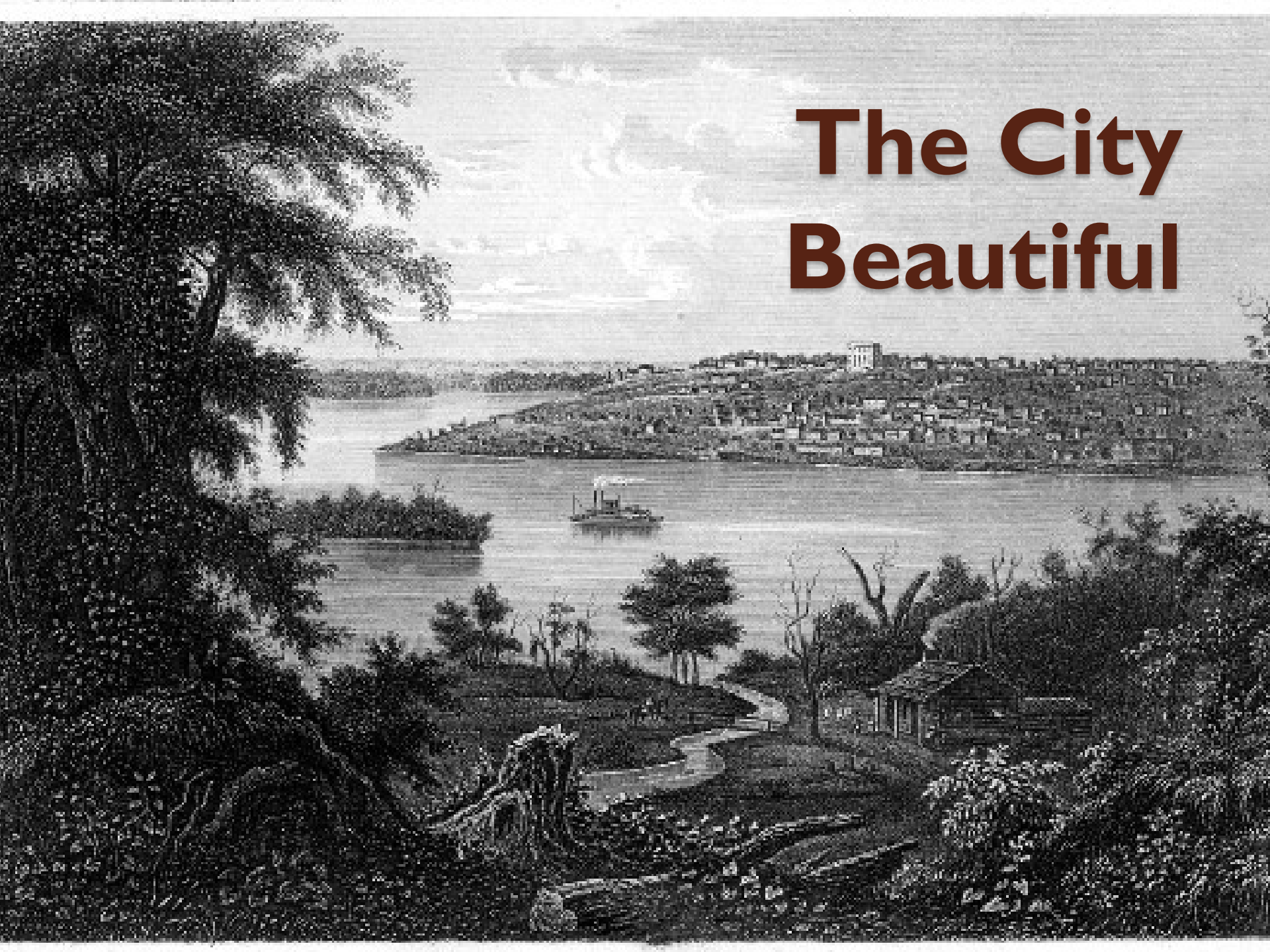


# The City Beautiful



# New Introduction to Official Declaration 2:



The Book of Mormon teaches that “all are alike unto God,” including “black and white, bond and free, male and female” (2 Nephi 26:33). Throughout the history of the Church, people of every race and ethnicity in many countries have been baptized and have lived as faithful members of the Church.

During Joseph Smith’s lifetime, a few black male members of the Church were ordained to the priesthood. Early in its history, Church leaders stopped conferring the priesthood on black males of African descent.

Church records offer no clear insights into the origins of this practice. Church leaders believed that a revelation from God was needed to alter this practice and prayerfully sought guidance.

The revelation came to Church President Spencer W. Kimball and was affirmed to other Church leaders in the Salt Lake Temple on June 1, 1978. The revelation removed all restrictions with regard to race that once applied to the priesthood.



# Looking towards Easter

# Nauvoo

A scenic view of Nauvoo, Illinois, featuring the Nauvoo Temple, a water tower, and a church spire, with a large body of water in the foreground.

**Isaiah 52:7**

**Purchased from Isaac Galland**











# Doctrinal Developments



**Ann Taves:**

**...direct inspiration survives only when it is supported by a sacred mythos embedded in sacred practices....**

**Rough Stone Rolling**

# Joseph Smith and Freemasonry

## Advantages of Mormon/Masonry

June 1841 First Lodge

March 15th 1842,  
Installation of new  
members

March 16<sup>th</sup>, Joseph  
becomes “master  
mason”

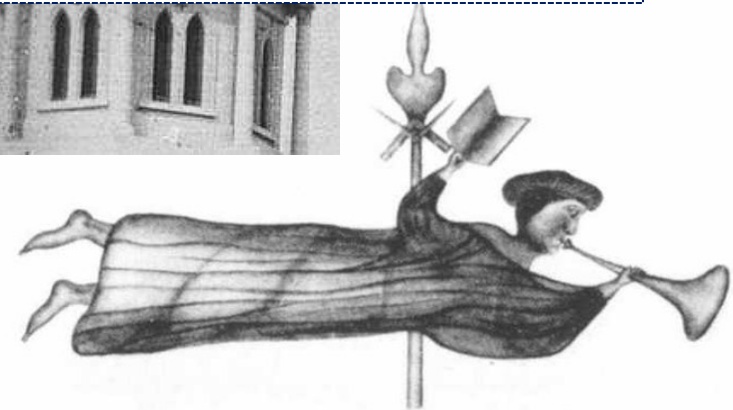
March 30<sup>th</sup>, Organization of  
the Relief Society

First Endowment bestowed  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1842

Masonic Hall, April 1844

Joseph Smith:

*Freemasonry was taken  
from priesthood but has  
become degenerated. But  
many things are perfect.*



# Differences

## Masonry

Focus is on the  
Temple of Solomon

Fraternity

Worshipful Master

Bound to one  
another



## Temple

Focus is on Creation

Exaltation

God and Christ

Bound to God

Entering into God's  
presence

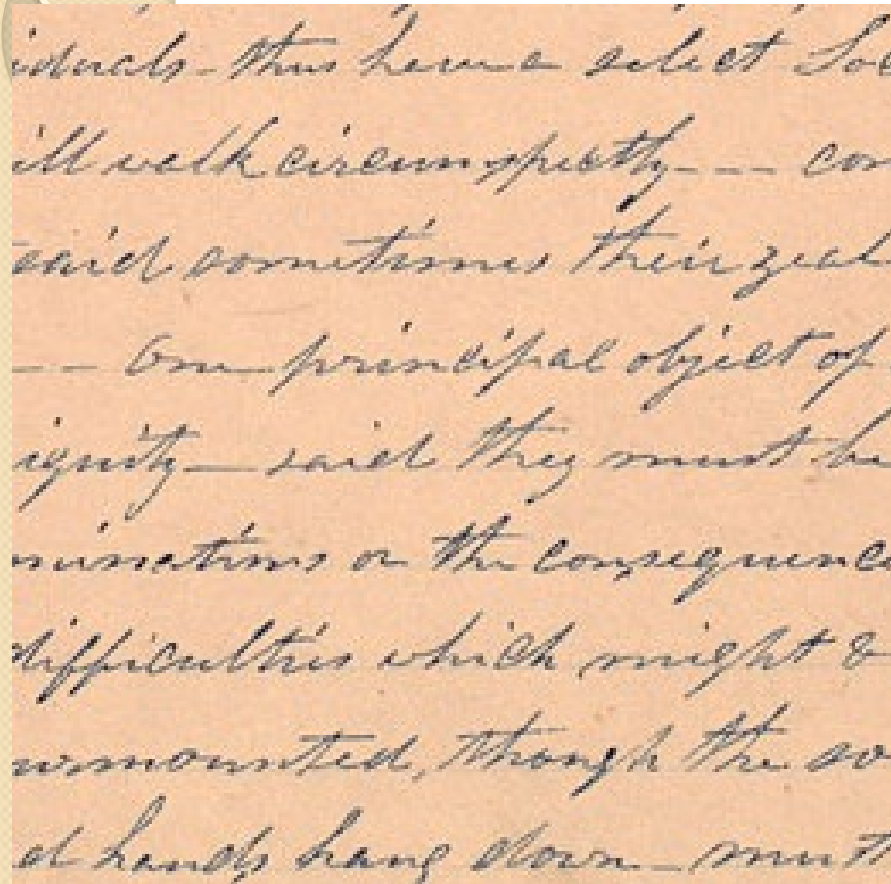
# Relief Society

Sarah Kimball

March 2, 1842



# Relief Society, March 30th

A snippet of a handwritten manuscript in cursive script on aged, yellowish paper. The text is partially visible and appears to be a transcription of a speech or document. The visible words include: "society - thus have a select Soc", "ill walk circumspetly - - con", "sided sometimes their zeal", "— Our principal object of", "equity - said they must be", "missions or the consequent", "difficulties which might be", "unmounted, though the so", "of hands hang down - must".

society - thus have a select Soc  
ill walk circumspetly - - con  
sided sometimes their zeal  
— Our principal object of  
equity - said they must be  
missions or the consequent  
difficulties which might be  
unmounted, though the so  
of hands hang down - must

we must obey that voice, observe  
the Constitution that the blessings  
of heaven may rest down upon  
us—

all must act in concert or nothing  
can be done—

that the Society should move  
according to the ancient  
priesthood

hence there should be a select  
Society separate from all the evils  
of the world, choice, virtuous and  
holy—

Said he was going to make of this  
Society a kingdom of priests as in  
Enoch's day— as in Pauls day —

that it is the privilege of each  
member to live long [

# BYU Religious Studies Center

**As late as 1878, for instance, Eliza R. Snow, meeting with members of the Spring City, Utah, ward Relief Society:**

**“Joseph organized a female relief society according to the commandment of God,” the minutes reported; “his wife Emma was pres and she [Eliza] was secretary; some thought that the bretheren would save us and we had nothing to do but this was not the case we had just as much to do as they had and had as great labor to do and would receive just as much blessings.”**

**As assertion of female moral agency and accountability, Joseph Smith’s admonition led women to a path of spiritual maturity and independence in making choice for themselves and accepting responsibility for their own spiritual progression.**

# Baptisms for the Dead



## Funeral of Seymour Brunson

-10 Aug 1940

-Jane Nyman, then baptized for her son Cyrus

**D&C 124:26-29**