THE TEMPLES OF MORMONISM
MORMON PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Premortality: 1st Estate
   - Ruled by Heavenly Father and populated with his wives and billions of spirit children.

2. Birth
   - 2/3 of spirits get to be born onto earth with bodies needed to progress to godhood. Their circumstance of birth is based upon their merit (worthiness) in premortality.

3. Mortality: 2nd Estate
   - 1/3 of spirits kicked out because they chose Lucifer. They have no bodies.

4. Death
   - Spirit Paradise
   - Spirit Prison
   - Intermediate State

5. Intermediate State
   - 1,000 year millennium
   - Judgment
   - Heaven: Final Estate

- Celestial Kingdom
  - "Godhood"
  - Good people

- Terrestrial Kingdom
  - Evil people

- Telestial Kingdom
  - Evil people
“Why is it that we are so anxious to build temples? It is that we may attend to ordinances necessary for the salvation of the living and the dead, that we may be baptized for our ancestors who died without having the privilege of hearing and obeying the Gospel.”

December 3rd, 1871
Journal of Discourses 14:320
"In Biblical times sacred ordinances were administered in holy edifices for the spiritual salvation of ancient Israel. The buildings thus used were not synagogues, nor any other ordinary places of worship..."
They were specially constructed for this particular purpose. Following the pattern of Biblical days, the Lord again in our day has provided these ordinances for all who will believe, and directs that temples be built in which to perform those sacred rites.”
“Our Redeemer requires that His temples be protected from desecration. No unclean thing may enter His hallowed house. Yet anyone is welcome who prepares well. Each person applying for a recommend will be interviewed by a judge in Israel—the bishop—and by a stake president.”

“Personal Preparation for Temple Blessings,” *Ensign*, May 2001, p. 33
TOPICS FOR TEMPLE RECOMMEND QUESTIONS

• Faith in God/Jesus/Holy Ghost and Christ’s atonement
• Restoration of the Gospel
• Support the leaders
• Live the law of chastity
• Not affiliated with anyone against the church
• Keeping the Word of Wisdom
• Alimony/child support payments
• Wear temple garments
• Confession of major sins
WHAT WAS THE OT TEMPLE FOR?

• Not righteous people who were seeking forgiveness through blood sacrifice
• Consider Luke 18…
“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other.”
FOUR TEMPLE ORDINANCES—

1. Washings and Anointings
2. Endowments
3. Marriages or sealings for eternity
4. Baptisms for the dead

See Encyclopedia of Mormonism 4:1444
WASHINGS AND ANOINTINGS

"Washings and anointings are preparatory or initiatory ordinances in the temple. They signify the cleansing and sanctifying power of Jesus Christ applied to the attributes of the person and to the hallowing of all life... Women are set apart to administer the ordinances to women, and men are set apart to administer the ordinances to men. . . A commemorative garment is given with these ordinances and is worn thereafter by the participant."

Encyclopedia of Mormonism 4:1444
“The white undergarment worn by those members who have received the ordinance of the temple Endowment is a ceremonial one. All adults who enter the temple are required to wear it. In LDS temples, men and women who receive priesthood ordinances wear this undergarment and other priestly robes. The garment is worn at all times, but the robes are worn only in the temple. Having made covenants of righteousness, the members wear the garment under their regular clothing for the rest of their lives, day and night, partially to remind them of the sacred covenants they have made with God.”
“You have had a garment placed upon you, which you were informed represents the garment given to Adam and Eve when they were found naked in the garden of Eden, and which is called the ‘Garment of the Holy Priesthood.’ This you were instructed to wear throughout your life. You were informed that it will be a shield and a protection to you inasmuch as you do not defile it, and if you are true and faithful to your covenants.”
“Temple garments afford protection. I am sure one could go to extreme in worshiping the cloth of which the garment is made, but one could also go to the other extreme. Though generally I think our protection is a mental, spiritual, moral one, yet I am convinced that there could be and undoubtedly have been many cases where there has been, through faith, an actual physical protection, so we must not minimize that possibility.”

The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p. 539
2. THE ENDOWMENT

“In a general sense, a gift of power from God. Worthy members of the Church can receive a gift of power through ordinances in the temple that gives them the instruction and covenants of the Holy Priesthood that they need in order to attain exaltation. The endowment includes instruction about the plan of salvation.”

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/gs/endowment?lang=eng
March 15, 1842 — “I officiated as grand chaplain at the installation of the Nauvoo Lodge of Free Masons, at the Grove near the Temple. . . In the evening I received the first degree in Freemasonry in the Nauvoo Lodge, assembled in my general business office.”
“Let me give you a definition in brief. Your endowment is, to receive all those ordinances in the house of the Lord, which are necessary for you, after you have departed this life, to enable you to walk back to the presence of the Father, passing the angels who stand as sentinels, being enabled to give them the key words, the signs and tokens, pertaining to the holy Priesthood, and gain your eternal exaltation in spite of earth and hell.”

Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 416
“While some members will claim that Mormon temples are ‘sacred not secret,’ Bushman said that ‘temples are secret, plain and simple,’ noting that even members ‘don't speak to each other about it.’”

“Seek understanding, not converts, Bushman urges Mormons,” Deseret News, March 6, 2008).
“If you proceed and receive your full endowment, you will be required to take upon yourselves sacred obligations, the violation of which will bring upon you the judgment of God; for God will not be mocked. If any of you desire to withdraw rather than accept these obligations of your own free will and choice, you may now make it known by raising your hand.”