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## Adam-ondi-Ahman/"Northeast of Eden"

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## Adam-ondi-Ahman

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In 1833 when the Saints were forced to leave Jackson County, Missouri, they temporarily settled in Clay County. After it became clear that they would not be able to return to their property in and around Independence, they were asked to leave Clay County. By the end of 1836 two small counties, Daviess and Caldwell, were created out of the sparsely populated northern part of Ray County. They now had a place where they could settle, and the “Mormon problem” was considered resolved.

In March of 1838 the Prophet arrived from Kirtland to settle in Far West, Caldwell County. Several weeks later he went with others to explore areas to the north. Near Wight’s Ferry, Daviess County, he received the following revelation: “Spring Hill is named by the Lord Adam-ondi-Ahman, because, said he, it is the place where Adam shall come to visit his people, or the Ancient of Days shall sit, as spoken of by Daniel the prophet.”<sup>37</sup>

Earlier references made to Adam-ondi-Ahman seemed to denote a rather large geographical area;<sup>38</sup> however, the Lord made it clear that Adam-ondi-Ahman is also a specific valley and hill in this vicinity of northern Missouri. In May and June the area was surveyed, a city was laid out on an elevated piece of land, and stakes for the four corners of a temple block were set. Heber C. Kimball was among the three to five hundred men who were present on this occasion. He described the location in these words:

This elevated spot was probably from two hundred and fifty to five hundred feet above the level of Grand River, so that one could look east, west, north or south, as far as the eye could reach; it was one of the most beautiful places I ever beheld.

The Prophet Joseph called upon Brother Brigham, myself and others, saying, “Brethren, come, go along with me, and I will show you something.” He led us a short distance to a place where were the ruins of three altars built of stone, one above the other, and one standing a little back of the other, like unto the pulpits in the Kirtland Temple, representing the order of three grades of Priesthood; “There,” said Joseph, “is the place where Adam offered up sacrifice after he was cast out of the garden.” The altar stood at the highest point of the bluff. I went and examined the place several times while I remained there.<sup>39</sup>

## Northeast of Eden

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The Prophet speaks and  
millennia melt away.  
We see the Valley of God  
as it used to be,  
as it will appear.

In the land where Adam  
dwelt, the Ancient of Days  
gathers a great posterity  
of patriarchs, priests, kings.  
Blessings flow like water  
from springs on gentle hills.

At the altar of obedience  
a righteous multitude  
honors their father,  
praises the Son,  
proclaims the joy of their  
redemption.  
Together they rejoice,  
for He will come  
to Adam-ondi-Ahman.

*Three years previous to the death of Adam, he called . . . his posterity who were righteous, into the valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman, and there bestowed upon them his last blessing. And the Lord appeared unto them, and they rose up and blessed Adam, and called him Michael, the prince, the archangel (D&C 107:53–54).*