



## **The Holy Temple**

*Boyd K. Packer*

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## **The Holy Temple** Boyd K. Packer

This is a comprehensive book about the LDS temple. It examines in appropriate detail the doctrines and practices which surround that holy building, and particularly their implications for the individual Church member.

Part one offers the Lord's invitation: "Come to the temple." It sets forth the requirements for attendance- basically, preparation through worthiness- and the attitude and behavior appropriate for those attending that holy place on the first and all subsequent occasions. Part two deals in brief fashion with the ancient temples then turns to the central human figure in the work of the temple- Elijah the Prophet, who anciently held the keys relative to the sealing power of the priesthood. Malachi's prophecy and the human tradition about Elijah's return in the latter days are impressively set forth.

Elijah's return and all that it means for the happiness and salvation of mankind are the themes of parts three and four. Following early Restoration scenes, here is the Kirtland Temple built at great personal sacrifice. Dedicated, it fulfills a major purpose in the glorious visions of April 3, 1836, the Savior himself introducing three heavenly beings who then convey priesthood keys. One of these is Elijah. Thereafter the revelations progressively develop the doctrine of temple work for both the living and the dead; under divine direction temple ceremonies are introduced and participants eagerly flock to the Nauvoo Temple; through President Wilford Woodruff the supporting work of lineage linking is clarified by revelation; and the spirit of Elijah is manifest both in and out of the Church as genealogical research and temple work blossom, temples multiply, and those beyond the veil assist those involved in the work here.

The endowment with its sacred covenants and its elevating symbolic instruction, the sealing ordinance, and the other temple ceremonies are discussed sensitively and authoritatively.

## **The Holy Temple Details**

Date : Published June 1st 1980 by Bookcraft Pubs (first published 1980)

ISBN : 9780884944119

Author : Boyd K. Packer

Format : Hardcover 274 pages

Genre : Religion, Christianity, Lds, Nonfiction, Church

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## **From Reader Review The Holy Temple for online ebook**

### **Sidney says**

Wow. This book makes me want to be more faithful in my family-history work and temple attendance! Beautiful.

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### **Abby says**

I read this book to come to know more about the temple since I live far from a temple. Some of the book was an introduction into what to expect when going to the temple. This was good for someone just getting aquatinted with it. I loved the stories about family history work and the blessings that come when engaged in the work. I loved that even though this book was written almost 30 years ago, the principles of truth are the same today.

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### **Richard Downey says**

I've read it a couple of times, but reading it this time through the eyes of a temple worker has been a revelation, so to speak.

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### **Brittany Lesueur says**

I had a hard time rating this one. It's all good information and well-written obviously. Most of the book I felt was something I've already learned in a Sunday school lesson, but it was all information worth reviewing, and I did have my mind open to some new inspiration. It was a worthy read, but it's not a book I would read over and over again. Would highly recommend to non-LDS who want to know more about our temples.

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### **Jeff Birk says**

Five stars, that's right. Very rare for me to give the highest rating to any book. The importance of the material in this book for me personally isn't possible to state. For anyone starting and/or continuing their journey in the Holy Temples of our Lord, this is a must read. Brother Packer doesn't go too deep but he doesn't stay in the shallows either. From top to bottom this book covers all the of basic (and not so basic) things we must learn and practice as saints when it comes to temple worship. This book opened my eyes to the importance of indexing. There is no temple work to be done unless indexing happens. It's been good to start doing this part of my temple and family history work. I listened to this book to get an initial read of it and will read it again in printed form in order to study, underline and ponder the parts which I need most. His treatment on sealing, ordinances and Elijah were exactly what I needed and plan to revisit.

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**Katie says**

Read this book in college as I was considering a mission, then again later before getting married. Love learning more about symbolism in the temple.

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**Molly says**

I am so grateful for the blessings of the temple! And I cannot wait to go claim those blessings :) 10 days!

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**Teresa says**

I have been meaning to read this book for quite some time. I learned some interesting things about the temple, church history, etc.

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**Andres says**

My favorite part was when it talked about Elijah and Elijah appearing and committing the dispensation of the gospel.

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**Jaclyn says**

I honestly struggle to make it cover-to-cover through church books. I'd rather topic study and move on, but I read this in a couple of days this week as I found myself absorbed in learning all I could about the temple. President Packer is good about citing sources and referring you on to specific scriptures and talks. After finishing the book, I read sections in the Doctrine & Covenants and the entire Pearl of Great Price to help supplement the points he made. The book is definitely worth your time whether you're preparing to go to the temple or been a hundred times.

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**Aaron says**

It feels almost blasphemous, but I'm barely giving this book four stars. It really is meant for people who have not yet gone, or who have only been a few times, to the temple. The book says just about everything you can say on the subject without ever actually talking about the temple ceremonies. The beginning and end of the book are quite repetitive, however, and seem to say the same thing over and over again (e.g., the temple ceremony is sacred, not secret, and we should be anxious to do family history work).

The middle part of the book was good reading, however, and I really enjoyed it.

I learned that it wasn't until Wilford Woodruff that the sealing ceremony was to seal children to parents and parents to children, which was very interesting. I wish Elder Packer had explained more about what was done before this change was made. In *Rough Stone Rolling*, I read that Joseph Smith had all sorts of people sealed to him, but I didn't realize that this practice continued through the leadership of Brigham Young and John Taylor. I was confused, though, by a quote from Joseph Smith that said the point of the sealing ceremony was to link up the generations, parents to children. If Joseph Smith taught that, why was he getting sealed to people who weren't his family members? An explanation of that apparent discrepancy would also have been helpful. After all, Elder Packer devoted several paragraphs to an explanation of how Joseph's statement that temple work was the most important work we can be engaged in does not conflict with his statement that missionary work is the most important. (By the way, the explanation, which I think is really cool, is that it is all the same work: building the Kingdom of God.)

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### **Lydia says**

Really such an excellent book. I have loved taking my time reading this book so I can take a minute to slow down and feel the Spirit as I read. I would definitely recommend this book. I love what I have learned from it!

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### **Eric McLean says**

I would recommend this book to anyone who is planning on going through the temple in the future or anyone who wants to know why we do temple work. The book itself is well written with plenty of anecdotes, stories, and scripture. I did find it a bit on the dull side after about 200 pages, mostly because it became very repetitive, but it is still a very good book about why we have temples. I was really interested in the parts about genealogy and found a lot of really beautiful insights there, but it was also less focused on. This book was a gift from my mission president and his wife for our wedding and I am really glad that we have finished it.

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### **Wendy says**

I started reading this shortly after being called as an ordinance worker. I have read a few short pages before my shift each week which has given me time to ponder its beauty and approach the temple with greater reverence.

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### **Carol says**

The women in my ward (congregation) are reading this book as we look forward to the dedication of a temple here in Indianapolis. It had been a long time since I read it, and I found it very much worth reading again.

One thing that I noticed more this time was the illustrations for each chapter heading. They were done by President (then Elder) Packer himself.

