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RELIGION

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: Mormons and Gold Part 1

Date: Jul 7

Host: Glen Rosson

Description: In January 1848 there were two groups of Latter-day Saints in California; the Saints from the ship Brooklyn and the veterans of the Mormon Battalion. John Sutter, a Swiss immigrant, was carving out a small kingdom in central California and he needed skilled workman to help him. He hired a number of Mormon Battalion veterans to help him. January 24, 1848, James Marshall and others discover gold on the south fork of the American River. Another group of Battalion veterans made another huge gold strike at Mormon Island farther down on the American River. Samuel Brannan, a Latter-day Saint from the *Brooklyn*, spread the word of the discovery and then became rich selling goods to the miners. The Saints helped develop some of the early techniques and tools for extracting gold. Almost to a man, the men of the Battalion walk away from the gold fields and return to their families.

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: Mormons and Gold Part 2

Date: Jul 14

Host: Glen Rosson

Description: Men of the Mormon Battalion started for home blazing a new road over Carson Pass. Ezra Allen and two others were killed by Indians at a place called Tragedy Springs. Word was spread to the east about gold in California by Latter-day Saints of the Mormon Battalion. After U.S. President James K. Polk announced gold in California to Congress, unrestrained hysteria resulted in a mad rush to the gold fields. Argonauts passed through Salt Lake City on the way to California both enriching the Saints and tempting them to flee to the gold fields. The notion to flee the Valley for California created a crisis for President Young and the Church.

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: Mormons and Gold Part 3

Date: Jul 21

Host: Glen Rosson

Description: The winter of 1848-49 in Salt Lake City was one of the worst on record. Rationing was instituted for their survival. It was estimated that about ten percent of the Saints left for California. President Heber C. Kimball prophesied of imminent prosperity for the Saints who remained in the Valley. The prophecy was fulfilled in the spring of 1849 when the 49'ers came through the Salt Lake Valley eager to resupply. July 24, 1849 was set apart as a day of feasting and celebration that the Saints had survived the winter and the crisis. Some 49'ers stay in Salt Lake which created some difficulty for the residents, but also converts to the Church. The Church needed gold for currency and called men to serve as gold mining missionaries in California. They went but returned with very little.

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: Episode Eleven: The Return of Oliver Cowdery

Date: Jul 28

Host: Glen Rosson

Description: October 21, 1848, Oliver Cowdery came into an outdoor Church conference near Mosquito Creek, Iowa. He was invited to speak by Orson Hyde before some 2000 Latter-day Saints. He bore eloquent testimony of the Book of Mormon. April 12, 1838, Oliver Cowdery was excommunicated at Far West, Missouri, and subsequently driven from the area. While Oliver may have been angry he did not apostatize from the Church or deny his witness. Once out of the Church, Oliver took up the practice of law in Ohio and maintained friendly relations with members of the Church, particularly, Phineas Young. Oliver desired over time to come back to the Church and go West with the Saints. Oliver was received by the High Council at Kanesville and rebaptized November 12, 1848. He moved to Richmond, Missouri where he died in March of 1850.

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: Episode Twelve: The Doctrine of Gathering

Date: Aug 4

Host: Glen Rosson

Description: The doctrine of gathering was first revealed through Joseph Smith. Building Temples was one of the primary reasons for the gathering, building Zion was another. In 1847 the Salt Lake Valley was appointed as the place of gathering and refuge. It was not enough for the Saints to gather, they had to also bring the poor. The Perpetual Emigrating Fund was started to assist the poor in coming to Zion. The PEF would function for 40 years and assist more than 100,000 saints to emigrate. The

gathering would cause a great generational uplift and betterment of the Saints. It was not just the poor who gathered with the Church but largely the middle class. The skilled and educated came, and many of those from the British Isles.

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: Episode Thirteen: The Parley P. Pratt Expedition of 184

Date: Aug 11

Host: Glen Rosson

Description: After baptism, converts were asked to gather to Zion, but the Salt Lake Valley could not hold them all. Other settlements would be needed. Brigham Young initially wanted Latter-day Saint settlements stretching all the way to San Diego, California. The territorial legislature voted to fund an exploration expedition led by Parley P. Pratt to search for settlement sites. Parley hand-picked the men for the expedition and they left November 14, 1849. Winter conditions were terrible. They faced many dangers and hardships on their journey. The company traveled as far south as the Virgin River before they turned around and made their way home. Returning home the party ran out of food, their animals began to die and the expedition was in dire straits. Rescue parties were dispatched from Provo to bring the starving and freezing men in. The Expedition's report to the Legislature would later prove useful in choosing the sites for many future settlements of the Saints.

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: Episode Fourteen: The State of Deseret Part On

Date: Aug 18

Host: Glen Rosson

Description: The Latter-day Saints were anti-politician and anti-government but they were not anti-American. They revered the Constitution and its principles. The first civil government in Utah was ecclesiastical. In March 1849 the Saints formed the provisional State of Deseret. Almon Babbitt and John M. Bernhisel represented the interests of Deseret in Washington. The Saints wanted statehood, not territory status, as being a territory meant that the Saints would not be self-governed. They would be governed by political appointees of Washington. President Zachary Taylor did not support Deseret statehood. Due in large measure to the vitriol of William Smith, brother of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Deseret statehood was denied. Instead, as part of the Missouri Compromise of 1850, Utah was made a territory on September 9, 1850. President Millard Fillmore appointed a number of Latter-day Saints to territorial positions including Brigham Young as governor.

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: **Episode Fifteen: The State of Deseret Part Two**

Date: **Aug 25**

Host: **Glen Rosson**

Description: **With the opening of year 1851, citizens of the new Territory of Utah are optimistic of the future. As a territory, the operations of Utah's government would be supported by the Federal Government. The new territorial officials arrived in Salt Lake City in the late summer of 1851. Tensions immediately began to mount and by September 28, 1851, the officials sneak out of the territory in the middle of the night taking with them the monies designated to run the Territorial Government. The runaway officials circulate terrible rumors and bring the Latter-day Saints to national attention. The Saints counter the rumors in Washington and generally win the battle in the court of public opinion.**

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: **Episode Sixteen: Life on the Trail Part On**

Date: **Sep 1**

Host: **Glen Rosson**

Description: **Between 1847 and 1868, tens of thousands of Latter-day Saints crossed the overland trail to Utah. There is no one great story that describes each person's journey. We have an excellent record of the trail due to the many diaries that were kept. Each company of emigrants had an experienced frontiersman as its captain. The captain was the decision-maker for the company. Emigrants generally had to learn and adjust to life on the trail. The buffalo was one of the great wonders of the trail. The companies were a literal community on the move with livestock and pets as part of the company. Rules were strictly enforced and music and dancing were common evening activities. Women tended to preserve as much of domestic normality as possible. Bathing on the plains was an art. Mosquitoes were a terrible pest. Weather on the high plains was a force to be reckoned with.**

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: **Episode Seventeen: Life on the Trail Part Two**

Date: **Sep 8**

Host: **Glen Rosson**

Description: **River crossings were one of the most hazardous adventures of life on the Trail. Food was always an issue as the emigrants could not carry enough to sustain them the entire way. They had to hunt and gather along the Trail to survive. The Indians of the Plains both frightened and fascinated the pioneers. Wolves were another source of trepidation for the emigrants. They would stalk the camps and dig up the graves along the road. Snakes were a constant worry. Many pioneer journals describe the scenery of the Plains with words such as “majestic” and “breathtaking.”**

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: **Episode Eighteen Life on the Trail Part Thre**

Date: **Sep 15**

Host: **Glen Rosson**

Description: **The pioneers walked to Utah. Riding in a wagon was boring and uncomfortable. The saints were never the only emigrants on the Trail, in fact, they were often the minority on a crowded trail. Travel on the overland trail was carefully timed and seasonal. The number one killer on the trail was cholera. Accidents were the next leading cause of death. It was in Wyoming that the Saints marveled at the scenery and experienced a distortion of their sense of distance under the wide open skies. The Pioneer Trail was not for the most part a trail of tragedy and death, but rather a journey of faith and joy.**

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: **Episode Nineteen: The Indians of Utah**

Date: **Sep 22**

Host: **Glen Rosson**

Description: **The Native Americans are an integral part of Latter-day Saint history, but their story has been strained out of Church History. Native Americans were considered as part of the House of Israel that too must be gathered. Brigham Young was given authority to redeem the Lamanites by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and ever after felt a keen responsibility for their welfare. Because of these Church-fostered sympathies it became a frequent accusation against the Latter-day Saints that they were in collusion with the Indians against the United States. There were several hundred Indians in the Salt Lake Valley when the Vanguard Company arrived in July 1847. They were at first friendly, but that later changed. It was over the**

issue of the use of the land that a clash of cultures resulted between the Latter-day Saints and the Indians. There was an inevitable competition for resources between them. The Indians expected payment for the use of the land. The diseases of the white men would wreak havoc among the tribes before the nineteenth century was out.

HISTORY OF THE SAINTS

Title: **Episode Twenty: Mormons and Indians Part 2**

Date: **Sep 29**

Host: **Glen Rosson**

Description: **The first Native Americans in the Great Basin were called the Numic. They were the ancestors of the modern tribes, and were largely nomadic hunter-gatherers. The late introduction of the horse changed Indian culture. When the Saints arrived in the Great Basin they discovered an active slave trade among the Indians. The mountain men first developed relationships with the Indians which later led to favorable first impressions with the Latter-day Saints when they came into the Great Basin. Problems occurred when the Saints began establishing settlements outside the Salt Lake Valley, particularly in Utah Valley. It erupted into war. Seeing the atrocities that had been committed on both sides of the conflict, Brigham Young would ever after pursue a course of reconciliation and peace.**

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: **"THE REMNANT"**

Date: **Jul 7**

Host: **Ryan Fisher**

Description: **Exodus of Lehi's family and the Dead Sea Scrolls**
Journalist Ryan Fisher investigates archeological sites in Jerusalem to fill in the rest of the story behind the exodus of the family of Lehi from Jerusalem in 600 BC and to find out if the prophecy of Lehi and the prophet Jeremiah, that Jerusalem will be destroyed if the people don't repent, was fulfilled.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: "Lincolns Conversion"
Date: Jul 14
Host: Ryan Fisher
Description: Lincoln and the Civil War part one- "Lincolns

Conversion"

Investigative journalist Ryan Fisher travels to Washington DC to investigate the events that led up to President Lincolns second inaugural address in which he states that the civil war is a judgment from God on the nation and that the United States is a promised land just like ancient Israel.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: "The Nation Converts"
Date: Jul 21
Host: Ryan Fisher
Description: The investigation into President Lincoln's conversion to the concept that the United States is a promised land continues as journalist Ryan Fisher travels to Gettysburg to investigate the conversion of the north and how that affected the outcome of the civil war.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: The Promise Land of Israel
Date: Jul 28
Host: Ryan Fisher
Description: A warning to the United States. The investigation into this concept that the United States is a promised land leads journalist Ryan Fisher to Israel to investigate the rules for living on a promised land and to search for connections to the consequences of the US civil war.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: The Oath
Date: Aug 4
Host: Ryan Fisher
Description: Exploration of Federal Hall and St. Paul's Chapel
Investigating the concept that the United States is a promised land, journalist Ryan Fisher meets author Timothy Ballard who uncovers that President Washington took a solemn oath that he would preside over a new promised land as prophesied in the Old Testament.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: Pilgrims inherit a Promised Land
Date: Aug 11
Host: Ryan Fisher
Description: The investigation into the founding of the United States continues in Plymouth Mass. where Journalist Ryan Fisher investigates the covenants and oaths the Pilgrims and Puritans made when arriving on American Shores.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: "Meeting of two brothers"
Date: Aug 18
Host: Ryan Fisher
Description: Journalist Ryan Fisher meets with scholar Bruce Porter in Plymouth Mass. to investigate the prophecies concerning latter day America and how those events were set in motion thousands of years ago in ancient Israel.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: "For the Lamanites"
Date: Aug 25
Host: Ryan Fisher
Description: Journalist Ryan Fisher investigates statements and teachings from Joseph Smith regarding the location of Book of Mormon geography, the missionaries sent to the "Lamanites" and searches for connections between the lands of the Nephites and the United States of America.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: 9 "Prophecy of the Pilgrims"
Date: Sept 1
Host: Ryan Fisher
Description: Investigative journalist Ryan Fisher searches for clues from Book of Mormon prophecy about the pilgrims that can tell us where the lands of the Nephites are, and what that means for Americans today.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: "The Last Great Struggle"

Date: Sept 8

Host: Ryan Fisher

Description: Journalist Ryan Fisher investigates the events surrounding the excavation of an ancient Nephite Grave by Joseph Smith and others and the incredible revelations that followed.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: – "The collapse of the Nephites"

Date: Sept 15

Host: Ryan Fisher

Description: Exploration of Mound City

Journalist Ryan Fisher explores the ruins of an ancient city and fort with archeologists to search for parallels to the stories and wars found in the Book of Mormon.

NEPHITE EXPLORER

Title: RECAP OF SEASON ONE

Date: Sep 22

Host: Ryan Fisher

Description: Journalist and Explorer Ryan Fisher offers a preview of the upcoming season of Nephite Explorer.