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Temples and Freemasonry Concerns

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Chapter 12
Temples and Freemasonry Concerns

71) Joseph Smith introduced the temple endowments right after becoming a Mason.

Answer: The Lord uses our "language" and "understanding" to teach principles to each dispensation. While the Temple Endowment and Masonic rituals have some outward similarities (just as the Nazi swastika comes from an older religious Sanskrit symbol), those similarities don't extend to the meaning of the rituals. The ritual is the wrapping paper; it is how the gift is presented to us. Familiarity helps convey messages and improves remembrance. If the Gospel had been restored in a different country or a different time, undoubtedly different symbols would have been employed.

Most of the important temple doctrines had already been revealed to Joseph Smith prior to becoming a Mason. Masonry simply helped facilitate the symbols (dressings) which were utilized to teach those important principles and covenants.

72) If the temple endowment is a restoration of original Masonry, why doesn't it match earlier versions of Masonry?

Answer: See above.

73) Despite the claims made by some LDS leaders, Freemasonry has zero links to Solomon's Temple.

Answer: That's irrelevant. The *meanings* of the rituals *are linked* to early Christianity and were restored by revelation. The form of the rituals was drawn from symbols in the environment.

74) Is God really going to require people to know secret tokens, handshakes, and signs to get into the Celestial Kingdom?

Answer: The Gospel is a plan to change people into beings who desire and can experience everlasting joy. It's about turning one's heart and faith over to the Lord and losing one's self in the service and love of others (just as God does for us). God wants *all* of His children to reach that plane of eternal joy and will give everyone the opportunity to decide for themselves if that's really what they want.