

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MORMONISM



Edited by
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JOSEPH FIELDING MCCONKIE

HOLY OF HOLIES

In ancient times, through divine instruction to Moses, the Holy of Holies was made the center of the tabernacle (Ex. 25–27). It was a fifteen-foot cube formed by hanging veils made of goat hair, ram skins, and other dyed skins. Some were embroidered with figures of cherubim in blue, purple, and scarlet. The Holy of Holies was designated as the repository for a chest called the ark of the covenant. This chest, constructed of gold-plated acacia wood, was the place of the stone tablets inscribed by the hand of God, and the resting place for the mercy seat. Fashioned in one piece of fine gold, this seat, with cherubim engraven above it, formed the visible throne for the presence of God. Once a year, on the day of atonement, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies and sprinkled sacrificial blood over the mercy seat as expiation for Israel's sins. Though the ark has disappeared, this ritual was continued in the temples of Zerubbabel and Herod.

A latter-day Holy of Holies has been dedicated in the great temple in Salt Lake City. It is a central chamber adjoining the celestial room. Beyond its sliding doors are six steps to similar doors, symbolic of the veil that guarded the Holy of Holies in ancient times. The sanctuary is of circular design with a domed ceiling. The appointments include inlaid wood, gold leaf, stained glass, and unique lighting. The presiding high priest, the President of the Church, controls access to this sanctuary.

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LYSLE R. CAHOON

HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a term often used to refer to the HOLY GHOST. In such cases the Holy Spirit is a personage. Ghost is an Old English word meaning spirit. The scriptures use this term to designate the third member of the GODHEAD (Alma 11:44) and to speak of the Spirit's power to testify (Alma 7:16), to grant knowledge (Alma 5:46; D&C 76:116), to persuade (Mosiah 3:19), to indicate remission of sins (D&C 55:1), and to sanctify (Alma 5:54). The term Holy Spirit is the core of the phrase HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE denoting the Holy Ghost's sanction of every ordinance performed in righteousness. The influence or spirit that emanates from Jesus Christ, which is also called the LIGHT OF CHRIST, is holy, but is neither the Holy Spirit nor a personage.

JERRY A. WILSON

HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE

The Holy Spirit of Promise is one of many descriptive name-titles of the HOLY GHOST and refers to a specific function of the Holy Ghost. In John 14:16, the Savior, who had been a comforter to his disciples, assured them that after his departure into heaven they would receive another comforter: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." The next verse speaks of this Comforter as "the Spirit of truth," who "dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (verse 17). The Lord subsequently identified this promised Comforter as the Holy Ghost (verse 26). Doctrine and Covenants 88:3 reiterates and clarifies: "Wherefore, I now send upon you another Comforter, even upon you my friends, that it may abide in your hearts, even the Holy Spirit of promise; which other Comforter is the same that I promised unto my disciples, as is recorded in the testimony of John."

The Holy Spirit of Promise is the power by which ordinances and other righteous acts performed on this earth, such as baptism and eternal marriage, are ratified, validated, and sealed in heaven as well as on earth. Paul taught the Ephesians that after acting on their faith in Christ they "were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," which was the surety of their "inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession" (Eph. 1:12–14). The SEALING of earthly COVENANTS and