

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MORMONISM



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building was constructed on the site now occupied by West High School. The first commencement exercises, in 1886, conferred ten normal (teaching) and two bachelor degrees. By the 1890s 400 students were enrolled, and B.A. and B.S. degrees were offered in classical, scientific, and normal programs.

In 1892, four years before statehood, an amendment to the University of Deseret charter changed the name to the University of Utah. In 1894, Congress granted sixty acres of land from Fort Douglas on the east bench of Salt Lake Valley to the university, which established its campus there.

In the 1890s, a nationwide financial crisis and the competition of other institutions for students and funds threatened the fledgling state university. Responding to the crisis, the LDS Church discontinued its support of its own recently founded university in Salt Lake City and urged Latter-day Saints to “faithfully devote their influence and energy . . . to the University of Utah.”

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GRETHE BALLIF PETERSON

UNPARDONABLE SIN

The gravest of all sins is **BLASPHEMY** against the **HOLY GHOST**. One may speak even against Jesus Christ in ignorance and, upon repentance, be forgiven, but knowingly to sin against the Holy Ghost by denying its influence after having received it is unpardonable (Matt. 12:31–32; Jacob 7:19; Alma 39:6), and the consequences are inescapable. Such denial dooms the perpetrator to the hell of the second **SPIRITUAL DEATH** (*TPJS*, p. 361). This extreme judgment comes because the person sins knowingly against the light, thereby severing himself from the redeeming grace of Christ. He is numbered with the **SONS OF PERDITION** (D&C 76:43).

The Prophet Joseph **SMITH** explained, “No man can commit the unpardonable sin after the dissolution of the body, nor in this life, until he receives the Holy Ghost” (*TPJS*, p. 357). To commit the unpardonable sin, a person “must receive the Holy Ghost, have the heavens opened unto

him, and know God, and then sin against Him. After a man has sinned against the Holy Ghost, there is no repentance for him. . . . he has got to deny Jesus Christ when the heavens have been opened to him, and to deny the plan of salvation with his eyes open to the truth of it” (*TPJS*, p. 358; cf. Heb. 10:26–29).

If people have such knowledge and willfully turn altogether away, it is a sin against light, a sin against the Holy Ghost, and figuratively “they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame” (Heb. 6:4–6; D&C 76:35). Such remain as though there were no **ATONEMENT**, except that they shall be resurrected from the dead (Alma 11:41).

RODNEY TURNER

URIM AND THUMMIM

The Urim and Thummim is mentioned in the Bible and, with added details about its use and significance, in latter-day scriptures. It is an instrument prepared by God through which revelation may be received. Abraham learned about the universe through the Urim and Thummim (Abr. 3:1–4). The Prophet Joseph Smith “through the medium of the Urim and Thummim . . . translated the [Book of Mormon] by the gift and power of God” (*HC* 4:537; D&C 10:1; JS—H 1:62). Servants of God who are allowed to use the Urim and Thummim have been known as **SEERS** (Mosiah 8:13), among whom were Abraham, Moses, the brother of Jared, Mosiah₂, Alma₁, Helaman₁, Moroni₂, and Joseph Smith.

In Antiquity at least two different Urim and Thummim existed, and possibly three. Chronologically, the brother of Jared received the first known one (D&C 17:1). This same set came into the hands of Mosiah₂ and other Book of Mormon prophets, subsequently being deposited with the **GOLD PLATES** (JS—H 1:35). The fate of the second set, given to Abraham (Abr. 3:1), remains unknown. Unless Abraham’s Urim and Thummim had been passed down, Moses received a third set mentioned first in Exodus 28:30. The Urim noted in 1 Samuel 28:6, probably an abbreviated form of Urim and Thummim, was most likely the one possessed by Moses (cf. Num. 27:18–21). What happened to this one is also unknown, though certainly by postexilic times the Urim and Thummim were no longer extant (Ezra 2:63; Neh. 7:65).