

**HOUSE OF THE LORD: HISTORICAL AND  
DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH OF THE SALT LAKE  
TEMPLE FROM APRIL 6, 1853 TO APRIL 6,  
1893 : COMPLETE GUIDE TO INTERIOR, AND  
EXPLANATORY NOTES: OTHER TEMPLES OF  
THE SAINTS: ALSO THE DEDICATORY PRAYER**

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House of the Lord: Historical and Descriptive Sketch of the Salt Lake Temple from April 6, 1853 to April 6, 1893 : Complete Guide to Interior, and Explanatory Notes: Other Temples of the Saints: Also the Dedicatory Prayer by Various

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# VARIOUS

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HOUSE OF THE LORD

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Historical and Descriptive Sketch

... OF THE ...

# Salt Lake Temple

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Temples of the Saints.

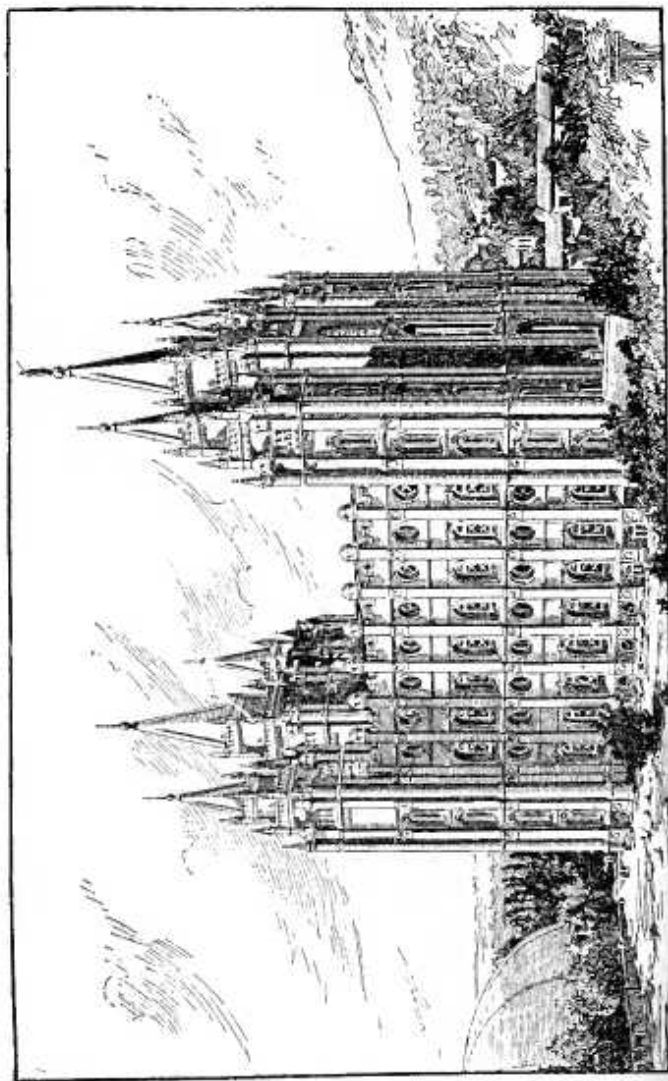
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*Also the Dedicatory Prayer.*

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THE SALT LAKE TEMPLE.

# HISTORICAL SKETCH

## AND DEDICATORY PRAYER OF THE SALT LAKE TEMPLE.

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Corner stone laid April 6th, 1853, by President Brigham Young assisted by his counselors, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards.

Dedicated April 6th 1893 by President Wilford Woodruff assisted by his counselors, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith.

Such is the history of the Salt Lake Temple, briefly told in a beautiful art window of one of its upper rooms, the two inscriptions flanking a large center-piece devoted to an accurate representation of the splendid structure, over whose spires, and extending out beyond, appears the motto "Holiness to the Lord."

When Zion is filled with Temples—when, instead of four, her borders may include a hundred, perhaps the succinct record we have quoted will be enough to satisfy the inquiring mind. Not so, however, in this great year of grace, 1893. The reader would fain linger over the sacred theme; for at this writing, April 5th, there are in these mountains but three of these holy edifices dedicated unto the Lord and in operation among His people: the Temple at St. George, begun in November, 1871, and dedicated January 1st, 1877; at Logan, begun in 1877, (the ground being dedicated May 18th, and the corner-stones being laid September 17th, President Young having died in the interim) and dedicated May 17th, 1884; and at Manti, begun April 24th, 1877, by the dedication of the ground, the corner-stones being laid April 14th, 1879, and dedicated May 21st, 1888.

The purposes of this narrative require no extended reference to the Temples at Kirtland and Nauvoo, which were completed, nor to the preparations for like structures at Inde-

pendence and Far West. Still, the historical part of the sketch would not be complete without a reminder of them. The Temple at Kirtland, Ohio, which "stood upon a hill and was the most conspicuous object visible for miles," was projected in 1833, and dedicated March 27th, 1836. Its cost was between sixty and seventy thousand dollars. It had occupied only three years in construction, though part of the interior at the time of the dedication was in an unfinished state. The corner-stones of the Temple at Nauvoo were laid and dedicated April 6th, 1841. It was reared amid the direst suffering and hardships of the people, yet its progress was characterized by their most willing toil. Parting services were held in the all but completed building in February, 1846, and it was privately dedicated the following April, after the expulsion. The foundations of a Temple at Far West were laid on the 4th of July, 1838, and less than a year afterward, before daybreak on April 26th, 1839, the Apostles met on the Temple grounds ordained Wilford Woodruff, who is now the President of the Church, and George A. Smith to the Apostleship. The Temple site at Independence, which was secured in obedience to a command of God, was dedicated August 1, 1831, "by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jr., and others with whom the Lord was well pleased."

This much to refresh the minds of the people who have come up from far and near to attend and take part in the dedication of this Temple at Salt Lake City, this most splendid of all similar structures, this prophetically foretold House of the Lord which should be reared in the tops of the mountains, and which now, thanks to the devotion, industry and generosity of the Saints and the preserving care of the Lord of hosts, rears its towers majestically into heaven's blue from the chief city of Zion. To it, during the generation of time that has been consumed in its erection, the eyes of the Latter-day Saints in every land have been turned with loving solicitude. It has been the object of their fondest hopes and desires, the stout anchor of their faith, the incentive to their most resolute endeavors. In moments of darkness and adversity the thought of it and its divine purposes served



ever as a buoy to the drooping spirit. When busy and unscrupulous foes sought provocation against the Saints and in their mocking joy vowed the destruction of the elect, still were the latter undismayed, and the work on their beloved Temple went on. When destroying insects with threatened famine in their train came down from the clouds and covered the land as with a blight, the people's scanty rations were parcelled out with additional care, so that those who labored on the building, either in quarry or on walls, might not have to interrupt their work. So it has gone on during forty years—marking their gladness in prosperity, sanctified by their faith in adversity—but ever and always drawing nearer and nearer the occasion on whose threshold we stand today! Does it not typify in its construction the record of the Church whose members have built it—with its foundation broad and deep, with slow yet steady step marching forward and upward to perfection, with pinnacles pushing ever higher, crowned with the image of one who brought tidings of great joy, the everlasting gospel, to preach to them that dwell upon the earth? Does it not in its various stages represent the condition and circumstances of those whose means and toil have builded it? Its history fully told would be in great measure their history; and since they came to these mountains there are but few pages that cannot be read in the enduring stone of its walls. Looking upon it as another mighty link that shall connect them with the ages that are past and the eternities that are to come, what wonder that in the breasts of the Latter-day Saints the sight, the name, the thought even, of the glorious building arouses a flood of indescribable emotions! In view of all that is past can one wonder that they have awaited with glad anticipation the message that now goes forth: "The House of the Lord in the chief city of Zion is complete, and is now to be dedicated to our God; come, ye faithful, and be partakers of the blessings to be given therein!"

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Let us glance back forty years, to that 6th of April, 1853, the twenty-third anniversary of the Church, when the corner-

stones of the Temple were laid. Or rather let us go back six years further, to that blazing day in July, 1847, when the weary feet of the pioneers first pressed the soil of the Salt Lake Valley. In passing note these coincidences. Brigham Young lay sick of a fever, but he was tenderly transported down the hillside in Wilford Woodruff's carriage.

Two days later a party essayed to climb the hills to the



PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG.

northward, and Brigham Young rode a horse to the top of Ensign Peak, being preceded by Wilford Woodruff on foot. Two days more elapse, and on the evening of the 28th Brigham Young, walking upon what we now know as the Temple Block, strikes the ground with his cane, exclaiming, "Here will be the Temple of our God;" and Wilford Woodruff forthwith drives a stake into the ground at the spot designated,

which is, indeed, the center of the Temple today. April 6th, 1853, arrives, and Brigham Young, assisted by his Counselors, presides at the laying of the corner-stones; thirty-nine years later Wilford Woodruff lays the capstone of the building, and one year afterwards, assisted by his Counselors, dedicates the building unto the Lord. Surely there has been more than human design in the connection of our venerable President with the work now at its consummation!

Deserving of detailed description as is the scene that was witnessed that lovely April day forty years ago, we are permitted to dwell upon it but lightly as we pass. It is a rare,



THE QUARRY, LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON.

sweet story but it has been many times told. "The sun, the sky, the atmosphere, the earth," writes one who was present, "appeared neither too cold nor too hot nor lukewarm; all seemed filled with life; adapted to each soul, to cheer and make happy every individual of the many thousands of aged, middle-aged and youth, who had assembled from the near and remote parts of the inhabited valley." There was music in plenty from the three bands in attendance; there were flags and banners, military companies and guards; Presidency and Patriarchs, Apostles and Seventies, Bishops and Elders,