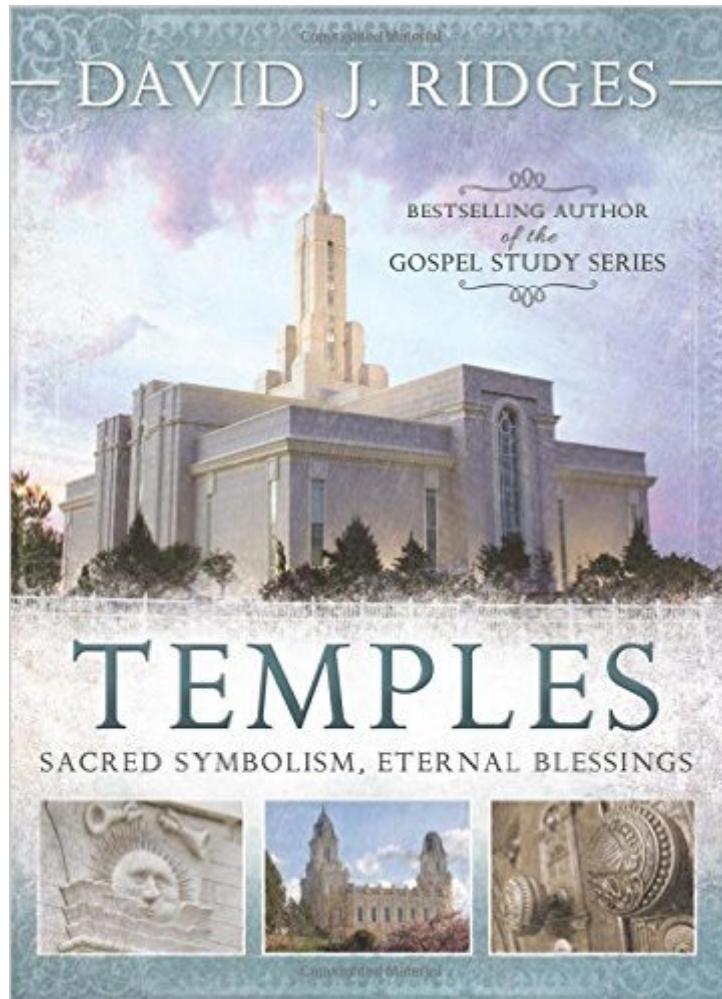


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# Temples: Sacred Symbolism, Eternal Blessings



## Synopsis

Modern temples aren't just pretty white buildings they are Heavenly Father's classrooms. When we enter His holy house, the Lord teaches us through symbols so we can understand and retain more of the sacred instruction provided there. In this book, David J. Ridges not only helps us find these symbols within temple walls, but he brings to light profound symbolism as found in ancient Israel's tabernacle worship and elsewhere in scripture. As you understand the symbols explained in this book, your experience will be redefined with deeper meaning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Somewhat disappointing offering by David Ridges. It doesn't really go into any significant detail about the symbolism on temples, much less in them. What he does mention is superficial and misses some main points. For example, he lists the Big Dipper on the west wall of the Salt Lake temple as "Represents that those who are lost may look to the priesthood for guidance and thus find their way back to God." A nice sentiment, but what does the priesthood have to do with the big dipper? If he'd done a bit more research he would have discovered that the big dipper is the means by which we locate the north star, which is the symbolic center of universe: All the other stars and planets appear to rotate around it. The temple is also symbolically the center of the universe, the place where the worlds meet, from the Latin "tem"; the point where a vertical and horizontal lines meet; symbolizing god meeting man, or heaven meeting earth. So the big dipper is a very apt temple symbol for finding the way to god. The section on symbolism in the scriptures pulls wholesale from his other books, with most of the examples not having anything directly to do with temples. A

general discussion of symbolism and metaphor in the scriptures is fine, but it's not what the book is advertised to be. Overall the book came across to me as a somewhat lazy compilation put together quickly to get another book out. It's OK, but there are better books on the subject out there. For a much more comprehensive but still relatively short and easy to read overview of temple and endowment symbolism I recommend "Your Endowment" by Mark A. Shields.

I was expecting a real book - this was more of a pamphlet in a small hard cover quoting well worn LDS church published material only - don't waste your time. Spent 1/3 of the book on parables not even related to the temple - pretty misleading title, very superficial and not well written at all.

I read this book a few months ago and wasn't really impressed. I decided to read it again, and this time I really liked it and found some insights I'd missed the first time. It's a lot like learning something new each time you attend the temple, if you are in the spirit. One of those lines that didn't sink in the first time is "...covenants apply only to entrance into the celestial kingdom..." No covenants or ordinances are required to attain the other kingdoms. I hadn't thought of that before. This is an easy to read book for those new to the temple, but has insights for those seasoned attendees also.

I found the symbolism explained about the Temple construction very enlightening. If you are LDS, I really recommend this book for your own knowledge. If you are not LDS, but you are interested in how and why our temples are built and adorned as they are, then I would recommend this book for you as well.

I am a avid reader and research authority in religion, especially LDS related material. I have discovered the clarity and deep spiritual writing of David J Ridges. I have everyone of his writings and use them in teaching the true gospel of Jesus Christ. His most recent book, "Temples: Sacred Symbolism, Eternal Blessings...." is nothing short of total guidance from the Holy Ghost. So much of his writing and teaching is left to the readers level of understanding. If you don't understand something or disagree with his finding, I would encourage you to pray for guidance for the truth shall be manifested unto you, if you are ready, by the gift of the Holy Ghost. Get this book, study it, and memorize it. Use it and put it to the test by attending the Temple with your family search files no less than every week. I can promise you will discover much growth as you climb the ladder of life.

David Ridges opens up your mind to new ideas in an easy to comprehend format. This is not mind

boggling information, but a nice compilation of material I never would have garnered on my own. A worthwhile read.

This book is a reasonable discussion on the Temple, the scriptural basis for ordinances, their intended outcome and an intermediate discussion on the meaning of symbols. Ridges is using publically available information, but the average person is facilitated by his bringing them forward. I could sense that he was trying not to go beyond certain bounds in his explanations. Earlier reviews of superficiality are naive to his sense of boundary in discussion outside the Temple. This book is a good introduction. The book by Charles is slightly more helpful but David Ridges has made a good contribution. Recommended.

This book will help me and my family to know more about the Sacred Temple and help to keep our covenant to the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a member of the church and a Return Missionary.

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