

Revelations in Kirtland

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There were 38 revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants in the Kirtland era. We'll talk about the most popular revelation and how it was added to, and the least popular. Most glorious and ultimate tragedy.

The most popular revelation, how do you decide which is the most popular revelation for the time? The missionaries would write them down. If it was popular then it is written down the most times. The missionaries would trade revelations on the road. The most popular was section 87- a prophecy of war. The first vision wasn't published until 1838 and was therefore not a door approach. Instead their approach was about the Angel Moroni and talking about the Book of Mormon. Their next question would be "are you worried about war in the United States?" and then would use the revelation to help use politics to help them get in the door. This was generally well received. People started asking Joseph to fill in the blanks. This started a lot of rumors. Two men did this and made some money. Theodore Turley and Edwin Rushton. Theodore says he was talking with Joseph and Joseph said the war to end all wars would start in Turkey. White horse - church red horse- Britain one was Chinese? Another was the native Americans. The war to end all wars was supposed to start in Turkey. When you start seeing houses going over the Point of the Mountain then the only place that is safe to keep their money would be the banks in the Rockies. People would flee to the Rockies. The people will be OK because of the years supplies of the people. Everyone would come to the US. The constitution would seem to hang by a silk fiber and would be saved by the elders. These are called the White Horse Prophecies. The only part that has been confirmed by another prophet was that the Constitution would hang by a thread and be saved by the elders.

The least popular revelation was 89 - The Word of Wisdom. The English wanted to keep their tea. The easterners wanted to keep their coffee. Joseph asked about this traditionally because of Emma thinking it was really gross. There are a couple of other theories that might have something to do with it. The Owenites in Kirtland were a group of women who were a part of a temperance movement, they wanted to reclaim their husbands from the saloons. One theory is that some of them told Joseph that his men were keeping the local saloon open. Another theory is that there were people coming to town, one with the last name of Graham who said that Graham crackers and fruit in season were best for them. When Joseph was given the word of wisdom it was not a commandment. Those who were called by the prophet lived the commandment, but most did not. David Whitmer lost his membership in Far West because he wasn't living the word of wisdom because he had made a covenant to do so, even though. Everyone on Zion's camp had to live by the word of wisdom, part of which was to not cuss. There were two couples who were asked to leave Zion's camp because "Only Zion can redeem Zion". When did this become a commandment? It wasn't until the 1920s. During Prohibition people were not allowed to sell liquor and the nation realized that it just made all the crime go underground. Heber J. Grant told the saints to vote against selling liquor on the streets. It would cause more crime, deaths on the highways etc. At the time Utah was 74% LDS, however Utah voted to amend the amendment. Heber J. Grant announced to the church that he was going to do something for the temporal salvation of the people. He made it one of the questions for moving between priesthood offices and going to the temple would be whether or not they could live the Word of Wisdom. There were a lot of people who left the church and called themselves "jack-Mormons". They no longer felt comfortable in church and therefore left. Those who could do it no problem would form clubs called the 89ers, as if that was bigger or more important than coming to church.

The most glorious had everything to do with the Kirtland Temple. It still stands as a monument of sacrifice. The very first man in the quarries at Kirtland was Joseph Smith. The temple was very colorful and beautiful. The dedicatory prayer is in 109, They seated over 900 people at the dedication. It went from 9am-4pm. People said it was as a day of Pentecost. Frederick G. Williams says he saw Christ. They sang The Spirit of God, and Now Let Us Rejoice. Joseph read the prayer with both hands in the air. Men

who had attended the dedication were invited to receive their "washings and annointings" or what we now call Initiatories. While they're doing this people start yelling that the temple is on fire. When they arrive they see that it is in flames but nothing is being consumed, they begin to say "The shekena (glory of God) has returned". This was in similitude of Old Testament occurrences. One week later Joseph and Oliver are in the Kirtland temple - April 3, 1836. There were classes happening in the different parts of the temple. They decide to pray to the Lord in a sense of gratitude for the Pentecostal season - found in D&C 110. They then receive additional priesthood keys. They are given the keys of gathering from Moses. They are temple keys. The next was Elias, (Elias is a title that means a forerunner) some people say Noah, others Abraham. Given the keys for the covenants of Abraham. The last to come is Elijah who brings the keys to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and children to their fathers. Of the three that returned, Elijah's return was the most prophesied. There are all kinds of legends about Elijah. He was a prophet to the Ephraimites. He can only minister to the Ephraimites. However, there are many other peoples who think that they have Elijah. The Greek Orthodox people think he will return on July 22nd.

After all of these wonderful things, the church is growing. The people were banking at the bank on main street in Kirtland. There was no federal reserve system so everyone had different types of money. The leaders of the church decide to start their own bank. Joseph has already been told that he would never have success with money. They decide to use the money to buy land and exchange it with other people. Oliver Cowdery goes to Pennsylvania to get plates made for the printing of money. On every dollar there is Joseph's signature as well as Sidney Rigdon's. Orson Hyde has gone to the Ohio Legislature for permission to set up a bank, however when he comes back he announces that their idea has been rejected. They were rejected because the principle players did not have enough collateral to cover what they needed to do. As a result they aren't sure what to do. They have the bank plates, they decide instead to establish an anti-banking company. The saints start taking their money out of regular banks. At first it was good and it was working. Eventually Joseph left the bank, but others kept it going. In 1837 there was a run on the banks. The banks in NY collapse and there is rioting in the streets. When it reaches Kirtland the bank that falls is the Kirtland Safety Society. The average investor received back 12.5 cents to the dollar. People started saying Joseph Smith was a fallen prophet. He goes back to look at the books and realizes that the bank cannot account for \$40,000. Joseph asks the Lord and is told that Warren Parrish has it in his trunk. Frederick G. Williams will not give him a warrant and takes over the temple with Warren Parrish and leave the church. Joseph and Sidney had to leave the state because they were accused of setting up an illegal bank. The people who effected this were not the average members of the church who had no money anyways, however 9 members of the quorum of the 12, three of the witnesses of the book of mormon. The 7 presidents of the seventy.