



# Endowed From On High: Understanding the Symbols of the Endowment

*John D. Charles*

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## **Endowed From On High: Understanding the Symbols of the Endowment** John D. Charles

The endowment is a re-enactment of spiritual images and symbols. It is literally a gift - a gift of God's power. Church members who have been through the temple will be inspired as they read *Endowed From On High*. While carefully maintaining the sacred confidentiality of the temple ordinances, this book provides scriptural correlations which will open up rich new areas of understanding to them. Those who read it will be better informed about the scriptural authority and symbolism of the sacred ordinances, and they will be better prepared and motivated to apply those scriptural symbols in their lives as they strive to become more like Christ. A symbol has two parts: a signifier and a signified. The signifier is the symbol itself, and the signified is the meaning of the symbol. Almost every scriptural image used in the endowment has not just one meaning, but a complex network of signified meanings. This makes the endowment an experience so rich that an alert participant can continue to learn from it throughout his or her lifetime as awareness, knowledge and spirituality increase. This book points out the more than twenty scriptural symbols which correlate with temple service. The central focus of these symbols is found in Brigham Young's oft-quoted statement of the ceremony's ultimate purpose: to enable recipients to pass by the angelic sentinels who guard the entrance to God's kingdom as they "Walk back to the presence of the Father." *Endowed From On High* teaches that revelation occurs during the endowment, that promises are required before blessings are granted, that covenants are the channels through which blessings flow, and that the Lord is voluntarily "bound" when we obey His commandments. It is a unique and reverential guide to growth in this, the most sacred of all areas in our relationship with the Savior and our Heavenly Father. Reading and pondering its message will be a choice experience for all Church members. --- from book's back cover

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