

Invalid Covenants:

- ***Obedience***
- ***Sacrifice***
- ***Consecration***

Invalid Because:

- **Secrecy**
- **Pressure**
- **Misrepresentation**



Contracts and Covenants:

In our law which is just, self-ownership (personal sovereignty¹) must exist if one is to be free, hence subject to judgement under the law. Contracts, similar to Covenants, are nullified in law when the person entering the contract is: 1.) Uninformed. 2.) Pressured. 3.) Deceived. Temple Covenants are invalidated for any one or all of those same reasons:

- 1.) When Secret because the new candidate on entering into the Temple “Covenants” is uninformed. In other words, one must fully understand what are the Temple Covenants that one will make before deciding to go on a Church mission or deciding to be Temple married for which the Church requires the “Covenants” be taken. They cannot be secret.
- 2.) When Pressure of any kind exist, then the Covenants are invalid. The Church has an incentive to use pressure because it is a beneficiary of each new Covenant faithfully lived. It gains for itself the promise that one’s time, labor, and life choices shall satisfy whatever it may require of the inductee.

While creating and administering the Covenants to new missionaries and to new couples married in the Temple, the Church is creating pressure by claiming that it is the only right and true Church, and that its Temple Covenants must be entered into if one is to gain exaltation in the next life.

- 3.) When the Church Misrepresents itself to the Temple candidate, the Covenants are invalidated. The Church is a party to the Covenants, it benefits from them, it creates and administers them. It therefore has an obligation to the other party, the Temple candidate, who trusts the Church’s representation to be honest. Unfortunately, the Church is manipulating the Candidate, hiding information about itself, giving false and deceptive and misleading and incomplete information, thereby invalidating the Covenants because consent is uninformed.

¹ The word “Sovereignty” itself means: Autonomy, independence, self-government, self-rule, home rule, self-determination, freedom or: Supreme “power” or independent authority. By personal sovereignty is meant the “power within” to say no. Meaning we claim our own power over our own lives and allow others the right to do the same. To be accountable requires we be in this place of true, authentic, and self-generated power. Individual sovereignty is incompatible with Temple Covenants of Obedience, Sacrifice, Consecration which threaten to defeat sovereignty.

Lucifer's Plan:

Like the mythical pre-existent war in heaven, these secret Temple rituals are immoral because like Lucifer's plan, the Covenants attempt to compel *Obedience*. For example, when one chooses freely to live what the Church has prescribed, the Covenants are unnecessary. Covenants only do their job when controlling someone who otherwise would not freely make the prescribed choice.

Corruption of individual motive was Lucifer's plan in the Mormon Myth of a pre-existence war in heaven. The story is that Lucifer intended to compel *obedience* by drawing back the veil thus giving us perfect knowledge (memory of the preexistence) thereby compelling one to obey.

Jesus' argument against is said to be that "knowing" or remembering our pre-existent life with God would compel us, causing two (2) difficulties: First, if compelled we are unaccountable. Second, if compelled we are inauthentic. Because freedom, absent any controlling influence, is a necessary condition for the development of a responsible, healthy, mature human person. These principles apply whether or not one believes in the story of a pre-existent life.

I believe Church leaders are adopting Satan's argument when putting the "Law of *Obedience*" into the Temple ritual. They seek to compel by claiming to be "right," by claiming they "know," by claiming God reveals to them through "feelings," by their judgements in worthiness interviews, by excommunicating members whose public opinions or advocacy is different than theirs, by making tithing a condition of Church employment, by telling missionaries to say they "know" Joseph Smith was a prophet while withholding discrediting information about the man, by never publicly admitting or repenting of their mistakes.

The new first time unsuspecting target of Temple manipulation is indirectly threatened in the temple that Celestial exaltation cannot be achieved unless they comply with Temple Covenants.

Placing these laws in the Temple is deliberate. It attempts to compel through Covenants "before God, angels, and these witnesses" that you give "your time" and "everything" to the Church.

Since one may wish to be the author of their own life, one may claim that entitlement for themselves where it belongs, to choose without guilt how their time shall be used. By attending the Temple, submitting to Temple worthiness interviews, granting an interrogation at year-end tithing settlements, we mistakenly give away our power.

Why would one do so if not in the false hope that something outside of us will fulfill our need to accomplish great things or fulfill our need for self-worth or be judged worthy in the next life or fulfill our need to belong. When instead we are better to reclaim our power, to recognize that we are never separated from our inner divinity, and to take responsibility for ourselves.

No Choice:



The Davis County Stake 1st Counselor asked, "Do you have a choice whether to serve a mission? I'm going to tell you why you don't. It's because when you were baptized you signed on to the Lord's plan which is giving up free agency"² This Stake Councilor abuses his religious position to exploit Church members, like children baptized at age eight (8), saying falsely baptism is a promise to become a missionary.

² [Mormon Covenants: the Road to Serfdom](#) at Mormon Rescue

In the same [video clip](#), Brother Bednar affirms what the Brethren are intending when repeating the new slogan, “We are a Covenant People” while building new Temples totaling more than 265³. Bednar discloses the plan’s *motive* when asking rhetorically, “*Do we have the option not to pay our tithing?* No, it’s breaking a covenant ...” he says.

Bednar is manipulating religious followers emotionally by invoking religious guilt and fear to gain compliance. Financial exploitation happens when religious leaders use their position to pressure followers into making substantial financial contributions or donations, even when it puts followers in financial distress.

The Temple Tempts both parties to the Temple Covenants: First, the Church is tempted to use the Covenants for its own gain. It benefits from Covenants faithfully lived.

Second, Church members are tempted in the Covenants to surrender one's freedom and to fuse oneself with a leader or something outside of oneself. When yielding to this Temple Temptation one renounces the self, one loses one’s integrity as an individual; but one gains a new identity through the power in which one submerges.⁴

Secrecy:

On entering the Salt Lake Temple, the first time as a new missionary in 1962, the Priesthood leader refused to disclose beforehand what would be sprung upon me once inside. No disclosure of Covenants from among the bewildering rituals beginning with the half-naked “washing and anointing”, to repeating Satanic oaths of three ways I should “suffer my life to be taken,”⁵ to the laughable secret Masonic handshakes and clasps. No mention exists of the future role of the Temple in any of the memorized missionary lessons my companions and I taught to 101 converts the next two (2) years in Las Vegas Nevada, Northern Arizona, and Southern California.

It took a long time, but I understand now how Mormonism uses its Temples to make a claim on my life for itself: to my time and to my earnings. The leverage used on faithful Temple worthy Latter-day Saints is fear of eternal loss if one fails to satisfy the secret Temple Law of *Consecration*, Law of *Obedience*, Law of *Sacrifice*, “before God, angels, and these witnesses” that you give “yourselves, your time, talents, and everything” to the Church.

Obedience:

Imagine oneself in the story of Abraham, commanded by God to sacrifice one's child as a test of one’s *Obedience*. Imagine preparing to proceed, looking at one's child, and then turning to look at God and saying, “You are the God of the Universe, if you want this child dead, slay her/him yourself. I love her/him more than I fear you. Slay us both if you will”



³ [Church News](#), By Scott Taylor, Jan 22, 2022 “[See the locations of the Church’s 265 temples across 6 maps](#)”

⁴ Erich Fromm, [Escape From Freedom](#), 1941, 19,21,177,178,182, 266, 295

⁵ In April 1990, the LDS Church eliminated from the [endowment ritual](#) gestures representing “execution of the [penalty](#)” for not keeping the secrets. Previous to the change, temple participants were required to simulate having one's throat cut, one's chest torn open, and one's body cut asunder.

Under church president Heber J. Grant's Good Neighbor policy was reform removing from the Temple ritual (Feb 15, 1927) and suggestions in church literature, sermons, and ordinances that its members should seek vengeance on US citizens or governments, for the assassinations of its founder Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum. The oath of [vengeance](#), removed from the temple endowment ceremony, required participants to agree to be bound by the following oath:

“You and each of you do covenant and promise that you will pray and never cease to pray to Almighty God to avenge the blood of the prophets upon this nation, and that you will teach the same to your children and to your children's children unto the third and fourth generation.”

because I accept foremost that the nature of the God I follow is a God of love. The divine test is passed in that moment of proof that one has made love greater than fear or *Obedience*.

⁶The horror of the Abraham-Isaac story of blind obedience and sacrifice, human sacrifice, are Old Testament “Law of Moses” ideas that Latter-day Saints argue Jesus’ teachings replaced. However, Mormon Church leaders have rehabilitated *Obedience*, an ancient Old Testament moral relic and made it a tool of their power by placing the Law of *Obedience* in the Temple ritual.

Mormonism has the stain of *Obedience* on its soul when in 1857, Temple endowed Mormons failed that test to put Love ahead of Obedience. Sent by the Cedar City Stake Presidency and High Council⁷ to slay more than 120 men, women, and children of the Francher Wagon Train at [Mountain Meadows](#) Utah. All but one of more than 50 male Latter-day Saints complied,⁸ fulfilled the Law of *Obedience* and the Oath of *Vengeance* that existed in the Temple at that time.

On the one and only first-time attendance at the Temple in my own name (as opposed to vicarious attendance in the name of and in behalf of a deceased person), the Covenants violate my self-ownership, i.e., my individual sovereignty. The Priesthood leader, by refusing to give a full disclosure before my going into the Temple, invalidated the Covenants.

In those secret Covenants the Church attempted by surprise to gain for itself the promise that my time, labor, and life choices shall satisfy whatever it may require of me.

Individual Sovereignty:

The idea of autonomy, or the ability to self-govern is seen as being a fundamental condition of moral agency.

Individual sovereignty or self-governing means that it is evil for any other person or Church to interfere with one's honest and peaceful choices. This criterion means use of Temple Covenants are acts of domination and control which disregard that being a free and sovereign person having purity of motive, and being free of coercion, and having the capacity to give informed consent, are necessary pre-conditions to any judgement of one's morality.

Individual freedom is necessary for judging morality because freedom allows individuals to make their own choices and decisions about how to live their lives. This is important because moral judgments are often based on the idea that individuals should be free to act in accordance with their own values and beliefs, as long as they do not harm others.

If individuals are not free to make their own choices, it may be difficult or impossible to determine whether their actions are moral or not, since they are not acting of their own accord. Additionally, the concept of individual freedom is closely linked to the idea of autonomy, or the ability to self-govern, which is considered a fundamental aspect of moral agency.

Conflict of Interest:

The Church has a conflict of interest, being a beneficiary of the Covenants that it has written and administers in the Temple. Therefore, it is tempted to act fraudulently. It does so when knowingly, intentionally, misrepresenting itself by hiding evidence contrary to its claims. Self-consciously aware of their hiding, the sincerity of their belief should be doubted.

For example, can the Pastor's belief in a resurrection be sincere, if he has the un-resurrected body hidden in his basement? Likewise, can Church leader's belief be sincere when they are hiding evidence.

[133] "...if Joseph Smith's translation of the Egyptian parchment could be discredited, and proven false, then doubt would be thrown also upon the genuineness of his translation of the Book of Mormon, and thus all his pretensions as a translator would be exposed and come to naught."



B.H. Roberts
*Comprehensive
History of the
Church* 2:138

⁶ Abraham and Isaac painting by Harold Copping, from his 1910 book, [The Copping Bible](#) illustrated by himself.

⁷ First Presidency's Mountain Meadows Massacre anniversary [statement](#), Salt Lake Tribune, Sept 11, 2007

⁸ Juanita Brooks, [The Mountain Meadows Massacre](#), New Edition 1962, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, ISBN: 0-8061-0549-6, 90

One sees by their posting “Gospel Topics Essays” on the internet, Mormon Church leaders are aware of the same evidence as the RLDS, and as I am, which they have kept hidden for so long in their basement, so to speak.

One sees they are aware that foundational claims do not hold up, for example [DNA evidence](#) shows native Americans (Lamanites) are not Israelites as Joseph Smith taught in the Book of Mormon, but are South East Asian. The book gives a wholly fictitious identity to Native Americans, skin shamming them.

One sees they know that contrary to Smith’s claim, Abraham himself did not pen the writings on the Egyptian scrolls that became the Book of Abraham.

One sees they know the Temple signs and tokens of the priesthood are the same as those in Free Masonry where Smith was elevated to the rank of master mason in Nauvoo.

One sees they know Smith’s character does not survive using his position as church leader when coercively seducing believing female followers. They know he successfully pressured near 40 female believers, including orphaned teenaged sisters entrusted to his care, and 12 women “simultaneously married to other men” as the “Gospel Topics Essays” phrase it. They know that according to the women, Smith’s romantic advances were rejected by William Law’s wife, Jane, and by Sidney Rigdon’s daughter, [Nancy](#)⁹.



One sees they know Smith publicly denied that he had married anyone other than his first wife, Emma.

One sees they know of his first affair with the Smith family housekeeper, 16-year-old Fanny Alger, caught in the act by his wife, Emma, and condemned by Oliver Cowdery. In 1838, Oliver Cowdery’s exit from the Church was because he knew Joseph Smith had been engaging in a sexual relationship with a teenage servant in his home, Fanny Alger.

Emma Smith confirmed to William McLellin years later that one night she missed Joseph and Fanny Alger the servant girl. She went to the barn and saw him and Fanny in the barn together alone. She looked through a crack and saw the transaction! The first well authenticated case of polygamy took place in which Joseph Smith was “sealed” to the hired girl. The “sealing” took place in a barn on the “hay mow,”¹⁰ and was witnessed by Mrs. Emma Smith through a crack in the door! Joseph Smith was caught and begged forgiveness calling in Dr. Williams, Oliver Cowdery, and Sidney Rigdon to reconcile Emma.¹¹

Former Church Councilor William Law opposed Smith taking women followers to wife in Nauvoo. According to Law, Smith had made several proposals to Law's wife Jane, under the premise that Jane Law would enter a polyandrous marriage with Smith. Law's wife rejected him, later describing Smith's proposals, saying that Smith had "asked her to give him half her love; she was at liberty to keep the other half for her husband." Smith succeeded in his proposals to twelve (12) other married female followers who, as “Gospel Topics Essays” phrase it, were “simultaneously married to other men.” On January 8, 1844, Smith removed Law from the First Presidency.



Today’s Church leaders ought to know what Brother Law knew about Smith’s [polyandry](#). They ought to know about Lamanite [DNA genealogy](#) since at least year 2000 that Native American Lamanites are not descended from middle Eastern Israelites.

From year 1967 leaders ought to know of the modern translation and dating of the [Egyptian scrolls](#). The Scrolls have no relationship, whatsoever, to the time of Abraham or to Smith’s Book of Abraham he claimed to be translating. The evidence is conclusive in my opinion; Smith was evolving from his days as a self-aware,

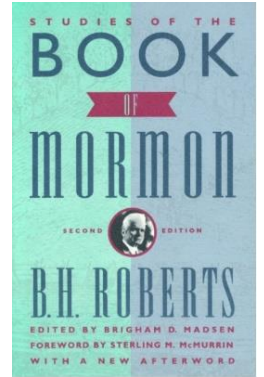
⁹ Mormon Discussions: [The Happiness Letter](#) (to Nancy Rigdon) - A Study in Religious Manipulation

¹⁰ William McClellin, quoted in J. H. Beadle, “Jackson County,” 4

¹¹ William McLellin, Letter to Joseph Smith III, July 1872, Community of Christ Archives

convicted, [treasure digging](#) con-artist for hire into earning his living as religious leader supposedly having miraculous powers of translation.

This means to me that today's Church leaders are self-deceived because they know the history I know. Saying they "know" Smith was a prophet without disclosing the wealth of contrary evidence that for decades they have intentionally, knowingly hidden or ignored. For example, Church Historian B.H. Roberts in 1922 warned the Brethren in [Studies of the Book of Mormon](#) pointing out there are many major things¹² in Pastor Ethan Smith's [View of the Hebrews](#) "... not a few things merely, one or two, or a half dozen, but many; and it is this fact of many things of similarity and the cumulative force of them that makes them so serious a menace to Joseph Smith's story of the Book of Mormon's origin."¹³



These leaders are scientists, doctors, or lawyers, like Brother Oaks, trained on how to arrive objectively at the truth, the testing of evidence against experience. Sitting on the Church Board of Directors are the Prophet and Apostles. These men fail their corporate responsibility to disclose vital inside knowledge they have that could make possible "informed consent" of tithing stakeholders¹⁴.

They know the Book of Mormon story line, that native Americans are a lost tribe of Israel is a mistaken contemporary Protestant hypothesis popular at the time of Joseph Smith. They know the Urim and Thummim and Spectacles are all described earlier by neighboring Pastor Ethan Smith's "View of the Hebrews" in the county adjacent to the Smith family.

Hiding the counter evidence is so egregious, it deserves repeating again that these highly educated Church leaders kept their inside knowledge hidden from me throughout my upbringing, kept it hidden from my parents, kept it hidden throughout my church service as a missionary, kept it hidden during my Temple marriage, kept it hidden during my years teaching Elders Quorum and Gospel Doctrine classes. Apparently, these leaders have perfected a high level of self-deceit by being able to speak so earnestly at General Conference to an audience increasingly aware of the mass manipulation!

However, the source of power and the use of power, either coercive or persuasive, identify the organizational type more than any other single attribute. Hence, the necessity of clarifying what is coercion, force, pressure in a religious context because the concept of religious coercion is misunderstood in Mormonism. Free choice is contrasted with religious coercion on page ten (10) of my Sunstone paper, [The Authoritarian Temptation](#).

Mormonism is coercive because it makes use of binding covenants on all Temple goers "before God, angels, and these witnesses" to give "yourselves, your time, talents, and everything" to the Church. Entering the Celestial Kingdom (heaven) is conditioned on one paying tithing, attending Church, accepting and fulfilling church "callings."

Without fair warning on entering the Temple the first time, one discovers our good intentions are used against us. Unwittingly, one has entered an undisclosed secret ritual requiring that we sacrifice to the Church our own independent authentic choices for shaping our own life according to our distinctive character, conviction, and authentic interest. For some like me, one discovers the Church thinks I have yielded the freedom, the time, the money, (the power) to be and to see what one can make of oneself.

One's life, one's values, one's beliefs, one's purpose are to be defined by the Church. The Temple ritual empowers Church leaders to make free with one's life. The leverage gaining control is established in the Temple through the threat or fear of perceived harm or loss in the next life. One does not suspect going into the secret Temple ritual is neither harmless nor innocent.

For example, the Temple Law of *Obedience* is an evil authoritarian claim on one's life. Going into the Temple, one is uninformed what is going to happen, unprepared to defend one's boundaries, unsuspecting of the Churches

¹² Pastor Ethan Smith produced "View of the Hebrews" in the county adjacent to the Smith family. Ethan Smith's book postulates that native Americans are a lost tribe of Israel. The Urim and Thummim and Spectacles are all described earlier in neighboring Pastor Ethan Smith's book.

¹³ Stan Larson, [Quest for the Gold Plates](#), 1996, ISBN 0-9634732-1-2, 147

¹⁴ "The Broken Shelves: Ex-Mormon Reddit [Narratives of Deconversion](#)", by Lesley Rivera Wright, Master's Thesis UNCC, 2021

premeditated intentions, unknowing that submission to Temple laws like *Obedience* are not virtues. Rather, they mute one's self-expression and suppress one's authenticity.

No power shall either command obedience or prohibit criticism because injury is done to the human person and to the purpose established by God when denying the free exercise of religion. Authenticity requires that one is the author of one's own life. The dignity of the human person demands external expression of one's internal acts of religion.

As in law, one is not bound by a contract that is unlawful. In religion, one is not bound by Covenants that are immoral. The coercive purpose to compel Obedience is the great evil behind administering Temple Covenants. These immoralities are the overarching reasons all Temple promises are null and void.

---- The End ----

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"Temple Temptations" are derived from my life experiences and conclusions after being a fully participating and contributing member of the LDS Church.

My Full Exit Statement

<https://www.fnhenderson.us/FullExitStatement.pdf>

My Exit Statement (Shorter Version)

<https://www.fnhenderson.us/ExitStatement.pdf>

<https://www.fnhenderson.us/TempleTemptations.pdf>

www.fnhenderson.us

www.mormon-alliance.org

<http://www.mormonstories.org/>

www.inertial-solutions.us

www.linkedin.com

<https://www.fnhenderson.us/NelsonHendersonBio.pdf>

<https://www.fnhenderson.us/ldswomen.pdf>

<https://www.fnhenderson.us/AuthoritarianTemptation.pdf>

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My 2004 Sunstone Speech

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