

Contents

Introduction: Latter-day Saints and the Perception of Ritual
Daniel L. Belnap

Part 1. A Framework

1. Ritual and the Quest for Meaning
Walter E. A. van Beek
2. Culture, Cohesion, and Conceptualizing the Sacred
John P. Hoffmann

Part 2. The Ancient Near East and Hebrew Bible

3. The Politics of Feasting in the Ancient Near East
Ronan James Head
4. The Eternal Nature of the Family in Egyptian Beliefs
Michael D. Rhodes
5. The Marriage of Adam and Eve: Ritual and Literary Elements
RoseAnn Benson
6. The “Ceremony of the Shoe”: A Ritual of God’s Covenant People
Alonzo L. Gaskill

Part 3. The New Testament World

7. The Doctrine of Baptisms: Immersions at Qumran and the Baptisms of John, the Earliest Christians, and Book of Mormon Peoples
Stephen D. Ricks
8. Reading the *Gospel of Philip* as a Temple Text
Gaye Strathearn

Part 4. The Modern World

9. “Those Who Receive You Not”: The Rite of Wiping Dust off the Feet
Daniel L. Belnap
10. Embodied Authority: Priesthood Ordination and the Laws of the Mortal Body
Aaron Reeves
11. “Pouring in Oil”: The Development of the Modern Mormon Healing Ritual
Jonathan A. Stapley
12. Imaging a Global Religion, American-Style: Latter-day Saint Pageantry as a Ritual of Community Formation
Megan Jones

13. Ritual as a Process of Deification
Michael D. K. Ing

14. Sisters in Transition: Moving from the *Buna* Coffee Ritual to Relief Society
Jennifer Brinkerhoff Platt

15. Sacramental Living: Reflections on Latter-day Saint Ritual
Robert L. Millet