

# Value of Studying Church History

Monday, September 11, 2006  
10:48 AM

## **Why Study Church History?**

The Spirit of God was originally written on silk and sung at the Kirtland Temple Dedication

The word Hosanna means God save us all

By studying history you learn a lot about yourself

What does it mean to be a prophet? It means that they have pierced the veil. There is a story told of Heber C. Kimball. When he was in the First Presidency he had an employee who asked him one morning for a new pair of shoes. President Kimball told the young man that if he were to save his honest wage that he had been earning he would be able to buy a new pair of shoes. That night the employee in his prayers said that although he supported President Kimball as part of the First Presidency but that he was the meanest, stingiest employer ever. The next morning President Kimball met this employee with a new pair of black boots, that he gave to him on the condition that the employee would never again say to the Lord that he was the meanest stingiest employer ever again.

We all need to be able to pierce the veil so that we can receive the answers that we need to know who we are and where we're going.

How do we pierce the veil?

Read the scriptures

Pray

Patriarchal Blessings

Patriarch = father who blesses

A patriarch is someone who is ordained and chosen by God. This person must be a high priest, there is no quorum of patriarchs. President Monson has said that patriarch is one of the hardest callings to select the person because the patriarch has no counselors. This man must be completely in tune with the Lord.

Apostle means one who is sent

There are three callings that are lifelong positions: bishop, patriarch & apostle.

Patriarchal blessings are supposed to tell you your tribe, and your purpose within that tribe. The tribe you are in drives the blessing. Each tribe has different responsibilities and different ways of getting back to God.

## **The Tribe of Ephraim**

99%+ of the early saints are Ephraimites

Brigham Young listed some characteristics of the Ephraimites

-stubborn

-war-like

-intolerant

-He said that those people have one amazing, sterling quality- which is the spirit of adventure. Where can you see it better than in getting a mission call.

Responsibilities

-Most of them are saved for the Latter Days

-Main responsibility is to prepare the world for the second coming. They are the John the Baptists of the Second coming

-Missionary work

- Temple work
- Perfecting the Saints
- Best described in Isaiah, where it talks about a huge tent that covers the world

1st missionary- Samuel Smith, he only gives out a few Books of Mormon. However, one of those books fell into the hands of Brigham Young.

1st stake is in Kirtland, Ohio

The temples are the security of the stakes because in the temple, the veil of forgetfulness is weakened.

Someday Ephraim & Menassah will go back to Jackson county to build 24 inter-connected temples where everyone will bring their records and it will all come together. This is the center pole of the tent. See Isaiah starting in 50-59

President Monson said that your patriarchal blessing is your own personal scripture. We must study it. Know what your personal blessings, commandments and warnings are. Blessings are usually gifts of the spirit. We need to remember to pray to keep those commandments which will make it so that those blessings are fulfilled- it will not come the other way around. Every blessing has a commandment linked to it. Don't covet other people's blessings because you need to know what your own strengths are, and it's more important to develop your own strengths. Make sure you know what your weaknesses are as well. Build your life on your strengths and keep your commandments and then one by one work on your weaknesses.

It isn't enough to know the gospel, we must actually do. Even more than that we must be. That is how we can be like "I AM". Notice that the questions of a temple recommend interview ask you whether or not you are honest, if you are a full tithe payer, if you are morally clean. Then when you answer "I am" you are answering with the Savior. It's not whether or not you know those principles or if you do things that fall within those principles, it's what you ARE that counts..

The happiest of the Saints, are those who knew the gospel well enough that they could do it, and it made it so that they became like the Savior.

Joseph Smith was born 1805  
First vision: 1820