

The Mormon Hierarchy Extensions Of Power

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the mormon church today is led by an elite group of older men nearly three quarters of whom are related to current or past general church authorities this dynastic hierarchy meets in private neither its minutes nor the church's finances are available for public review members are reassured by public relations spokesmen that all is well and that harmony prevails among these brethren but by interviewing former church aides examining hundreds of diaries and drawing from his own past experience as an insider within the latter day saint historical department d michael quinn presents a fuller view his extensive research documents how the governing apostles seventies and presiding bishops are likely to be at loggerheads as much as united these strong willed independent men like directors of a large corporation or supreme court justices lobby among their colleagues forge alliances out maneuver opponents and broker compromises there is more clandestine political activities investigative and punitive actions by church security forces personal loans from church coffers later written off as bad debts and other privileged power vested activities quinn considers the changing role and attitude of the leadership toward visionary experiences the momentous events which have shaped quorum protocol and doctrine and day to day bureaucratic intrigue from the time of brigham young to the dawn of the twenty first century the hierarchy seems at root well intentioned and even at times aggressive in fulfilling its stated responsibility which is to expedite the second coming where they have become convinced that god has spoken they have set aside personal differences offered unqualified support and spoken with a unified voice this potential for change when coupled with the tempering effect of competing viewpoints is something quinn finds encouraging about mormonism but one should not assume that these men are infallible or work in anything approaching uninterrupted unanimity

a mormon historian traces the evolution of the latter day saints organizational structure from the original egalitarian priesthood of believers to an elaborately hierarchical institution quinn also documents the alterations in the historical record which obscured these developments and analyzes the five presiding quorums of the lds hierarchy

this is volume ii of an epic multi volume work entitled the quest for the new jerusalem a mormon generational saga which combines family mormon and american history focusing upon how the author's

ancestors were affected by their conversion to the mormon religion in volume i four of the author s ancestral families the carters hammonds knowltons and spencer s and the ancestors of mormon church founders joseph smith and brigham young are followed from the time they enter the massachusetts bay colony in new england in the 1600s down to the early 1800s their private lives are described as well as how they are affected by such events and situations as king philip s war the salem witch trials the institution of black slavery the french and indian war and the american revolution toward the end of volume i the focus is upon joseph smith and his family including their move from vermont to western new york their religious and magic world views the latter involving astrology ritual magic and treasure seer and treasure digging activities volume ii takes up the narrative at about the year 1820 and involves a detailed comprehensive and critical look at the events in the life of joseph smith jr during the decade in which he purportedly was visited by numerous heavenly messengers received the golden plates translated the writing on the plates to produce the book of mormon received priesthood authority from other heavenly messengers published the book of mormon and organized the mormon lds church making use of the most recent historical research the author tackles the controversial issues surrounding the first vision the supposed appearance to joseph jr of god the father and his son jesus christ in 1820 the second vision 1823 to 1827 which produced the book of mormon and the third vision late 1820s or early 1830s which involved the restoration of priesthood authority the author looks at original sources documents and also compares the perspectives of major loyal mormon non mormon and ex mormon scholars on these controversial questions there is a discussion of the serious lack of congruence between how joseph smith jr described these events officially after 1837 and what was being said by the smith family their neighbors early mormon converts and by newspaper accounts during the 1820s and early 1830s there is for example no mention of a first vision for at least twelve years after it supposedly occurred and there are several conflicting versions of it by joseph jr in the 1830s once he started talking about it primary focus however is upon what the author collectively calls the second vision which purportedly involved multiple visitations by an angel spirit between 1823 and 1827 it was from this heavenly messenger that joseph jr obtained golden plates and the book of mormon was he maintained a translation by him of the ancient american writings on these plates there is a thorough examination of the complex and contentious issues surrounding the origin of the book of mormon and several chapters look closely at the evidence regarding its authenticity the question whether it was written by joseph jr or by ancient american prophets scribes the author also thoroughly discusses the testimony in the book of mormon of the three witnesses and eight witnesses and offers an alternative narrative regarding what really transpired with joseph jr during the 1820s later in volume ii several chapters look at how mormon church organization went through a significant evolution during its earliest years moving against the american democratic grain toward an increasingly centralized authoritarian structure there is a detailed look at joseph jr s claims regarding a restoration of priesthood authority during the late 1820s and early 1830s and the considerable controver

deception by design provides a comprehensive study of mormonism exposes the surprising source of joseph smiths conversion story reveals the immense influence of others on smiths beliefs equips evangelical christians with principals for witnessing to mormons allen harrod has written a wonderfully helpful and insightful book on mormonism it is both original in its research as well as in its offering helpful conclusions and applications regarding the nature and history of the church of jesus christ of latter day saints dr r philip roberts president midwestern baptist theological seminary deception by design represents the best book i have seen in terms of explicating the beliefs and theology of mormonism and at the same time providing superb approaches to presenting the claims of christ to mormons dr paige patterson southwestern baptist theological seminary

what do americans think about mormons and why do they think what they do this is a story where the osmonds the olympics the tabernacle choir evangelical christians the equal rights amendment sports illustrated and even miss america all figure into the equation the book is punctuated by the presidential campaigns of george and mitt romney four decades apart a survey of the past half century reveals a growing tension inherent in the public s views of mormons and the public s views of the religion that inspires that body

destination nez perce is an action packed early american adventure story if your soul is stirred by adventure be it real life or vicariously through the pages of an adrenalin pulse driving novel then this one can be placed at eye level on your shelf you ll find yourself sneering at evil while at the same time humorously cheering the triumphs against it as you follow cameron macovey the grandson of jacob macovey one of the first explorers to venture west of the missouri river jacobs relationship with the indigenous nez perce people and the macovey families on going tradition of preserving the sanctity of the appaloosa blood line the nez perce had developed if excellent fiction laced with historical fact creates and stirs a visual for you then take this one home

this is volume 7 2013 of interpreter a journal of mormon scripture published by the interpreter foundation it contains articles on a variety of topics including a transcript of a talk by elder neal a maxwell

an essay on morality and freedom a book review of misreading scripture with western eyes a description of the original text of the book of mormon and its publication a book review of the mother of the lord a book review of deconstructing mormonism a book review of passing the heavenly gift and an analysis of the arguments alleging the late war as a source for the book of mormon text

gives a highly praised detailed and even handed account of the fastest growing and most prosperous religious group in america today thoroughly revised and updated to include the presidential run of mitt romney and the likely death of president prophet hinckley

many mormon dreams flourished in missouri so did many mormon nightmares the missouri period especially from the summer of 1838 when joseph took over vigorous personal direction of this new zion until the spring of 1839 when he escaped after five months of imprisonment represents a moment of intense crisis in mormon history representing the greatest extremes of devotion and violence commitment and intolerance physical suffering and terror mobbings battles massacres and political knockdowns it shadowed the mormon psyche for a century leland gentry was the first to step beyond this disturbing period as a one sided symbol of religious persecution and move toward understanding it with careful documentation and evenhanded analysis in fire and sword todd compton collaborates with gentry to update this foundational work with four decades of new scholarship more insightful critical theory and the wealth of resources that have become electronically available in the last few years compton gives full credit to leland gentry s extraordinary achievement particularly in documenting the existence of danites and in attempting to tell the missourians side of the story but he also goes far beyond it gracefully drawing into the dialogue signal interpretations written since gentry and introducing the raw urgency of personal writings eyewitness journalists and bemused politicians seesawing between human compassion and partisan harshness in the lush missouri landscape of the mormon imagination where adam and eve had walked out of the garden and where adam would return to preside over his posterity the towering religious creativity of joseph smith and clash of religious stereotypes created a swift and traumatic frontier drama that changed the church

modern polygamy the generations after the manifesto provides a background for understanding the practice of polygamy by members of the church of jesus christ of latter day saints as well as the discontinuation of that practice which occurred in 1904 this book charts new ground by tackling the previously unexamined period of plural marriages between 1904 and 1934 without authorization from the church president after 1904 dissenters assumed authority from several sources but in the 1920s a man named lorin woolley began to promote a new priesthood line of authority that he said could solemnize polygamous unions by 1934 most modern polygamists had united behind woolley s teachings and authority claims modern polygamy investigates those assertions and the mormon fundamentalist organizations that have arisen from them the allreds the flds church in texas and on the utah arizona border the kingstons the lebarons the tlc church in manti utah and other splinter groups are all scrutinized regardless of one s beliefs regarding joseph smith and plural marriage this historical and doctrinal volume will provide interesting reading and enlightenment

clears up many of the misconceptions held about mormonism and its members making it an essential reference

list of charter members of the society v 1 p 98 99

the extraordinary answer that same sex intimacy was widely accepted is found in d michael quinn s same sex dynamics among nineteenth century americans which traces the incidence of and response to same sex behaviors in the united states to the midtwentieth century it will be must reading for anyone interested in gay and lesbian issues and the changing concepts of friendship and sexuality

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