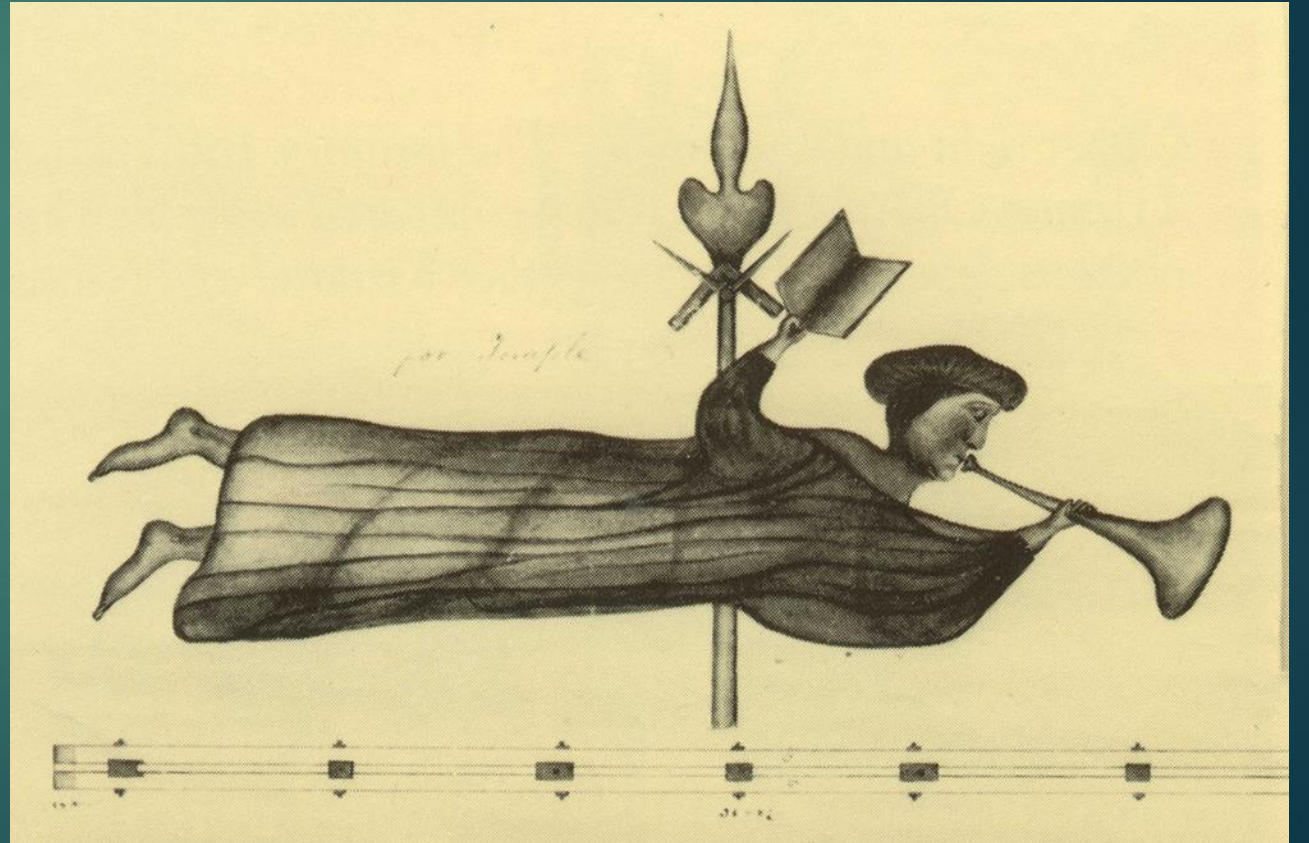


Eden Prototype Sanctuary, Donald Parry, *Temples in the Ancient World*, p. 134-135.

Masonry and Mormonism: A Timeline



Where did these
symbols come
from?



Masonry and Mormonism

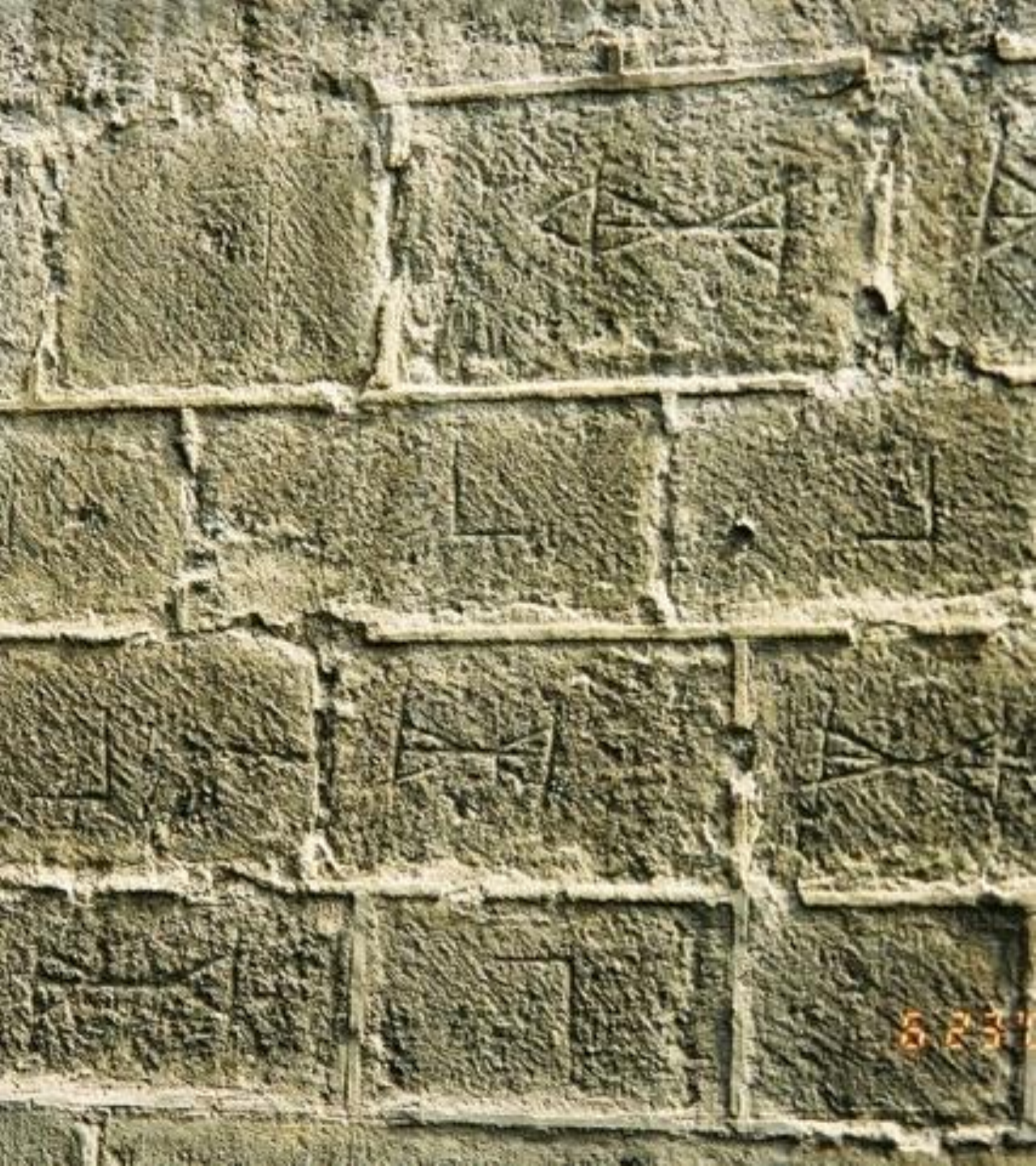
Symbols come from an ancient source



Masonry and Mormonism

Symbols come from an ancient source





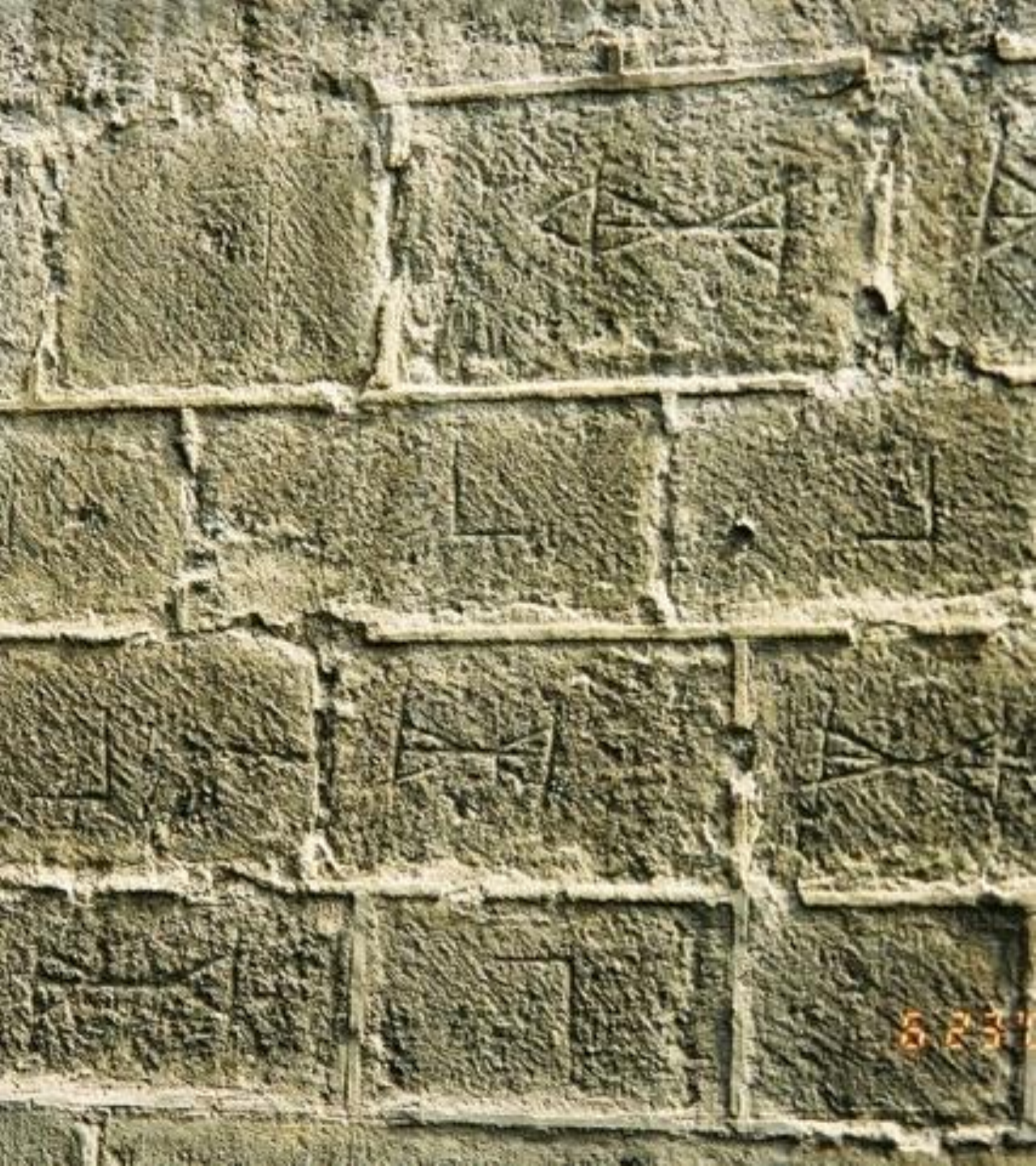
Masonry in scripture

Joseph was a “tekton” (Matt 13:55)

Matthew 16 Upon this Rock I will build my church... thou art PETROS... upon this PETRA I will build my church!

1 Corinthians 3 Ye are the temple of God

(Masonry marks in a church in Toledo, Spain)



Masonry in scripture

The stone which the builders rejected, the same is the head of the corner. (Luke 20:17)

This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:11–12)



Procession of the Saints, The Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo. This structure was built by Theoderic (493-526) next to his palace and was originally used as a Palatine Church of Arian religion.

God reveals truths to us in our culture. In other words, God uses things we understand to teach us higher truth.



God uses things we understand to teach us
higher truth

And the Word became flesh, and
dwelt among us (and we beheld his
glory, glory as of the only begotten
from the Father), full of grace and
truth. (John 1:14 ASV)

Masonry and Mormonism

Examples

1. The entire Old Testament is an example of repackaged themes and ideas, symbols, and motifs used to teach higher truths.
2. Jesus taught in simple to understand stories or parables.
3. Even the sacrament uses ancient motifs to teach mankind.

Masonry and Mormonism

Readings:

1. Devery Anderson, *The Development of LDS Temple Worship: A Documentary History*, Signature Books, 2011.
2. Matthew Brown, *Exploring the Connection Between Mormons and Masons*, Covenant Communications, 2009.
3. Matthew Brown, *Symbols in Stone*, Covenant Communications, 2003.
4. Matthew Brown, *The Gate of Heaven*, Covenant Communications, 1999.
5. Hugh Nibley, *Mormonism and Early Christianity*, Deseret Book, 1987.
6. Hugh Nibley, *Temple and Cosmos*, Deseret Book, 1992.
7. Jennifer Mackley, *Wilford Woodruff's Witness: The Development of Temple Doctrine*, Deseret Book, 2014.
8. Donald Parry, *Temples of the Ancient World*, Deseret Book, 1994.

Masonry and Mormonism

Articles:

1. Bryce Hammond, Consecrate = “A Filled Hand” in Hebrew. See: <http://www.templestudy.com/2008/06/13/consecrate-a-filled-hand-in-hebrew/> accessed 2.18.18.
2. Lynn M. Hilton, “The Hand as a Cup in Ancient Temple Worship,” *Newsletter & Proceedings of the SEHA* No. 152 (March 1983). Also printed as an appendix of Lynn and Hope Hilton, *Discovering Lehi: New Evidence of Lehi and Nephi in Arabia* (Springville, Utah: Cedar Fort, 1996)
3. John Tvedtnes, Early Christian and Jewish Rituals Related to Temple Practices, *FairMormon Conference* 1999.
4. Marcus Von Wellnitz, The Catholic Liturgy and the Mormon Temple, *BYU Studies Quarterly*:Vol. 21: Iss. 1,Article 2.

Revelations of the Ohio Period 1831-1838

Donald Q. Cannon, Larry E. Dahl, John Welch,
The Restoration of Major Doctrines through
Joseph Smith, *Ensign*, Jan. 1989.

