



The Need for Temples?

By Andy Poland

As the Gilbert temple is about to begin offering tours during the open house, I could not help myself but to take a look back at my Mormon beliefs about temples, and compare them to my new biblical understanding of temple. As a Mormon, I believed that God, Elohim, dwelt at the temple through his son the Holy Ghost. I had often heard many rumors that Jesus and Elohim would visit temples from time to time in order to make very special appearances to those in the temple. The temple was a place that I considered to be very sacred – a place that required my absolute devotion and reverence. I had no idea how far away my beliefs were from the truths taught in the Bible. One of the first lessons I learned in the Bible about temples is found in the book of Acts, “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands” (Acts 17:24). This thought, so simply stated by Luke, caused me to realize that my belief about God dwelling in the Mormon temples could not be true.

The Jewish temple, as recorded in the Bible, was not even used as Mormons use their temples today. They will say that the reason is that Moses’ tabernacle was based on the Aaronic priesthood and did not contain the higher priesthood of Melchizedek ordinances. Unfortunately for Mormons, that belief does not make sense when you read the book of Hebrews. The sacrifice made by Jesus under his Melchizedek priesthood was exactly the same as the sacrifices made by the Aaronic priests, only Jesus’ sacrifice was with His own blood, and was not offered in the temple here on earth, rather it was made in the true tabernacle in heaven. “But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went

through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption” (Hebrews 9:11-12). Therefore, the Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus required a blood sacrifice just like the Aaronic priesthood was required to make a sacrifice for sins. There were no secret/sacred names and tokens revealed by Jesus to the people as a way to enter heaven – the only requirement was to accept the one sacrifice of Jesus to cover our sins forever.

Hebrews describes this new covenant (Melchizedek) by comparing it with the old covenant (Aaronic). “Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties: again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy” (Hebrews 10:11-14).

Notice that Jesus’ sacrifice made us perfect forever. This is one thing that I never learned within Mormonism – in fact, I was taught the exact opposite! I was told that if I continued to sin after making my sacrifice of repentance, that my former sins would return to me. “And now, verily I say unto you, I, the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; *but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return*, saith the Lord your God” (Doctrine and Covenants 82:7) [italics added]. I was never taught to believe that one sacrifice of Christ would take away all of my sins forever

because every time I fell into sin my former forgiveness was revoked.

A similar problem existed within the Aaronic sacrifices in the law, because the sacrifices made by the High Priest needed to be repeated again and again. “The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who would draw near to worship. Otherwise would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once and for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (Hebrews 10:1-4). But Christ’s sacrifice was permanent for two reasons, first because it only needed to be offered once, and secondarily because Jesus lives forever. “Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself” (Hebrews 7:23-27).

So now I must ask the questions—Why are the Mormons building temples? Are they rejecting the one and only sacrifice of Jesus by making new temples to offer new forms of sacrifices to prove their righteous worth? Such an offering of



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“AMAZING QUOTES” FROM LDS CHURCH LEADERS

“In particular, I caution you not to view filthy images or give your attention to the false accusers of Christ and the Prophet Joseph Smith. Both actions create the same effect: the loss of the Holy Ghost and His protecting, sustaining power”

Elder Adrian Ochoa

Ensign, November, 2013, p. 102

Biblical Response:

The first problem with this quote is the belief that the Holy Ghost leaves you when you sin. The Apostle Paul taught that we should avoid sin because the Holy Ghost dwells within believers. It would be as if we were bringing God into our sin because God has become one with us through the Spirit.

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!...But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:15,17).

The second problem with this quote is that no one needs to believe in Joseph Smith to keep the Holy Ghost within them. Peter correctly taught:

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

A very Merry Christmas! to all of our readers and their families, from Concerned Christians

A Message from the Board

by Gary Keating

Well, we are almost done with 2013. It has been an eventful year for Concerned Christians. Earlier this year in April we hosted our second, very successful, Concerned Christians Convention. Then on June 24, Jim Robertson went home to be with the Lord. As summer approached we decided to streamline our office operation and reduced our paid staff to Andy only, in an effort to be responsible with supporting funds.

We have been re-evaluating our ministry efforts and the LDS changes happening around us. There has been a shift in LDS population from Mesa to the southeast valley including Gilbert, Chandler, and Queen Creek. There is a new LDS Temple opening in January/February 2014 in south Gilbert. We have determined that a relocation of our offices from Broadway in Mesa to a new location, somewhere between the two Temples, will give Concerned Christians closer contact to those seeking our services. It will also cut

down costs of upkeep with our current facility. This will require the sale of our current facilities. We covet your prayers regarding the property sale and our relocation to the Gilbert area.

Now regarding our future ministry projects, Andy has had good success with our radio shows. We plan to provide more of these for broadcast/podcast. They have been a very effective outreach to Mormons who are searching. Our internet activities will also be increased during 2014. And of course, we are working hard to increase public speaking opportunities in churches, classes, small groups, Christian colleges and Christian schools.

Our biggest goal now is doing effective ministry while relocating. Thank you all for your encouraging comments and financial support. If you have any special thoughts for improving the ministry or know some group that needs a speaker, please contact Andy Poland (480) 833-2537. †

The Need for Temples?

Continued from page one

personal righteousness prevents someone from knowing the righteousness that comes from God. “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Romans 10-1-3) [italics added]. Their righteous acts have become the method by which they enter heaven rather than relying on God’s sacrifice alone, turning

their righteous deeds into an idolatrous worship of themselves. “What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people’” (2 Corinthians 6:16). “And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary” (Hebrews 10:18). It is the sincere hope and mission of Concerned Christians that Latter-day Saints come to the knowledge that their sacrifices are keeping them from knowing the forgiveness found in Jesus. †

History of Concerned Christians

(Part One) By Judy Robertson

God works in amazing ways. After Jim and I found that the Mormon church was not “the only true church” and that all we needed was Jesus alone for salvation, our lives were turned upside down, in a good way. Since this account is written in detail in *Out of Mormonism* beginning on page 111, this article will hit the high spots only.

We had found a Christian Church that proclaims the truth about Jesus and accepted the Bible as the infallible Word of God. After becoming involved in Bible studies we were asked to answer some questions about our experience as Mormons. “An epidemic of curiosity infected our Sunday school class...Most had a gut feeling there was something wrong with the LDS Church, but they didn’t know what it was. After all, it was so enticing: the clean, well-manicured lawns, the wholesome family image” (Out of Mormonism pg. 113). This led to appointments with those who had family members or friends who had joined the LDS religion. And as time went on, we became more involved with answering questions and helping others through the maze of Mormonism. At the same time we continued our research into Mormon teachings comparing these with the Bible. Writing became my way of checking it all out.

Because of the interest, eight of us met at our neighbor’s home with our pastor, Charles Cook and Minister of Christian Education, John Hendee. We prayed and asked God’s direction for what we began to see was a great need in the body of Christ. We met weekly to pray and formulate our goals and strategy. We named our group Concerned Christians, identifying as our primary concern the issue of the effect of Mormonism on the body of Christ. Our two-fold purpose evolved: Teach the Christian community through literature and public forums, and inform Mormons about the differences between Mormonism and historical Christianity. We outlined a book and began research.

Another need that we hadn’t yet identified became clear as we met other Ex-LDS, invited them into our home, and we would talk into the night. Getting to know others who had gone through the same things we had, lifted burdens. We were no longer alone. We decided to invite others to join us. We even took out an ad in the local paper inviting those of similar background. We were shocked at the many who wrote in response and dared to come to a meeting at our home.

More and more hurting people attended. We shared experiences and opened God’s Word, working through various LDS doctrines, replacing them with truth. Often we heard, “No one ever told me before how much Jesus loves me.”

Missionary Supporters

Needed !!! (for housing)



Can you provide temporary housing for traveling missionaries? The need is for Jan. 18—Feb. 15 during witnessing at the new Gilbert LDS Temple open house!

**Can you help?
Please call us
today!**



Concerned Christians

(480) 833-2537

I remember those times as heart-warming with a camaraderie unlike any I’d known before. We were like AA is to the alcoholic. We agreed to meet every Thursday night and looked forward to the next week. We had refreshments in our kitchen and the meeting grew.

We guided those who came into Bible-based, Christ-centered churches. No particular denomination was pushed. We searched out fellowships for them in the area where they lived, calling on pastors to introduce them, draw them in, and nurture them.

“God directed to our meetings those who were bruised and battered by the false teachings of Mormonism. He allowed us to open floodgates of emotion in innumerable hurting individuals and to apply the ointment of God’s Word to their wounds, allowing them to accept the love Jesus offers” (Out of Mormonism, pg. 120).

We met in other homes until our living rooms could no longer hold all of us and we looked for another place to meet. For a while we met in the conference room of the Jesus Chapel Bookstore and other places that met our need for space.

Conferences in Centennial Hall in Mesa launched the ministry in ways we never expected. After showing *The Godmakers* film, the ministry was slammed with vicious words from local newsmen. We definitely were not politically correct. What mattered to us was not public opinion, but the truth from God’s word compared with the deceitful words from Mormon hierarchy.

Letters to the editor poured in. Some gave us a sigh of relief and others an “ouch” of stinging words. It was like a game of ping pong, one day positive letters, the next day negative. The back and forth gave us a strong indication of the pulse of the community’s knowledge and feelings about Mormonism.

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Letters—From the Mailbag

FROM FAYETTEVILLE, AR: Please accept this check in the memory of Jim Robertson and use it in whatever way you wish to the furtherance of your ministry. May the LORD continue to bless you.

FROM the UK: Thank you for sending the extra information on Mormonism. It is all very interesting and very scary! I knew they were outside mainstream Christianity, but I didn't realize how much so. I would like to send a donation but I don't know exactly what the exchange rate is. Or I will try to send a Money Gram soon.

FROM GILBERT, AZ: Thank you for all the wonderful Godly resources you provide. God has used you and this ministry to teach us the truth about Mormonism. We have had meaningful conversations with Mormon friends, missionaries, and another ex-LDS member. We are so thankful for the work you do for His glory!

FROM LANCASTER, CA: God bless you all and your wonderful ministry. I enjoy reading the newsletters and have used my older copy of Judy's book to minister to my workmates who are looking for answers. My sister lives in the Phoenix area and had been a Mormon for many years. She was sealed with her first husband and is now divorced. She is about to remarry another Mormon. Please pray for her. Thank you so much.

HISTORY OF CONCERNED CHRISTIANS / PART I CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

It was obvious the community lacked knowledge of the under-cover doctrines of Mormonism. We participated in the Capstone Conference in Salt Lake City. How good it was to be a part of such a large group of like-minded people from across the country with similar experiences as ex-Mormon Christians. We heard gifted speakers and shared literature with one another.

By this time, our Witness to Mormons, was published as a result of an anonymous benefactor. It became the bread and butter of our existence as a ministry. "I thank God every day for bringing your book, Witness to Mormons, into my life. I know, with no doubt whatsoever, that this volume was the leading cause for my defection from the Latter-day Saints. It is thoughtfully and intelligently written and leaves little room for question...It is easily read and written in an understandable manner...I know of your burden for the souls of those trapped in Mormonism, as well as those potential converts who lack the knowledge to fight the "logic" of Mormon missionaries. Please let me aid in the war for souls..." This is one of countless letters that flooded our office. Many for the first time could see in its three columns the differences between Mormon Doctrine, Mormon scripture, and Biblical Doctrine. It was used as a tool to open the eyes of many. The "yellow book," it was called, is still available today from Concerned Christians. [Part 2 will be continued in the next issue of *The CROSS*].