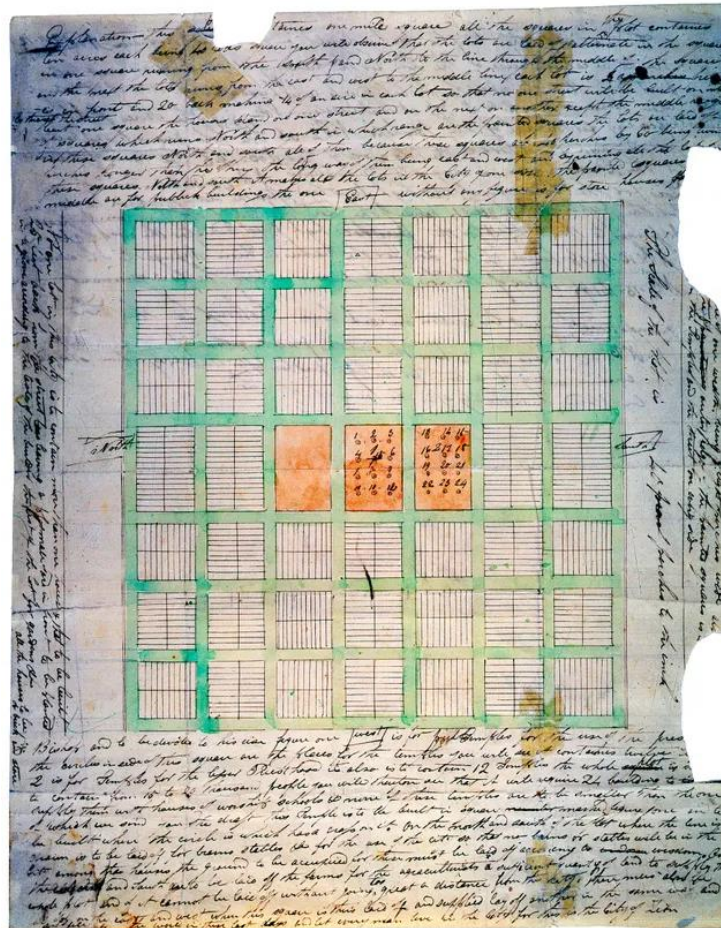


## Joseph Knight Family Connections to the 2025 Come Follow Me Lessons

### Doctrine and Covenants 94-97

“Build a temple in Zion” –

Knight support amidst growing turmoil



The plat map for the City of Zion was prepared under the direction of the Prophet Joseph Smith and sent to the Saints in Missouri in June 1833, along with architectural plans for the first temple in Zion.

*Illustration from the online “Come Follow Me” lesson in relation to D & C Section 57.*

Church members celebrated the third anniversary of the founding of the Church in April of 1833 at the ferry landing of the Big Blue River. Newel wrote in his journal about the event:

“This was the first celebration of the kind and the Saints felt the privilege and enjoyed themselves in the worship of Heavenly Father, and praised his holy name. It was a feast of fat things and the brethren returned to their home renewed in spirit and rejoicing in heart.

Such peace and happiness were not however to continue long without interruption from our enemies, for when the Saints rejoice, the devil is mad and his children and servants

partake of his spirit. This was proven in this present instance for before the month had closed, a most dreadful and diabolical spirit of persecution that the Church has yet seen manifested itself all around us.”<sup>1</sup>

Newel continued to write that there were frequent clashes between the Saints and the other Missouri residents. He said, “This caused considerable uneasiness among us and it required great wisdom and care on our part to keep the Saints quiet, and to keep them at their regular labors.” The Missouri neighbors were angry to hear that their county was viewed as Zion and a gathering place, an inheritance from God, for the Church members. Church members made up one third of the population of Jackson County, and were growing in number, and as they did the anger of local residents increased as well.

Newel also wrote, “In the meantime the Lord has given a commandment to Zion to build a temple in His Holy name.”<sup>2</sup>

At this time in Kirtland in the summer of 1833 Joseph Smith was receiving revelation, now Sections 94-97 about the need to build houses of worship and instruction, “. . . You should build a house, in the which house I design to endow those whom I have chosen with power from on high.”

The prophet sent specific details to the Church in Missouri about how they should proceed, including the plat map for the City of Zion and design for temple.

### **Growing Trouble**

On July 20, 1833, it was reported in a Missouri newspaper, the *Western Monitor*, which Newel quotes in his journal, that between four and five hundred men gathered in Independence at a meeting “Called for the purpose of adopting measures to rid themselves of the sect of fanatics, called Mormons,” who were “an evil that no one could have foreseen.”

Colonel Richard Simpson led the meeting and that the “occasion is one that calls for cool deliberation and energetic action,” and the arrival of the “swarms” of people flooding their community were the very dregs of their composition, “very little above the condition of our blacks, either in regard to property or education. . . and well-grounded complaints have already been made of their corrupting influence on our slaves.”

The complaints continued. Among them:

We are daily told, and not by the ignorant alone, but by all classes of them that we, (the Gentiles) of the country are to be cut off, and our land appropriated by them for inheritances. Whether this is to be accomplished by the hand of the destroying angel, the judgments of God, or the arm of power, they are not fully agreed among themselves.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Newel Knight journal, Allen Typescript, pp 20-21

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 21.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

The outcome of the meeting that day was a declaration:

- Mormons would not be allowed to settle in Jackson County in the future
- Mormons who do live in the county would be given a reasonable time to close their businesses and sell their property and be unmolested before they leave the county
- The Church newspaper should cease publication immediately and the printing office close
- Mormon leaders must use their influence to halt further emigration into the county and to counsel their brethren to leave as requested.
- Those who fail to comply should be sent to their brethren who “have the gifts of divination and of unknown tongues to inform them of the lot that awaits them.”

The meeting took a two-hour recess while 12 men went to the Church leaders in town to present the declaration. William Phelps, editor of the paper, Bishop Partridge, and store owner Sidney Gilbert asked the men for time to consider the request and contact leaders in Ohio. The group demanded an immediate response. The Missouri delegation went back to their group of 400-500 and the meeting reconvened. They voted that the printing office should be razed to the ground, the press and type saved, “with as little noise and disturbance as possible.”

They also voted to post a list of the demands in the post office that all might know, even the Mormon brethren at a distance, that “the gates of Zion are now closed to them.”

That same day, with great disturbance, a mob of vigilantes destroyed the print shop, tossing out the press and type, and tore off the roof and tore down the walls. Others broke into the Gilbert and Whitney store and threw cloth and merchandise into the street, and they raided the blacksmith shop. A crowd took Bishop Edward Partridge and Charles Allen to the town square partially strip them and tar and feather them amidst a cheering crowd.<sup>4</sup>

Two days later the Missouri crowd gathered again armed with guns, sticks and flags. They gathered up a group of church leaders in the town square and under threats that the men, women and children would be beaten, and homes and fields torched, they agreed that half of the Saints would leave the county by January 1, 1834, and the rest by April.<sup>5</sup>

The citizen committee pledged to use their influence to prevent violence, but the harassment continued. This was a very difficult situation for a group that was committed to building a temple in Independence. Newel observed:

“But the Lord is with us and his will be done, for he will watch over the Saints for good, and protect them by his almighty power. Yet some feared and trembled, and their faith wavered while most continued on with their labors. I continued to labor upon a grist mill I was building, many finished off their houses, and went to preparing for future

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<sup>4</sup> William G. Hartley, *Stand By My Servant Joseph*, Deseret Book, 2003, p 167.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. pp. 167-69.

development of Zion. There was some sickness among us and a few deaths, but the arm of mercy was thrown round about us.”<sup>6</sup>

In the midst of this turmoil, in September of 1833, the Missouri Saints received a copy of the August 2<sup>nd</sup> revelation, now D & C 97: 10-11, stating, “it is my will that an house should be built up unto me in the land of Zion, like unto the pattern which I have given you.”

### **Commitment to the Temple**

The commitment of the Saints to build a temple was unmoved by their dangerous circumstances. Newel’s handwritten diary records the pledges that members of the Colesville Branch made to help build the temple. A transcription of that page is found here:

On receiving the revelation to build a house to the name of the Lord in Zion, the following page was circulated in Colesville Branch when the following subscriptions were made for the same.

We the undersigned subscribers feeling desirous to assist in building a house for the use of the Church of Christ as a house of worship but more especially particularly designed to accommodate the officers or ordained members of said church to meet in, to attend to all business that may be necessary for them to transact; said house to be built of brick or stone on the S E quarter of Section 3. Township 49 and Range 32. We therefore agree to pay the several sums annexed to our names, to the order of Bishop Edward Partridge any time after the first day of January next. If in money or grain to be delivered at the store of Gilbert and Whitney and if in materials for building on or near the spot designed for said building and if in labor when called for by said order in testimony where we have here unto set our names with the sum annexed. Jackson County, Sept 1833.

Caleb Baldwin	in labor \$20.00
Benjamin Slade	in labor \$20.00
Ezekial Peck	in labor \$30.00
Ira J. Willis	in labor \$30.00
Joseph Knight, Jr.	\$20.00
Joseph Knight, Sr.	\$100.00
Clark Slade	\$50.00
Newel Knight	\$100.00

Notwithstanding the persecution of our enemies many of the Saints manifested by their works.<sup>7</sup>

Pledges to the temple were never paid because they were driven from Jackson County and the temple was never built.

Diane Mangum – August 2025

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<sup>6</sup>Newel Knight, Allen Typescript, p.24.

<sup>7</sup> Newel Knight diary, LDS Church History Archives, call number 767.



During <sup>the</sup> great scarcity of mills in the County I had been induced to build one I had succeeded and not only the Saints but also the old settlers found themselves greatly benefited by it and we now found it necessary to keep a guard at the mill both day and night while engaged in guarding Brother D. Dratt was struck over the head by one of the mob with a gun and severely injured.

On receiving the revelation to build a house to the name of the Lord in Zion the following paper was circulated in Coolville branch when the following subscriptions were made for the same.

We the undersigned subscribers feeling desirous to assist in building a house for the use of the Church of Christ as a house of worship but more especially particularly designed to accommodate the officers or ordained members of said Church to meet in, to attend to all business that may be necessary for them to transact; said house to be built of brick or stone in the S E 1/4 of Sec 3. Township 49 and Range 22. We therefore agree to pay the several sums annexed to our names, to the order of Bishop Edward Partridge any time after the first day of January next. If in money or grain to be delivered at the store of Gilbert and Whitney, and if in materials for building on or near the spot designed for said building and if in labor when called for by said order in testimony whereof we have hereunto set our names with the sum annexed.

Jackson C O Sept 1833		\$	Cent
Caleb Baldwin	in labor	20	00
Benjamin Slade	"	20	00
Ezekiel Peck	"	30	00
Oran J Willis	"	30	00
Joseph Knight Jr		20	00
Joseph Knight Sen		100	00
Clark Slade		50	00
Newel Knight		100	00

notwithstanding the persecution of our enemies many of the Saints manifested by their works