

# Mitt Romney and the Mormon Plan for America

by William Schnoebelen

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*[Note: This article was originally written before the 2008 elections, but in the light of the increasing popularity of Mormon Glenn Beck, I felt it needed to be put up on the web again.]*

I spent five years in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormons). During that time I was highly active in church functions and priesthood offices. I held a “temple recommend” and went to the temple many times. This was from 1980-1985.

During this time, I developed friendships with many LDS people. Mitt Romney, like most of the people I met, is a fine, upstanding man of apparently sterling character. If his religious faith is not taken into account, Mr. Romney is probably better qualified than most other presidential candidates in this election cycle, from whatever party.

However, with the LDS church, things are never as they seem. When I was in the church, we were taught many things about the “*Mormon Plan for America*.” These were doctrines that were not so much widely discussed outside the Church, because they were somewhat radical or even revolutionary in nature.

At the time, I was a member of what was called **The Freeman Institute**. This was a group founded by BYU Professor and FBI Agent W. Cleon Skousen. This was not an officially recognized LDS group, but rather a quasi-political body of deeply conservative stripe. Skousen's name is well known among 20<sup>th</sup> century right wingers. His conservative credentials are impeccable and he is the author of several highly regarded books, including *THE NAKED CAPITALIST* and *THE NAKED COMMUNIST*. He is well-known among groups such as the John Birch Society.

However, the name of the group “Freeman” comes from The Book of Mormon, of the three “standard works” of the LDS faith beyond the Bible.<sup>1</sup> There is a passage in the book of Alma (one of the “books” in the Book of Mormon<sup>2</sup>):

*And those who were desirous that Pahoran should remain chief judge over the land  
took upon them the name of **freemen**; and thus was the division among them,  
for the  
freemen had sworn or covenanted to maintain their rights and the privileges of  
their*

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1 These are extra-Biblical books which are – of course – spurious by orthodox Christian standards. They are: The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price.

2 The Book of Mormon has “books” in it, just as the Bible has the “book” of Genesis or Matthew. The names however, are quite strange to the Christian ear. One of the books is even called Ether.

*religion by a free government. Alma 51: 6-7*

Now, there is nothing particularly sinister about that passage, except for the fact that it illustrates how strongly the Institute allied itself with *Book of Mormon teaching*. This should be disturbing to Christians. Because of this, in the later years the organization changed its name to the **National Center for Constitutional Studies**.

However, even *that* name has Mormon doctrinal implications. Mormonism is a uniquely American religion, embodying as it does many of the virtues of the frontier United States: self-reliance, individuality, and high expectations of morality.

One of its more unique doctrines in this regard is their belief that the US Constitution is a *divinely inspired document*. They view it in virtually the same way they view the Bible or the Book of Mormon or other standard works of their church. Thus, the National Center for Constitutional Studies has – as its underpinning – the idea that the document they are studying is virtually holy writ.

Skousen, like most knowledgeable Mormons, believed this doctrine and viewed with grave suspicions the rise of Supreme Court decisions which seemed to chip away at a strict interpretation of the Constitution. This would be much like Christians who have little patience with liberal theologians who interpret the Bible very loosely and do not regard it as the very Word of God.

This would put most Mormons on the same page politically as the conservative wing of the Republican party. This is why many conservative Americans see Romney as a viable alternative to Rudy Giuliani, who has many socially liberal views and a somewhat less than perfect marital background. Romney, of course, has the “perfect” Mormon marriage. He has been married to the same woman for many years and does not cuss, drink or smoke or even drink coffee or tea. He is also an incredibly successful executive in the private sector – having managed to saved the troubled Salt Lake Olympics and then more or less successfully governed the state of Massachusetts.

At this point, many would say: *so what is the problem?*

The difficulty is this: Mormonism has a **unique view** of itself in American history. This is not like the “Catholic issue” when John Kennedy was running for president in 1960. Kennedy was able to look the press straight in the eye and tell them that if he were elected president, he would not be allowing the pope or his archbishop in Boston to dictate how he would run the country. That satisfied the press and pretty much quelled the Catholic issue. There was hardly a peep during the 2004 election about John Kerry's Catholicism (unfortunately!).

But Mormonism is *different*, and Mitt Romney's roots run deep into the LDS religion. It could be argued that Kennedy was a lousy Catholic. Both he and his father Joseph Kennedy were notorious philanderers and adulterers. But Romney takes his faith very, very seriously.

Like his father, George Romney, who ran unsuccessfully for president a generation ago (1968), he is a **high priest** in the Church priesthood hierarchy. What cost George Romney the candidacy was the LDS Church's stand on race. Until 1978, the LDS Church taught that black people were “loathsome, filthy and lazy” (Mormon leaders' words, NOT mine) and that no black could ever hold the priesthood until all white men had received it. In 1978, the Church received a “revelation” changing that teaching. However, young Mitt Romney grew up earnestly believing this racist dogma! That alone might be cause for concern.

*(It should be explained that Mormonism has a somewhat odd and complicated hierarchy for its priesthood. Unlike virtually every other religion, virtually all adult males in Mormonism are “priests.” In fact, at the age of 18, most “worthy”<sup>3</sup> Mormon young men are ordained elders. There are two priesthoods, the Aaronic, which is for boys under eighteen that includes deacon, teacher and priest. After 18, a worthy young man is ordained into the higher or Melchizedek priesthood. The offices here are Elder, Seventy and High Priest. Additionally, some elders are called to lead a ward [local LDS congregation] and they are ordained high priests [if not one already] and made bishops. Beyond that are regional and national leaders. At the very pinnacle are the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles led by the Prophet and two “Counselors.” Just to indicate the level of power which Romney’s family enjoyed within the church, his uncle, Marion G. Romney was one of the First Counselors to the Prophet when I was a Mormon.)*

As can be seen from the above explanation, Romney has risen to the highest levels of “local priesthood” power. He also served a 30 month stint as an LDS missionary, which is the “gold standard” for LDS young men. A successfully returned LDS missionary is the Mormon equivalent of a Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

In preparation for going on his mission, Mitt Romney would have had to “take out his endowments” in the LDS temple. While it is much too complicated to explain all that entails,<sup>4</sup> suffice it to say that it involves much ritual and ritual drama that teaches certain “sacred” things to worthy LDS that “gentiles” (non-Mormons) are never supposed to know. These include tokens and words which permit them to enter the highest degree of heaven.<sup>5</sup>

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3 “Worthy” means keeping faithfully to all the teachings of the Church, keeping the Word of Wisdom, which is a command to abstain from alcohol, tobacco, coffee and tea and also to be morally pure – no premarital sex and no masturbation and *of course* no homosexuality.

4 For more on the temple, see our ground-breaking book, MORMONISM'S TEMPLE OF DOOM (1987) by William Schnoebelen and James R. Spencer.

5 Mormons are taught that there are three degrees of heaven. First is the Telestial Kingdom, where spiritual slackers of all kinds go. It resembles earth as it is right now, in its fallen state. Then there is the Terrestrial Kingdom, where good people of all faiths go and also where mediocre Mormons go. It is like the Garden of Eden, a perfect world. Finally, there is the Celestial Kingdom, where Mormons who are true and faithful to all their covenants will enter into the presence of Heavenly Father and ultimately become gods and goddesses of their own planets and have an “eternal increase of seed” - meaning having billions of spirit babies with which to populate their planet. It is the lofty goal of every devout Mormon to achieve the third Kingdom and become a god.

They also include what were (in the time when Mr. Romney first took them) dire blood oaths to observe certain secret “Laws” unknown to outsiders. These oaths were changed about 15 years ago and rendered less objectionable, partially in response to books like *THE GOD MAKERS*<sup>6</sup> and our *MORMONISM'S TEMPLE OF DOOM*.

It is these oaths that are the problem for a Mormon President. There are several of these oaths, but the one of them that most concerns us is the oath of “Obedience to the Law of Sacrifice.” This is one all faithful temple Mormons have sworn. In part it says...<sup>7</sup>

*“As Jesus Christ has laid down his life for the redemption of mankind, so we should covenant to sacrifice all that we [I] possess, even our [my] own lives [life] if necessary, in sustaining and defending the Kingdom of God.”*

The key point to understand is that to a Mormon, the term “Kingdom of God” means the LDS Church. There is no difference. This oath involved a penalty which was demonstrated thus:<sup>8</sup>

*...by placing the thumb under the left ear, the palm of the hand down, and by drawing the thumb quickly across the throat to the right ear, and dropping the hand to the side.*

This is called a **penal** sign, meaning it symbolizes the penalty for violating the oath. In simpler terms, this is a symbolic gesture for *slitting your throat!* It is also **virtually identical** to the penalty for the First Degree of Blue Lodge Freemasonry.

This is not surprising because Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, put together the temple ritual very soon after he, himself, was brought through the Blue Lodge Masonic degrees. The resemblance between the temple rituals and the Masonic rites is so striking that for many years the Grand Lodge of Utah (Freemasons) regarded the LDS church as a clandestine Lodge (that is, a fake Masonic lodge operating without proper warrant).

In fact, the first five prophets (leaders of the whole church) *were Freemasons!* So this resemblance is perfectly understandable. However, it gets worse.

This “Kingdom of God” is believed by devout Mormons to be a **theocratic kingdom** run by the Prophet from Salt Lake City. They believe that ultimately they will head up a one-world benevolent dictatorship (or kingdom) run by the LDS Prophet. This will not only be a religious and political kingdom, but it will also be an economic kingdom.

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6 By Ed Decker and Dave Hunt, Harvest House, 1984.

7 [www.saintsalive.com/mormonism/temple\\_ritual.htm](http://www.saintsalive.com/mormonism/temple_ritual.htm)

8 Ibid.

It is not well-known that LDS church leaders<sup>9</sup> are chosen from among hereditary LDS families (like Romney's) who are captains of industry and wealthy, self-made executives of extraordinary capitalistic skill. Most are millionaires before they even assume their callings. Because of this, the LDS church leadership has demonstrated remarkable skill in building an economic empire out of their small beginnings.

Today, the LDS church is probably the richest church – *per capita* – in the world. Of course, the Roman church is *much* wealthier, but it has had 1700 years to amass its capital and has more than a billion members. The Mormons have only been around about 176 years and have only one percent of the members of the Roman church. Yet they would be in the top fifty of Fortune 500 companies if they were categorized as a business.

Part of the strategy of the LDS leadership is to invest in very powerful and influential holdings. Unlike most churches, they own TV stations (local network affiliates). They own power companies. Most worrisome of all, they have made a concerted effort to buy up thousands of acres of farmland, orchards, etc. under their many “dummy companies.”

Part of the reason the Mormons are doing this, is because their peculiar view of the end-times. Here is where Mitt Romney (or someone very much like him) comes in.

Two separate Mormon prophecies impact this scenario. The first is a belief taught by many LDS leaders – including Brigham Young - that a time would come when the US Constitution would “hang by a thread” and that the elders of Israel (meaning the LDS leadership) would come in and save the day.<sup>10</sup>

Many LDS (and indeed many conservative Americans) believe that today the Constitution is indeed in peril, whether it is from the encroachments on civil liberties from the Homeland Security people OR from groups like the ACLU who seem determined to move through liberal courts to virtually outlaw religion (and especially Christianity) from the public square.

How the “elders” would save the Constitution is not entirely clear, but it is presumed that there would be a restoration of the Kingdom of God (LDS church) over the whole

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9 This higher level of the hierarchy is referred to as General Authorities and would be roughly analogous to the College of Cardinals in Catholicism.

10 See Journal of Discourses, vol. 7 p. 15.

nation and that the United Order<sup>11</sup> would be restored by a benevolent LDS Prophet who was also priest and king over America.

Not many Americans know that LDS founder Joseph Smith had himself crowned **king** over America (right before he was shot at Carthage jail by a mob).<sup>1</sup> It is believed that all LDS prophets since him believe themselves to be sovereigns as well.

Believe it or not, Smith established a highly secret “**Council of Fifty**” which was called the “Council of Ytfif” to outsiders (fifty spelled backwards). With these fifty men, some of whom were not even LDS, he intended to set up the foundations for a secret government of the United States with himself as its head. Ironically enough, one of the LDS splinter groups which broke away from Brigham Young after Smith's assassination established a *similar* council in rural Wisconsin. They called it “*The Illuminati!*”

The other prophecy is even more controversial. It is known as the “white horse prophecy” or the prophecy of the “One mighty and strong.” Now, this is not formal LDS doctrine, but it was taught by many leaders of the Church and is still taught today. It is said by LDS leadership that when the Constitution is in dire peril, one will come who is mighty and strong. He will come riding (figuratively perhaps) on a white horse and will wield awesome political and spiritual power.

This mysterious priesthood elder would somehow seize control of the US government to prevent the total abrogation of the Constitution. He would assume total power and create an LDS “Kingdom” in America. At that time, this “one mighty and strong” would be proclaimed the new “Prophet “ (First President) of the LDS church and would *also* be president of the United States. Thus, he would wield both supreme political power of the most powerful nation on earth and also be the “Prophet, Seer and Revelator”<sup>2</sup> of the LDS Church.

At the same time, through the vast corporate and agricultural holdings of the LDS Church (through its various subsidiaries); he would have the power to either feed the world or with-hold food from the world. The implication is that getting food would be dependent on being obedient to the United Order.

Now, to a Bible-believer, all of this sounds chillingly like the description of the “man of

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<sup>11</sup> The United Order was a socialistic economic system instituted by Joseph Smith in which every member of the LDS church would contribute their property and money to a common fund (the “bishop's warehouse”) and that it would then be disbursed by the Brethren to members as needed. It did not work very well and ended up being abandoned “because of the sinfulness of the people.” But LDS believe it will be restored in the end times by the prophet. The United Order would also include Plural Marriage (polygamy) and Blood Atonement – the LDS doctrine that certain sins cannot be atoned for by the blood of Jesus, but only by the spilling of the blood of the sinner on the ground.

<sup>1</sup> For more on the strange beginnings of Mormonism and Joseph Smith's tragic end, see the new CRUSADER comic, *The Enchanter*, available on our website.

<sup>2</sup><sup>12</sup> This is one of the official titles of the First President of the Mormon Church.

sin” (2 Thess. 2:3) or the anti-Christ. He will be a great political leader (Rev. 13:2) but with a religious component (Rev. 13:4). He will control commerce and especially food distribution (Rev. 13:17). But most Mormons do not see that connection. They believe he will be a mighty spiritual and political leader who will save the USA from destruction and ultimately bring peace to the world.

Now, many might say: this is fanciful or alarmist talk. No one could really do such a thing in this day and age! And Mitt Romney – he is such a nice, upstanding fellow! However, look at how many of our God-given liberties have been chipped away at by that other “nice fellow,” George W. Bush, in the last few years. Our nation has been changed dramatically because of one man at the helm who pretended to be a Christian.

Please understand, we are not saying Mr. Romney is even consciously aware of all this. He is probably not running for president because he thinks he can become a super-Mormon dictator. He is just doing it for his country because he believes he is the best man do the job. That is how Mormons are trained to think – that they can be the very best and usually ARE the very best.

But remember, this guy has the LDS teachings hard-wired into his very DNA. He is the great-grandson of LDS **polygamists** from a Mormon colony in Mexico, Gaskell Romney and Anna Amelia Pratt. There is a ***very real spiritual bondage*** there.

On top of this, the temple oaths and obligations Romney has taken make his first allegiance to the LDS “Kingdom of God.” In the part of the temple rite called the “Law of Consecration,” he swore as follows:<sup>13</sup>

You and each of you covenant and promise before God, angels, and these witnesses at this altar, that you do accept the Law of Consecration as contained in the Doctrine and Covenants, in that you do consecrate yourselves, your time, talents, and everything with which the Lord has blessed you, or with which he may bless you, to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for the building up of the Kingdom of God on the earth and for the establishment of Zion.

Thus, he MUST do everything he can to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth and the “establishment of Zion” - which is the political form of the Kingdom. You must also realize that Mormons have been positioning themselves in government for decades. A disproportionate number of FBI agents, CIA agents, State Department people and other government officials are loyal LDS. At one time, three of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were loyal Mormons.

Whether or not any of this actually happens in this way is obviously up to Yahweh. But well-trained temple Mormons believe it is literally their manifest destiny to rescue the United States and bring about the Kingdom of God on earth, with their prophet as its head.

We will end with one final eerie note which I cannot prove to be true, but which I will

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid., temple ritual.

share. When I was a temple Mormon and doing temple work in the Washington DC temple in Silver Springs, Maryland [c. 1983], I had a conversation with a fellow LDS priesthood holder. He was a member of the US Treasury department and a Secret Service agent.

He was obviously very proud of the temple, which was indeed an awesome 20 million dollar structure (in 1970 dollars!) of white, glistening marble. He shared with me that very few knew what was on the fifth floor of the temple. I asked him what was up there, because even worthy temple LDS were not allowed on that floor.

He told me that there was a council room up there which was an *exact replica of the Oval Office of the White House*. He told me they even had all the radio and telemetry equipment in place, hidden beneath a dome on top of the temple. He said that from this council room, the prophet could run the nation just as easily as he could from the White House itself. He also claimed that these electronic devices on the roof were so strong that airlines had to avoid flying over the temple or their instruments might be thrown off.

I cannot vouch for the truth of this story. But Mormons normally do not lie, and this man seemed genuinely proud of this achievement – the setting up of a shadow “White House” within the confines of one of Mormonism's holiest sanctuaries.

I share this partly because it illustrates what LDS truly believe to be the destiny of their religion in this land. Just the very fact that this priesthood holder chose to share this story says volumes about the LDS view of their destiny. Whether the story is accurate or not, it shows that this man, who was in charge of protecting our president, *believed* that Mormons would one day rule the US (and the world) from the Washington temple.

Right now, many of them believe Mitt Romney is their best and brightest hope for achieving that end. Would you really want a man in the White House who honestly believes he can become a god<sup>14</sup>?? Please bear that in mind when you go to cast your vote.

For more information on the LDS Church, the Bible, the occult or other cults, or to request a free catalog and newsletter, please contact the author at:

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<sup>14</sup> LDS are actually taught that if they are true and faithful they will become gods and goddesses. A popular LDS motto is: “As man is, God once was. As God is, man may become.”