



JORDAN RIVER UTAH TEMPLE



Issue #1, January 2018

Our Temple Has Been Made Anew!

We invite our community, friends, and neighbors, to attend the Jordan River Utah Temple open house and cultural celebration, this spring of 2018. You will experience the open house of “our temple”.

In 2008, Elder William R. Walker, Executive Director of the Temple Department, remembers how community leaders and journalists referred to temple structures built in their communities as “our temple,” proving to him that a temple’s beautifully built structure and immaculately kept grounds are a source of pride for local citizens. He said, “I think it just shows that the temple, normally, will be one of the most beautiful—if not the most beautiful—building in a community. It’s natural that, not just members of our Church, but all the members of the community generally would be very pleased to have a temple there, and they would feel it’s ‘our temple.’” We know that is the case with our Jordan River Utah Temple.

We also realize that once the Jordan River Utah Temple is rededicated, it will be “the Lord’s Temple”. It will be the House of the Lord. It will still be in our community for us to enjoy the temple’s beautiful gardens and inspiring structure. After the rededication, entrance into the temple is reserved for members of the Church who have committed to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and are ready to participate in further sacred ordinances.

The Jordan River Utah Temple has been a landmark, in South Jordan, since it’s groundbreaking in 1979. It was intended to be a workhorse with the beauty of a thoroughbred. It was designed to have the largest capacity of any temple at that point.

Temples are built of the best materials and quality. This makes them last for many years. With constant use there comes a time when they need to be updated through renovations. Many renovations are inside jobs—with interior refurbishing and replacements unseen by the public. The renovation of the Jordan River Utah Temple started in February 2016 and will be completed in the spring of 2018. The contractors have focused on building reinforcements, mechanical and electrical upgrades, hard-ceiling installations, changing out escalators for stairs and a baptistry remodel.



Jordan River Utah Temple Rededication events:

Sunday January 7, 2018 –
Leadership Kick-off meeting

March 12, 2018 – Media Day

March 13 to March 16, 2018 –
VIP Open House

Sunday March 18, 2018 – Youth
Kick-off Fireside

March 17 to April 28, 2018 –
Public Open House

March 19 to May 18, 2018 –
Youth Cultural Celebration
rehearsals, activities, and
preparations

May 19, 2018 – Youth Cultural
Celebration Performance

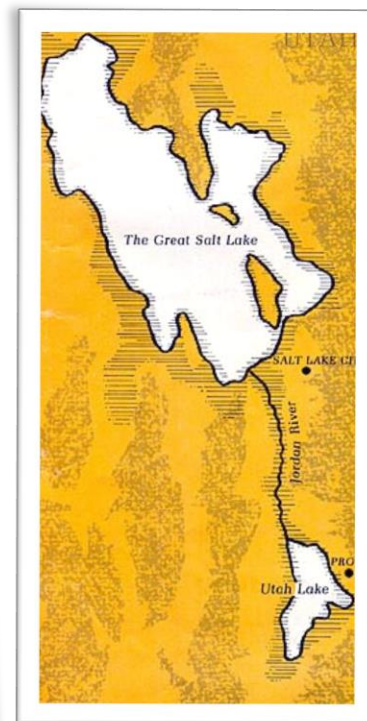
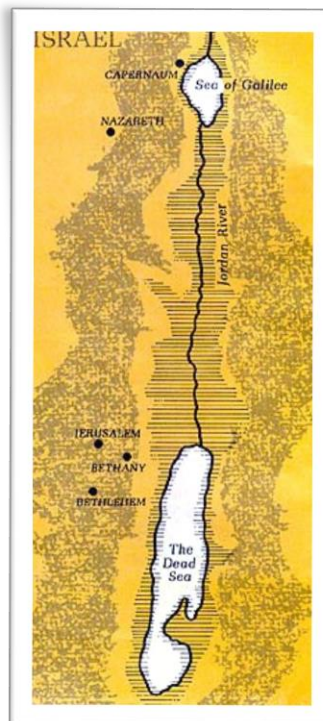
May 20, 2018 – Temple
Rededication

May 22-2018 – Temple Open for
Ordinances

Where does the Jordan River Utah Temple get its name?

The Utah Pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. As they began to settle the area, they noticed a river running from south to north through the middle of the valley. It was first named Utah River, because it started at Utah Lake. The name was later changed to the Jordan River, by Brigham Young, because of the similarities that this river had to the Jordan River in Israel. Both lands are arid desert, with their rivers starting at a fresh lake (Sea of Galilee and Utah Lake) and ending into a lake of salt (Dead Sea and Great Salt Lake, *see comparison maps on the right*). The Jordan River, in Israel, winds for over one hundred and twenty miles through its valley. While the Utah Jordan River travels through its valley about thirty miles. The Great Salt Lake is almost three times bigger than the Dead Sea. The pioneers considered this their promised land and so naming the river, the Jordan River, was very significant to them.

In 1849, several families crossed the Jordan River, in the area of West Jordan, and built earthen dugouts, in the ledges, on the west side of the river. The area started to grow and become very popular as canals were built to direct the river water to the flat lands on top of the west ridge. In 1863, Robert Matthew Holt traveled to South Jordan from



Dorsetshire, England.

The Holt family became a great farming family in the community. Roberts's great grandson, Alma Matthew Holt, donated 15 acres of their farm to build the Jordan River Utah Temple. Since the Jordan River has influenced this area so much it is appropriate that this temple be named The Jordan River Utah Temple.

An Invitation

A message from Craig P. Burton, Coordinator of the Jordan River Utah Temple Open House and Rededication Event

As we begin this new year of 2018, I join with all of you in rejoicing in the scheduled rededication of the Jordan River Utah Temple on May 20th. Since its original dedication on November 16, 1981, this temple has fulfilled the vision



of President Spencer W. Kimball, who, rather than using a traditional shovel for the groundbreaking ceremony, climbed

aboard a huge Caterpillar tractor. He put into action his oft-quoted admonishment to “lengthen our stride” by operating the controls to move a giant shovelful of dirt.

In that same spirit, we now have a similar opportunity to “lengthen our stride” in our participation in the upcoming rededication activities: the temple Open House, Cultural Celebration and Rededication meetings. In the next couple of weeks an invitation will be sent through your stake presidents to volunteer to serve in the many activities associated with the reopening of the temple. I look forward to serving alongside each of you as you assist with the everything associated with the youth celebration, parking, ushering, shoe-coverings, hosting, providing background

and choir music, security, and many other needed, but perhaps less-visible services required to invite the public to tour another completed “House of the Lord”. It is my prayer that as you do so, you will each feel the love of Him whose house we have longed to enter since its closure for remodel in February 2016

“Young friends...always have the temple in your sights. Do nothing which will keep you from entering its doors and partaking of the sacred and eternal blessings there.”

President Thomas S. Monson