

Masonry

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Masonry: there are 5 million freemasons throughout the US. There is no central lodge so there is no consistency between groups. Some groups trace their rites to Adam and Eve, others to 17th/18th century masons building cathedrals, others to Solomon's temple.

Solomon was the son of King David, who was very anxious that there was a resting place for the Ark of the Covenant. Decides to build it in Jerusalem, wants to build a palace for it. The word for palace in Hebrew is temple. David is not permitted to build the temple because of his transgressions. The Masonic tradition is that Solomon starts gathering the building materials (cedars from Lebanon and the workmen who can work with them. You end up with many free workmen. Solomon started to marry daughters from the families of these workmen. These are freemen who come to help build this temple. Temple work began to go forward in the temple before the building was completed. According to the masons there were pollutions in the temple work through Solomon's acquaintances with false gods. The masons decided to memorize what they had seen and pray that one day there would be a prophet to come and restore what was missing. Freemasons have had a huge impact on the United States.

Hyrum and many others were very interested in forming a Masonic lodge in Nauvoo. Joseph gives them permission so they go to Springfield, Illinois to get permission. This means they have the right to induct people into masonry. Requirements: must be a free man, women can participate in social arms- but not in the ceremony, you could not be a slave to someone else, must be a whole man (when you start... won't be kicked out), you must believe in a higher being than yourself (doesn't matter which higher being), must be a good man trying to become a better man, must be recommended by two who are already masons. Masonry isn't a religion but a fraternity. In 1842 the head of the lodge was Hyrum. To get in you have to have the approval of all the members. They would go around with a hat, each member had a black and white ball. Each man would put both hands in the hat and drop one ball. This is where the term blackball comes from. Same as the rules of pool. Once you entered masonry there were 32 degrees that each have a name. 32nd degree masons are called "Shriners". To advance from one degree to the next you have to memorize things and prove it. There is a 33rd degree that is honorary. We are only interested in 1-3.

Number 1- apprentice

Number 2- craftsman

Number 3- master mason

Hyrum had returned from Springfield in March 15, 1842 the name of Joseph Smith came forward. Joseph entered and is promoted to master mason by March 16th. He already knew it all from the Book of Abraham. At the time he was working in the Red Brick Store. By March 17th he announces that he has the fullness of the endowment. He contacts Mary Elizabeth Lightner and asks her to make some clothing (her lineage is Jewish), He wants everything ready by May 4th for 9 men to come to the third floor of the Red Brick Store to come and receive the endowment. All 9 men were masons. Newel K. Whitney and Brigham Young. When these men finish they fall down and worship Joseph as Solomon (Joseph had tried to stop them). They are so excited that they take him to the streets and have a parade saying that the righteous Solomon has returned.

Women in Nauvoo- The early part of march Nauvoo is becoming a very cosmopolitan place. However, there is not yet a benevolent society. They ask Joseph Smith what he thinks as mayor if it's ok if they form a benevolent society. They come on March 17th to the second story of the Red Brick Store to form a benevolent society. Emma's name is put forth by Joseph to be their president. In 1842 you get into Relief Society- you had to be recommended by two, be charitable in action, and pay dues. They liked to sing "How firm a foundation." At each meeting they would be asked to report on their charitable

actions for the week. The sisters were taught by the brethren in Relief Society- Joseph Smith, John Taylor, Willard Richards etc. Joseph would always end his talks with "women provoke your husbands to righteousness" and "women, bridle your tongues". The Relief Society purpose wasn't only charity but to prepare the women for the endowment. There are over 80 men and women who receive their endowment in the Red Brick Store- the men are all masons, the women are all part of the Relief Society. We cannot find record of single women who had received the endowment, but single men are on record.

During Joseph's lifetime there was a group called the "Quorum of the Anointed" or those who had received their endowment. They became the temple workers.

Joseph was killed by masons because he had acted the part of Solomon and had added to it. In the penalty for sharing the rites with women was death. There is a sign you can give outside of masonry that the whole world recognizes is to raise one's hands and raise your hands and say "Oh Lord my God, is there no help for the widow's son?" Hyrum- the head mason- is the first one killed, He then goes to the window and his last words are "Oh Lord my God" - perhaps the cry for help of the masons. By the time Joseph is dead and Brigham is leading the church masonry within the church is dead. We did not bring masonry west with us. Masonry came to Utah by Albert Sidney Johnston. Today you can recognize a mason by a Masonic ring with a G for Geometry in the middle with a square and a compass.

Can you be a mason and a Mormon- yes, but why? If you're going to have something, have the fullness.

There are very few similarities between Masonic rites and temple rites.

We don't know when Joseph received the endowment. As early as Kirtland they were receiving the washings and anointings.

Robert Foster was part of the mob that killed Joseph Smith. He was a doctor and had the Nauvoo Expositor. He never moved from Nauvoo. Mary Fielding Smith and Leonora Taylor went and talked to him and said "I will give you until midnight before I will let the women of this city loose on you and they will waste you." He left town at that point.

Whenever there is a spiritual high there is always persecution that follows. May 6th - Lilburn W. Boggs is shot. Next time we will focus on Joseph Smith being kidnapped