

Comments on Doctrine & Covenants 94

This section addresses how real estate parcels are to be dealt with in Kirtland and what construction is to be undertaken.

1 AND again, verily I say unto you, my friends, a commandment I give unto you, that ye shall commence a work of laying out and preparing a beginning and foundation of the city of the stake of Zion, here in the land of Kirtland, beginning at my house. 2 And behold, it must be done according to the pattern which I have given unto you.

v1-2 The Lord commands the ecclesia to begin construction at the Temple foundation (v. 1), and it must be done according to His instructions (v. 2).

v2 "which I have given you", note the past tense, possibly referring to D&C 95:14-17, suggesting D&C 95 was received before D&C 94. However, there might have been some other revelation, presently undocumented, which preceded both.

3 And let the first lot on the south be consecrated unto me for the building of a house for the presidency, for the work of the presidency, in obtaining revelations; and for the work of the ministry of the presidency, in all things pertaining to the church and kingdom. 4 Verily I say unto you, that it shall be built fifty-five by sixty-five feet in the width thereof and in the length thereof, in the inner court. 5 And there shall be a lower court and a higher court, according to the pattern which shall be given unto you hereafter. 6 And it shall be dedicated unto the Lord from the foundation thereof, according to the order of the priesthood, according to the pattern which shall be given unto you hereafter. 7 And it shall be wholly dedicated unto the Lord for the work of the presidency. 8 And ye shall not suffer any unclean thing to come in unto it; and my glory shall be there, and my presence shall be there. 9 But if there shall come into it any unclean thing, my glory shall not be there; and my presence shall not come into it.

v3-9 A house for the use of the First Presidency is to be built on the first South lot and be dedicated to their use as a holy structure for the Lord's work.

10 And again, verily I say unto you, the second lot on the south shall be dedicated unto me for the building of a house unto me, for the work of the printing of the translation of my

scriptures, and all things whatsoever I shall command you. 11 And it shall be fifty-five by sixty-five feet in the width thereof and the length thereof, in the inner court; and there shall be a lower and a higher court. 12 And this house shall be wholly dedicated unto the Lord from the foundation thereof, for the work of the printing, in all things whatsoever I shall command you, to be holy, undefiled, according to the pattern in all things as it shall be given unto you.

v10-12 A printing house is to be constructed on the second South lot, and be dedicated to the Lord, and be maintained as holy.

13 And on the third lot shall my servant Hyrum Smith receive his inheritance. 14 And on the first and second lots on the north shall my servants Reynolds Cahoon and Jared Carter receive their inheritances-- 15 That they may do the work which I have appointed unto them, to be a committee to build mine houses, according to the commandment, which I, the Lord God, have given unto you. 16 These two houses are not to be built until I give unto you a commandment concerning them. 17 And now I give unto you no more at this time. Amen.

v13-17 Hyrum Smith is to receive the third South lot (v. 13), Reynolds Cahoon is to receive the first North lot, and Jared Carter is to receive the second North lot (v. 14). However, the two houses on the North lots are not to be built right away (v. 16). Hyrum Smith, Cahoon, and Carter are to act as a building committee (v. 15), collecting subscriptions to fund the construction.

v16 One would assume improved private residences were of secondary importance when compared with the construction of the Temple and attendant buildings dedicated for religious use.

Historical Material Pertaining to Doctrine & Covenants 94

This section was first published in the 1835 Kirtland edition Doctrine & Covenants, pages 213-214. It was published in the Times and Seasons, volume 6, number 1, page 769, dated January 15, 1845. It was published in the Millennial Star, volume 14, number 27, page 424, dated August 28, 1852.

Determining the date the revelation was received is problematic because of conflicting sources. Here are possible dates, and their sources:

- March 8, 1833 Publication of revelation in periodical with date given as "On the 4th of May, 1833, a conference of high priests assembled in Kirtland, to take into consideration the necessity of building a school house, for the accommodation of the elders, who should come together to receive instruction preparatory for their missions, and ministry, according to a revelation on that subject, given March 8th 1833, and by unanimous voice of the conference, Hyrum Smith, Jared Carter, and Reynolds Cahoon were appointed a committee to obtain subscriptions, for the purpose of erecting such a building." Times and Seasons, volume 5, number 24, January 1, 1844.
- May, 1833 The 1835 edition of the Doctrine & Covenants says of D&C 93 "Revelation given May, 1833" and of D&C 94 "Revelation given same date".
- May 6, 1833 Publication of revelation in periodical with date given as "Revelation given same day [i.e., "On the 6th, I received the following revelation; given May, 1833"]. Times and Seasons, volume 6, number 1, January 15, 1845.
- August 2, 1833 The letter from which this revelation is drawn indicates it was received August 2, 1833, as does the Kirtland Revelation Book.

The March date is easily discarded as it can be taken to refer to D&C 90, and the subsequent comments afterwards can be seen as unrelated in time. The May and August dates are in conflict. See additional discussion below in Cook's comments.

Excerpt from History of the Church

The same date (May 6th) [1833] I received the following:
[text of D&C 94 quoted]
(Joseph Smith, History of the Church, volume 1, page 346)

Excerpt from Levi Hancock's Journal

It is now march in the year 1833--We had no place to worship in. Jared Carter went around with a Subscription paper to get Signers I signed two dollars. He made up a little over thirty and presented it to Joseph--The Lord would not accept it and gave commandment to build a Temple---Also another for my Father to move to Kirtland. (Levi Hancock, 1833, Journal, pages 49-50.

Excerpt from Heber C. Kimball's Journal

The brethren were engaged in building the house of the Lord. The commandments to build the house, and also the pattern of it was given in a revelation to Joseph Smith Jr., Sidney Rigdon, and Frederick G. Williams, and was to be erected by a stated time. The church was in a state of poverty and distress in consequence of which it appears almost impossible that the commandment could be fulfilled, and the same time our enemies were raging and threatened destruction upon us, and we had to guard ourselves night after night, and for weeks were not permitted to take off our clothes, and were obliged to lay with our fire locks in our arms to preserve brother Joseph's life. (Heber C. Kimball, Journal, page 19)

Excerpt from Church History and Modern Revelation

A conference of high priests assembled April 30, 1833, in the school room in Kirtland and took steps to raise means to pay the rent for the house where their meetings had been held during the past season. John P. Green was appointed to take charge of a branch of the Church in Parkman County.... The next day the conference again convened and took into consideration the

necessity of building a schoolhouse, for the accommodation of the elders, who were to come together to receive instruction preparatory to taking missions and continuing in the ministry according to the revelation of March 8, 1833. [D&C Sec. 90] By unanimous voice of the conference, Hyrum Smith, Jared Carter and Reynolds Cahoon were appointed a committee to obtain subscriptions for the purpose of erecting such a building... later the Lord gave a revelation with directions for the building of this house.... (Joseph Fielding Smith, Church History and Modern Revelation, volume 2, pages 164-165)

Excerpt from Doctrine and Covenants Commentary

At a conference held March 23rd, 1833, a committee was appointed to purchase land in Kirtland, upon which to build up a Stake of Zion. Several large farms were bought, and among these was the French farm, so called after its owner. This had an excellent stone quarry and good material for brick-making. A city plan was surveyed, and the Saints gathered from surrounding States, until the Church in Kirtland numbered about 1,500 souls. The Lord, in this Revelation, instructed them to build the city of Kirtland Stake, beginning at His house. He also gave instructions for the consecration of a lot upon which to build a House of the Lord for the ministry of the First Presidency, "in all things pertaining to the church and kingdom." Further particulars about this house are given. (Hyrum M. Smith and Janne M. Sjodahl, Doctrine and Covenants Commentary, page 600)

Excerpt from Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith

Both the "Kirtland Revelation Book" and a letter from the Prophet and others to Church leaders in Missouri, dated 6 August 1833, give the date of reception for section 94 as 2 August 1833. Moreover, the 6 August 1833 letter makes it clear that sections 97 and 94 were received together and appear to be either two parts of one revelation or two revelations joined together – section 94 constituting the latter half. Internal evidence also suggests that section 94 was received after section 95: verses 1-2 of section 94 indicate that the pattern for constructing the Kirtland Temple had already been given, but section 95 gave the dimensions for the temple and added that the "manner" (i.e., architecture) would be later shown to three....

Section 94 gave specific attention to two sacred buildings

to be constructed in Kirtland: the house for the Presidency and a house for printing. The revelation also mentioned that the three-member committee who had been commissioned earlier to supervise the receiving of subscriptions for the erection of these sacred edifices were to be given city lots in Kirtland.

The above-mentioned letter gave instructions to the Missouri members of the Church regarding the content of the revelation (i.e., sections 97 and 94). The letter, in the hand of Sidney Rigdon, stated in part,

Having received br Oliver's letter of July 9th as well as one from the breatheren composing the school we now answer them both in one letter as relates to the school of Zion according to your request we inquired of the Lord and send in this letter the communication which we received from the Lord concerning the school in Zion It was obtained August 2nd and reads thus (here follow sections 97 and 94 respectively]. You will see by these revelations that we have to print the new translation here in Kirtland for which we will prepare as soon as possable. here follows another revelation received to day Kirtland August 6th 1833 [section 98 follows]. Having here given you two revelations we accompany them with the following explanations 1) the revelation respecting the two houses to be built in Kirtland in addition to the one we are now building [i.e., the temple] one for the presidency and the other for the printing are also bending upon on you that is you at Zion have to build two houses as well as the one of which we have sent the pattern [i.e., the Jackson County temple, see "Kirtland Council Minute Book," p. 22] and mentioned in the first revelation above written you are also in addition to this one to build two others one for the presidency and one for the printing they are to be of the same size in the inner court of the one of which you have received the pattern they will therefore be larger than the ones we are to build in Kirtland 2) you are to print an Edition of the schriptides [i.e., the New Translation of the Bible] there at the same time we do here so that two additions [editions] will be struck at the same time the one here and the other there, the two last mentioned houses are to be built as soon after the other as means can be obtained so to

do The pattern of the last mentioned houses as yet to be given see revelation 1 above [see D&C 94:5-6 and 11].

Sidney Rigdon

F .G. Williams

Joseph Smith Jr.

Pursuant to the instructions of section 94, a printing office was erected adjacent to the temple in Kirtland. On 10 October 1833, nearly two months after receiving section 94, it was decided to proceed with the construction of a printing office (30' x 38'), somewhat smaller than specified in the revelation, and it was determined that the building, at least temporarily, would serve as both a printing office and an office for the presidency (of the School of the Prophets). The structure was completed the latter part of November 1834 and was put to immediate use. The first story was used for the school of the elders (prophets) and the upper story for the printing press. Other rooms on both levels as well as the attic were used as offices for the Church Presidency and for all types of meetings. The building was attached to satisfy a judgment in late 1837, and on 16 January 1838 the whole printing apparatus and office were burned to the ground. (Lyndon W. Cook, The Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith)

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