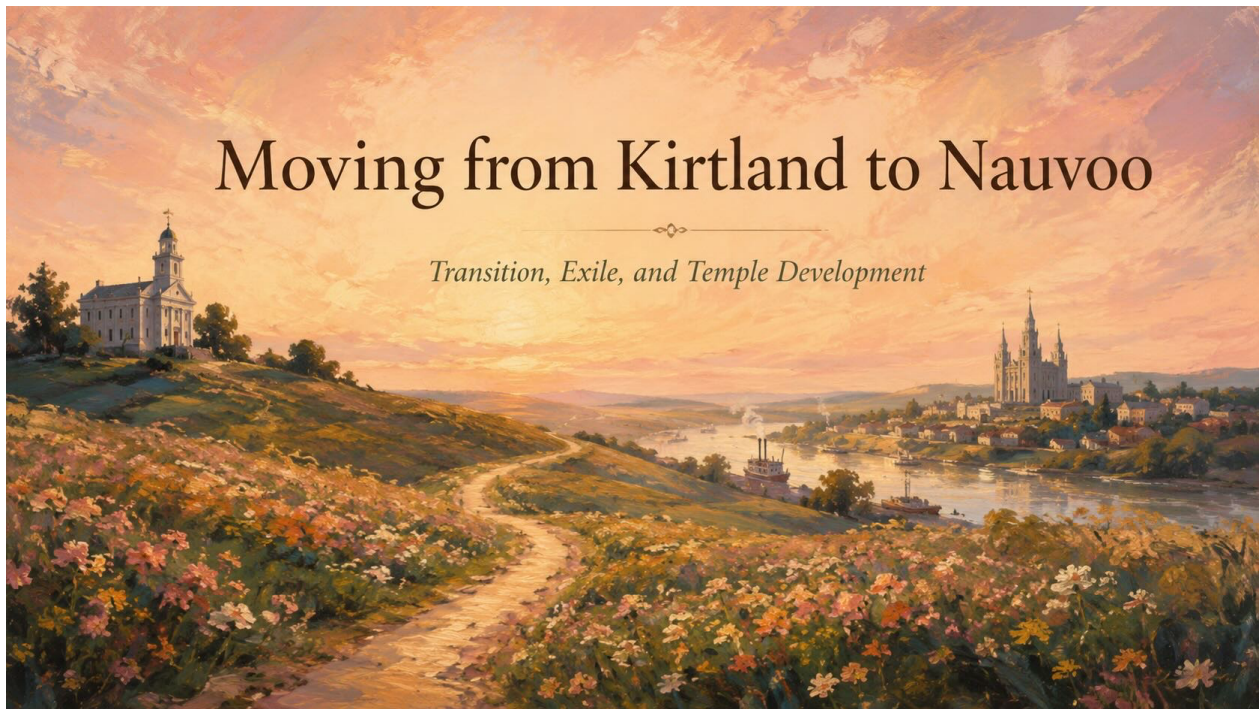


Ancient Forms and the Decision to Build a Temple City



Hi everyone welcome to this week's lesson. In our studies we will follow the Saints through the rough transitions in our early Church history. We will dive into the spiritual triumphs and eventual collapse of Kirtland, through persecution and displacement in Missouri, and into the establishment of Nauvoo as a new gathering place. We will examine how these experiences reshaped Joseph Smith's understanding of authority, sacred community, political protection, and temple worship. The lesson will introduce us to Freemasonry, its symbols, ritual structure, and social influence, while carefully considering how Joseph adapted elements of its ceremonial language as a vehicle for presenting the expanded Nauvoo Temple endowment. As you go through the homework, pay close attention to the way revelation, movement, covenant, sacred space, and embodied ritual develop across this period. Let's dive in.

Reading and Viewing

For the homework this week, let's follow the Saints' journey from the collapse of Kirtland through Far West, Liberty Jail, and the establishment of Nauvoo. Along the way, we will watch short historical overviews and read selected primary sources from the Joseph Smith Papers so we can hear the people involved describe these events in their own words.

[Episode 31: The Kirtland Crisis](#)

Financial collapse and dissent

[Joseph Smith Papers: Journal. March through September 1838](#)

Departure from Kirtland and arrival in Missouri

[Episode 33: Far West](#)

Settlement in northern Missouri

[Episode 34: The Missouri War](#)

Conflict and expulsion

[Joseph Smith Papers: Letter to Emma Smith, 4 November 1838](#)

Joseph's arrest and imprisonment

[Episode 35: Liberty Jail](#)

Imprisonment and revelation

[Joseph Smith Papers: Letter to the Church and Edward Partridge, 20 March 1839](#)

Suffering, revelation, and redress

[Episode 36: The Exodus to Illinois](#)

Far West to Quincy

[Episode 38: Missouri Legal Challenges](#)

Charges and legal proceedings

[Joseph Smith Papers: Documents, Volume 6](#)

Missouri conflict and removal

[Episode 39: Commerce and Nauvoo](#)

Purchasing the new gathering place

[Joseph Smith Papers: Documents, Volume 7](#)

Government redress and early Nauvoo

[Episode 40: Seeking Government Redress](#)

Appeal to the federal government

<https://www.ugle.org.uk/discover-freemasonryry/what-is-freemasonryry>

What is Freemasonry?

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/history/topics/masonry?lang=eng>

Masonry according to the LDS Church