

THE ENDOWMENT OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH ON JANUARY 21, 1836

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDINANCE OF WASHING AND ANOINTING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS ERA
MARKED THE BEGINNING OF TEMPLE ORDINANCES FOR THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULNESS OF TIMES

THIS TRANSCRIPTION DIRECTLY FROM THE PROPHET'S PERSONAL DIARY SHOWS THAT
THE ACCOUNT IN *THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH* IS FAITHFUL TO THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS

Thursday, 21. . . . At about 3, o'clock P.M I dismissed the School and the presidency; retired to the loft of the printing office, where we attended to the ordinance of washing our bodies in pure water, we also perfumed our bodies and our heads, in the name of the Lord at early candlelight, I meet with the presidency, at the west school room in the Chapel to attend to the ordinance of anointing our heads with holy oil— also the councils of Zion Kirtland and Zion, meet in the two adjoining rooms, who waited in prayer while we attended to the ordinance,— I took the oil in my <left> ~~right~~ hand, father Smith being seated before me and the rest of the presidency encircled him round about,— we then stretched our right hands to heaven and blessed the oil and consecrated it in the name of Jesus Christ— we then laid our hands on, our aged fath[er] Smith, and invoked, the blessings of heaven,— I then anointed his head with the consecrated oil, and sealed many blessings upon ~~his~~ <him,> ~~head~~; the presidency then in turn, laid their hands upon his head, beginning at the eldest, untill they had all laid their hands on him, and pronounced such blessings, upon his head as the Lord put into their hearts— all blessing him to be our patraark [patriarch], ~~and~~ <to> anoint our [p. 135] heads, and attend to all duties that pertain to ~~this~~ <that> office.— I then took the seat, and father anoint[ed] my head, and sealed upon me, the blessings, of Moses, to lead Israel in the latter days, even as moses led ~~them~~ <him> in days of old,— also the blessings of Abraham

Isaac and Jacob,— all of the presidency laid their hands upon me and pronounced upon my head many prophesies, and blessings, many of which I shall not notice at this time, but as Paul said, so say I, let us come to vissions and revelations, ~~the~~—

[Note: Here commences the first part of the Vision the Prophet Joseph received on this occasion which corresponds to LDS D&C 137 (not in the CC D&C, but this part is reproduced in *The History of the Reorganized Church*).]

The heavens were opened upon us and I beheld the celestial kingdom of God, and the glory thereof, whether in the body or out I cannot tell,— I saw the transcendant beauty of the gate ~~that enters~~, through which the heirs of that king dom will enter, which was like unto circling flames of fire, also the blasing throne of God, whereon was seated the Father and the Son,— I saw the beautiful streets of that kingdom, which had the appearance of being paved with gold— I saw father Adam, and Abraham and Michael and my father and mother, my brother Alvin [Smith] that has long since slept, and marvled how it was that he had obtained ~~this~~ an inheritance <in> ~~this~~ <that> kingdom, seeing that he had departed this life, before the Lord <had> set his hand to gather Israel <the second time> and had not been baptized for the remission of sins— Thus ~~said~~ came the voice <of the Lord un>to me saying all who have [p. 136] died with[out] a knowledge of this

gospel, who would have received it, if they had been permitted to tarry, shall be heirs of the celestial kingdom of God— also all that shall die henseforth, with<out> a knowledge of it, who would have received it, with all their hearts, shall be heirs of that kingdom, for I the Lord <will> judge all men according to their works according to the desires of their hearts— and ~~again~~ ~~I also beheld the Terrestrial kingdom~~ I also beheld that all children who die before they arive to the years of accountability, are saved in the celestial kingdom of heaven—

[Note: The *History of the Church* continues the vision in detail not included in LDS D&C 137:]

I saw the 12, apostles of the Lamb, who are now upon the earth who hold the keys of this last ministry, in foreign lands, standing together in a circle much fatigued, with their clothes tattered and feet swollen, with their eyes cast downward, and Jesus <standing> in their midst, and they did not behold him, ~~he~~ the Saviour looked upon them and wept— I also beheld Elder McLellen [William E. McLellan] in the south, standing upon a hill surrounded with a vast multitude, preaching to them, and a lame man standing before him, supported by his crutches, he threw them down at his word, and leaped as an hart [hart] by the mighty power of God
Also Eldr Brigham Young standing in a strange land, in the far southwest, in a desert place, upon a rock in the midst of about a dozen men of colour, who,

appeared hostile [p. 137] He was preaching to them in their own tongue, and the angel of God standing above his head with a drawn sword in his hand protecting him, but he did not see it,— *and I finally saw the 12, in the celestial kingdom of God,*— I also beheld the redemption of Zion, and many things which the tongue of man, cannot describe in full,— Many of my brethren who received this ordinance with me, saw glorious visions also,— angels ministered unto them, as well as my self, and the power of the highest rested upon, us the house was filled with the glory of God, and we shouted Hosannah to ~~the~~ God and the Lamb I am mistaken, concerning my receiving the holy anointing first after father Smith, we received ~~<it>~~ in turn according to our age, (that is the presidency,)

My Scribe also received his anointing ~~<with us>~~ and saw in a vision the armies of heaven protecting the Saints in their return to Zion— ~~&~~ many things that I saw>

The Bishop of Kirtland with his counsellors and the Bishop of Zion with his counsellors, were present with us, and received their, anointing under the hands of father Smith and confirmed by the presidency and the glories of heaven was unfolded to them also—

We then invited the counsellors of Kirtland and Zion ~~and Kirtland~~ into our room, and President Hyrum [p. 138] Smith anointed the head of the president of the counsellors in Kirtland and President D[avid] Whitmer the head of the president, of the counsellors of Zion—

The president of each quorum then anointed the heads of his colleagues, each in his turn beginning, at the eldest

The vision of heaven ~~were~~ ~~<was>~~ opened to these also, some of them saw the face of the Saviour, and others were ministered unto by holy angels, and the spirit of propesey and revelation was poured out in mighty power, and loud hosannahs and glory to God in the highest, saluted the heavens

for we all communed with the h[e]avenly host's,— and I saw in my vision all of the presidency in the Celestial Kingdom of God, and, many others who were present

Our meeting was opened by singing and prayer offered up by the head of each quorum, and closed by singing and invoking the benediction of heaven with uplifted hands, and retired between one and 2, o'clock in the morning [p. 139]

[*History of the Church*, 2: 379–81 (italics added); *History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*, 2:16–17, selectively quoted and omits the part of the vision regarding the Twelve.]

**“AND I FINALLY SAW THE TWELVE
IN THE CELESTIAL KINGDOM OF
GOD”—APOSTLE HEBER C.
KIMBALL’S EXPLANATION OF THIS
PROFOUND SENTENCE IN
JOSEPH SMITH’S DIARY**

“During this time [when the Endowment ordinances first commenced in January 1836 in the Kirtland Temple] many great and marvelous visions were seen, one of which I will mention which Joseph the Prophet had concerning the Twelve. His anxiety was and had been very great for their welfare, when the following vision was manifested to him, as near as I can recollect:

“He saw the Twelve going forth, and they appeared to be in a far distant land. After some time they unexpectedly met together, apparently in great tribulation, their clothes all ragged, and their knees and feet sore. They formed into a circle, and all stood with their eyes fixed upon the ground. The Savior appeared and stood in their midst and wept over them, and wanted to show Himself to them, but they did not discover Him. He (Joseph) saw until they had accomplished their work,

and arrived at the gate of the celestial city; there Father Adam stood and opened the gate to them, and as they entered he embraced them one by one and kissed them. He then led them to the throne of God, and then the Savior embraced each one of them and kissed them, and crowned each one of them in the presence of God. He saw that they all had beautiful heads of hair and all looked alike. The impression this vision left on Brother Joseph’s mind was of so acute a nature, that he never could refrain from weeping while rehearsing it.

“. . . [Following the Endowment of the Solemn Assembly of 28–29 and 29–30 March 1836] [spiritual manifestations] continued several days and was attended by a marvelous spirit of prophecy. Every man’s mouth was full of prophesying, and for a number of days or weeks our time was spent in visiting from house to house, administering bread and wine, and pronouncing blessings upon each other to that degree, that from the external appearances one would have supposed that the last days had truly come, in which the Spirit of the Lord was poured out upon all flesh, as far as the Church was concerned, for the sons and daughters of Zion were full of prophesying. In this prophesying great blessings were pronounced upon the faithful.”

Orson F. Whitney, *Life of Heber C. Kimball* (1945), 93–94.

“This brings to my mind the vision that Joseph Smith had, when he saw Adam open the gate of the Celestial City and admit the people one by one. He then saw Father Adam conduct them to the throne one by one, when they were crowned Kings and Priests of God.”

Heber C. Kimball, Address, 17 Mar. 1861, *Journal of Discourses*, 9:41.

— Andrew F. Ehat