



Type: Book Chapter

---

## Closing Comments

Source: *Mormonism and the Temple: Examining an Ancient Religious Tradition*

Editor(s): Gary N. Anderson

Publisher: Logan, UT; Academy for Temple Studies, 2013

Page(s): 149–150

---



BYU Studies is collaborating with Book of Mormon Central to preserve and extend access to BYU Studies and to scholarly research on The Book of Mormon. Archived by permission of BYU Studies.

<http://byustudies.byu.edu/>

# Closing Comments

*Jack Welch:* We are at the “end times,” aren’t we! I want to discharge my duties as moderator by telling Margaret and Laurence to be moderate in their comments. Thank you all for being here. It’s been a wonderful day. We’ll hear from Laurence first—any comments you might have on things that have happened this afternoon and any advice you would give to anyone here about what you’d recommend for the future.

*Laurence Hemming:* There’s very little I want to add. It’s been a marvelous day—certainly for me, coming from London, where Margaret and I have worked hard to get the Temple Studies Group going and to create a forum for the discussion all facets of temple theology. Today has been very much a day showing the connection between temple theology and the beliefs and practices of Latter-day Saints. And it has been a privilege for me to learn more from you and to see that unfold. I want to make one point: those first years of the Early Church are the ground on which Latter-day Saints can meet with people like myself as Catholics, with the work that Margaret’s done, and so on, to open up again the question of what the Christian revelation is, in its many different forms. The goal of this study is not to come to decisions nor to draw inappropriate parallels where those parallels shouldn’t be, but rather to show how the revelation of God unfolds, rather than a more rationalistic understanding of God which seems to prevail in many places at the present time. And today’s been a great witness to that, that there is a great deal of work to be done and a great deal of dialogue to

be done, not just with those that we’ve already brought together, but with many others who are yet to be involved with what Margaret and I and you have now learned is temple theology.

*Welch:* Thank you, Laurence. Margaret, chiasmically, the first shall be last.

*Margaret Barker:* Thanks, Jack. I found this a fascinating day. I hope, like it says in a song in your great American songbook, “This could be start of something big.” Well, let’s hope this is right. There are a huge number of aspects to this temple theology. I mean, Dan’s bibliography would terrify anybody! In fact, that’s only the beginning. And if we are not to lose this in our generation—and I speak as someone who knows the British scene quite well, where this sort of expertise is hanging by a thread—if we don’t recapture it in our generation and pass it on—and in the case of the Latter-day Saints not so much recapture it as develop what you’ve got—we could lose it. And that would be very, very sad, because this is the heart of what the Bible is all about. Now, there was a great pile of questions collected, which I haven’t had a chance to answer today. When I am back to England I will answer them. It’s been super to be here, and I do hope you will start a temple studies group in whatever form you do it. Believe me, you won’t regret it.

*Welch:* One last thought as you go home. I hope the things you have learned will stay with you and you’ll remember and ponder on these things for a long time. We want to thank our guests, speakers, organizers, and all of you. In Greek, the word for “thank” and the word for “praise” can be the

same word. Sometimes when we say thank you, we are just saying, "I am really glad that I had a wonderful day today." But at the same time, when we thank, we praise the people who have been with us for the goodness that they have done, and we praise the Lord. We thank you; we praise you all. Go in peace, God bless.