TEMPLES: THEIR ORIGIN AND SYMBOLISM

I. In the Beginning.

The Temple Rites were revealed by God to the earliest parents of our race even Adam and Eve. From there these rites spread to other civilizations by diffusion and from usurpation as we learn from Abraham that Pharaoh sought, "earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first patriarchal reign, even in the reign of Adam...Notwithstanding the Pharaohs would fain claim it (i.e. the Priesthood) from Noah, through Ham." (Abr. 1:26-27).

Common patterns of temple rites are found in all ancient religions, these recognizable elements of temple remnants may be found in almost any land and and time.

A. The Temple and the Creation

Every Temple represents in some way or another the creation. Anciently in the temples of the near east the creation story was read or enacted in a temple drama.

The oldest written record in existence today is a text called the Shabbaka Stone. This egyptian text came from the time of Menes, at the temple of Ptah at Memphis. The beginning of the text speaks of the creation as does our book of Moses, in that the creation came about by the power of God's word. Following the creation is the war between the two brothers as to who would rule the world after the creation. The text is a temple drama and written in drama form with complete stage instructions, "so and so says"..."and enters from the left".

When the creation motif is mentioned or refered to in the scriptures look for temple elements, they cannot be seperated. We have in our scriptures three accounts of the creation, Genesis, Moses, and Abraham. The Books of Moses and Abraham are records of their endowments of which the creation plays a major role.

1. The Abyss

The temple is associated with the waters of life which flow from a spring within the building itself--or rathers the temple is viewed as incorporating within itself such a spring or as having been built upon the spring. The reason that such springs exist in temples is that they were perceived as the primeval waters of creation, Nun in Egypt, Abzu in Mesopotamia, Tehom in Israel. The temple is thus founded upon and stands in contact with the waters of creation. These waters carry the dual symbolism of the chaotic waters that were organized during the creation, and of the life giving, and saving nature of the waters of life.

2. The Primordial Hillock

This is the hill or ground that first appeared as the waters began to receed and the dry land appear. It was here that the God stood to finish the rest of creation. It became his professions, the place where God first touched the creation and thus became the most sacred point on earth.

In Egypt all temples represented this Cosmic Mountain. The pyramid became the symbol of this hill and the sacred place to bury their dead in order to assure a resurrection. It was here life began in the primardial primedal time and consequently this is the place for life to be renewed.

II. The Temple and the Altar

As the waters of the creation receeded and dry land appeared The primordial mound became the place where God communicated to the rest of his creations. The mound became the Altar the closest place and point were God would be. This altar became a focal point and the most sacred place of ancient religions. The hr'el the "Mountain of God"

As the waters receded, a sanctuary was built around the altar withis became the Holy of Holies, then a "Holy place" was established and enshrined. The temple became a sanctuary to create sacred space in a profane world wherein the Altar rested.

A. Altars

There was no settlement in the ancient world without an

altar, this included even nomadic societies. The altar was the sacred place where man communed with god the it was here that a man this sacrifice to be accepted by the divine powers. It was at the altar that man and God would covenant with each other.

There is a Jewish tradition that the Jews of the world pray toward Israel, those in Israel pray toward Jerusalem, those in Jerusalem pray toward the temple. From there their prayers go directly to the altar and then ascend toward the heavens. The closest point to God that man can pray is at, or around the the altar. The altar represented the celestial realm which in turn is the "Throne of God" (i.e. His Presence).

1. Altars Preceded the Temple

It is evedent from the Old Testament that altars preceded the Temple. There were no sanctuaries before the Law of Moses only Altars.

a. Covenants

All covenants, bonds, and oaths with God are made at the altar. It is here that the Gods, angels, and man meet together to make their covenants with each other. Once a year the High Priest in ancient Israel went into the Holy of Holies, this was on the Day of Atonement. There he made a covenant with God to be obedient to the commandments, in return for forgiveness. In doing this we are told, he represented all of Israel as if they were at the Altar, and Making Some covenant

b. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob

It was at the Altar that Adam offerings unto the Lord and was "obedient to the commandments". Here he covenanted that all that he would do would be in the "name of the Son" and that he would "repent and call upon God in the name of the Son forevermore." (Moses 5:5-7).

Noah received the covenant from the Lord at the altar he built upon leaving the Ark. The Lord promised the same blessings that he blessed Adam in the Garden of Eden before the fall.

The Book of Abraham begins with him upon the altar and from there rescued by the "angel of the Lord" where he then views the creative process and the heavens. Jewish traditions from the Zohar state that the three

altars Abraham built upon entering the land of Canaan were for the purpose of aproaching God. At the first he received his new name, (Abram to Abraham). At the second he received the Spirit, and at the third, in the words of the Zohar, he received his "Endowment".

At the Altar on Mount Moriah—the site of the future temple—Abraham proves his faithfulness in living the Law of Obedience by offering his son as a sacrifice. The Lord then renews the covenant of posterity and Priesthood. (Abr. 2:6-11; Gen. 15-17;22).

It is at the site of the ancient altar of Bethel that Jacob receives his name change from the Lord. Now known as Israel the Lord makes with him the same covenants that he made with his father and grandfather before him, that of priesthood, posterity, and land (Gen. 35.). Jacob named the place of the altar and covenant "Bethel" or the "House of God".

2. The Priesthood and the Altar

To officiate at the altar one must have the Priesthood. Likewise the priesthood is necessary for one to receive the blessings and covenants that are made at the altar.

All Priesthoods have their oaths and covenants, and obedience is required to progress from one station to another. "For whose is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken and the magnifying their calling...they become the sons of Moses and of Aaron and the seed of Abraham...And this is according to the oath and covenant which belongeth to the priesthood." (D&C 84:33-40).

a. Melchizedek

Before the time of Moses all covenants between man and God were made at the altar and under the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood. This "greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the Mysteries of the kingdom, even key of the knowledge of God. Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest. And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh; For without this no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live." (D&C 84:19-22). Jacob describes the event of his wrestle--or it may be translated embrace with the angel, the reception of his new name and the covenant of Abraham, by stating that he has passed through the vail. He has seen the

face of God and lived, and then names the place Peniel or "face of God" (Gen. 32).

The Melchizedek Priesthood is necessary to participate in the ordinances of the fullness of the priesthood, i.e. the "endowment." To have this priesthood is "to have the privilege of receiving the mysteries (ordinances) of the kingdom of heaven, to have the heavens opened unto them...and to enjoy the communion and presence of God the Father, and Jesus the mediator of the new covenant." (D&C 107:19). It is by virtue of this priesthood that we symbolically pass through the vail and into the presence of God.

b. Aaronic

Moses "plainly taught to the children of Israel" that the Melchizedek priesthood was necessary to pass through the vail and enter into the presence of and "behold the face of God" (D&C 84:23).

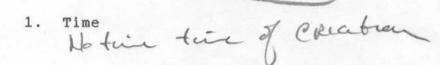
B. Temples

- 1. The Tabernacle
 - a. Design
 - (1) Floor Plan
 - (2) Materials
 - b. Ritual Objects
 - (1) Altar
 - (2) Menorah
 - (3) Table of Shew Bread
 - (4) Altar of Incense
 - (5) The Ark of the Covenant
- 2. The Temple of Solomon
 - a. Design "Tripartite"
 - (1) Floor plan
 - (2) Materials

- (3) Symbolism
- b. Ritual Objects
 - (1) (same as the Tabernacle)
 - (2) The Brazen Sea
- 3. The Temple of Ezekiel
 - The Temple Scroll
- The Temple and the Presence of God

Temple

A. The Perfect "Hierocentric Point"



2. space (Tem Cor. LATin. Right angles. the place where 4 segions

Humanity

B. A Point of Contact

3 temples. Built exactly over each other. Representing the "Pole of Heavers" a point ,, oround which all Revolves "what is boundonearth ...

The World of the Gods

2. The World of the Living

The World of the Dead

IV. Symbolism of the Temple are always a repetition of those events that marked the beginning of to world. I founding of a sceneturary councils with the creation itself

The Creation

Mend reals B. The Garden

Angular State "No time!"

During Preserved!

C. The Tree of Life

At the center of world. I becomes

the "Axis omneli" alway on the

Hoty Montion & Reaches into heaven

to connect heave & EARTH. Center of gorden

D. The Fall of Man

Pupelind

E. The Redemption of Man

Mum. Bille

F. The "Axis Mundi"

Emphan. I may being hope

V. The Temple as the Source of Civilization

Roligion unifigo mancomo together one for all

TEMPLES: THE ORIGIN AND SYMBOLISM

Myth--"The true Story"

- A. Models for human behavior.
- B. Narrates a sacred history.
- II. Structure and function of Myths
 - History of the Acts of the Gods
 - B. History is "real and sacred" (the work of the Gods)
 - C. Always related to Creation
 - D. Knowledge of Myth is Power
 - E. Re-enacting the Myth (religious life)

In the Beginning. Elade "creating (world place for creation

A. The Temple and the Creation Mos

- 1. The Abyss

- 2. The Primordial Hillock

- The Temple and the Presence of God
 - B. The Perfect "Hierocentric Point"
 - 1. Time
 - 2. Space
 - 3. Humanity
 - C. A Point of Contact
 - 1. The World of the Gods
 - 2. The World of the Living
 - The World of the Dead 3.
- V. The Temple and the Altar
 - Altars
 - 1. Altars Preceded the Temple

- a. Covenants
- b. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob
- 2. The Priesthood and the Altar
- a. Melchizedek
- b. Aaronic
- E. Temples
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 - b. Ritual Objects
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 - (2) Materials
 - (3) Symbolism
 - b. Ritual Objects
 - (1) (same as the Tabernacle)
 - (2) The Brazen Sea
 - 3. The Temple of Ezekiel
 - a. The Temple Scroll
- VI. Ordinances (Israelite)

- A. Levitical (Priest)
 - 1. Sacrifice
- B. Aaronic (High Priest)
 - 1. Year rites
- VII. Coronation Ceremony (Hocart/Sroka)
- VIII. Symbolism of the Temple
 - A. The Creation
 - B. The Garden
 - C. The Tree of Life
 - D. The Fall of Man
 - E. The Redemption of Man
 - F. The "Axis Mundi"
- IX. The Temple as the Source of Civilization
 - G. Temple Spinoffs
 - 1. Hotel, Hospitals
 - 2. Banking, Stock Exchange
 - 3. Money
 - 4. Fairs
 - 5. Drama, and Plays
 - 6. Poetry
 - 7. Choirs
 - 8. Dancing
 - 9. Athletics, Beauty Contests
 - 10. Astronomy
 - 11. Mathematics
 - 12. Architecture, and Engineering
 - 13. Botanical and Zoological Gardens

- 14. Schools and Universities
- 15. Libraries
- 16. Fine Arts
- 17. Governments
- 18. Law and Judges William Towns and Manager Towns 1981
- 19. Armed Forces
- X. Joseph Smith and Latter-day Temples
 - A. Kirtland Management of the Control of the Contro
 - B. Nauvoo
 - C. Salt Lake

TEMPLE PARADIGM

Gee:

THE DIVINE MUDEL OF THE PLAN OF CREATION, SALVATION AND EXALTATION

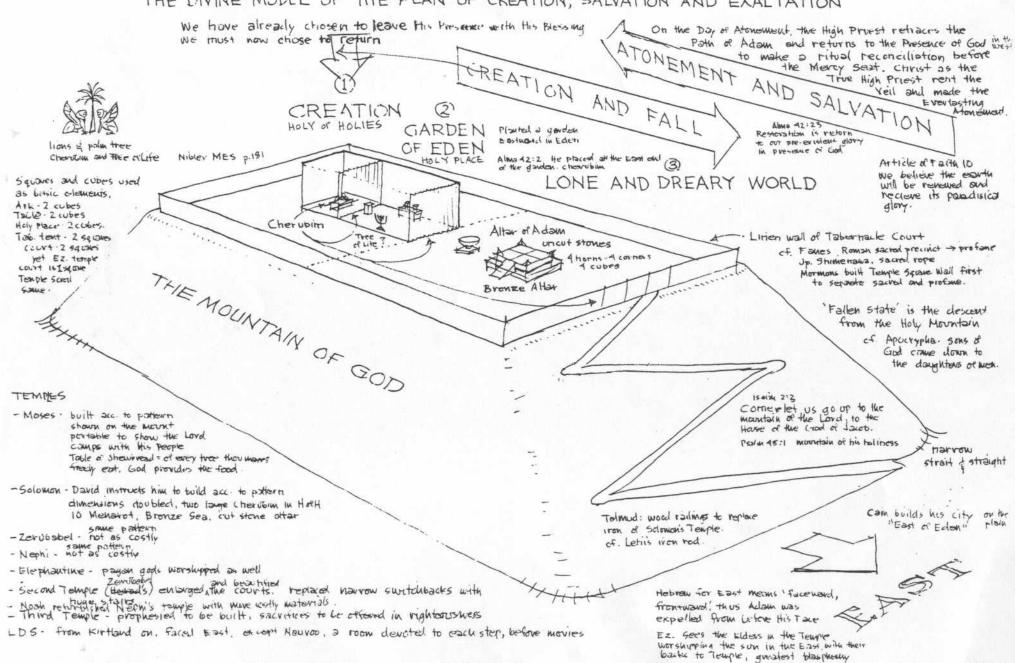


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