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New Publications

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By Divine Design

Edited by Brent L. Top and Michael A. Goodman

The prophets of God continually raise their warning voices and lovingly give counsel to strengthen our families and heighten the spirituality of our children. This is a gospel-centered “best practices” book for husbands and wives, fathers and mothers that is founded on prophetic teachings and substantiated by good science. This book will help readers gain new and important insights about our most important responsibilities in time and eternity—our families.

ISBN: 978-0-8425-2850-4; Retail: $27.99
Joseph F. Smith

Reflections on the Man and His Times

Edited by Craig K. Manscill, Brian D. Reeves, Guy L. Dorius, and J. B. Haws

This book is a compilation of presentations from a BYU Church History Symposium. It features more than twenty messages about the life of Joseph F. Smith, including chapters by Elder M. Russell Ballard and Joseph Fielding McConkie. This book highlights aspects of President Smith’s life, including his boyhood and adolescence, his family and personal relationships, his doctrinal contributions, Church government, and initiatives taken during his presidency in education, building construction, building the Laie Hawaii Temple, creation of the seminary program, and public outreach. Elder Ballard, a great-grandson of Joseph F. Smith, describes how the Lord prepared President Smith to lead the Church.


By Our Rites of Worship: Latter-day Saint Views on Ritual in History, Scripture, and Practice

Edited by Daniel L. Belnap

While negative meanings are often attached to the words rite and ritual, these terms simply mean “with correct religious procedure; in the manner required, properly, duly, correctly, rightly, fittingly.” Thus, the term perfectly describes an array of practices within our church, including baptism, the laying on of hands, and temple ordinances. This book explores the relationship between the performance of priesthood ordinances (or rituals) and the power of godliness that is mentioned in Doctrine and Covenants 84. The book covers rituals in both the ancient and modern world.

Upcoming Events

2014 BYU Religious Education Student Symposium
The student symposium, sponsored and hosted by BYU’s Religious Education, provides a forum for students to research, write, and present papers about religious subjects from a faithful perspective. The next symposium will be held Friday, February 21, 2014, in the Wilkinson Center. The deadline for students to submit papers is November 25, 2013. For details, visit rsc.byu.edu.

BYU Church History Symposium
BYU’s Department of Church History and Doctrine and the BYU Religious Studies Center will join with the LDS Church History Department to sponsor the BYU Church History Symposium, Thursday and Friday, March 6–7, 2014. This year’s theme is The Global Church. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, of the First Presidency, will be the keynote speaker at 9 A.M. Friday morning, March 7, at the LDS Conference Center theater in Salt Lake City. Terryl L. Givens will present the keynote address at BYU campus the day before. For details, visit rsc.byu.edu.

BYU Easter Conference
The 2014 BYU Easter Conference is slated for April 11, 2014. Each year, a General Authority emeritus or former Church leader is invited to give the keynote address. Additional speakers include teachers, educators, scholars, authors, speakers, historians, and experts on the life of Christ. Each talks about the Savior, his life, his mission, the Atonement, and his influence in our lives today. For details, visit rsc.byu.edu.

These events are free of charge, and registration is not required. Some event details are subject to change. For more details, please visit us online at rsc.byu.edu/conferences or contact Brent Nordgren at 801-422-3293.
Staff Spotlight

Publications Director
Thomas A. Wayment is a professor of ancient scripture at BYU. He joined the faculty in June of 2000 after completing a PhD in New Testament studies at the Claremont Graduate School. His research interests include the early manuscript tradition of Christian texts, the Christian Apocrypha, the life of Paul and early Latter-day Saint history up to the Nauvoo period. Currently he is working on a history of Christians in Oxyrhynchus in Egypt with Lincoln H. Blumell (assistant professor, BYU). He and his wife, Brandi, are the parents of two daughters, Shelby and Cate, and they live in Mapleton, Utah.

Student Design Intern
Emily Maurer is an undergraduate from Salem, Oregon, studying neuroscience, with a minor in visual arts. She loves problem solving and creative expression and enjoys both in the design work she does for the RSC. In addition to her work at the RSC, Emily is the designer for the BYU undergraduate journal of neuroscience, Chiasm. At home she enjoys collaborating on art and design projects with her husband, Austin; inventing new recipes with anything she finds in the kitchen; and spending time with her new baby, Finn.

Student Editing Intern
Rachel Ishoy is a junior from Carrollton, Georgia. She is the oldest of five children. Rachel is studying interdisciplinary humanities with an emphasis in English, and she is minoring in editing and music. She began working at the Religious Studies Center in August of 2013. Rachel one day hopes to pursue a career in editing and wants to work as a managing editor at a publishing company. She enjoys editing because it allows her to help others improve their writing, and it permits her to learn new things through reading so much. Her interests include playing the violin, cooking, running, watching movies, and going country swing dancing.
Submission Guidelines

The *Religious Educator* serves the needs and interests of those who study and teach the restored gospel of Jesus Christ on a regular basis. The distinct focuses are on teaching the gospel; publishing studies on scripture, doctrine, and Church history; and sharing outstanding devotional essays. The beliefs of the respective authors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Complete author guidelines are provided at rsc.byu.edu/RSCStyleGuide.pdf. All manuscripts should be submitted electronically to rsc@byu.edu. Hard-copy submissions are accepted only if an electronic copy is included.

Manuscripts should be double-spaced, including quotations. Authors should follow style conventions of *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition, and the *Style Guide for Publications of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 4th edition, as reflected in a recent issue of the *Religious Educator*.

Manuscripts will be evaluated by the following questions:

1. Does the manuscript address a clear thesis? Does the argument proceed cautiously and logically? Is the writing clear? Is it engaging and interesting? If not, why?

2. To what degree is the author knowledgeable on the topic as a whole, as shown, for example, by content, phrasing, contextualizing, thorough use of the best sources, and bibliography? Does the author adequately acknowledge and deal with opposing views? If not, why?

3. Does the manuscript present significant new data or new perspectives? What is its main contribution? Will people want to read this ten years from now? Does it make a contribution without resorting to sensationalism or controversy?

4. Does the author follow the canons of responsible scholarship (uses sound and fair methodology; documents arguable facts)? If not, why?

5. Is the manuscript faith-promoting? Is the piece in harmony with the established doctrine of the Church?

If a manuscript is accepted, authors will be notified and asked to provide photocopies of all source materials cited, arranged in order, numbered to match the endnotes, and highlighted to show the quotations or paraphrases. Photocopies of source material must include title page and source page with the highlighted quotations.

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