

“Just as a flood-lighted temple is more beautiful in a severe storm or in a heavy fog, so the gospel of Jesus Christ is more glorious in times of inward storm and of personal sorrow and tormenting conflict”  
~Spencer W. Kimball~



# JORDAN RIVER UTAH TEMPLE



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## An Open House Opened My Heart

As the Jordan River Utah Temple open house is happening, there are many experiences that can be felt. The following experience is shared by Wendy Kenney who attended the original open house in 1981. (October 2009, New Era)

“I was 14 years old when I moved from California to the Salt Lake Valley, and I was more than a little worried about how I was going to fit in with all those Mormons I had heard about. One of the few things I knew about Latter-day Saints was that they didn’t let people from other churches into their temples. That had been a big disappointment to me when my family stopped at Temple Square on our way through Salt Lake City on vacation. My parents had warned me that we wouldn’t be allowed inside the temple, but I thought maybe they had changed the rules. “Sorry. Because the temple is so sacred, only people with a current temple recommend can go inside,” the missionary told me.

A couple of years later the Jordan River Temple was nearing completion, and my LDS friends were excited to have a new



*Jordan River Temple Open House 1981*

temple close by. I didn’t pay much attention to it until a man my father worked with invited our family to the temple open house. I hadn’t realized that during an open house the temple is open to the public and that anyone could go inside. In a way, the rules had changed for me, at least until the temple was dedicated.

From the moment I stepped into the Jordan River Temple, I could tell there was something special about this new building. It was more than the physical beauty of the exterior or the lovely decor inside. Instead, it was the unique work that went on inside that most intrigued me.

### Jordan River Utah Temple Re-dedication Events and Websites:

**March 17 to April 28—Public Open House = Request Open House Tickets at [templeopenhouse.lds.org](http://templeopenhouse.lds.org) Or call 855-537-2000**

**March 19 to May 18—Youth Cultural Celebration rehearsals, weekly activities, and preparations**

**April 18—Youth Outdoor Concert**

**May 12—Youth Temple Walk**

**May 19—Youth Cultural Celebration Performance**

**May 20—Temple Rededication**

**May 22—Temple Open for Ordinances**

**[www.jordanrivertemple.com](http://www.jordanrivertemple.com)**

**[www.jrtready.org](http://www.jrtready.org)**

**[www.templeopenhouse.lds.org](http://www.templeopenhouse.lds.org)**

**[jordanrivertemple](http://jordanrivertemple.com)**

**Instagram: [@jordanrivertemple](https://www.instagram.com/jordanrivertemple)**

**Facebook: [jordanrivertemple](https://www.facebook.com/jordanrivertemple)**

At one point our guide led us into a sealing room and showed us an altar where couples would kneel across from each other to be married for time and all eternity. As I gazed into the mirrors hanging on opposite walls in that room and saw countless images of my face, I

There was one small problem. I didn't belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Fortunately, my LDS friends recognized a "golden opportunity," and began slowly teaching me about the Church. Though it took me a few years to feel comfortable meeting with the missionaries, I eventually overcame my anxiety, took the missionary lessons, and was baptized.

As I look back on the many people and events that led to my conversion, one event stands above the rest—the tour of the Jordan River Temple. That open house opened my mind to the sacred sealing ordinances performed in the temple and opened my heart to the dream of eternal marriage. A few years later when I went to the Salt Lake Temple to be married, I looked again into the endless succession of mirrors and knew my dream had become a reality." We hope that as you attend the current open house that you will see the beauty of the temple and experience for yourself why temples are so important.

Below are pictures of the inside of the Jordan River Utah Temple that will give you a glimpse of what you will envision.



knew in my heart that God intended for marriage to last forever. I was at the age when I was beginning to envision my future as a wife and mother, but I had never even considered that marriage could last longer than "till death do you part." My whole philosophy of marriage changed that day, and I decided then and there that I would marry someone for eternity.



*Entrance Foyer in the Temple*



*Celestial Room in the Temple*

## Why Latter-day Saints Build Temples

There have always been sacred places upon the earth. Maybe even you have a special place that you may go to be alone and ponder about your life, write in your diary, or read a good book. Our Father in Heaven has special places, on the earth, where he can reveal his word and commandments to his children.

The Garden of Eden was surely a sacred place where Adam and Eve dwelt in the presence of the Father and the Son and were able to converse with Them directly. After the Fall and their subsequent expulsion from the Garden, Adam built an altar to worship God and offer sacrifices as they were commanded. Their prayers were heard and their lives blessed.

As Moses approached the burning bush on Mount Sinai, the Lord instructed him to "put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground"—sacred ground where the Lord would instruct Him and offer covenants for His people.

Centuries later, the Savior would lead Peter, James, and John up the Mount of Transfiguration where they would experience marvelous manifestations and receive the keys of the kingdom of heaven. There they were visited by Moses and Elijah and heard the voice of the Father bearing witness that Jesus is His beloved Son.

In the spring of 1820, Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith, in a grove of trees, and began the restoration of the fulness of the gospel upon the earth. When the Church of Jesus Christ was re-established in 1830, the Lord again declared that "my people are always commanded to build [temples] unto my holy name" ([D&C 124:39-40](#)). The Church was barely six years old when the Kirtland, Ohio Temple was built in 1836.

Latter-day Saints are a temple-building and temple-loving people. Today, there are 148 operating temples in countries around the world, with 11 more announced or under construction



*The building still stands today, although it is no longer an operating temple and is not owned by the church*

Regardless of the time in history, a temple of God is the most sacred place of worship on earth—a place where we can learn more about His plan for our happiness, where marvelous blessings are bestowed, and a place where we can feel closer to our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

Today we now have the opportunity to visit our own Jordan River Utah Temple and feel the love of our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ..