

Brothers and Sisters, Aloha!

It's a pleasure to be with you here today. I love these gatherings. I miss the ten talks. I wish I could do them all over again. I listen to them over and over again and I guarantee you... you guys do the same.

So I got a phone call the other day from Denver, he goes, "hey Rob, I hear you're talking." And I said, "yeah." Hoping that he would give me some kind of words of advice to give to you and he says, "Well, say something smart."

Yeah, my heart sunk a little bit so I'm going to follow his advice and I'm going to read scripture. This is found in 2nd Nephi 31:17-20. My talk is on "The Temple and the Path."

"Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen that your Lord and your Redeemer should do; for, four this cause have they been shown to me that ye might know the gate by which you should enter, for the gate by which you should enter is repentance and baptism by water and then cometh the remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost."

Now, back in the day I used to go and listen to baptismal and they would say, "Now that you have been baptized, you've entered in by the gate, you've jumped on to the path, you are in the way, just endure unto the end Brother, and you'll be good."

That is the common understanding that we've had until I actually studied these scriptures. There is a separation right after the gate. It says, *(and I'll read it again towards the end of that verse 17)*, it says, "The gate by which you should enter is repentance and baptism by water and then comes a remission of your sins by fire and the Holy Ghost." See, I believe that's saying the gate is the baptism and repentance, and then comes the remission of your sins which is the path or like he says by fire and by the Holy Ghost.

So, I'm going to prove it to you by reading more scripture. "And then are you in the straight and narrow path?" See it just said that but we just clumped it together. We often do that don't you think when we clump together all these scriptures and think it being one? That's a foolish mistake for people who are new to the scriptures. I'm sure you aren't that person. So, we continue on, "ye have entered in by the gate." (He reiterates it.) "Ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son and you have received the Holy Ghost which witnesses of the father and the son unto the fulfilling of the promise which He hath made that if you enter in by the way, you should receive. And now my beloved brethren, after you have gotten into the straight and narrow path..." (See, now he's talking about the path, right?) "Now that you've done that, you're in the path. I would ask if all is done? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far save it were by the word of Christ with unshaken faith in Him,

relying wholly upon the merits of Him who is mighty to save. Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if you shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end..." (And I would say to the end of the path) "behold, thus saith the Father, Ye shall have eternal life." And then here comes that first part... at the beginning of the 21st verse, "And now behold my brethren... my beloved brethren... this is the way."

Okay, so we've identified three portions: the gate, the path, and the way.

Having been married to my wife for over 20 years, I've gotten familiar with their native American culture. There are some symbols that you would find in a typical Tipi. Now these are symbols that we weren't familiar with until we were familiar with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you consider the gate, the path, and the way when you look at the Tipi. The Tipi has a gate in which you enter by bowing to go in. The natural tendency when you bow to enter into something is to look up. And the first thing that you see, the first artifact that you see is the fire (that's where the fireplace is stored right there at the entrance in the middle of the Tipi) but just behind the Tipi is an altar and most people don't know this but native people they know this but they don't understand what it represents. And just behind the Tipi altar is the bed of the husband and the wife. In other words, the holy of holies. The Tipi was a moving Tabernacle for each Native American person. You see native people have these things and still doing them so that when they connect with the truth they can awake and arise.

The protocol of a Tipi is to walk in a clockwise direction, you never walk in a counterclockwise direction. In ancient traditions, a clockwise direction was symbolic of ascension. Within the Tipi you find ascension. Interestingly enough, it is directly connected to a temple. So, there you go... I just dropped the mic and said something smart.

I like to move over to the ocean... over the ocean to Hawaii... I was born and raised in Oahu in Hauula, Hawaii right next door to a vacant lot. And this thing that I'm going to tell you now, I call it, "The parable of the vacant lot." Next door, there was a vacant lot (and I didn't own it) it was about five or six acres so it grew over. And in Hawaii there's a lot of rain so the weeds grew really fast, and the trash can accumulate almost as fast. We have to go into the lawn next door and we have to pull it back and we have to pull up the trash and take it to the dump and it took all day long, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and sometimes... and my parents would make us do that, like good parents do. And my dad realized one day and he says, "this is ridiculous, we need to do something different than just keep on pushing back the weeds." So, what he did was he planted 200 banana trees and we had lots of bananas. I loved it, you know! My dad would cut down these big, huge bunches of bananas and send us throughout the neighborhood, giving it to the neighbors because it produced a lot. And we noticed something, weeds didn't grow so

much, we didn't have to tend to them as much. Well, today houses have been built on that property and have occupied the vacant lot such that there will be no chance that those weeds will ever grow back into our yard. Well since then, my parents have moved to a different property down the road and what do you know next door to them was a vacant lot? My dad and my brother went there and planted banana trees immediately. We now own that lot and have built a house on it having learned our lesson, that it's better for you to occupy the space than to clear a vacant lot.

I'm going to connect this to the atonement of Jesus Christ, you can see the lesson immediately. You cannot approach the atonement by only clearing away sin, the vacant lot. Sin always find its way back. This idea of coming to the atonement of Jesus Christ to be forgiven of your sins is not even close to the potential of the atonement of Jesus Christ. In fact, it's a backwards thinking you're putting emphasis on... (No, sorry. My mom's an English major) you're putting the wrong emphasis on the wrong syllable. (That's for my mom, I think she's going to listen to the recording).

The atonement should fill you with light. You see, sin is a product of darkness. Light dispels the darkness. When you are filled with light, there is no darkness in you. Since sin comes from darkness and you are filled with light, your sins have been remitted, does that make sense? It did to me. Where do we find light? In the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest. In the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest.

I'm going to switch gears and turn to Hugh Nibley's "Temple in the Cosmos," like my wife did. She mentioned the sign, the name, and the tokens and I can see a lot of you guys back there from a distance. Now I know there's chit-chat happening, there's little children but I can't seem to hear them. When I was sitting next to my children I could hear them chit-chatting and I keep telling them, "shhhh." But they have to be closer in order for me to hear them and in an embrace, it requires you to be even closer to the person in whom you are embracing. Now I'm going to explain this to you, I didn't know this man Hugh Nibley before. I was listening to a speaker speak about Greek and he was giving us a lot of good translations, I was very impressed with what he had to say so I came up to him afterwards and I say, "that was fantastic. I love that. I love this Greek stuff you know!" And he says, "thank you." And I say, "but you know I just hate that Hugh Nibley guy." And he was appalled. I didn't know this but I found out later it was his mentor and his... his personal teacher so he grew up under his tutelage and I was... I was really offending him when I said that, "I hate this guy Hugh Nibley. He is the worst author I ever read." And if you know me, I'm not much of a studious kind of guy. I didn't read my first book until I was twenty-eight years old. I mean "Sam I Am" doesn't count right? So he says, "which book are you reading?" I said the Joseph Smith Papyri and he says, "Oh, that book." I say, "Why? He wrote other books?" And he says, "Yeah, he's got a ton of books Tom." "You read the Joseph Smith papyri?" And he says, "Yeah, I couldn't get past the second chapter without giving up and I've been trying for the last

three years, I hate that author." He said to me, "Will you come? I'm going to be teaching a class." And that's where I met a lot of you. In these classes I have learned about Hugh Nibley and I've learned that one of his first topics of his dissertation is called the "New Year Rite" and most of you are not familiar with it but it is worldwide. The new year rite has been celebrated over... all throughout the world. I know this because in Hawaii we have new year rites and it follows a pattern of 3 things. And I'll give them to you; the Creation, the Ritual Combat, and the Ascension. It's pretty simple but that is what our temple is composed of, is the new year rite.

At the time when Mary was looking for an inn and had no room for the inn, she was coming to a new year rite, to celebrate these types of things. Now in Hawaii we call it the "Makahiki." In Makahiki, we come together and they do a hula and the hula is to express or teach about the creation and then there are games. We have wrestling games, we have spear throwing games, we have what these games... like "ulu maika" it's almost like you're bowling, then we have surfing games and the king would compete in these games. And the king was the one who came off victorious and afterwards we'd do our favorite past time: eat. That's when we had our luau. That was the new year rite in Hawaii.

Now, there's constant reminders of this very new year rite, every single day is the battle between light and dark. That is the Ritual Combat. The ritual combat was the most important part of that new year rite. It is the sacrificial offering. It is the battle between light and dark, every day that the sun rises and sets as a reminder to you of your new year ritual, the ritual combat.

Every time the moon waxes and wanes, it comes into light and it goes out of light, another battle of light vs. darkness and then the precession of the equinox is the corners of this Earth which is the change from light to dark, from solstice to equinox, and equinox to solstice. It is a constant reminder to you that you are in a ritual battle and this is the battleground.

The temple teaches us these concepts but we are not awake long enough to remember them. In Hawaii, you've seen the movie of Moana, they depict Maui in a disappointing fashion to me. You see I was a member of the first crew of Iosepa, the voyaging canoe made from Polynesian Culture Center and BYUs combined efforts. I was on the first crew. I wasn't able to complete the training because 9/11 happened but before that happened, I was taught how Hawaiians sailed from the stars. Rather than going and charting their way like a map like you would use Google Maps, or something, turn right here turn left there, the Hawaiian technique was completely different. In Hawaii, the Hawaiian canoe when was connected to the stars in the heavens, the canoe stayed still, it did not move. Then, your destination was pulled to you. That is how Hawaiian sailed from the stars. When you are connected to the heavens you are immovable and what you needed, what you wanted, was brought to you.

So, in Moana, you have Maui who was connected to the heavens and the only way that they could be picked somebody pulling the island to them is to have a fishhook and they hook the island and brought it to him. That's where Maui comes from, far different than what Disney projects, far different than what Disney projects. You see in our Hawaiian culture the king he wears a 'mahiole' on his head. Have you guys seen that mahiole on the King Kamehameha's head is this big thing looks like a shark fin right?

Most Hawaiians don't even know what the mahiole means. It is a rainbow on the head of the chief or the Ali'i, the one who had ascended. Now you think to yourself 'Rainbow Warriors' back in the day UH used to be the rainbow warriors. They've dropped the rainbow portion because the rainbow has somehow become something connected to homosexuals. But the rainbow was never tied that way. It was always symbolic of somebody who has been able to ascend and they came back with their head glowing with light. That is why the king wears the mahiole on his head. The Rainbow Warriors is the warriors connected to heaven and with the power of God can withstand any opponent. Most people think of the haka as the Maori haka beat, Ka Mate, Ka Mate, fierce and ugly, fearsome warriors. Little do you know the haka is to breathe the "Ha" to the heavens, and connecting there and when you are connected to the heavens you are the most fearsome warrior to live.

This is the culture that goes unrecognized by its own people because it is disconnected from the truth of the words of Christ allowed for us in the temple. The same thing goes with Blackfoot. People recognize a chief because they stand there with their feathers coming off of their head and they are eagle feathers, they're not little myna bird feathers, they're not little crow feathers, they are eagle feathers. Always when you see a feather tradition, it is symbolic of people who have been in the ascent.

Blackfoot people wear eagle feathers like as if light shoots off of their head from the person who has been into the Ascension. Now, would that make a difference to you if you understood that? To me it would. Recently, my wife was asked to come and give a dissertation speech to her tribe in Canada and we had the opportunity to speak about these things. I ended up showing them the facsimiles of Abraham. You see the facsimiles here just behind me. There are three facsimiles and I taught them this and they said, "Wow. It looks like my culture." And I said to them, "because it is your culture. It belongs to you." He says, "Yeah, this sounds like the stories I was told when I was a boy." And I said, "Because these are the truths that tie you to heaven." Again, those things in the ritual combat were all things shared with the entire world in this new year rite and so now I say, I kind of like this Hugh Nibley guy.

One last thing about the temple before I move to what I really like to talk about is the path in the temple. In all ritual combats, the King dies, changes his clothing and comes back to win the entire tournament. You might not know this but the Olympics is a new year rite, that's where its... its origin comes from. The fire is the creation and it lights,

and throughout the entire ritual combat they battle it out on the games of the Olympic Games. And then comes the feast to follow thereafter. The King dies, changes his clothes, and comes back to conquer ascending the mountain. I read that the Ascension of Isaiah... and in the ascension of Isaiah there were angels to the left and angels to the right. The angels to the left were descending and the angels to the right were ascending and I made a connection suddenly in my mind, maybe robes to the left and robes to the right might have some significance because in Hawaii some Kahuna wear their robes on their left and when they advanced to having higher power, they changed their kihei or their robes on the right side. And I was looking at that and I said to myself, "Oh my goodness, what could this mean? Could this have any connection to the ritual combat that was introduced to me by Hugh Nibley?" And I think it is until I went to a commencement. Do you know what commencement means? It means to begin a life of Enlightenment. And they change their tassel from the left and they move it to the right as they begin a life of enlightenment. And now I started to think to myself, perhaps this body that we were born into was a descending body, or a body of "descension". And we come to a point in which we have to change our bodies. And where do you change it? In a temple, you change your body so that you can be an ascending body rather than a descending body. These are very important points to remember as we consider the ascent. The ascent is the path that Christ is trying to teach us. In the book of St John, he talks about the path in chapter ten and I'm going to try... I'm going to... okay I'm going to go off the reservation a little bit, if I can to talk about two different ascents; The ascent from the earth to the heaven and then then the ascent in the heavens all the way through the Heavens to be precisely what God is, (two ascents). Christ is the Prototype of multiple Earthly ascents but the path that He describes in the Book of John refers to Christ's ascent through the heavens, that's the path in which He completed.

When Jesus Christ came to this earth, what he laid on the altar by descending below us all, was the possibility to lose it all, His eternal salvation, His eternal body was on the line and it wasn't until the completion of the Resurrection that He was secured as having been complete. He put that body on the line for you and I. Not this flesh body that was crucified and died but the body of multiple eons and eons of ascent that He had accumulate through all of eternity, that was what was at risk.

So, having that in mind, I'm going to turn your attention to this diagram. The first facsimile is the sacrifice and I use this new mnemonic and I believe it is what the right arm holds. This bottom part or your upper arm is parallel to the earth symbolic of the things of the earth being sacrificed. So, the first facsimile is the sacrifice of the things of the earth. So, it's parallel to the earth therefore equaling the earth but then you have this perpendicular part, your forearm, which is the ascension. The second facsimile is a circle. They called it a hypocephalus, and it puts some... in the later times they put it under the head of the dead so that they would have a map of how to ascend through the heavens but in the earliest Egyptian text they were more of a literal thing for you to have the map right now to ascend out of this earth. And then on the top, I told this to my

brother, I says, "Yeah! You have the sacrifice and then you have the ascension." And he goes, "Oh, the last one is the crown right?" And he says, "Yeah!" He goes, "Rob look, the crown."

It's a great way to remember it, but I believe it is even the right way to remember it. You see in the book of Ammon, in Mosiah (sorry), the story of Ammon where they cut off the arms... Let me tell you that story in a little bit more symbolic way, they were gathering the Kings sheep into the Waters of Sebus, Sebus meaning the 'Ritual Waters'. And the servants and Ammon gathered them there to water them at the Waters of Sebus, the Ritual Waters. And then, the thieves come through and scattered them. Now you have scattered sheep, (interesting yeah, the scattered Israel, scattered sheep) there's a parallel there. And then the servant of God comes, his name Ammon, at that time, perhaps this time David, and he gathers these waters... these sheep back in together. And then the thieves come through and once they are gathered by someone who has a covenant, God protects them. You see the wicked can kill the wicked, the wicked can even kill the righteous, but the wicked will not kill Zion once they have been gathered. They cannot, it is God's family. It is God's family and so here we have Ammon gathering the sheep for the king and then the thieves come back to come and scatter the sheep again to feed, to steal the sheep and what does he do? He cuts off their arm. He cuts off their potential to ascend and then he cuts off... (thank you for that one clap, appreciate it) he cuts off their ability to ascend and then what does he do? He goes to the chariot, he goes to prepare the king's horse and chariot, another symbol of ascension so that the king can go to his Father's feast.

I bear testimony to you that the spirit testifies to me this to be true. I was listening to a person talk about charity and the spirit said to me, "if you have not charity you are nothing." And the words came to my mind, "no greater love hath a brother than to give his life for his friend." The life that Christ gave was the life of a multiple ascensions and has offered it all. So, when Peter says to him, "I will give my life to you." Peter is talking about this body and Christ says, "You will give your life for me? That's silly. Before this night is over you will deny me three times before the cock crows." No, Christ was talking about that life and then I remembered, if you have not charity you are nothing. Satan was up there, he was ranked up there with Christ, but he would not sacrifice that life for you. He would not do it. He would not give up his rank for you just as my Bishop would never give up his rank to come and apologize for the foolishness that he's done towards my family and I. Satan will not give up his rank, his ascensions for you, and if you have not charity you are nothing, which comes to my mind, what then is charity? Is to offer up your life. Now I don't have the life that my Savior had but I do have a life that I can offer up. And then my wife leaned to me and said to me, "Rob that's a fast offering, a proper fast offering." I was appalled by what she said because a fast offering isn't a two meals and then you collect the money for the two meals and give it to the guy so that he can distribute it amongst the poor, how ridiculous does that sound now.

Every one of us, if we are to follow the path of Jesus Christ, must sacrifice and offer up offerings that are similar to Him. And my mind turned to Cain and Abel and I discovered Cain did not have his sacrifice acceptable to God because it didn't... it didn't reflect the atonement offered in the Garden of Gethsemane by our Lord and Savior. While Abel's was acceptable because it offered precisely what Christ offered at his level of offering. Abraham offered his son Isaac precisely reflecting the atonement. So, any offering being offered must be acceptable if and only if it reflects our Lord and Savior. Now we have a lot of different people... different levels of understanding of our Jesus Christ and so what you understand you can accumulate in your mind and say, "This is what I understand of the atonement and this is the offering I understand how I can give it." By giving that sacrificial offering, you are now open to being taught why you do it. "Why do you offer sacrifices?" "I know not what except for I was told to do it." This is in similar to the only begotten Son.

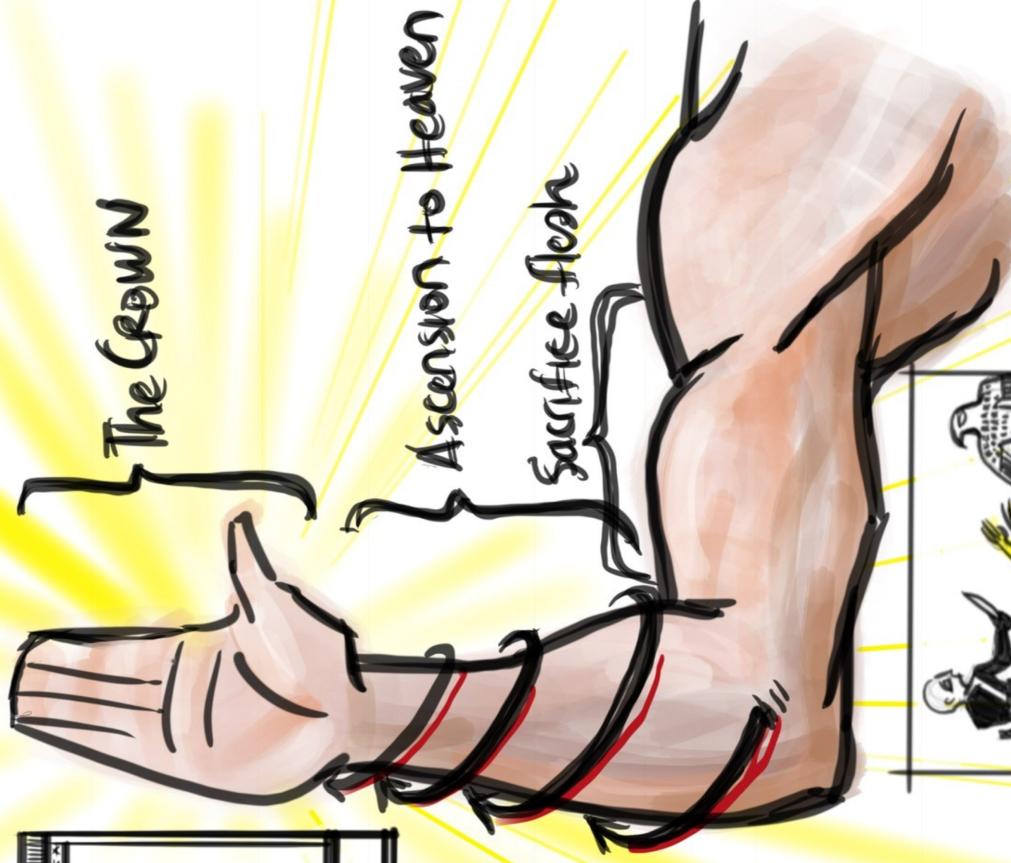
Brothers and Sisters, I'm going to testify to you right now, that your fast offerings must reflect your knowledge of the offering of Jesus Christ and His atonement. And through sacrifice, not a covenant to sacrifice but a covenant that you receive through sacrifice, you will be given more light and knowledge and be instructed of Heaven until you complete the path as our Savior Jesus Christ has completed the path. He tells you, "there's a difference between a servant and a friend. A servant will not share my life, he will not offer the offering required at my hand, but my friend He stands ready, watching for every communication from me."

I bear testimony to you that this is true. I plead with God that your eyes will be opened and that you can offer up a sign that can be seen from a distance, that is what our baptisms are about. A sign that can be seen from a distance and I challenge you to come closer by studying the new words of Jesus Christ offered to us, until you hear the voice of the Lord telling you of a name. And then you can have hope and with that hope you can be steadfast, immovable in your push to come even closer to Christ until you become or you receive an exchange perhaps a token. The greatest token is the embrace. When you are in that embrace, you are not only identified with the person you embrace but you are identical... identical to the person you embrace. The vacant lot is a false idea, obtain light, fight the good fight, win the ritual combat, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Plan of Salvation In One Arm

FAC #3

CORONATION



The Crown

Ascension to Heaven

Sacrifice flesh



FAC #2

Ascension

FAC #1

Sacrifice

